

RECOVERY LITERATURE PROJECT IDEAS

As we have said repeatedly throughout this *CAR* (and before that!), there are always more ideas for projects than resources to accomplish them. The events of the past few years have exacerbated that challenge. We are taking the same approach at this conference that we did for the last three conferences. We will offer general project plans for recovery literature and service material, and the conference will use the *CAR* survey results to help determine the specific focuses. (Project plans are included in the Conference Approval Track material.)

The ideas for new or revised literature specified in Motions #13–16 are included in the *CAR* survey. Other resources that may be helpful when considering the motions below:

- The introduction to the survey on page 39 of this *CAR*
- World Services Board of Trustees Bulletin #19: Gender-specific language and use of the word “God” in NA literature: www.na.org/?ID=bulletins-bull19
- Addendum E: List of materials we publish including translations, page 183

Motion 13 To direct the World Board to create a project plan for the next World Service Conference (WSC), for the development of a new IP for daily personal inventory of gratitude.

Maker: Argentina Region

Intent: To create a new resource for the fellowship members, through a new IP for the daily personal inventory of gratitude.

Rationale by Region: A new IP brochure is a tool for the members of the Fellowship that inspires us to make a daily personal gratitude inventory, that promotes actions inspired by the spiritual awakening of the Twelfth Step of NA that encourages us to express our gratitude during the *Just for Today* and/or daily basis.

Members—at any stage of our personal recovery process that we find ourselves—can be inspired by questions about this spiritual principle, with direct actions of gratitude and/or gratitude list among others, and try to express growth in recovery through gratitude.

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

World Board Response: The introduction to the regional and zonal motion section of this *CAR* in the preceding pages explains our dilemma—that there are more good ideas than ability to accomplish them—especially now. This idea is included in the *CAR* survey (p. 39). The *CAR* survey will help conference participants make decisions about what to prioritize. Using the survey to guide decisions about what recovery literature and service materials will be worked on allows the Fellowship and the conference to consider ideas in relation to each other and establish priorities. The survey includes all of the ideas for recovery literature and service tools that have been offered by conference participants.

We are supportive of whatever the Fellowship chooses as a priority. Given the backlog of work, however, we aren’t sure we can commit to much more than we already have on our plate.

We appreciate that the Argentina Region was willing to work out a solution to one of their concerns without requiring a *CAR* motion. The idea to create a visual style guide came from Argentina, and it’s a tool that will help many service bodies (and World Services!). We have committed to producing something in the year to follow WSC 2023. Thank you, Argentina!

Motion 14 To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at the next WSC to investigate changes and/or additional wording to NA literature from gender specific language to gender neutral and inclusive language.

Makers: Sweden and Australia Regions

Co-makers: Northern California Region, Wisconsin Region, Ontario Region

Intent: This motion will give the conference and the Fellowship the ability to meaningfully discuss changes to our literature to be more inclusive of all our members.

Financial Impact: There is minimal cost in creating a project plan. The cost to NAWs would be in the project itself if the WSC were to adopt and prioritize the plan.

Rationale by Regions: Our literature currently makes multiple references to gender specific and exclusive language.

We recognise the importance of being able to identify oneself with the language described in our texts in order to embrace the programme. In our Fellowship there are many who identify as LGBT+, who have experienced being made invisible in a great variety of situations. As a worldwide Fellowship we acknowledge that many cultures embrace non-binary individuals.

Many of our members have expressed reservation at the male pronoun references to God, which may invoke an image of a specific God or religion. We believe this conflicts with our philosophy which encourages all members to develop a personal relationship with a God of our own understanding.

In NA we are addicts first and foremost and we must always keep our doors open for all addicts who have a desire to recover. We want our literature to be inclusive to all, regardless of how we might identify.

The personal stories section of our Basic Text contains stories from transgender individuals, and we wish to build on this gender-neutral foundation to reflect in all NA text. We allow for personal stories to be exempt from gender-neutral language and remain as they are currently written.

When collaborating with Sweden and Australia it became clear that Sweden wished to have gender-neutral language that was complimentary to the existing language, whereas Australia felt that replacement was the way to proceed. The motion has been written as such that all options can be explored in the project plan and recommendations provided back to the WSC and Fellowship.

World Board Response: The motion seeks to open a discussion that appears to be much needed. The subject of gender specificity/neutrality in NA literature has gained increasing attention and energy in the intervening years since this motion first appeared in the 2020 CAR. As the intent explains, "This motion will give the conference and the Fellowship the ability to meaningfully discuss changes to our literature to be more inclusive of all our members." We support the idea of having a discussion and believe it is the Fellowship's collective responsibility to look at how our message is perceived. The motion is not asking for a decision about changes to literature; it's about whether we're willing to have the conversation, to "investigate." This idea is included in the CAR survey (p. 39).

We have had related discussions in the past, but not since the early 1990s, and much has changed since then. The discussions in the '90s were primarily focused on whether to use the word *God* in NA literature, while this motion seeks to open a discussion specifically about gender neutrality. The [trustee bulletin on gender-specific language](#) was written in 1992, when there were fewer than 20,000 NA meetings worldwide and the Basic Text was published in four languages. Now there are more than 76,000 meetings and we publish the Basic Text in 36 languages. Our membership has grown and diversified over the years.

A word about translations: NA's literature is developed in English, and English-language texts act as the prototype for any translation efforts. Different languages handle gender differently, and local translation committees are familiar with what they need to do to be consistent with the English texts. For these reasons, we anticipate the discussion would focus on English-language literature.

Motion 15 To direct the World Board to create a project plan for the next WSC to initiate the process for the Fellowship to approve adding “gender” to “What is the NA Program?” to read: “Anyone may join us regardless of age, race, gender, sexual identity, creed, religion or lack of religion.”

Maker: Southern California Region

Intent: To change ‘What is the NA Program’ to be more gender-neutral and inclusive.

Financial Impact: There is minimal cost in creating a project plan or framing a discussion.

Rationale by Region: We believe there is a clear distinction between the two terms. Gender refers to one’s concept of self as male, female, a blend of both, neither, or other; sexual identity refers to how one thinks of oneself in terms of to whom one is romantically or sexually attracted. While the investigation of changes to NA Literature toward gender-neutral/inclusive language is a worthy discussion toward greater unity, our region is proposing this first step. This sentence is a powerful statement our literature makes about who is welcome to join Narcotics Anonymous. This reading is a basic reading at meetings and this small change would set the tone for inclusivity without having to negotiate too many cultural differences in language and concepts of personal identity worldwide. Inclusion of the word “gender” in this sentence communicates the value system that men and women equally may join Narcotics Anonymous; this also welcomes addicts who do not conform or who define gender for themselves. Until all genders are treated equally worldwide, Narcotics Anonymous must include gender in this sentence so that any addict seeking recovery, despite differences in our identities that might divide us outside of NA, feel welcome to join Narcotics Anonymous regardless of social, political, socioeconomic, religious, or legal restrictions in the world. We bring this proposal forward in anticipation that a seventh edition of our Basic Text will be more inclusive.

World Board Response: This idea is included in the *CAR* survey (p. 39). On the face of it, this may seem to be a simple change, but it is not. “What is the NA program?” comes from a section of the Little White Book that is reproduced in the Basic Text, IP #1, *An Introductory Guide to NA*, and the meeting reading cards.

We understand the motivation behind the motion and share the desire to communicate as clearly as possible that NA is open and welcoming to all. For many members, the revision suggested feels long overdue, and there is a sense of urgency about the issue. Even so, changing NA recovery literature is always a lengthy process. To make any changes to recovery literature policy requires the release of a review and input draft. In this case, we would need to release the whole Basic Text or Little White Book for input if this project passes.

A change to “What is the NA program?” would, in essence, create a Seventh Edition text and require revision of the Basic Text in 36 languages. IP #1 would need to be revised in 57 languages, the Little White Book in 30 languages, the *Intro Guide* in 23 languages, and the meeting reading cards in 38 language versions. In short, this is not a small change.

We believe it would be unwise to undertake this many revisions and this lengthy a process in order to add one word. The idea in this motion could easily be included in the material provided to the project called for in Motion #14 if that motion is adopted. Given that fact, we believe it would be wise to commit Motion #15 to the board. If Motion #14 does not pass, the board will have a discussion and make a recommendation about how to move forward.

Motion 16 To direct the World Board to develop a project plan, for consideration at the next World Service Conference, to create a booklet of Step study questions where all answers relate to a line in Chapter Four in the Basic Text.

Maker: Baja Son Region

Co-makers: South Florida Region, México Occidente Región, Northern California Region, Southern California Region, San Diego Imperial Counties Region & Región de México

Intent: To create a fellowship approved, inexpensive, NA Step study questions booklet that relates directly back to the Basic Text.

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

Rationale by Region: Our region has had great success using an elemental, non-personal NA Step study material for many decades about the size of *The Group Booklet*. The step study booklet we have been working with contains questions and answers to study questions taken from chapter Four in the Basic Text. When the answers to study questions are the sentences in NA literature then issues of personality, ego, politics, religion and other affiliations are removed. The answer is always the original line in the Basic Text from which the question was created. We believe we are identifying a need not generally understood in the English-speaking part of our Fellowship. The result of this motion would be a Basic Text Step study booklet. Chapter Four of the Basic Text is included in the *Introductory Guide to NA* and when combined with an NA Step Study Questions booklet, we will have a less expensive and effective way to teach the NA program in NA group settings, one-on-one and into both the incarceration and treatment environment. Understanding the 12-Steps as described in the Basic Text provides a strong foundation for all members. The Basic Text is an uncomplicated, heartfelt piece of NA recovery literature which addicts can identify with and embrace. This Basic Text Step Study question guide could be translated early in a communities development or as translations are available. We want to share with you all this NA recovery tool that has been so successful for Baja Son.

World Board Response: This idea is included in the *CAR* survey (p. 39). Results of the *CAR* survey will help the conference decide on priorities and what work to undertake next. We are enthusiastic about tools that will encourage members to work the Steps, but as we have cautioned throughout this *Conference Agenda Report*, the list of work we are already committed to doing even before any decisions from WSC 2023 is daunting.

We support whatever priorities the conference decides upon for recovery literature, but we are duty bound to clarify that if this motion passes and this idea is prioritized by the conference, the project plan would follow our established Fellowship literature review process.

Fellowship ideas and input frame each literature project from the beginning, before any writing even begins to take place. We typically ask the Fellowship what they would like to see in a particular piece of literature, and we use their input to guide the project plan and then the work on the draft itself if the project plan is approved.

The process for creating NA literature involves collecting input, ideas, and writing from the Fellowship as a whole, compiling that input, reflecting those ideas back in a draft piece of literature, and then again asking the Fellowship for input on the draft. That process could create a very different result from what this motion is seeking. We cannot commit to a project that predetermines the outcome of the work before seeking input from all interested members. The worldwide collective process of creating NA literature is inclusive and dynamic. The rationale of this particular motion is, therefore, not something we could accomplish. It's contrary to the collaborative, worldwide process that creates NA literature to mandate the content, creation process, and format of a text before a project even begins. Much like our individual recovery journeys, it's not entirely possible to predict the end result before we begin.

LITERATURE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Resources related to literature development and translations that may be helpful when considering the following motions:

- Addendum E: List of materials we publish including translations, page 183
- NAWS Annual Report: www.na.org/ar
- Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust explanatory video and [Bulletin #34: Group Conscience and NA Literature](#) and [Bulletin #35: Narcotics Anonymous Copyrights and Literature](#). All are posted on this page: www.na.org/fipt
- Translation Basics: www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/TBasics_Feb2017.pdf
- NAWS Update: See link at bottom of www.na.org/aboutus
- Literature Timeline: www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/media/web/2018_Literature-Timeline.pdf

Motion 17 To place an 8 year moratorium on the creation of new recovery literature after WSC 2023, excluding all translations or literature projects currently in development.

Maker: California Inland Region

Intent: To suspend the creation of new literature for an 8 year period and free up NA resources to better focus on carrying the message rather than continual literature development.

Rationale by Region: A moratorium would give our fellowship an opportunity to work more fully with the literature we currently have published and allow international NA communities time to complete translations. NA has a greater body of literature available than ever before. While this has some advantages, the abundance of literature can also create confusion for newcomers.

Our fellowship needs time to work with and fully appreciate our current literature.

Financial Impact: It is not possible to estimate the financial impact of this motion. There could be a savings resulting from not funding literature projects and workgroups, but there could also be a loss from not producing any new literature for sale.

World Board Response: We do not believe this motion will accomplish its intent. Literature development and translations is not an either/or proposition. The World Board comprises members with six different primary languages, and none of us see a moratorium on literature creation as helpful to translation efforts. We believe that NA members want *both*. Both are crucial ways that we carry the message. As the motions above illustrate, the Fellowship continues to ask for new literature. If we stop developing literature, we lose that avenue to carry the message.

This motion appeared in the 2020 CAR, and at that time we attempted to clarify the translation process:

NA translations work is coordinated among a local translation committee (LTC) made up of committed members who are native speakers, NAWS staff, and contracted professionals. In most cases, we use the professional translator as a proofreader and copyeditor to go over the LTC's work. In some cases, a professional will also do some of the initial translations if the LTC is not able to. But it is critical that local members be involved to ensure that the language rings true to NA experience. LTC service is time-consuming and requires both skill and dedication. It takes a great deal of resources to produce translated literature, but the scarcest resource is actually human, particularly local LTC members.

(Motion #17 continued on next page)

As we said in 2020, the biggest challenge for translations is human resources. We are building back staff capacity, but we are not close to where we were before the pandemic, and members serving on local translation committees do the lion's share of the translations work.

We publish in 57 languages today. The literature list included in Addendum E of this CAR is testimony to the hard work of so many members and World Services' dedication to translations. We too look forward to a day when "every addict in the world has a chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture." This motion, however, would not free up resources for translations or production.

Motion 18 To direct the World Board to create a project plan for the next WSC to study permitting service committees of Narcotics Anonymous who are, or may be, willing to serve as literature printing/distribution and selling centers inside and outside the United States.

Maker: Tejas Bluebonnet Region

Intent: The intention is to study the impacts of permitting service committees of Narcotics Anonymous inside and outside the United States to print and distribute NA literature.

Rationale by Region: Literature printed and sold by local service committees could get the literature of the fellowship in the hands of the addicts at a lower total cost to the addict. As the revenue from literature sales reduces revenue flow to World, the donations must increase, or the services offered will have to be reduced. The fellowship has grown. We must allow the infra-structure of the fellowship across each country or zone, and around the world, to grow. The local fellowship(s) needs to increase their share of the burden of fellowship development if we are to continue thriving and growing as a whole. It is to better serve addicts by providing literature that is available to them at lower prices and/or costs. We recommend the project plan include a study group that shall consist of such members within or outside the fellowship as the World Board sees fit. We recommend that service committees shall maintain the quality of product already established by NAWS and that the service committees shall determine the price of the literature that they sell and the amount of revenue that they shall pass along to NAWS. We request that the study shall be completed and the results of the study shall be shared with conference participants no later than at the next WSC. Interim updates from the study group shall be provided to conference participants at each Conference Participant webinar and by email between the World Service Conferences.

Financial Impact: There is minimal cost in creating a project plan. The cost to NAWS would be in the project itself if the WSC were to adopt and prioritize the plan. The World Board response below speaks to some of the possible financial repercussions of the ideas in the region's rationale.

World Board Response: The issues this motion takes on are complicated, and we could take pages thoroughly explaining our objection. We have tried to summarize some of what is at stake concisely below. As with any of the issues in this CAR, we welcome any questions: wb@na.org

This motion seeks to study decentralization of literature production, with the rationale arguing for the benefits of local printing and the belief that it would result in cheaper literature. We believe the decentralization sought by this motion would undermine NA unity and dismantle the ability to provide mission-critical services, particularly to some areas of the world where NA is new or still in its early stages. Our literature is priced to help offset the cost of services and support, including providing literature to those who need it and protecting NA's intellectual property.

NA made a decision long ago, and has supported it ever since, to stay unified as a worldwide Fellowship, to have a single point of accountability for the production and protection of NA literature, and not to decentralize as some twelve-step fellowships have done.

(Motion #18 continued on next page)

World Services' Sales Policy Philosophy explains:

Our Mission is to provide services and support which facilitate the continuation and growth of Narcotics Anonymous worldwide. . . .

Since its inception, this policy has been founded upon two fundamental principles: equitable literature distribution, and overall fellowship continuity and growth through a centralized provision of services. Because of this function as a world level clearinghouse for information and guidance, the WSO provides services in addition to literature distribution. Broadly, these services include:

- Informational support to individuals, groups, areas, and regions, as well as local service committees, and
- Administrative support to Narcotics Anonymous World Services

Such services cost money. Thus, our literature is priced in such a way that the costs associated with providing them are offset, in part, by literature sales proceeds. It is only through members in more developed communities "giving it away" through literature purchases to members in developing communities that our growth and stability have been made possible. Our older members' willingness to shoulder the burden until our newer members are able to become self-supporting makes it possible for our message to be carried to more addicts each year, regardless of their ability to pay today. In this way, "we keep what we have by giving it away" through our sales policy as well as in our program.

NA World Services holds NA's literature in trust for the Fellowship to ensure the integrity of our common message on behalf of our members, now and in the future. We have a duty to ensure that Narcotics Anonymous literature contains text agreed upon by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. Without this single point of accountability, there is no real way to control what gets printed in NA's name and sold to NA meetings and members and to guard against the threat to the consistency of our message.

It's no secret that some NA members are attached to previously approved editions of the Basic Text and believe the "Baby Blue," a never-approved combination of previous editions, should be what is printed and distributed. What is to stop those members from making such a choice if they are in a position of authority to do local printing? That's just one example of the sort of editorial decision that could get made without centralized literature production.

The motion speaks to decentralization and the rationale speaks to cheaper literature. These are two very different goals for a project. We do enter into local printing agreements

in some places where we are not able to ship literature. But again, registering trademarks and copyrights, overseeing translations, keeping up with the revisions and changes approved by the Fellowship, and protecting NA's name in legal challenges—all of these things are costly services performed on behalf of the Fellowship and in harmony with group conscience. Our office in Europe is an example of regionalized or zonal literature distribution. WSO Europe sells literature that has already been translated, formatted, and

Excerpts from the Second Edition Basic Text that are preserved in the Baby Blue but not in current literature:

Tradition 4: One might ask, "Are we truly autonomous? What about our service committees, our offices, activities, hot lines, and all the other things that go on in N.A.?" The answer is that **these things are not N.A.***

Tradition 9: The Ninth Tradition goes on to define the nature of the things that we can do to help N.A. It says that we may create service boards or committees to serve the needs of the Fellowship. None of them has the power to rule, censor, decide, or dictate. They exist solely to serve the Fellowship, but **they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous.*** This is the nature of our service structure as it has evolved and been defined in the N.A. service manual.

**emphasis added, not bold in original text*

printed to European members and service bodies. The profits from literature sales at that office would not cover the costs of translations, production, trademarks, or copyrights in that zone.

The regional rationale advocates for diverting resources from NAWS, even if that means reducing the services offered by World Services. It also mentions reducing the price of literature, while maintaining the quality of literature and increasing Fellowship development efforts. We often receive a price break because of the size of print runs, and we have decades of experience in quality control, layout, and distribution. Our experience allows us to produce literature cost-effectively and efficiently. Coordinating layout, sourcing materials, overseeing printing, and keeping up with revisions of literature would be a logistical nightmare for most local service bodies. We do not believe all the goals in the rationale can be met without some parts of the world paying a price.

It's true that some service bodies might be able to print some of our literature more cheaply, but those cost savings would come at the expense of the whole. We translate literature into 57 languages, an accomplishment that is only possible with the help of volunteers, and produce more than 1,300 translated titles. Some of the literature we publish never makes money; we spend money in the translation and production process and give away most copies to communities in need, spending much money in shipping to make that happen. The regional rationale says we "must allow the infra-structure of the fellowship across each country or zone, and around the world, to grow," but the end result of decentralization would be to draw resources away from some places and concentrate them in others. This motion would withdraw help from communities that need it most.

If NA wants to redesign the system of literature production and distribution, this is not the way to go about it. In NA we help each other.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

The three motions in this section cover very different aspects of PR and H&I service: external research (Motion #19), NAWS web meetings (Motion #20), and the *H&I Handbook* (Motion #21).

Resources that may be helpful when considering the following motions include:

- NA's handbooks page (the *H&I Handbook* and *PR Handbook* are both posted here): www.na.org/handbooks
- Service Basics (including *H&I Basics*): www.na.org/basics
- NA web meetings and webinars: www.na.org/webinars
- Previous webinar recordings: www.na.org/webarchive

Motion 19 To direct the WB to create a virtual Institutional Review Board (IRB) to review all researchers and their research questions that request access to the Narcotics Anonymous population through NAWS to conduct research.

Maker: Wisconsin Region

Intent: To avoid the misuse of Narcotics Anonymous member information.

Rationale by Region: To ensure that the members of the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship are protected when NAWS is asking them to participate in surveys that are being led by non-NAWS researchers. According to the protected population clause of the American Psychological Association (APA), anyone who has a mental health diagnosis is taken into the protected population when conducting research, further our members, who are addicts are classified in the category of substance use disorder according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 5th Release (DSM-5), which classifies addiction as a mental illness. An

IRB would ensure that consent is given from each member, which would further ensure that our members understood what their answers were going to be used for, as well as ensuring that anonymity and clarity was offered to all who participated in the surveys. An IRB would ensure that ethical and safe practices are carried out for our members and the principles that our Fellowship stand by within our traditions are followed when allowing anyone to conduct research using the Narcotics Anonymous population. This IRB would review all research requests to ensure proper care with our member information.

Financial Impact: A virtual workgroup would have minimal direct costs.

World Board Response: World Services has successfully cooperated with outside researchers on a number of occasions, and the resulting research and articles have brought us closer to our vision that “Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.” We do not believe it is necessary to create an Institutional Review Board (IRB) because there are already safeguards in place to protect Narcotics Anonymous member information and avoid the “misuse” referenced in the motion’s intent.

The only research that NA World Services has agreed to assist with is on behalf of reputable medical researchers who have national and international reach in what they publish. As they are medical researchers, their projects and questions already go through a vetting process. The surveys we have posted to assist in their data collection are voluntary and anonymous. Their research has to be preapproved by a medical review board. Concerns about ethical and safe practices and clarity and consent are all part of the process they are already required to go through. Establishing an IRB at NA World Services would likely mean we would be unable to consider any of these requests because a medical review board is the final sign-off on a research survey. It would be a shame to go back to the days when NA is not cited in any research, and the published research on addiction is mostly funded by pharmaceutical companies.

We have not participated in many research projects. The World Board, who approves these activities, has been and will continue to be very cautious about what research NA World Services cooperates with by facilitating access to NA members.

IRBs are typically associated with the US Food and Drug Administration or research conducted through universities. NA World Services has never agreed to participate in university research projects because of their limited nature and scope. When we receive these types of requests, we forward them to the local delegate or service body to see whether they are willing to work with the request.

Many professionals who might not pay attention to NA if they heard about us elsewhere will listen to what reputable researchers have to say. Cooperating with researchers who are “friends of NA” helps NA’s public image, which means providers are more likely to refer addicts to NA and policymakers are more likely to consider NA a viable path to a new way of life. We are more able to help addicts when the public can see what we have to offer.

Motion 20 To direct NAWS to provide at na.org audio recordings of the worldwide webinars on the topics of Public Relations, Hospital & Institution, Step Writing for Inmates, Fellowship Development, Phone Line, and others.

Maker: Wisconsin Region

Intent: To provide access to any interested member of Narcotics Anonymous throughout the world so they can hear the Experience, Strength, and Hope (ESH) of members from other geographic parts of the world.

Rationale by Region: To gain a worldwide understanding of our Fellowship and the services being provided, when holding webinars on the topics of PR, H&I, Step Writing for Inmates, FD, and Phone Lines. This will also help to give information to those who are on different time zones so that they can gain the ESH of those webinars and have access to this helpful information.

(Motion #20 continued on next page)

Financial Impact: There would be an opportunity cost to implement this motion. It would take staff time to clean and post the recordings and to track down all of the necessary release forms.

World Board Response: We want to align our limited human resources where they can be the most beneficial, and we are skeptical that posting these recordings fits that bill. NAWS holds many different types of webinars and web meetings. This motion is asking that recordings of web meetings attended by the chairs of area, regional, or zonal PR or H&I committees be posted online. These meetings consist almost entirely of discussion among these PR or H&I trusted servants. (Phoneline, Inmate Step Writing, and Rural webinars have not been held this cycle because of low attendance.)

Posting the recordings to na.org would require slight cleaning of the recordings; obtaining written releases from all participants, which can be a bit of a challenge; and time to post them on our website. We believe there are more effective ways to provide interested members access to the information. We now create written summaries of each of the PR and H&I web meetings, and those summaries are available upon request.

We also hold quarterly web meetings, open to all members, on topics of Fellowship interest. We post audio recordings of these open web meetings, but NA members do not seem to be very interested in accessing the postings. We do not currently have the ability to track the number of downloads, but none of the recordings is in the top 200 accessed files on na.org. Our first PR and H&I webinars open to all members are scheduled for November 2022.

We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our communications and how to best respond to members' needs.

Motion 21 To direct NA World Services to remove the Hospitals and Institutions Handbook from the inventory.

Maker: Free State Region

Intent: To remove an outdated service manual from WSO inventory

Rationale by Region: The *H&I Handbook* has not been updated since the 1980's and with our current literature update process, will never be prioritized high enough. We believe a better approach would be to update the *Public Relations Handbook* Chapter 6 (Criminal Justice) resource section and *H&I Basics* with more information relevant to current practices and methods for carrying our message that could include using virtual platforms and tools. We believe this will better serve our trusted servants involved in H&I service by providing more current and better tools

Financial Impact: There would be minimal financial impact from this motion. The sales of this item are low.

World Board Response: We recognize that the *H&I Handbook* is very out of date, but that it is still used by some members. The *H&I Handbook* was written in 1986 and revised in 1997. *H&I Basics* was created in 2010. We agree that it needs to be updated.

We understand this motion's concern that new communities not translate an obsolete handbook. At the same time, some members are reluctant to remove access to NA service material even if it is outdated. We recently reorganized our [handbooks](http://www.na.org/handbooks) and [basics](http://www.na.org/basics) web pages (www.na.org/handbooks and www.na.org/basics). Because of similar concerns, we added this note partway down the handbooks page: "The handbooks below are some of our older service resources, many of which have not been revised for some time. Printed copies of these will be discontinued when current stocks expire." The handbooks below the note are at least 24 years old: phonelines, newsletters, outreach, and literature committee handbooks.

WSC POLICIES

The final four motions are about conference policies. Motion #22 was in the 2020 CAR, and our response is much the same. Motions #23 and #24 involve streaming the WSC and conference participant web meetings. Motion #25 is about voting processes.

A resource that may be helpful in considering these motions is *A Guide to World Services in NA*:

- www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/handbooks/2020-2023%20draft%20GWSNA%20to%20post%20updated%20service%20diagram.pdf

Motion 22 If any Motion or Proposal, in Content or Intent, has been submitted and failed to achieve consensus or adoption at two consecutive World Service Conferences, the previously proposed Content and Intent may not be suggested to the Fellowship in the *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)*/ Conference Approval Track (CAT) or at the WSC for one entire conference cycle.

Maker: Southern California Region

Intent: To use the Fellowship's decision-making processes and time responsibly and effectively.

Rationale by Region: By temporarily setting aside ideas and motions that have not been developed fully, this motion gives the WSC the opportunity to focus its limited time and resources on issues that have garnered a wide attention and direction for the body to decide. It also allows the makers of these motions time to develop the idea and build greater understanding and consensus within the Fellowship. This motion allow us to improve in how we carry out our services and try to learn from challenges and processes that do not yield a consistent or beneficial result.

Financial Impact: None.

World Board Response: We understand and appreciate the underlying intention of this motion. This motion seems to be about better aligning our processes with consensus-based decision making: If the same idea has been discussed repeatedly and is not supported, to allow the conference to take some time before picking the idea up again.

We agree with that idea, but we believe the motion as it is written would be difficult to implement and could have unintended consequences. The motion says that an item with the same "content or intent" could not be introduced for a cycle if it is not adopted for two WSCs in a row.

There are several potential challenges that we can see. Motions can easily have the same or similar intent while addressing very different issues. This motion itself, for instance, has the intent "To use the Fellowship's decision-making processes and time responsibly and effectively." It's easy to imagine that same intent in a motion to cap the number of motions in old business or limit the amount of time the body can discuss a single item before making a decision. Those would be very different motions with the same intent.

We are also not sure how the WSC would account for motions with minor differences. In addition, the motion doesn't leave room for new information that might arise, which would motivate the WSC to want to consider the same issue again.

We appreciate the spirit of the motion. Vetting motions is a topic that has already come up as material for a Future of the WSC workgroup, and we believe a project workgroup could productively discuss the idea and recommend processes for consideration.

Motion 23 All in person and virtual World Service Conferences will be streamed to provide access to NA members in English audio.

Maker: Kentuckiana Bluegrass Appalachian Region

Co-makers: Upper Rocky Mountain Region, Russian-Speaking Zone, Western Russia Region, North-West Russia Region

Intent: To allow the entire NA membership a better understanding of what takes place at the World Service Conference.

Rationale by Region: “Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.” Concept 7.

This would provide an opportunity for the fellowship to gain a greater understanding of what takes place during the World Service Conference. Members in unseated regions can make better informed decisions regarding their local service bodies in relation to the whole NA fellowship. Service bodies that are requesting seating at the World Service Conference or members that are considering serving in a World Service Conference trusted servant position could better understand the responsibilities that they are volunteering for.

In *A Guide to World Services*, a statement could be added to the section currently titled “The Biennial Meeting of the World Service Conference” that states that at least the audio content of the World Service Conference is live streamed, being mindful to adhere to the principles protecting each member’s right to maintaining personal anonymity.

Financial Impact: The financial impact of this motion would depend on the technology we utilize.

World Board Response: WSC participants make decisions that change the way business is done almost every conference. Some of those changes are procedural, and some are mechanical. In recent years, participants have made many decisions related to technology: using electronic “clickers” to vote, holding the first (and second) virtual WSC, making decisions by e-poll outside of session hours, e-polling initial straw polls in advance of the WSC, and more. The point is that operations of the WSC have changed at almost every conference with the consent of the participants. Sometimes participants decide to try something for one WSC and see if it seems to work well, in which case they can make a decision to implement it on an ongoing basis, and change WSC policy accordingly.

Allowing participants to make decisions about the processes that affect the WSC meeting is significantly more nimble than making these types of changes through the CAR. Given the speed with which technology changes—and the challenges predicting the needs of the WSC in the wake of the pandemic—maintaining a nimble, responsive approach seems more realistic and prudent than mandating policy changes through CAR motions.

The conference has already begun discussing options about streaming the WSC. We initially had this discussion in 2020, and the people who are most impacted—the participants whose anonymity was at stake—were not in consensus. It’s one of the topics that the board asked participants about in May at the interim conference meeting to get a sense of what participants were comfortable with, given anonymity concerns. This is an ongoing discussion.

The last two WSCs have been streamed from Zoom to YouTube. The main language of the Zoom connection, which is English, is currently the only Zoom feed that can be streamed. Our plans are to also stream WSC 2023, at a minimum in audio, if conference participants concur. We believe that is what the motion is asking for, and we maintain that these types of operational decisions should be left to the WSC to decide and not mandated through a CAR motion.

It is worth noting that there are typically a very small number of connections when we stream these types of events. There is simply not broad appeal among members, and that appeal is further eroded

by the limits of the technology: Breakout discussions and translations cannot easily be streamed. Even NAWS open webinars on topics of broad Fellowship interest have scant YouTube streamers. So few people access the audio recordings that we post written reports to www.na.org/webarchive as well. Again, these types of decisions should be left to conference participants to decide.

Motion 24 All Conference Participant webinars will be streamed to provide access to NA members in English audio.

Maker: Kentuckiana Bluegrass Appalachian Region

Co-makers: Upper Rocky Mountain Region, Russian-Speaking Zone, Western Russia Region, North-West Russia Region

Intent: To allow the entire NA membership a better understanding of what takes place during CP Webinars.

Rationale by Region: “Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.” Concept 7.

This would provide an opportunity for the fellowship to gain a greater understanding of what takes place during the Conference Participants Webinars. Members in unseated regions can make better informed decisions regarding their local service bodies in relation to the whole NA fellowship. Service bodies that are requesting seating at the WSC or members that are considering serving in a CP trusted servant position could better understand the responsibilities that they are volunteering for.

In *A Guide to World Services*, a statement could be added to the bottom of the list that states that at least the audio of the CP webinars is live streamed, being mindful to adhere to the principles protecting each member’s right to maintain personal anonymity. CP Webinars otherwise have no policy directly set in *GTWS* at this time.

Financial Impact: The cost would depend on the method used to stream, but would likely not cost anything above the expense already involved with making the WSC accessible to all participants.

World Board Response: Allowing participants to make decisions about the processes that affect their meetings, including conference participant web meetings, is significantly more nimble than making these types of changes through the *CAR*. Given the speed with which technology changes, maintaining a nimble responsive approach seems more realistic and prudent than mandating policy changes through *CAR* motions. Sometimes participants decide to do something on a trial basis, and if it works well, they can decide to implement it on an ongoing basis and change policy accordingly.

The conference has already begun discussing options about streaming the WSC meeting itself. We initially had this discussion in 2020, and the people who are most impacted—the participants whose anonymity was at stake—were not in consensus. It’s one of the topics that the board asked participants about in May at the interim conference meeting to get a sense of what participants were comfortable with, given anonymity concerns. Whether to stream the WSC is an ongoing discussion.

Participants have not had the same discussion about streaming the CP web meetings, though when participants were polled about opening the CP discussion board for public viewing at WSC 2018, they did not support the idea. Conference participant web meetings happen throughout the cycle. Not all participants attend, and they focus on reporting, discussion, and questions and answers. They utilize interpretation feeds in multiple languages, none of which could be streamed, and they often feature small-group discussion, which also would not be able to be streamed.

There are typically a very small number of connections when we stream these types of events. There is simply not broad appeal among members, and that appeal is further eroded by the limits of the technology: Breakout discussions and translations cannot easily be streamed. Even NAWS open webinars

on topics of broad Fellowship interest have scant YouTube streamers. So few people access the audio recordings that we post written reports to www.na.org/webarchive as well.

We post reports summarizing conference participant web meetings to the CP Dropbox. Participants are welcome to share these reports if there is interest, but again, interest seems to be minimal. We would like to be able to align our limited human resources where they can be the most beneficial.

Again, these types of operational decisions should be left to conference participants to decide and not mandated through a *CAR* motion.

Motion 25 All votes and straw polls on motions that were included in the *Conference Agenda Report* or the Conference Approval Track, not to include election ballots, will be displayed in real time for all Conference Participants to see, showing who voted and how they voted.

Maker: Kentuckiana Bluegrass Appalachian Region

Co-makers: Russian-Speaking Zone, Western Russia Region, North-West Russia Region

Intent: To see how each Conference Participant votes on each motion.

Rationale by Region: This information would be helpful to understand where other Conference Participants stand with their decisions, if a Conference Participant is still unsure of what their vote will be. "Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications." Concept 7.

We believe each individual Conference Participant's decision on each topic is valuable information in forming Consensus.

Our Fellowship goes to great lengths to encourage and ensure a diverse WSC population. When we utilize secret ballots, we lose helpful information that may not get communicated from Conference Participants that have difficulty expressing themselves in the English language. Some Conference Participants are not called on or lack the verbal communication skills to participate during open discussion and debate. With a public ballot voting system, we would be shown the information of how they voted, even if we weren't given an opportunity to hear why they voted that way.

We appreciate the amount of information shared in a roll call vote process, and the efficiency of the standard voting process. By changing the settings in the handheld clickers, we can have the best of both processes.

Conference Participants who do not possess specific decisions by the time they reach the WSC can benefit from seeing the diversity of their peer communities' choices.

Policy Affected:

A Guide to World Services in NA

WSC Decision Making Processes Addendum, currently page 67–68

After discussion on a motion has ended, the conference decides the issue by a vote. The following rules apply to voting at the World Service Conference:

1. Voting occurs in one of the following two ways:
 - a. Standard vote (using electronic voting pads) - The facilitator first asks if there are any objections to the motion. If none are voiced, the facilitator declares that the motion passes by unanimous consent. If there is any objection, the facilitator asks those in favor of the motion to respond by pressing "1/a" on their voting pad, then asks those opposed

to the motion to respond by pressing “2/b,” then asks those abstaining to respond by pressing “3/c,” and then asks those present and not voting to respond by pressing “4/d.”

- b. Roll call vote - Any member can request a roll call vote. Upon recognizing the request, the facilitator will ask the body. If the decision is in support of a roll call vote, the facilitator calls the name of each participant registered at the most recent roll call. When called, the participant responds by stating either “yes,” “no,” “abstain,” or “present and not voting.”

After all responses are tabulated, the facilitator announces the number of votes in favor, the number of votes opposed, the number of abstentions, and the number of those present and not voting, and then if the motion was approved or rejected.

Financial Impact: This would require new voting technology, and the cost is uncertain.

World Board Response: Typically, WSC participants decide the operational details of decision making at the conference, rather than mandating rules through *CAR* motions. We believe that is the most appropriate and practical approach.

We have been investigating new voting technology. The company that makes the technology we used at the 2016 and 2018 WSC no longer exists, and we are looking for an approach to polling and voting that will better suit a hybrid conference, rather than the “clickers” we used previously. We are aware that many participants will be unable to obtain visas for WSC 2023, and some may opt not to attend in person because of health considerations.

Thus far, the options we have looked at all feature confidential voting as the default or the only option. The e-polling software that the WSC currently uses lets us know who voted and verifies that there is only one vote from each participant, but how each participant votes is anonymous by design. There is no way to reveal how each participant votes. This appears to be the most common industry standard.

The WSC has been evolving to a consensus-based decision-making process, and in that spirit has made a number of changes to processes, all of which seem to clash with the intention of this motion. The WSC has decided, when meeting in person, that when a vote or poll is taken, the screen will display who has and hasn’t voted, but not how anyone voted. That said, there are no “secret ballots” at the conference, with the exception of elections. Voice vote was the primary means for deciding things at the WSC for decades, and now voting is done electronically. Participants have the right to choose a roll call vote for any decision, but the body has decided to move away from roll call and standing votes. This evolution over the past ten years has helped to eliminate peer pressure and strengthen the consensus-building process. The only time that how individual participants vote becomes an issue for the body is when there is consensus on an item and participants who are not part of the consensus are asked if they want to speak.

Trying to match the technology to the demands of a *CAR* motion will limit our options and will restrict the WSC’s ability to make decisions and do its work. To give two examples, initial straw polls on all *CAR* motions and amendments are now taken in advance of the meeting, with results posted on na.org. This makes business much more efficient and helps the Cofacilitators plan the order of business at the meeting. It also gives participants a sense of where the body as a whole stands on each motion. The WSC has also elected, at the past two conferences, to make some decisions outside of sessions by e-poll. Both of these things—initial straw polls in advance of the meeting and e-polling after sessions, would be impossible if this motion were to pass. Given the fact that the upcoming conference will be unlike any we have ever had—more hybrid than any in history—it seems wise to allow participants the flexibility to make operational and procedural decisions as necessary and not tie their hands through a *CAR* motion.