



# October 2008 Alternate Delegate Report



## NAWS Service System Working Group:

Our Service System Work Group met at the WSO from Thursday through Saturday, September 11-13. Our charge from the World Service Conference over the course of this Three year project is to:

1. Create a "Vision Statement" for all NA Service Efforts, and
2. Frame options for local service delivery

We have a daunting task. After spending the bulk of Thursdays' session adopting the NAWS work group values and establishing our culture of teamwork, we began to look at the project charge and scope. We heard from the Assistant Executive Director on her experiences with the "Day of 12 Step Fellowships" gathering at the AA GSO earlier this year. After talking with the ED's of each of the major 12 Step fellowships, she discovered that their service structures are much more flexible and amenable to structural change than we are. They tend to be much less bound by the dogma of "we've always done it this way," and are less invested in holding onto old structural systems like the one we still find ourselves in after all these years. The reality is that our fellowship has changed tremendously in the last 25 years since the publication of the basic text, but not much has changed with our local service systems.

Our first goal as a group is to create a vision statement, and possibly a mission statement, for all local services that extols the ideals of an atmosphere of recovery, service as a positive experience, willingness to try creative approaches, etc. We're hammering out rough drafts now that will go to the World Board for their October meeting; primarily to get a read from them as to whether we are on the right track. We'll then meet in December to refine the vision statement and create session profiles for workshops on the vision in February, after the Board signs off at their January meeting.

February and March are MARLCNA, EDM, APF, Florida Service Symposium and our Oakland WWW, so the goal is to get a draft out there with session profiles so Board members and Staff can get feedback and begin framing discussions on different approaches to re-aligning our services to meet the vision. The idea being that once everyone agrees on the vision, we can then discuss how we might change the way we do things to become more in line with the vision we've all bought into. A practical reality is that we no longer need any input on what's not working with NA Services. We have volumes of information from the fellowship issue discussion topics, RD reports to the World Service Conference, and the everyday correspondence the office receives. Our charge will be to look at innovations that are being tried in places like Iran, Florida, Sweden, and Northern California and see if any of these experiences may be of value to the rest of the fellowship.

Based on the nature of the fellowships feedback/response, we may be able to offer a Vision statement for NA local services in the 2010 CAR/CAT and focus the rest of our energies between this summer and September 2011 on different structural models and tools to offer the fellowship in a new *Guide to Local Services* or other vehicles. We recognize there won't be a one-size-fits-all model; which is the problem with the current RSC model. We'll focus on a variety of approaches that encourage service bodies to consider function over form

Serving with me on the group are Craig, Muk, and Mark from the World Board, Bob G from Florida, Earl W from Pennsylvania, Jean-Pierre B from Quebec, JJ from Minnesota, Jose M from Brazil, Sisko H from Sweden, Tana A from New York, Tim S from Australia, and Travis F from Illinois

## Admin/FST Team Building Meeting (workgroup values)

The Administrative Committee, along with the H&I and PR Coordinators, met on September 27<sup>th</sup> to focus on building a team culture and adopting some common working values to guide our interactions. This was long overdue for us. We wanted to start the year off with this type of exercise, but not getting a treasurer until September forced us to hold off until we had a full team. However, now we have truly come together and began building the foundations of service rooted firmly in the principles of recovery.

As a result of this exercise, the Administrative Committee has adopted a set of “Work Group Values” that we read at each of our meetings. We believe bringing this commitment to an atmosphere of recovery in our service meetings is absolutely vital as we journey down the road of structural changes to regional services. Changing the culture of the way we do service in our fellowship is perhaps more important than any procedural or structural changes we could make. Hopefully these values will be the guiding touchstone of all our efforts.



### Service Pamphlets

NAWS is continuing revision on the Service Pamphlets “*Service and the NA Member*” and “*Leadership*.” A section on Leadership is being added to the member-targeted piece and the Leadership piece will be written with groups and service bodies as the intended audience.

It’s interesting to note that, after all the controversies prior to the WSC about the fellowships apparent demand for review of the service pamphlets, input was only received from members, groups and committees from 17 Regions (5 outside of the US). This is especially telling given that the majority of the uproar over the service pamphlet process came from US delegates. The IP “*An Introduction to NA Meetings*” has been revised and input has been favorable. All three pieces will likely be available by the end of the year.



### *In Times of Illness* Work Group

The *In Times of Illness* workgroup met for the first time in early August. This project includes an overall assessment and revision of the booklet, and also the addition of material to address long-term illness, current issues with medication, and mental health issues in recovery. The group will review input from the many NAWS medication workshops held throughout the fellowship over the last few years and will incorporate this input into revisions to the IP. Their next meeting will be Next weekend at the WSO, where they will review their first revisions to the booklet. The group is hopeful to release a review and input draft to the fellowship in February.. We can well anticipate an *In Times of Illness* Review session will be part of the agenda for the World Wide Workshop in Oakland. As we know, medication is an issue that evokes a lot of passions in our members. Hopefully that will translate into fellowship interest and participation at the WWW.

On a related note, The Board had on their radar the possibility of pulling the old World Service Bulletin #29 concerning methadone or combining it with the Service Pamphlet “*NA Groups and Medication*.”. However, NAWS has decided that, given the discussions that will take place on ITOL, revising the Service Pamphlet now may not be the most productive avenue to take.

## **Self Support Work Group**

This group met for the first time August 28-30<sup>th</sup>. Their charge is to create more meaningful pieces to replace the 2 different IPs: *Self-Support: Principle and Practice* and *Hey! What's the Basket For?* I believe the plan is similar to the ITOL work group, in that we can expect a review piece sometime in February. I'm sure Sue can provide you with much more first-hand insight into this long needed project!

## **Living Clean Work Group**

The Living Clean Work Group also met the second weekend of September, and we had a large combined lunch at the WSO on Friday. The work group is working with and revising a beginning outline for the book. We can expect an update on the groups work, and possibly a chance to review drafts, at the WWW in February.

## **NA History Project**

NAWS is moving forward with plans to conduct video interviews of several of our predecessors in an effort to preserve NA's history. This project actually stems from a motion adopted at the 1993 world service conference. Over the intervening years, we've lost a lot of the early members of our fellowship.

One of my hopes is that the RSC will someday soon form a working group to capture oral history, as well as photos and documents from our longer term members here in Northern California. We're the second oldest fellowship in NA, and, although there are volumes of history and information available on the start of NA in Southern California, very little exists about our rich history.

## **Translations Evaluation Group**

The translations evaluation group is continuing its involvement and support with local translation committees around the world. The group has recently been busy working in Urdu (Pakistan, India), Slovene (Slovenia), Kannada (India), Armenian, Croatian, Maltese, Bengali, and Latvian (Latvia in Northeast Europe).

## **European Delegates Meeting**

NAWS attended the EDM in July in Helsinki, Finland. Participants included delegates from Croatia, Egypt, Finland, France, French-speaking Switzerland, German-speaking Region, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK, and Western Russia. NAWS held a workshop at the EDM and 2 at the European Conference and Convention the same weekend. The sessions were on Leadership, and medication in recovery.



## **Colombia 25th Anniversary Convention**

NAWS conducted workshops on Building Strong Home Groups, The Area planning tool, and the PR Handbook at Columbia's special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary convention. About 700 addicts attended the convention, which was highlighted by all 700 members walking to the central plaza in Cali, aided by the police who closed streets and directed traffic for them. Once gathered in the plaza, they celebrated NA's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday with a giant Styrofoam birthday cake and performances by

local salsa dance groups. Members of the RSC handed out slices of real cake for the attendees, as well as a “gratitude” plaque for NAWS.

### **WCNA 33 Barcelona**

Preparations are well underway for our first World Convention in Europe since 1995. The European Delegates have cancelled the 2009 European Convention and Conference in order to focus more attention on this special event. The way the convention rotation falls, the next world convention in Europe may not be for another 20 years, so this promises to be a very special event.

NAWS is working to get registration opened on [www.na.org](http://www.na.org) sometime this month, instead of the usual timeline of December. A heavy emphasis will take place on pre-registration this year. The lions share of the \$500,000 deficit from WCNA 32 San Antonio occurred from projections of onsite registrations, based on the conventions history, that were far more optimistic than the numbers that actually showed to register onsite. As a result of the income shortfall from San Antonio, and the continuing fall of the US dollar against the Euro, we find ourselves having to be much more judicious with the planning for meeting space and entertainment. This world Convention will have the facilities and special ticketed entertainment events accommodations much more closely tied to pre-registration numbers than projections of who might show up onsite. In short, if you don’t pre-register for the World Convention, you may find yourself missing out on some entertainment and opportunities onsite.

NAWS will offer a wide range of hotel options on [www.na.org](http://www.na.org) , as well as other accommodations that re relatively inexpensive.

### **Human Resource Panel**

The NAWS HRP is continuing work on refining the nominations process for World Service positions.. The process begins this spring, wherein the HRP will begin accepting what’s been called “RBZ” nominations to World Services. These are nominations that may come from a Regional Service Committee, the World Board itself, or a zonal forum (hence the term “RBZ”). One of the pieces the HRP is looking into as these forms of nominations have seemingly gained more favor with the conference than th traditional “blind” nominations screened exclusively by the HRP, is the idea of having Regions, the World Board, or Zones submit a written “rationale” for why they are forwarding their particular candidate to world services. Developing a rationale questionnaire is something the HRP may develop at some point with help from former conference participants.

### **RNP Reminder**

As a reminder, in December, the RSC is scheduled to ratify our first ever Regional Nominations Panel. The process calls for the RSC Chair to propose a panel to the RSC for concurrence. The panel shall consist of 4 members and shall serve as human resource “head hunters” from January through RSC elections in June. In addition to the \_\_ Year clean time requirement, the other primary requirements for panel membership is some familiarity, through either current or past experience, with regional services, and that you are not standing for election to any regional service position during the term of the panel. Anyone that is interested in serving on this panel, and trying first hand a more proactive approach to filling regional positions, is encouraged to fill out a regional resource pool form.

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