

From Your World Board

We have enjoyed an exciting and productive year providing services on behalf of the fellowship. During fiscal year 2003-2004, we were energized by hosting the fiftieth anniversary convention of Narcotics Anonymous in San Diego, and along with delegates, we moved closer to our vision during the 2004 World Service Conference.

We initiated the fiscal year by opening with the spectacular celebration of our fiftieth anniversary at WCNA-30 in San Diego, California, 3-6 July 2003. With the harbor as our backdrop, 22,000 people from twenty-nine countries enjoyed this recovery celebration. Many members who had long-term recovery attended and provided us with an inkling of the early days of recovery in NA. The Saturday night celebration was the culmination of our fiftieth anniversary. Prior to the Saturday evening speaker, members sang *Happy Birthday* as a cake decorated with the number "50" was wheeled onto the stage. One could feel the recovery and our growth!

Following this recovery celebration, your World Board continued to work toward a strategic approach to our responsibilities. We focused on priorities from our strategic plan and embraced a planning process that is yielding tangible results. Our strategic plan is divided into five "key result areas," and we have made progress toward fulfilling our vision in each identified area during this past fiscal year. Some highlights in each key result area from this past year are:

Communication: We continued with our Public Relations Round Tables, hosting professionals from various professional communities that included key addiction policy makers, treatment facility directors, and physicians. These various professionals shared their experiences with Narcotics Anonymous and offered solutions for areas identified as needing improvement. It seems that we, as a fellowship, have to become more responsible with our services—particularly with phonelines and meeting schedules. Professionals additionally informed us that our behavior at meetings may need to improve for them to be willing to refer potential members, citing our tendency to be predatory toward newcomers. With the information gleaned from the round tables, and in the spirit of cooperation, we have established relationships with many of these professionals who work in fields that are related to our primary purpose. This data helped us to develop and present a plan to the conference to proceed with creating a Public Relations Strategy for NA.

Fellowship issue discussion topics were reviewed with an eye toward their effectiveness at helping our members hold productive discussions for themselves and improve the services for our members and potential members. We changed the format for issue discussion topics and identified discussion goals and avenues to pursue those goals. We framed the two issue discussion topics for the upcoming cycle, "Our Public Image" and "Infrastructure." Our ultimate goal with the issue discussion topics is to help us more effectively carry our message of recovery.

Fellowship Support: NA continues to grow and mature around the world. We held two worldwide workshops this past year. The first

was held in Lima, Peru. The members of this NA community embraced the workshop and have taken the service practiced in the workshop to four remote areas of Peru, including the jungle. Their regional assembly enthusiastically committed to using consensus-based decision-making, one of the tools from the worldwide workshop. The second worldwide workshop was held in Bangalore, India in an atypical venue—on a mountain top. Members came from all corners of the Indian subcontinent to attend this workshop. One family, a recovering couple with an infant, traveled five days by train and bus to attend the service workshop. These workshops help our members carry the message of recovery and move forward toward fulfilling our vision.

We held a service-focused gathering of the Russian-speaking NA communities in St. Petersburg, Russia. This service workshop was modeled on the worldwide workshops. The St. Petersburg service workshops hosted members from thirty-one cities and seven countries; the common denominator for these members in attendance was the Russian language. This service workshop helped to further recovery efforts in Eastern Europe including Russia. Lithuania is hosting the first Baltic states NA convention.

This fiscal year we finally laid the groundwork, using the strategic plan, to

“All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous World Services are inspired by the primary purpose of the groups we serve.”

move toward producing new and updated service materials for the fellowship, including a Public Relations Handbook, much of which will be developed over the course of the next conference cycle.

Recovery Literature: We completed our first major literature project as your World Board. WSC 2004 approved *Sponsorship*, NA's fifth book. Along with this book, the conference approved a revision of IP #11, *Sponsorship*, which is already published and being worked on by some local translation committees.

We proposed developing a revision to the Basic Text. That project was approved at WSC 2004, and the work will take place over the course of the next four years. We will be communicating more as the BT project develops and our need for personal story material emerges.

Leadership and Management: As we reported in last year's annual report, the identification and cultivation of leadership in NA, at all levels of our service structure, has been a focus for us and continues to be a board focus. From the strategic plan, WSC 2004 approved continued work in the area of leader development. To assist with all the board work, including the area of leadership, WSC 2004 elected six new board members and re-elected one member. At the close of this fiscal year, your board has fifteen members who reflect the diversity found in our worldwide fellowship.

The conference passed a motion eliminating the “mandate” for board standing committees. The latitude provided to us through the motion will permit the board to use workgroups and/or committees to accomplish its work. Our workgroups are comprised of members from the board and the World Pool. This allows us to maintain our accountability while involving and exposing our experienced membership to the work of world services. The utilization of workgroups allows the board to maintain its strategic focus.

Resources: One of our responsibilities as a board is to ensure that our resources are used well. This year saw a seven percent increase in income to world services and the hiring of a number of new staff people. This will assist your primary service center with providing services for our growing fellowship. We instituted online literature sales, which is going smoothly; with each passing month, more customers are buying literature online. Please take the time to check out this service by going to www.na.org.

To help us keep up with technology and growth demands, training efforts continue with NAWS staff and volunteers. As we strive to align our services to our resources, we recognize there will probably never be enough resources to accomplish all of the things we would like to do in pursuit of our vision.

Board Member	Year Elected	Current Term Ends	From City/State/Country
Saul Alvarado	2000	2006	Panama City, Panama
Mary Banner	2004	2010	Texas, United States
Ron Blake	2004	2010	Victoria, Australia
Piet de Boer	2004	2010	Gothenburg, Sweden
Jim Buerer	2002	2008	Illinois, United States
Michael Cox	2004	2010	Malaga, Spain
Giovanna Ghisays	2000	2006	Cartagena, Colombia
Mukham Harzenski-Deutsch	2004	2010	New Jersey, United States
Ron Hofius	2000	2006	New Mexico, United States
David James	2000	2006	Manchester, England
Bob Jordan	2000	2006	Florida, United States
Tom McCall	2000	2006	Hawaii, United States
Ron Miller	2004	2010	Florida, United States
Craig Robertson	2004	2010	North Carolina, United States
Daniel Schuessler	2000	2006	Offenbach, Germany