

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...

Worldwide Workshops

NAWS worldwide workshops are a unique opportunity for members of the World Board and NAWS staff to interface directly with members from all over the world. These interactions provide NAWS with the chance to collect valuable input regarding the fellowship issue discussions and other world services work. Local members who might not otherwise get involved with world-level service are usually quite pleased to be able to participate directly with World Board members, NAWS staff, and other members who travel from any number of places to take part in these workshops.



New Orleans, Louisiana

This trip to New Orleans seemed like a good opportunity to show support for an NA community still working to overcome the devastation that followed Hurricane Katrina. NAWS conducted eight sessions, the first of which, on Friday night, was an update of recent NAWS activity. Workshops held on Saturday and Sunday focused on the three issue discussion topics for this conference cycle, as well as Unity, Leadership in NA, and Medication in Recovery; and included a town hall meeting to discuss issues of local importance. Attendance ranged from eighty to 200 participants over the course of the weekend, with around thirty-five regional and alternate delegates from across the US. We were slightly disappointed to not have more local members present for the entire weekend, but were glad that more attended as the weekend went on. This workshop also served as a training opportunity for new board members and staff.



Lincoln, Nebraska

The worldwide workshop in Lincoln began with a Friday night NAWS update session, followed by seven workshops on Saturday and a wrap-up session on Sunday morning. Workshops covered the three issue discussion topics, as well as How to Be an Effective RCM, Medication in Recovery, and Leadership in NA; and included a session on the Area Planning Tool. Active discussion in the workshop on medication affirmed that we are on the right track in looking for balance and





new approaches on this issue. Approximately 130-150 members attended the two days of the workshop. Once again, thirty-five or more delegates and alternates from around the US were present for the worldwide workshop. The strong attendance of delegates seems to raise the question of whether we should consider adapting the topics for some of the sessions at future US workshops. Some initial thoughts include the idea of conducting training workshops for delegates alongside the typical discussion-based sessions for members with less NAWS workshop exposure.

Each session in Lincoln was well attended, with a wide variety of cleantime and service experience represented. We were gratified by both the warm reception from local members and the satisfaction expressed by everyone who traveled to attend the workshop. Many attendees asked for copies of the notes each session generated and copies of the short movies we showed through the course of the weekend. As always, we do our best to report on these ideas in *The NA Way Magazine* and *NAWS News*, and to incorporate the concerns of the fellowship into our ongoing work.

India

We continued in our commitment to the subcontinent of India, visiting five cities during two trips in September and February. We attended regional and area service meetings and conventions, and conducted seventeen

workshops on the IDTs, Area Planning Tool, Unity, and more. We continue to work with the language issues that these diverse communities face, but are heartened by the consistent influx of new members to NA in India. Information about a translations workshop we held can be found in the Translations and Fellowship Development section of this annual report.

Iran

Between October and November of 2006, NAWS spent nearly a month in Iran. We visited seven cities and conducted twelve workshops throughout the ten areas of the region. Unlike in many other NA communities, area service meetings in Iran must limit attendance to trusted servants to avoid being overcrowded to the point of unmanageability. We also held two workshops with the Iranian Center for Addiction Studies, which provided an opportunity for talks with local medical professionals and PI committee members. With over 7,000 meetings and an estimated 100,000-plus members, the Iranian NA

community continues to grow and is becoming an increasingly powerful resource for the other communities of the Middle East. Their flexible, open-minded approach to the service structure and their spirit of unity and cooperation set a great example. While there are challenges in Iran, as well as other countries in the Middle East, to reaching women with our message, the Iran region has made a concerted effort to





overcome those challenges. As a result, we were able to hold three women's workshops during the course of our visit.

Middle East

We made two other trips to different parts of the Middle East during September and April, visiting Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Israel. In September, in Bahrain, eight countries attended a series of workshops on such diverse topics as sponsorship, mock PI presentations, and effective ASC meetings. During this trip we also included a visit to the women's section of a Saudi treatment facility with the only women in recovery in the Gulf region, hoping to encourage more female members in the Middle East. When we returned to Bahrain in April, we funded thirty-seven delegates from ten communities, including six women. We believe this shows how the NA program can work within any culture and find a way around what may first appear to be obstacles. One of many highlights included a visit to a prison in Bahrain where

meetings have been taking place for over seven years. The prison's warden has the daily meditation from the *Just for Today* book read over the prison public address system every day.

Other Workshops

Other highlights from the year include a series of workshops in Nepal, a return visit to China, three days of discussion across France, and two days with 160 funded participants from twenty-five Eastern European communities in Moscow. We also found time to attend nine zonal forum meetings in five countries, five assorted learning days and service events, and fifteen regional conventions, including events at the lowest elevation on Earth in Israel and at one of the highest points on Earth in Nepal. It truly has been a busy year.



Russia Voronezh local workshop poster