

The Wizard of NAWS



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Many of us would not be alive today were it not for the Narcotics Anonymous program. I therefore feel the need to write about a part of what helped save my life: service. When I got clean we had to do service work and I did not see it as an obligation to anyone or anything, it was my responsibility to be there for the addict that had yet to find us. The Service Structure was very easy to understand and relate to our Twelve Traditions. Things have changed in the Service Structure since then, but our Twelve Traditions are still the same. Why are reports issued from the World Board (WB) not signed by anyone, or at least attributed to a position? To me they are trying to appear as the, Wizard, in *The Wizard of Oz* movie. I think we need to look behind that curtain and see what the Wizard is up to.

One of the biggest proposed changes to our Service Structure is the seating of Regions at the World Service Conference (WSC). Here is what the WB has to say about the current make up of our Regions. "We currently too often structure ourselves according to our personal desires, rather than the need to deliver services more effectively and better carry a message. Convenience, resentment, and inertia are frequently our guiding principles when deciding where to draw a boundary, or whether to maintain one."[\[1\]](#) Well, hush my puppies. Now they tell us we've been doing it wrong for all those years. Remember before the WB came into existence the Fellowship was growing in leaps and bounds. They are free with positive spin about the Service System (SS) project, but fail to specify what the comments consisted of.[\[2\]](#) Where are all of the comments in opposition to the WB proposal to change our Service Structure? Undeniably, the comments must have been less than favorable; the WB announced in 2008 that they could complete this project by 2012[\[3\]](#) at a cost of \$150,000. Trying to force the SS on

could complete this project by 2012[3] at a cost of \$150,000. Trying to force the SS on the Fellowship has now cost us over \$220,000[4] and is not going to be ready for a CAR Motion at WSC 2012, which means it will cost even more of the Fellowships money.

The WB is again going to ask the participants at the WSC to vote for a major structural change without having distributed all of the pertinent facts to every NA Group for a true Group Conscience. Here is how they slip things by us, "At this point, we expect to include a set of "agreements in principle" for decision by the conference. We also expect to be presenting a project plan for some sort of transition workgroup."^[5] This "project plan" won't go out to the entire Fellowship in the Conference Agenda Report (CAR) it will be released in the Conference Approval Track (CAT) a measly 90 days before WSC 2012, and they are acting as if the approval has already happened. Can anyone remember which Region asked for this project?^[6] Is anyone concerned about being removed from the roll call at WSC? When will this project be completed, and how much money will it ultimately cost? The way I see it is like this, the WB is like a baseball coach at 3rd base waving frantically for the Fellowship to keep running as it is rounding 2nd base. The Fellowship does not feel like that's the right thing to do and needs to trust their instincts and ignore the coach.

Trusting our instincts and demanding all the facts instead of letting someone else to do our thinking for us means we are responsible for our decision. Ignoring our instincts might just be how we got in the situation we're in; constant unwarranted literature price increases from WSO, Group Conscience reduced to something called Consensus Based Decision Making, the ultimate authority has shifted from a loving God working in our Groups to the WB and WSO staff directing things through the NA press, our literature originated with the conscience decision to design a new way to carry our message not a way to appease the professionals and make it OK to now call this a program of complete abstinence when it's not prescribed otherwise.

I am now and have always been willing to be the person to speak up. This comes with responsibility, I cannot simply be a naysayer, I need to offer alternative solutions. The time has come for the fellowship to pull down the curtain on the Wizard of NAWS. We can do this by sending our Regional Representative to the 2012 World Service Conference with direction. We need to demand the WB cease and desist with the pursuits of the SS, we need to tell them to stop rubber stamping WSO price increases, we need to insist on returning to a Loving God being expressed solely through the Group Conscience process, we need to return to our old literature process that is entirely written by volunteer members and reviewed the same way all of our original literature

was, and we need to tell the WB that they should not have used the NA press to try and stifle the Regions in the US from talking to each other about the possibility of creating a USSC.[7]

If we trust our instincts (gained from recovery) and ignore that fanatical coach - flinging his arm in a wild circular motion to keep us running for a destination that maybe we really don't want to be - then perhaps the fellowship will find itself home in a safe place, not in the land of NAWS.

[1] [Service System Project](#) (Pg.15); State/National/Province Services; Making Better Boundaries

[2] [NAWS News](#) (Pg.4); February 2011; Service System

[3] [NAWS Conference Report 2008](#) (Pg.46); Our Service System

[4] [NAWS Budget Report](#) (Pg. 3); NAWS Inc. Proposed Budget for fiscal years 2010-2012 (no longer on NA.org)

[5] [Service System Project](#) (Pg.2); Service System proposals; Introduction

[6] [WSC 2008 First Draft Record](#) (Pg.12): Summary of Decisions; *Motion #32: It was M/C World Board.*

To approve the Service System project plan for inclusion in the 2008-2010 NAWS, Inc. budget.

[7] [NAWS News](#) (Pg.5); February 2011; United States Service Conference

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