

**WNYRSCNA
RD Report**

**Submitted By: Jim L.
Date: 5/17/14**

Since the last meeting of this body, this RD has attended to the following service commitments:

- Reviewed, researched, engaged in dialogue specific to this Conference Cycle's WSC 2014 CAR/CAT Reports
 - Prepared and distributed CAR/CAT 2014 Tally Sheets
- Attended meeting of Buffalo Area Service (April 2014)
 - Focus: address the CAR and CAT Reports for WSC
 - Provided updated copies of CAR/CAT Tally Sheets
 - Collected CAR/CAT Tally Sheets
- Presented CAR/CAT Workshops @ Amity Club
- Attended required service events

All of the preceding was for the purpose of gaining input, so that the home groups and individual members of the Fellowship of the region of Western New York could if they so choose to do so participate in the review, discussion, and presentation of their conscience concerning the WSC 2014 CAR/CAT. As it was previously stated in the last RD report, the Fellowship is in transition and a clear voice regarding the SSP continued to be debated indicating the absence of a mandate from the Fellowship. In an attempt to address the apparent apathy or lack of effective communication at area service and home group levels, your regional delegates along with the RCMs of each area continued to spread the word about the 2014 WSC and the CAR/CAT Reports. The desire to be part of the process was revealed during the gathering and carrying of the conscience of Western New York regarding the issues before the Fellowship this conference cycle. Although there may still be degrees of apathy and need for improved communication; as well as more effective delivery of services to the Western New York fellowship, the number of CAR/CAT Tally sheets gathered this cycle most definitely confirm Western New York as a region that is getting more involved in the process of participation.

It should be noted that of the 212 home groups in the Western New York Region 98 groups submitted their conscience. The region has not seen this level of participation since it initially began gathering conscience to carry to WSC. This represents a 46% participation rate of the home groups. As previously informed this RD conducted an experiment intended to determine the accuracy and therefore validity of the gathering of home group conscience. Individual CAR/CAT Tally sheets were gathered from around the Region's area home group members. The number of individual tallies totaled 112. They were then tabulated and compared against the home group tally sheets. The comparison showed no statistical difference between the method for gathering conscience and that the individual voice of the participants represented the voice of the home groups. Those who individually participated revealed through self-disclosure that their participation involved discussion at the home group level.

The following are the home group tallies, individual member tallies, and WSC votes:

Motion 1: To approve the draft contained in Addendum A as IP #29, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*.

Yea 91 Nay 0 Abstain 0
Yea 111 Nay 1 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Passes Unanimously

Motion 2: To adopt the following as WSC policy: “Seating at the biennial meeting of the WSC is limited to one delegate per region.

Yea 8 Nay 90 Abstain 0
Yea 2 Nay 110 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Failed to Pass (Voice Vote)

Motion 3: To adopt the following as WSC policy: “The World Service Conference does not automatically fund attendance of delegates. Delegates from regions that are unable to fully fund themselves may request funding from the World Board.”

Yea 7 Nay 98 Abstain 0
Yea 1 Nay 111 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Failed to Pass (64/44/0/4)

Motion 4: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains group support forums: discussion-oriented gatherings focused on the needs of the group, as described by the characteristics below.

Characteristic of a GSF:

Essential:

- **Discussion-oriented**
- **Group-focused:** Focused on the needs of the group; decisions related to area business are not made here. Some limited functions like finding volunteers for H&I panels, planning picnics, etc., may take place.
- **Training-oriented:** This is a venue ideal for orienting new members, holding workshops, and training trusted servants.
- **Open to all:** All interested members, not just group representatives, are encouraged to attend.

Recommended:

- **Neighborhood-sized:** The original Service System Proposals see group support forums as significantly smaller than local service conferences or area service committees. There would be several for each LSC. However, we have found through filed testing that some communities prefer to bring all of the groups and interested members together for one communitywide support forum.

Yea 7 Nay 91 Abstain 0
Yea 1 Nay 111 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Passes (78/28/0/1)

Motion 5: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains local service conferences: strategic service-oriented planning conferences as described by the characteristics below.

Characteristic of a local service conference:

Essential

- **Plan-driven:** The LSC works according to a planning cycle which begins with an annual planning assembly. All interested members gather at the planning assembly to set the priorities for the cycle ahead and provide input that will shape the resulting project plans and budget.
- **Form follows function:** Utilizes a thoughtful mixture of project-based services, services performed by committees, and services organized by a coordinator. How services are delivered (whether by committee, project workgroup, or a coordinator) is a decision made by the local service conference.
- **Strategic:** Discussion and decisions are as much as possible concerned with strategic direction and oversight. Administrative decisions and “micromanagement” are delegated to the local service board.
- **Consensus-based:** Utilizes consensus-based decision-making where practical (i.e., voting may still be the most logical way to handle elections or instances where the body fails to reach consensus and a decision must be made).

Recommended:

- **Meets quarterly:** The proposal suggest the local service conference meets four times a year for planning and oversight and the local service board meets monthly. In practice, when field testing, some communities determined that having the local service conference meet every other month better served their needs. One meeting of the LSC a year is devoted to the annual planning assembly.
- **Defined by county, city, or town boundaries:** The reasons for this recommendation are threefold: 1. To avoid duplication of services. 2. To make NA more visible to professionals and addicts who are trying to find us; and 3. To make sure all parts of a state or nation are covered by a service body. Making sure these three things happen is more important than a policy about service body boundaries. What seems crucial is better communication and collaboration with our neighbors with an eye to having a conversation about possible reunification down the road. The third item, making sure that all parts of a state or nation are served by NA, is something that probably cannot be adequately addressed in most places until we get to the state/nation/province part of the service system.

Yea 7 Nay 91 Abstain 0
Yea 1 Nay 111 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Passes (76/33/0/1)

Motion 6: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains local service boards: a body overseen by the local service conference that administers the work prioritized by the LSC, as described in the characteristics below.

Characteristics of an LSB:

Essential:

- **Responsible to the LSC:** Reports to and is overseen by the local service conference.

- **Carries out the priorities of the LSC:** The board oversees the work to accomplish its goals set by the local service conference. They present a budget and project plans to the LSC for approval, and they coordinate the service work of the committees, workgroups, and coordinators.
- **Meets monthly:** It seems practical to meet on a regular basis, though not all meetings of the LSB must be face-to-face. Some LSBs may choose to hold meetings online for convenience.
- **Administers the LSC meetings:** The local service board is responsible for putting together the agenda and facilitating the LSC meeting, including organizing the annual planning assembly to get information from the whole NA community.

Recommended:

- **Consists of admin body and service coordinators:** The proposals conceived of the local service board as a monthly meeting of the trusted servants elected by the LSC (the admin body) as well as the subcommittee chairs, project coordinators, and other service coordinators. In practice, there may be meetings where not all of these trusted servants are needed.

Yea 7 Nay 91 Abstain 0
 Yea 1 Nay 111 Abstain 0
 WSC Vote: Passes (75/33/1/2)

Motion #7: Suspend Rules of Business as stated in the GTWS.

WSC Vote: Passes (94/16/1/1)

Motion #8: Approve the WSC 2012 Minutes.

WSC Vote: Unanimous

Motion #9: To approve the Fellowship Issue Discussion project plan for inclusion in the 2014-2016. Budget Line: Direct Expense.

Yea 90 Nay 8 Abstain 0
 Yea 109 Nay 3 Abstain 0
 WSC Vote: Passes with Strong Voice Vote

Motion#10: To approve the Service System project plan for inclusion in the 2014-2016 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc., budget. Direct expense item: Direct Project Expenses: \$70,000.

Yea 12 Nay 86 Abstain 0
 Yea 8 Nay 104 Abstain 0
 WSC Vote: Passes (94/26/1/4)

Motion #11: To approve the Twelve Traditions Working Guide project plan for inclusion in the 2014-2016 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc., budget. Direct expense item: Workgroup and other project-related expenses. Direct project Budget Line: \$250,000.

Yea 84 Nay 14 Abstain 0
Yea 106 Nay 6 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Passes Unanimously

Motion#12: To approve the Public Relations project plan for inclusion in the 2014-2016 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc., budget. Direct expense item: Focus groups and roundtables. Direct project Budget Line: \$38,000.

Yea 89 Nay 9 Abstain 0
Yea 106 Nay 6 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Passes with strong voice vote

Motion #13: To approve the 2014-2016 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. budget.

WSC Vote: Passes with strong voice vote

Proposals

Participants at the 2010 WSC unanimously supported an experiment for WSC2012 that would replace regional motions for discussion of ideas from regions with regional proposals. The experiment was straw polled again at WSC 2012 and the participants gave strong support to the question, “Do we want to continue with the experiment begun at WSC 2012 – to use proposals rather than motions for regional motions in the CAR and new business at the WSC2014?” The experiment was meant to cover both regional motions in the CAR and in new business.

The following was stated in the 2014 CAR after a process review was conducted by the World Board, “In reflecting on this experiment and particularly in struggling with how to fairly treat the proposals submitted for this year’s CAR, we have to honestly say that we don’t think including proposals rather than motions in the CAR improves the process.”

It was the experience of this RD, our RDA, and the majority of participants at the 2014 WSC that the process was far from improved due to what many would agree was the result of confusion and lack of clarity regarding procedure and interpretations that contributed debate rather than effective dialogue. The majority of proposals were argued at length and failed to pass, while some were withdrawn, some were submitted to the WB for input, and some were committed to the WB to be work upon.

*****See WSC Session Outline Notes of the specifics related to discussion (Queue), straw polling, and voting.**

WSC Seating Requests

The proposals that garnered the most energy dealt specifically with the seating of regions. There were several regions from within and outside the United States that presented themselves for seating. Since the moratorium on seating regions from splits was still in place until the close of the 2014 WSC only 2 regions were voted on and granted seating at the 2016 WSC.

Proposals: To recognize Dominican Republic as a seated world service conference participant beginning at the close of the 2014 WSC and to recognize Turkey as a seated world service conference participant beginning at the close of the 2014 WSC.

Yea 81 Nay 17 Abstain 0
Yea 106 Nay 6 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Passes with strong voice vote.

Proposed Revisions to the *A Guide to World Services in NA (GWSNA)*

A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous is updated each conference cycle to reflect current deadlines and any relevant decisions made at the previous conference. Please review the memo from the World Board found on pages 41 – 44 regarding the potential revisions that could result from Fellowship approval of Motion 2 and Motion 3 of the 2014 CAR, motions or proposals included in the 2014 CAR, copyediting, outdated policy, and the HRP (Human Resource Panel).

Based upon the conscience of the Western New York Region, it is being asked that the Rd and RDA be afforded the privilege to carry a vote of confidence regarding the proposed changes to the GWSNA with the understanding that they are acting as delegates and representatives of the voice of the WNY Region's fellowship.

Yea 88 Nay 10 Abstain 0
Yea 111 Nay 1 Abstain 0
WSC Vote: Passes with strong voice vote

Finally, for those that wish to be part of the process:

- ❖ World Service continues to gather ideas from the Fellowship on the Traditions book through the following:
 1. Session profile and PowerPoint presentation workshops
 2. Online submission area for workshop responses
 3. Traditions Book Project discussion board

Each of the above can be accessed through the project page at www.na.org/traditions. Any input, such as worksheets used in the sponsorship/sponsee work or source materials can be directed to worldboard@na.org.

This RD would like to thank all the trusted servants that engaged the homegroups and the fellowship of WNY that remained openminded and willing as we worked collaboratively and actively participated in shaping the new reality that lies before the Fellowship. The theme of the WSC, *The Ties That Bind Us Together*, reinforced the importance of Unity. Our participation was reflected in our voice being carried to the WSC. Our participation along with the participation of the worldwide fellowship affected NA as a whole (4th Tradition). The 7th, 8th, 9th and 11th Concepts of NA; as well as, the 1st Tradition were the foundation upon which the Conference participants stood as we worked toward reaching a consensus regarding matters that would affect NA as a whole:

- Tradition 1 “Our common welfare should come first. Personal recovery depends on NA unity.”
- Concept 7 “All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body’s decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.”
- Concept 8 “Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.”
- Concept 9 “All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.”
- Concept 11 “NA funds are to be used to further the primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.”

In closing, as the Conference participants performed the duties as trusted servants the experience shared by all, although not necessarily recognized by all, was a spiritual experience. I can only echo the following; “Change – If not now when? If not us who?” Thank you for letting me be part of.

Yours in service,
Jim L. RD

PEACE BE THE JOURNEY

Addendum #1: RD Expense Report

Additional Copies for CAR/CA, Regional Minutes 3/15/14 RD and RDA 2014 WSC Reports

Done by RD

3 Reams Paper: 3 x 6.99: \$20.97
1 Dell Blk Cart: \$35.88: \$35.88
Subtotal: \$56.85

If done by Office Max
Single Sided: 1500 x .08 = \$120.28

CAR/CAT Workshops/Transportation/Baggage

Amity Club (3/20 and 4/06) Rent: \$25.00 x 2: \$50.00
Mileage: 92 x .51: \$46.92
Baggage: \$25.0 x 2: \$50.00
Subtotal: \$146.92

Total Dispersements: \$200.00 less Total Expenses: \$203.77 Request for Reimbursement: \$3.77.

Request for Disbursement:

NEZF (Albany)

Food Stipend (RDA): \$180.00
Food Stipend (RD): \$180.00
Hotel: \$200.00
Mileage 600 x.51: \$306.00

Total: \$866.00