



# September 2009 Northern CA Regional Delegate Report



I am starting this month's report with a note of regret that I am not in attendance for this weekend's event in Eureka. One of my earliest memories in service was attending a regional service weekend at the same Red Lion Hotel in Eureka in August of 1988. I was just under two years clean, but the spirit of service and fellowship that was evident amongst the local fellowship has had a lasting impact with me to this day. I was fortunate enough to be involved with the RSC when we returned for another weekend in the spring of 1996; and the energy and excitement from the fellowship was just as palpable. I was very much looking forward to being there this weekend. However, being part of a NAWS working group with members from all over the world means that, sooner or later, we're going to have to compromise on a date for our meetings that doesn't work well for everyone. I drew the short straw this time.

I'll be back at the RSC in October, with some exciting new stuff to report, as our working group is now at the point, finally, where we will begin outlining some new structural models for the provision of NA services.

## **WCNA 33 BARCELONA**

Our 33<sup>rd</sup> World Convention in Barcelona was a historic and special event for our fellowship. Although small by US World Convention standards (about 4,024 pre-registered, and around 6,000 total onsite), WCNA 33 was our most diverse World Convention ever, and likely will be for some time to come. 59 countries were represented and Americans only equated to about half of the total mix!

Although the Spanish government began declining visa applications from Iranian members prior to the convention as a result of the recent political turmoil in Iran, about a dozen Iranian members were able to get visas through other EU countries and attend the convention. Included amongst them was the Saturday night speaker, one of the early women members in Iran whose story is also in our new Basic Text.

The old timers meeting was special, as it featured members from Sweden, The UK, and Germany who are all close to 30 years clean. NA in Western Europe has really matured. These members shared the stage with one of our founding members, Bob B, whose story is also in our Basic Text. Bob also had the honor of having the time clean at our Sunday morning clean time count down, and was brought on stage to be acknowledged, and to help handout books to newcomers.

Thanks to the financial support of the European Delegates Meeting, members from several European communities were funded to the EDM and also able to participate in the World Convention.

WCNA also represented a new experiment in public relations for us. NAWS hired a public relations firm to help Narcotics Anonymous gain visibility and recognition as a viable program of recovery in Spain. Amongst our successes was a 4 page article in a nationally distributed magazine that accompanies the Sunday morning paper! I have a copy of the magazine and will bring it next month for everyone to see.

I want to commend the World Board for taking a very principled and unanimous stand regarding WCNA registration policies. The board decided that no American members would be eligible for newcomer packets at WCNA 33, regardless of clean time. Yes, there were actually quite a few Americans who flew themselves to Barcelona and demanded a form of "hardship" registration. It was a rare honor for me in service to be able to assist at registration with summarily declining these requests.

In addition, WCNA has some very assertive policies that reward members of the fellowship for helping to responsibly plan for our conventions through pre-registration. These rewards included access to special merchandise, and advance access to onsite merchandise a day before those that registered onsite were allowed in. Additionally, no one without a badge is allowed access to merchandise. In this way, the convention assists our members and the event itself to align more closely with the true spirit of self-support.

It is my sincerest hope that NCCNA and the RSO Board will take a hard look at adopting similar policies. It seems insane to continue to put on conventions for 6,000 plus members when only 3,500 or so register. Although we have historically made good profits from merchandise sales, it may be time to ask ourselves whether or not we should drive more registrations and less focus on merchandise as a means to more closely align ourselves with the spirit of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. I've already broached this subject at the September RSO Board meeting, with the NCCNA Vice Chair in attendance, and I'm hopeful these discussions will continue to take place throughout the year.

### **SUMMER 2009 EUROPEAN DELEGATES MEETING (EDM)**

I enjoyed having the opportunity to sit in on the European Delegates Meeting, which took place in a separate hotel downtown August 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, prior to WCNA 33 kick off. The European Delegates meeting is a forum in which European fellowships meet twice a year through representatives elected by individual European Communities (regional delegates). The Mission Statement of the EDM is:

*“The EDM is a European based forum of multi-lingual and multi-cultural NA Communities inside and outside Europe, whose mission is to further their common welfare and unity, support their growth, and help them fulfill their primary purpose of carrying the NA message to the still suffering addict.”*

The EDM serves the following communities: Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, French Speaking Swiss, German Speaking, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Western Russia.

Fellowship Development is one of the central activities of the EDM. Through their Fellowship Development (FD) Committee, the EDM offers support to emerging NA communities in order to help them build their local service structures and deal with local issues. Thanks to the financial support of the European Delegates Meeting, members from the following communities were funded to the EDM and also able to participate in the World Convention.: Lithuania, Egypt, Hungary, Western Russia (partial funding assistance), Poland and Finland.

### **EUROPEAN DELEGATES MEETING FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRIP - MALTA**

Given that Malta has applied for Conference seating at WSC 2010; I've decided to include the reports of both the EDM FD Committee, and the Malta Fellowship on an FD trip to Malta in April of 2009. The Maltese fellowship is very young and very small, with only a handful of groups. They do not have an area structure, and instead formed themselves as a region. They are probably not ready for seating at the WSC for a few years, but they were in attendance at the EDM in Barcelona, which appears to be exactly the right place for them at this stage in their development.

*What follows is written by the tea members that made the tip, as well as the local fellowship's response:*

#### **Report from the EDM FD Workshops in Malta, April 2009**

First of all we want to thank you for trusting us with this service; it has benefited us beyond our beliefs. To be able to meet a fellowship first hand and to experience their eagerness to learn, willingness to serve, warm hearts and gratitude has been fantastic. Reminding us, who are from older fellowships, where we came from and that we can never get complacent?

We were asked to do PI, both workshop with the Maltese fellowship, and a PI for professionals. We were also asked to hold workshops on the 12 Concepts and on Sponsorship. There was a lot of communication going on before the actual trip, in order to plan it all. We assigned tasks among ourselves, and were prepared when we finally met in Malta. Once in Malta, we met up every day to make final changes accordingly to meet the needs of the Maltese fellowship. We evaluated each day shortly and had (as we felt) a satisfying communication ongoing. Following is what we did, and what the Maltese workshop-groups came up with.

### **PI Workshop for the Maltese fellowship**

A few words on the preparations

The FD Committee was involved with Sergio, Veronica, Simon and Ian in the preparation. We agreed on the date, time and aim of the workshop. The workshop was about "How to do a PR / PI presentation". The aim was to familiarize the Maltese Fellowship with PR / PI and prepare them for the presentation we were going to do in the local community.

We used two power points presentations to introduce the subject and explain. One was about "Why do PR / PI" examples and ideas; and the other were "Twelve steps for a PR / PI presentation". We also used the Literature recommend for PR / PI actions for support. 16 persons attended the workshop

### **Workshop. Topics. Level of participation**

The workshop was divided in three sections: introduction; presentation from the power points; FAQ time. The participation in the FAQ time was strong and active, but most of the questions were not about the PR / PI issue. The participants were more interested on local issue and difficulties.

The general ambience during the workshops was friendly; active; funny; good mood; very high level of participation.

### **Challenges. Problems or Difficulties**

The main problem was focus and to maintain the participants on the subject / issue from the workshop. The other was not to give personal opinions to the questions. Any requests, response, that you received from the local NA members The local NA requests for more workshops and more information in how to act and do the things in NA. Example: how to conduct a Service Meeting. Any ideas or suggestions that you have on follow up, The follow up must be effectible; the FD Committee needs to talk and listen to the local Fellowship about the results; what they think about and what they want in the future. More than our opinion is the local Fellowship opinions we need.

### **Personal Observations**

It was very encouraging, the will and open mind from the Maltese Fellowship. But we need to pay more attention to what the local Fellowship want and needs. I feel very strong, the needs of contact and sharing experiences in simple things, like: how to announce the service positions in the meeting; how to elect the trusted servants; how and when to do a service meeting; clarify the Literature available (the addicts don't know the amount of Literature we have) in English (in Malta most of the people speak English). The needs from other opinion were very strong and effective; they need more contact and diversity of opinions and recovery; they need to share with other addicts. In this global FD action, we are able to touch a number of addicts in this Fellowship, maybe most of the Fellowship, and that was the most important thing we achieve.

PI Presentation for the professionals

### **A few words on the preparations**

The FD Committee was involved with Sergio, Veronica, Simon and Ian in the preparation. We agreed on the date, time and aim for the PR / PI presentation with input from the Maltese Fellowship. The presentation was a power point information and FAQ; time 1 hour and 30 minutes; in the end we had a coffee break and also laid out a table with Literature. We planned the way we wanted to do the presentation. The number of attendees at the workshop: 25 persons / guest 8 addicts in the audience

The Institutions presents where:

- Caritas Malta (Catholic Church organization against drug and alcohol abuse)

- Sedqa (National Agency against drug and alcohol abuse)
- Corradino Correctional Facility (Malta prisons)
- Probation services officers
- Psychologists
- Psychotherapists
- Labor Party - Shadow Minister for Education, Youth and Culture
- University of Malta
- Cottonera Community Resource Centre
- Dept of Health Information & Research Division
- Education Division - SAFE Schools Program

### **Workshop, Topics. Level of participation**

The facilities (conference room in a hotel where the convention later where held) were excellent for this type of presentation. The level of participation from the Guests / professionals was very high. They asked questions and wanted information; they were also very interested in the Literature. The questions were very actual, example: if addicts under 18 years old go to a meeting we (NA) assume the responsibility? Do we (NA) oppose to addicts go to the meetings if they are in substitution programs? At the same moment the audience was very interesting about the Literature, we offer all the Literature available. The action occurs in a good ambiance and everything developed like we planned; on time; with order; smart level; talk open and free during the coffee break.

### **Challenges. Problems or difficulties**

The only difficulty was when one NA-member in the audience insisted on answering with a personal opinion to one question. In fact this member was not present in the workshop we did the previous day, when we explained the importance on why the only ones answering any questions would be the ones who did this presentation, and that the others only assisted/observed/learned. The local NA members were all very excited and happy with the presentation.

### **Ideas or suggestions for follow up**

We agreed to send follow up letters to thank the visiting professionals. The follow up must be done by the local Fellowship, if they have any requirements from the Institutions presents and for others.

### **Personal Observations**

For us it was a fantastic experience; we feel very enthusiastic about the future, because, the response from the professionals was very good. We think we achieved our goal, and definitely this presentation was successful. One fact important is the facilities, the preparation, the addicts now know what they can and can't do; and all that we prepared and have. We think that the presentation happened in a very good way, and is very important talk, show and inter acting with the community for be part.

### **Workshop on the 12 Concepts**

We began the workshop talking about the background to how the concept came about. Then short introduction about the concepts and talked a little about each one of them. Then the groups started to workshop the questions (which we choose based on what the Maltese fellowship seemed to need right now):

- Does your group hold regular business meetings?
- What is the difference between service and government?

### **Workshop on Sponsorship**

We started the workshop by presenting the sponsorship pamphlet and talking about sponsorship, what sponsorship is/isn't, responsibilities from sponsor and sponsee, how to get a sponsor and different ways to sponsor. Then we (Veronica and Sergio) shared about our own experiences about sponsoring, and answered questions from the Maltese members. Then we did a workshop on the questions:

- What is sponsorship to me?
- How does having a sponsor, benefiting my recovery?

- What spiritual principles does that include?

There were A LOT of questions, and we did our best to answer them. Not only at the actual workshops, but in the coffeehouses, in the breaks, at restaurants, during walks, in the cars...well you get the picture. Again, we are in awe to how willing this fellowship is to learn, and how they just accepted whatever we said (which made us ever more serious about to answer the NA-way and not our way©). There were a lot of laughs, hugs, warmth, chilliness (in a stone basement!), love and aha-moments. Before and after the workshops we also showed the movies given to us delegates at the WSC. They were just as appreciated by the Maltese fellowship as they have been in our regions. Hopefully, pictures from these workshops in Malta will be on the next movies produced from NAWS ©

Finally: We kept the communication going after the workshop-weekend, not as frequent though. But what we've learned from Simon, their fellowship immediately grew as a result of the FD-work that we did (not to mention the PI for professionals!). This is truly a worldwide fellowship, and it is such a humbling experience to be a part of this amazing thing of giving away what we've got.

We are happy to say that we worked very well together. Communicating, planning, doing, everything went smoothly. It has truly benefited our own recoveries, thank you for letting us serve.

*Sergio and Veronica*

### **Report from the Maltese Community On the Fellowship Development Visit 16th to 19th April, 2009**

After consultation with the FD Committee and Sergio and Veronica, it was decided that the FD visit will consist of the following:

- Workshop on how to make a PI Presentation
- A PI presentation for professionals
- Workshop on the 12 Concepts of NA
- Workshop on Sponsorship

This was a big task for S & V, but I must say that they were impeccable and could not have done a better job. I will not go into the details of each workshop or presentation. Although I must mention that we are today bearing the fruit of the PI presentation, as since then we are receiving new members into our meetings who have been referred to us by Agencies which were present for the presentation and who had never referred anybody to us before then. But I will report on the benefits reaped by our Community from this FD Visit. The FD Visit coincided with a very important moment for our Community. We were in the process of dividing our community and meetings into Groups as they should be and giving a proper structure to our Region. Obviously, it was a moment where many various Service Positions were created and needed to be filled. Besides, there was still some confusion amongst the members to understand the difference between meetings and groups, service structure, group business meetings etc. The members were all eager to ask questions and learn new things.

The workshops on the 12 Concepts and Sponsorship have answered many questions and removed a lot of misunderstandings. I have noticed that the members were very willing to learn from V & S, unlike when we try to do some sort of workshop between us locally. This positive feeling did not go away after the FD visit finished. Today we are seeing new people in service position, new meetings have been opened and more will be opened pretty soon. Attendances at ALL meetings have increased dramatically. Members are actually working the Steps and many more have and use a sponsor. We have seen a dramatic change in our community, in the mentality and at the spiritual level. I have only one word to describe this FD Visit "SUCCESS" and I believe that such visits should be made to all new communities, irrelevant to how long they have been setup

*Simon A*

*Malta Regional Delegate (outgoing)*

### **A Brief note from the Fellowship in Iceland**

We have 8 meetings a week in Reykjavik, which is our capital, and about 6 meetings weekly in 3 other towns near Reykjavik. We have a strong good message in the meetings, working the steps is the main focus. And all meetings have the 5th tradition as a guideline. The majority of our members are young people, the average age in the Fellowship is 20-30, and we have a steady flow of teenagers as well

We have an Area Service that meets once a month. H&I meets once a month as well and is growing strong. We get to take several meetings every week into about 8 hospitals and institutions, and the demand is getting more and more. PR meets once a month as well, but there isn't very much going on there, we are trying to work on making that better. We also have a fundraising/social committee that's being revived.

Even though the Fellowship started here in 1982, we are still very young. We have members that have been working on translating the basic text, but it has taken a while. We do have pamphlets and key chains in Icelandic though. We do have literature in English at the meetings, but there is much need for it in Icelandic.

We have had at least two conventions: in 2003 and 2007. But due to insufficient resources we haven't been able to hold another one.

I've talked to fellow members and we agree that we would be honored to be offered to join our meetings, but we r not sure this is the time. We think it would help us more if someone with experience would be willing to come to Iceland, maybe for a week, and teach us what we are lacking in experience. Like with workshops and learning days, how to affectively work in Area Service. Bringing ideas and solutions to our money problems. Basically help us take our Fellowship to the next level and help it grow.

In the end, we recognize that you have more experience than we do. And whatever you guys think would be most helpful is will be more than welcome

.  
Thanks again so much for thinking about us. We really do appreciate it.

*Best Wishes from Iceland - Elin*

### **EDM DISCUSSION ON PRICING AT WSO-EUROPE**

As I had reported earlier, NAWS made a decision to change prices in Europe to be based on the euro. WSO Europe has operated at a loss for the past few years, primarily because we began a practice years ago of setting our literature prices each month based on the dollar-euro exchange rate in order to ensure the availability of literature in Europe. For a branch that has expenses in Euros, as well as additional expenses like VAT that are not incurred by NAWS in the US, this practice does not make sense.

After initial communications went out to the European fellowship regarding this impending change, World Services received a considerable amount of input and concern, mostly from the United Kingdom and Ireland, and some of that extremely unpleasant. NAWS listened and considered their perspective, and revised the price change to about half of what had been initially proposed.

Still, the "literature pricing" discussion was the hot topic of this years EDM. It was interesting to watch some of the more established NA Communities (UK & Ireland) complain that what was being done to them was "unfair." For years, these communities have purchased Basic Texts at extremely low prices from NAWS and have funded their local services on the literature mark-up. The irony is two-fold. First, it has been the North American members who have essentially subsidized these communities for years by absorbing the losses of WSO Europe. Second, this was virtually the same cry and hue that came from the US service offices in the mid nineties when World Services had to adjust literature pricing as a result of incurring losses while a handful of large regional offices were essentially being subsidized by world services.

Both the NAWS Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director addressed the EDM, and it was very difficult for the body to argue with this logic. When you finally realize that you have based your business model on practices that have been faulty for many years, it is difficult not to try to adjust them. But we also agreed that a significant price change does not seem reasonable or fair to institute all at one time. It is also difficult to explain to the average member why a model that works for net literature sales of almost \$7,000,000 in the US cannot be the same in a branch that has net sales of only slightly over \$250,000, or €175,000. These members had gotten used to literature pricing that had not made sense for years and years.

## **SOUTH AFRICA REGIONAL REPORT TO SUMMER 2009 EDM**

Thank you for this opportunity to share our community with you and to be a part of yours. This is an exciting year for NA South Africa. Not only will we be well represented at the World Convention but also will we be represented at the EDM.

### **Regional Committee**

We still meet via monthly teleconference and have two face to face meetings annually. One of the meetings coincides with the Regional Assembly and Regional Convention. General Day to day RCM business is conducted via email. Sub-Committee support meetings have been introduced. These are conducted via teleconference. The aim is to improve communications between the Areas. Our service committee's are doing preparation work for the 2010 soccer world cup. Lots of exciting ideas on how to improve 'carrying the message' have surfaced. If any other regions have had experience with this, please share your ESH with us.

### **Regional Assembly**

In November 2009 we will have our second official Regional Assembly. Planning for this event has commenced as we want to get as many GSR's to attend as possible.

### **Regional Convention – “Beyond Our Wildest Dreams”**

The 2009 Regional Convention is being hosted by the Gauteng Province. We are extending a special invitation to you! Please spread the word about this event and grace us with your presence.

<http://www.na.orq.za/convention2009/index.htm>

### **Fellowship Development (fd@na.orq.za)**

It seems like our Fellowship Development efforts are starting to gain momentum. Numerous starter packs have been supplied to other African Countries and towns within South Africa.

#### **African Continent:**

- Rwanda (arranged for literature to be sent to them by WS)
- Ghana (still awaiting contact details and venue for meeting, will then liaise with WS for literature and starter pack)
- Botswana (sent starter pack and literature) Kenya (support, details on our website) Namibia (support, details on our website, literature purchased) The First Namibian NA Convention! "Acceptance! West coast Na Mini Convention Namibia 2009" Saturday 31 October 2009 Swakopmund Rossing Golf Course "Conference Centre". Email: [catb2u@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:catb2u@yahoo.co.uk)
- Lesotho (starter pack supplied and literature purchased, meeting still not up and running) DRC (starter pack supplied)
- Nigeria (starter pack supplied)

#### **Within South Africa:**

- Mongoma, central KZN , (supplied starter pack)
- Kimberley, Free State, (support, details on our website, no literature supplied yet)
- Cartonville, Vaal Triangle (supplied starter pack)
- Polokwane, Limpopo Province (supplied starter pack)

- Heiderdaal Free State (supplied starter pack)
- Hazyview, Mapumalanga (supplied starter pack)
- Sabie, Mapumalanga (supplied starter pack)
- Mosselbay (supplied starter pack)

### **Public Information**

With the introduction of sub-committee support calls, communication between the Area PI committees has improved. Two of our Area PI committees have not functioned on full steam as a result of vacant service positions but this seems to have been remedied. PI work being done includes:

- Regional and local radio PSA's.
- Group poster 'runs' Police and Hospital PI packs are distributed.
- Media Campaigns
- University Grad campaigns.
- School campaigns.
- Presentations etc

### **Hospitals and Institutions**

The number of visits to Institutions and Prisons has increased. The 'pay-it-forward' initiative has enabled more NA literature to reach more 'still suffering' addicts out there. Most meetings have a box where members can donate new or used literature. The global recession has had a negative effect on group donations which has influenced the amount of literature that is taken into facilities. We were extremely grateful to receive a huge donation of 5th Edition Basic Texts from World Services. These are being distributed to Prisons and other facilities. Some areas have placed a copy in all the public libraries.

### **Website**

Our Website team reports an increase in the number of visits to [www.na.org.za](http://www.na.org.za). Meeting / contact information for other African countries have been included. (Botswana | Kenya | Mozambique | Namjbjja | Swaziland | Zimbabwe

### **Workshops**

We have had workshops in Western Cape and Gauteng. Kwazulu Natal are also hosting workshops later this year.

### **Literature**

The global financial challenges resulted in an increase in the dollar/rand exchange rate. This affected the cost of our literature and resulted in less literature being stocked and sold at some of the poorer meetings. The HI committees also felt the pinch.

### **Meetings**

At present there are about 145 meetings.

### **Translations**

We are finding this to be a very slow process. Our Region has decided to place this as an agenda item for the Regional Assembly.

*In Loving Service  
Dion W  
RD NA South Africa Region*

## EGYPT REGIONAL REPORT TO SUMMER 2009 EDM

### Activities subcommittee:

Activities during last 6 month:

- Lunch and dance party
- Sports tournament (Football & Table Tennis)
- Egyptian Fellowship Convention

### Literature Distribution

Sells NA materials & distributes meetings schedule to Groups (Number of meetings schedules increased from 1000 to 2000 per month). Planning for the Arabic Audio Basic Text

### Outreach Subcommittee:

The committee has conducted five workshops in four remote districts.

1. El Zagazig [January]
2. Alexandria [February]
3. Tor Sinai [March]
4. Alexandria (First group in Alexandria for girls only) [May]
5. Banha [June]

The committee keeps contact with the groups over the phone, or through a group liaison. The group keeps contact and provides support for groups that are trying to get registered, or groups that are still trying to find a suitable place to hold meetings in remote areas: Banysweif Tanta Ismailia

### Registration Committee:

Egypt in the process of registering the fellowship, we agreed and approved the founders by our ASC, we prepared all the legal papers and got them signed by the founders, the founders elected the board of the NGO. All the documents are ready with the attorney.

Our goal now is to name the NGO "Narcotics anonymous" and With the assistance of our PI subcommittee, we are trying to get approval from the social affairs ministry about the name Narcotics anonymous for our NGO and once this is done we shall submit our documents to the social affairs office for the declaration of our NGO. Current/v we have Guideline Ad hook subcommittee

## FINLAND REGIONAL REPORT TO SUMMER 2009 EDM

### Groups and Meetings

In Finland we have 4 areas (Helsinki, Tampere, Varsinais-Suomi and Savo-Karjala with 70-75 groups and app. 116 weekly meetings). Few new groups were opened.

### Service positions

All main services are covered in Regional level. We have elected new Alt RD and he is attending also this Summer EDM. His name is Tomas. Our RSC meets every 2 months in 5 hour meeting and we have started to develop our guidelines and also planned to start using area-planning tool. Also we have started to translate The Guide for local services. Areas keep their meetings once in 1-2 months.

### PI and H&I

- Helsinki and Tampere has vivid activity with their efforts to make PI and H&I.
- The Web Page for NA Finland is [www.na.suomi.org](http://www.na.suomi.org)

### **Literature and Translation committee**

Our newest book *Se toimii, miten ja miksi* (It works, how and why) is almost ready and we are waiting for the first books come for sale very soon. All our 4 areas have their own literature sub-committee or literature responsible person and this seems to work well.

### **Treasury**

We are getting to right direction now. Still we are forced to prioritize our future activities. We have made our budget for year 2009. It is our second budget and we have got a lot of questions around it. We are planning now our budget 2010. Our region has moved to cheaper place. In there we keep our regional and area meetings and keep storage to our literature, which is our main income. Our areas have "awaken" and they all are raising their 7th tradition and self support also for our service structure.

### **Convention**

Region convention 2009 has been cancelled because of budget. Finnish annual Narcotics anonymous Tampere Summer Days has been in June again and it went very well. Smaller activities are planned. Regional Convention 2010 is in Vaasa, at the sea west coast, very beautiful place Finland at September 2010, we are hoping and asking to have FD trip there. All our activities are or will be seen in our web-site [www.nasuomi.org](http://www.nasuomi.org)

### **Funding to Egypt EDM**

We would like to ask our delegate funded to EDM Egypt winter meeting 2010 if possible. It would be important if our Alt Rd Tomas can also be funded and could also attend to the EDM, because of our low budget in Finland region NA. Detailed information below: Flights app. 400€ Ground travel 160€ Hotel ?

With loving service  
RD Janne and Alt RD Tomas

## **GREEK REGIONAL REPORT TO SUMMER 2009 EDM**

In the Greek Region there are total 28 groups, 110 meetings (same number as before, with the addition of Cyprus) in 12 cities, one ASC (Northern Greece). Of the above, 4 meetings are held in foreign languages, one in English and three in Farsi (one new), all in Athens. Two are special interest groups (women meetings), in Athens and in Herakleion, Crete. Cyprus group: The group conscience has decided they want to be part of the Greek Region and they sent a long letter with all their news and decisions to the Greek RSC. So far, all communication is being done by phone and text messages All meetings information is listed on our regional website: [www.na-greece.gr](http://www.na-greece.gr)

### **LTC**

The "Introductory Guide to NA" is finished from our side and we are expecting NAWS to typeset it. The regional LTC (based in Athens) is still working on the approved translation of Basic Text. The good thing is that we now have new trusted servants, after 2-3 years that the LTC was hardly working! Northern Greece LTC is preparing a draft translation of "Sponsorship" book.

Question to NAWS: *The process is slow from NA WS side, for example the "How it works" chapter was assigned to a professional proofreader after 2-3 months. Similarly, another couple of months have passed since the whole Introductory. Guide was finished and still it is not typeset. Are these times "normal"? Can we have more info on how things work at the translations department?*

### **Phone line (regional)**

Athens Functions 7 days a week, 18:30-20pm (answering machine receives calls other times). In spring there was also a very successful 12th Step Workshop organized, to help form the local guidelines for this service. Phone line, Northern Greece Area Operates daily 18:30-20pm. Stickers with the phone line number are now all over the city. The committee has purchased a PC and is willing to undertake also website services in the future.

### **H&I (regional), Athens**

Weekly rotating visits to two treatment centers. Regular visits to one psychiatric clinic, in addition to presentations at men's and women's prisons. Lack of trusted servants for the women's prison.

H&I, Northern Greece area Frequent presentation meetings at a detox center. Alternating presentations to two treatment centers. Following a training workshop by the regional H&I, the area H&I with help from the area PR are working on ways to organize presentations in local correctional facilities.

### **PI (regional). Athens**

Regular workshops. Took part in a local day on drug use in the town of Oropos.

PR Northern Greece Regular workshops. Presentation to local officials in the small town of Vyroneia. A presentation of NA to a convention of the FA fellowship in May.

### **7TSSNA (7th Northern Greece Area Convention)**

The convention (titled "The only requirement is... love") was a success and its workshops gained considerable interest. Workshop topics included "Greek NA and EDM", "the Living Clean book" and the local phone line service.

### **8th HCCNA (8th Greek Regional Convention) - Nafplio. Oct 2008**

The final financial report of this successful convention came at the May RSC. Total profit for the region was 4,000 euros (plus 3332.70 euros earmarked money for the next regional convention).

### **1st Athens local convention**

The biggest group in Athens (Petralona) started to organize the 1st Athens local convention, which was planned for October. Some other Athens groups opposed the idea of naming this an "Athens" or "Attica" (the greater Athens prefecture) convention, since it was decided by members of only one group in the city. After lots of discussions and fears that this could endanger unity between local groups, the convention committee decided to cancel the plan and instead work first towards setting up an area in Athens.

### **Patras group 10th anniversary**

The NA group in the city of Patras is celebrating its 10-year anniversary on the weekend of 22-23 August, with marathon meetings and an anniversary t-shirt!

### **News from the Greek RSC:**

The Greek RSC made a decision to donate (equally) to EDM/WSO 5% of its remaining money after each regional meeting. Both donations will be made every six months at the EDM meeting by the delegates, so as to avoid bank costs. There were discussions at the RSC and in some group meetings, regarding if and how we as NA should verify meeting attendance. It has been said that this issue does not concern us in the present, rather it is something for the future.

*In service,*

*Pavlos (RD) Konstantinos (alt RD)*

## **FRANCE REGIONAL REPORT TO SUMMER 2009 EDM**

<http://www.narcotiquesanonymes.org>

The French region has 4 Areas with a total of about 91 meetings.

A PI (Internet, newsletter, phone-line and PI sub-committees), H&I, Outreach, Convention, Merchandising, Publishing (translations and literature sub-committees) are part of the French region.

## **French legal association**

The President and the vice-president are the legal representatives of the Association NA. As such, they ensure representation with the French administration (State & local authorities) and justice (civil or criminal) as with all other institutions with which the Association may be in contract (insurance company, bank, business providers, other associations). They participate in the RSC, are in charge of the administrative tasks, insurance, bank accounts, contracts, leasing agreements. They also have a more general representation, in agreement with the H&I and IRP committees, who may make use of them as required.

## **RSC - Regional Service Committee**

Elections took place in our Annual General Conference in March 28-29 A new steering committee was elected: RD alt, Jean Claude and all the positions are filled except few alternates. A first service conference has been decided and we held the first service preparation meeting with success. The Region Service Committee meets every two months in Paris and the ASC the other months so they can exchange their report. This year we are encountering some dysfunctions in the circulation of money due to a lack of trusted servants at the area level. We will celebrate the 25 years of NA in France at the regional bilingual convention - 2-4 October 2009.

## **PI**

A new PI pamphlet came out to the public

This committee wanted to engage a PR for the 25 years of NA. It didn't happen but they managed to invite the President of the MILDT (Inter-ministerial Mission in the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction) to open the 25th regional French convention.

## **H&i**

Developing communication with prisons and hospitals seems encouraging. Stability in the number of service servants of the committee.

## **Outreach**

With links between Paris and the provinces, we try to assist the groups in the provinces. We do our best to facilitate the development of Narcotics Anonymous in France, we support new groups, and put them in contact with the ASC in their locality, the better to carry the message. The Guadeloupe is doing meetings on skype - 2 meetings on skype for addicts in France or abroad.

## **LTC**

This committee has 2 sub-committees: literature and translations. NAWS French LTC Conference, June 03, 2009 Pierrot - RD/LTC Chair Quebec Region; Carole - RDA Quebec Region; Ana Luisa - RD French Region Jean Claude - RDA French Region; Stephanie - France Region LTC Member; Steeve - Le Nordet Region LTC Member; Johanna - NAWS Translations Staff; Uschi - NAWS Translations Manager

### Review of Current Translation Projects

- H&I IP
- Information about NA

### Discussion of Specific Translation Projects

- JFT Revision
- 6th Edition Basic Text Translation - the committee decided to ask NAWS to hire a professional translator to work on the translation of the 6th edition.
- PR Handbook - Translation nearly complete. The draft translation should be available for LTC review by August/late summer 2009.

*Thank you. In loving service. Ana Luisa RD Jean Claude RD alt.*

## EDM FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP OUTLINE

The FD work group organized a FD workshop on the Topic: "What kind of FD activities we want to have?" And, "How can we better do it?" This workshop took place for an entire morning and afternoon session of the EDM. It was videotaped by some members to be used as a training tool, and I will do my best to get us a copy. Following is a copy of the outline:

### Introduction

We can easily see the road we've walked since 1984 when it started in Dublin. Then it follows Lisbon (1990), Mme (1991) and Antwerp (1992), looking for an identity and a clear objective in Brussels (1993) we finally found our identification. A couple of months later, still in 1993 at the WSC, we were recognized as valuable components of 25 years went by and we walked a long distance since then. We developed and changed our way of thinking and doing things, always trying to achieve our primary purpose, our vision:

*"The EDM is a European based forum of multi-lingual and multi-cultural NA communities inside and outside Europe, whose mission is to further their common welfare and unity, support their growth and help them fulfill their primary purpose of carrying the NA message to the still suffering addict"*

The formation of an EDM FD committee was proposed and agreed at the Winter EDM 2003, to replace the HAI and PI sub-committees. Membership of the committee is open to any member, through the EDM Human Resources pool. The Basic Purpose of the FD Committee is to establish and maintain resources for Fellowship Development service at all levels throughout the EDM NA communities, responsive to the fellowships' needs. Our objectives are, to serve the fellowship as a sub-committee of the European Delegates Meeting and to be accountable, through that service body, to the fellowship as a whole; to enable and support FD activity in EDM communities through such appropriate methods which may be approved by the EDM and to manage and maintain the European Resource Pool. FD Committee is 6 years old a "young boy", with some history to tell and with a long way to go. Talk and brainstorming it, this is our challenge for today.

### What kind of FD activities we want to have?

Is this the FD activities we want? (See list of Fb activities). Are we walking towards our objectives?

After the brainstorming we will put all ideas together and it will be the material for the second part of the workshop.

- *Work in small groups - Discuss and brainstorming the topics:*
- *After the break we will present to you the 3 most voted ideas and we will discuss the best way to do it*

### How can we do it better?

- *What resources do we need? (Be creative)*
- *Summarizing*

## NAWS STRATEGIC PLANNING – THE NEXT STEP

I want to thank the RSC for indulging me in what I realize was a very long presentation, late in the evening, last month. Having survived it, I'm hopeful we all have some increased awareness of the environmental factors that are impacting our organization, whether we choose to address them or not.

The World Board took the next step to plan for the 2010–2012 conference cycle during the June board meeting. Jim DeLizia, a NAWS consultant, facilitated this planning day, which focused on the updated plan that was created from items identified in the April 2009 environmental scan I presented you. Looking at the world around us and how it affects NA, and at statistics and information about what is happening in NA around the world and at NAWS, leads us to create a list of objectives. These are the goals that we need to attain to address the issues and needs of our fellowship. The Board looked extensively at the ever-changing world in which we live and its perceptions about addiction. The attitude in the world about addiction and its treatment

through medical means is definitely something that impacts NA. It is important that as much as we all tend to resist change, we look at not only our current needs and issues, but at those we anticipate affecting us in the years to come.

The Board identified many approaches that will need to be carried over to the next cycle, such as the continuation of the Service System project and the "Living Clean" recovery literature project. These were approved as two-cycle projects, yet they remain in our strategic plan as carryover approaches. Once we affirmed the carryover approaches, we discussed and identified new approaches.

NAWS has information that the growth of NA in the US has flattened, but we currently have no real way to determine why this appears to be happening. Therefore, NAWS created an approach that would help us research and assess trends related to growth or lack of growth of NA in our worldwide fellowship. All of this is meant to ultimately help us better carry our message. Once the Board agreed on what we need to do to achieve our objectives, they went through a round of prioritizing approaches. We all want to do everything, yet that is not realistic; prioritizing helps determine what could possibly be accomplished in a conference cycle. Now that the Board has their first round of prioritized approaches, NAWS will assess the available human and financial resources before the October World Board meeting. Those approaches that can be reasonably accomplished, and for which we have the needed resources, will be developed into project plans for WSC 2010



### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- September 15: Deadline for review and input on Living Clean chapters 1 and 2
- October 23-25: WSLD, Fresno, CA
- October 31: Deadline to submit reference paperwork to the NAWS HRP for regionally nominated candidates for positions at WSC 2010
- December 31: Deadline for completion of 2009 Membership Survey

Thank you for all you do in service to the fellowship.

Matt Schmeck  
Northern CA Regional Delegate