

Our vision is that one day:

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...

NAWS Projects Help Us Fulfill Our Vision

Project Updates

Worldwide Workshops

The final Worldwide Workshop of the 2004-2006 conference cycle took place in Lisbon, Portugal, in November 2005. Worldwide Workshops are adapted to fit the local community, and in Lisbon that meant beginning Saturday morning and ending Sunday night, instead of starting Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon. Participants were updated on NAWS activities, including projects that were entering their final stages for the conference cycle. The members were introduced to the small-group process as they participated in a town hall meeting. They discussed some of the issues of local importance, including a lack of clean time and sponsorship in service. They discussed possible solutions to these problems, including the idea of working hard to make sure that service is an encouraging, inviting atmosphere for everyone. Other sessions focused on the Issue Discussion Topics, and members discussed the variety of challenges they faced and a number of possible solutions, including those that were already working in some communities. Members also discussed the issue of leadership in NA and ways that we can all try to cultivate good leadership qualities in NA service. Finally, the members who participated in this workshop talked about what they learned over the weekend and expressed their intentions to take the solutions back to their home groups.

We also hosted two Eastern European workshops in the Ukraine and Lithuania. NAWS funded travel to these workshops for an unprecedented number of participants from countries ranging from Slovenia, Slovakia, and Croatia to the easternmost parts of Siberia. The workshops were held in English and Russian, the two most commonly understood languages among delegates with a vast range of mother tongues. The languages spoken by participants in these workshops included Ukrainian, Slovenian, Slovakian,





Moldavian, Polish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Serbian, and Croatian. Participants discussed a wide variety of issues that affect these local communities. One of the topics of importance to these communities, of course, was translations. We are very pleased to announce that, by the time this *Annual Report* reaches publication, a Russian Basic Text, recently revised for terminology, should be available. We were happy to play a small part in this process, but little would have happened if not for the extraordinary fellowship development efforts that the Western Russian Region and other communities in attendance undertook on their own. Many thanks and congratulations to you all! And thanks also to the many delegates from the European Delegates Meeting who stayed to help support the workshop in Lithuania.

Representatives from NAWS traveled to Bangkok in February to participate in a translations workshop and at the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), where they facilitated two workshops. They also attended Malaysia's first convention, which was held in Kuala Lumpur. The APF provided us with the much-needed chance to address a variety of issues with representatives from many communities, including translations issues. Several NA communities in that part of the world, such as Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines, have translations in progress and complex issues to resolve. Several of these communities had requested our assistance in the form of a workshop, and the translations workshop, in conjunction with the APF, made it possible to assist them in their efforts to make the NA message more readily available in their communities. The translations workshops will be discussed further in the Translations and Fel-

lowship Development section.

NAWS staff wrapped up these two rather ambitious trips with a stop in Iran on the way home. Throughout the year, the NA community in Iran continued to experience unbelievable growth in numbers and recovery strength. We are doing everything we can to support our new branch as well as the regions, areas, and members in Iran. Much of the entire fellowship has become entranced with the size, growth, and enthusiasm of Iran. They are truly an example of what happens when unity becomes foremost, services are organized and well thought-out, public relations efforts constantly remain a priority, and carrying the message is always foremost in their minds. We can all learn something from what they have done and continue to do.

Basic Text Project

While this *Annual Report* covers the period July 2005 through June 2006, we will take a bit of a broader view for the Basic Text project. This project spans several fiscal years and two conference cycles, beginning in 2004 when the World Service Conference passed a motion to revise the Basic Text. That motion was to replace some or all of the personal stories and add an introduction to this part of the book, and to add a new preface to the book as a whole.

The initial stage of the project involved plotting the process that would follow. Then, in February 2005, we began to solicit new personal stories from the fellowship. The solicitation effort, which extended through the first part of this year, was devoted to collecting submissions and beginning an evaluation process. December 2005 marked a formal end to the collection period, but we continued to



accept submissions for some time afterward. Altogether there were more than 700 submissions from thirty-four countries:

Argentina	Australia	Belgium
Brazil	Canada	Colombia
France	Germany	Greece
India	Ireland	Israel
Italy	Mexico	Nepal
Netherlands	New Zealand	Nicaragua
Norway	Portugal	Puerto Rico
Russia	Saudi Arabia	Singapore
South Africa	Spain	Sweden
Switzerland	Trinidad	Turkey
UK	United States	Venezuela
	West Indies	

The workgroup read and evaluated all of these pieces as well as the personal stories already published in the English, French, and Dutch Basic Text and the Swedish and Anglicized White Booklet. The 2006 World Service Conference approved the project plan for the 2006-2008 conference cycle. As the fiscal year drew to a close, the work of putting the text together was well underway.

September 2006 was a milestone in the project. On the first of the month, a draft of the text was mailed out for review to all members who requested one, as well as to all regions, areas, and conference participants. The draft will be out for review for six months, and then it will be revised again to incorporate fellowship input. The draft that results will be released in September 2007 for the approval phase. The review draft includes a new preface, a new introduction to the personal stories sec-



tion, tentatively called “Our Members Share,” and a revised set of personal stories/members’ sharing.

One of the primary impetuses for the revision was to collect a set of shared experience that better represents the diversity of today’s worldwide Fellowship of NA. The fifty-one longer pieces and several collections of shorter reflections go a long way toward meeting that goal. We do still hope to add some pieces to fill out some of the thinner spots in the collection, such as gaps in some of the geographic diversity. Still, the wide span of ages, nationalities, and cultures represented by pieces in the review and input draft demonstrates the broad range of the text and of our worldwide fellowship.

In the first two months of release, thousands of copies have been mailed out and downloaded. Many local communities are holding review workshops, and input is coming in from individuals and groups and committees. We look forward to the work in front of us in the fiscal year ahead. Incorporating the input from the fellowship and working to collect some additional material promise to make an even better text for fellowship consideration. Our Basic Text tells us, “Our faith, strength, and hope come from people sharing their recovery,” and when we share our recovery in print, it reaches so many members and has the capacity to help so many addicts.

Check the status of the Basic Text Project at:

<http://www.na.org/conference/bt/index.htm>

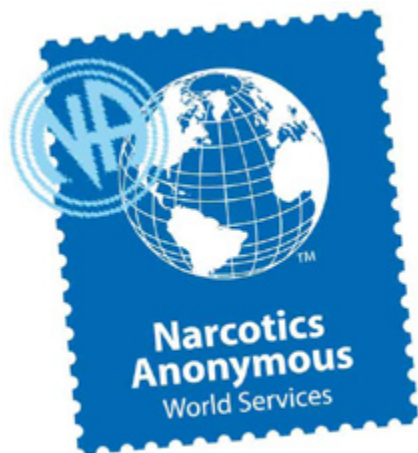


Public Relations

Conference Project

The *Public Relations Handbook* workgroup, composed of members with relevant and varied service experience, completed its charge with the creation of the *Public Relations Handbook*. The handbook was then approved unanimously by participants at WSC 2006. World Board member Ron M worked with seven US members and four international members on this project. Work will begin on the identified resource materials for the handbook during the upcoming conference cycle, 2006-2008. The WSC 2006 participants made a decision to give the World Board the authority to develop and approve these resource materials as addenda to the *PR Handbook*. This will allow the board to make these useful service materials available to trusted servants and other interested members of the fellowship in a timely manner.

The conference also approved the Public Relations Statement of Purpose for use by members and for their interactions with professionals and the public. This resource will be included in *A Guide to World Services* and *A Guide to Local Services*.



NAWS Efforts

NAWS continued to interact with professionals at various events and conferences worldwide to inform these professionals about NA and to maintain and cultivate professional relationships. We offer to provide professionals with knowledge of recovery literature resources; to listen to their concerns about issues, particularly what members say about medications; to dispel any misconceptions they may have about NA; and also to show them how to access the NA website for meeting information.

NAWS participated in conferences with drug court, correctional, and treatment professionals at the National Drug Court Professionals Conference, the American Jail and American Correctional conferences, and the National Association of Addiction Treatment Professionals Conference. We were invited to formally present in a workshop setting (information about the NA program) at the medical professionals' conference, American Society of Addiction Medicine.

The majority of these events were in the US; however, we did participate and formally present information at the International Conference of Addiction in Budapest, Hungary, and in a cooperative project with South Korea and Japan in Seoul. All these efforts contribute steps toward realizing our vision that Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

In April 2006, during the public relations session at the conference, NAWS informed conference participants that we are willing to partner with regions and zones to further our public relations efforts. NAWS cannot attend all conferences, and we welcome collaboration with regions and zones. NAWS had the



good fortune of working with the Buckeye Region and with the Europeans at the European Conference Against Drugs which was held in Vilnius, Lithuania. At this conference we provided, through a presentation to the delegation composed of many government officials, information about Narcotics Anonymous. As we look toward the future, we seek to embrace another point of our vision: that NA communities worldwide and NA World Services work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery.

Along with our collaborative efforts, NAWS recognized that with so many treatment and healthcare professionals who work with addicts and governmental agencies, we wanted to increase our presence at their conferences and to make them aware of NA as a credible community resource. These efforts help us to fulfill a third bullet point of our vision: 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. As more professionals become aware of our translated literature and the numerous countries where the NA Fellowship is thriving, they can truly appreciate the worldwide peer recovery network that so many of us experience. We are also a resource for them as they travel professionally and teach abroad. We recently assisted physicians traveling to Israel and Russia to find meetings and local contacts.

Issue Discussions

Throughout the fiscal year we had an opportunity to participate in zonal forums and workshops throughout the world. We took advantage of these opportunities to conduct sessions on the 2004-2006 Issue Discussion

Topics; *Atmosphere of Recovery*, *Infrastructure*, and *Our Public Image*. These sessions provided a vehicle for members from local NA communities to consider the issues and provide valuable feedback based on their experience with recovery and service. We used the information we collected from each session to guide our approach at sessions that followed. As a result, our sessions were able to grow and evolve each time we met with members in different places. These discussions consistently reflected an impressive level of depth and focus. Many thanks to all the members who participated so enthusiastically!

At the World Service Conference, we conducted final sessions on the cycle's Issue Discussion Topics. With the collective feedback from two years of discussion as their guide, participants confidently selected Issue Discussion Topics for the 2006-2008 conference cycle: *Building Stronger Home Groups*, *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why*, and *Our Service System*. These topics flow directly out of the topics from the previous cycle. As a worldwide fellowship, we have come together to identify these as the issues that we must address in order to move closer to our vision. Each topic speaks directly to an element of our vision, and together we can find and implement solutions.

In the year ahead we will hold sessions on these new Issue Discussion Topics. The input we receive will continue to guide our conversations as we reach out to members around the world. To find out about upcoming events, visit <http://www.na.org/comingup-toc.htm> or <http://www.na.org/nawsevents/event-reg.htm>. Members can also participate in discussions on these topics online by visiting http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm.