

Here is the CAR tally form.

[2023 CAR SoCal Region Tally Form](#)

So Cal Region RCM Tally Form for 2023 CAR Votes -- 1 vote per area per motion

Email *

Which Area Service Committee are you from? *

Area Title *

Only one vote per area will be recorded. RCM/RCM Alternates are preferred but Service Area Committee members may vote in their absence of an RCM/RCMA if guidelines permit.

Motion 1

Maker: World Board

Intent: To reflect the decision at WSC 2018 to make delegates from seated zones voting WSC participants and honor the six-month Fellowship review of this proposal that occurred from December 2020 through May 2021.

Financial Impact: None at this time.

Policy Affected: These changes are from Pages 1 and 2 of the *FIPT* in Addendum A (clean copy) and

Addendum B (changes shown in CAR)

ARTICLE II: PARTIES TO THE TRUST

The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, as given voice by its groups through their delegates at the World Service Conference (WSC), is the Settlor and the Trustor. The delegates are the representatives elected by the regions and zones seated at the World Service Conference. Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. is the Trustee of the Trust. The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole is the Beneficiary of the Trust.

ARTICLE III: IDENTITY OF TRUST PROPERTY

The Trust Property includes all recovery literature, trademarks, service marks, copyrights, and all other intellectual property of the Fellowship. From time to time, the Trustor may add to, modify, or delete property from the Trust. All additions made to the Fellowship's recovery literature, trademarks, service marks, copyrights and all other intellectual property by Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. shall additionally be considered property subject to this Trust. However, note that NA service handbooks and other service materials approved by NA's World Service Conference are specifically excluded from the purview of this Trust.

Recovery literature should be taken to mean any Narcotics Anonymous book, booklet, or pamphlet intended primarily for use by individual NA members or for use or distribution within the context of an NA recovery meeting. Only NA recovery literature is designated as Fellowship Approved. *Service materials* should be taken to mean those materials intended primarily for use within the context of an NA service board or committee.

Motion 1 Vote *

To approve adding zonal delegates from seated zones to the Settlor and Trustor of the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT)*.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 2

Maker: World Board

Intent: To revise the Operational Rules to reflect discussions at WSC 2018 about the Inspection of Trustee Activities and to reflect current practices, terms, and language.

Financial Impact: None at this time.

Policy Affected: Would replace the existing policy that is struck through in Addendum B and shown as

revised in Addendum A.

A summary of the proposed changes shown in Addendum B includes:

- A change to the Inspection Clause to reflect discussions at WSC 2018 and clarify that only the WSC can act for the beneficiary—the NA Fellowship as a whole.
- Various “housekeeping” edits:
 - Changes throughout to update the references to WSC Boards and Committees to better reflect

our current structure. The *FIPT* was written before the World Board was created. The suggested

language in the proposed revisions describes our current system, not that of 1993.

- More consistent terminology to refer to the *World Service Conference (WSC)*, *Narcotics Anony-*

mous World Services, Inc. (NA World Services).

- Two edits to Article 4, Section 12: Trustee Reporting Obligation on page 15 to change *calendar*

year to each fiscal year and to add independent to the description of the annual audit.

- Changing *representatives, conference participants,* and *RDs to delegates* throughout. While all of these terms are widely understood in NA, this is a legal document and consistency in terminology is important, and *conference participants* has no clear legal definition.
- Correcting errors by adding the word *the* on page 24 and other edits on pages 15 and 31.
- A change to the way the Inspection Clause is described on page 37 of the Reader's Notes so that the description reflects the changes suggested to the Inspection Clause itself.

Motion 2 Vote *

To approve the revisions to the *FIPT* Operational Rules contained in Addendum B.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 3

Maker: World Board

Intent: To revise this bulletin so that it provides more direct and clear guidance, and so that it reflects

current practices, terms, and language.

Financial Impact: None that can be anticipated at this time.

Policy Affected: Would replace the existing policy with Addendum C and with the changes reflected in Addendum D.

This bulletin has been largely rewritten. A clean copy of the bulletin with proposed revisions is contained in Addendum C. A copy tracking the proposed changes is included in Addendum D.

A summary of the proposed changes to *Intellectual Property Bulletin #1* includes:

- Permission would be required to reprint book-length pieces.

- Current policy that was not clearly expressed in the bulletin has been added to the text. Groups are only allowed to reproduce currently approved versions of recovery literature, as that is all that NAWS is authorized to publish and distribute, and this permission does not include electronic or online formats.
- The introduction has been rewritten and the section on copyright has been moved ahead of the section on trademarks.
- Some copyediting changes are suggested, such as using the term *policy* throughout the document, rather than a mix of *policy* and *guidelines*.

Motion 3 Vote *

To approve the revisions to NA *Intellectual Property Bulletin #1* contained in Addendum D.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 4

Maker: World Board

Intent: To recognize NA groups that meet virtually, including online and by phone.

Policy Affected: None as this creates new policy.

Motion 4 Vote *

To acknowledge that an NA meeting that meets regularly in person or virtually can choose to be an NA group if they meet the criteria described in *The Group Booklet*, including the six points for an NA group, and are consistent with NA philosophy as expressed in our Traditions. *(Footnotes will be added to The Group Booklet and GLS, reflecting the decision of the WSC, if this motion passes, and referencing Virtual Meeting Basics as a possible resource.)*

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 5

Maker: World Board

Intent: To revise the Vision Statement to be more inclusive.

Policy Affected: If this motion is adopted, A Vision for NA Service would be updated wherever it appears in service material and Fellowship-approved recovery literature. In addition, the reference in *Guiding Principles* shown below will be revised as shown. We will deplete existing stock of service material and recovery literature, and revise in future printings.

A Vision for NA Service

All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous are inspired by the primary purpose of our groups. Upon this common ground we stand committed.

Our vision is that one day:

- Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in their own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;
- Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;
- NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery;
- Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of our service efforts, all of which rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power.

Guiding Principles, “Tradition Six,” In Service:

“A Vision for NA Service says that we aspire to a time when ‘every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in their own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life.’”

Motion 5 Vote *

To revise A Vision for NA Service, changing the phrase “his or her own language and culture” to the phrase “their own language and culture.” (*If this motion passes, A Vision for NA Service will be revised in future printings, including in Fellowship-approved recovery literature.*)

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 6

Maker: World Board

Intent: To better reflect our Vision that “every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in [their] own language and culture . . .” in our primary text.

Policy Affected: *A Guide to World Services in NA*, page 42:

Basic Text and Little White Book Personal Stories

With the adoption of the Sixth Edition Basic Text, we now have a collection of personal stories that reflects the global nature of the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship. The personal stories in the Basic Text communicate the NA message to those who are looking for help, to NA members, and to anyone who picks up a Basic Text. Because of the global nature of the Sixth Edition personal stories, we believe that only the stories approved by the Fellowship in the Sixth Edition, either in their entirety or a selection of them, should appear in translated versions of the Basic Text. The only exception is the Little White Book stories noted below.

Our experience has shown that creating, collecting, and approving personal stories is a difficult task. If a local NA community with a history of successful translation efforts wishes to develop local stories, they may do so for the Little White Book. We ask that these communities contact NA World Services before they begin this process so that we can work together in the process of creation and approval. We hope that this communication will help to minimize some of the issues we have had with approving personal stories sent to us in the past.

Local communities or language groups that have stories published in the Little White Book may choose up to six of them for inclusion in their Sixth Edition Basic Text. These stories will be published in a clearly identified section of the Basic Text.

Existing translations of the Basic Text are not affected by this change. 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 developed 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.

Motion 6 Vote *

To approve a change to World Services Translation Policy in *GWSNA* to allow the possibility for up to six locally developed personal stories to be included in translated Sixth Edition Basic Texts, if the stories have first been published in the Little White Book

of that language. These stories would be placed in their own section in Our Members Share with the following language preceding them:

A Vision for NA Service looks forward to a day when addicts around the world have the opportunity to experience our message in their own language and culture. In pursuit of that vision, communities or language groups that have published local stories in the Little White Book may include up to six of those stories in the Basic Text if they choose. These [fill in the number] stories were originally published in the [fill in the language] Little White Book in [fill in the year].

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 7

Maker: World Board

Intent: To accommodate the change to the WSC cycle that has already occurred and avoid World Board terms ending in the middle of a conference cycle.

Policy Affected: None

Motion 7 Vote *

To extend the six World Board members' terms currently expiring in 2024 through the end of the upcoming World Service Conference cycle.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 8

Maker: World Board

Intent: Given the disruption in the rotation of WSC and WCNA that has already occurred, the increases in event costs, and the other changes brought about by the pandemic, to allow an evaluation by the World Board and approval by conference participants for what is possible and practical in the future.

Policy Affected: If this motion is adopted, a note would be added to the policy listed below that this Rotation Plan is suspended until a new decision can be made.

(see CAR for proposed policy changes)

Motion 8 Vote *

As a result of the COVID pandemic, to suspend the World Convention of NA (WCNA) rotation policy after 2024, to allow the World Board to determine what is possible and practical moving forward and then seek approval from conference participants.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 9

Maker: World Board

Intent: To put into practice some of what we've learned during the pandemic so that we can shift more resources to work that more directly carries the message. This would bring the WSC resource allocation in line with other changes that have been made in World Services—cuts in staff levels and a 50% reduction in in-person board meetings.

Policy Affected: If this motion is adopted, a footnote would be added to *GWSNA* about this trial. References to *biennial* and *two year* would be changed. Examples are included below to give a sense of the changes throughout. All of the changes will be included in the draft of *GWSNA* distributed to conference participants for review early in the cycle after WSC 2023.

Guide to World Services in NA

World Service Conference

Page 2

The final part of our service structure is the World Service Conference (WSC). It is the nerve center of our Fellowship. Our Conference is both an entity and an event; it is where all of our world services come together to exchange ideas and have discussions. Those discussions happen at the in-person meeting and through virtual and in-person discussions throughout the conference cycle.

Page 7

That vision continues. In each meeting of the World Service Conference, and through all of the work participants do as a Conference throughout the cycle, our Fellowship comes

together to share experience, strength, and hope; to build relationships; and to fellowship and serve with NA members from around the world.

The Meeting of the World Service Conference Page 8

The World Service Conference is held in person every three years with virtual meetings scheduled mid-cycle.

The Conference Report

Page 19

The *Conference Report* is released immediately before each in-person World Service Conference. It contains information to conference participants about the activities of World Services in order to help them prepare for the meeting.

Motion 9 Vote *

To approve a three-year World Service Conference cycle on a trial basis following WSC 2023 through WSC 2029. Following 2029, the WSC cycle would return to two years, unless another decision is made.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 10

Maker: World Board

Intent: To allow conference participants to address some WSC business between in-person conference meetings.

Policy Affected: None.

Motion 10 Vote *

If Motion 9 is adopted, to approve an interim virtual WSC in the middle of the conference cycle for decisions that are legally necessary and those that conference participants choose to address. As was done in the 2020–2023 cycle, material would be posted on na.org under the same deadline policies as the CAT (90 days prior) and all voting conference participants would be polled to choose the items they wish to address.

- Yes
- No

- Abstain

Motion 11

Maker: World Board

Intent: To release the *CAR* earlier to allow more time for its review. **Policy Affected:**

A Guide to World Services in NA, page 19:

The Conference Agenda Report (CAR)

The *Conference Agenda Report* is distributed a minimum of one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the opening day of the conference, with translated versions released a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) days prior. The amount of material translated can vary, but minimally the front portion of the *CAR* (which contains the reports, proposals, and motions before the conference) is translated into as many languages as possible. The report contains the proposals and motions that the Fellowship is being asked to consider and form a fellowship-wide group conscience on. At a minimum, the *CAR* will be posted at no cost to members on na.org. The *Conference Agenda Report* also includes an easy-to-read glossary of terms.

The *Conference Agenda Report* includes items for fellowship discussion and decision, including reports, proposals, and motions from the World Board and any motions submitted from regions or zones. (Regional and zonal motions will be included in their own section and have the same number or letter when presented on the conference floor.) Regional and zonal motions for inclusion in the *CAR* must be submitted two hundred and seventy (270) days prior to the opening of the conference. All motions will include a written intent. Regions and zones should briefly (in approximately 250 words) describe the reasoning behind, and consequences of, their regional or zonal motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*. The World Board also includes a recommendation in order to provide the Fellowship with as much information as possible when considering the idea.

A Guide to World Services in NA, page 44: Approval Process for Recovery Literature B. Approval-form Literature

1. Approval-form literature is prepared by the World Board and is distributed for a period of time, considering translations, determined by the World Board of not less than one hundred eighty (180) days. The length of this approval period is determined by the World Board based on the needs of the Fellowship and the piece being considered for approval.

Motion 11 Vote *

If Motion 9 is adopted, to approve a change to the release of the *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)* to be thirty days earlier than the current policy of 150 days prior to the start of the World Service Conference. The new *CAR* release day would be 180 days prior to

the in-person WSC meeting for English, 150 days for translated versions. The deadline for the finalization of regional and zonal motions would be 270 days. The *Conference Agenda Report* will be posted on na.org at no cost to members.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 12

Maker: World Board

Intent: To encourage service bodies to fund their delegates, but ensure that regions and zones that

need the funding are able to have it.

Policy Affected: *A Guide to World Services in NA*, page 31:

Operational Guidelines of the WSC

44. The World Service Conference offers funding, upon request, for the attendance of a delegate from each seated region or zone to the meeting of the WSC. This funding includes travel, lodging, and meal expenses only. This policy covers all currently seated regions and zones that have attended one of the past three conferences.

45. 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 and alternate to the World Service Conference to represent those regions or communities.

Motion 12 Vote *

To change the current policy of NA World Services automatically funding delegates from seated regions and zones to the WSC to funding available upon request.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 13

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 13 Vote *

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.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 14

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 world- wide 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 14 Vote *

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.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 15

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 15 Vote *

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.”

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 16

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.

Motion 16 Vote *

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.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 17

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

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 17 Vote *

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.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 18

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.

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 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 infrastructure 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.

Motion 18 Vote *

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.

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Motion 19

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 Instituti
