

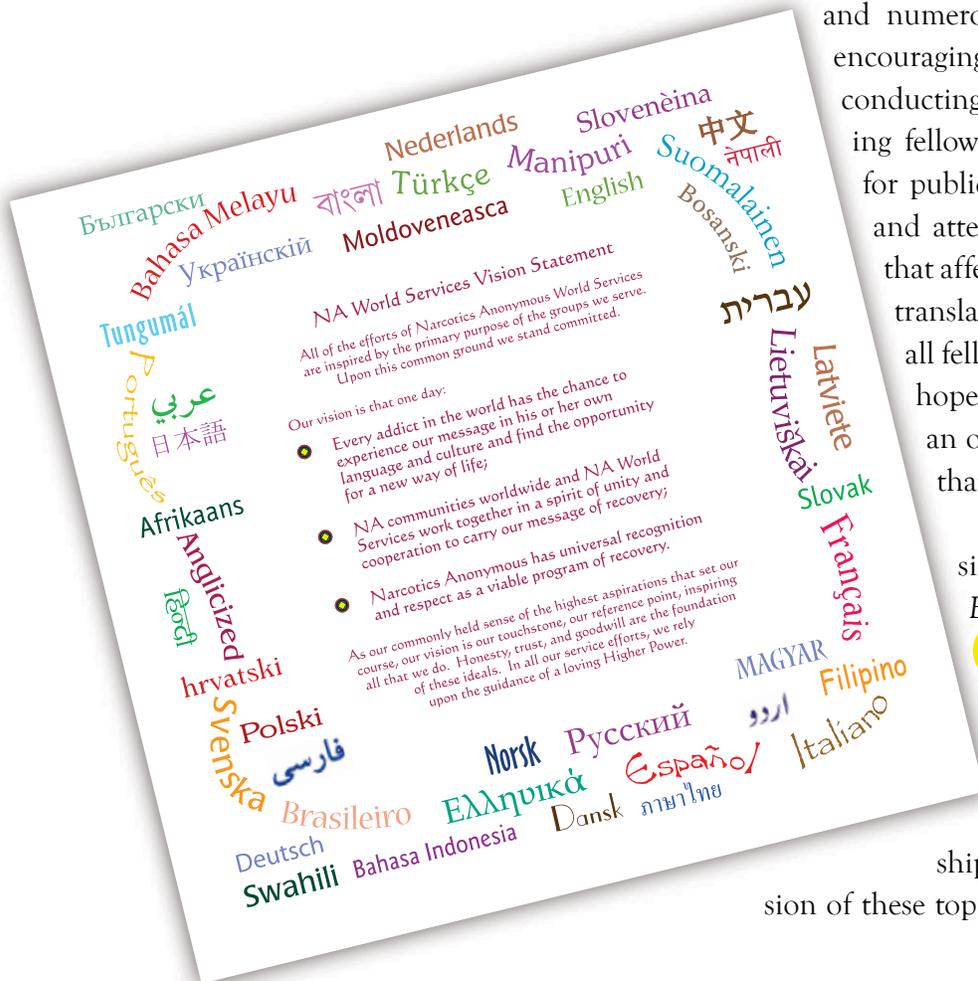
# NA World Services

As it states in *A Guide to World Services in NA*, “The basic purposes of our world services are communication, coordination, information, and guidance. We provide these services so that our groups and members can more successfully carry the message of recovery and so that our program of recovery can be made more available to addicts everywhere. 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.”

To accomplish this purpose, NAWS functions in many ways as two inter-related companies: one focused on literature production and distribution, the other on fellowship development. These areas of activity overlap in many places, and all that we do is driven by the NAWS Vision Statement. What we call fellowship development guides our activity at NAWS and is typically planned to serve many purposes. Developing recovery literature, service material,

and numerous publications; forwarding and encouraging specific Issue Discussion Topics; conducting and assisting others in conducting fellowship workshops; developing tools for public relations activities and targeting and attending specific professional events that affect the lives of addicts; and creating translations of all of the above—these are all fellowship development activities. We hope that this report provides you with an overview of some of these activities that we perform on your behalf.

We forwarded three Issue Discussion Topics in the previous cycle: *Building Strong Home Groups*, *Our Service System*, and *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?* In addition to conducting the workshops listed in this report, we did a lot to encourage fellowshipwide understanding and discussion of these topics. We developed focus and ques-





tions for these topics and distributed them in *The NA Way Magazine* and *NAWS News*. We also evolved these discussions as the conference cycle went on. For *Building Strong Home Groups*, we created a worksheet that is available, in addition to the questions in *The Group Booklet*, to help home groups take inventory and improve their ability to carry our message. This is such an ongoing need in our fellowship that we will continue to look for ways to promote these discussions. These discussions also fed into the creation of four new service pamphlets and reflect the input we received worldwide: *Group Business Meetings*, *Group Trusted Servants: Roles and Responsibilities*, *Disruptive and Violent Behavior*, and *NA Groups and Medication*.

The discussions on Our **Service System** led us to propose the **Service System** project adopted at WSC 2008. Our current service structure, created in the 1970s to serve a pri-

marily North American fellowship, no longer fits the needs and resources of our fellowship around the world. In our interactions with trusted servants in workshops around the world, we have had wonderful opportunities to hear not just about what hasn't been working in NA service, but also about some of the innovative new approaches members come up with every day to address the types of difficulties we all face. Spreading that energy and the ideas inspired by it will help our **service system** continue to grow to fit our current needs.

Finally, the discussions on *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?* seemed to be a difficult subject for many of us. It is hard for us, members who have found a home in NA, to articulate why some do not find that same sense of hope, identification, and understanding. We held common needs workshops for the first time in decades at WCNA 32, with a specific focus on young people and our gay and lesbian members. This initiative was well received by those in attendance, and we plan to continue to hold these types of workshops at the world convention. We also hope that the new pamphlets adopted at WSC 2008, *By Young Addicts*, *For Young Addicts* and *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA*, will help us to better reach out to those who sometimes find it difficult to find a home in NA. However, we also acknowledge that we as a fellowship have a lot to do to really reach our ideal of helping potential members understand that an addict, any addict, can stop using and find a new way to live and that NA can help.

All of this and more are a part of fellowship development, and one way we forward these discussions and collect global input and ideas that will affect the future work of NAWS is through fellowship workshops.





present for portions of the workshop, offering their experience and points of view. Members of the travel team attended the Australian RSC and the regional CAR workshop, and participated in a PR opportunity on local radio.

## Other International Workshops

In other fellowship development efforts in the Asia Pacific zone, we funded 100 members from across Indonesia to attend a regional service workshop in the capital city of Jakarta. Without this effort many of the Indonesian NA members would never have met each other face-to-face because of the vast size of the region. The workshop sessions focused on a NAWS update; *Building Strong Home Groups*; developing a service structure for Indonesia; sponsorship and the steps, traditions, and concepts, and how they apply to relationships with professional bodies; and a general question-and-answer session. We also worked with local members to conduct PR presentations for officials from the Indonesian National Narcotics Board.

We demonstrated our ongoing commitment to the Indian NA community by attending events and workshops in four separate Indian cities during visits in September and February. We also continued to seek a solution to the challenge of ensuring a reliable means of supplying NA literature to groups across this subcontinent. In common with most of our workshops, we covered the IDTs with a focus on basic issues such as *Building Strong Home Groups*. We also met with some of the local literature translation committees that are moving toward translations of the Basic Text into Indian languages.

In the Latin American zone, NAWS attended one meeting of the Latin American Zonal Forum in Brazil. Literature production and translations continue to be a focus of our activity with this zone and its member communities, and much of this can be moved forward by attendance at their forum. We also funded World Pool members on two trips to Honduras to hold fellowship development workshops. The first of these was held along with NAWS, while the second was attended solely by World Pool members and was the first of two events promised as a follow-up to the original workshop. The entire cost of the first event including transportation and lodging for fifty members from the city of Tegucigalpa was funded by NAWS as part of the fellowship development program for emerging communities. The workshop sessions focused on the IDTs of *Our Service System*, *Leadership*, and *Building Strong Home Groups*. We are looking at ways to increase the use of pool members in an attempt to cover more ground and reach more addicts across Latin America, much in the same way that we do with cooperative PR events.

Moving to the European continent, we conducted a service workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark, that marked our first visit there in ten years. Along with sessions on the Area Planning Tool and *Building Strong Home Groups*, we facilitated Area Planning Tool sessions to identify what was working at all levels of the service structure and to gather some ideas for where the Danish fellowship wanted to go next in their service efforts. This is an established region that is continuing to experience greater successes in carrying the message. It is exciting to see them work toward consensus so easily.



## ***An Introduction to NA Meetings, Revised***

Potential members who are referred to NA by medical professionals or drug court officials, among others, don't always know what to expect or how to act in their first NA meetings. This piece was designed to help the average person who knows nothing about us understand some of the common practices in our meetings.

## ***Principles and Leadership in NA Service***

As we are a fellowship guided by spiritual principles, the type of leadership we value in NA has its roots in our steps, traditions, and concepts. This piece is a discussion of how the principles of our program can be applied in our service efforts. Practical thoughts on attracting, encouraging, selecting, and supporting our trusted servants are included, as well as thoughts on the qualities of leadership that are valuable in NA service.

## **Moving On...**

The response to the early drafts of these pieces was quite positive, and we are confident that the input we received has helped us to improve them dramatically. Our hope is that these pamphlets will be useful to groups and service committees around the world. With so much work in front of us at the moment, other than possible completion of *Principles and Leadership in NA Service* we currently have no plans to begin work on other service pamphlets during this conference cycle.

## **New Projects Adopted at WSC 2008**

We are looking forward to an incredibly busy conference cycle. The projects approved at the 2008 World Service Conference will address a variety of topics that apply to our personal recovery and service. These project plans have been shaped in many ways by the ongoing interest and demand in the fellowship for information and guidance on a variety of topics. Some of these topics include the need to improve our **service system**; the challenges that come with illness, injury, and the use of medication in recovery; the desire to address some of the issues that members face as they grow and mature with substantial cleantime; and the need to increase awareness in the fellowship about the importance of our principle of self-support. The sheer volume of work required to make progress in these areas is sure to make this one of our most productive and exciting conference cycles in recent history!

### **Service System: 2008–2012**

Over the next two cycles this project will frame options and facilitate fellowship discussions about our service efforts, and eventually these discussions should lead to the creation of more effective tools or manuals, possibly including a revision to or replacement of *A Guide to Local Services*. One of the challenges will be creating service tools that can meet the needs of so many different kinds of NA communities at different stages of development. The project will be handled by a workgroup that may use focus groups or individuals for specific areas of service. However, the majority of the work this cycle will be to provide framed options and recommendations for discussion by the conference and the fellowship.

# Our Freedom, Our Responsibility

## Fellowship Issue Discussions

The process of fellowship issue discussions continues to grow and evolve, allowing us to continually strive to work better, both at local levels and as a worldwide organization. These discussions have also had an impact on the projects approved at the 2008 World Service Conference.

The theme for WSC 2008, and for this conference cycle, is “Our Freedom, Our Responsibility.” What we hope to emphasize is that simple principle laid out in our First Tradition: “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.” The welfare of NA, now and in the future, is up to each of us. There

is no organization or outside enterprise taking care of us. And as stated in our Twelfth Step, the responsibility that comes with the gift of freedom we have received is to try to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs. Many of our biggest challenges seem to involve putting what we believe into action at every level. This includes taking the time to have a thorough, honest look at our home groups to see how we can improve, and being willing to step outside of our comfort zone and work extra hard to carry our message to addicts who may think that they don’t belong here, because we know this program works. This also means that we need to exercise the courage to step up and try new ideas in our **service system**. As our Basic Text states, “We learn that we are growing when we make new mistakes instead of repeating old ones.”

The Issue Discussion Topics for the 2008–2010 cycle are *Building Communication*; *Our Freedom, Our Responsibility*; and *Leadership*. These topics all carry forward aspects from our discussions during previous conference cycles. Communication has been one of the important elements of our discussions on *Infrastructure* (2004–2006) and *Our Service System* (2006–2008). *Leadership* similarly has been a topic of fellowship-wide discussion for several conference cycles





now and continues to be a focus of our efforts throughout the service structure. The topic of responsibility has come up in response to the common refrain we've heard in discussions throughout the fellowship for years, that our service efforts in many places are hindered by apathy and a lack of participation.

We all need to begin to recognize our ownership of and responsibility for the success of NA in carrying our message and achieving our vision. By improving and diversifying our communications at every level, we can broaden awareness in the fellowship about what is happening in the NA **service system**. And by encouraging greater personal and collective responsibility for that **service system**, we can begin to develop an atmosphere of leader-

ship among our trusted servants, as well as an increased desire to support the work done on behalf of NA groups worldwide.

As we have done in the past, we will develop session profiles with step-by-step outlines to help members facilitate workshops on these topics. These profiles, information about the Issue Discussion Topics, and topic-oriented online discussion boards will all be available on our website at <http://www.na.org/IDT/IDT.htm>. As we did in 2006–2008, we will use fellowship input from the first half of the conference cycle to refocus these discussions mid-way through this conference cycle, so be sure to check back often and watch *The NA Way Magazine* for updates.

