

Fellowship Development



...that every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life

...toward our vision

47
Speaks
47 Languages

● WSO LOCATIONS

Translations in Progress

Brazilian Italian Portuguese

French German Japanese

Hebrew Tagalog Turkish

Finnish Greek Norwegian

Angl. English

Russian

Netherlands Swedish

Spanish Farsi

Bahasa-Melayu Bengali Hindi Manipuri

Fellowship Development In Pursuit of The Voice of Narcotics Anonymous

This fiscal year has shown an incredible amount of activity in fellowship development as we seek the voice of NA in matters as diverse as personal recovery strategies and interaction with government bureaucracies. There was once a simpler era at NA World Services when our sole concern was to get Basic Texts distributed and register new groups, and not much more than that. Some people might yearn for those days to return, but the reality is that neither Narcotics Anonymous nor the world are stagnant structures. Through your support and direction NAWS has become a pro-active force in navigating the complexity of our very diverse fellowship in an even more diverse world.

The series of worldwide workshops during this cycle are a bold move designed to address a long-standing need of our fellowship. Addicts can read our literature in English and a number of other languages and learn the principles of our recovery program, but they cannot ask questions, discuss problems, or share solutions with addicts from the other side of the world. It has been a long-standing desire of the fellowship to interact directly with NA World Services on a full range of recovery issues. The World Service Conference has always been the platform for the discussion of service issues, but there has been no adequate structure for discussing recovery issues. Our Fellowship Services Department has understood this need for many years, witnessed by the volume of telephone calls, emails, snail mails, faxes and letters requesting assistance with these issues. This fiscal year saw the first cycle of worldwide workshops produced to address these needs. This being the first cycle there were successes and frustrations, as would be expected with any brand-new effort. We intend to learn from the frustrations and enhance the successes and be even more successful in the next cycle.

As a result of an invitation to NAWS from the World Health Organization of the United Nations, WSO Executive Director Anthony Edmondson, along with Dr. Bob MacFarlane, a former member of the Board of Directors and the World Service Translation Committee and a current member of the World Pool, traveled to China in early September 2002. Although not strictly in the fiscal year covered by this annual report, the events leading up to this trip were underway during fiscal year 2001-2002, and so we want to offer at least a brief snapshot of the prospectus for your information.

We have been aware for some time of a few NA members living in China. These individuals are not native Chinese; they live in China by choice in pursuit of their professional careers. We have not been aware of Chinese Narcotics Anonymous groups that have persevered for any time and were conducted in the Chinese language.

This past year a missionary in Hunan, South China, has repeatedly contacted NAWS beginning in February/March 2002, requesting literature and facilitation of Narcotics Anonymous in China. Although we have tried to provide information on NA and encourage the missionary to go so far as to facilitate the start of a meeting, nothing much has transpired past this point. It is our common practice to provide a group starter kit (with an information sheet for professionals facilitating the start of an NA meeting) to professionals in isolated or restricted settings with addicts nearby who might have a desire to stop using drugs but have no access to Narcotics Anonymous. The missionary with whom we are in contact is also associated with a very large international treatment center with branches all over Asia, South Asia, and parts of Europe, which gives us cause to proceed gingerly.



АНОНИМНЫЕ Наркоманы



At WSC 2002, WSO staff met with several delegates and alternates from Latin America and discussed, among other things, literature discounts, shipping and freight charges, literature inventories, self-support, and other fiscal matters. This discussion could very well have taken place with the Asian community, South Asian community, Eastern European community, Mediterranean community, or much of the Sub-Saharan African community. These challenges may seem daunting at times, but we are buoyed by the knowledge that NA World Services is fully committed to our Vision Statement, and we believe that solutions are always possible.

In reality, many of the NA communities mentioned above are unable to afford what more-developed nations can be expected to pay for literature. World Services has always taken into consideration the financial reality of particular communities. Much of the free literature we distribute goes to communities where the per capita income would make purchasing NA literature at rack prices an utter impossibility. With NAWS ability and commitment to provide this service, the delivery of our message in written form is assured. In fiscal year 2001, NA World Services distributed over \$245,000 worth of free and subsidized literature.

However, the ever-increasing costs of freight and shipping have forced us to reevaluate our delivery strategies in non-US countries. One partial solution is encouraging larger quantities per order to reduce the amount of total orders. Along with this strategy it is imperative to provide educational services as well, teaching local NA communities how to maintain inventory levels so that orders are needed less frequently. Also, providing a flat-rate shipping charge to financially challenged communities reduces the hardship on the community. These and other solutions to these challenges are being actively explored.

Because we are truly a worldwide fellowship, we realize that the principle of self-support has a different barometer in different communities throughout the world, depending in large degree on the economy of the country in which the NA community exists. We continue to try and level the playing field as best we can and search for equitable solutions going into the future.

Fellowship Services

Over the years in the annual report we have done many different things to try to highlight Fellowship Services for you and give you a feel for what we do in this department. Many things have changed in NA World Services over the years; most of these changes, we hope you will agree, are for the better. One constant, though, which does not seem to have changed in any drastic way is our fellowship services. This is for good reason. There is a class of service that we provide that we refer to as “basic service” that must be constant and dependable. Registering new groups, answering the phones, responding to letters, faxes, emails, and voice mails are things that you have every right to expect will continue to be done much as they have been done for about twenty solid years now without a break.

In addition, our Fellowship Services Team responds to H&I requests, assembles and sends out new group starter kits, and responds to all of the miscellaneous requests that we have coming into the WSO in a constant stream. Two periodicals are produced in Fellowship Services: *Reaching Out* and *Meeting by Mail*. In addition to these duties are a host of functions, new and ongoing, that touch every other facet of operations at the World Service Office. As we seem to become more project-oriented in our work approach, members of this team are called upon to assist with everything from the worldwide workshop series to WCNA-29 and, next year, WCNA-30 in San Diego.

The numbers are impressive, as always. The FS Team fields no fewer than 300 telephone calls a month. Starter kits run at about 75 per month, with the annual total for this fiscal year at 881, with an additional 40 in Spanish. H&I letters are averaging almost 300 per month, and we fulfill approximately 80 miscellaneous requests per month. Carrie, Wendy, Mindy, Shane, Freddie, Jeff, Keri and Sara Jo, with Steve as team leader, are kept busy at a constant clip throughout the year. If not helping bolster a giant database effort that means sending mail to every registered group in Narcotics Anonymous, the team is contributing to the construction of all the pre-registration packets for WCNA-29 in Atlanta.

It should not be forgotten that we have full Spanish-language capabilities on this team as well. In addition, we can handle French, German, or Russian correspondence as necessary by requesting assistance from other NAWS staff members. It might seem at times like some other aspects of NAWS's complex operation get more accolades, but the fact of the matter is that basic services and the work of the Fellowship Services Team is something that the fellowship has come to depend upon over the years, and you continue to send in letters and cards periodically letting the team know that they are appreciated.



Bulletin board in the Fellowship Services office at WSO-Chatsworth with various communications and event flyers from NA communities around the world.

Translations

Monday, 3 June 2002

Two group starter kits went out to Kampala, Uganda. A gentleman from the States who is a member of AA, contacted us soon after visiting Uganda recently.

While attending an AA meeting there, several people identified themselves as addicts. He then approached these members and asked if there was NA there. They told him no.

He then suggested that they start NA in Uganda, and they were especially enthusiastic about that idea.

The AA member contacted us and gave us several addresses to send the Group Starter Kits to, and he also purchased a few Basic Texts to go along with the kits.

The second most common language in Uganda after English (their national language) is Swahili. We have a draft of IP#1 in Swahili already done.

Translations relocated from the Fellowship Services Team to the Production Team in January 2002. Production and Translations have always been a tight-knit working group, which is absolutely necessary in order to produce translated items that are professional in both form and content. This merge marked the official team designation. As a result of lots of hard work by local translations committees, staff, and contractors, we were able to create a number of new translated products (although the translations "to do" list only seems to get longer).

We have set up a computer to accommodate the software necessary to produce literature in languages using non-Roman characters, like Chinese and Japanese. Besides setting up the workstation, it required learning how to operate the system. Uschi, David, Jayne and Simon have all been diligently mastering the nuances of the system and right now things are running like a Swiss watch. Even our contract Chinese translator has had hands-on experience and is productive with this system.

Our normal work stream currently includes more than 300 active translations projects and the maintenance of an inventory of approximately 325 published items.

An interesting translation problem, first raised within the Guatemalan NA community, eventually involved the entire Spanish-speaking fellowship, the Latin American Zonal Forum, and members and contractors in Spain. The issue revolved around why the term "preferencia sexual" was chosen in our Spanish translations over "identidad sexual." Our Spanish contract translator in Europe provided the information that in 1991 when the work was being done, "identidad" had a different meaning within the Spanish-speaking culture than in English, and that "preferencia" was chosen because it had no negative cultural connotations. It was our contractor's professional opinion that, with the increased American cultural influence in the Spanish-speaking community, "identidad" might very well be a more acceptable choice today. In February 2002, a query and background explanation was sent to all Latin American and Spanish RDs and LAZF members requesting input by 15 April 2002. Seventeen responses from twelve different countries were received with a consensus to change the terminology from "preferencia sexual" to "identidad sexual." NAWS subsequently supported the change for future printings of the Spanish Basic Text and other pertinent translations.

