

# Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

## Approved World Board Minutes

11-14 April 2007

Wednesday 11 April

### Stage One of Three in creating the 2008-2010 NAWS Strategic Plan

Craig opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer. Michael Cox will not be with us for this meeting and an email was sent to the board from Michael. Craig asked that everyone please set the tone for the week and be mindful about returning from breaks and lunch on time. Greg Muth a member from the AA General Service Office introduced himself and expressed his thanks and excitement to be here. Craig thanked him for accepting our invitation to attend.

Jim Delizia gave a brief overview of the small group exercise; Jim read the NAWS Vision Statement and mentioned that everything that NAWS does is to achieve what our vision statement states. The strategic plan is a management tool; by the end of the process we should have our set of goals and tools. Today's focus is on assessment. The three important questions that we will ask ourselves today are:

#### What's changing in the world outside of NA today that's significant?

- Money
- Drug replacement
- Corporations
- Internet
- Mobile phones
- New drugs
- Less need for centralized services
- Changing demographics
- Globalization
- New developing nations
- Cultures and Religion
- Treatment
- Drug courts and reaching the forces behind that- saves money to send people to NA rather than prison
- Brain disease and spiritual problem (depression versus emotional pain)
- Money
- Mass Media

#### External Trends & Issues Top 10

- Major developing communities such as China and Africa
- Fragile political environment
- Social and economic structures (no-money treatment centers)

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- Medical industries changing methods of treatment- such as using pills (oxycotin)-new pills, research
- Addiction is a brain disease
- Engaging the public with our philosophy and our message
- Social Services
- Technology-our paper literature and then literature online copyright and counterfeiting

### Internal Trends

- Our driving message is unity, and the conflict of different religions that will grow and that will be one that will be a constant
- We tend to be US-based and ethnocentric, but we can be flexible and adaptable. Our core message can't change; our message is our message. The question is how we convey it in a very different world.
- There are more people reaching the mark of thirty or more years clean and turning the age of sixty.
- We cannot be prepared for everything, but NA may look different in the future, and not what NA looks like today. We need to be prepared for that and keep that in mind and start preparing now. An example of this is our delivery system, e.g. decentralized literature distribution, and so forth.
- Being able to articulate our core message outside.
- The financial trends are changing, particularly in terms of dollar strength against other currency.
- The fragile nature of the political environment is always changing.
- Outside issues that are continually raised and becoming a more external.

Jim asked if there were any signs in the past, from a strategic standpoint, such as translations, quick growth of NA outside the US that could've been seen and planned for (in hindsight).

- In the past, the internet was available and expanding, but NAWWS seemed reluctant to move forward then. That is a good example of something from the past that we are looking at today.

### What don't you see? Any warning signs of things maybe to come 10 years from now (mega issues)

- Health & Vitality of the US fellowship—"East Coast" mentality
- Limited view of what NA is
- Huge political shift(s) in the US
- Lack of credibility in the US
- Dialogue between us and the fellowship and the outside world, we need to respond and react and not live in a cocoon anymore, and be more proactive.
- Technology such as Wikipedia—you can read all about NA and the history and this information is probably not provided or monitored by NAWWS.

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- We are moving toward a more dynamic, free-flowing culture, decentralized services, and breaking apart.
- Fragmentations, esp. religious and racial.
- A double or tripling of our fellowship.
- Fund flow and how we support ourselves, we rely on the sales of our Basic Text

Big questions (large group discussion)

- Clearly define our ideologies, role, and philosophy so that we are not misrepresented.
- About our program being outlawed in other countries or communities, what is our role and what can we do if this should ever happen.
- Our advocacy roles in getting visas for people traveling to the US.
- Being more involved in external activities so that we are available on an internal level
- Lawsuits

The board was asked to consider discussion and implications for NAWS during small-group brainstorming.

### Implications 2008-2010 Conference Cycle

Anthony mentioned our KRA (key result areas) try to align our ideas with our objectives already in place.

### Communication

- Look at our current contacts for Public Relations and reexamine our relationships and re-evaluate them.
- Look to see who maybe we need to talk to within the US.
- Find out who we should be talking to outside the US to convey our message.
- Developing a plan to utilize.
- Getting our literature out there.
- Lack of uniform literature to use for NA at multiple venues to be used in PI/PR.
- Creating an IP of what NA is and what you should expect at your first meeting.
- Answering the questions of total abstinence, i.e. how to address and answer the question to reconcile any seeming contradictions in what that means to us.
- What role does NAWS have
- Continually evolving and changing externally. Focusing on external public relations communications.
- Engaging the government, medical professionals, treatment professionals, there is an internal dialogue that we have, but any external communication we have has an effect on all our internal communication.
- Using professionals in recovery, reaching those members and using them for some type of communication, such as “doctors in NA” they have their own conventions and meetings and can be a credible voice for Narcotics Anonymous.

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- Sometimes AA and NA blur together in gatherings of professionals and the message loses clarity.
- The use of new communication methods, such as myspace.com, Wikipedia, video conferencing.
- If we do not clearly define our message, others will do it for us, maybe not correctly.
- We have a very simple program that applies throughout the world regardless of how complicated the world is. We already have a very diverse fellowship, but we need ways to demonstrate that.
- Much of our dilemma arises from the question of whether it is promotion or attraction. There might be no conflict if we could define those to clear up misunderstandings in the fellowship about our traditions.
- We already talk to the public about how effective we are all around the world.

### **Fellowship Support**—training tools

- We are not going to control everything from Chatsworth. We have an infrastructure issue; we need to continue to support it and change it, to make it more effective as we reevaluate it.
- How do we use non-members for support, e.g. advocates? In the past we had them, but there was no place for them, and now there is.
- We need a credible mouth piece for certain arenas. We could discuss building an advocate group, informed physicians who can speak to particular demographics (e.g. physicians) on the NA philosophy as a credible mouthpiece for NA.
- Some professionals left our PR roundtable event when members discussed local subcommittee issues.
- Creating literature for members about us being multicultural and diverse, but unified fellowship, as we've done with our large youth population and the new literature that we have.
- We seem to default to literature or creating of some type of targeted literature as a solution to most of our problems, but does it really have the ability to do what we want to do?
- Literature is one way of letting the fellowship know we hear them and we're looking for solutions.
- How do we turn "Who is Missing" into an action item?
- Iran emerged without NAWS intervention, grew their own way, and came up with new methods.
- Iran has been strongly connected to NAWS because they are not connected to anyone else; they are not engrained with "the way things should be." How do we capture that information and use it and share it? The same with other emerging communities; the fact that we've been doing things one way for so many years does not mean that our methods have been effective. We need to encourage members to embrace change and try something new. The miracle of Iran is that you can't go there; there are no outside influences and conflicts, and there magic is one addict helping another.
- PR in Islamic communities.

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- We have our translations basics and glossary that we follow. When the fellowship writes something and sends it to us, how wonderfully grassroots in can be, and that maybe sometimes we hold ourselves back with language.
- “What are our best practices” list and develop a best practice list. We do have a Local Resources page on our website with potentially lots of information. This is the voice of addicts—the fellowship and we need clearly state where it comes from. Some communities have trouble with “this is what NAWS says is best” (e.g. the motion 21 group). We need to take the time to evaluate before we create the solution.
- Our Basic Text provides our main resource of income, why is that? What makes it our best seller?
- Worldwide workshops are great communications forums, esp. when tweaking our session profiles to fit each community to generate locally relevant solutions. The best thing for Iran was their struggles learning what to do. We learn nothing from being handed something on a silver platter.
- Chat rooms or travel blogs can help the fellowship see and experience what is happening around the globe. One idea is having World Board members available regularly to answer questions online.

### External Impact Fellowship Development Discussion

- The infrastructure that we have is devised for a fellowship that no longer exists.
- Medication, we have hit a wall.
- Liability insurance is increasing. Groups can no longer afford it because 7<sup>th</sup> tradition funds no longer keep the group going. People still think a dollar in the basket is good enough, but with the increase in rents and liability insurance, that no longer works. We now have more people and less money.
- There is energy towards incorporating and creating legal entities for banking and property ownership reasons. Groups find outside pressure to become entities, such as in Texas where over 30 meetings in one space own NA property, but we provide no resources or guidance for these scenarios. Some people own/rent large spaces and then rent that space to NA groups that have a lot of meetings, but these are not part of the service structure. We mention this in A Guide to World Services.
- Remodel and dismantle service structure without any guidance. Just because we have done it does not mean you have to do it.
- There is confusion growing with effective leadership. Trying to express our diversity in fragmentation as opposed to unity in diverse fellowship. RDs don't have much of an effect on getting things done in areas and groups. Most people think the RD just comes to the WSC every two years and that's about it. In some places our literature spreads; other places it hits a brick wall. We have a false sense of security about NAWS finances, as if we are doing fine. We have improved, but we still have a long way to go.
- Members seem to consider NA a place to go get something, and don't have a sense of ownership. We walk into a group and everything is there; we don't have to find a meeting place or buy a coffee pot.
- Replication of the internal workshop presentation.

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- Some area and regions are taking on Public Relations transitions without any guidance. We have introduced PR, but what have we given the fellowship to put it in place? Are we going to have problems down the line? PI committees now just call themselves PR committees.

### What does this mean for NAWS discussion?

- Resources are not enough, not enough effective leaders as a resource.
- The costs of technology and staff time are prohibitive.
- Showcase how the connection is made from the individual member to other places around the world. When we show the CD from around the world it gets to people emotionally and really hits home with what we are all about.
- NAWS did not make the WCNA 50 years CD available to the fellowship when asked.
- What about the needs in the US, what about the fellowships in the bayou, how do they make it happen?
- The vision statement is for NAWS; what about a Vision Statement for NA as a whole that everyone will have a connection to, that will create an emotional response whether you read it in North Carolina or Iran. There is also a problem when members ask how they can help, but we tell them, “don’t worry we have it covered.” What about our basic principles that we need to work on here in the US.

### Leadership

- Stop relying on RDs as the only leaders and only channel of communications in the Fellowship.
- Broaden our communication reaches to the areas. How can we better engage the fellowship? People show up when they can vote on something, such as CAR workshops. If we simply discuss things, people aren’t inclined to show up because they really don’t see direct results of their participation.

### The World Board Team assessment discussion

- The leadership development issue, micro management
- Receiving materials late
- Maximizing time
- People not being prepared and lacking materials
- Not making use of past leaders.

Everyone given an assignment to make a list linked from each category and pick three or four issues

### Issues with Communication-

- Technology
- Effective PR and outreach strategies
- Internal—unifying “NA as a whole” vision statement and clarify our message within
- Define our principles and ideologies—message clarity, adaptation
- Branding and taking a position and controlling the ideas people get about NA

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- Also provide PR definitions of “spirituality” and “total abstinence” as they apply to us

### Issues with Fellowship Support

- Effectiveness of service structure—RDs to areas/groups
- Targeted Literature
- Diversity in service
- Changing fellowship profile-
- Identify levels of support/development for emerging/established NA communities that correspond to their needs

### Issues in Leadership & Management

- Leadership development
- Recording the critical links information management
- It's ok to be smart and successful in service (service junkie stigma)
- Issue management

### Issues in Resources

- Self support and ownership
- Emerging/established communities
- New resources for new resources. Example: pr handbook; then supporting/implementation materials

### Communications Problems & Change

#### Technology

- Problem: new website
- Change: more interaction, broader reach with our message, free flowing communication

#### PR Strategy/Outreach

- Problem: question of traditions violations and what our literature says; people say “our literature says...” How do we move forward with our philosophy when we have misinformation in our literature
- Change: rewrite some of Basic Text and It Works traditions essay. Mentioned In Times of Illness written in 1998 and now it is really needed because of all the current issues of today

### Fellowship Support Problem & Change

#### Effectiveness of service structure—RDs to areas

- Problem: current published information
- Change: re-write a guide to local services

#### Targeted Literature

Problem:

Change:

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Diversity in service

- Problem:
- Change: continue our dialogue and continue with the action with the WSC

### **Leadership & Management Problems & Change**

Leadership development

- Problem: getting beyond the RD
- Change:

Recording the critical links information management

- Problem: not much to begin with
- Change: take some chances, it's ok to be smart and successful in service

Issue management

- Problem: fear
- Change: clarify and articulate

### **Resources Problems & Change**

Self support and ownership

- Problem: members have variety of problems, such as selfishness
- Change: empower individual of ownership, tell how to care for and take care of NA

Emerging/established communities

- Problem: there is no bridge
- Change: building the road but aren't filling in the potholes behind us

New resources for new resources (example: PR handbook is here, now what do you do with it?)

- Problem: continue reliance on our one means of support
- Change: end reliance on traditional methods; move outside the box; find ways to share burdens; NAWS being able to say "No" sometimes and then think about how any project that focuses on our vision

Wrap Up and information for the World Board meeting in July for planning for the next conference cycle—Jim will take all the information we came up with today and match those to our current objectives

Finalize objectives

Prioritize

Measure/evaluate

Analysis

Brief overview of tomorrow's agenda with an update on the Basic Text and Service IPs, Bulletin board, and The NA Way magazine. Group is to review the information again tonight. Some agenda items just



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require discussion, not decisions. We will end the discussions early if needed so the information that requires decisions can have the full amount of time needed. We are trying not to carry over items.

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### Thursday 12 April

Opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer. Good organizations are always networking and comparing notes about best practices and working together. Greg Muth is here to share AA's best practices.

Greg thanked us and said he is thrilled to be here and to have had the opportunity to participate in yesterday's activity. NA's vision is amazing and so focused. He is here to exchange ideas with us. Over the years several doors have opened for us by working together.

- We serve, that's what we do. Our structure is designed to help and be of service to each other.
- AA struggles with many of the same types of communication problems, such as information getting to the delegates and the districts. Balls are dropped somewhere on the way.
- GSO Structure: upside-down triangle, members, groups, GSO, major part of communication. The difference is that AA members feel that they are the owners and really embrace the importance of that. Tradition 9 was mentioned, Boards and committees.
- To serve the fellowship Bill and Vern created a conference chart "from spiritual to material" that explains the member up to the GSO
- It turns into 3 corporations—board, committee and staff.
- Groups and areas are always effecting change and they have a concern just like we do.
- The yearly work gets completed and a new 81 employees
- AA grapevine has 17 employees on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor and they have a free-flowing writing ability and creativity. Grapevine reflects the current issues in AA.
- GSO is a publishing company, and publishes about 700 items, in 70 languages, distribute to 110 countries. There are 58 other autonomous offices throughout the world; Germany, France, European in the 60<sup>th</sup> year.
- Africa and Asia still developing; zone east of Moscow—there are 4 million people throughout that zone and a known fellowship of a hundred thousand AA members. We total over 2 million, but our numbers are suspect. 76 million around the world, but that number is probably much higher in reality, being that we are an autonomous fellowship.
- It's such a delicate balance and we try not to sell them the American way. AA GSO sends out complimentary literature, but only for a limited time, and then suggests buying literature.
- Licenses are given to other countries to print their own literature, but they always hold the copyright.
- AA GSO let the fellowship know that they will pay for whatever services are requested. Corporate poverty: accumulation of unstated wealth is not ok, it takes the focus off service and places focus money. AA GSO keeps a prudent reserve of no more than 12 months for services. The usual prudent reserve is a 9 to 10 months operating funds and that's about 9 million dollars and the prudent reserve is 14million dollars and no more, AA GSO does not retain money for any non-stated AA service. AA GSO does not take outside donations and they limit contributions to two thousand dollars per member per year, each contribution is verified and checked, then members mailed a receipt of contribution.

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- There is currently an AA club house in Hawaii that is taking away all the groups' funds to fund the clubhouse itself. Members need connectivity and that's what it's all about.
- 21 members Service Board.
- Cost to supply services comes to \$140.00 per group, \$6.33 per member and that is the cost of being able to be fully self supporting. They have a 9-page service manual to describe GSO services.
- AA GSO has 12million a year in literature sales; currently it is flat. 500 literature distributions centers throughout the world and they try not to raise the cost of literature prices. This is what is included when we talk about the corporate poverty policy.
- In this whole world celebrating the fragmentation which includes growth. The 3 GSOs is moving on to 4.
- Government placed a "no Mafioso" policy in Mexico
- Finland has two concepts 9, and leadership in AA and it's all about compromise.
- AA has only one mission but they move with changing society

### Cooperative relationship with Al-Anon and others:

- AA GSO and Al-Anon get together on an annual basis and share new ideas.
- AA is very conservative in what they do, but society is very progressive.
- AA does a new Public Service Announcement each year which is a cost of forty thousand dollars a year, AA has a publisher that sends the PSAs out to radio stations and get great air time.
- Al-Anon wanted to buy a building in Virginia and do a five-year trial run of owning a building and this was a good economical decision, Al-Anon has done a great job with letting the meetings organize themselves and the Al-Anon office bounces you back to a local helpline number
- Al-Anon Groups can also donate to the Al-Anon office and that memoriam was increased to one hundred thousand dollars
- Al-Anon has done great public information work and AA has used some of their ideas.
- Al-Anon is a separate entity and not in affiliation with AA and it came to be a lot of risk management. Lawsuits and taxes and ensued in many countries, but the AA GSO has insurance in place.
- AA has acknowledged their supportive relationship with Al-Anon but we have no affiliation with them, but they are dear friends, CR agreement with them and guidelines they have to follow.
- They do know of groups having an Al- Anon meeting and inviting AA speakers but the groups are autonomous and the AA GSO has no control over them; people look to them for answers and they just share their experience.
- Al-Anon is invited to the international convention, it is always clearly stated that we cooperate on a continual basis. AA has guidelines that people can refer to and we have about 15 sets of guidelines and they are very instructional.

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- There was a decision made that we will always have a relationship with AI-Anon and remain cooperative. Execs and key members, CPC, GSO, attend.
- How does the literature process work? We have conference and that is fellowship-developed, not office developed. We produce a pamphlet and that goes to the trustees for review and back to the fellowship at the conference. The office holds “works in progress” very close. They take continual input from the fellowship and keep those on the conference agenda for review and input, and changes are made as needed. After about 5 years, they reach a stopping point. Would you forgo publishing or sending it to other countries? We have zonal meetings in Europe Eastern Europe, East Africa, Middle East, North and South Africa. Each country sponsors emerging countries.
- Specialized focus with professionals.

What AA is and what we are not. We are a resource for you. AA has gotten a lot of invites around the world.

Our non-alcoholic friends start more meetings than regular members do. Arabic, Persians, that's how groups started in China, meetings start in hospitals by professionals who then turn those meetings over to members.

Our non-alcoholic friends are so important. We have non-alcoholic workers, they network and try to make friends everywhere they go and also invite them to events.

One International development is by creating autonomous entities, or if you had to do it all over again would you do what NA has done. It would be hard to serve all these multi-cultures without having the autonomous service centers. We created an FAQ but we have told them to gather their own experience and create their own FAQ (best practices) to update on a regular basis. We share our experience, but communities need to do some work, not just adopt what's in place that has been working for us.

The four translated pieces that stay the same with policy are the 12 Steps, As Bill Sees It, and Big Book. The four works of Bill stay the same. They have locals translate the other material but the four pieces make it very clear what AA is what AA is about and keep control of the message that does go out. They recently changed the steps in French because they used the same word for defects and shortcomings.

When countries claim ownership of their literature in their own language it remains important to them and they want AA to flourish. Greg shared some personal experience strength and hope regarding finding AA and how he came to be a member. AA is the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts circled in love.

Following the three legacies, we understand that non-alcoholics don't get it, but despite the non understanding we need to get out there, and not being ashamed of who we are and the gifts we have been given by going and being a member of AA. It's about remaining focused.

Has a local AA community called their local NA community to work together to help new members that belong in NA to be able to find them, and help those people along in the right direction, it has been asked several times. When's the last time NA had a joint meeting with AA to have a dialog concerning solutions?

The court card dilemma had AA groups going into hiding, but then the groups and the fellowship as a whole realized it was a chance to share the message or recovery.

Working with treatment centers is very important. We have a pamphlet regarding medication that is for

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the professional which states that we have no opinion. AA has been doing a survey since 1975 which is sent out to the groups, how old, how many meetings, location, and age. The original idea was not for professional, 2% Hispanic, 5% African American and most people find AA by referrals from friends, and by having the history. The data is astonishing, there is trend of people going to fewer meetings, and 45.5% of groups participate and has jumped a percent. We are more social with dances, and events. We are moving ahead. Still some groups choose not to participate as a whole.

Annual young people's convention. There is also a group called Never had a legal Drink Group in New York. We have more and more young people they look at this special interest group as our future leaders.

AA GSO does not list double trouble groups. AA office does not register any groups they only list groups, the office is very careful in the choice of words used. Back to basics group with religious slants and they try to stay away from having an opinion about that, they will continue to grow regardless of.

AA is not attractive to certain demographics, but there are tribal communities that are going sober.

How the special lawyer groups work and other special interest groups. The hope is that the special interest groups are carrying the one message that is clear, but again it is only suggestions. It always comes from fear, the struggles to continue on in an ever-changing world without Bob or Jimmy. The fear of making a mistake is a lie; we are all about following god's will, and we learn from making those mistakes. It's how we grow.

Non-alcoholic trustees—what do you look for? Treatment professionals, judges, wardens; they let the fellowship know that there is a vacancy and what type of disciplined services they are looking for, which are, banking, correctional, medical, judicial.

### Key Result Area: Recovery Literature (Fellowship Resources)

#### Basic Text

Report on highlights of the input received and changes to the draft—

Expressed appreciation to the workgroup for all of their hard work. The process of reviewing was great and very streamlined process, and thanked the staff for all their hard work. We have impacted the draft in response to fellowship feedback. Will be adding the reflections section, unless the board disagrees, the fellowship perceived the sections as US and international and they did reshuffle the international flavor, the same path is moving to the Coming Home section. We received 350 pieces of total input, 184 pieces from individual members, 20 from outside the US (from, Uganda, Kuwait, Russia, Gibraltar, Turkey Norway Ireland, Greece). Travis said that if it is practical to send the reflections in pieces they will do that by email so that you will not be overwhelmed with major material. Input summery report, atheist only had one critical comment it was overwhelming supported and wanted more of that type of story, specific ways of working the steps came up frequently. That is something to keep in mind.

- ✿ Approve revised preface and Intro—a lot of input was received and made modifications according to the input received. We are done with the editing and factor in the last set of input and are ready to ask for your approval today. Ron asked if there was any objections to approve, one objection to page 156, 3<sup>rd</sup> line, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, the workgroup thought the language was colorful but the workgroup stands by it and agreed to have it included, it is talking about mini-world. The world board agreed and approved the revised preface and introduction.
- ✿ Issue of reference to WSO in Steve Sigman's story-

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- The workgroup is strongly committed to leave the reference of the WSO in the story.
- The edited version of the story makes Steve S sound like a treatment professional, on page 142 is the new edit in his words.
- Believes there is no problem in the way it was originally submitted with the WSO.
- Further agreement.
- Our members can become special workers. The original story should stay to confirm our 9<sup>th</sup> tradition.
- Has the fellowship had input on the original story? It did not go out to the fellowship with the reference to the WSO placed in the story, it was edited to “working with addicts” was sent out for review.
- Why send it out obscured and then put it in original wording? The fellowship coming back with comments regarding placing back in the original content is going to be a hot button issue if we do that.
- The idiom of “blessing and a curse” will be a problem in translations, we need to find another idiom that mean the same thing, such as “mixed blessing.” It was also mentioned that a footnote can be added stating what it means regarding any translation issues.
- For a refresher of why we felt the need to remove the WSO from the story: it’s regarding the heat from the fellowship that the possibility of a backlash such as friends being published and that’s how you get your story printed.
- Support for the story without the WSO reference; now why do it?
- We can let the fellowship know it came up in discussion and the workgroup decided to put it back in.
- The author’s edited version is ok as a compromise, or scrap the story all together,
- Perhaps use the term “special worker.” When it comes down to it, the story points directly to one place. How does someone work for 18 years as a special worker with people from around the world? Why not just say WSO?
- Question: how do we go and change someone’s story, from how it was in the original story? There is value in working with the author’s changes because it is just one paragraph. Does that paragraph add specific value to whole story? We sent it out with the edit already, and we need to live with that.
- There could be some inherent dishonesty about not sending it out how it was.
- The compromise—edited version—is perfectly acceptable.
- Discomfort with the message of how it was working at the WSO, if the WSO remains part of the story.
- Is it part of the process of R&I, just like when other members gave their input on their own stories and how they would like some things changed?

Straw Poll was taken—Review & Input Draft—2; Original Language—4; Authors Edit—11

The working “edit” does not mean only taking things out; the fellowship was told that the approval draft may look completely different from the review and input draft.

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- ✦ Basic Text history to post online—the workgroup is recommending putting this information up on the website, it is a piece that we use at workshops, we reference this in the preface and it would be nice to put it up on the website, there will be no footnote because it is a little more permanent. Why was it not included? It was quite negative so we came up with another way to put the information out there. Staff will give some input on the piece, including transition to the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, and put it up on the web. There were no objections: 0-3-11 it was agreed to approve and use the author's revised language.
- ✦ Plans for filling Gaps and their presentation in the final draft- page 138- Asking that Tom and Ron be included in the small group, this will include the whole EC including Anthony, Becky, Travis, and Ron in the process. The EC will be meeting in June. The revised draft will be sent out to the board for feedback, in June the small group will meet and give their feedback. The final draft will be given out at the July meeting for final approval. If work can be done before, and a reasonable work that the workgroup can do to reduce the work for the board the workgroup is available. Filling the gap stories will be sent out in pieces by email and get board feedback and adopting the stories.

### Service IPs

After a brief overview of all the service IPs, the decision was to go over the medication piece first, as medication sessions always receive a strong emotional response, and the board gave the most input on these pieces. Our existing literature, *In Times of Illness*, is for members. Bulletin 29 Regarding Methadone and other drug replacement programs, will not let people serve. NAWS has gathered information over all the issues, and when members take medication how they are responded to, if it comes down to a recovery piece. This is not about personal recovery; that would be a completely different process. Input is organized by issues; will go over each issue of input provided by the board. The timeline is self-imposed; our goal is to make the best piece possible.

### Medication and the NA Group

- Page 16 text box—medications and relapse. Many members have taken medication and stayed clean. Add more examples in the text box.
- Drug replacement—this should be two pieces, medication and DRTs are very different.
- We are not going to give medical opinions. As soon as we sort them as two different issues, problems arise.
- It is not for us to decide whether methadone as pain management or drug replacement. This is not for NA member to decide. Groups need to wrestle through that decision and come to a consensus.
- NA as a whole does not have an opinion.
- It reads as two separate pieces, when you talk about medication for depression or drug replacement. Maybe we are trying to say too much. The end results for groups would not be good and not helpful to any dilemma that they are trying to solve.
- A group would still carry the message, saying some people are on medication while clean. We could state it in a manner that says “one medication treats drug addiction the other medication treats depression.”
- It is not about the medications themselves it about what they are used for.

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- We tell the newcomer who is using welcome back and we try to carry that same message to someone who is on drug replacement therapy. We have the same message; call it out; we don't see it any different as a newcomer who comes in using.
- No matter what, whoever comes to NA has a home.
- Page 117 for service and that needs to be reworded.
- Reference Bulletin 29; It's the clearest message we have on DRTs.
- This piece does not articulate the only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using or reference In Times of Illness; they should stay in the same piece but to call it out more.
- If this does become a service IP the distribution will be completely different.
- Based on the "desire to stop using," some groups give DRT members trusted servant position, such as greeter or a coffee person, but not a mouth piece for NA.
- Medication workshops might be helpful.
- Most of the time it is not the medication that is an issue, it is mostly because people are unstable, and unfit to hold a commitment and people are really unwilling to say that.
- There is a big difference between a Service position and a Leadership position, some groups let those members serve and some groups do not
- Bulletin 29 clearly states someone on drug replacement therapy should not lead a meeting.
- One message came out strongly at the EDM: groups that have this discussion at their business meeting are more welcoming and loving than groups that don't have the discussion, which are very unwelcoming.
- A member with ten years clean on depression medication is clean; a member on DRT is not.
- Have different headings with subject headings, the board reached a consensus to keep it as one piece, to call it out in a separate heading there were no objections from the board.
- Describing Tradition One, it should be highlighted somewhere.
- Do not go on the assumption that a group will have a business meeting, needs to say Have a Group Business Meeting with a discussion.
- This piece is going to be revised with input that has been received from the board today staff will send out another draft for the board for more review and input on changes that were made.
- We are trying not to express an opinion but the end result is the group ending up with an opinion as their solution of what should be done. It's just a big constant dance that never ends. Members often don't want to take medication when they really need it because they want to avoid judgment by their peers.
- Page 118 last paragraph, include it's about living life on life's terms, with all of the ups and downs.
- That is the first question that is asked by doctors. We (NA) have no opinion; our members do—we have lots of personal opinions. NA does not.
- Illness is listed, and then there is mental health (that is an illness).
- Should we acknowledge that this a controversial piece tone, or do you want to take that out?
- Tone that demonstrates compassion both for those taking medication and for the purist.



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- 3<sup>rd</sup> tradition with tolerance, highlight that more,
- Examples that groups can use as a resource: are they specific enough, or do we want to be more specific?
- The end of the piece should be more affirmative.
- Add a reminder of the purpose of the NA group.
- Make the title very clear.

### Violent & Disruptive Behavior

Question regarding liability asked.

- "...suggestions these are not meant to..." that statement seems negative. Focus more on what we are trying to do.
- Predator behavior to be included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph and rolled in, the issue is that we have never defined it, we are talking inside a meeting, predator behavior usually happens outside a meeting, but if a woman is being harassed and makes it unsafe meeting and becomes a group problem. We are talking about the disruption to the meeting itself.
- How do we express that in this piece? We gathered this from the fellowship with all of our workshops with the IDTs throughout this cycle. The preoccupation with "predators" did not come from the fellowship; we put it out there. We have talked about it. What's the input from the fellowship?
- Use words such as harassing or threatening behavior. Not a legal term "predator."
- Exploitation of people's vulnerabilities could also be mentioned. That it can be included before or after a meeting that is makes it unsafe, can be brought to the group for discussion in a general statement that does say sometimes things happen before or after a meeting.
- The group worksheet will be a tool for groups to have a discussion.
- The board needs to remember that we are trying to say one issues and one very specific set of issues that comes to the office all of the time that we are trying to address that, if the board would like take the other issues and create another service piece they have the ability to that.
- The solution is always the same template that it comes down to the groups having a business meeting to come up with the solution that will address the issue.
- If another piece is created we do not need to include that general statement.
- It may benefit us to just say it.
- The input will be placed into this piece and will go out to the board for review and input
- If you find then at that point you want to create something new or make a statement you are able to do so.

### **Basic Intro to NA Meetings-**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, some helpful terms sponsorship should be included, one or more meetings should be included under the Group.
- All the X's format is very heavy handed and could be condensed in a couple of bullet points,

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- All the X's make it not really sound welcoming and immediately it creates an image of what the meeting is going to be like.
- Add that a hug is a common greeting in NA and include feel free to decline a hug and put out your hand if you feel uncomfortable.
- Not no include "do not" or "most people" use considerate in NA and we turn our phone off and so forth
- This piece should go up on the website as soon as possible and would like to see this with links, how to find a meeting, help lines, sponsorship IP, closed meeting, open meeting and so forth if there are no objections because we have never done that type of thing for a service piece, there were no objections from the board.

### Group Business Meetings-

- To call out that it is a separate time for a business meeting, not over the floor or during the meeting.
- W should introduce consensus based decision making (CBDM) that it is just not about voting.
- Sample Group Business Meeting Format number 3 contributions should be included instead of donations.
- Importance of listening as well as speaking in the group business meeting.

### Group Trusted Servant Roles and Responsibilities-

- The GSR position can be fleshed out more as a very important communication tool to the group.
- There is no mention of someone taking minutes of the meeting.
- Page 120-Treasurer, provides accurate information to the group.
- Page 120-Under GSR, include Alternate GSR, training the trainer, and cultivation of leadership.
- Very well written, like a dictionary of services.
- The treasurer's responsibility is to speak of our 7<sup>th</sup> tradition.
- Mention that all these position should have alternate positions and that is a learning process of roles, and this is great way to introduce the leadership roles in a basic way.
- Function not form, a way to get newcomers involved in service should be mentioned.
- GSR the word responsibility should be added clearly and it is a way for them to take ownership for the group

Board thanked staff for a job well done. The hope is that these can be approved by email; we want to make sure everyone stands behind these pieces and believes in them more than the deadline. Keep in mind how much we are helping the fellowship. PR resource material can be signed off by email. If you have any names that you want to put forth, handed out a simple check off list to bring back to the meeting and that you will be able to have a discussion, we are not asking you to take a vote. As well as the Guide to World Service with the track changes in red and one clean copy to review.

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Our hope is to discuss these pieces for approval. We will also have

What is NAWS?

Service and the NA Member—the Benefits of Giving Back

Leadership in NA—Principles and Service.

### **NA Way overview -request for WB participation between now & July**

- Muk gave an update of new members of the NA Way editorial board.
- asked the World Board to hand in there “letter to the editor”
- About the use of service material in the NA way, there were mixed reviews. Some were pleased; others were put off. There was no consensus, but the Editorial Board doesn’t make those decisions. Change the look of the magazine because the recovery pieces look one way and the service material looks another way, which was placed in the magazine that way because they are suppose to look like pull outs from the magazine rather that a piece of it.
- The NA Way Editorial Board expressed wanting to have input on content, participation in editing by using Wikipedia technology.
- The Editorial Board charge has not changed, maybe change the name from Editorial Board to Advisory Board that a more clearly defined role can be set in place.
- De mentioned that maybe she should try to engage them more in the process of the magazine.
- The major value of the meeting was the assessment of the magazine. The editorial board would like to improve the appearance of the magazine, page 4 of handout were the top 4 regarding content. The workgroup really tried to focus on the creative content, without too much discussion of the production cost and distributions cost. We have included the note stop sending us the A-ha moments and more Ha-Ha moments because the editorial board would like to see lighter content.

Are we addressing the name of the board? The WB is affected by the issue, but it is really a bigger issue. Many like NAWS communication in the magazine. One member felt he would like to see all service material, but that is included in the charge and the mission of the magazine. The letter to the editor is where they hope to get the most feedback regarding the magazine.

### **Overview of the Conference Participant Bulletin Board**

- The creation of FAQs and asking for participation from the board to get things moving.
- Asked the board to include a list of wants, do you want to be notified when something new comes in or do you want a digest once a day of the information comes in.
- Push technology isn’t very user-friendly, difficult to navigate. Add a little bit of instruction on the page, there isn’t much information. Some problems result from user error.
- We need to get people interested in a conversation.
- The e-blast is really great; conference participants love them.
- We can do an e-blast with little reminders that the end of the basic text project is ending and the CAR will be out soon, and include a link to the bulletin board.

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- NAWS should start a conversation with a juicy tidbit, get the board involved, and get conversation going.
- There were several questions about passwords, login information, and email address.
- The IDT boards are busy and people are using them more than ever this conference cycle.
- 75 people who are really active and about 10 who post every day.
- We have “moved by webmaster” for disrespectful/off-topic posts; members have made requests.
- One member to look each month as a commitment to see what is happening everyday, and responding, it should take only about fifteen minutes of your time each day.
- We do use technology but some people don't see it as valuable if they go on to the bulletin board and there is no activity why would go back.
- Each board member can be responsible for one issue and keep up with and responding. If there is accountability it would work better and be better organized. Board members willing to participate are to inform Craig, Becky or Anthony.
- Wikipedia is open and there are more problems with them.

No objections by the board to approve the January minutes as amended.

No objections to approve the WCNA32 speaker list as presented.

Meeting closed at 6pm

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Friday 13 April

Team building exercise – an interactive exercise of feedback to each other

### **My Responsibilities as a World Board member**

Craig spoke that this part of the agenda is not a formal we want to openly discuss what it means when we talk about our responsibilities, as World Board members we know what it means, but as individuals what does it mean to us. Craig talked about people investing in him, and the sacrifice that people have made and the sacrifices that comes with being of service at this level.

The input was valuable to staff but not as a whole group with the track changes. The email exchange was very helpful, but maybe board input should be included in the document and then brought to the meeting to be able to see the changes with the collective input, and have another conversation. Or we should continue to do what we are doing. We give input but do not get any feedback. The only time the board will get feedback is when a question is raised. Staff will gather all of the input and consider with all the other input. This doesn't mean it will always be used. Looking at the original and then giving input without looking at what every ones else's input is, because we are human and don't want to have to change our ideas as colored by what someone else says. It really comes down to not line by line but being able to hear what you are really trying to say. We need to understand that when staff writing is critiqued they really are ok about it. What is the priority? We will have a discussion because they are not all the same and need to be treated differently. With lines or paragraphs numbered, it is easier to see where people are editing. A decision can be, "we are not ready to make a decision" and that is ok.

### **Material by email**

Line numbered where available

Creating standard formatting for input

Dealing with whatever we can between meetings

It's ok if you cannot make a deadline as well as to say, I won't be able to make that deadline.

### **When Traveling**

- Tries to track back of what has been done in the past to better practice those steps again before going out and doing sessions on IDTs.
- Likes to meet the local members and go to their meetings and make sure the image of being NAWS is that he is just another NA guy who is passionate and not a higher walking member.
- If you can't travel, tell us, please don't feel pressured, example, one board member let us know he can't do any more travel this year. It really helps with future planning of trips.
- In the past would never send a freshman outside the US, which has change in the past four-six years, now we send a freshman with a senior to cultivate the leadership.
- Our Beliefs and Perspectives—on a first trip to India, Mumbai was very devastating. Thought all of India was disadvantaged and wrote a letter to the NA Way with that comment. They were deeply offended. This was a valuable lesson in taking out what we believe and our perspective and how we communicate that when we return from our trip or when we communicate with the local fellowship while we are there, with no past experience, or history. They are a very literal fellowship, everything is black and white to them and they don't get subtleties or nuances.

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### What do you do when you are on your own?

- The best thing to do as representing NAWS is to stay quiet, and ask yourself “Do I have all the information before I speak?” We spent seven years talking about self-support because of a comment that we don’t care about the money it is about carrying the message, so they heard they don’t have to pay for any literature because it’s not important. Staying in a member’s home who had a certain political issue led everyone to believe he had the same view. People will try to use us to get their way. Ask yourself “do you have all the information?”

our first time in Puerto Rico since the treasurer of the WSC was murdered, some members believe that we blamed them, but the change was one of the oldest members that had a resentment was there all weekend at the NAWS workshops which made a statement, we are over it and support NAWS.

### Not Choosing Sides

- In the Middle East sat down with coffee with someone who was not well liked. Will sit with everyone. We are not there to pick a side and solve their local problems.

### Emergency Situations

- Anthony will give the board what to do in case of an emergency, such as sick members, any type of medical issues. Anthony’s phone is on 24 hours a day especially when there is a travel team out there.

### Flights

- Don’t choose the cheapest flight that creates an extra five hours of travel. Does more harm than good.
- Going a day early to adapt to your new surroundings.
- Travel a day early to get grounded before you have to go and represent NAWS at its best.
- Take a direct flight; if you are going out of the US, plan affectively.
- Become loyal to one airline so you can accumulate miles.

### Adapting to the local NA communities

- Find out what’s going on locally. Agendas/session profiles don’t always address important local issues.
- Encourage the fellowship to use the office as a resource; let them know they can call or email or use the website. The resources are there to be used. Keep in mind that we are there to help facilitate, and bring up talking points.
- Sometimes we show up with profiles and a plan and the members are just not there. Must remain adaptable. It’s best to help the locals come up with their own solution(s).

### Taking care of yourself

- Most of the hotels that you are placed at the food is ok to eat
- Take some hotel fruit with you so during the day or for lunch you have something that is safe to eat.
- Pack a protein or nutrition bar that like and take them with you.
- Carry hand sanitizer.

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- Try to stay away for the local food- it may affect you later
- Drink bottled water
- No ice cubes

### Preparation and Flexibility

- Call the office and ask staff for numbers if you need them.
- Have a copy of the agenda.
- Negotiate for time if needed.
- Do some research on legitimate cab companies registered with the government, city, and so forth?
- We try to provide a synopsis of the history and of any translations, try to get community updates.
- Be careful of any local members wanting you to speak to local government representatives or similar requests of those types; it's ok to say no. Sometimes we are called upon to be the spokesperson.
- You should be able to speak to any professional at any given time and to always be prepared, pack clothes for a professional event(s).
- Ask lots of questions of someone who has traveled to the same location and use them as a resource.
- Get a local cell phone to stay in touch with locals and FAQ or cheat sheet in case of an emergencies.

### Preparations and work between meetings

- Read minutes, strategic plan, our vision, charge and objectives.
- Stay in touch with others and build relationships. Stay plugged in to what we talk about as a board.
- Read materials beforehand so when staff gives reports you can understand and follow along, and know what's going on. There are no dumb questions, but when staff says "that's in the report we gave to you" it does not feel so good.
- Talk to staff, understanding not having to get through materials all at once. Re-read right before the meetings is helpful. Get lots of rest beforehand; change home schedule before traveling and reach out to other World Board members to ask about best practices, questions, taking care of personal recovery.
- The material in the pieces is helpful. The challenge is when people edit a document directly, it's hard to track what is changed, or that something is in caps or all lower case. Get material earlier is better.
- Make notes while traveling. Accepts that board materials come right before the meeting; that's just how it is. The FTP site is really great.
- Email and smaller chunks of material has been so helpful, taking care of things by email before the meeting has been wonderful, and would like us to continue to do that.

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### Staff Board partnership

- Staff members see you as separate, but you need to remember that you are that person's boss. One board member used staff as an example of being gay, brought out that staff member in front of the fellowship. The staff member was deeply hurt and offended. So we need to remember to be careful with our interactions.
- Has not seen negativity. NAWS has been trying to cultivate partnership between staff and board.
- It is affirmed of who we work for at every staff meeting.
- If you have any questions about material, or how material is presented to you by staff, speak up if you are uncomfortable, or if there is anything we need to talk to about. Sometimes when traveling with staff, staff member has the credit card to pay the way. It was explained that staff member has financial responsibilities to take care of, including meeting space rental, food, and fellowship subsidiaries. Staff identified with that using the trip to South America, and not having control over being able to change a room because a staff member handle the financials and was not able to find them.
- We should not take our cue from staff, such as with a female who banter and makes off-color statements and acts like "one of guys." That isn't an opening to engage in inappropriate conversations.
- Who is the project manager when it comes to workgroups? Example: the basic text workgroup which is huge. Sort roles and responsibilities for the staff members and world board members before meeting starts.
- What are the roles and expectations of a world board member on a work group? Board members are volunteers, not special workers. Board more of a liaison than part of the day-to-day communications staff handles. Most helpful to go with the flow and avoid uncharted waters that you may have no idea what to do.
- When board works with staff and questions come up about day-to-day stuff, staff can talk about it, but when comes to what has been discussed as a board staff knows when to let a board member speak.
- Why we can't work on Sunday. Our default is Friday and Saturday. We try to work too close to another set of work days, so it really comes down situation. East Coast people leave early, so it really didn't work.
- Maintain boundaries with staff or any individual regardless of relationship or how casual the relationship is.
- Language barriers can be difficult, with what we try to say, trying to catch up with everyone, and having to rely on another board member. Stop the meeting and say hey I need you stop because I don't understand, also make little notes and during the breaks ask someone and have it explained. If needed, ask the group to stop and ask questions and let the other board members know.
- Mentioned that is just like the medication issue, does not have a lot of experience with medication and people on medication so how can he really talk about something he really doesn't know much about.
- The board hasn't had the chance to have these conversations. We aren't looking to solve anything today, but just to give everyone a chance to air everything out.



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- Someone needs to be in charge. Also, remember to give someone else the chance to be in charge. Asked about overtime and how that works and Anthony explained travel days and overtime.
- Is there a responsibility of staff responding to email if you are giving input or not asking for something? No, but if you request something or have a question, you should expect a response. We had a problem with staff dropping everything to take care of board requests. We have changed that so it is directed to Anthony.
- Staff has been supportive 100% especially when he was new. At one point or another we have all felt behind and not quite sure what was going on. It is good to hear expressed because each one of us has felt the same way. Unsure how to be more sensitive to language barriers, but does empathizes.

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Established boundaries can change at any time. It is better to err on the safe side. The issue of staff members dressing provocatively has been addressed in staff meetings.

Can we watch the videotape of Bob Stone resigning from the office? The conference said to archive it and that it is not supposed to be shown. It is on VHS, and maybe not readable, it was archived in a fire safe. It does not have any historical value; we will get back to the board on that information.

### **Fellowship Development and carry over items from the Strategic Plan discussion**

If there are things that require discussion please let us know and we will integrate that in tomorrow's agenda.

### **Consensus Based Decision Making at the WSC GTWS**

Becky asked if the board wanted a more descriptive CBDM or is it better to have a more general overview of what it means. It's the same as going over a simplified Roberts Rules he is out of the country until May and will work with staff to get it to the board by the July meeting.

Believes that all of the input is in there with nothing glaring, the tone of the piece is great, on track and does not see anything missing.

One problem of changing the motion on the floor, and that means going through a formal amending of the motion and voting, this would be a way to get a feel for the will of the body.

At the last conference it did not serve us; once the motion deadline passed you could not change the motion.

Retaining Roberts Rules, page 9 states that believes they will argue that sentence, "typically means unanimity" it should state "strong agreement." We could say at the WSC we are not using CBDM in the formal manner.

Arriving and measuring CBDM: it's weak or strong, we want the strongest. A couple snags may cause problems.

How do we measure CBDM, 51/49 is not in the spiritual nature of supporting CBDM, now having exhausted the process hearing the opposition, we will now implement WSC Robert's Rules of order, you can't change any WSC policy, change the 2/3 and don't say anything unless someone asks. We want to hear everybody.

We were not working on a specific model, abstentions mean a no vote.

How do we increase the CBDM?

RSC seating, CAR motions, is where we could see a situation when we don't have con and they are going to vote to get it to pass by 51/49 so why default to them.

The new WSC Robert's Rules of orders will be included in the Simplified Robert's Rule of order.

The problem is not the honorable, that some may use it to hijack the WSC. There has to be a fall back position whatever that is. Donald will have an easy time with the majority and any problems will go to Anthony.

It's great that everyone has had their chance and you get the pulse you agree or you don't and you move on and think we have already moved in this direction and are so ready to move along.

There were some who wanted to keep the WSC host with seating but the WSC did not allow that to happen regardless of that energy in the room and actually just fizzled.

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CBDM may give RDs the chance to hold the WSC hostage; sometimes there is the problem of being divided.

We need a great facilitator, and that it is not easy. Without a good facilitator it's really pointless. Need to keep the discussion moving and not just keep score. We cannot control the energy that any motion has; need to allow everyone to disperse the energy, and then it moves along better (e.g. approval of the basic text). The board will see another CBDM draft, and it may take a little longer to see the simplified rules. Adapt to reality (re-write).

Meeting ended at 5:10pm on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2007

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Saturday 14 April

### Cooperation

- ⊕ How do we improve our relationships with others?
- ⊕ What can we do or not do?
- ⊕ Our relationship with Nar-Anon

### Discussion of calendar dates

Went over the calendar for the next two WB meeting travel dates. July 12-14 is a 3 day meeting. Keep in mind that it that could change to a four day meeting, so that would be the 11<sup>th</sup> and travel day would be July 10th; there were no objections. Muk is unable to make the July meeting. Ron H will need to look at his schedule. October meeting: 10-13. Paul will be unable to attend. Asked if we can approve those dates. Tonia may have a problem with those dates. WCNA32 opens August 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday so lock in the 27<sup>th</sup> August to 2nd of September.

Becky went over all the materials in the hotel packs. The new PR Handbook resource materials included. The NA Way Magazine with the pullout of the IDTs and ready the magazine for the letter to the editor, session profiles draft that would go up on the web available to anyone look at ftp April 07 board meeting. Post material, they are in the ftp site already for you to review after the meeting, new addendum, Lithuanian personal stories; these are not posted yet, the service IP will come back. A stream of gap stories, NAWS News, who's missing, donations.

Priority List Deadlines and approval by Email

Session Profiles- 2 weeks and one week out reminder

Lithuanian Personal Stories 2 weeks send out a reminder in a week

PR resource/Service IP's will come two weeks after those deadlines

The price of the PR handbook is going to increase because of production costs. People can download the information from the website; we will probably give away more than we sell.

### Donations

Tom gave a brief overview, there is a disconnect between the groups in the fellowship and the understanding of what that means, Muk talked about how groups pay the rent buy literature, and make a small donation to area and that is perfect for them.

- ⊕ How do we make this more real for the fellowship-
  - The message should be to support our vision to carry our message around the world, it's not about supporting our service structure only and can't really ask that one particular question in that regard
  - Hey What's the Basket For? Talk about it in the Service IPs—our vision; get people excited about our vision.
  - Strong Homegroups. This would be a great IDT; get out and talk about it, fellowship development, NAWS

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- Metro-Detroit got about \$100 total from five areas. Talk about what FD takes and how much it costs.
- Over 80% comes from lit sales and people think we have a good stream of income, which is not true.
- A theme of “Moving towards our Vision” and do one of those movies that make people cry.
- Vision IP or Vision IDT, Properly Managing NA funds material; used Australian region has an example that after five years they finally donated money to NAWS.
- Some groups make three donations: area, region and NAWS. Many groups think you can't make direct donations to NAWS and it surprises them. Information is not getting out there somehow.
- It isn't a contribution to NAWS; it's a contribution to our Vision. Get that info out there.
- Talk about the value, such as going to Starbucks and spending five dollars on a coffee drink and then going to meeting and putting a dollar in the basket and how much value we place on Narcotics Anonymous.
- Support NA as a whole. Talk about taking ownership vs. mentality of “here's a dollar for my peace of mind.”
- Create something visual for every group to see, connect personal recovery to the bigger picture.
- Talk about our minimum operating expenses and this is the amount from each group that is needed to fulfill our vision and that if each group contributes give a certain amount of dollars.
- Members and groups don't connect to “world” of NA. Members connect to group, area or region, at best.
- Dependent on money put in the basket. Money makes the world go around. This isn't just a NAWS problem.
- Self Support Principle and Practice and Hey! What's the basket for? Current information is not sufficient.
- Set a goal or figure that is attainable, break it down to amount per region, area, and group.
- Maybe that was missed in our planning tools that we have put out there to the fellowship, such as the APT.
- We talk about membership but we don't talk about ownership, we need to be strategic, not trendy.
- “You buy a book for you and someone else.” Books cost us two dollars and members pay nine, is where that saying comes from.
- Card vision on one side other side with the pie, and can you change the shape of the pie, and our vulnerability if people don't start to contribute more, but then all the people that don't read the NA Way.
- It's a group, area, and regional problem, just the same as not getting people to be of service. Maybe the disconnect comes in sponsorship, and not talking about what it means to be a member and how personal contributions make a difference. Example: a group paying more rent instead of sending extra to area.
- What about going online a make a direct contribution? If you're interested in our vision and the world, go to our website. You're missing out if you stop at self, your group, area; we will have it set up to take money off the card every month.

## **Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**

### **Approved World Board Minutes**

**11-14 April 2007**

- A yearly map for groups of where NA is and where my group is on the map, to show the big picture.
- What about small groups or a workgroup getting people who are of service and how do we get the money out the pocket. Not focusing on the not enough, there is enough how do we get it.
- Again the vision, my contribution to the vision, empowering the vision, taking off the “NAWS” vision statement and making it a “worldwide” vision statement, merchandising, a donation box with artwork, convention time, but a subtle message, dispelling group fear.
- Follow up on Khalil letters. Contribution rather than donation.
- Direct contribution solicitation to pre-registrants.
- Contribution envelope inside NA Way Magazine that says your direct contribution to our global fellowship.
- Self Support and Hey! What’s the basket for? IPs need to think about what you want that message to be.
- We don’t tell people how much the NA Way costs when we give it out for free. We step in and step out, and someone needs to make an approach and stand behind it fully and move forward and do something.
- Use wcna32 to tell people what more they can do.
- What about the GSRs? It’s also an issue of using The NA Way. Scholarship fund for some newcomer to go to the next convention, movie again, not make it a NAWS issue. This is why we donate to area; the money gets stuck at the beginning. Spiritual program: we go to meeting because we are getting something, so money should go freely in the basket; the basket is NA not the t-shirt, not the tape, not the raffle ticket.

A confidential discussion took place concerning the WB Nominations List to the HRP

Meeting ended at 5:30 on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2007