

All of the efforts of
Narcotics Anonymous
World Services are inspired
by the primary purpose of
the groups we serve. Upon
this common ground we
stand committed.

Taking the Next Steps...

A Note from Your World Board



The annual report is a brief glimpse at some of the work we have done together in a year's time, as well as a look ahead to what is in store for the coming year. The work we do here at NA World Services is a direct extension of the primary purpose of every NA group: to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. As a worldwide fellowship, we must constantly ask ourselves what it looks like to carry out our primary purpose on a global scale. The answers to that question are found in our vision statement. For another year, we have worked together toward the goals set forth in that statement, as directed by the fellowship as a whole.



This fiscal year began shortly after the 2006 World Service Conference and ended just before the Thirty-Second World Convention held in San Antonio, Texas. Early in the fiscal year, we devoted a great deal of our resources to processing and following up on work and decisions that arose at the conference, and at the end of the year, much of our time and energy was given to preparations for WCNA-32. On a more somber note, our Meetings and Events Manager of fourteen years, Mike Polin, was diagnosed with stomach cancer mere months before the latest event he had planned. Even while undergoing chemotherapy, he continued to serve as a resource and a guide for the many people it took to try to fill his shoes. He was able to attend the convention in San Antonio, and died in his home, later that month surrounded by loved ones. He will be missed.



As the fiscal year ended, long-time Fellowship Services Team staff members Freddie Aquino and Jeff Gershoff were out of the office on medical disability. Jeff remains out on permanent medical disability as he navigates the rough terrain of stage four cancer. Jeff has been a staff member since late 1988 and Freddie since early 1987. They both have had extensive interaction with the fellowship in the years of service at NA World Services and in their service to NA. Freddie Aquino passed away unexpectedly after collapsing in a regional service meeting in mid December. Many of his friends have said that he died as he lived—in service to Narcotics Anonymous. On a final sad note, Tom Rush died in early January 2008 after suffering through his own battle with cancer, as we were in the midst of finalizing this report. Tom joined the WSO



as our comptroller in early 1994 and served previously as an RD (or RSR in those years), as the WSC Treasurer and on the WSO Board of Directors. Words cannot adequately express the void left from losing four long term employees and friends.

Needless to say, this has been a difficult time for us all. Some have commented that this is the sort of time when it is scary to answer the phone, as there is no telling what bad news might come next. But the simple reality of staying clean for decades means eventually approaching that inevitable conclusion. We are grateful for each and every day that we had with our friends who have passed, whose lives were full and rich as a direct result of the miracle of freedom from active addiction.

In addition to work related to the World Service Conference and the world convention, we also worked hard to follow through with conference projects such as the Basic Text and Public Relations projects, as well as the targeted literature project for youth. The newly approved *Public Relations Handbook* went into distribution, as did review and input drafts for the Basic Text and the youth literature projects. As if that weren't enough, we also managed to conduct workshops in thirty-seven countries on five continents. It's only a matter of time, of course, until we're also doing workshops in Antarctica.

This conference cycle we held workshops on the new issue discussion topics selected at WSC 2006, Building Strong Home Groups, Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?, and Our Service System. Members around the world seem to have warmed up to the issue discussion process. We have seen a great deal of energy and input in the workshops, so much so that we were even able to begin taking the next steps to advance the discussion. Those next steps were captured in the

April 2006 *NA Way Magazine* issue discussion topic article. We were also able to craft a tool from your input, the "Building Strong Home Groups" worksheet, which was a part of that article. The ideas and concerns that you share with us about the issues give us the material we need to support your efforts to better carry the NA message.

As the issue discussion process grows and evolves, we hope you'll continue to make it a part of how you work with one another in your communities. Our discussions with each other help us work together to identify best practices and solutions to the challenges we all face. Written materials, such as the Basic Text or any service handbook, for example, are wonderful tools that aid us in our efforts to recover and serve. Nothing, however, can take the place of the power we tap into when we come together to share our experience, strength, and hope. The input and ideas you have given us in these ongoing conversations have made it possible to incorporate new solutions into the work we do at all levels.

It has been a great year of learning for the seven World Board members who were elected at the 2006 WSC. The trust and confidence placed in these five new and two returning board members was very well placed, and we continue to appreciate the enthusiasm and courage with which they all serve.

Our most important message, of course, is a message of thanks to the entire NA Fellowship for another year of support and cooperation. The work that begins in every NA group around the world is what makes it possible for us to serve. We hope you'll keep in mind, as you read this report, everything written here is what we, as a worldwide fellowship, are doing together. Don't hesitate to send us your questions, comments, and ideas.



World Board Members

Board Member	Year Elected	Current Term Ends	From
Mary Banner	2004	2010	Dallas, Texas, US
Ron Blake	2004	2010	Richmond, Victoria, Australia
Piet de Boer	2004	2010	Göteborg, Sweden
Jim Buerer	2002	2008	North Chicago, Illinois, US
Michael Cox	2004	2010	Marbella, Malaga, Spain
Paul Craig	2006	2012	Quispamsis, New Brunswick, Canada
Mukam Harzenski-Deutsch	2004	2010	Ship Bottom, New Jersey, US
Arne Hassel-Gren	2006	2012	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
Ron Hofius	2006	2012	Albuquerque, New Mexico, US
Franney Jardine	2006	2012	Olympia, Washington, US
Mark Hersh	2006	2012	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US
Tom McCall	2006	2012	Anahola, Hawaii, US
Ron Miller	2004	2010	Winter Haven, Florida, US
Tonia Nikolinakou	2006	2012	Athens, Greece
Craig Robertson	2004	2010	Devon, Pennsylvania, US

Human Resource Panel

Mindy A	2004	2008	Sparta, Missouri, US
Mary Kay B ¹	2006	2010	Martinsville, Virginia, US
Sergio R	2004	2008	Chitre, Herrera, Panama
Greg S	2006	2010	Newnan, Georgia, US

WSC Cofacilitator

Jimmy S, Bethesda, Maryland, US

¹ Resigned in 2007 due to personal reasons.