

Area Committee Members

January 6, 2013

Some of you are aware that this is a NAWS (NA World Services) conference year, which will be held in April 27th – May 3, in Woodland Ca. The business of the conference is outlined in the "*Conference Agenda Report*", the CAR. Your delegate team, which is Tony L and I, need your help to carry the Alaska Regional conscience to the conference.

We need to coordinate a date and time, but we want to hold a CAR workshop in March. Time and location will be revealed at the next Area meeting.

Briefly, the CAR includes 6 motions and 3 proposals:

- Three of the 6 World Board motions are area or local service system proposals. These are the most complicated and demanding motions.
- Two of the motions address the delegate funding and representation at the NAWS conference.
- There is a motion to approve IP #29 -- *An Introduction to NA Meetings*. Currently, this is Board approved literature.
- Finally, there are proposals from various Regions that oppose service system changes at the local and World level.

I have attached the

1. **WSC (World Service Conference) 2014 Summary of Motions and Proposals**, from the 2014 CAR.
2. **Area Inventory** -- a spot inventory pulled from the "Area Planning Tool".

As an option, groups may complete an *Area Inventory*. The idea for this is to get our groups to think about our service system. "What service issues do we have at the local or Area level?" and "Will any of the service system proposals help us to improve our service delivery or address issue that we see?"

At a service system workshop in Philadelphia, Tony, our alternate regional delegate, raised a 1/4 inch thick service system handout and said (I paraphrase), "our GSRs are much too interested in getting out of the Area meeting promptly than to spend time digesting this". So it will be a challenge to engage our fellowship in the CAR.

The compelling reason for all of our efforts in service is **so that we may better carry the message to suffering addicts.**

If you could scan and return the inventories.

In loving service,

Doug P and Tony L

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WSC 2014 Summary Sheet Motions & Proposals

World Board Motions

Motion 1: To approve the draft contained in Addendum A as IP #29, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*.

Motion 2: To adopt the following as WSC policy: "Seating at the biennial meeting of the WSC is limited to one delegate per region."

Motion 3: To adopt the following as WSC policy: "The World Service Conference does not automatically fund attendance of delegates. Delegates from regions that are unable to fully fund themselves may request funding from the World Board."

Motion 4: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains group support forums: discussion-oriented gatherings focused on the needs of the group, as described by the characteristics below.

Characteristics of a GSF:

Essential:

- Discussion-oriented
- Group-focused: Focused on the needs of the group; decisions related to area business are not made here. Some limited functions like finding volunteers for H&I panels, planning picnics, etc., may take place.
- Training-oriented: This is a venue ideal for orienting new members, holding workshops, and training trusted servants.
- Open to all: All interested members, not just group representatives, are encouraged to attend.

Recommended:

- Neighborhood-sized: The original Service System Proposals see group support forums as significantly smaller than local service conferences or area service committees. There would be several for each LSC. However, we have found through field testing that some communities prefer to bring all of the groups and interested members together for one community-wide group support forum.
- Meets monthly: Again, the original Service System Proposals suggest monthly meetings of the group support forum, but in field testing many communities adopted a different meeting schedule. Some had group support forums meeting eight times a year in months when there was no quarterly local service conference. Others alternated GSF and LSC meetings, with each meeting six times a year.

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

Motion 5: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains local service conferences: strategic service-oriented planning conferences as described by the characteristics below.

Characteristics of a local service conference:

Essential:

- Plan-driven: The LSC works according to a planning cycle which begins with an annual planning assembly. All interested members gather at the planning assembly to set the priorities for the cycle ahead and provide the input that will shape the resulting project plans and budget.

- **Form follows function:** Utilizes a thoughtful mixture of project-based services, services performed by committees, and services organized by a coordinator. How services are delivered (whether by committee, project workgroup, or a coordinator) is a decision made by the local service conference.
- **Strategic:** Discussion and decisions are as much as possible concerned with strategic direction and oversight. Administrative decisions and “micromanagement” are delegated to the local service board.
- **Consensus-based:** Utilizes consensus-based decision making where practical (i.e., voting may still be the most logical way to handle elections or instances where the body fails to reach consensus and a decision must get made).

Recommended:

- **Meets quarterly:** The proposals suggest the local service conference meets four times a year for planning and oversight and the local service board meets monthly. In practice, when field testing, some communities determined that having the local service conference meet every other month better served their needs. One meeting of the LSC a year is devoted to the annual planning assembly.
- **Defined by county, city, or town boundaries:** The reasons for this recommendation are three-fold: 1. To avoid duplication of services; 2. To make NA more visible to professionals and addicts who are trying to find us; and 3. To make sure all parts of a state or nation are covered by a service body. Making sure these three things happen is more important than a policy about service body boundaries, particularly given the potential difficulty in unifying with a neighboring service body. What seems crucial is better communication and collaboration with our neighbors with an eye to having a conversation about possible unification down the road. The third item, making sure that all parts of a state or nation are served by NA, is something that probably cannot be adequately addressed in most places until we get to the state/nation/province part of the service system.

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

Motion 6: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains local service boards: a body overseen by the local service conference that administers the work prioritized by the LSC, as described in the characteristics below.

Characteristics of an LSB:

Essential:

- **Responsible to the LSC:** Reports to and is overseen by the local service conference.
- **Carries out the priorities of the LSC:** The board oversees the work to accomplish the goals set by the local service conference. They present a budget and project plans to the LSC for approval, and they coordinate the service work of the committees, workgroups, and coordinators.
- **Meets monthly:** It seems practical to meet on a regular basis, though not all meetings of the LSB must be face-to-face. Some LSBs may choose to hold some meetings online for convenience.
- **Administers the LSC meetings:** The local service board is responsible for putting together the agenda and facilitating the LSC meetings, including organizing the annual planning assembly to get information from the whole NA community.

Recommended:

- **Consists of admin body and service coordinators:** The proposals initially conceived of the local service board as a monthly meeting of the trusted servants elected by the LSC (the

admin body) as well as the subcommittee chairs, project coordinators, and other service coordinators. In practice, there may be meetings where not all of these trusted servants are needed.

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

Regional Proposals

These proposals summarize the basic ideas of the regional proposals received for the CAR and will serve as the basis for what is discussed in the WSC Old Business Discussion Session. More information can be found on page 30. The original proposals as submitted are in Addendum C.

Proposal A: To place a moratorium on the Service System Proposals. Ideas for the moratorium range from two to four years. (5 proposals - A1-A5)

Proposal B: To specify the specific decision-making mechanism for anything related to the SSP. (2 proposals - B1-B2)

Proposal C: Currently seated regions retain their seat at the WSC forever. (1 proposal - C)

Proposal D: Ideas to evaluate or reduce WSC costs either by creating a workgroup to look into conference costs or by eliminating World Board travel to the WSC. (2 proposals - D1-D2)

AREA INVENTORY

An area may want to send this inventory or a similar set of questions to the groups. Members or groups can answer each question with a number from one to five, using a scale such as:

① Not at all ② Needs improvement ③ Adequate ④ Outstanding ⑤ Excellent

When the numbers are totaled for each question, the area can see what most needs improvement (1) and what is going quite well already (5).

How well has the area served local groups this year?

- How well does the area communicate with local groups? _____
- How well does the area respond to the needs of local groups? _____
- How well is the area managing its donations and area treasury? _____
- How effectively does the area demonstrate responsibility and accountability? _____
- How fully does the area train and support members who serve on the area service committee? _____
- How well does the area service committee foster an atmosphere of courtesy and mutual respect? _____
- How completely does the area provide opportunities for communication about committee concerns to the local members and groups? _____
- How well is a sense of unity fostered within the area service body? _____
- How positively is a sense of unity shown within local groups? _____
- What is the area's experience with trusted servants? _____
- How well has the area fostered the willingness of the local fellowship to volunteer for service positions? _____
- How well does the area practice continuity and rotation? _____
- How well does the area function in maintaining a full complement of trusted servants, with no open commitments? _____
- How fully does the area create an environment where the conscience of the body guides the decisions and direction of the area? _____

How well has the area done this year in making NA's message more widely known in the larger community?

- How well is the area communicating with those in the community who interact with addicts? _____

- How completely does the area respond to the needs of the larger community? _____

- How well is the area using human and financial resources to carry NA's message of recovery in an efficient and effective way? _____
- How fully trained and supported are the trusted servants who interact with members of the community? _____
- How well has the area built cooperative relationships with those in the larger community? _____
- How easily can those in the larger community reach an NA member who is in a position to respond to their questions or requests? _____

How well has the area cooperated and collaborated with the region and NA World Services this year?

- How effectively does the area communicate with the region and with NA World Services? _____
- How well does the area respond to requests from the region and from NA World Services? How fully does the area share its needs and concerns with the region and NA World Services? _____
- How reliably does the area forward funds to the region and/or NA World Services?____

- How effectively does the area use resources (such as written materials or experience from other trusted servants) that are available through the region and/or NA World Services? _____
- How fully has the area formed a cooperative relationship with the region and NA World Services? _____
- How well is the area creating a sense of unity with the region and NA World Services?

Is there any particular area of service and/or area function that you perceive is outstanding? Please identify: _____

Is there any particular area of service and/or area function that you perceive would need improvement? Please identify: _____

