

Gratitude in Action

A Note from Your World Board

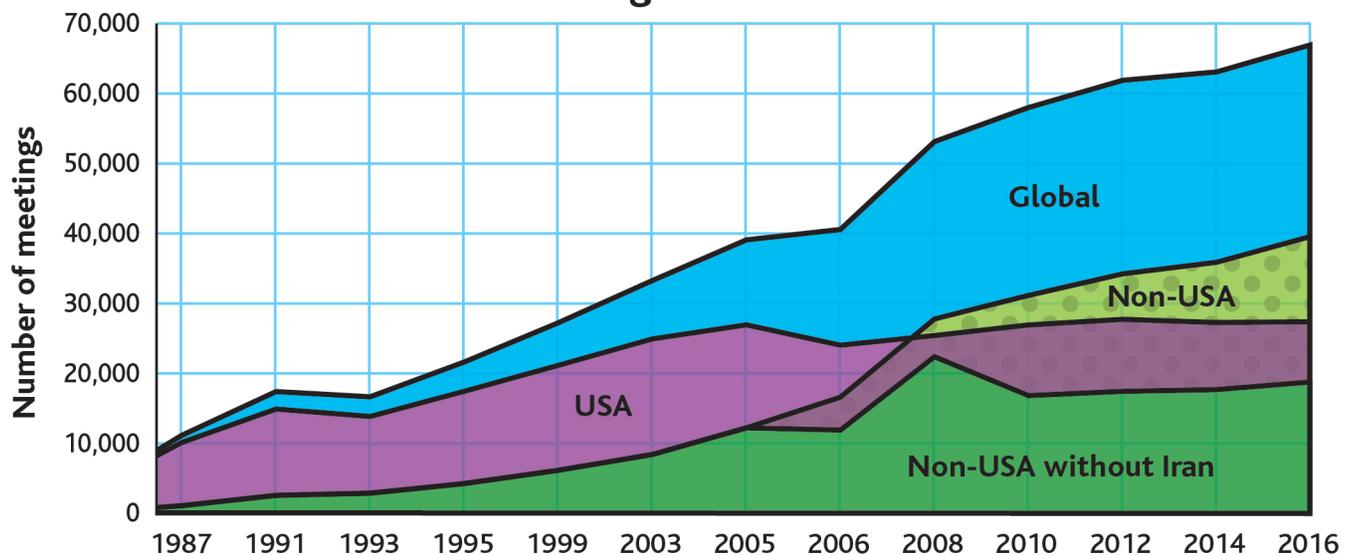
As the Fifth Tradition essay of *Guiding Principles* reminds us, “Everything we do, everything that matters to us as a Fellowship, comes back to our simple message of hope and freedom.” Our primary purpose is the engine that propels members to serve Narcotics Anonymous at every level. It keeps our efforts focused on carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. NA groups are the primary vehicle for carrying that message. That’s why we’ve built our entire service structure around the goal of supporting the ability of NA groups to focus on this task. From the meeting greeter to the Conference Cofacilitator, all our efforts represent the practice of gratitude in action.

For all of us who stumbled into Narcotics Anonymous with little hope and experienced a spiritual awakening, it is humbling to contribute to the common welfare of our global NA community. Today, the gratitude of NA members around the world ensures that doors are opened for almost 67,000 meetings each week, in 139 countries, on every continent except Antarctica.

While the graphic below shows our growth outside US borders, we also recognize opportunities for continued growth within and adjacent to long-established NA communities. We know that meetings remain sparse in many parts of the world, and that even established NA communities contain underserved segments. We keep improving our ability to gather data, assess challenges, and plan solutions. Having applied the principles and processes of deliberate planning since 2002, NA World Services has become more skilled at using strategic planning in order to improve our service delivery. And yet, we recognize that we still have a lot to learn and plenty of growing to do!

You’ll read about some of the fruits of these efforts in this *Annual Report*. The projects, workgroups, literature surveys, and Issue Discussion Topics described in this report all spring from the Board’s planning process, and gained Fellowship endorsement at the 2016 World Service Conference. Profiles of NAWs-funded events in the Middle East and Africa offer two snapshots of the vital, ongoing work in these younger NA communities. You’ll also read about how our Public Relations Team has used technology to support efforts of local service bodies across the Fellowship, and works to build NA’s

NA Meeting Growth Trend



reputation by participating in national and international conferences. We've described our process for translating NA literature in some detail this year, which may bring additional understanding of this careful, deliberate, and inclusive process. And we've reformatted the Fellowship Contributions Report in a way that may be illuminating.

Some of what we cover in the *NAWS Annual Report* may strike some of you as odd. Some members bristle at the businesslike language we use to assess some activities or the terms we use to report our financial position. Some of us may have acquired a general distaste for corporations given excesses and political influence in the news. Naturally, a negative view of corporations may color the way some people view the activities of NAWS, Inc., making it acceptable in some quarters to replace the "S" of NAWS with a dollar sign. In reality, corporations are neither good nor bad; in certain circumstances, incorporating simply makes business sense. For NAWS—as for other nonprofits—incorporation offers legal protections and tax advantages. It also sets out specific requirements and responsibilities.

One of our corporate responsibilities, as you may know, is to manage the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT)*. Although the *Annual Report* has included an essay on *FIPT*-related matters in recent years, the year covered by this report saw very little activity. We reviewed and approved the list of literature designated as material in the *FIPT*, as we do at the start of each fiscal

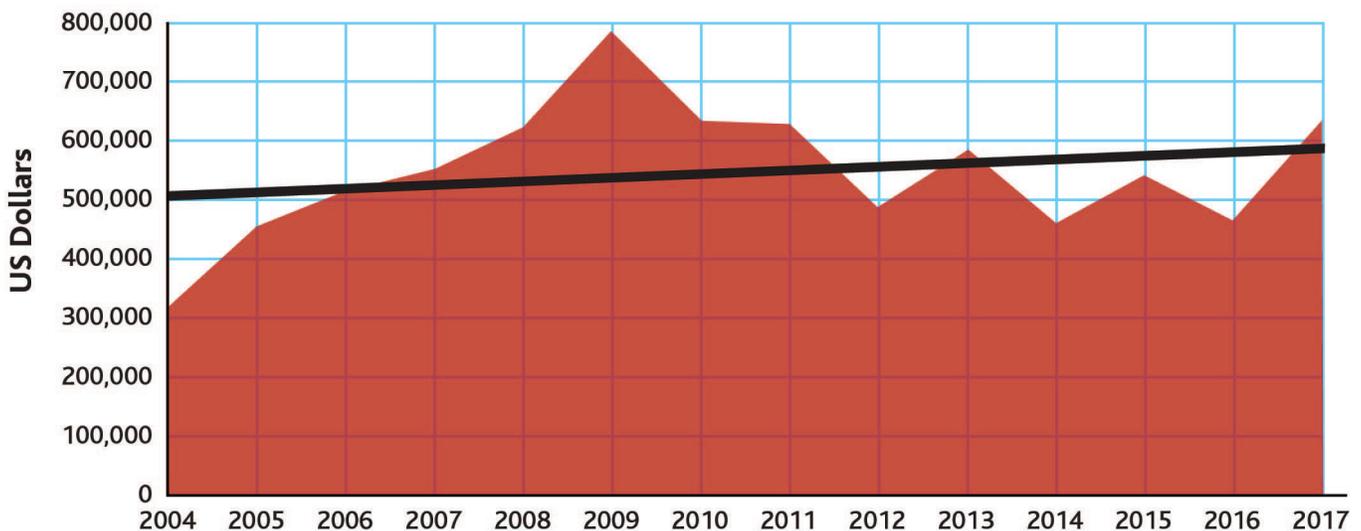
year (see Appendix A). Additionally, a region requested to inspect *FIPT*-related financial records in April 2017. Other publications that are less constrained by the calendar offer better opportunities to communicate about that request and subsequent actions. Please refer to the essay in the Conference Approval Track materials and to the *Conference Report* (both available at www.na.org/conference) for the latest information regarding this request.

As the Basic Text reminds all of us, "Everything that occurs in the course of NA service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers." We take NAWS' conduct as a corporation to be our sacred responsibility. As a Board, we are entrusted by the Fellowship and required by law to fulfill our corporate responsibilities. We are also bound by a spiritual responsibility to act in accordance with our guiding principles. Ultimately, we are responsible to the NA Fellowship. We strive to report in enough detail to offer transparency and make every effort to communicate effectively with a broad audience. In our oversight of NAWS, Inc., we seek to apply both spiritual principles and corporate best practices in all of our activities.

We hope these reports on this year's activities are as exciting to you as they have been for us. We are proud and humbled by what we can do together.

In gratitude,
Your World Board

Cost to NAWS for Free & Subsidized Literature, 2004–2017



Note: The high point in the 2008–2009 fiscal year reflects distribution of the Fifth Edition Basic Text for use in H&I settings when we published the Sixth Edition. Despite this, free and subsidized literature is still trending upward (black line).

World Board Members

Board Member	First Elected	Term Ends	Location
Tana Agostini	2012	2018	Saugerties, New York, USA
Irene Crawley	2012	2018	Westmeath, Ireland
Paul Fitzgerald	2012	2018	Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
Arne Hassel-Gren	2006	2018	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Mark Hersh	2006	2018	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
Franney Jardine	2006	2018	Olympia, Washington, USA
Tonia Nikolinakou	2006	2018	Athens, Greece
Junior Odilson Gomez Braz	2008	2020	São José dos Campos, São Paulo, Brazil
Tali McCall	2012	2022	Anahola, Hawaii, USA
Jack Hovenier	2016	2022	Bellingham, Washington, USA
Jose Luis Andreu	2016	2022	San Juan, Puerto Rico
Khalil Johnson*	2016	2022	Atlanta, Georgia, USA
MaryEllen Polin	2012	2022	Encino, California, USA
Tim Smith	2016	2022	Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Human Resource Panel

	First Elected	Term Ends	
Michael B	2014	2018	Nashville, Tennessee, USA
Sherry V	2014	2018	Bunker Hill, West Virginia, USA
Jim B	2016	2020	North Chicago, Illinois, USA
Veronica B	2016	2020	Husqvarna, Sweden

WSC Cofacilitators

	First Elected	Term Ends	
Laura B	2014	2018	Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
Mark B	2016	2020	Oviedo, Florida, USA

* Resigned due to personal reasons