

**World Board Meeting  
Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.  
7-10 August 2002 Approved Minutes**



**Wednesday and Thursday 7-8 August**

---

The board and staff spent two days in a training session with Jim DeLizia. The focus of this session was the next step in the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan. The board identified tools to be developed to further their move to a Strategic Board.

**Friday 9 August**

---

World Board Members Present: Bella Blake, Bob Jordan, Craig Robertson, Daniel Schuessler, David James, Giovanna Ghisays, Jane Nickels, Lib Edmonds, Ron Hofius, Saul Alvarado, Susan Chess, Tom McCall, Tony Walters

New World Board Member: Jim Buerer

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Becky Meyer, Eileen Perez-Evans, and Jeff Gershoff

**Action Group**

The board met till 12:00 noon in an action group.

The World Board chair officially welcomed Jim Buerer as a new World Board member.

**Executive Director Report**

*Embezzlement Update*

The board will receive a summary of options from Don Palazzo about where we go from here with this issue at the November WB meeting. A check has been received from CNA Insurance Company for the entire amount of the claim, minus the deductible.

*Approve Proposed Changes to the Audit Contract*

The board asked to approve the contract provisions for accounting every year that would include a segment of Forensic Accounting as an auditing process whose specific intent is to detect illicit financial practices or transactions. It was the unanimous decision of the board to approve the proposed Forensic Accounting contract provisions.

*Approve Audio History CD as inventory item at retail price of \$15*

It was the unanimous decision of the board to approve adding the Audio CD as an inventory item at a price of \$15.00.

*Business Plan Group*

The board reminded that the Business Plan Group has been approved for the next conference cycle; members are Mario Tesoriero (point person), Cary Seltzer, Bob McDonough, Bob Jordan, Becky Meyer, Tom Rush and Anthony Edmondson. The body will schedule a meeting towards the end of the year. There is currently some thought being given to adding another person. Any changes to the group will be approved by the EC and reported to the board. A more detailed report will be given to the board at the November meeting.

*Medallions*

The board informed that there may be a need to seek another manufacturer which could mean a rise in cost of goods of up to 100%. Current cost for the nickel medallion is 36½ cents.

*WCNA 29**Initial debrief of event*

The board was given a copy of ideas resulting from a staff brainstorming ideas and a copy of the input about WCNA 29. It was noted that the fellowship would like the board to take a more active role in addressing the issue of individuals selling merchandise without permits.

The Spanish-speaking members were disappointed that the workshop material was not translated into Spanish and/or that no translator(s) were available during the workshops.

The board informed that there was an injury incident during WCNA 29 that is expected to result in a legal claim. The matter has been turned over to our insurance brokers. More information will be given to the World Board at a later date.

The auditor's observations from WCNA 29 have not yet been received. Expect to receive these observations and/or recommendations with the audit contract changes.

**WSC 2002**

The board was asked what they liked most and least about WSC 2002.

*Likes*

- Opening Sunday session.
- Business setup was excellent.
- Spanish delegates expressed excitement at being able to participate.
- Screen with list of names to track.
- Overall the conference was an improvement.
- WSO staff accomplishes a phenomenal job.
- Certificates

*Opportunity for Improvements*

- Sessions were too much alike (repetitive).
- Introductions should be done in the beginning.
- Stayed in small groups too long, should use both rooms equally.
  - Have the break out rooms available for small group discussions instead of tables
- Replace red card with a single microphone in the center of floor. All inquires have to be made from mic.
- All the new processes didn't seem very well married to the business. Maybe should have more of the processes used in the small group side.
  - Some of the information processes could have been done on the business side. Might want to revisit mixing business and pleasure.
  - Do we want to re create and informal and formal environment again. Was there an overall value?
  - Blow up business session and start fresh.
- Implementation, planning, and resource.

- Not enough committee as whole type discussions.
- Spanish speaking members felt that the conference business moved to fast, weren't able to keep up therefore did not feel part of the process.
- Pace... need to remember that the translators are translating and answering questions. Maybe non-English speaking delegates can sit at smaller tables, or with members with more maturity. Previously used to sit non-English speaking delegates in close proximity of board members but have stopped doing that because of other delegate perceptions.
- Possibly have an orientation with the translators, giving them a better idea of what will occur.
- A social gathering – other than the WSO open house.
- Tables and chairs inside for non-smokers.
- More Cofacilitator (business sessions) training... workgroup put together much sooner before the conference that would include them
- Possibly include in the small group sessions since it does not contain business. Cofacilitators seemed somewhat disconnected.
- Delegate's responsibility and expectations, e.g. participation in small groups.
- Send fellowship information regarding what was spent on the funding for the conference participant vs. donations to raise their consciousness.
- Tom and Rochelle work with delegates on their expense reports a few times during the week.
- World Board seating... higher, lower. Ask delegates to develop the agenda for the World Board Open Forums. If agenda became too large the agenda and World Board could be split to discuss topics.
- Making issue discussion tangible and meaningful. Have to have real impact.
- Technology—computers.
- Clocks on the same time.

## Publications

### *Approval of Revised Outline for Sponsorship Book*

Portions in red are the revisions made by the workgroup and what is being presented to the board for approval. The items that were added or emphasized were due to the experience of the workgroup members. The board is being asked to approve the revised outline.

The process for input from the board to the workgroup was discussed. If something is sent to the board for review and only one board member has an issue with something, then the workgroup would have the opportunity to decide if they wanted to address it or not. Only decisions made at board meetings speak for the board as a whole.

### Page 23

- Under Foreword... *(Note that later in the text, we will address non-NA Sponsor)* philosophically non-NA sponsor is not a sponsor. The issue is in how it will be presented. Would be more comfortable covering this experience in a way that it doesn't support non-NA sponsors. Refers to page 30, first paragraph—portions in red.

Travis recalled the discussion about this item in the workgroup; when they got clean there was no NA and in another fellowship. Anticipates the workgroup approach will be to mention however not condone.

- It was suggested that something like a narrative be dedicated to the issue of non-NA sponsors. Also have to be careful about being the experience of fellowship—don't want to seem cultish.

The board agreed that the line (*Note that later in the text, we will address non-NA Sponsor*) would be removed. There was an objection noted regarding removing the line, but not to block consensus.

Travis will highlight any red flags issues when sending out chapters to the board.

#### Page 24

- Would question the Twelve Concepts as this being the experience in sponsorship. The Twelve Concepts is about service. The board agreed to leave the Twelve Concepts in.
- Bob's points about being redundant ...Sponsorship, like NA itself...remove.

#### Page 25

- Point is about the emphasis on the second step. Doesn't agree of the interpretation of how the Second Step is noted here. Suggest adding *coming to believe* to help resolve the issue of the emphasis on the Second Step.
- Craig suggests referring to It Works to get input for wording.

Travis suggests changing the phrase to ...coming to believe we could be restored to sanity... and adding to the end something like ...one could make this argument with any of our steps... The board agreed with Travis's suggestion.

#### Page 26

- Change *developing fellowships* to *small NA community*. We need to refer to many communities within a fellowship.

#### Page 27

The board agreed to the workgroup giving the board recommendations regarding changing *Escaping the prison of self*.

#### Page 30

- The board agreed to add a definition to the word *peers* or something that would help explain this.
- Billy and Freddie are working on getting information on sponsoring individuals in prisons.
- Asked that another section be created if the reference to non-NA Sponsors might be better served in another spot. The board had no objections to creating another section if the workgroup chooses to do this.
- Asked that another section be created regarding Mental Illness.

#### Page 31

- Suggests that some thought be given to isolating some of the points in the first "red" paragraph as well as to some of the controversial issues.
- *Sponsorship: The Spiritual Connection* title liked however cautions to be careful with the name becoming guru'ish.

There were no objections from the board to accept the Publications Sponsorship Outline with changes noted. The board was okay with the changes being made and not having to review the edited version.

Sometime in the beginning of October the board will get the revised line numbered detailed outline, IP 11, and chapter 1. The board agreed that 7 days is sufficient time to review the material.

The fellowship will receive this material in December. The general idea is to keep the IP geared to the newcomer, keep the brass tacked introductory approach, and using the present IP as a foundation.

### **Closed Session**

To discuss Nominations and roles for World Board members and committees.

**Saturday 10 August**

Present: Bella Blake, Bob Jordan, Craig Robertson, Daniel Schuessler, David James, Giovanna Ghisays, Jane Nickels, Jim Buerer, Lib Edmonds, Ron Hofius, Saul Alvarado, Susan Chess, Tom McCall, Tony Walters

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Becky Meyer, Eileen Perez-Evans, and Jeff Gershoff

Jane opened the meeting with a moment of silence, the Serenity prayer and the reading from *Just for Today*.

**Annual Meeting Requirements**

Nominations did not require a second and all elections were done by written ballot.

Nominations for Chairperson: Jane Nickels. Jane Nickels elected as chairperson.

Nominations for vice chairperson: Bob Jordan. Bob Jordan elected as Vice Chairperson.

Nominations for Treasurer: Craig Robertson and Tony Walters. Craig Robertson elected as Treasurer.

Nomination for Secretary: Susan Chess and Tony Walters. The first ballot did not result in a clear majority. The board decided to conduct a second ballot. Susan Chess elected as Secretary.

*Finalize World Board Member Assignments to Committees*

There were no objections to the Executive Committee's recommendations:

Publications Committee

Bella as point person

Jim

Giovanna

Jim has been assigned to the Sponsorship Workgroup and Giovanna will continue to work with the Translation Evaluation Group.

Fellowship Relations Committee

David as point person

Ron

Guardians Committee

Tom as point person

Daniel

Public Relations

Lib as point person

Tony

Tony asked the board to consider appointing him as the Public Relations Committee point person. After a discussion Tony withdrew his request.

The board has appointed the committees and point people as stated for the 02-04 conference cycle.

*Approve Corporate Resolutions*

It was the unanimous consensus of the board "To adopt the 2002-2004 Corporate Resolutions as presented"

**2002-2004 Work plan**

Becky reported that after the June Executive Committee meeting discussion as well as discussions with Jim DeLizia it was decided to create a list of items, e.g. items in book 1 indicated in red are items staff thought something could be done on. After more thought and consideration staff realized that the list in book 1 is inadequate.

*Initial Agreement on Priorities*

World Service Conference Seating Group needs to be added to *Improve Accessibility of NAWS to a diversifying fellowship*, 2D.

The board agreed that the WCNA 30, NAWS Business, Publications (e.g. *NAWS News*, *NA Way*, *CAR*, *Reaching Out* and *Meeting By Mail*), Budget are items that do not need to be prioritized by the board because they will fall into the work during the conference cycle.

The board agreed on the initial approach and that nothing is missing from the list.

*Final list of priorities to achieve objectives & prioritize those objectives*

Numbers indicate the number of times the items for was selected. Each of fourteen board members could choose up to five but could not assign more than one of their choices to a single project.

PR Roundtables-11, Fellowship Development-11, Worldwide Workshop-12, Sponsorship-10, Strategic Development-9, Standards for Communication-3, Define Consensus-1, Literature Development Approval Process-2, Translations Resource-1, Business Plan Group (with note)-1.

*Initial Assignment of Work to Committees*

Point people already identified with projects in stream will continue to work with those assignments; the rest of staff charges/assignments will be finalized in late September or October. The initial charges will be developed by staff with Jim and later finalized with the Executive Committee. The board agreed to the staff charges/assignments being finalized in late September/October with the Executive Committee.

The previous point people for *Reaching Out* and *NA Way* will at some point have to speak with the new point people bringing them up to date on the work.

The board reminded that once committee point people are identified board committee point person would not have propriety ownership of staff assigned, as the staff resource will be maximized.

*Ideas for identifying Potential workgroup members*

The overall desire is to build on the working list of board input as potential workgroup and World Board members.

- David and Bella would like to see the list identified by the HRP as nominees for the World Board as a priority for any upcoming workgroups, keeping in mind that this could in some ways be a double edge sword because the conference chose not to elect them.

- Ron sees three types of categories that can be created for workgroup members: Former World Board members, known pool members, and the unknown pool members.
- Add a question or header to the Trip Report form that would help identify people for the pool.
- The challenge for the next stage is how to get the valuable information from individuals. More information is better.
- We as a board can also help identify people for the pool when traveling for World Services.

### *Annual Report*

#### Theme will be *Coming Together the Voice of NA*

Information to be included in the WB section:

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary preparations – excited about this.

2001 to 2002 a next step for us in our evolution as a board and for world services  
1<sup>st</sup> two year conference, 1<sup>st</sup> convention 60 days after the conference. Embezzlement.

WSC cost – per individual for travel and overall costs.

Becoming more collaborative and strategic –

- Training we have received
- Strategic planning, building on the committee/workgroup model.
- Worldwide workshops/facilitation—our increased interface & evolution with the fellowship.
  - The meager beginning of this – just scratching the surface. Our apprehension – so far the results have been positive and we have learned a lot but we certainly were not sure at the beginning.
  - Changes in the WSC and workshops at the world convention
- Capture the second bullet of the NA World Services Vision Statement; this best describes what the board has done – NA communities worldwide and NA world services work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery
- Bumps in the road and what we've learned from them.
- Our anticipation of trying new things and results.

#### The overall direction of the Annual Report approved

### **Executive Committee**

#### *WCNA 30 San Diego*

San Diego logistics briefly talked about, e.g. sound, busing, stadium, meeting rooms, overflow rooms, etc. The San Diego Convention center staff is working on different types of configurations that will address options for space. Current room capacity in the convention center is 24,000. Currently have 3,800 rooms on hold, which is expected to hold 14,000 people. Expect different demographics in San Diego, which will effect planning. The board apprised that there would be a future discussion regarding some adjustment in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary registration price

- Suggest selling merchandise ahead of time.
- Suggest that some type of action group be done prior to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the board, staff and support committee to help unify the group as a whole.



Although we intend to have some wheelchairs, and scooters available the idea is to provide rental information and individuals to make their own arrangements. This function will also be a separate desk.

### *Choose Theme*

Previous themes: 1990-The Journey Continues, 1991-The Gift, 1992-Imagine the Freedom, 1993-The Sky is the Limit, 1994-The Message is Hope, 1995-One New Vision of Life, 1996-Show Me How to Live, 1998-Our diversity Is Our Strength, 2000-NA is Our Hope For Life, 2002-Freedom To Live Our Dreams

Top two themes rated at 4 were: One Addict Helping Another 1953-2003 and Out of the Shadows. After a brief discussion the board decided to pair the current list down by selecting 5.

One Addict Helping Another 1953—2003-8, From a Dream to Reality-5, Golden NA Anniversaries-4, Freedom from Active Addition...-3, It Works the NA Way-3.

It was the decision of the board to approve *One Addict helping another 1953—2003* as the theme for WCNA 30-the 50<sup>th</sup> NA Anniversary.

### *Initial Ideas to create unique celebration of the fellowships 50<sup>th</sup> birthday*

- David described a skit or movie...8/12/02 asked David to send info.
- Members carrying their own banner during a parade.
- The geographical count down at the opening meeting on Thursday.
- Map that highlights a section of the world when announced.
- The use of the large screen as a single focus by showing particular home group pictures or web casting the groups as they come on the phone.

The October *NA Way* will contain a blurb asking members for written history and/or some kind of tangible history that they are willing to *give* to *NAWS* for display.

The board decided that it would be a good idea to ask the fellowship for any unique ideas via worldwide workshops, zonal forums, *NAWS News*, etc.

Ask the fellowship for a picture of their first meeting location.

### *World Board storage space*

Staff will research storage space.

### *Resolution/Mediation*

Tom asked that the board review the email and bring any input they might have to the November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm