The World Board develops a strategic plan in advance of each World Service Conference. It sets out objectives for the two-year Conference cycle ahead. Project plans, including timelines and budgets, stem directly from the strategic plan and require Conference approval. Decisions at WSC 2018 set the agenda for the projects, workgroups, and Fellowship discussions described below.

Future of the WSC

The Future of the WSC was a project approved by WSC 2016 for the 2016–2018 Conference cycle to address Objective 4 of the NAWS Strategic Plan: Continue work to make the WSC a more effective resource to help achieve the Vision for NA Service.

Three reports were released during the 2016–2018 cycle exploring ways the Conference can effectively serve our collective needs as a Fellowship, use its fair share of Fellowship resources, and allow for productive discussions and decision making.

The first two reports were posted online in the previous fiscal year, and the third report was released in the 2018 fiscal year. After publishing each report, NAWS held a Conference participant web meeting so the Board and Conference participants could discuss the ideas that arose from the reports.

The first and third reports focused on improvements to the WSC decision-making process (find the full reports at www.na.org/future). These ideas were implemented at the 2018 WSC and reshaped how the WSC conducted business; as a result, many Conference participants expressed that this was one of the smoothest Conferences in recent memory.

There will be many opportunities to improve upon what has been recently implemented. Currently, the Board is discussing ways to evolve and improve the new idea proposal process to help make the Conference discussions of those new ideas more meaningful. Finding effective ways for the WSC to help achieve the Vision for NA Service is always an ongoing process, and we hope to continue finding success with our efforts.

Survey Says:
The Spiritual Principle a Day Book Project

The Spiritual Principle a Day Book Project sprang from the wishes of members expressed in two surveys:

- The 2016 literature survey, distributed as a part of the Conference Agenda Report, revealed great interest in a new daily meditation book.
- In 2017, a follow-up survey probed to learn more about what the Fellowship might like to see in such a book. We received 2,715 responses to this survey, and these responses informed the project plan presented in the Conference Agenda Track for WSC 2018 consideration.

The project plan reflects key findings from the 2017 survey. Members want a book that is:

- Focused on application and action
- Less like a horoscope, and more of a useful tool
- Reflective of members’ experience and voice, with true-to-life scenarios

The 2018 World Service Conference approved the two-cycle project plan and budget, setting the work in motion. Between the Conference and the end of the 2018 FY, we began creating tools to support a Fellowship-wide writing effort and gathering material that reflects our shared experience. Visit www.na.org/spad for all the latest.
Local Service Toolbox

The Local Service Toolbox Project was created to produce a collection of tools that reflect our Fellowship’s best practices and experiences in delivering services locally. It was part of the Service Tools project plan approved at the 2016 WSC and was approved again at the 2018 WSC as part of the Training and Tools project plan.

Rather than forming a workgroup for this project, we hold online meetings that are open to any member wishing to be involved, and we use the input from these meetings to create the drafts of these tools. If you would like to participate in this project or want more information, please email toolbox@na.org to be added to the email list.

We began this project with the creation of a webpage and the publication of a survey to determine priorities for local service tools. According to the survey, Consensus-Based Decision Making (CBDM), Rural and Isolated Communities, and Fellowship Development Basics were the three topics that ranked the highest. Input to the 2018 CAR survey and discussions at the WSC showed strong interest in a Group Service Representative (GSR) orientation tool, so we added that to the list.

In the previous fiscal year, the first draft of CBDM Basics was posted online for 90 days with a survey for Fellowship input. Throughout the 2018 FY, we continued to compile feedback from online meetings along with other member input to create a draft of CBDM Basics for Board approval. By October 2017, a draft of CBDM Basics was sent to Conference participants for 90-day review and input and was subsequently published. A copy of CBDM Basics can be found here: www.na.org/toolbox.

We continued to hold online meetings for the Serving NA in Rural & Isolated Communities service tool and workshopped the draft at a number of Fellowship events. For updates, please email toolbox@na.org for the toolbox project or ruralservice@na.org for the Serving NA in Rural & Isolated Communities tool, and we will
add you to those email lists. Lastly, we would like to take a moment to thank all the members who have participated in this project for their dedication and insightful input. We look forward to developing more service material with your valued participation.

Conventions and Events Toolbox

The Conventions and Events Toolbox was created to develop resources that support the successful delivery of local conventions and events by informing service committees about current best practices and experiences. This project also had the same approval process as the Local Service Toolbox Project, as it was linked to the same project plan.

We began work on this project in the 2017 FY by gathering input and hosting web meetings regarding event programs. This input informed the first draft of The Program Committee and Developing the Program, and we posted this draft for a 90-day review. By the end of the 2018 FY, we completed the program tool (you can find a copy here: www.na.org/conventions), started work on Money Management, and began planning work on the Contracts & Negotiations and Committee Structure & Accountability tools.

We currently have over 400 members interested in participating in the project’s work. Our thanks to all those who have participated and to those who have sent locally developed materials. They have proved to be a great resource in putting together the current drafts and addendum material.

To sign up for the web meetings and project news, email conventions@na.org.

Delegates Sharing

The Delegates Sharing Workgroup focuses on fostering unity, familiarity, and understanding among regional and alternate delegates. It was initiated by a regional motion approved by the 2014 WSC, and approved again at the 2016 WSC. The workgroup develops a workshop for the Unity Day held the Saturday before the Conference opens, and it implements a Conference session for attendees to share their experiences in more personal, small-group discussions. One hope is that the Delegates Sharing session will help everyone move through the Conference week with a greater appreciation for their peers and a sense of camaraderie and unity.

The Unity Day held before the Conference is cohosted by NAWS and the local area service committee. It is open to Conference participants and members from local NA communities, so the workshop organized by the Delegates Sharing Workgroup offers opportunities to learn together and exchange service experiences. The workshop for the 2018 WSC was titled “Our Solutions,” which was an open forum for participants to focus on successful solutions to NA service challenges.

The Delegates Sharing Workgroup also implemented a creative “speed sharing” session on Sunday evening of the Conference. Participants sat in two rows of chairs facing each other, with 20 suggested get-to-know-you questions—some focused on NA service and recovery and others on personal life and experiences. Participants then paired up to get to know each other, and session
cofacilitators (teams of two regional delegates) coordinated the rotation of participants at timed intervals of two to three minutes. Animated conversation filled the rooms, and as time was called to rotate, many participants ended their conversations with hugs, appreciation for one another, and promises to stay in touch.

Before the session ended, the cofacilitators held a large-group discussion to allow members to evaluate their experience and explore how this session could help them serve at the WSC. The overall assessment was that having a chance to get to know each other on a personal level—regardless of each delegate’s background, culture, or location—was a reminder that the WSC is just recovering addicts coming together in service to support NA’s primary purpose.

### Issue Discussion Topics

An Issue Discussion Topic (IDT) is a subject that recovering addicts in NA communities around the world focus on in workshops throughout each two-year Conference cycle. Each new cycle ushers in new IDTs for members to discuss. For the last two Conference cycles, a survey in the Conference Agenda Report has offered a list of topics to choose from, enabling members and NA communities to participate in prioritizing the issues that are most relevant to them.

IDTs encourage us to think more deeply about relevant issues and help build unity within our groups and service bodies. These session materials embrace the use of technology to share ideas with the World Board, encouraging attendees to email pictures of notes and other input directly to the Board at worldboard@na.org. This inclusive approach has enabled more members than ever to participate in shaping the Fellowship resources and services that often result from this process.

Below, you’ll find a summary of the three topics explored in the 2016–2018 Conference cycle and some of the ideas received about each IDT. A complete overview of the input is included in the Conference Report, which is published shortly before each WSC. Resources to support IDT workshops can be found in a variety of languages at www.na.org/idt.

#### How to Use Guiding Principles

**Purpose:** To introduce Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions. As in previous cycles, this IDT is intended to familiarize members with a new piece of NA literature.

**Process:** Provides an outline of the different parts of the book and focuses the discussion on a few questions from the “In Service” section of the first three Tradition essays in Guiding Principles.

**Input:** This session has been one of the most popular IDTs in recent years, with standing room only reported at several events. During the fiscal year covered by this report, we received input from three workshops.

Much of the input for Tradition One agreed that we demonstrate unity as a Fellowship by applying commonly accepted spiritual principles, and this is shown by strong meetings and the consistent structure of NA as a whole—even though it was also acknowledged that there are challenges with ego and room for growth. Some ideas for enhancing or building a spirit of unity include group-based activities, cooperating with other groups and service bodies, inventories, training and mentoring new trusted servants, and reaching out to new members via phone calls and texts. We were also reminded that NA unity is enhanced when we focus on our primary purpose and not on our personal issues.

The questions that focused on the Second Tradition offered a vision of a process that is inclusive, open-minded, and respectful to all participants. Input suggested that an observer would see us as unified (if a little chaotic sometimes) and focused on passionately carrying our message.

When we asked about who was missing when discussing the Third Tradition, a familiar list was offered, including old and young addicts, LGBTQ members, those with physical limitations, addicts with young children, geographically isolated members, women, professionals, and various ethnic and language groups. Some of the outside issues that affect the opportunities for addicts to recover in NA include the stigma of being an addict in some societies, the influence of treatment programs, and the perception of NA as an unsafe place by addiction professionals.
Applying Our Principles to Technology and Social Media

**Purpose:** To discuss the NA principles that apply to our use of social media and concrete ideas for how to apply them. This topic was one of the two prioritized in the 2016 CAR Survey.

**Process:** Review available resources to aid discussion of this issue, brainstorm applicable principles, and share about challenges and solutions encountered when using social media as members and service bodies. The small-group discussion section of the IDT focused on the challenges prioritized by those in attendance, asking what principles were lacking and what solutions could be offered. The session suggested closing with an opportunity to share successes and challenges of service bodies using social media as a PR tool, and reminded everyone of the project “Social Media as a PR Tool,” adopted at WSC 2016.

**Input:** While we received only eight pieces of input during this fiscal year, members identified a wide range of applicable, and sometimes missing, spiritual principles. Unsurprisingly, anonymity was mentioned in every list. Some of the prioritized challenges included protecting personal anonymity; the presence of outside issues, personal opinions, and abusive behavior when using social media platforms; and challenges with using existing resources and creating Fellowship-wide guidelines. Solutions shared centered on the application of personal recovery principles, educating ourselves and others on how to use social media and how to apply the Traditions to its use, and creating new resources to provide guidance. Please send us your workshop results and personal input on all Issue Discussion Topics.

### Atmosphere of Recovery in Service

**Purpose:** This session aims to improve our sometimes challenging atmosphere in service meetings by discussing what spiritual growth and fulfillment mean to us personally, and ways to encourage others to serve and nurture an atmosphere of recovery in service. This topic was also prioritized by the 2016 CAR Survey.

**Process:** The final focus of the discussion session was influenced by a regional proposal asking that it be based on the second bullet point from A Vision for NA Service: “Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service.”

The small-group discussion section of the session again asked attendees to focus on concrete ways to encourage change in this area. The session closed with an opportunity to fill out an action card by answering the question, “What actions will you take to revitalize the service culture in your NA community?” Sharing these with the Board has proved particularly popular.

**Input:** Again, we received more input on this topic than any other during this fiscal year from ten workshops submitting a total of 50 action cards, making this still one of the most widely discussed topics in recent cycles. Much of the input offered thoughts about service as a way of experiencing gratitude and growth in recovery, and many members stressed the importance of mutual respect and goodwill. Some of the practical ideas to achieve a positive service atmosphere included creating and adhering to simple and realistic guidelines, clear reporting, and the effective handover of service positions so new trusted servants are well prepared. Many of the action cards we received talked about the importance of encouraging others to get involved, modeling positive behavior, and practicing principles before personalities.

### Topics for the 2018–2020 Conference Cycle

We surveyed members’ interest to help determine IDTs for the 2018–2020 cycle. High-interest topics were determined at WSC 2018 as follows:

- Attracting Members to Service
- Carrying the NA Message and Making NA Attractive
- Drug Replacement Therapy (DRT) and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) as It Relates to NA*

Resources to support local discussions can be found online at [www.na.org/idt](http://www.na.org/idt).

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*The Board notified the 2018 WSC that most likely there would be a third IDT. At the Board meeting in June 2018, we decided to add Drug Replacement Therapy/Medication-Assisted Treatment as It Relates to NA.*