

# World Service Conference



**WSC 2002**  
**Coming Together**  
**the Voice of NA**

# World Service Conference 2002

## 28 April-4 May 2002

Let's step back for a moment and reflect on a few of the circumstances that made this particular World Service Conference unique in our history, the first conference of a new era as well as a new century. This conference completed the first-ever biennial conference cycle. At the final "annual" conference, in April 2000, the following language was adopted: "The World Service Conference is not just a collection of regions; its concerns are greater than just the sum of its parts. The conference is a vehicle for fellowship communication and unity: a forum where our common welfare is itself the business of the meeting."

This year's conference was entirely funded by NA World Services for the very first time in our history. This does not mean that NA World Services has the ability to just pay for the World Service Conference and that is the end of it. In order to make it possible for the conference to become an event where "our common welfare itself" is the business of the day, all of the seated regions in Narcotics Anonymous were fully funded to send delegates to attend the World Service Conference. The goal: to help every region become aware of being part of something much bigger than just their individual region. Delegates come to the conference from their various regions to meet with representatives of the entire fellowship to discuss matters that affect all of us, whether we live in Denver or Dacca. The conference believed so much in its vision statement and what it was doing that it was willing to take on the incredible risk of funding a congress of over 100 people for more than a week in pursuit of our dream, "*Coming Together: The Voice of NA.*"

In making this bold move we were not blind to the risks involved. In fact, the following few lines are quoted directly from the 2000 *Conference Agenda Report*:

*"The primary objection that we have heard is fear of funds being withheld. We recognize that many regions may not take the funds they currently spend on delegate attendance to the WSC and forward them to world services. We do not believe that fear of what might happen should keep us from deciding what we believe is best for the conference."*

It is our belief that each region will contribute its fair share to NA World Services to equalize the cost of funding our biennial conference. Elsewhere in this report you will find the full financial breakdown of what it cost to hold this meeting.

Delegates from all over the world descended on Los Angeles at the end of April to claim their seat and be part of the coming together of the voice of NA: the World Service Conference. One hundred fourteen conference participants representing a total of 101 seated regions (96 regions sent delegates; 5 did not attend) along with the World Board met for seven days to do business in a new way—the beginning of a move from a motion-based conference to a discussion-based, consensus-seeking conference had begun. These seven days held many successes and a few frustrations. None would argue, though, that this wasn't a mold-breaking, bold experiment that pointed toward an exciting future full of potential.



# NAWS Publications

## ***NAWS News***

*NAWS News* gives an overview of world service activity, with a particular emphasis on World Board projects. It is published following World Board meetings and the World Service Conference. *NAWS News* is currently available in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish. It is distributed automatically to conference participants and registered area and regional service committees. The mailing list consists of the above groups, but individuals can request copies of this periodical after each mailing or download and print it from the NA Website, [www.na.org](http://www.na.org).

## ***Conference Agenda Report***

The *CAR* is published and distributed in English a minimum of 150 days prior to each World Service Conference, with translated versions released a minimum of 120 days prior. It contains information about all of the relevant WSC business, discussions, and activities that require guidance by the conscience of the entire fellowship. At present, the *CAR* is published in English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. It is distributed automatically to conference participants and regions. Additional printed copies are available for purchase at cost, but the downloads of the *CAR* are free at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org).

Regional motions must be submitted 240 days prior to the WSC and should include a written intent. Regions can include 150-word rationales to describe the meaning behind their motion. The WB includes a recommendation about each regional motion so that the fellowship is provided with as much information as possible in order to engage in discussions when reviewing the motion.



## ***Conference Report***

A comprehensive and detailed report of world service activity is published as the reporting needs of world services require. This report contains information regarding the status of major world services projects, suggestions for new work, and difficulties that have been encountered. It also includes reports from the World Board, the Human Resources Panel, and any region or zonal forum that wishes to submit material. The frequency of publication may change from year to year, and conference participants are provided with the schedule for each year ahead of time. It can also be accessed online at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org).

## ***NAWS Inc. Annual Report***

The *NAWS Inc. Annual Report* covers each fiscal year of NA World Services. The fiscal year ends 30 June, and the annual report is produced in late September. It is distributed automatically to conference participants and regions. Additional copies are available for purchase at cost or for free download at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org).

## ***NAWS Quarterly Financial Report***

This is a quarterly financial update as well as a summary of travel decisions made for world services. It is published in English and distributed automatically to conference participants and regions.

## ***Conference Approval Track***

As a result of conference action, this is a packet of material that is mailed out to conference participants 90 days prior to the start of the conference. This material is intended primarily for use by service boards and committees. For further description of Conference Approval Track parameters see *A Guide To World Services In Narcotics Anonymous*, 2002, p.34-35

## Worldwide Workshops

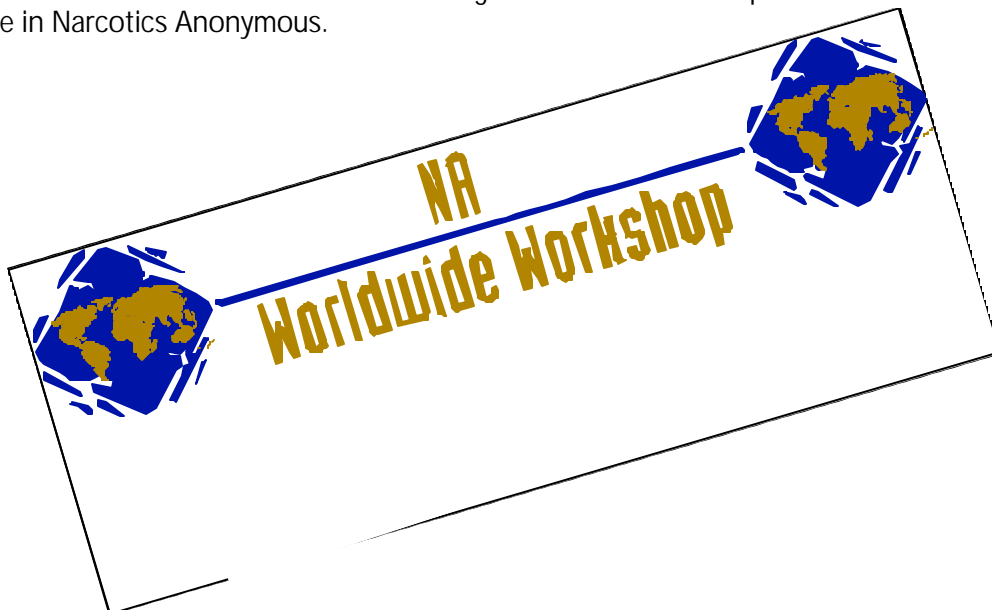
We reported to you in the August 2001 *Conference Report* and in the 2001 *Annual Report* on the first-ever worldwide workshop. This first-of-its-kind event was held in Burnaby, just outside of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Since then, we have conducted three more: in Wellington, New Zealand; Chicago, Illinois, USA; and São Paulo, Brazil. As this report is being written, we are preparing for our next workshop to be held in Birmingham, England, UK from 30 August to 1 September 2002. As you can see, a great deal has transpired over this past year. Allow us to walk you through some of the highlights from this past year and give you a glimpse of the workshops on the horizon.

The Wellington worldwide workshop was held 1-3 November 2001, and by all accounts it was wildly successful. From the opening *powhiri* (pronounced *paw-feh-ree*)—a Maori welcoming ceremony whose celebration, reverence, and joy is difficult to describe—to the ending circle on Sunday, it was an event that exceeded the expectations of both the travelers and the local NA community. Members from the local NA groups wrote an article that reports on this event for the April 2002 *NA Way*. We thank them for their love and support and encourage you to read this article.

The worldwide workshops continue to evolve according to the needs and capacities of each venue we visit. This was apparent when the workshop was held in Chicago in February 2002. Those who attended the event have generally agreed that, however cold it may have been outside, it was warm inside, the warmth fueled by fellowship and an honest exchange of ideas, experience, strength, and hope.

The Brazil workshop in São Paulo occurred 22-24 March 2002 and, as we had expected, it turned out to be the largest workshop, attended by more than 500 members from some 36 areas. A couple of members even traveled from Peru to experience what a worldwide workshop is like. It was our first trilingual experience and was made possible by the efforts of truly great and energetic translators and volunteers. We are still awaiting the translations of the evaluations of the local membership, but if they enjoyed and learned half as much as we did, then it was a truly worthwhile experience.

As we mentioned before, the UK workshop had to be cancelled due to the 11 September 2001 tragedy. That workshop was rescheduled for the end of August 2002. We are eager to interact with the members from the UK and exchange information and experiences about recovery and service in Narcotics Anonymous.



## Ever Heard of a Carnet?

Even though we have discussed worldwide workshops a couple times within this annual report, a discussion of one overlooked aspect of this project is warranted. The logistics involved in staging workshops in British Columbia, New Zealand, Chicago, São Paulo, and Birmingham with—many more to follow—are imposing.

It has fallen on the capable shoulders of Elaine Adams, long-time NAWs employee, to be in charge of the manifesting, packing, shipping, unpacking, staging, packing, shipping, unpacking, and storing of the twenty-six boxes of supplies that we distribute during a worldwide workshop that do not come home, along with the five packages that we ship *carnet*. Very few of us have ever heard this word before. “Carnet” is the term used when you ship a very specific cargo to another country and are bound by agreement to ship precisely the same cargo home again. We *carnet* ship the audio-visual equipment, computer equipment, displays of archival literature, and NA history and fellowship items as well as any other hardware we’ll be using at the workshop, and we return ship the same items.

All of the other twenty-six boxes stay with the host community. There are many hand-outs and give-away items not usually available and frequently never before seen in many locations—like the NA Audio Archive Sampler, the Basic Journal, and the Basic Mug—as well as Basic Texts and other standard literature items. Also included and vital to the success of the workshop is the session material: action cards, note-taking sheets, facilitator guidelines, brainstorming rules, etc.

The process and content of what we ship has changed with every workshop so far. Starting from a blank slate we projected what we anticipated our needs would be, and now we revise those needs on an on-going basis as experience helps us refine the process each time. Also there is always the issue that when you are traveling to a non-English-speaking community, the literature we bring will be different both in quantity and title, depending on just what literature is available in the language of use in the country we will be visiting.

As much of a success as the workshops have been thus far, we continue to look for ways to improve these fellowship gatherings. We ask participants to evaluate each workshop at its close and use their input to improve both the workshops as a whole and the particular sessions. We have made changes to each workshop as a result of feedback received and expect to evaluate our efforts within this conference cycle. In the next couple of years we will conduct workshops in Austin, Texas, USA, the Northeastern United States, somewhere in Latin America, and a location to be determined in the Asia-Pacific Zone. More information about these workshops can be found in various issues of *NAWS News* and *Conference Reports*.

### **New Projects: Sponsorship & Basic Text Evaluation**

Although the Sponsorship and Basic Text Evaluation projects were only approved at this year’s World Service Conference, less than two months before the technical cut off date for this report, we feel it important to give you some type of map as to where things are as of this writing.

The Sponsorship project proposes to create an approximately 100-page book on sponsorship in Narcotics Anonymous for approval at WSC 2004. We have received a great deal of source material from the fellowship, and the drafting of the book is now well underway. Interested members of Narcotics Anonymous signed up for review and input on the first chapter and the accompanying IP. The deadline for sign up was 31 October 2002.

We also remain in the process of surveying NA members to try to get a sense of whether the fellowship desires revisions or additions to the Basic Text or the Little White Booklet. The survey was sent out with *The NA Way Magazine* and *NAWS News*. Surveys were available at WCNA-29 in Atlanta and remain available at our website, [www.na.org](http://www.na.org). We will collect data until the end of December 2002.