Projects, **Workgroups,** and Fellowship **Discussions**

The World Board engages in strategic planning every two years in preparation for the biennial World Service Conference. This planning process helps us identify specific goals and approaches to be implemented in each two-year cycle, and to draft project plans for consideration at the WSC. In 2014, the WSC elected to continue the multicycle work of the Traditions Book Project and provided more direction for the next phase of the Service System Project. The Conference also approved plans for public relations work in the 2014–2016 cycle and for some virtual workgroups. In addition, the World Board forms internal work groups to accomplish tasks and reflect on its processes. In this cycle, these included WCNA Program, WB Operating Values, and WSC Seating. WCNA Program is a workgroup formed before each World Convention; WB Operating Values and WSC Seating were both workgroups to help us frame discussions during our Board meetings about these issues. Finally, common concerns that gain traction in the course of the WSC are often identified as "Issue Discussion Topics" or IDTs. In this first of two years of the Conference cycle, we began to frame conversations on *Welcoming All Members*, *Group Support*, *Planning*, and *The Role of Zones*. A summary of the ideas and input we have received on these issues follows.

Service System

The 2014 World Service Conference saw the adoption of three motions related to ideas from the Service System Proj-ect. These focused on group support forums (GSFs), local service conferences (LSCs), and local service boards (LSBs) and were informed by the field test that took place in the 2012–2014 Conference cycle. The motions asked whether the Fellowship agreed in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains GSFs, LSCs, and LSBs. The motions contained a series of essential and recommended characteristics for these service bodies. Conference action led to an amendment that added the text "to be included in the GTLS as an option along with our current service units" to each motion. The intent of this amendment was to offer the SSP ideas as options for NA communities to consider, along with existing elements of our service system. Each of these motions, along with the Service System Project Plan for 2014–2016, passed by more than a two-thirds majority.

The work in fiscal year 2015 focused on offering support to communities making the transition to a new system. The 2014–2016 Service System Project Plan identified four main goals for the cycle:

- Developing tools and resources for local implementation of elements of the service system
- Continuing to collect input about how local communities are adapting the project's ideas to best meet their particular needs
- Creating opportunities for communities to share their struggles and successes with each other
- Collecting and recording experiences and best practices so that we can help communities transition to a new system.

We moved toward these goals in a number of ways. We continued to gather locally developed resources related to the project and its key concepts, and began a redesign of the Local Service Resources area of na.org to include a section for these resources. We also continued to correspond with members and service bodies around the world who had questions about the project's ideas, or who were engaged in implementing them.

We hosted a web meeting to introduce the SSP ideas to delegates at the European Delegates Meeting in November 2014. This served as a beta test for subsequent web meetings that were held in August and September 2015. More web meetings focusing on implementing ideas from the project and the challenges associated with recovery and service in rural areas are also planned.

During this cycle we had hoped to create a number of basic, easily translatable resources focused on a brief overview of the core principles of the Service System, Group Support Basics, and Local Service Basics. Our limited resources prevented us producing these. We hope to make progress on them, or similar tools to meet those needs, in the near future. The additional experience of NA communities worldwide, combined with our efforts to collect and share information and resources, will make what we ultimately produce even more useful.

Materials related to the project, including the videos and the *CAR* essay related to the 2014 motions, the project plan, and a range of draft tools created for the field test, can be found online at **www.na.org/servicesystem**.

"Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions"

The Traditions Project spanned two Conference cycles, from 2012 to 2016. This fiscal year at NAWS marked the time of greatest activity for the project. The plan for this cycle included the creation of a workgroup, drafting of material for the Traditions Project, and conducting Fellowship review-and-input periods on the material.

The workgroup had its first meeting just before the beginning of the 2014–2015 fiscal year, in June 2014. Made up of experienced NA members from around the world including two Europeans, a member from Iran, another from Brazil, and several Americans, the Tradi-

tions Project workgroup hit the ground running. The tasks before the workgroup were daunting, starting with the process of reading more than 2500 pages of raw input on the Traditions gathered from the NA Fellowship over the course of the previous Conference cycle. Based on Fellowship input the previous cycle, the World Board had already put forward preliminary ideas about the structure of the workbook. As the workgroup processed the material gathered from the Fellowship, ideas about the ways each chapter would operate were considered and evaluated.

Review and input on the project began with the release of an introductory chapter and Tradition One in November 2014. Releasing Tradition One on its own prior to fully developing material on later chapters made it possible to capture the Fellowship's initial reaction to the structure and organization. This feedback was taken into account for the project as a whole. The input submitted by dedicated members, groups, and service committees around the world helped to refine each chapter and the structure overall, and the review-and-input periods continued through the duration of this fiscal year.

As is common for Conference projects, the work of the Traditions Project extended well beyond the close of the fiscal year. The approval form of the Traditions workbook, "Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions," was released with the 2016 *Conference Agenda Report* in November 2015. The World Service Conference will vote on the draft at WSC 2016 in April.

We are deeply grateful for all that the Fellowship has done to help make this piece of literature the best it could be. We are confident that, should the NA Fellowship choose to adopt this as NA Fellowship-approved literature, it will be an excellent resource for enriching the recovery of our members, improving our service efforts, and helping to make the NA message more readily available to those who have yet to find recovery from addiction.

Workgroups
WSC Decision Making

While WSC Rules of Order guide the Conference's formal business sessions, the 2014 Conference identified a need to refine our processes for the important work that takes place in our discussion sessions. To that end,

Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions

2010

The 2010 World Service Conference approved a motion:
The World Board is directed to develop a project plan for presentation to WSC 2012 for a Traditions Working Guide.

2012

2012 WSC passed a motion:
To approve the Traditions Book Project plan for inclusion in the 2012–2014 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. budget.

2012–2014

The 2012–2014 conference cycle was spent figuring out what was needed, desired, and expected, as well as gathering input and historical materials for review in the next cycle.

2,500 pages of input collected

2014

2014 WSC reaffirmed the project:
To approve the Traditions Book Project plan for inclusion in the 2014–2016 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. budget.

90-day review & input:
November 2014—Introduction and Chapter 1

2014–2016

The 2014–2016 conference cycle entailed drafting, writing, reviewing, and editing.

March 2015: Chapters 2–6

June 2015: Chapters 7–10

A workgroup was formed.

July 2015: Chapters 11–12 and Conclusion

2016

Editing text and length

The 2016 World Service Conference will consider this motion:
Motion 1: To approve the book contained in Addendum A, "Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions," as Fellowship-approved recovery literature.

and as a result of Proposal BC passed at WSC 2014, we convened a workgroup composed of current and former Conference participants including the cofacilitators for WSC 2016 to give focused attention to the processes at the WSC. Their assignment was to expand the toolbox available to Conference cofacilitators. These fell into two general categories: procedures for consensus-based decision making and approaches to developing ideas.

The rules and tools produced by this group were vetted and refined by the Board before being published in the Conference Approval Track materials. With the consent of the Conference, cofacs will employ some or all of these new tools in facilitating discussion and business sessions for WSC 2016. Should the Conference decide to adopt these additions, making them policy, the expanded CBDM toolbox will be included in the *Guide to World Service in NA* following the Conference.

Planning Our Future

Planning Our Future is a project that developed after the 2014 World Service Conference discussions on the future of the Conference and the role of zones. One of the ideas that came up repeatedly in the last "Planning Our Future" session at the Conference was the suggestion to form a workgroup to help frame and advance the discussion that began at the WSC. The Planning Our Future workgroup has covered a lot of ground on a wide range of subjects, forwarding ideas to improve communication, inform members, and get people talking about the future of the WSC.

The workgroup for the project met virtually, which was relatively new for NAWS. Because the workgroup's task was really to generate ideas rather than to determine a single outcome or strategy, meeting virtually was effective, time differences and scheduling challenges notwithstanding. (The 14 workgroup members came from four continents.) To build community and a shared sense of commitment and purpose, the Planning Our Future workgroup initially tried to meet every other week, and then monthly through the end of the fiscal year. There were nine meetings in the 2014-2015 year, and two more meetings in the following fiscal year.

During the 2015 fiscal year, the workgroup provided input to help the Board put together a workshop on the

Role of Zones, which was held at more than half of NA's zonal forums. They also helped to shape a zonal survey. Data from the survey and the workshop were included along with the 2016 *Conference Agenda Report* mailing and at the same time posted on **www.na.org/future** along with a video on the Future of the WSC.

The conversation the project was formed to help forward is ongoing and will be continued at WSC 2016.

Delegates Sharing

The Delegates Sharing workgroup resulted from WSC 2014 Proposal BL, "To foster unity through a Conference session for delegates to exchange experiences and share about issues important to them." A virtual workgroup was formed with members from around the world: two World Board members, eight current and former Conference participants (including the proposal maker as the workgroup point person), and one NAWS staff member.

The workgroup held its first online meeting in November 2014 and met approximately every month. Meeting virtually offered many advantages, but scheduling was a challenge with members from five different time zones in Canada, Greece, Iran, Nicaragua, Spain, Sweden, and the US.

In addition to the specific session identified in the proposal, the workgroup was also asked by the Board to help plan workshops for the pre-WSC 2016 Unity Day. In April 2015, a survey of regional delegates and their alternates was offered online in English and Spanish. Survey responses helped to shape the WSC sessions being planned, and some of the input would also be used to share ideas and best practices for preparing for and serving at the Conference in pre-WSC mailings.

WSC Seating

A virtual workgroup to address WSC seating was created at the April 2015 Board meeting. The Seating workgroup was composed of three currently serving regional delegates and one World Board member, and was charged with reviewing the applications from the regions requesting seating and framing recommendations for the Board to consider. Eight regions provided the information requested by the 31 July deadline and the workgroup submitted the results

of their work to the Board for review at their October 2015 meeting. The seating report and applications can be found in the CAT material, which is available online here: **www.na.org/conference**.

Fellowship Issue Discussions

Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) are intended to encourage broad-based discussions on current topics that affect our Fellowship as a whole. They offer an opportunity for local NA communities to offer thoughts and ideas that can help us all move toward our vision and help to implement some of the objectives from the NAWS Strategic Plan. A range of topics are chosen for each Conference cycle that are relevant to both groups and members, and to service committees.

The scheduling challenges at WSC 2014 prevented the planned IDT session from taking place on Friday morning, although we did move ahead with carrying over the Third Tradition topic as reported in the 2014 *Conference Report*. The focus of this IDT was broadened and renamed Welcoming All Members.

The Traditions Mini-Workshop Guides were also included as part of the IDT resources to encourage participation in providing input to the project. More about these efforts can be found in the section in this report related to the Traditions Book Project.

Two more IDTs were added following the Board's July 2014 meeting that focused on some of the main ideas associated with the motions passed at the Conference related to the Service System Project. These are Group Support and Planning.

Discussions about the future of the WSC at the 2014 Conference inspired the creation of a workgroup focused on this important topic. The workgroup, in turn, developed an IDT entitled *Role of Zones*. The workgroup and the workshop materials they created have carried the discussions from WSC 2014 forward and provoked additional discussion around the Fellowship about the possible role of zonal forums within our service system.

We have provided a short summary of the main ideas received about each IDT below. The resources for each topic can be found online at **www.na.org/idt**. Com-

ments, ideas, and input are all encouraged and can be sent to worldboard@na.org.

Welcoming All Members

The purpose of this IDT was to increase awareness of the principles contained in the Third Tradition, and to introduce the newly approved IP #29, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, as one way to help new members feel welcome in NA. To begin the session, participants were asked to consider some of the ways that they felt different when they first came to NA, and what helped them to feel at home. These responses were not recorded.

With a focus on four types of addicts in particular—those who are demographically different, on drug replacement therapy, on medication, and those who are still using or who chronically relapse—members were then asked to consider what gets in the way of us as individuals from practicing the principles of the Third Tradition. Participants were also asked to discuss ways that their home groups could better practice these principles.

Input to the first question mentioned personal defects such as intolerance and a lack of empathy, the challenge between our understanding of NA as a program of complete abstinence and the reality that some members are still "using," and a poor atmosphere of recovery in some meetings. Ideas for improvements for groups included using the group or area inventory process to discuss the atmosphere of recovery within meetings, encouraging sponsorship, making literature and meeting lists available, and having a greeter in meetings. Perhaps unsurprisingly, many of the suggestions also focused on our personal qualities as members—tolerance and open-mindedness are examples—and how we can lead by example through our behavior and when we share.

Group Support

This IDT asked how best to support groups in their efforts to carry the message. It also modeled a process for discussing group issues and reviewed the basic outline of a group support forum.

The session began with a brainstorm of issues groups face, followed by an exercise to choose two issues for each table to discuss in the next section of the work-