

Our Freedom, Our Responsibility

Conference Projects & Service Pamphlets

Toward the end of this fiscal year, the 2008 World Service Conference took place in Woodland Hills, California. As was mentioned earlier in this report, we were quite busy toward the beginning of the fiscal year with completion of projects from the 2006–2008 conference cycle. After the conference took place, we then turned our efforts to beginning work on the ambitious slate of new projects for the 2008–2010 cycle.

Basic Text Project

When the last annual report was published, the approval draft of the Sixth Edition Basic Text was just being distributed. As we reported then, we are proud we could put together a collection of members' experience that is so inclusive. Whatever an addict's background or circumstances, there is bound to be a personal story in this text to which he or she can relate.

In fact, the World Service Conference passed the motion to approve the Sixth Edition unanimously—the first time the conference has ever approved a book unanimously. And now, by the time this annual report goes to press, the Sixth Edition will be published (October 2008) along with the twenty-fifth anniversary commemorative edition (November 2008).

Targeted Literature: Youth IPs

Over the course of the 2006–2008 conference cycle, a workgroup was formed to create new informational pamphlets to reach younger addicts. That workgroup drafted two pieces that were sent out for fellowship review and input, and then revised those drafts based on the input received. The approval drafts of those two pieces, *By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts* and *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA*, were included in the





2008 CAR, along with motions to approve the two pamphlets. The motions sought to replace IP #13, *Youth in Recovery*, with the first piece, while the second piece would become IP #27. The conference passed the first of the two motions unanimously and the second by a very large majority. We hope that these new pieces will do much to reach younger addicts with our message of recovery.

Board-approved Service Pamphlets

Toward the beginning of this fiscal year we released the first set of pamphlets created under the new process adopted at WSC 2006. The initial release included five pamphlets: *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, *Group Trusted Servants: Roles and Responsibilities*, *NA Groups and Medication*, *Disruptive and Violent Behavior*, and *Group Business Meetings*. Distribution was quickly halted on one of those pamphlets, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, primarily due to a vaguely worded definition for the word “clean,” a word not previously defined in any fellowship-approved literature. While the inclusion of this definition was an unfortunate oversight, the fact that we could promptly discontinue distribution and take another look at the pamphlet demonstrated an important advantage of this approval process: the ability to quickly respond to fellowship concerns. It also demonstrated the need for further discussion about this process.

We began to frame a discussion for the 2008 World Service Conference on the topic so that we could talk further with participants about the details of this process and how it could be improved. We dedicated a portion of the *Conference Agenda Report* to that topic, and then distributed draft material service

pamphlets we had been working on with the Conference Approval Track mailing in January 2008.

At the conference, participants discussed the difficulties in making distinctions between “service” and “recovery” literature. Conference participants also shared ideas about the service pamphlet development process. A regional motion was made and passed to institute a ninety-day review and input period for future service pamphlets. The conference agreed to send input by the end of July on the drafts they’d received in January.

The deadline for input on those drafts fell after the end of the fiscal year. We collected and reviewed the input sent by delegates around the world and then revised the drafts accordingly. After considering the input received, we began revisions to the drafts. Before the end of the 2008 calendar year, we hope to publish two new service pamphlets: *An Introduction to NA Meetings* and *Principles and Leadership in NA Service*. We have also been working on a third pamphlet, *Service and the NA Member*, but we do not have an anticipated publication date for that piece.





An Introduction to NA Meetings, Revised

Potential members who are referred to NA by medical professionals or drug court officials, among others, don't always know what to expect or how to act in their first NA meetings. This piece was designed to help the average person who knows nothing about us understand some of the common practices in our meetings.

Principles and Leadership in NA Service

As we are a fellowship guided by spiritual principles, the type of leadership we value in NA has its roots in our steps, traditions, and concepts. This piece is a discussion of how the principles of our program can be applied in our service efforts. Practical thoughts on attracting, encouraging, selecting, and supporting our trusted servants are included, as well as thoughts on the qualities of leadership that are valuable in NA service.

Moving On...

The response to the early drafts of these pieces was quite positive, and we are confident that the input we received has helped us to improve them dramatically. Our hope is that these pamphlets will be useful to groups and service committees around the world. With so much work in front of us at the moment, other than possible completion of *Principles and Leadership in NA Service* we currently have no plans to begin work on other service pamphlets during this conference cycle.

New Projects Adopted at WSC 2008

We are looking forward to an incredibly busy conference cycle. The projects approved at the 2008 World Service Conference will address a variety of topics that apply to our personal recovery and service. These project plans have been shaped in many ways by the ongoing interest and demand in the fellowship for information and guidance on a variety of topics. Some of these topics include the need to improve our service system; the challenges that come with illness, injury, and the use of medication in recovery; the desire to address some of the issues that members face as they grow and mature with substantial cleantime; and the need to increase awareness in the fellowship about the importance of our principle of self-support. The sheer volume of work required to make progress in these areas is sure to make this one of our most productive and exciting conference cycles in recent history!

Service System: 2008–2012

Over the next two cycles this project will frame options and facilitate fellowship discussions about our service efforts, and eventually these discussions should lead to the creation of more effective tools or manuals, possibly including a revision to or replacement of *A Guide to Local Services*. One of the challenges will be creating service tools that can meet the needs of so many different kinds of NA communities at different stages of development. The project will be handled by a workgroup that may use focus groups or individuals for specific areas of service. However, the majority of the work this cycle will be to provide framed options and recommendations for discussion by the conference and the fellowship.



Targeted Literature –

In Times of Illness: 2008–2010

Although there is a long list of potential targeted literature, the work for this cycle will focus on a revision to *In Times of Illness*. This booklet remains our only piece of literature that exclusively addresses the use of medication as it relates to personal recovery. For a number of years the fellowship has workshopped this topic all over the world, and the overwhelming consensus is that the current booklet it is out of date and missing important information in specific areas. This booklet will be updated to reflect our fellowship's current experience with long-term illnesses, supporting others with illness, and facing mental health issues in recovery. The workgroup members were carefully selected for this project based on their individual experiences with maintaining recovery while dealing with a wide array of illnesses. The review and input draft will be distributed to the fellowship in March 2009 for ninety days.

Living Clean – The Journey

Continues: 2008–2012

This is a working title for a book covering a collection of issues that we deal with in ongoing recovery; many of the topics have been prioritized by fellowship input in literature surveys going back to 1999. These topics include development of spirituality in our members, older members and recovery, medication and recovery, and benefit of service to personal recovery; this is only a partial list of the topics this book will cover. This is a two-conference-cycle project. For a piece this size the review and input may be staggered, with chapters being sent out at different times for a minimum of ninety days. The most effective

way to gather input for this project is taking place at the time of this printing, through an online survey seeking the experiences of members. The entire final piece would be released in April 2011 for fellowship approval at WSC 2012. The workgroup is comprised of members from all over the world with long-term recovery and widely diverse experience.

Participate in the Living Clean Project today at <http://www.na.org/conference/LC>.

Self-Support Pamphlets:

2008–2010

This one-cycle project covers the development of two new pieces of literature on self-support to replace current IPs #24 and #25, “*Hey! What’s the Basket For?*” and *Self-Support: Principle and Practice*. One of the new pamphlets will provide graphical representations to show members the variety of ways groups can contribute. The other will be a more in-depth discussion of our principle of self-support. Drafts of the two pamphlets will go out in early 2009 for a ninety-day review and input period.

Participating in

Conference Projects

As always, we will report regularly on the status of each of these projects through *NAWS News* and e-blasts. Additionally, there may be occasional features in *The NA Way Magazine* or surveys on the [na.org](http://www.na.org) website about some of the work on these projects. We hope that members will stay up-to-date on each of these projects and get involved early so that the work truly represents the efforts of our worldwide fellowship.

And of course, we continue to encourage interested members to fill out a World Pool Information Form at <http://www.na.org/HRP/wpif-default.htm>.