

Service System Project 2014 CAR, CAT, Videos and Supporting (video) Files

(Information available on the public internet on 2014-01-01 [pages / slides](#))

370 pages / slides

File creation date in parenthesis. 

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[2014 CAR](#) (2013-11-25) 70 pgs

[2014 CAT](#) (2014-01-24) 129 pgs

[2014 CAT ppt.pptx \(2014-01-24\)](#) 28 pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials PowerPoint Conference Approval Track

WSC 2014 Videos and Supporting (video) Files:

[2014_CARVideoPPTWBMotions.pptx \(2013-12-13\)](#) 25 pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials PowerPoint Part 1 Motions 1-3

[2014_CARVideoScriptBoardMotions1-3.pdf \(2013-12-13\)](#) 4 pgs 2014 CAR WB Motions 1-3 File used to make videos

[CARvideo1-BoardMotions1-3.mp4 \(2013-12-27\)](#)

[2014_CAR_SSPStaticPPT.pptx \(2013-12-11\)](#) 36 pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials PowerPoint Part 2 Motions 4-6 Static

[2014_SSPAnimatedPPT.pptx \(2013-12-11\)](#) 36 pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials Power Point Part 2 Motions 4-6 Animated

[2014_SSPVideoScriptFinal.pdf \(2013-12-13\)](#) 6 pgs 2014 CAR WB Motions 4-6 File used to make videos

[CARvideo2-SSPandMotions4-6.mp4 \(2013-12-12\)](#)

[2014_CARVideoPptRegProp.pptx \(2013-12-13\)](#) 32 pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials PowerPoint Regional Proposals

[2014_CARVideoScriptRegionalProposals.pdf \(2013-12-13\)](#) 4 pgs 2014 CAR Regional Proposals File used to make videos

[CARvideo3-RegionalProposals.mp4 \(2013-12-12\)](#)

2014 CAR (2013-11-25) 70 pgs

Pg – 7

World Board Report

Since the 2012 World Service Conference, we've been hard at work. In support of the Traditions Book Project adopted by the 2012 WSC, we have been gathering input and source material from members, groups, regions, and all sorts of collaborative brainstorming workshops at NA events around the world. Field tests of the local components of the [Service System](#) Project proposals have been undertaken by a core group of test communities, along with other interested communities that are trying out some or all of the ideas.

Pg – 8

An Overview of the Contents

This *CAR* contains six motions from the World Board. One is to approve a revision of a service pamphlet as an IP. Two are related to the future of the World Service Conference—delegate funding and alternate attendance. Three are related to the [Service System](#) Proposals, asking whether we agree in principle to move forward in the direction of a [Service System](#) that includes group support forums, local service conferences, and local service boards.

Pg – 9

The other two addenda include the text of the draft IP up for approval and the results of the [Service System](#) field test.

Pg – 10

Conference Sessions In addition to these sessions, we know that throughout the Conference we'll be focused on discussing the [Service System](#).

Pg – 12

Other Conference Preparations

The videos we created to explain the motions related to the [Service System](#) Project and the remaining *CAR* motions are a great example of our attempts to make material easier to understand through better use of technology. Still, we have a long way to go in terms of reaching all interested members with material that is simple, straightforward, and easily understandable. We hope you will keep sharing your ideas about how we can continue to make progress.

Service System

We want to start by clearly saying: The **Service System** Proposals are not a mandate. The most important aspect of the proposals is the broad principles that underpin them—things like group support, planning, and collective decision making. The proposals offer a model to help communities improve how they put these principles into practice. In an international fellowship as large and far-flung as Narcotics Anonymous, one size will never fit all. We are working to get a more practical understanding of the different ways that communities implement the ideas in these proposals.

We have just finished a field test of the local aspects of the **Service System** Proposals, and these experiences should help us to create a frame with enough shared experience that communities can make choices about what will best help them carry the message. This essay attempts to explain some of the basics of the proposals, with the understanding that local communities will adapt the details of any system to fit their specific needs.

Background

First, to back up a bit: The **Service System** Project grew out of a need to try to address some of the struggles that service bodies throughout NA have reported over the years—too few trusted servants, a poor atmosphere of recovery at service meetings, duplication of efforts, poor communication, and the list goes on. If you are involved in service, chances are you are familiar with many of the issues. Most of us have encountered them in our service experience.

But where to start? We began where one must always begin—we looked to the Traditions and Concepts. And we realized we must start with a shared vision, as a fellowship. So our first task was to offer “A Vision for NA Service,” which passed unanimously at the 2010 World Service Conference.

We asked ourselves, “How can the **service system** help NA achieve our vision and better carry the message?” Our Basic Text is clear: “Everything that occurs in the course of NA service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the NA message to the addict who still suffers.”

We felt the most important job of the **service system** is grounded in the Fifth Tradition, to support the groups in achieving their primary purpose.

And so we proposed a forum to help support the groups.

Group Support Forums (GSFs)

The group support forum is a place to discuss group problems and successes away from budgets and motions. It is the service equivalent of one addict helping another. Here, newer members can get introductory or basic information about NA, including how the **service system** works.

Group support forums can also be a place for literature distribution, workshops, and training sessions, and for finding members to serve on H&I panels, planning picnics, and other neighborhood-based activities. The exact activities of a group support forum will vary from place to place, but the key is that it focuses on the needs of the groups.

All interested members, not just group representatives, are encouraged to come. It's a friendly, discussion-based gathering where newer members can get their feet wet and learn more about NA, and veterans can share their experiences and actively mentor others.

The proposals describe group support forums as neighborhood-sized—the idea was that each local service conference as described in the proposals (or today's area service committees) would have several small GSFs within it. A smaller-sized group support forum means less distance to travel for those who are interested, and it can be easier to keep discussion informal and more like a conversation in a small group. After field testing, however, we found that some communities prefer a group-focused meeting that includes all of the groups in their community to improve communication across the community. In these communities, holding a group support forum has simply meant changing the focus of the majority of what were their area service committee meetings, leaving four meetings a year for planning and business and the others for group support.

In communities with smaller group support forums, many of those GSFs have a delegate who attends the local service conference and reports on the groups in the GSF. In some cases, groups have elected to attend the group support forum and not the local service conference, delegating that responsibility to the GSF delegate. More often, groups attend both the group support forum and the local service conference. Along with being group-focused, flexibility is one of the foundational principles of the proposals, and again, each community will adapt the ideas according to their needs.

Local Service Conferences (LSCs)

We've already mentioned that two of the foundational principles of the **Service System** Proposals are “group-focused” and “flexible.” The other three foundational principles—“purpose-driven,” “collaborative,” and “geographically based”—are each integral to the local service conference and the local service board. These two bodies together oversee most of NA's service delivery.

The proposals describe the local service conference as a quarterly, plan-driven meeting attended by all of the GSRs and/or GSF delegates, along with trusted servants of the LSC and interested members. One of the meetings of the local service conference is an annual assembly where all interested members of the community gather to set service priorities for the year ahead. This annual planning assembly ensures that the groups get to set the general direction of services. The other local service conferences are opportunities for communication, oversight, and careful selection of leaders.

As much as possible, the discussions and decisions at the local service conference are concerned with strategic direction and oversight. Administrative decisions and details are delegated to the local service board, which is then accountable to the local service conference. The combination of the local service conference and the local service board balances the delegation spoken of in the Third Concept with the group responsibility and authority called for in the Second Concept.

The proposals suggest the local service conference meet quarterly, and the local service board and the committees and workgroups meet monthly in order to fulfill their functions. In practice, some communities have found they prefer having all GSRs meet together more often than quarterly. Some have quarterly service conferences and hold group support forums with the whole community the other

eight months of the year, as mentioned above. Others alternate service conferences and group support forums, whether those GSFs are neighborhood-sized or consisting of the whole community. These are just a couple of alternatives.

Decision making is consensus-based where practical, although voting may still be the preferred way to handle items like elections or urgent decisions where the body fails to reach consensus. (You can find more information about consensus-based decision making in “CBDM Basics,” which is posted in the Field Testing Tools section of the **Service System** Project webpage: www.na.org/servicesystem.)

Local Service Board (LSB)

The local service board is more detail oriented than the local service conference. The board does the day-to-day work to accomplish the goals and realize the vision directed by the conference. The local service board administers the work prioritized by the LSC planning assembly. The conference consists of the architects; the board is made up of the builders and contractors.

The local service board reports to, and is overseen by, the local service conference. The board creates plans and a budget, which are approved by the LSC to carry out the work of the plan. The hands-on service delivery may be accomplished by workgroups led by coordinators or by committees. The board will make recommendations to the local service conference depending on what seems to make the most practical sense. Form should follow function.

In short, the **Service System** Proposals suggest a separation between these three types of concerns: 1. Group issues and needs are handled at the group support forum. 2. Strategic decisions and general oversight of local services are handled at the local service conference. 3. Day-to-day administration of local services is handled by the local service board.

One of the more controversial elements of the **Service System** Proposals is the idea that service bodies are, where practical, defined by geographic boundaries. This is, in fact, one of the five main foundational principles of the proposals. For the local service conference, in the US, that would mean county, town, or city boundaries.

The reasons for this recommendation are threefold: 1. To avoid duplication of services; 2. To make sure all parts of a state or nation are covered by a service body; and 3. To make NA more visible to addicts who are trying to find us, as well as members of the public who refer addicts to us. All aspects of PR efforts, including H&I, outreach, and fellowship development, are enhanced when service bodies conform to recognized geographic boundaries.

Still, it's important to recognize that for some ASCs, being defined by geographic boundaries could mean unifying with a neighboring service body—possibly a daunting task. What seems crucial is better communication and collaboration with our neighbors with an eye to having a conversation about *possible* unification down the road.

The first step for many communities would be to simply open communication with neighboring service bodies. Most areas do not have a full awareness of what their neighboring areas do. Bringing trusted servants together, whether through a shared learning day or a series of meetings with trusted servants of the areas, will help open the lines of communication, and communication is a necessary first step toward any possible collaboration—another foundational principle of the **Service System** Proposals.

Over time, neighboring service bodies may want to consider sharing services where it makes sense to do so (e.g., sharing a phonenumber where two service bodies occupy the same area code; cooperating to do public outreach to a school system when two service bodies exist within the same county).

Eventually, at some point that may lead to discussion and ultimately decisions about whether it makes sense to combine neighboring service bodies. And it may not. Again, these are decisions that will be made locally and collaboratively.

Conclusion

The proposed system involves a number of changes. In any transition to a new system, communities may want to take the changes piece by piece rather than all at once—an evolution rather than a revolution. Change can be difficult. Nonetheless, we owe it to ourselves and to those we serve to do what we can to improve our ability to carry the NA message. Our Basic Text tells us, “We must realize that we are not perfect. There will always be room for growth.” Just like our personal program, our service delivery will never be perfect. There will always be room for growth.

At the 2008, 2010, and 2012 World Service Conferences, the Fellowship of NA through their elected delegates approved the **Service System** Project plan to explore alternatives to improve our service delivery. In 2012 the Conference passed a series of resolutions related to the **Service System** Proposals.

By voting on the motions below, the Fellowship of NA, through their elected delegates, will take the next step and decide whether they agree in principle to move forward in the direction of a **service system** that includes group support forums, local service conferences, and local service boards. Typically, these ideas would not even be offered in the form of motions until there was a service manual or something similar to consider for adoption. However, despite unanimous support of the **Service System** Project plan in 2008 and 2010, strong support for the project plan in 2012, and adoption of a series of resolutions related to the project at the 2012 WSC, there still seems to be some sentiment that the project lacks clear support. We offer these motions in the spirit of unity. Hopefully, this is a step forward together to try to evolve into a **service system** that helps us better carry our message.

If these motions pass, the Conference will then vote on a transition plan—probably similar to a project plan—that will be included in the Conference Approval Track material mailed out at the end of January 2014. It will outline the various ways that we think NAWS can help the Fellowship consider some of these ideas and decide what suits their local circumstances best. It will also lay out ways to discuss implementing in stages rather than all at once.

The **Service System** Proposals also include ideas about state-, province- or nationwide service bodies, as well as conference seating and the role of zones. None of those aspects of the proposals are up for decision at this World Service Conference.

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.**

Characteristics 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 field testing that some communities prefer to bring all of the groups and interested members together for one communitywide group support forum.
- **Meets monthly:** Again, the original **Service System** Proposals suggest monthly meetings of the group support forum, but in field testing many communities adopted a different meeting schedule. Some had group support forums meeting eight times a year in months when there was no quarterly local service conference. Others alternated GSF and LSC meetings, with each meeting six times a year.

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

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.**

Characteristics 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 the 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 get made).

Recommended:

- **Meets quarterly:** The proposals 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, particularly given the potential difficulty in unifying with a neighboring service body. What seems crucial is better communication and collaboration with our neighbors with an eye to having a conversation about possible unification 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.**

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

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 the 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 some meetings online for convenience.
- **Administers the LSC meetings:** The local service board is responsible for putting together the agenda and facilitating the LSC meetings, including organizing the annual planning assembly to get information from the whole NA community.

Recommended:

- **Consists of admin body and service coordinators:** The proposals initially 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.

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

Important Points that Relate to All Three Motions Above:

These motions are not a mandate. The Conference cannot tell communities how to deliver services locally. World Services has no ability to mandate or enforce how structures, processes, people, or resources are set up on a local level, nor do we desire such ability. As described in *A Guide to World Services*, World Services' purpose is "communication, coordination, information, and guidance." It is in the service of that purpose that we have undertaken the work of the **Service System Project**.

The essay that precedes these motions explains the **service system** proposals and some of how they have evolved in more detail. The ideas for the three bodies called out in the motions—the group support forum, local service conference, and local service board—came from the desire to overcome some of our persistent challenges in local services. Here is an incomplete list of some of the problems the proposed system (group support forum, local service conference, and local service board) is designed to solve:

- *Area service committees are responsible for both meeting the direct needs of the groups and administering the services of the community. Solution: The group support forum and local service conference split these responsibilities so that each can have a single focus.*
- *The time at many service bodies is taken up with administrative details and reading of written reports. Solution: The local service board handles most of the administrative detail of service, freeing the groups to participate in setting goals and strategic direction at the local service conference.*
- *Services are often unplanned and unbudgeted. Most area service committees perform the services they do from year to year because those are the services they've always performed. At no point do they stop to set goals and consider the big picture. Solution: Having an annual planning assembly allows the whole community to set goals, to improve services, and to budget and plan for the year as a whole.*
- *Addicts and those who refer addicts to NA often cannot find us. Our service body names and boundaries often make no sense. Solution: Service bodies that follow established geographic boundaries—or, failing that, better communication between service bodies—will help us in our public outreach efforts.*
- *Services are often duplicated. Solution: Sharing services or reunifying with neighboring service bodies can help us use our resources more wisely.*
- *Some members don't want to get involved, either because they do not want to make a long, ongoing commitment or because they find the atmosphere at a business meeting intimidating or uncomfortable. Solution: Group support forums and project-based services give members more opportunities to get involved.*

Over the course of this conference cycle, we have been field testing the **service system** proposals, and have gathered a lot of helpful information about how communities can adapt the ideas in the proposals to meet their local needs. (See Appendix B for the complete field testing report.) We are still in the beginning stages of a potential transition to a new system, and are not asking for the adoption of a policy or service manual. We are only establishing a direction on the material to be developed.

We have produced a video synopsis of the **service system** material in the *Conference Agenda Report* and posted it for download. We hope this helps people better understand the material. You can download the video from the link on the conference webpage: www.na.org/conference.

Issue Discussion Topics

The issue discussion topics (IDTs) chosen for the 2012–2014 cycle included Collaboration, Group Conscience, and Supporting Our Vision. Each topic was related directly or indirectly to the [Service System](#) Project, improving our efforts to support the NA groups and to further our vision.

Looking Ahead

Among the project

plans for the 2014–2016 conference cycle will be a transition plan for the [Service System](#) Project, a project plan for workshops with particular emphasis on affordable approaches to reaching more members, and an updated project plan for a traditions workbook, which will focus on the drafting and review and input for that project.

Regional Proposals in this *Conference Agenda Report*

Proposal A: To place a moratorium on the [Service System](#) Proposals. Ideas for the moratorium range from two to four years. (5 proposals A1-A5)

Summary of and Challenges with the Original Proposals: Five proposals ask that a moratorium be placed on the [Service System](#) project, calling out in particular funding, implementation, or efforts to put into effect a transition plan.

At some basic level it's hard to know exactly what a moratorium on transitioning to the [Service System](#) Proposals might consist of. Does this include releasing tools about consensus-based decision making or holding workshops on planning assemblies—both of which are key aspects of the proposals? What about answering questions from members of the fellowship about the [Service System](#) Project? We are not clear on the specifics of what would and would not be covered by declaring a moratorium on the project or proposals.

At least four of these five proposals attempt to direct the fellowship by placing a moratorium on the fellowship for implementation of any of these ideas. In the past, moratoriums adopted by the WSC have directed the WSC and/or NA World Services, which we see as the conference's purview. We do not believe the conference has the authority to place a moratorium on activity within the fellowship itself, or in local communities. Additionally, two of the proposals direct what the fellowship will focus on during the moratorium which we believe is a local decision, not one which can be dictated by the WSC.

Another aspect of these proposals that we see as impossible to execute is the type of accounting one of the proposals asks for. The proposal calls for an accounting of project expenses, including the cost of project-related travel and staff time back to 2008, which we are simply unable to do. We do not break out the portions of a trip in which the [Service System](#) Project, or any specific project or issue, was discussed, nor do we keep track of staff time in this manner. The amounts that were budgeted for the project were adopted by the WSC, and ultimately reported and audited. These figures are already available.

WB Response: In a general sense, this seems like a bad time to put a moratorium in place, particularly since the project is currently focused on how the proposals are being put into practice and adapted locally. Several of these proposals ask for a moratorium in order to gather more information, and yet a moratorium would seemingly stifle this information gathering.

In the 2012–2014 conference cycle, we have been focused on the practical application and adaptation of the ideas in the [Service System](#) proposals. We already scaled back the amount of money allocated to this project this cycle, and through field testing and the creation and testing of tools for local levels of service we are gaining a better understanding how the theory of the proposals looks in actual practice.

Given this focus on practical application and adaptation of the proposals, stopping the project at this point would seem to be contrary to the intent of some of the proposal makers: to gather more information and inform more members. Our intention with continuing to focus on this project is that ultimately we will end up with ideas, practical experience, tools, and guidance shaped by fellowship experience.

The [Service System](#) Project has been offered to the WSC as a project plan to accept or reject. It has continued to be adopted three conferences in a row. At WSC 2012 the conference strongly opposed a new business proposal that “The [Service System](#) Proposal be dropped from the budget of WSO” as well as one “To give fellowship a full conference cycle to workshop, investigate, and trial implementation of the SSP. Results of efforts to be gathered at WSC 2014 for further action.” Although we acknowledge that some of our members have concerns or misgivings about elements of this project, we have received a clear mandate from the fellowship through its representatives, and we believe the continuation of this work to be the best way to address the concerns of members and to refine the proposals to best serve our fellowship in its growth.

Proposal B: To specify the specific decision-making mechanism for anything related to the SSP. (2 proposals – B1-B2)

Summary of and Challenges with the Original Proposals: One of the proposals asks that the SSP Proposal in its entirety be brought to the WSC floor “for the first time” for a two-thirds majority vote. The other proposal directs what will be placed in the 2014 *CAR*. It is impossible to implement either of these as written. Motions passed at the World Service Conference take affect at the close of the conference. A motion that wishes to affect what will be in the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report* would have needed to be presented at the 2012 Conference. There is no way that a motion made in the 2014 *CAR* could result in adding material to that *CAR*.

The idea about all SSP proposals and transition plans being in the 2014 *CAR* was, in fact, proposed to WSC 2012. When straw polled, the conference was strongly opposed to a proposal “That any decisions regarding the SSP be included in the 2014 *CAR* and require 2/3 vote to pass.”

WB Response: We have already made the commitment to put decisions about the [Service System](#) Proposals in the *CAR*; the transition plans are simply a project plan about how to help discuss and implement what the WSC decides. The [Service System](#) project has been adopted by the WSC three times—twice by unanimous consent—and specific motions, resolutions, and straw polls have been offered in the last two *Conference Agenda Reports*. We would not be able to offer anything about this project “for the first time,” because the conference has already approved the project and agreed in principle to the ideas within the proposals.

Proposal C: Currently seated regions retain their seat at the WSC forever. (1 proposal – C)

Summary of and Challenges with the Original Proposal: This is an attempt to ensure that future decisions related to seating include a provision to retain all currently seated regions. In this sense, it seems like an attempt to amend something not yet adopted.

WB Response: We suggest that the idea be reintroduced when the decision it seeks to affect is actually before the conference. To adopt a condition on a policy not yet drafted would seem to be taking things in the wrong order. Adoption of this idea would simply require parliamentary gymnastics if and when the WSC makes a decision to change who is seated. We are not yet at a place where we share a vision of what the conference might look like in the future, which is why we do not yet have long term recommendations for a comprehensive

seating policy. It seems a better use of our time to discuss what possibilities we see for the future of a global fellowship's decision making process.

Proposal D: Ideas to evaluate or reduce WSC costs either by creating a workgroup to look into conference costs or by eliminating World Board travel to the WSC. (2 proposals – D1-D2)

Summary of and Challenges with the Original Proposals: There are two proposals related to conference cost: one to create a workgroup to look into WSC costs and another to eliminate World Board travel, except for the WB chair, to the WSC.

NA World Services operates with a two-year strategic plan and budget. Planning, funding, and coordinating diverse business and service needs over the course of a two-year cycle requires time. The projects that are presented to the WSC are a result of the finished plan for the upcoming cycle. There are many ways to get ideas included in the planning process but that process must be initiated before the *Conference Agenda Report*.

For the 2014–2016 cycle the projects the board is recommending are a Traditions Book and [Service System](#) based on discussions at WSC 2012. The budget that will get included in the Conference Approval Track material for decision at the conference has been projected with these projects in mind. The idea to create a workgroup would, therefore, have to be committed to the World Board to bring back a project plan and budget to WSC 2016. We believe that conference participants will have already discussed many of the issues related to conference funding by that time.

WB Response: International workgroups cost an average of \$250,000 per cycle, and we feel the expense is not warranted for the logistics of the WSC. We have evaluated and will continue to evaluate options related to the cost of the conference and report on our discussions and encourage an active dialogue. We already eliminated a budgeted World Board meeting during the previous conference cycle due to lack of funds. We do not believe eliminating board attendance at the conference is a responsible way to cut costs. As the body charged with carrying out the will of the WSC in the two years between meetings, we need to hear and understand what it is the WSC wants from us. We see the value of participating in discussions and hearing various voices and ideas as critical to the charge we have been given.

While NA as a whole has been increasingly using technology to further discussion, we do not feel meeting virtually is a replacement for face-to-face meetings. There are obvious logistical problems with using technology to meet—negotiating time zones in an international fellowship, maintaining a clear connection, etc. But even if the technology was perfect and there were no time zone challenges, meeting together in person is still the best way to accomplish certain things, especially decision making. Online meetings can be useful for touching base, framing, or even redirecting work, but not so good for making decisions.

Pg - 36

WSC 2014 Summary Sheet
Motions & Proposals

World Board Motions

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.

Characteristics 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 field testing that some communities prefer to bring all of the groups and interested members together for one community-wide group support forum.
- Meets monthly: Again, the original [Service System](#) Proposals suggest monthly meetings of the group support forum, but in field testing many communities adopted a different meeting schedule. Some had group support forums meeting eight times a year in months when there was no quarterly local service conference. Others alternated GSF and LSC meetings, with each meeting six times a year.

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

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.

Characteristics 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 the 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 get made).

Recommended:

- Meets quarterly: The proposals 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, particularly given the potential difficulty in unifying with a neighboring service body. What seems crucial is better communication and collaboration with our neighbors with an eye to having a conversation about possible unification 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](#).

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

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 the 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 some meetings online for convenience.
- Administers the LSC meetings: The local service board is responsible for putting together the agenda and facilitating the LSC meetings, including organizing the annual planning assembly to get information from the whole NA community.

Recommended:

- Consists of admin body and service coordinators: The proposals initially 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.

Intent: To establish a direction for the future development of service material.

Regional Proposals

These proposals summarize the basic ideas of the regional proposals received for the *CAR* and will serve as the basis for what is discussed in the WSC Old Business Discussion Session. More information can be found on page 30. The original proposals as submitted are in Addendum C.

Proposal A: To place a moratorium on the [Service System](#) Proposals. Ideas for the moratorium range from two to four years. (5 proposals – A1-A5)

Proposal B: To specify the specific decision-making mechanism for anything related to the SSP. (2 proposals – B1-B2)

Proposal C: Currently seated regions retain their seat at the WSC forever. (1 proposal – C)

Proposal D: Ideas to evaluate or reduce WSC costs either by creating a workgroup to look into conference costs or by eliminating World Board travel to the WSC. (2 proposals – D1-D2)

Pg – 42

Glossary

[Service System](#)

The [Service System](#) in NA consists of four main components: people, processes, resources, and structure. One of our projects is focused on creating and framing a discussion about alternatives or improvements to our current [Service System](#).

[Service System](#) Proposals

A document including ideas and recommendations for the changes to the NA [Service System](#). The last draft of this document was prepared for the 2012 World Service Conference to provide a background for discussing the resolutions and straw polls at the 2012 World Service Conference. The essay that is included in this *Conference Agenda Report* contains more up-to-date information.

Addendum B

Service System Field Test Report

Field Test Summary

The **Service System** Project field test ran for eight months in nine communities across the United States. Demographically, these ranged from large NA communities in wholly urban areas to those with smaller urban centers and surrounding suburban and rural groups. The size of the communities covered a wide range, as did their experience level in relation to the project. Three of the communities tested just the group support forum, while the other six tested both the group support forum and the local service conference and board.

The Group Support Forum (GSF)

Group support forums in the testing communities varied widely in size, from three participating groups per GSF to 17 in one community. Some of the larger, urban-based group support forums could potentially have been much larger if all groups had participated. The number of GSFs within the test communities ranged from two per community up to seven. Some communities maintained a stable number throughout the test, while others saw some realignment and consolidation of GSFs. Two communities had no functioning group support forums by the end of the test.

Participation at the GSF meetings ranged from two members up to 23. In general all the attendees were trusted servants, either GSRs or group support forum facilitators and delegates, but three of the communities reported regular attendance by members with no service position as such. Participation from interested members with no service position was perhaps more common in rural areas where ASC or LSC attendance involved more travel. A couple of communities had good experiences either with sponsors who encouraged sponsees to attend or members who would bring carloads of other, newer members to GSFs. In one field testing community having a pot luck at the group support forum seemed to increase participation, but two other communities that had food at their GSFs didn't seem to benefit from it. This appears to be another example of the need for flexibility and doing what works in individual communities.

Participation from the total number of groups in their individual communities again varied widely. Some had close to 100% participation while others were around 10%. There appeared to be some correlation between a low level of participation in the ASC or LSC and a low level of participation in the group support forum. In some cases, however, having GSF meetings seemed to make service meetings more attractive to GSRs because there wasn't as much time taken up at the ASC or LSC with reading of group reports.

The composition of each group support forum was primarily established by geographic proximity, with three interesting variations. One area created a GSF for rural groups and one for urban groups; one GSF was composed entirely of daytime meetings; and one GSF was made up of Spanish speaking groups. Group support forums were mostly scheduled either before or after regular recovery meetings, but again, there were variations. However, it was almost universally agreed that a consistent time and place for the group support forum meetings, and disseminating this information widely, was essential to their success.

One community has each of its three group support forums meet at the same time in separate rooms at a central location, enabling them to distribute literature to all the groups at one time. Another community is switching to such an arrangement now

that the formal field test is over. Both of these communities are considering having GSFs meet separately for part of the meeting and then come together for a full community meeting in the other part of the meeting. In another community, the group support forum for rural groups meets directly before the local service conference or local service board (where they receive literature) in order to minimize travel time for those groups. GSF meetings can run from 30 minutes up to 120 minutes, although one hour seems about average. Most communities reported minimal or zero expenses associated with GSF meetings, as they met at already-established meeting venues. Expenses of more than a few dollars were paid through the local service conference.

Most of the testers adopted the two-track model (where groups send a delegate to both the GSF and the local service conference or ASC). At least two communities saw some group support forums switch to the two-track model from a linear model (where groups send a delegate to the GSF, and the GSF in turn sends a delegate to the LSC or ASC) partway through the test because the linear model seemed to undermine the group-focused nature of the GSF at least to some degree. Nonetheless, three communities reported a mix of linear and two-track. Some rural groups that had previously been unrepresented at their ASC were represented by a GSF delegate, and two communities reported that the group support forums had delegates who presented reports at the area service committee or local service conference. Most seemed to like the idea of a GSF delegate to the ASC or LSC.

About two-thirds of the communities have group support forums that meet monthly. Two communities reported GSFs that meet eight times a year on the months with no quarterly ASC, and one community has GSFs that meet every other month, alternating with the LSC, which is also bimonthly.

The meetings of the group support forum were facilitated in a variety of ways: by local service board members, by facilitators selected by the GSFs themselves, and by experienced members with no formal service position. Some facilitators were selected on the fly, and others were elected into a standing position. The GSFs themselves focused primarily on the discussion of group issues and finding solutions to them, but also offered other topics and workshops. These included the organization and running of the GSF itself, literature and service topics such as the Third Tradition and service pamphlets, and fund flow and literature distribution. They also provided an opportunity to make the usual group announcement about events, service vacancies etc.

In several instances, communities found that focusing exclusively on challenges and successes experienced by recovery groups made it hard to maintain enthusiasm for the GSFs. There seems to be increasing interest in formalizing topics in some way—perhaps having regular workshops and training sessions determined in advance on issues like Issue Discussion Topics, introduction to PR or H&I, community surveys prior to the local service conference annual assembly, etc. In general, the idea of instituting more training and workshops in addition to a forum for group issues seemed to be a popular way to increase value to the fellowship and maintain interest in the group support forums.

Getting group support forum meetings started produced some common challenges, such as disseminating basic information about what the GSF meeting was for, where and when they were being held, and that everyone (not just group service representatives) is welcome to attend. This is a point that is underscored repeatedly

by the testing communities: better communication about GSFs is key to their success. There were some reports of members resistant to change, or opposed to any ideas from the **service system** project. In field testing the group support forums as well as the local service conferences, “personalities” continue to be a challenge for some of our communities.

Communities that seemed to have the most success with group support forums planned their start-up over a period of time. One community provided a detailed account of the process that took place over several months leading up to the establishment of GSFs. This began with an area discussion of the pros and cons of the ideas; a map was created outlining the boundaries of the proposed group support forums and facilitators were selected; and finally mock GSFs were held at the area service committee before holding them on their own in separate locations. Another community had a group support forum meeting within the area service committee to familiarize everyone with the idea before establishing them in neighborhoods.

Maintaining the group support forums seemed to require an ongoing commitment from trusted servants that was exaggerated by the short time frame of the field test itself. Rather than allow group support forums to grow organically within a community – several testers mentioned the idea of starting with one GSF and allowing it to divide – the field testers were asked to establish several all at once. This produced a shortage of facilitators and some burn-out of trusted servants. The one community that didn't seem to experience this had been developing group support forums for nearly a year prior to the field test and had a small group of trusted servants committed to the task. This echoes the suggestion from most of the testers that an essential part of starting and maintaining group support forums is having a strong base of experienced members within the community who are committed to the process. This could include definite steps such as creating a “GSF support team” and training facilitators in advance, which at least two communities did. Other suggestions for helping GSFs to become established and to grow were more basic and included having fun, providing food, creating a welcoming atmosphere, and inviting groups that aren't yet involved. At least two different communities have focused outreach efforts for groups who do not participate in either area service or group support forums, and some communities felt we could better use technology to support isolated groups. Several field testers mentioned the need for facilitation training in advance of establishing group support forums. Several others noted the importance of continuity of those who attend the GSFs. GSFs with stable, returning members seemed to be more successful.

Understanding the purpose of the GSF at the group level was also considered essential prior to them starting. Again, most of the testers suggested slowing down the process to ensure members and groups were on board, and sharing information through workshops, outreach or ad-hoc committees, attendance at group business meetings, and one-on-one with other members.

Several of the communities appear to have had to adjust their expectations of the groups within their community. For example, meeting more than once a month seems too much for many groups, as does the idea of obtaining their literature from somewhere other than this monthly meeting (although it should be noted that many groups do not obtain literature from their ASC at present). For some communities, having literature distributed at the group support forum has been instrumental in their success, though at least one community seems adamant that keeping literature

distribution away from the GSFs allows them to maintain their “meeting after the meeting” quality. For some rural groups, distance remains one of their primary challenges, although several communities reported that rural groups have derived some concrete benefits from group support forums. These include connection through a GSF to their local service body where one had not previously existed, a stable supply of literature and flyers, and a stronger connection to other NA groups and the broader NA community. Nonetheless, it appears we still need to work harder to help our rural or isolated NA groups to feel better supported.

Communication seems to have improved—often incrementally—in the majority of cases; the group support forum allowed information to pass from service bodies to groups, and between groups. Eliminating group reports from the business meeting and having a GSF report to highlight the most important elements was also cited as an improvement by a couple of testers. Others thought that the separation of groups into separate group support forums, and no longer being required to attend monthly meetings all together as a community, negatively affected communication. In a couple of cases, communities are talking about returning to a full community group-focused meeting rather than separate neighborhood meetings now that the field test is over.

The Local Service Conference (LSC) and Local Service Board (LSB)

Six communities tested the local service conference and local service board. One of these had been operating as a local service conference for a year prior to the field test.

The **service system** proposals suggest monthly meetings of the group support forum and local service board, and quarterly meetings of the local service conference. Four of the communities adapted this suggested schedule in some way. One continued to operate an area service committee which met on the months that the local service conference did not. Another rurally-based local service conference met on alternate months, which offered a considerable benefit particularly in the winter when travel is more difficult. Two communities had their GSRs continue to attend a service meeting every month, meaning there was not as much of a distinction between the local service board and local service conference meetings as described in the proposals. Both cited improved communication and a better functioning meeting as the reason for having GSRs gather monthly. One of these two communities initially tried quarterly attendance by GSRs, but quickly reverted to monthly attendance. Both of the communities also had separate monthly group support forum meetings with low levels of participation, which may suggest that anything more than one meeting a month is difficult for most groups to support. The exception to this was the group support forum for rural groups that met prior to the local service conference.

Of the two communities that followed the schedule suggested in the **Service System** Proposals for the local service board and the local service conference, one has their group support forums meet only on the months when there is no local service conference. They also utilize a central location for the group support forums to meet on the same evening. They are exploring the option of having a brief meeting for all the group support forum attendees prior to their separate GSF discussions so they are also moving towards some form of monthly gathering for the entire community. The other community that followed the model returned to monthly area service committee meetings once the field test was completed, but is considering the a similar arrangement where group support forums would meet at the same time and

same location and after having GSF meetings, get together as a whole group for a workshop drawn from the group support forum discussions. In general it seems that most of the testers felt that the ability to communicate to all the groups within the community at a single monthly gathering was necessary for successful communication.

The local service board consisted of the admin body from the ASC in each community. Some were able to widen participation to include some subcommittee chairs and project coordinators, but each community struggled to entirely engage all of the trusted servants. Each LSB met monthly, with one of the more rural communities meeting online every other month to minimize travel. Another community that had previously held a separate policy committee meeting each month combined this with the local service board meetings, reducing the number of service meetings each month. The same community also utilized an online discussion group for the local service board and found it helpful.

Participation by groups at the local service conference was generally the same as at the ASC, except for one community that reported an increase in attendance due to increased involvement in projects, and one that reported a sharp drop, possibly because two of the LSC meetings were scheduled on holidays. Most communities are hopeful that over time the changes will improve attendance, communication, and collaboration. The test demonstrated the need to remain flexible and make refinements as needed. For example, having a representative from the group support forum to the local service conference, even for two-track group support forums, is an idea many communities favor. One rural community also suggested ensuring that trusted servants were reimbursed for expenses related to attendance at the local service conference, as these were likely to be higher because of the distances involved in cases where area service committees combine to form a local service conference. They also have started rotating the location of the local service conference in an effort to encourage attendance.

Most testers reported using the same decision making process as they used prior to the field test, except for one that shifted to consensus-based decision making. Of the six local service conference testers, four practice CBDM (one for 8 years now). One hasn't yet made the switch to consensus-based decision making as they tried early on to "kick the hornet's nest" and it seemed like a change that could wait until further along in the transition. Another describes themselves as in the "infancy" of adopting CBDM. Of the four who practice consensus-based decision making, two let all present participate in the decision-making process, one allows only GSRs to participate, and the other allows all elected trusted servants to participate. Some communities say that adopting CBDM early on was crucial to making the rest of the transition to a GSF/LSC system.

Literature distribution and fund flow largely remained unchanged. Two communities tried having local service board members distribute literature at the group support forum meetings, but found it to be too stressful to maintain. One of these communities switched to having all the GSFs meet at the same time and venue each month where they could also collect their literature and pass on contributions. This system is working very well for them. One of the rural communities utilized some of their group support forums to pass on funds. This community does not distribute literature at the local service conference; instead, groups order literature for themselves.

The short timeline was a problem for all the field testers. Several communities wished they had the opportunity to better plan the transition to a new system, including better preparation for the planning assembly. Most mentioned the need to hold workshops to engage and inform GSRs and groups about the change, while some mentioned that an improved survey tool to prepare for the planning assembly might be helpful. Two communities shared their experience of implementing a gradual process of change at their area service committees prior to the field test. Often this included simple changes, such as no longer “holding GSRs hostage” by starting to distribute literature at the beginning of the ASC so that GSRs who were only there to pick up literature were free to go. At this same ASC they made improvements to GSR training and tried to ensure a friendlier atmosphere. All of these sorts of changes led to a group-focused portion of the ASC, which then created a good foundation for forming group support forums.

The planning assemblies themselves were generally successful, with several communities reporting participation by NAWs as one of the success factors. A couple of communities talked about comparing the planning assembly to their personal experience: They explained planning and projects to members by comparing them to the inventory steps in personal recovery. Service bodies can use an inventory process to improve as well. Shifting to a plan-driven system had several reported benefits, including establishing projects that answered community needs, improved understanding of financial procedures and accountability, and better training and mentoring of GSRs as a result of their involvement in the planning process. A couple of communities mentioned that they passed budgets on a local level that included projected income and expenses for the first time. One community also highlighted the change for GSRs from passively listening to reports to more fully participating in the agenda-setting and decision-making process, and felt this was beneficial not only for the GSRs but also for the groups within the community.

Some of the challenges reported, other than the short timeline for the field test, included changing the way services were delivered by established subcommittees, maintaining participation, and countering opposition to the project itself and the process of change from some local members. Some of the field testers talked about incorporating more workshop-type activities into an area service committee prior to a transition to begin to familiarize trusted servants and others with the workshop process at a service meeting.

Several communities mentioned that introducing projects has increased interest in service on the part of some who would rather not commit to a monthly subcommittee meeting, but appreciate a shorter, well defined task.

All communities seem to utilize a mixture of standing committees, coordinators with resource pools, and workgroups. Local service board members seem to be the main source of project coordination, which in some cases put an undue strain on those members, but also led to several projects primarily focused on internal tasks, such as redrafting guidelines and supporting the GSFs. Devoting projects to these sorts of tasks, which are related to the transition to GSFs, LSCs, or LSBs, seemed to be a successful strategy for these communities. Long-standing services such as H&I generally continued to be provided by subcommittees, with any shift to project-based provision being mostly in the area of activities and events.

Different communities experienced varying levels of success with the projects they adopted after the planning assembly. Some were completed as planned, while other communities struggled first to create plans, and then to follow through on them.

There is a mixture of thoughts about policy among the field testers. Some favor initial projects or workgroups devoted to policy creation for the transition and new system. One community cautions that the ASC should make a clear decision to set aside area policy for the transition. Another community suggests that those making a transition should build on what is working and develop policy as you go along to reflect those changes and best practices.

Some communities feel that creating group support forums first is important, with some suggesting that the area service committee should be divided into local service conference and group support forum sessions prior to establishing separate group support forum meetings. Others feel that creating a planning assembly and a series of local service conferences is the right first step. Regardless, all communities see pre-planning and building of community support and awareness as central. Several ideas for this were offered including:

- Team-building within the local service board
- Better preparing subcommittees to transition
- Educational workshops at the ASC prior to transition

Regardless of what elements of a local **service system** are changed first, everyone seemed to agree that change should not happen all at once, as it was confusing and involved an unsustainable workload for local leaders. At the same time, for most of these communities, exploring changes, even ideas that may ultimately have been rejected, was a positive process. The idea that GSRs go to a service meeting to create priorities and participate, not just listen and vote was very positive for many groups, as was the idea that the way we do service isn't set in stone. The field test gave some communities the opportunity to approach service with creativity and innovation.

Addendum C
Regional Proposals

Proposal A1: ABCD Region: To place a moratorium of one cycle on further funding of any and all portions of the SSP, including travel associated with its promotion and for NAWs and the WB to provide a full, accurate and honest accounting of all costs incurred in drafting, researching and promoting the SSP including, but not limited to consultation fees, travel costs, publication costs and promotion costs from 2008 to present.

Intent: The moratorium would provide the fellowship the time to obtain a full accounting of all expenditures related to the SSP from 2008 to present so the fellowship may determine whether we wish to continue funding the project or use our resources elsewhere. With funding of the SSP stopped, the fellowship would be able to determine how much has been expended annually as there is no other mechanism to make that determination in current financial reports.

Regional Rationale: An effective group conscience is a fully informed group conscience. Many members of the fellowship, even those who have been involved in service efforts, are not informed about the SSP and cannot make conscience-based decisions on funding. The moratorium and accounting would be used by the fellowship using basic accounting principles, to see the dollar value on the full effect of the SSP by ceasing to put fellowship resources into it. The fellowship would also explore the potential for alternate means of decreasing costs associated with the WSC. Groups have final responsibility for and authority over the service structure they have created. By fulfilling their responsibility to provide their service structure with the conscience and ideas, people, and money it needs, the groups also exercise their authority. Conversely, the service structure must always look to the groups for support and direction. (Concept Two).

Proposal A2: ABCD Region: To place a moratorium of at least one conference cycle on further implementation of and transition to any portions of the [Service System](#) Project Proposal (SSP), including, but not limited to, what has been referred to as the Group Service Unit (GSU) and/or the Local Service Unit (LSU).

Intent: To provide the time and opportunity to study, workshop and develop input and feedback on all ramifications, both pro and con, of the SSP to determine how the SSP would affect groups, areas and regions locally. To communicate, through our current service structure, the full effect of the SSP locally. Each part of the global fellowship has the responsibility to determine for themselves through their own local experience. Visiting various groups near and far does not qualify a member to determine how an action locally would affect a group in another part of the world. To explore the potential for alternate means of addressing issues that led to the creation of the SSP, such as the “apathy and indifference of our members,” “finding ways to improve service delivery” and to “decrease costs associated with the WSC.” The groups must take the opportunity to locally determine whether NA as a whole should avoid such a vast and dramatic change to all of the structure, processes, resources and people as proposed in the [Service System](#) Project.

Regional Rationale: This proposal acknowledges and considers the most recent World Board effort to postpone, but not stop, the most controversial portions of the SSP as reported in the June 2013 NAWs News. “In order to keep us focused on process and improvements, we are recommending that we provide questions or motions for decisions about GSUs and LSUs in the 2014 Conference Agenda Report. More than that seems like it cannot be rationally processed at one time. We, as well as the majority of WSC 2012, remain committed to new visions for State-Nation-Provinces (SNPs) and the role of zones, but we also believe more discussions on these are needed. Since these are potential system-wide changes, we believe moving forward in stages is more practical and realistic.” (NAWS News page 2)

It is apparent that many members and groups inside the fellowship, even those who have remained involved in service efforts; are not as informed about the SSP as they would wish to be considering the upheaval

implementing the SSP would create. Project plans such as the SSP are traditionally contained in the Conference Approval Track (CAT) and therefore, are usually unseen by the fellowship as a whole. The CAT was separated from Conference Agenda Report (CAR) in approximately 2002 when the World Service Conference (WSC) voted to keep budget and funding separated from the CAR. The CAT, provided to the RD Teams, and depending upon the region, the team is usually not required to discuss or disclose what is contained in the CAT and are therefore expected to utilize their delegated authority to determine what is best for the region they represent. The World Board has a block of votes for the stated purpose of the speaking for the unrepresented and unseated region.

Proposal A3: Indiana Region: To place a moratorium of at least a full conference cycle 2014-2016, on funding and implementation of the [Service System](#) Project Proposal (SSP), as well as any efforts to put into effect, a transition plan for implementation. This moratorium would be used by the fellowship through our current service structure, to learn about and explore alternate means of addressing the issues that led to the creation of the SSP by the 2008 World Service Conference participants, i.e., the apathy and indifference of our members in addition to finding ways to improve service delivery.

Intent: To provide the time and opportunity for our fellowship to study all implications, pros and cons, contained in the SSP and how its implementation would affect groups, areas and regions locally, as this is the only way in which groups would be able to view and understand the SSP. To allow for continued growth of the global fellowship using group conscience, by which means the local groups, areas and regions gather the conscience of their members, as the primary means for service related decisions. The service structure must always look to the groups for support and direction.

Regional Rationale: A true group conscience is a fully informed group conscience. It has become apparent to members of the fellowship, even members involved in service work that they have not been properly informed about the SSP. For our fellowship to have such drastic changes decided and implemented at the next conference would be a disservice. If groups, areas and regions determine they wish to implement portions of the SSP, there is nothing prohibiting them from doing so within our current service structure therefore a moratorium would not hinder groups, areas or regions that are testing portions of the SSP. The Traditions are the ties that bind us together, to disregard them will and has caused disunity. Final authority and autonomy reside with the NA Groups. It does not serve our Fellowship to ignore or override our non-negotiable Traditions. We will continue to learn, grow and evolve by respecting and following our Traditions. To do otherwise, would be to ignore or discount the hard won experience that gave birth to the Traditions and the spiritual principles upon which this program rests.

Proposal A4: Carolina Region: To place a moratorium of one full conference cycle (2014-2016), on funding and any further implementation of the [Service System](#) Project Proposal (SSP), as well as any efforts to put into effect, a transition plan for implementation. This moratorium would be used by the fellowship, through our current service structure, to learn about and explore alternate means of addressing the issues that led to the creation of the SSP by the 2008 World Service Conference participants, i.e., the apathy and indifference of our members in addition to finding ways to improve service delivery.

Intent: To provide time and opportunity for the fellowship to study all implications, pros and cons, contained in the SSP and how its implementation would affect groups, areas and regions locally, as this is the only way in which groups would be able to view and understand the SSP. To allow for continued growth of the global fellowship using group conscience, a means by which the local groups, areas and regions gather the conscience of their members, as the primary method for service related decisions.

Regional Rationale: A true group conscience is a fully informed group conscience. It has become apparent that many members of the fellowship, who have been involved in service efforts, have not been properly informed about the SSP. Many in our fellowship do not even know of the SSP's existence. For our fellowship to have such drastic changes decided and put in place at the next conference, would be a disservice. If groups, areas and

regions determine they wish to implement portions of the SSP, there is nothing prohibiting them from doing so within our current service structure, therefore a moratorium would not hinder groups, areas or regions that are testing portions of the SSP. The Traditions are the ties that bind us together, to disregard them will and has caused disunity. Final authority and autonomy reside with the NA Groups. It does not serve our Fellowship to ignore or override our non negotiable Traditions. We will continue to learn, grow and evolve by respecting and following our Traditions. To do otherwise, would be to ignore or discount the hard won experience that gave birth to the Traditions and the spiritual principles upon which this program rests.

Proposal A5: California Mid State Region and Utah Region: To place a moratorium on the Fellowship-wide implementation of the [Service System](#) Project (SSP) and the World Board “Transition Plan for Implementation” for at least two (2) World Service Conference cycles, discussion on and Transition Plan Implementation may be on the agenda for the WSC 2018.

Intent: To provide the NA Fellowship, (Groups, Areas & Regions) additional time to consider how the SSP might affect them if implemented and possibly incorporate into their current service structure on a trial basis if they choose. This will allow for continued growth, using group conscience as the primary criteria for service-related decisions.

Regional Rationale: It is apparent that many members, even those involved in service efforts, are not properly informed or even know of the existence of the SSP. Final authority and autonomy rests with the NA Groups, they need adequate time for review and consideration prior to any effort to implement or not to implement. To do otherwise is to ignore the spiritual principles our program is founded upon.

Proposal B1: ABCD Region: To put up the SSP proposal for the first time for a vote on the floor of the 2014 WSC to determine whether a 2/3 majority of participants wish to put an end to it.

Intent: This would allow groups to voice whether we wish to dismantle our current service structure and replace it with the theory referred to as the SSP. A true group conscience is a fully informed one and the informed conscience may not support the continued efforts of the SSP and should be given the opportunity to say so.

Regional Rationale: Our current structure does not prohibit the structure from implementing any aspects of the SSP, such as the GSU/GSF, the LSU/LSF if the local bodies choose to. Our unity does not equal uniformity and the SSP’s uniformity does not consider or provide for the diverse nature of our fellowship. “Given the results of the field test to date, it should come as little surprise that we are again talking about more of an evolution of the material and ideas, than a revolution or abrupt upheaval.” A WSC vote to change our service structure requires a 2/3 majority vote. This would give a clear indication of the voice of the fellowship whereupon the WSC event will fulfill its role of providing a place where the global fellowship’s groups can move forward unified by the final authority for NA services which currently rests with the groups.

Proposal B2: Northern California Region: To place in the 2014 CAR for fellowship vote to move forward with the SSP or transition plan.

Intent: To provide and allow for a full discussion a, clear and decisive opportunity for the fellowship to voice support or non-support for the SSP, and allowing the fellowship to vote whether or not to move forward with the SSP or transition plan.

Proposal C: ABCD Region: All currently seated Regions maintain their seats at the World Service Conference (WSC) in the future regardless of how they were formed, whether the SSP goes forward or not. Intent: To insure that the choice for each Region to move forward with the SSP is truly

the group conscience of the groups involved in those Regions and is not being dictated by the conscience of other Regions or the World Board. And that a radically new [Service System](#) is not forced upon the groups that

may not work for that Region or that they may not want, or risk the loss of their seat at the WSC if they do not comply with the will of others. No Region should have to make this choice.

Regional Rationale: “In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government” (12th Concept). NAWS and the WB serve the groups, they do not to “drive or direct” the affairs of groups (Twelve Concepts for NA Service, p 27). Similarly other Regions cannot direct the service affairs of other Regions. “The service structure has not been created as a way for some groups to force others to do their bidding.” (Id at page 28). Our Ninth Tradition is clear, it is the groups that organize a service structure that will work to serve those groups, not the service structure dictating to the groups how the groups should organize (It Works, How and Why, pp. 190-192). “The Twelve Traditions of N.A. are not negotiable. They are the guidelines that keep our fellowship alive and free.” (Basic Text p. 58)

Though the groups in the ABCD Region are aware of the fiscal issues in sustaining an ever-growing WSC, we feel other cost saving mechanisms must be explored. Blatant violations of Traditions and Concepts for monetary gain risks NA as a whole.

The groups in the ABCD Region are similarly minded in spending and donating 7th Tradition funds, the running, organizing and funding of events, the types of events they wish to participate in and the types of services our groups request, so they joined together. The Region is fiscally solvent, is able to provide requested services and it is geographically central to our Areas. In keeping with our Traditions and Concepts, it is the groups themselves that should decide what type of service structure they need and want and they should not be threatened with losing their seat at the WSC if they maintain their current functional service structure.

Proposal D1: California Mid State Region and Utah Region: To form a Workgroup to explore WSC cost reduction methods that do not include the reduction of WSC seated Regions.

Intent: To task a Workgroup with the responsibility of researching viable cost reduction alternatives for the WSC without dismantling Regions that were formed by need and group conscience. Workgroup will consist of NA Members experienced in technology, budget reduction and cost-cutting practices, facilitated by a qualified World Board Member. This Workgroup will not include a corporate consultant. This will allow for continued growth, using group conscience as the primary criteria for service- related decisions.

Regional Rationale: It will not serve our Fellowship to dismantle existing Areas or Regions as a cost-reduction measure. We are a Fellowship led by group conscience, defined by our Traditions, possessing the knowledge and capability required to explore alternate ways to reduce expenses at the WSC that are more in line with the spiritual principles of our program as defined by our Traditions.

[2014 CAT \(2014-01-24\) 129 pgs](#)

Pg – 1

2014–2016 strategic plan and proposed project plans

The Conference Approval Track material always includes the NAWS Strategic Plan and proposed projects for the upcoming cycle. This cycle we are proposing four projects: Fellowship Issue Discussions, [Service System](#), Traditions Book Project, and Public Relations. The project plans themselves explain the scope of the work, but it is worth mentioning here on the cover memo that there seems to have been some confusion about the [Service System](#) Project Plan. We have referred to this project plan as a “transition plan” because it outlines work World Services can do to support communities in the process of or thinking about transitioning to a new system. This is not a plan for local communities giving them instructions or guidance on how to move forward; it outlines the work NAWS could do, supporting those efforts over the next two years.

Pg – 7

Key Result Areas

The key result areas in the 2014–2016 NAWs Strategic Plan are:

- Communication and Technology
- Public Relations
- Trusted Servant Development
- Service System
- Sustainability of NA World Services
- Member and Group Support

Pg – 8

NAWS Long-term Goals

9. The components of the Service System work collaboratively to realize the NA Vision.

Pg – 13

Issue: Access to Training Opportunities

Objective I: Build an infrastructure of people, processes, and resources for the ongoing development and training of trusted servants.

Preliminary Outcomes by 2016

- Training and tools are more accessible to trusted servants at all levels of the Service System (e.g., use of online training modules).
- Trusted servants and communities have opportunities to exchange experience, strength, and hope.

Approaches

1. Develop forums and other methods for trusted servants and communities to exchange experience, strength, and hope. (Utilize zonal forums where possible.)
2. Create training modules and modeling through a combination of virtual and in person workshop sessions as appropriate. Start with evaluating the success of the video *CAR*.

Pg – 14

Key Result Area: Service System

Issue: Support for the Transition from a Service “Structure” to a Service “System”

Objective J: Transition from a service “structure” to a service “system” that is driven by unity in fulfilling our primary purpose and that is flexible in meeting the diverse service needs and goals of NA communities.

Preliminary Outcomes by 2016

- Members better understand the opportunities, benefits, and spiritual underpinnings of the Service System model, generating enthusiasm and support during the transition.
- NA communities are using some form of group support forum to facilitate discussions around group issues.
- Local communities are using a plan-driven approach for appropriate services.
- NA communities are adapting ideas from the Service System Proposals to meet their specific local service delivery needs and challenges.
- Preparation is complete to test the state/nation/province component of the Service System model.

Approaches

1. Develop and implement a new communications approach focused on the foundational aspects and spiritual principles of the Service System proposals.

2. Develop a means for NA communities to regularly share their experience in implementing ideas from the [Service System](#) Project. Capture adaptations and locally developed tools and make available as resources to others.
3. Collect those experiences and best practices from NA communities and use them to help put together some basics to help communities phase in a transition to group support forums and a local service conference and board.
4. Develop simple, translatable, and easily adaptable tools to support local implementation of the [Service System](#) models.
5. Develop the plan to field test the state/nation/province component/level of the System.
6. Advance the discussion on the role of zones, based on the outcome of the 2014 WSC discussion.
7. Advance the discussion on WSC seating.

Pg – 17

Fellowship Issue Discussions

Purpose and scope:

All of the principles within the topics we are considering for the upcoming cycles contain ideas that affect us as a fellowship now, and building a common understanding would not only help us now, but could improve and inform the drafting of the Traditions Book as well as future work on our [Service System](#).

Pg – 19

[Service System](#)

Purpose and scope:

This project will be offered pending results of Motions 4–6 in the 2014 *CAR*. Those motions agree in principle to move in the direction of a [Service System](#) with group support forums, local service conferences, and local service boards. This project is about how World Service can support that effort. As well as supporting transition efforts at a local level, we will continue to develop the ideas related to the rest of the [Service System](#)—state/nation/province bodies, zones, and seating. Regardless of our decision on this project plan, we know we need to continue discussion on WSC seating.

As the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report* makes clear, “World Services has no ability to mandate or enforce how structures, processes, people, or resources are set up on a local level, nor do we desire such ability.” *A Guide to World Services*, explains, “The basic purposes of our World Services are communication, coordination, information, and guidance. . . . Although all parts of our service structure affect and are affected by NA as a whole, only at this level do we find service bodies designed to deal with problems that involve our entire fellowship.” (*GWSNA*, pg. 2). World Services has a crucial role, therefore, in any systemic changes to NA services.

This project is about how we can support communities in the transition to a new system as well as those that are still fact-finding and contemplating implementing some of these ideas.

In this cycle:

- We plan to continue to develop tools and resources for local implementation of the [Service System](#) ideas—planning, mentorship, group support, consensus-based decision making, project-based services, etc.
- We need to continue to collect input about how local communities are adapting the ideas that have come from the [Service System](#) project to best meet their particular needs.
- We need to create opportunities for communities to share their struggles and successes with each other.
- And we need to collect those experiences and those best practices so that we can draft some general ideas to help communities with a transition to a new system.

Many communities feel like they do not know how to start; putting together some basics about how to phase in a transition will help those communities to not feel overwhelmed as they think about a transition from an area service committee to a local service conference and board along with group support forums. In all of this, we must try to leave enough room to allow for inevitable variation. Our guiding question is: How can we help the fellowship create its own future?

Of course, local services are only part of a [Service System](#) as a whole. We also need to work to refine the ideas related to state/nation/province service bodies. This is a more challenging prospect, in some respects, than the field test for local services because for some regions, transition to an SNP body may involve reunifying with a neighboring region or regions. We need to come up with a plan for how to field test SNPs even if we are unable to find regions that are reunifying within the conference cycle.

We also need to continue fostering the discussion about the role of zones and future of World Service Conference seating. Discussions at WSC 2014 will help to frame what our focus will be with SNP's, WSC Seating, and the Role of Zones in the upcoming cycle.

As was the case in the last conference cycle, the World Board will maintain overall responsibility for the work of this project. We will not be creating another workgroup, but we may use focus groups to review tools and materials or try to leverage the experience from the communities that have field tested the ideas so that experienced members can take a more active role in helping communities new to these ideas. We plan to use webinars for at least the beginning phases of this support and sharing in order to maximize the potential audience and minimize the expense. We believe this may involve more face-to-face interaction later in the cycle. Most of the face to face interaction this cycle will involve more than simply [Service System](#) so we have also increased the Fellowship Support line item in the 2014–2016 NAWS budget.

The objectives, outcomes, and approaches which led to this project plan are:

Issue: Support for the Transition from a Service “Structure” to a Service “System”

Objective J: Transition from a service “structure” to a service “system” that is driven by unity in fulfilling our primary purpose and that is flexible in meeting the diverse service needs and goals of NA communities.

Preliminary Outcomes by 2016

- Members better understand the opportunities, benefits, and spiritual underpinnings of the [Service System](#) model, generating enthusiasm and support during the transition.
- NA communities are using some form of group support forum to facilitate discussions around group issues.
- Local communities are using a plan-driven approach for appropriate services.
- NA communities are adapting ideas from the [Service System](#) Proposals to meet their specific local service delivery needs and challenges.
- Preparation is complete to test the state/nation/province component of the [Service System](#) model.

Approaches

1. Develop and implement a new communications approach focused on the foundational aspects and spiritual principles of the [Service System](#) proposals.
2. Develop a means for NA communities to regularly share their experience in implementing ideas from the [Service System](#) Project. Capture adaptations and locally developed tools and make available as resources to others.
3. Collect those experiences and best practices from NA communities and use them to help put together some basics to help communities phase in a transition to group support forums and a local service conference and board.
4. Develop simple, translatable, and easily adaptable tools to support local implementation of the [Service System](#) models.

5. Develop the plan to field test the state/nation/province component/level of the System.
6. Advance the discussion on the role of zones, based on the outcome of the 2014 WSC discussion.
7. Advance the discussion on WSC seating.

Direct expense items: \$ 70,000
 Direct project expenses: \$ 70,000

Pg – 26

Status of Projects Adopted for the 2012–2014 Cycle

Service System Project

This cycle we focused on field testing local services and producing tools for that field test. We have reported on the results of the field test in addendum B of the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report*. We have three motions related to this project in the *CAR*, and pending their approval, we will offer a project plan for our work in the upcoming cycle.

Trusted Servant Support and Development

We were able to draft tools to help with the Service System project this cycle including a Basic Facilitation Guide and Consensus-Based Decision Making Basics. None of the other items in this project plan were pursued due to limited human and financial resources.

Pg – 36

Fellowship Support

We have projected an increase in year two to discuss the Service System transition.

| | 06/30/13 YTD Actual | 7/1/12-11/30/13 Annualized | Proposed July 2014 - June 2015 | Proposed July 2015 - June 2018 | Cycle Total for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2018 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| VARIABLE OPERATIONAL EXPENSES | | | | | |
| <u>SERVICE SYSTEM</u> | 12,975 | 11,069 | 10,000 | 60,000 | 70,000 |

Pg – 95

2012 Service System Items

The following resolutions were passed in Old Business:

- Resolution 1: To Approve in Principle: Our service efforts will be carried out through a system that includes structure, process, people, and resources.
- Resolution 2: To Approve in Principle: The Service System is group-focused and includes a local-level body dedicated exclusively to addressing group concerns.
- Resolution 3: To Approve in Principle: Training and mentoring of trusted servants are essential functions of the Service System.
- Resolution 4: To Approve in Principle: Service bodies are purpose- and vision-driven.
- Resolution 5: To Approve in Principle: Service bodies work together to utilize planning processes to organize and coordinate their efforts.
- Resolution 6: To Approve in Principle: Service bodies make decisions by consensus.
- Resolution 7: To Approve in Principle: The service structure includes local service bodies, state/nation/province service bodies, and intermediate bodies if needed. Service bodies follow established geographic boundaries. They are not self determined, but are formed, based on need, through a collaborative planning process and agreement with other affected service bodies at the next level of service.

□ Resolution 8: To Approve in Principle: State/national/province boundaries are the primary criterion for seating consideration at the World Service Conference.

The following straw polls were supported:

Straw Poll a There is a small, neighborhood-sized body devoted to group needs. This group forum, which is typically not part of the delegation stream, is informal in nature and operates through conversation not formal decision making.

Straw Poll b Groups send a delegate quarterly to a local service planning meeting. One of those quarterly meetings is a general assembly where all interested members are encouraged to attend and input is given to help plan service activities for the cycle.

Straw Poll c Services are coordinated by a local service board and carried out by members, committees, and project workgroups who report to that board.

Straw Poll d Local service bodies follow county, city, or town boundaries, where practical. (They are much larger than the group forums mentioned above and in many cases larger than the current ASCs.)

Straw Poll e The boundaries of those local service bodies are agreed to at the state or national level.

Straw Poll f Planning cycles are synchronized from level to level (local to state to global) as well as across each level.

Straw Poll g When service needs cannot be accomplished effectively by local service bodies and state/national/province bodies, an intermediate level of service can be added.

Straw Poll h Most states, provinces, or countries have one state-, province- or nationwide service body that is responsible for state- or national-level public relations and coordinating efforts such as training across local service bodies.

Straw Poll h Most states, provinces, or countries have one state-, province- or nationwide service body that is responsible for state- or national-level public relations and coordinating efforts such as mentoring across local service bodies.

Straw Poll i Zonal boundaries are decided through a collaborative process with neighboring NA communities, other zones, and the WSC.

P – 104

NA WORLD SERVICE SESSION INFORMATION

Pg – 56 A Guide to World Services in NA

Please offer session topic ideas. In determining the session topics, it is helpful to consider who will be attending the event. Following are some ideas for workshop topics for this cycle: [Service System](#) Project, one of the current Issue Discussion Topics (Inspired by our Vision – Collaboration – Group Conscience, Accountability, & Delegation). These are our primary focus for this cycle as well as the literature projects which will occur in 2013. We are also prepared for other topics of interest to local members such as Building Strong Home Groups, Social Media, Planning Basics, Current NAWS activities, Fellowship Development, Facilitation Training, or Public Relations. These are just a few ideas; feel free to forward any topics that serve your event and community or to contact us for ideas about what might be best tailored to the event and attendees. Proposed session topics and reason for each session (more information is better here, please feel free to attach an additional sheet if the space below is not enough.):

P – 117

Seating Requests and Inquiries

This recommendation is a call to action. We have held discussions about changes to the conference going back to Ad Hoc NAS in the early 1990s; then the composite, resolution, and transitions groups; and more recently the

seating moratorium and [Service System](#) proposals. This is a highly charged, emotional issue that we, as a conference, have not advanced in any significant way in all of that time. There have been many ideas for the future of the WSC but the conference as a whole has yet to come to an agreement on a direction. Every possible solution will have its own set of challenges. It is our collective challenge at WSC 2014 and beyond to envision a future for the WSC that will best serve a worldwide fellowship and is sustainable.

[2014_CARVideoPPTWBMotions.pptx \(2013-12-13\) pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials PowerPoint Part 1 Motions 1-3](#)

N/A

[2014_CARVideoScriptBoardMotions1-3.pdf \(2013-12-13\) 4 pgs 2014 CAR WB Motions 1-3 File used to make videos](#)

N/A

[CARvideo1-BoardMotions1-3.mp4 \(2013-12-27\)](#)

N/A

[2014_CAR_SSPStaticPPT.pptx \(2013-12-11\) 36 pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials PowerPoint Part 2 Motions 4-6 Static](#)

The **Service System** Proposals

- **Introduction & Background**
- **Group Support Forums**
- **Local Service Conferences**
- **2014 World Service Conference**

More information: www.na.org/servicesystem

2014 Conference Agenda Report

The Service System Proposals

This is the second of three videos covering the material in the 2014 Conference Agenda Report.

Please visit www.na.org/conference to download all three videos and access any other conference material.

Background: Underpinning Principles

- Group support
- Planning
- Collective decision-making

Adaptable:

Field testing is offering shared experiences so communities can adapt to fit local needs.

Background: Project Origins

Grew from the need to address struggles NA service bodies have reported, like:

- Too few trusted servants
- Poor atmosphere of recovery at service meetings
- Duplication of efforts
- Poor communication...

Group Support Forums (GSFs)

GSFs: Group-focused



- Discuss group problems & successes
- The service equivalent of one addict helping another
- Share introductory or basic information about NA
- How the NA **service system** works

GSFs: Group-focused

- GSFs might be a place for
 - Literature distribution
 - Workshops and training sessions
 - Planning neighborhood-based activities
 - Whatever will help the needs of the groups



GSFs: Participants

- All interested members attend (not just GSRs)
- GSFs are discussion-based gatherings
- Newer members can learn about NA
- Veteran members can share experience with and mentor newer members



Size of GSFs

- May be neighborhood-sized
 - Less distance to travel
 - Easier to keep discussion informal
- Field testing: some communities prefer a group-focused gathering that includes all groups
 - Better communication across the whole community
 - Could achieve this by simply changing the focus of area service committee meetings.

GSFs: Representation & Delegation

- Some group support forums have a delegate who attends & reports on the groups at the local service conference.
- GSRs can attend the local service conference or delegate that responsibility to the GSF delegate



Flexibility is one of the foundational principles of the proposals.

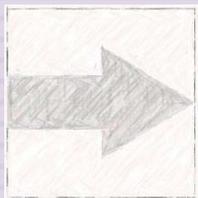
Local Service Conferences (LSCs)



Group
focused



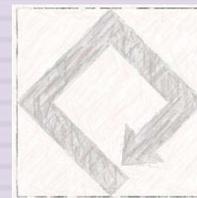
Flexible



Purpose
driven



Collaborative



Geographically
based

Local Service Conferences (LSCs)

According to the proposals:

- Quarterly, plan-driven meetings
- Attended by
 - All GSRs and/or GSF delegates
 - Trusted servants of the LSC
 - All interested members
- The annual assembly
 - Attended by all interested local members
 - Prioritize service for the year ahead
 - Ensures that the groups set the direction of services
- Communication, oversight, and selection of leaders

How often do they meet?



- Proposals suggest quarterly LSCs, monthly LSBs
- Some prefer having all GSRs meet together more frequently
- Local service conference meeting preferences are flexible, adaptable by each community

Decision-making

Decision-making is
consensus-based
where practical

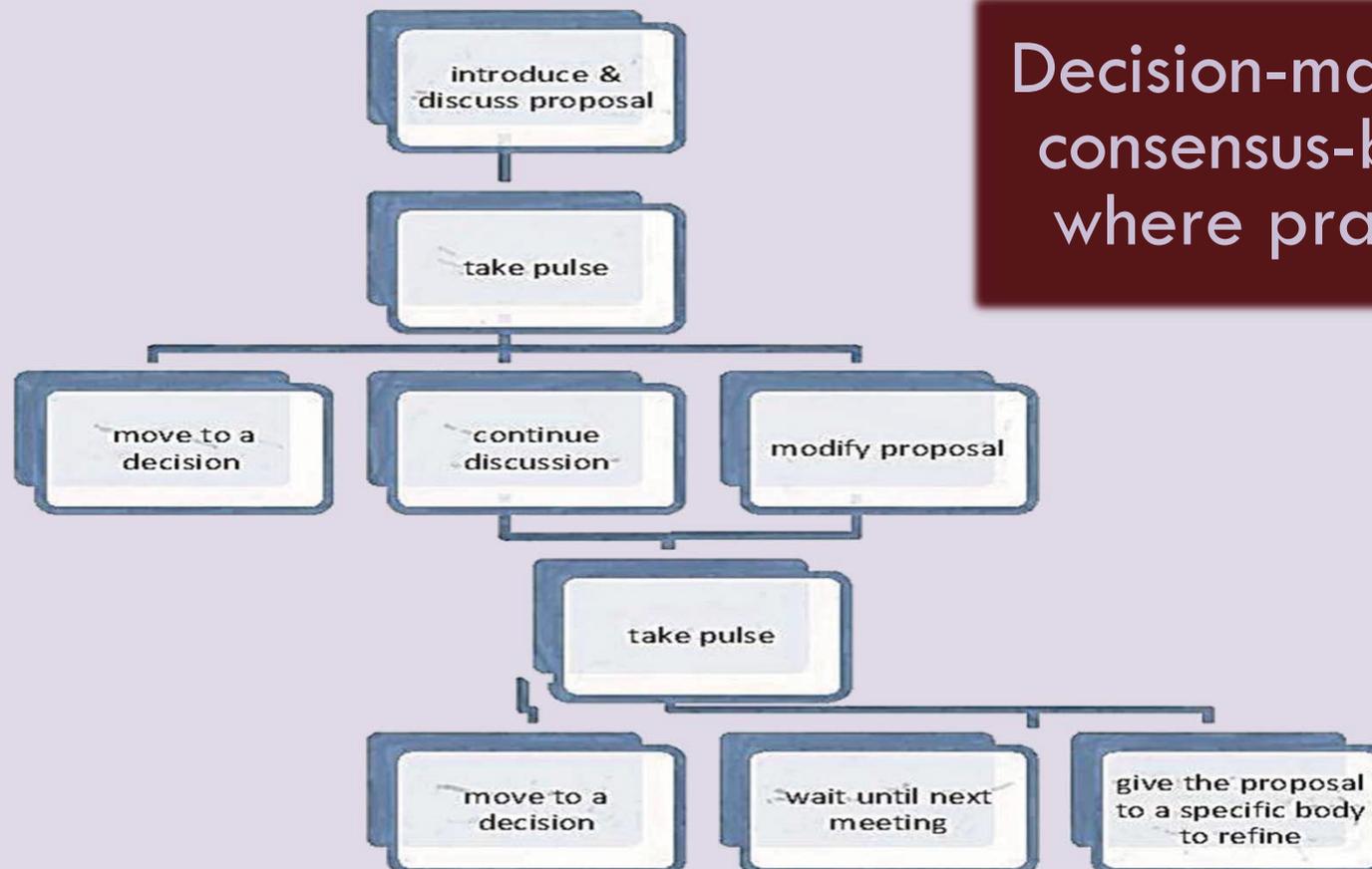


Chart: CBDM Basics, available at www.na.org/servicesystem

Local Service Boards (LSBs)

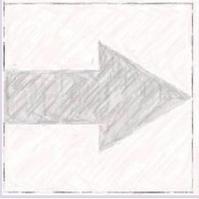
- Does the day-to-day work to accomplish the goals and realize vision of the local service conference
- Administers the work prioritized by the local service conference annual planning assembly



- The local service conference participants are the architects; the local service board members are the builders and contractors

LSBs: Accountability

- Reports to and is overseen by the local service conference
- Creates plans and a budget, which are approved the local service committee
- Service may be accomplished by workgroups led by coordinators or committees
 - LSC decides based on board's recommendations
 - Form follows function

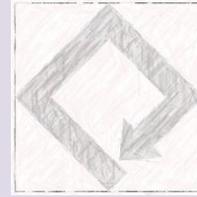


A purpose-driven system

The **service system** proposals suggest:

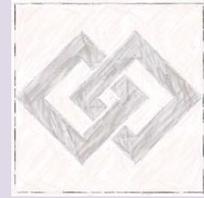
- Group issues handled at group support forum
- Strategic decisions & general oversight handled at local service conference
- Day-to-day administration handled by local service board

Geographic boundaries



- US: county, town, or city
- In order to:
 - Avoid duplication of services
 - Ensure all parts of a state or nation are covered by a service body
 - Make NA more visible and enhance PR efforts

Communication & Collaboration



- Unifying with neighboring areas can be daunting
- Most crucial is better communication & collaboration with our neighbors & possible unification in the future
- Open communication with neighboring service bodies & bring trusted servants together
- Consider sharing services between neighboring service bodies

Motion 4: Group Support Forums

- **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.
 - Discussion-oriented
 - Group-focused
 - Training-oriented
 - Open to all
 - Neighborhood-sized (recommended)
 - Meets monthly (recommended)

Motion 5: Local Service Conferences

- **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.
 - Plan-driven
 - Form follows function
 - Strategic
 - Consensus-based
 - Meets quarterly (recommended)
 - Defined by county, city, or town boundaries (recommended)

Motion 6: Local Service Boards

- **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.
 - Responsible to the local service conference
 - Carries out the LSC's priorities
 - Meets monthly (recommended)
 - Consist of administrative body and service coordinators (recommended)

Why these motions?

- Normally these ideas wouldn't be in the form of a motion until there is written material to adopt, but these motions are offered in the spirit of unity.
- These motions are not a mandate. World Services has no ability to mandate or enforce how services are delivered locally, nor do we desire such ability.
- World Services' purpose is "communication, coordination, information, and guidance." It is in the service of that purpose that we have undertaken the work of the **Service System** Project.

Ongoing **Service System** Discussions

- Ideas that are still being discussed, but will not be decided on at WSC 2014:
 - State-, province-, or nationwide service bodies
 - World Service Conference seating
 - The role of zones

2014 SSPAnimatedPPT.pptx (2013-12-11) 36 pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials Power Point Part 2 Motions 4-6 Animated

N/A – Same information as static presentation.

2014 SSPVideoScriptFinal.pdf (2013-12-13) 6 pgs 2014 CAR WB Motions 4-6 File used to make videos

SSP Video Script for Release with the 2014 CAR

This is the second of three videos covering the material in the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report*. Please visit www.na.org/conference to download all three videos and access any other conference material.

INTRODUCTION

Hello. This video has been put together by the World Board of NA to cover some of the highlights of the **Service System** Project and Proposals as those ideas have evolved as of October 2013. After covering the basics of the proposals, we will explain the **service system** motions that will be in the *Conference Agenda Report*. Much more information about the project can be found on the project webpage: www.na.org/servicesystem.

We want to start by clearly saying: the **Service System** Proposals are not a mandate. The most important aspect of the proposals is the broad principles that underpin them—things like group support, planning, and collective decision making. The proposals offer a model to help communities improve how they put these principles into practice. In an international fellowship as large and far-flung as Narcotics Anonymous, one size will never fit all, and so we are working to get more practical understanding of the different ways that communities implement the ideas in the proposals.

We have just finished a field test of the local aspects of the **service system** proposals and these experiences should help us to create a frame with enough shared experience that communities can make choices about what will best help them carry the message. This video attempts to explain some of the basics of the proposals, with the understanding that local communities will adapt the details of any system to fit their specific needs.

BACKGROUND

First to back up a bit: The **Service System** project grew out of a need to try to address some of the issues that service bodies throughout NA struggle with—too few trusted servants, a poor atmosphere of recovery at service meetings, duplication of efforts, poor communication, and the list goes on.... If you are involved in service, chances are you are familiar with many of the issues. Most of us have encountered them in our service experience.

But where to start? We began where one must always begin—we looked to the Traditions and Concepts. And we realized we must start with a shared vision, as a fellowship. So our first task was to offer “A Vision for NA Service” which passed unanimously at the 2010 World Service Conference.

We asked ourselves, “How can the **service system** help NA achieve our vision and better carry the message?” Our Basic Text is clear: “Everything that occurs in the course of NA

service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the NA message to the addict who still suffers.”

We felt the most important job of the **service system** is grounded in the Fifth Tradition, to support the groups in achieving their primary purpose.

And so we proposed a forum to help support the groups.

GROUP SUPPORT FORUMS

The group support forum is a place to discuss group problems and successes away from budgets and motions. It is the service equivalent of one addict helping another. Here newer members can get introductory or basic information about NA, including how the **service system** works.

Group support forums can also be a place for literature distribution, workshops and training sessions, for finding members to serve on H&I panels, planning picnics, and other neighborhood based activities. The exact activities of a group support forum will vary from place to place, but the key is that it focuses on the needs of the group.

All interested members, not just group representatives, are encouraged to come. It's a friendly, discussion-based gathering where newer members can get their feet wet and learn more about NA, and veterans can share their experiences and actively mentor others.

The proposals describe group support forums as neighborhood-sized—the idea was that each local service committee as described in the proposals (or today's area service committees) would have several small GSFs within it. A smaller sized group support forum means less distance to travel for those who are interested, and it can be easier to keep discussion informal and more like a conversation in a small group. After field testing, however, we found that some communities prefer a group focused meeting that includes all of the groups in their community to improve communication across the community. In these communities holding a group support forum has simply meant changing the focus of the majority of what were their area service committee meetings, leaving four meetings a year for planning and business and the others for group support.

In communities with smaller group support forums many of those GSFs have a delegate who attends the local service conference and reports on the groups in the GSF. In some cases, groups have elected to attend the group support forum and not the local service conference, delegating that responsibility to the GSF delegate. More often, groups attend both the group support forum and the local service conference. Along with group-focused, flexibility is one of the foundational principles of the proposals and again, each community will adapt things according to their needs.

LOCAL SERVICE CONFERENCES

We've already mentioned that two of the foundational principles of the **Service System** Proposals are “group focused” and “flexible.” The other three foundational principles—purpose-driven, collaborative, and geographically based—are each integral to the local service conference and the local service board. These two bodies together accomplish most of NA's service delivery.

The proposals describe the local service conference as a quarterly, plan-driven meeting attended by all of the GSRs and/or GSF delegates, along with trusted servants of the LSC and interested members. One of the meetings of the local service conference is an annual assembly where all interested members of the community gather to set service priorities for the year ahead. This annual planning assembly ensures that the groups get to set the general direction of services. The other local service conferences are opportunities for communication, oversight, and careful selection of leaders.

As much as possible the discussions and decisions at the local service conference are concerned with strategic direction and oversight. Administrative decisions and details are delegated to the local service board, which is then accountable to the local service conference. The combination of the local service conference and the local service board balance the delegation spoken of in the Third Concept with the group responsibility and authority called for in the Second Concept.

The proposals suggest the local service conference meets quarterly, and the local service board and the committees and workgroups meet monthly in order to fulfill their functions. In practice, some communities have found they prefer having all GSRs meet together more often than quarterly. Some have quarterly service conferences and hold group support forums with the whole community the other eight months of the year, as mentioned above. Others alternate service conferences and group support forums, whether those GSFs are neighborhood-sized or consisting of the whole community. These are just a couple of alternatives.

Decision making itself is consensus-based where practical although voting may still be the preferred way to handle items like elections or urgent decisions where the body fails to reach consensus.

LOCAL SERVICE BOARD

The local service board is more detail oriented than the conference. The board does the day-to-day work to accomplish the goals and realize the vision directed by the conference. The local service board administers the work prioritized by the LSC planning assembly. The conference are the architects; the board are the builders and contractors.

The local service board reports to and is overseen by the local service conference. The board creates plans and a budget, which are approved by the LSC to carry out the work of the plan. The hands-on service delivery may be accomplished by workgroups led by coordinators or by committees. The board will make recommendations to the local

service conference depending on what seems to make the most practical sense. Form should follow function.

In short the **service system** proposals suggest a separation between these three types of concerns: 1. Group issues and needs are handled at the group support forum. 2. Strategic decisions and general oversight of local services are handled at the local service conference. And 3. day-to-day administration of local services is handled by the local service board.

One of the more controversial elements of the **Service System** Proposals is the idea that service bodies are, where practical, defined by geographic boundaries. This is, in fact, one of the five main foundational principles of the proposals. For the local service conference, in the US that would mean county, town, or city boundaries.

The reasons for this recommendation are three-fold: 1. To avoid duplication of services, 2. To make sure all parts of a state or nation are covered by a service body, 3. To make NA more visible to addicts who are trying to find us as well as members of the public who refer addicts to us. All aspects of PR efforts, including H&I, outreach, and fellowship development, are enhanced when service bodies conform to recognized geographic boundaries.

Still, it's important to recognize that for some ASCs, being defined by geographic boundaries could mean unifying with a neighboring service body—possibly a daunting task. What seems crucial is better communication and collaboration with our neighbors with an eye to having a conversation about *possible* unification down the road.

The first step for many communities would just be to open communication with neighboring service bodies. Most areas do not have a full awareness of what their neighboring areas do. Bringing trusted servants together, whether through a shared learning day or a series of meetings with trusted servants of the areas, will help open the lines of communication, and communication is a necessary first step toward any possible collaboration—another foundational principle of the **service system** proposals.

Over time, neighboring service bodies may want to consider sharing services where it makes sense to do so (e.g., sharing a phoneline where two service bodies occupy the same area code; cooperating to do public outreach to a school system when two service bodies exist within the same county).

Eventually, at some point that may lead to discussion and ultimately decisions about whether it makes sense to combine neighboring service bodies. And it may not. Again, these are decisions that will be made locally and collaboratively.

The proposed system involves a number of changes. In any transition to a new system, communities may want to take the changes piece by piece rather than all at once. An evolution rather than a revolution. Change can be difficult. Nonetheless, we owe it to

ourselves and to those we serve to do what we can to improve our ability to carry the NA message. Our Basic Text tells us “We must realize that we are not perfect. There will always be room for growth.” Just like our personal program, our service delivery will never be perfect. There will always be room for growth.

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT

At the 2014 World Service Conference, the Fellowship of NA through their elected delegates will take the next step and decide whether they agree in principle to move forward in the direction of a **service system** that includes group support forums, local service conferences, and local service boards. Those questions will be separate and they will be presented in the form of motions

There will be a motion devoted to the group support forum:

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.

Following the motion is a list of essential characteristics of a GSF—that it be discussion-oriented, group focused, training-oriented, and open to all—and a list of recommended characteristics—that it be neighborhood sized and that it meet monthly.

There is also a motion devoted to the local service conference:

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.

Again, following the motion is a list of essential characteristics of a LSC—that it be plan-driven, form follows function, it is strategic, and consensus-based. And there are also recommended characteristics—that it meet quarterly and is defined by county, city, or town boundaries.

The third motion is devoted to the local service board:

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.

The characteristics that follow the motion that are essential to the LSB are that it is responsible to the local service conference, it carries out the LSC’s priorities, and it meets monthly. The LSB organizes the annual planning assembly and coordinates the LSC meetings. It is recommended that the LSB consist of the admin body and service coordinators.

Typically, these ideas would not even be offered in the form of motions until there was a service manual or something similar to consider for adoption. However, despite

unanimous support of the **Service System** Project plan in 2008 and 2010, strong support of the project plan in 2012, and adoption of a series of resolutions related to the project at the 2012 WSC, there still seems to be some sentiment that the project lacks clear support. We offer these motions in the spirit of unity. Hopefully, this is a step forward together to try to evolve into a **service system** that helps us better carry our message.

These motions are not a mandate. The conference cannot tell communities how to deliver services locally. World services has no ability to mandate or enforce how structures, processes, people, or resources are set up on a local level, nor do we desire such ability. As described in *A Guide to World Services*, World Services purpose is “communication, coordination, information, and guidance.” It is in the service of that purpose that we have undertaken the work of the **Service System** Project.

If these motions pass, the conference will then vote on a transition plan—probably similar to a project plan—that will be included in the Conference Approval Track material mailed out at the end of January.

The **Service System** Proposals also include ideas about state-, province- or nationwide service bodies, as well as conference seating and the role of zones. None of those aspects of the proposals are up for decision at the next World Service Conference. They are still under discussion. If the motions related to local services are passed at the next conference, we will release a video related to these ideas next conference cycle.

We hope this video has helped to clarify the **service system** proposals. If you have any questions, please reach out and let us know: worldboard@na.org.

You can download a copy of the *Conference Agenda Report* online at www.na.org/conference or order a hard copy from NA World Services.

CARvideo2-SSPandMotions4-6.mp4 (2013-12-12)



CAR-video-2-SSP-and-motions-4-6.mp4 (Command Line)

**2014 CARVideoPptRegProp.pptx (2013-12-13) 32 pgs 2014 CAR Workshop Materials
PowerPoint Regional Proposals**

Regional Proposals



We
struggled
with two
big
questions
related to
regional
proposals.

- What should we recommend for the future of the proposal experiment?
- How do we deal with the proposals submitted for this CAR?

Regional Proposals



- **The essay on regional proposals in the CAR provides background and our recommendations about the future of regional proposals.**
- **This video focuses on how we approached the proposals submitted for this CAR.**

Regional Proposals

- ❑ **None would have met policy for inclusion as motions**
- ❑ **For a proposal to be “CAR-ready,” it must be**
 - **unambiguous and understandable**
 - **clear what it affects and what the consequences of approving it would be**
- ❑ **Each of the proposals submitted is unclear, impossible to execute, or fails to consider Conference policy.**

Regional Proposals



- ❑ **The proposal process is new to all of us.**
- ❑ **We probably could have provided better information and direction.**
- ❑ **The World Board is not willing to simply leave these proposals out of the CAR entirely.**

Regional Proposals

- **Because we are in the middle of an experiment, we**
 - **included the proposals as an addendum to the CAR (Addendum C)**
 - **tried to summarize the basic ideas that the Conference could decide to take action on**
- **We provided an explanation of challenges with the original proposals and a Board response.**

Proposal A

To place a moratorium on the **Service System Proposals. Ideas for the moratorium range from two to four years**

- Five proposals ask that a moratorium be placed on the **Service System** Project.

Proposal A: Summary & Challenges

- ❑ **Not clear what would and would not be covered by a moratorium**
- ❑ **Four of five proposals attempt to direct local communities**
- ❑ **Impossible to execute is the accounting one of the proposals calls for; financial reporting related to this project has already been audited and published**

Proposal A: WB Response

- **Service System** Project Plan has been adopted and reaffirmed three conferences in a row
- Currently focused on how the proposals are being put into practice and adapted locally
- A moratorium on the project would stifle this information-gathering.
- We will end up with ideas, practical experience, tools, and guidance shaped by Fellowship experience.

Proposal B



To specify the specific decision-making mechanism for anything related to the SSP

- Two proposals seek to affect decision-making mechanism related to the SSP.

Proposal B: Summary

- **One asks that the SSP Proposal in its entirety be brought to the WSC floor “for the first time” for a two-thirds majority vote.**
- **The other directs what will be placed in the 2014 CAR.**

Proposal B: Challenges

- **A motion that wishes to affect what will be in the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report* would have needed to be presented at the 2012 conference.**
- **2012 Conference showed strong opposition to a proposal “That any decisions regarding the SSP be included in the 2014 CAR and require 2/3 vote to pass.”**

Proposal B – WB Response

- ❑ **Decisions about the Service System Proposals are in the CAR.**
- ❑ **The transition plans are a project plan about how to implement the WSC decides.**
- ❑ **Unable to offer this project “for the first time,” because the Conference has already approved the project three times and agreed to the 2012 CAR resolutions**

Proposal C



Currently seated regions retain their seat at the WSC forever.

Proposal C: Summary & Challenges

- **Proposal attempts to ensure that future seating decisions retain all currently seated regions**
- **Seems like an attempt to amend something not yet adopted**

Proposal C: WB Response

- **Suggest that the idea be reintroduced when the Conference is deciding on seating policy**
- **Seems a better use of our time to discuss the future of our global Fellowship's decision-making process**

Proposal D

Ideas to evaluate or reduce WSC costs either by creating a workgroup to look into conference costs or by eliminating World Board travel to the WSC

- Two proposals related to conference cost:
 - one to create a workgroup to look into WSC costs
 - another to eliminate World Board travel, except for the WB chair, to the WSC

Proposal D: Challenges

- ❑ **NA World Services operates with a two-year strategic plan and budget.**
- ❑ **2014–2016 cycle: The projects the board is recommending are a Traditions book and service system.**
- ❑ **Idea to create a workgroup would have to be committed to the WB to bring a project plan and budget to WSC 2016.**

Proposal D: WB Response

- ❑ **Workgroups cost an average of \$250,000 per cycle.**
- ❑ **We will continue to evaluate options related to the cost of the Conference and encourage active dialogue.**
- ❑ **We believe the board needs to attend the Conference.**
- ❑ **Meeting virtually is not a replacement for face-to-face meetings.**

Conference Approval Track Material

□ The CAT will

- be mailed by 27 January
- contain the budget and project plans, including:
 - Transition plan for SSP
 - Workshops with emphasis on affordable approaches to reach more members
 - Updated Traditions workbook project plan

2014_CARVideoScriptRegionalProposals.pdf (2013-12-13) 4 pgs 2014 CAR Regional Proposals File used to make videos

This is the third of three videos covering the material in the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report*. Please visit www.na.org/conference to download all three videos and access any other conference material.

Introduction

Hello from NA World Services. In preparation for the upcoming World Service Conference, we are creating this video as a way to present information from the *Conference Agenda Report*, or *CAR*. Our hope is that summarizing the *CAR* in a different medium will make it easier to understand and workshop. This video can be used by individuals, homegroups, or workshops and service meetings—anywhere that people might be discussing and deciding on the information in the *CAR*. Any specific feedback about this video can be directed to us at worldboard@na.org.

This video does not cover the entire contents of the *CAR*; it focuses on the regional proposals. We wanted to keep the video as short as possible so it's important to remember that the *Conference Agenda Report* itself contains more information on each of the topics we cover here as well as general conference preparations.

The *CAR* can be downloaded free at www.na.org/conference, or you can order a hard copy by mail for \$8 from NA World Services.

Regional Proposals

In creating the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report*, we struggled with two big questions related to regional proposals: 1. What should we recommend for the future of the proposal experiment? And 2. How do we deal with the proposals submitted for this *CAR*?

The essay on the regional proposals within the *CAR* itself provides some background about our efforts to move away from sessions dominated by parliamentary procedure and toward making decisions based in discussion and consensus. We encourage you to read that essay for a more detailed accounting of the regional proposal experiment and our recommendations for the future..

In this video, we are going to focus on the second topic—how we have approached the proposals submitted for this *CAR*.

None of the proposals would have met current policy for inclusion in the *CAR* as motions. In order for a proposal to be “*CAR*-ready,” it must be unambiguous and understandable, and it must be clear to those discussing the proposal what it affects and what the consequences of approving it would be. Each of the proposals submitted for the 2014 *CAR* is unclear, is impossible to execute, or fails to consider conference policy.

When contacted to address the challenges—that is, to clarify intent, or to include the policy the proposal seeks to change, or to make the proposal comply with conference policy—the makers were not willing or able to adapt the proposals to meet these needs. The proposal process is new to all of us, and we could probably have provided better information and direction.

Because we are in the middle of an experiment, the World Board is not willing to simply leave these proposals out of the *CAR* entirely, as has occurred in the past with regional

motions that were incomplete or unclear. The only reasonable compromise that we have been able to come up with is to provide access to the proposals by including them as an addendum to the CAR (Addendum C) and to try to summarize the basic ideas that the conference could decide to take action on here for fellowship discussion. There are five such summary proposals. Following each proposal, we have provided an explanation of the challenges with the original proposals and a Board response to the ideas.

Proposal A: To place a moratorium on the Service System Proposals. Ideas for the moratorium range from two to four years.

Five proposals ask that a moratorium be placed on the Service System Project, calling out in particular funding, implementation, or efforts to put into effect a transition plan.

There are several challenges with these proposals.

First, it's not clear what would and would not be covered by such a moratorium. The Service System Project consists of a broad range of ideas and recommendations. For instance: Would a moratorium cover any new tools related to consensus-based decision making or planning at a local level? Would it apply to answering questions from members about the project? The specifics of what such a moratorium would cover are not clear.

Second, at least four of the five proposals attempt to direct local communities by placing a moratorium on the fellowship for implementation of any of these ideas. The World Service Conference and NA World Services are not in a position to place or enforce mandates on local service bodies.

Another aspect of the proposals we see as impossible to execute is the type of accounting one of the proposals calls for. We do not break out portions of a trip or of staff time related to a specific project. The financial reporting related to this project has already been audited and published in accordance with standard accounting practices.

WB Response:

The Service System Project Plan has been adopted and reaffirmed three conferences in a row. Placing a moratorium on this project to allow the fellowship time to learn about and research the service system proposals seems counterintuitive; when the project is current focused on how the proposals are being put into practice and adapted locally. Placing a moratorium on the project would only serve to stifle this information-gathering. We have already scaled back the amount of money allocated to the project. Our intention with continuing to focus on this project is that ultimately we will end up with ideas, practical experience, tools, and guidance shaped by fellowship experience.

Proposal B: To specify the specific decision-making mechanism for anything related to the SSP.

There were two proposals submitted that seek to affect the decision-making mechanism for anything related to the **Service System** Project. One of the proposals asks that the SSP Proposal in its entirety be brought to the WSC floor “for the first time” for a two-thirds majority vote. The other proposal directs what will be placed in the 2014 *CAR*.

It is impossible to implement either of these as written. Motions passed at the World Service Conference take affect at the close of that conference. A motion that wishes to affect what will be in the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report* would have needed to be presented at the 2012 conference.

Further, the 2012 conference already showed strong opposition to a proposal “That any decisions regarding the SSP be included in the 2014 *CAR* and require 2/3 vote to pass.”

WB Response: We have already made the commitment to put decisions about the **Service System** Proposals in the *CAR*; the transition plans, which will be in the Conference Approval Track material, are simply a project plan about how to help discuss and implement what the WSC decides.

We would not be able to offer anything about this project “for the first time,” because the conference has already approved the project three times and agreed in principle to the ideas within the resolutions in the 2012 *CAR*.

Proposal C: Currently seated regions retain their seat at the WSC forever

This is an attempt to ensure that future decisions related to seating include a provision to retain all currently seated regions. In this sense, it seems like an attempt to amend something not yet adopted.

WB Response:

We suggest that the idea be reintroduced when the decision it seeks to affect is actually before the conference. To adopt a condition on a policy not yet drafted would seem to be taking things in the wrong order. We are not yet at a place where we share a vision of what the conference might look like in the future, which is why we do not yet have long term recommendations for a comprehensive seating policy. It seems a better use of our time to discuss what possibilities we see for the future of our global fellowship’s decision making process.

Proposal D: Ideas to evaluate or reduce WSC costs either by creating a workgroup to look into conference costs or by eliminating World Board travel to the WSC.

Summary of and Challenges with the Original Proposals: There are two proposals related to conference cost: one to create a workgroup to look into WSC costs and another to eliminate World Board travel, except for the WB chair, to the WSC.

NA World Services operates with a two-year strategic plan and budget. Planning, funding, and coordinating diverse business and service needs over the course of a two-year cycle

requires time. The projects that are presented to the WSC are a result of the finished plan for the upcoming cycle. There are many ways to get ideas included in the planning process, but that process must be initiated before the *Conference Agenda Report*.

For the 2014–2016 cycle the projects the board is recommending are a Traditions book and **service system**. The budget for decision at the conference has been projected with these projects in mind. The idea to create a workgroup would, therefore, have to be committed to the WB to bring back a project plan and budget to WSC 2016. We believe that conference participants will have already discussed many of the issues related to conference funding by that time.

WB Response: International workgroups cost an average of \$250,000 per cycle, and we feel the expense is not warranted for the logistics of the WSC. We have evaluated and will continue to evaluate options related to the cost of the conference and report on our discussions and encourage an active dialogue.

Further, we do not believe eliminating board attendance at the conference is a responsible way to cut costs. As the body charged with carrying out the will of the WSC in the two years between meetings, we need to hear and understand what it is the conference wants from us.

While NA as a whole has been increasingly using technology to further discussion, we do not feel meeting virtually is a replacement for face-to-face meetings. Online meetings can be useful for touching base, framing, or even redirecting work, but not so good for making decisions.

Other Considerations

The *CAR* is the first of the conference-related mailings that conference participants will receive. The Conference Approval Track material will be mailed by 27 January, and will contain the budget and project plans. Among the project plans for the 2014-2016 conference cycle will be a transition plan for the **Service System** Project, a project plan for workshops with particular emphasis on affordable approaches to reaching more members, and an updated project plan for a traditions workbook, which will focus on the drafting and review and input for that project.

The Conference is the event that brings us together to discuss and decide matters on behalf of NA as a whole. As the Basic Text mentions, though, when we join together as a Fellowship united by our shared principles, the whole is much greater than the sum of its parts. Our principles—and our efforts to put them into practice, as individuals, groups, service committees, and collectively as a global fellowship—are the Ties that Bind Us Together. We look forward to strengthening those bonds at WSC 2014.

For more information on the conference, go to www.na.org/conference.

[CARvideo3-RegionalProposals.mp4 \(2013-12-12\)](#)



CAR-video-3-regional-proposals.mp4 (Command Line)