

CAR Regional Motions 2018

Motion 1: *To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at WSC 2020 to convert the service pamphlet Social Media and our Guiding Principles into a recovery IP that includes fellowship input and review.*

Intent: To have a fellowship approved IP that is available for use in NA groups on this topic. Makers: Ohio Region and Michigan Region

Financial Impact: There is minimal cost in creating a project plan. The cost to NAWS would be in the project itself if the plan were adopted by the WSC. The initial cost of producing this service pamphlet has already been incurred.

Rationale by Region: Although the SP Social Media and our Guiding Principles has been available for a few years, it never went out to the fellowship for neither input nor review and was distributed as Board Approved material. In keeping with our long-standing practice of only using fellowship approved material in NA group meetings it would only make sense to have this valuable resource available to groups particularly in this age of hashtags, re-tweets, tags, etc. that sometimes affects a member's anonymity unbeknownst to them and at times resulting in negative consequences to that "ousted" member.

World Board Response: It seems to us that there are advantages and disadvantages to converting *Social Media and Our Guiding Principles* to an informational pamphlet.

Though not as commonly available as informational pamphlets (IPs), service pamphlets (SPs) are stocked by many groups and kept on the literature table for reference. However, they are clearly marked *Service pamphlets should be used by members, groups, and service committees as a resource rather than being read in an NA meeting.* Converting *Social Media and Our Guiding Principles* to an IP would mean it has Fellowship approval and could be read in meetings. More members would likely be exposed to the piece, as IPs generally have greater distribution than service pamphlets. On the other hand, were this to become an IP, any potential revisions or changes to the piece would have to appear in the *Conference Agenda Report* and be approved at the Conference before being made.

If this motion passes, we would create a project plan to be considered at WSC 2020. The project itself, if approved, would take place in the 2020–2022 cycle, and we do not anticipate it would require a workgroup. We would send out the existing service pamphlet or a similar draft for a 90-day review and input period, timed to coincide with other Fellowship mailings. We foresee minimal expense with this idea. We undertook a similar process when we worked on the project to convert the service pamphlet *An Introduction to NA Meetings* to an informational pamphlet. We have also added this idea to the literature survey, which is included in this *Conference Agenda Report* and online at www.na.org/conference.

Policy Affected: None

Motion 2: *Remove from the NAWS catalog and inventory IP 27 "For The parents or Guardians of Young People in NA"*

Intent: Take this pamphlet out of the NA product list and literature materials, approved by the NA fellowship.

Maker: Venezuela Region

Financial Impact: Revenue from sales of IP #27 would be lost, which amounts to roughly \$10,000 a year. We would also have to destroy the IPs in stock as of the time of the Conference.

Rationale by Region: It would make us focus more on our primary purpose of carrying the message to addict who still suffers, and not doing so directly to their families, friends or acquaintances. We could soon fall on the temptation of creating recovery literature materials for spouses of addicts and for their employers, etc. Even though this pamphlet has been requested in previous new literature creation surveys and it was approved, we believe that it does not deal with an NA matter. We also don't consider it a PR or PI pamphlet for professionals

or for the public in general, as the Narcotics Anonymous: A Resource in your Community, Information About NA, Membership Survey, Narcotics Anonymous and People Who Received Medical Assisted Treatment and now Narcotics Anonymous and Mental Health and Mental Illness.

World Board Response: WSC 2006 approved a project for targeted literature, and the focus was young people. In addition to a workgroup, we brought in a group of very young members who were minors or had gotten clean when they were minors. That group of members spoke strongly of the need for a piece of literature to go along with the youth IP that would help explain the program to addicts' parents or guardians. *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA* grew out of that discussion with our younger members. The IP does not seek to counsel parents and guardians in any way. It is simply informational about NA. The IP was approved at the 2008 World Service Conference after being released to the Fellowship in the *Conference Agenda Report*. It is currently translated into twelve languages, and we have distributed over 700,000 copies since it was published.

The passage from the 2008 CAR essay reflects how we continue to feel about the IP:

For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA is a pamphlet that explains NA to parents or guardians of young members, with an emphasis on information that is particularly relevant to their situations. While some of us have been reserved about the idea of creating literature that speaks to non-addicts, workgroup members felt that it would be important to give parents and guardians relevant information about who and what we are. This is not unlike what we have done in other pieces, such as *Information about NA*, and it could make the difference between whether or not a young addict is permitted to attend NA meetings.

We believe having this IP available may mean the difference between being able to get to a meeting and being prohibited from attending NA for some of our young members.

Publishing the material as an informational pamphlet rather than a PR pamphlet means that more groups are likely to stock it, it has Fellowship approval, and it's more likely to get into the hands of the parents or guardians for whom it is intended. It still seems appropriate to us that we describe what NA is and is not to this audience, rather than potentially having an outside organization take on this responsibility.

Policy Affected: None

Motion 3: *To direct the World Board to create a project plan for a Step Study booklet containing questions derived only from sentences in the Basic Text chapter 'How It works', for consideration at WSC 2020.*

Intent: To create a fellowship approved, inexpensive, NA Step study questions booklet that relates directly back to the Basic Text without additional interpretation required.

Maker: Baja Son Region

Financial Impact: There is minimal cost in creating a project plan. The cost to NAWS would be in the project itself if the plan were adopted by the WSC.

Rationale by Region: The purpose of this motion is to make the NA Back to the Basic, Basic Text Step Study Questions available from the World Service Office. These questions have been in use in Canada and the United States for over 30 years and in Spanish are familiar to many Spanish speakers in recovery in North, Central and South America. Our Basic Text provides our fellowship definitions of NA recovery terms and understandings. When treatment center clients study our Basic Text they are learning about NA from NA literature, not some other interpretation. The beauty of these Basic Text Step Study questions is that the answer is always the original line in the Basic Text from which the question was created. Because the response is not personality based, these questions work well in developing communities, isolated communities and across distances via telephone and internet. This is not a request to develop a new book. There are 483 questions in the complete Twelve Steps of Basic Text Step Study Questions and the result of this motion would be a stapled booklet about the size of the Group Booklet. The NA Introductory Guide combined with these Basic Text Step Study Questions is an inexpensive way to bring the NA program into both the incarceration and addiction rehabilitation environments. A first time through the Steps with the Basic Text provides a strong foundation for all members and facilitates future study with other NA literature. Having these questions Conference approved would make

these NA Step study questions available from the WSO for fellowship dissemination and purchase.

World Board Response: The intention here, as expressed in the motion's rationale, is to reproduce an already-existing set of questions as Fellowship-approved literature. We recommend not to adopt this motion because it is not policy or practice to forward an already-developed text for approval without allowing Fellowship input to impact the project and the draft. Fellowship ideas and input frame each literature project from the beginning, before any writing even begins to take place. Fellowship review and input on the draft work can then further impact the direction and content of the piece. For example, the idea for a Traditions guide originally came from a particular region and zone, but the book that was ultimately developed and approved through the literature process took a much different approach than their initial draft. When we began that project, we asked the Fellowship what they would like to see in a Traditions workbook. Fellowship input shaped the initial direction of the project and then further refined the draft after the review process.

Any project plan would be developed with that creative, collaborative, international process in mind. The process for creating NA literature begins by collecting input from the Fellowship as a whole and reflecting those ideas back in the draft piece of literature. That process could create a very different result from what this motion is seeking.

That said, this idea as well as another idea for a step working guide for new members and those in treatment or incarcerated are both part of the recovery literature survey in this CAR. We feel this process better allows the Fellowship to decide what they would like to prioritize.

Policy Affected: The following policies would be affected by the adoption of this motion.

A Guide to World Services in NA, p. 32:

Guidelines for the NA World Services Budget

No project proposal will be considered for prioritization or action during the same WSC as it was originally proposed.

GWSNA, pp. 39–40:

Approval Process for NA Material Fellowship-Approved

As covered in the following section on the approval process for recovery literature, all NA recovery material is Fellowship-approved. This means that it is developed by NA World Services, sent out to the Fellowship for review and input, and ultimately sent out for approval by the Fellowship in the *Conference Agenda Report*. The specifics for each piece of Fellowship-approved recovery literature are covered in the project plan for each piece that is presented and approved by the World Service Conference before work is begun.

(The motion may be out of order. For 1, it's not a motion that can be simply voted on as YES or NO. Motion contradicts rational. This motion was not prepared well to be CAR ready: [MRLE Feedback](#))

Motion 4: *To direct NAWS to produce and add to inventory an MP3 digital download of the Basic Text Fifth Edition in Spanish, previously in inventory on audio cassette. By conference policy, NAWS is not authorized to publish a fifth edition once a sixth edition is available. This motion would provide for a one-time waiver of the policy for NAWS until the Spanish Sixth edition is completed.*

Intent: To have an audio MP3 version of the Spanish Basic Text in NAWS inventory. Maker: Eastern New York Region

Financial Impact: The cost to convert the existing cassettes to MP3 format is relatively minor. However the cost of the technology to distribute the files is a much more complicated question that we cannot accurately estimate at this time.

Rationale by Region: To make a Fellowship approved Basic Text immediately available through the transfer of the media cassette version to a cost-effective media technology for members to access through digital download, according to the spiritual goals encompassed in our vision statement.

World Board Response: Producing and distributing an MP3 version of the Spanish-language Fifth Edition Basic

Text is a complicated project for a couple of reasons. As the motion indicates, to do so would require a Conference decision to set aside policy that the Sixth Edition is the only edition approved for NAWS production.

The cassette version of the Spanish-language Fifth Edition Basic Text was first published in 2001. We have not sold a copy since 2008 when the Sixth Edition Basic Text was published, but we still occasionally include copies with sea freight orders to RSOs in Latin America to deplete our stock. Prior to 2008, we distributed fewer than 100 copies a year. In the last five years, we have distributed fewer than ten per year.

We are currently working with the approval panel for Spanish translations, which is part of the Latin American Zonal Forum (LAZF), to get an audio version of the Sixth Edition completed. However, even if the audio translation were complete, current technology would create challenges for us in terms of online distribution. The primary digital rights management company for audiobooks mandates that they themselves set the pricing of items, and well-known commercial distribution channels retain about 70 percent of the purchase price for themselves. If we don't distribute the MP3s through these channels and make them available as a free download, for instance, we still need to work through the details of how to distribute the files responsibly and in line with our fiduciary responsibility as the trustees of the *FIPT*.

In short, we would like to make this happen, but we still have a number of unanswered questions. We will continue to work on how to best make audio versions of our texts available,

Policy Affected: The following policies would be affected by the adoption of this motion.

We will continue to publish translated Fifth Edition versions of the Basic Text until the local community has translated and signed off on the new material in the Sixth Edition for publishing. These versions now include a variety of material, from no personal stories to some selection of Fifth Edition personal stories, to locally develop and World Board-approved local stories. These versions will continue to be published as Fifth Edition Basic Texts. NA communities that wish to have the first ten chapters now titled "Our Program" published while they work on translating some or all of the Sixth Edition personal stories will continue to be able to do so. These partial translations would also be published as Fifth Edition Basic Texts.

(The maker of the motion did not attach a financial impact to the motion and they are not requesting a change of policy but rather a waiver to have access to an existing media until media is available in Spanish for the 6th edition. Also, the fact that this media exist but is not available brings the question that by not making it available we are discriminating addicts who are Spanish speaking, visually impaired and their only access to the basic text would be through audio. [MRLE Feedback](#))

Motion 5: *To approve an NA Service Prayer, utilizing the language that is already in the intro of the Basic Text, substituting the word write with the word serve, including it in the set of posters of the meetings for NA groups, as shown here:*

“GOD, grant us knowledge that we may ~~write~~ serve according to Your Divine precepts. Instill in us a sense of Your purpose. Make us servants of your will and grant us a bond of selflessness that this may truly be your work, not ours, in order that no addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction.”

Intent: Create an NA Service Prayer *of this type* that it is not directly related to the NA Service Vision. Maker: Venezuela Region

Financial Impact: It would take minimal staff time and production costs to add this poster to our inventory.

Rationale by Region: It is used in several regions in their service meetings and service bodies without having been approved, which creates controversies because it's not in the literature with the word serve but instead it's used with the word write. The idea is to approve it without any inconveniences, and to use it formally and not because someone decide it.

World Board Response: Service bodies have been adapting the prayer in the Basic Text Introduction in this way for decades, and we can easily carry out this request if the Fellowship approves the word change and use. We do not foresee a problem with adding this to our set of posters.

Policy Affected: None

Motion 6: *To direct NAWS to produce and add to inventory keytags that reflect the growth of years clean in Fellowship Worldwide; specifically, Granite for one Decade, Purple for Decades Clean and Pink for 25 Years Clean.*

Intent: To add the option of items indicating longer cleantime to the keytags available from NAWS. Maker:

Eastern New York Region

Financial Impact: It is hard to estimate the financial impact. The dye costs for a new keytag are relatively minimal. However, we publish keytags in more than 50 languages, and even a minimal cost multiplied by 50 begins to add up. The more significant cost comes from producing the items in bulk, warehousing the item in four locations, and managing the inventory, particularly in language groups where the demand may be minimal.

Rationale by Region: Celebration of clean time is an expression of the effectiveness of our program. The motion proposes these cleantime designations based on the percentages of years drug-free in our worldwide Fellowship (re: Membership Survey 2016), which can be adjusted by NAWS production accordingly. The hope is that this approach would address the issue of financial prudence so that production could be tied to actual Fellowship growth. Members of the Fellowship who would like to purchase these keytags for NA Regions, Areas or Groups for distribution and personal celebration of clean time can do so in implicit compliance with the FIPT and in the assurance that 100% of the members' purchases will support our Fellowship to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

World Board Response: We are not opposed to producing and distributing any recovery-related items the Fellowship wants, including various keytags, but we would like to avoid producing and warehousing items for which there is no real demand. We have a couple of concerns—one is that so many of these keytags are in circulation already that we are not sure there remains enough of a need or desire to warrant their production. The second concern is that there are numerous language groups where the demand may be quite minimal and yet we will be expected to produce these keytags as part of the complete set of keytags. We currently produce keytags in more than 50 languages.

As we explain in the introductory essay to the regional motions section of this *CAR*, the Conference has repeatedly reaffirmed the idea that production issues related to literature, keytags, and medallions should not be decided through the *CAR*. We would prefer that these types of issues be sent directly to the World Board, but we also know that we do not have a good mechanism to assess Fellowship desire. We welcome your ideas on how we can improve this part of our communication process.

Policy Affected: None

FELLOWSHIP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRUST

Some background information and links related to this topic can be found below. These may be helpful when considering the motions related to the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust*.

The *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT)* describes in detail how NA's name, trademarks, and recovery literature are protected and administered by Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc., so that NA's name, trademarks, and recovery literature will always be available to fulfill our primary purpose.

Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust and related documents, including *FIPT Bulletin #1:*

<https://www.na.org/fipt>

Service pamphlets: <https://www.na.org/?ID=servicemat-svc-pamphlets>

The WSC 2016 Draft Conference Minutes and *Conference Report* are both available from the Conference page: <https://www.na.org/conference>

Motion 7: *To direct the World Board to create a Service Pamphlet (SP) that clearly and simply outlines the rights of groups to reprint Narcotics Anonymous recovery literature covered under the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust and its bulletins.*

Intent: To make a clear, simple, and easily accessible Service Pamphlet that groups can purchase or download that makes clear groups' rights in reprinting Narcotics Anonymous literature as defined by the FIPT.

Maker: Northern New York Region

Financial Impact: The cost of creating a service pamphlet is relatively minimal. It requires staff time to put together the information, World Board review and approval, and Conference participant review and input. The review draft could be combined with a regular Conference participant mailing to save postage.

Rationale by Region: We addicts spent much of our lives living without choice, and we have fought hard in our recovery to regain choice. When there's even the perception that we are having our choice taken from us, as members and as groups - especially from what is often perceived as an authority figure (NAWS), our rebellious nature shines. There is a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding around the FIPT and the rights that groups have to reprint unaltered NA-Approved literature. With misinformation and misunderstanding comes disunity. The hope is that with a simple and clear Service Pamphlet that members and groups can download or purchase, this can help dispel some of the fog of misinformation and misunderstanding, and in doing so help both encourage NA unity while at the same time reinforcing group autonomy and choice.

World Board Response: *FIPT Bulletin #1* already simply explains the guidelines for reproduction of NA recovery literature, including the rights and responsibilities of NA groups. A service pamphlet can't go beyond the scope of this information without requiring WSC approval. It would be a relatively simple matter, however, to repackage the information from *FIPT Bulletin #1* in service pamphlet form. All service pamphlets go through a 90-day delegate review, and then after delegate input is incorporated, they are added to the list of service pamphlets. Service pamphlets are more widely distributed than World Service Bulletins, and making the information available this way would likely mean more members are exposed to it.

It is worth noting, however, that this bulletin does not address many of the *FIPT*-related issues that groups have told us they struggle with, including but not limited to the reproduction of illicit literature. For a service pamphlet about the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* to be most useful to groups, we believe the scope would need to be expanded to include responsibilities as well as rights.

Policy Affected: None

Motion 8: *To replace the first paragraph under "What kinds of literature should we use:" in the group booklet as follows:*

Original Paragraph

NA World Services produces a number of different kinds of publications. However, only NA-approved literature is appropriate for reading in Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Selections from NA-approved books and pamphlets are usually read at the beginning of an NA meeting, and some meetings use them as the core of their format. NA-approved literature represents the widest range of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous.

Replacement Paragraphs (split)

NA World Services produces a number of different kinds of publications. However, only NA-approved literature is appropriate for reading in Narcotics Anonymous meetings, *and then only NA-approved edition(s) of literature that conveys a unified message as the most current edition(s). For Basic Texts, this would be the 3rd Edition Revised and newer. Older editions of our literature as well as approval drafts, while valid in history, and while they carry a message of recovery, all carry a message that in some way or ways contradict our current edition(s) of literature and are no longer in unity with the fellowship's conscience regarding our message of recovery.*

Selections from NA-approved books and pamphlets are usually read at the beginning of an NA meeting, and some meetings use them as the core of their format. NA-approved literature represents the widest range of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. *It is suggested that meetings that utilize older editions of NA-approved literature acknowledge the current editions of NA-approved literature for the sake of NA unity.*

Intent: To set a standard of appropriate NA literature that is based in unity of message while reinforcing group autonomy to use literature other than the current approved edition(s).

Maker: Northern New York Region

Financial Impact: The most significant financial impact would be the loss of our existing inventory of the *Group Booklet* as well as the cost to make the changes to the translated versions.

Rationale by Region: At the WSC 2016, the question came up regarding what is appropriate literature for NA meetings? Where do we draw the line? How do we balance group autonomy with NA unity? After discussion inside and outside the region, we have agreed that the unity must start with our message and that our message of recovery remains unified back to the 3rd Edition Revised Basic Text. It carries the same message as more current editions of literature, just grammatically different.

Editions prior to the 3rd Edition Revised have one or more contradictions to our current message contained within and while they each have a powerful message contained within, they are no longer in unity with our fellowship's conscience regarding the NA message of recovery. By acknowledging literature back to the 3rd Edition Revised, we reinforce group autonomy to choose to previous edition(s) of NA-approved literature – while at the same time reinforcing NA unity through unity of our message.

World Board Response: As the regional rationale notes, the questions of what literature is acceptable to be read at the group level and whether or not the description in *The Group Booklet* is sufficient were topics related to the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* discussed at the last Conference. The Conference discussion centered around whether the six points describing “What is an NA group?” should be revised to include the idea that NA groups only read NA-approved literature, a point made later in *The Group Booklet*.

This motion takes on the question of whether “NA-approved literature” in this context includes editions of literature that have been subsequently revised. We appreciate the motion’s effort to explain what can be used on a group level and clarify the language in *The Group Booklet*. Were such a revision to be made, however, we believe that it would be simpler and clearer to express that groups should utilize currently approved literature rather than distinguishing between different editions of previously approved literature.

The revisions suggested in this motion may raise questions for members who are unfamiliar with the distinctions between the different editions of the Basic Text and the major shift in terminology that took place with the Third Edition Revised. Without the kind of explanation in the motion’s rationale, it would be difficult for many members to understand why a distinction is made for previous editions of the Basic Text and not, for instance, informational pamphlets that have been revised, such as the *Sponsorship IP* or *Youth and Recovery*, which was replaced with *By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts*.

There doesn’t seem to be much utility in approving the reading of literature such as the Third Edition Revised Basic Text that has not been available for purchase for more than 20 years. If newcomers and newer members cannot purchase the literature, reading it in meetings may not be providing a good or even a needed service to the most important people in the room.

Of course, members can use whatever editions they wish to in their personal recovery. But the Conference decided in 1991 and reaffirmed in 2008 that only the most current edition of the Basic Text is approved for publication and sale by NA World Services.

From *A Guide to World Services in NA*, p. 47:

The voting participants of the 1991 World Service Conference, after much discussion and consideration of several motions, voted to issue the following statement to the fellowship:

“The Basic Text, Fifth Edition, is the only edition of the Basic Text that is currently approved by the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous for publication and sale. The World Service Office Board of Directors is entrusted with the responsibility for protecting the fellowship's physical and intellectual properties, including the Basic Text, and at the board of directors' discretion, shall take legal action to protect those rights against any and all persons who choose to infringe upon this literature trust.”

WSC 2008 approved the Sixth Edition Basic Text. It is now the only edition approved for NAWS production with the exceptions called out in the Translations Policy.

We are concerned that it would be confusing to include in our literature an explanation that groups can utilize literature that is not currently approved for production and sale.

Policy Affected: The following policies would be affected by the adoption of this motion.

WSC 2008 approved the Sixth Edition Basic Text. It is now the only edition approved for NAWS production with the exceptions called out in the Translations Policy.

DRUG REPLACEMENT THERAPY/MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT

Some background information and links related to this topic can be found below. These may be helpful when considering the motions related to drug replacement therapy and medication-assisted treatment.

This past Conference cycle, we asked regions to give us an idea of the challenges they were facing so that we could address those issues in the upcoming cycle's strategic plan. Not all regions responded (we heard from 66), but 86 percent of those that did respond identified increased use of drug replacement therapy and/or medication to treat addiction as affecting NA in their region. Of those regions, more than half indicated that the impact of drug replacement therapy is high. A complete report on the regional input we received will be available by the time of the Conference Approval Track mailing and will be posted online.

Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment is the last link on this page: <https://www.na.org/pr>. Direct link to *Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment*:

https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/pr/2306_NA_PRMAT_1021.pdf

Bulletin #29, *Regarding Methadone and Other Drug Replacement Programs*, is the last link on this page: <https://www.na.org/?ID=bulletins-bulletins-main>

Motion 9: *To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at WSC 2020 to create or revise one piece of recovery literature to directly address Drug Replacement Therapy (DRT) and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) as it relates to NA.*

Intent: To begin the discussion on how to address DRT/MAT in a piece of recovery literature as it relates to our message and program and have a unified fellowship position.

Maker: Northern New York Region

Financial Impact: There is minimal cost in creating a project plan. The cost to NAWS would be in the project itself if the plan were adopted by the WSC.

Rationale by Region: The reality nowadays is that more and more newcomers come into NA after first having gone through some form of treatment or medical assistance where they are prescribed

DRT/MAT. That of itself is not right or wrong, and per our 10th Tradition NA does not have an opinion on whether that is right or wrong. However, NA does have opinions on the nature of clean time and recovery. Newcomers are prescribed DRT/MAT and often find their lives improve, then are directed to or voluntarily find NA only to often face controversy, judgment and sometimes outright rejection. This unaddressed issue has alienated countless newcomers who may not ever find a home in NA as a result. This issue created enough rifts, alienations, and negative public relations in recent years to merit a pamphlet for professionals called "Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication- Assisted Treatment". We feel this issue needs to be addressed at the group and recovery level in a way that reaches newcomers and old timers alike. What addressing this looks like and where it goes in our literature will be up to the fellowship. Whether it focuses on the newcomers that come in on DRT/MAT, or the less tolerant members, or emphasizes and clarifies specific traditions - all to be decided through the literature review process.

PS: In the month that this motion has been worked on to make it CAR ready, at least 5 former members overdosed in one rural area within the Northern New York Region. Last known statistic at the time of this motion was over 140 addicts per day are now dying of overdose in the US alone. How many of those didn't find a home in NA due to the alienation of this unaddressed issue?

World Board Response: NA has no opinion on outside methods of treating addiction. However, our meetings are affected when large numbers of potential members come to our rooms not understanding our definition of *clean* or our program of recovery. In turn, when those addicts feel unwelcome and do not stay long enough to hear our message, we miss an opportunity to share our way of life.

There are only two places in our recovery literature that explicitly mention drug replacement therapy, the Basic Text and IP #29, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*. The Basic Text story, "The Only Requirement" is about a member who found NA while still on drug replacement therapy and who subsequently got clean over time. Our newest IP, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, says "Our program of recovery begins with abstinence from all drugs, including alcohol. Sometimes people come to NA meetings while still using drugs, detoxing from drugs, or on drug replacement therapy. Regardless of what you may be taking when you first come to NA, you are welcome."

We have recently published a PR pamphlet, *Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication Assisted Treatment*, so that we can clarify to professionals what we have to offer addicts. The PR pamphlet explains the distinction between NA's approach and that of drug replacement therapy and medically assisted treatment:

As we stated previously, NA has no opinion on the practices of any organizations or practitioners outside NA. However, within the context of NA and its meetings, we have generally accepted principles, and one is that NA is a program of complete abstinence. By definition, medically assisted therapy indicates that medication is being given to people to treat addiction. In NA, addiction is treated by abstinence and through application of the spiritual principles contained in the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous.

There is nothing in our recovery literature that is as clear as the PR pamphlet. We believe the message in our PR pamphlet reflects the common understanding of our Fellowship, and we would like to see this understanding more clearly reflected in our recovery literature, not just in our PR material, so that these potential members feel welcome. The recovery literature survey in this CAR includes an option to prioritize an IP for members: NA and addicts on DRT/MAT.

Policy Affected: None

Motion 10: Remove Bulletin #29, (WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BULLETIN #29, Regarding Methadone and Other Drug Replacement Programs) from publication and use.

Intent: To remove Bulletin #29 from NA World Services inventory.

Maker: Upper Midwest Region

Financial Impact: None

Rationale by Region: That Narcotics Anonymous does not take a stand or discriminate against any person on the basis of their health status or on the basis of information about their health status.

World Board Response: We do not believe Bulletin #29 discriminates against people on the basis of their health status. The bulletin is not about a health issue; it is about being clean or not.

Bulletin #29 was written in 1996 by the World Service Board of Trustees. The tone may not reflect our current emphasis on being welcoming to potential members, but we still believe the bulletin reflects the views of some of our members. The recovery literature survey in this CAR includes an option to prioritize an IP for members: NA and addicts on DRT/MAT. If the Fellowship does decide to produce a piece to better address the issue and reflect our current approach, that might be a more appropriate time to make a decision about the use of this bulletin.

Policy Affected: None

Motion 11: Remove "Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication Assisted Treatment" from publication and use.

Intent: To remove "Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication Assisted Treatment" from World Services inventory.

Maker: Upper Midwest Region

Financial Impact: None

Rationale by Region: That Narcotics Anonymous does not take a stand or discriminate against any person on the basis of their health status or on the basis of information about their health status.

Narcotics Anonymous chooses to meet and exceed the highest international standards of respect for personal autonomy and privacy in these matters.

World Board Response: *Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment* is a recently published PR pamphlet targeted to professionals who prescribe medication to treat drug addiction. The pamphlet was distributed to delegates for a 90-day review and input period before publication, and the feedback since then has been almost entirely positive. This pamphlet is not concerned with a health issue. It is about being clean or not being clean. We fail to see what may be discriminatory in such a piece.

As we explain in the introductory remarks to this section (page 46) and in the response to Motion 9 (page 47), many of our groups and service bodies are experiencing an impact from the increasing use of drug replacement therapy and medication-assisted treatment. We believe there is a clear and pressing need for communication with professionals explaining what NA is, what we have to offer their clients, and how our approach may differ from theirs. The demand for the pamphlet makes it clear that it is meeting a need. From the time it was published in November 2016 through the end of June of this year, it was downloaded 7,174 times. By mid-June we had distributed 20,720 hard copies, compared to 8,936 copies of *Information about NA*, 4,962 copies of the *Membership Survey*, and 681 of the *European Membership Survey*.

Policy Affected: None

CREATING EVENTS

Motion 12: Assign a week each year as an NA PR week, beginning in 2019. NAWS would establish the dates and would have information available for the whole NA fellowship a minimum of 90 days prior and also have available the possible contents of the program or the suggested agenda for such week.

Intent: Establish a common week of this type, to be held permanently every year, so the whole NA fellowship can hold events for this important service for NA worldwide.

Maker: Venezuela Region

Financial Impact: The financial impact is difficult to determine at this time. It would require staff and Board time to frame the contents and distribution costs to get this material out to the Fellowship.

Rationale by Region: This would motivate regions, zones and NAWS to work more unity and in cooperation and collaboration, working together and simultaneously as a team, in PR and PI concrete activities for at least 7 consecutive days, once a year, serving together to carry a better message of recovery, love, strength, faith, hope and freedom to the addict who still suffers and to the community and society as a whole. We consider that this would be an excellent initiative filled with a lot of creativity, for NA as a whole!

World Board Response: We love the idea of generating interest and enthusiasm for public relations. The Board believes focusing on topics such as those outlined in the *PR Handbook*—carrying the NA message into correctional facilities, building relationships in healthcare settings, best practices with internet technology, and so on—can help us more effectively carry the message.

Policy Affected: This would create a policy for an annual PR week.

Motion 13: *To authorize the World Board to define more special days, like unity day, in the yearly calendar.*

Intent: To have special days for topics like sponsorship, service, etc. Maker: Iran Region

Financial Impact: None

World Board Response: Unity Day was created through a Conference motion in 1992. This motion seems like an evolution of that idea to connect us all worldwide by focusing on the things that are important to all of us.

Policy Affected: None

ISSUE DISCUSSION TOPICS

Motion 14: *Fellowship Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) will be selected based on the following process: By August 1 following the World Service Conference (WSC), NAWS will create a section on na.org for IDT submissions. The poll should be translated via available software into as many languages as possible. Any member, group, area, region or zone will be able to add an item to the poll. Beginning February 1 in the year before the WSC the process of voting on the poll will start. Any member, group, area, region or zone will be able to vote on the choices in the poll. The poll will close on the final day as set by the Guide to World Services (GTWS) for regional motion submissions. The top six Issue Discussion Topics in the poll will be placed in the Conference Agenda Report and voted on in old business at the World Service Conference with the top three being the Issue Discussion Topics for that next conference cycle.*

Intent: To have more direct and specifically defined fellowship involvement in the creation and selection of Fellowship Issue Discussion Topics.

Maker: South Florida Region

Rationale by Region: Between 1998 and 2002, a list of possible Issue Discussion Topics were provided in the CAR. The two favored by the most regions became the IDT's for the conference cycle. This was discontinued after the 2002 WSC. With the increased usage of the internet and the widespread availability of free polling software, we feel that direct, identifiable fellowship

involvement in the creation of topics can be achieved. We believe that this grassroots involvement, along with participation available for members of all languages at the inception of the IDT process, will yield increased local participation in the discussion topics selected, and provide results of greater value to the fellowship as a whole.

World Board Response: This is the second cycle that we have used a simple survey, included in the Conference Agenda Report and posted online, to determine the Issue Discussion Topics. This survey process seems to have a high level of Fellowship participation, and we are recommending that we continue to use it, rather than the process outlined in this motion. The process outlined in this motion seems more complicated, and machine translation is fraught with peril.

Policy Affected: This motion would change Addendum E (Issue Discussion Topics—Selection and Discussion) of A Guide to World Services in NA, p. 71.

ROLE OF ZONES

Motion 15: *To hold a 3 day meeting of 2 representatives from each of the existing zonal forums. The meeting will be planned by NA World Services who will also cover the expenses for the meeting itself. The zonal forums or their regions will cover the cost of travel and meals for the representatives with financial assistance from NA World Services if necessary.*

This meeting will occur in the 2018-2020 conference cycle.

Intent: To create an opportunity for zonal forums to get in touch, present themselves, discuss how they work and talk about possible future zonal representation at the WSC, its advantages, and challenges.

Maker: Portugal Region

Financial Impact: There are currently fifteen zones, which would mean thirty representatives. We estimate the cost of the space for a three-day meeting together with travel costs, per diem, and lodging for the representatives and some Board members could be less than \$100,000. The cost to World Services would be less depending on which zones and how many funded their own travelers.

Rationale by Region: We believe that zonal representation is the way forward for seating at WSC. We feel that promoting a meeting between the 15 existing Zonal Forums can lead to a more efficient use of NA funds, enable NA to carry the message to addicts in their own languages more effectively, improve accountability and conscience at WSC. A gathering of the zones will allow for an exchange of ideas and information between zones. In the parts world where FD is important having zones with the resources to meet some of these requests locally can be more efficient than leaving everything to the WSO. The combination of geographic proximity and sometimes language skills can make zones an important tool for helping smaller fellowships grow offering more addicts the chance to experience the NA message in their own language. As NA grows more and more regions have asked to be seated at the WSC if Iran follows the pattern of Brazil the WSC may be faced with many request for more seated regions. A key opportunity of having a zonal gathering is to look at the way towards a WSC that is attended by zones instead of regions. This would lead to a WSC with less delegates making to easier for a dialog between members to occur and making it easier for a clear conscience of the fellowship to form.

World Board Response: We support this idea to have a single three-day meeting where a different group of people can come together to talk about the role of zones and possibilities for zonal seating. There has never been an international face-to-face meeting of different zones. This would give a group of people who are deeply experienced with zones but have never sat around a table together a chance to meet in person and exchange ideas. One way to get new ideas is to hear from a new body. We also believe this meeting could be supplemented with additional work and meetings done online.

This is a meeting we could budget for, though to commit to spending this money would be an exception to the policy cited below. Typically a project idea coming from a region in the CAR would result in a project plan being developed for consideration at the next WSC. The situation here is a bit different, however. We have a Future of the WSC Project currently, and have been asking for ideas throughout the cycle. Because we will again be proposing a Future of the WSC Project for the 2018–2020 cycle, if this motion passes, the funds spent for the meeting would come from the Future of the WSC Project and likely account for the majority of the funding for that project. This group would function much like any other NA World Services workgroup, but the choice of participants would come from the zones. World Services would be responsible for decisions related to funding delegates and determining which zones receive financial assistance.

Motion 16: *That the WB develop a project plan, including budget and timeline, for presentation at WSC 2020 on the role of Zones, their relationship to the wider fellowship, including integrating Zonal Delegate participation into the decision making process at WSC.*

Intent: To better understand the diverse nature of zones, help inform discussions at the 2020 WSC and lead to well considered changes to representation that can be applied to any Zone.

Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

Financial Impact: The cost to put together a project plan for Conference decision is minimal. The actual cost would come were the project to be approved at the 2020 WSC. Without knowing more of the specifics about the work (e.g., whether a workgroup will be required), it's impossible to estimate the cost of the potential project this far in advance. How the Conference chooses to take action on Motion 15, for instance, could radically affect this project and its cost.

Rationale by Region: Before moving forward to Zonal representation, we need to properly understand the Role of Zones, the services they provide, and their relationships with both their member communities and the wider Fellowship. This will enable us to create viable change if necessary. We will have a better understanding of Zones, and of how they may formally fit into the WSC.

World Board Response: The Future of the WSC has been a project focus for World Services for the last two Conference cycles, and this project would be in concert with that focus. If the Conference supports Motion 15, the information from that meeting of zonal representatives would inform the frame of this project plan and, most likely, the work itself, were the project plan to be approved.
Policy Affected: None.

ZONAL SEATING

World Board: The following five motions are all related to zonal seating. As we have expressed throughout the cycle, we do not see it as our role to lead the WSC toward a specific model of seating. We do believe that change is necessary in order for the Conference to be effective and sustainable, but at the close of WSC 2016 we explained that we would not make a specific recommendation for seating this cycle, and we continue to hold to that commitment. We believe this is a decision the Fellowship needs to make, and if the Conference can build or express consensus around a vision for change in the future of the WSC, we will support that direction.

This is an issue we have talked about and reported on for many cycles. You can find more information at NA.org

Motion 17: *To approve a change in the description of World Service Conference participants from regional delegates to zonal delegates. This change will occur over 3 conference cycles from 2018 to 2024 with the choice of representation left to the seated regions during this transition period. These*

three conference cycles will be used to develop details for the future. Any policies or ideas developed will be presented back to the fellowship in the CAR. Zonal delegates attending the WSC will carry a vote for all of their seated regions that are not represented by a regional delegate. No new regional seating requests will be considered during the transition.

Intent: To allow for a transition to zonal representation with the choice of representation left to the seated region during the transition.

Maker: Portugal Region

Financial Impact: It is not possible to estimate the financial impact of the motion without more details. We do not see anything in this motion that would increase expense from current levels.

Rationale by Region: We believe that the current WSC is not as effective as it could be. We hope to move forward in the direction of zonal seating. The challenges of organizing a meeting of 118 RDs, 88 Alternates and 15 World board members has lead a lot of procedural discussions at WSC. The 200+ attendance has limited the involvement of many delegates in the meeting and its discussions. This has led to a WSC that many members find frustrating and ineffectual. We believe that moving towards Zonal representation and having less members at the WSC meeting would better allow a conscience to form increasing the accountability and effectiveness of world services thus hopefully developing the connection between WSO and the regions. We understand that some zones would be ready to move straight to having zonal representation and others would need time to make changes. If we can agree where we want to go then we can work out how to get there. This would also enable the cost of the WSC to decrease and lead to money being freed for our primary purpose. Zonal seating would also mean that all NA communities are represented at the WSC because they adhere to a zone and thereby make the WSC a truly inclusive body.

World Board Response: See the introduction to this section of Zonal Seating motions.

Policy Affected: See Policy Affected for motions 18, 19, 20, and 21.

Motion 18: *That any Zonal Forum with two or more zonally seated regions or communities that are not seated at the World Service Conference, may choose to send one Zonal Delegate to the World Service Conference to represent those regions or communities.*

Intent: To provide representation at the World Service Conference for the numerous unseated NA communities around the world.

Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

Financial Impact: This motion by itself does not have a direct financial impact to NA World Services. Increasing the size of the WSC has a potential increase in expense but we are unable to estimate that future impact at this time.

Rationale by Region: Zones outside of the USA have a significant number of Regions or communities not seated at WSC. In APF 20 of 29 are not seated; Afri-Can 13 of 14 are not seated; EDM 14 of 30; Brazil 7 of 9; Latin America 5 of 21; CANA 2 of 8; Russia 4 of 5. Many of those Regions may not meet the seating criteria due to size or evolution of their fellowship, or have the support of WSC to be seated. Collectively though these unseated communities represent thousands of NA meetings and a significant percentage of the world's population. Yet the number of meetings is disproportionately under-represented compared to places where NA is well established. The World Service Conference is therefore far from a forum that truly represents the world wide fellowship and perspectives of Narcotics Anonymous in the 21st century. This alteration to representation provides an interim method for incorporating our diversity, until ongoing changes to representation are agreed and implemented. Zonal Forums such as APF and EDM are directly providing services through Fellowship Development efforts in their member communities. As a result of these efforts a lot of communities

are now experiencing growth. However more support for translations or workshops are needed in addition to the limited resources of the Zones. Currently there is no direct way for these communities to share their needs and views to the global NA Platform.

World Board Response: See the introduction to this section of Zonal Seating motions

Motion 19: *If motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered. That Zonal Delegates are voting members when in attendance at the World Service Conference. These Zonal Delegates would have one vote.*

Intent: To provide voting rights to Zonal Delegates, equivalent to Regional Delegates.

Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

Financial Impact: None

Rationale by Region: As attendees at WSC, Zonal Delegates are participating in the same way as any Regional Delegate, and indeed may be carrying the conscience of several unseated Regions/Communities, increasing the diversity of the Conference. The 7th Concept reminds us that “all members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body’s decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes”. Any Delegate not being able to vote at WSC is not fully participating and therefore is not fulfilling the responsibility of the Zone they represent nor are they a full participant of the WSC.

World Board Response: See the introduction to this section of Zonal Seating motions

Motion 20: *If motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered. Zonal Delegates are eligible to receive the same funding from NA World Services as regional delegates when attending the WSC. This funding includes travel, lodging, and meal expenses only.*

Intent: Zonal delegates have the same eligibility for funding by NA World Services as other WSC participants.

Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

Financial Impact: The average cost to fund an international delegate is ten days of a shared room and meals and travel. We use \$2,500 as an average for international travelers and \$1,600 for US travelers. If there were six international zonal delegates attending the WSC, the cost to fund them would be approximately \$15,000.

Rationale by Region: Delegates from some parts of the world have significant distances to travel to the WSC. The cost of air fares, hotel accommodation and visas to send a Zonal Delegate (Regional or Zonal) residing in the Asia Pacific zone to the World Service Conference can be up to US\$3,000. The variable part of this is the airfare, which could account for more than half of this amount for a delegate traveling longer distances. This is the same cost to NAWS as any currently funded Regional Delegate’s attendance from a similar location. The impact for a Zone could be significant. For example this is approximately 10% of APF’s annual budget. Current APF expenditure is prioritized for hosting the annual APF meeting, funding any member community to attend if they are unable to do so themselves, and for fellowship development. As is the case with RD costs, any Zone that is able to would be free to contribute as much as they could towards these total costs or individual components thereof.

World Board Response: See the introduction to this section of Zonal Seating motions

Motion 21: *If motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered.*

Alternate Zonal Delegates may attend the WSC with the same rights and limitations as is currently offered to Alternate Regional Delegates.

Intent: To allow an Alternate Delegate to be present, serve alongside and support the Zonal Delegate so they may function as a team in the same way as RD and AD teams can. The cost of attending the WSC for the Alternate Zonal Delegate would be the responsibility of the zone and each zonal delegate is limited to one alternate.

Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

Financial Impact: As with Motion 18, it is not possible to estimate the financial impact at this time. Adding six more alternates to the number of Conference participants may necessitate changes to the WSC—either in room layout or perhaps in the venue itself—that may have a financial impact that we are unable to estimate at this time.

Rationale by Region: It is common practice amongst seated Regions to have both the RD and AD attend WSC, as a delegate team. An Alt Delegate is typically seen as a training role, and attendance at the World Service Conference in an integral part of this training. Most Regions who, because of their location and easy ability to travel to Woodland Hills, or who have sufficient financial resources, will make the choice to send their Alternate Delegate to WSC. Attendance at WSC for a week, with some of the days being very long, is undoubtedly one of the most demanding service roles in NA. This is even more challenging where a Delegate is from a different culture and/or must travel significant distances around the globe, as may often be the case for a Zonal Delegate. The attendance of an Alternate Delegate is the best way to provide this support.

World Board Response: See the introduction to this section of Zonal Seating motions

Motion 22: *To discontinue the WSC Conference Participants Discussion Board hosted and maintained by NA World Services*

Intent: To no longer have NAWS host and maintain a conference participant discussion board.

Maker: Washington North Idaho Region

Financial Impact: There will be some cost-savings from removing the board and associated staff support.

Rationale by Region: In the early 2000s a suggestion was made at the World Service Conference to create a conference participants online discussion board. Conference participants suggested that having such a board hosted and maintained by NA World Services might lead to useful service discussions online.

Since the Conference Participants Discussion Board was created, social media sites like Facebook have dramatically increased in use. There are many groups on Facebook, including some limited to conference participants that have much more participation and discussion than the site hosted by NA World Services.

While Internet technology is an excellent way for members to interact, the lack of participation and need to moderate an “official NA” board only open to some service members suggests this board has outlived its usefulness. Facebook groups, and the recent conference participant webinars using video technology seem much better ways to communicate online the conference discussion board.

World Board Response: We see this as an issue for the Conference to decide. Certainly the rationale suggests some important questions about how to effectively communicate among Conference participants and how to have an inspired discussion and share new ideas productively.

The Conference participant board takes human resources to maintain, and it’s not really possible to enforce the values participants have agreed upon, such as not cutting and pasting posts into other forums. We know there is a need for a forum where Conference participants can share information

and ideas, but we have yet to find a productive way to do that. Conversation on the Conference participant board takes place among only a relatively small number of participants. During the period following WSC 2014 to the writing of this CAR, there were 10,200 posts and 292 eligible participants. About half of those eligible participants posted once or not at all, while the top ten posters accounted for almost three-quarters of the posts.

- Total posts (from post-WSC 2014 to 20 October 2017): 10,200
- Eligible participants: 292 (219 current, 73 former)
- Number of participants with 0 posts: 118
- Number of participants with 1 post: 25
- Number of posts by top 10 posters: 7,482

However, we have no other collective forum. We do have other options, such as web meetings and sharing ideas to the FTP site, and we would like to continue exploring more productive and positive ways for participants to talk to each other between Conferences. In the meantime, as its name indicates, the Conference participant bulletin board is for the Conference, and the Conference should decide whether to continue its use.

Motion 23: *Direct the World Board to develop plans to move to a three-year conference cycle. This plan would include quarterly web meetings, longer review time for the Conference Agenda Report, and would be developed in a way to provide an opportunity to include other ideas from conference participants.*

Intent: To study a change in the conference cycle to every three years.

Maker: Argentina Region

Financial Impact: None

Rationale by Region: To have more time to work and discuss during the time in between the meetings of the WSC conference cycle.

We propose a solution which would provide us the possibility of maintaining a more fluid contact, dealing with the topics of the cycle and the different motions in a more practical manner and arrive to the conference with the topics and proposals after they have been worked by the regions, and to have the CAR available a few months in advance.

In regards to the economic impact and according to the financial reports, it directly reduces it in a very significant amount and at the same time it allows regions to generate funds to finance its delegates.

Due to the different proposals to change the size of the WSC, which we believe are not the most appropriate ones, we are proposing a solution that would give us the possibility to maintain a more fluid contact, so we can deal with the topics of the cycle and the different motions and in a more practical manner so we can arrive to the conference after having worked these topics and proposals in the regions, and so we can receive the CAR several months in advance and financially we can reduce cost substantially which we would allow us not to reduce the representation and the conscience of the regions.

World Board Response: This motion is really about creating a project plan to explore this issue and develop plans. We do not see a three-year cycle as a solution to the issue of the size of the WSC. Regardless of the timing of the Conference, we still see the WSC as too large to be effective. We are also concerned about the effect this might have on the work cycle and our ability to connect together as a body. In short, this issue needs more study, and it is just one piece of the larger picture already being explored by the Future of the WSC Project. It feels premature to us to “develop plans” to move toward a decision about the timing of the Conference cycle, but it should remain as one of many ideas for the Future of the WSC Project.

Policy Affected: No policy is affected by developing a plan for the Conference to consider.

Motion 24: *In new business the World Board will have one collective vote represented by the World board chair. Each World Board member votes only in Elections and may make motions in all sessions.*

Intent: This motion would change World Board voting in new business from (up to) 15 individual votes to one collective

Maker: Israel Region

Financial Impact: None

Rationale by Region: In new business session every region has 1 vote and so does every WB member. WB members don't represent any region and yet they consist of up to 15 votes. This means that in new business the WB consists of more than 10% of the votes. Giving WB members who represent only themselves so much power in votes, does not go side by side with the spiritual principle of anonymity which is a cornerstone of the N.A way. "Though we may not all participate in every decision made in our fellowship, we all have the right to participate fully and equally in the decision making processes..." (12 concepts booklet, 7th concept). Following the 7th Service concept we are free to limit the vote of the WB, just as we limit the voting of other WSC participants such as alternate delegates, facilitators and NAWS members. By limiting the WB to one vote, we are enabling the fellowship a balanced and experienced opinion of all the WB members while still keeping a proportional weight of the WB in the voting process.

Since the establishment of the WB, in the vast majority of WSCs that were held, motions were submitted to limit the WB's voting rights in different ways. In the last WSC (2016) a similar motion was submitted (motion 13). The results of the votes were 42% for, 52% against, 6% other. These results show that this voice is not of a small minority anymore but more close to half of the fellowship. It is the conscience of the fellowship showing us an injustice that wishes to be amended.

World Board Response: The Seventh Concept explains that "All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes." We are compelled to follow the Concepts, and we believe full participation includes voting. The purpose of the World Service Conference is "to be supportive of the Fellowship as a whole and to define and take action according to the group conscience of Narcotics Anonymous." (A Guide to World Services in NA, p. 2) As Conference participants, the World Board members are in the unique position of being elected to serve the Fellowship as a whole. They are the only voting members of the Conference elected by the Conference, not by a local service body. In its role as the chosen leadership of World Services, the Board is delegated to perform work on behalf of the Conference. The World Board suggests direction, provides services, and oversees Conference projects. Members of the Board travel to and communicate with service bodies around the world, some of whom may not have representation at the Conference. They serve the Fellowship as a whole, and their thinking is global and strategic in nature.

The Board does not vote on old business at the Conference. (Old business consists of CAR motions like this one and proposals to change those motions, as well as some procedural items about the rules of order.) As we move toward consensus-based decision making, it is our hope that there will be less voting on new business, but to the degree that there is voting, it seems contrary to our Seventh Concept to limit the participation of Board members.

Motion 25: *To authorize the World Board to investigate and pursue ways for conference participants who are unable to attend the WSC due to visa and other issues beyond their control, to engage in sessions of the WSC.*

Intent: To not miss a voice and conscience and provide an opportunity for these delegates to be involved with the WSC

Maker: Iran Region

Financial Impact: It is not possible to estimate the financial impact of the motion without more information and details.

No Rationale Provided by Region

World Board Response: We would like to try something for WSC 2018 so that we can connect delegates regardless of their visa status or political issues that may prevent their WSC attendance. We will research what is possible and report more information prior to the Conference—with updates in NAWS News and/or the Conference Report as we have more to report—and at the WSC. We believe that Conference agreement would be all that is needed in order to allow seated delegates who are unable to attend the WSC to participate virtually in some manner. It will be up to the delegates present to decide whether to adapt the rules to allow voting. Regardless of that decision, we hope to be able to connect in some way with delegates who are unable to attend this Conference.

Policy Affected: No policies are affected to investigate this idea. If voting is eventually involved, those policies would need to be clarified.

VOTES due by
April 6, 2018
to

Kathleen M.(RD)

EMAIL: beesin1969@yahoo.com

All Members please remind others and yourself to answer the literature survey at

www.na.org/conference

by 3/15/18