



Nebraska Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous

January 9, 2021

Zoom Platform

(3:05 PM) Monica T. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Twelve Traditions: Read by Brenda D. **Twelve Concepts:** Read by John D.

Executive Committee:

Chairperson: Monica T.
Vice-Chair: Diane K. (Open)
Treasurer: Dean B. (Open)
Vice-Treasurer: Absent
Secretary: Kendra D.
RD: Brenda D.
Alt RD: Open

Sub- Committees:

NRCNA 37: Absent; Report Received.
General Assembly: N/A
Outreach: Absent; Report Received
Policy: Absent; Report Received
P.I.: Christine F.
I.T.: Sam S.
H&I: Absent; Report Received.
Archives: Dick T.
SBTW Liaison: Absent

Area RCM's:

Columbus: Paul H.
Central: John D.
Eastern: Hadrian C.
Elkhorn Valley: Chelsea F.
Fremont: Absent
Great Plains: Absent; Report Received.
Platte Valley: Absent
Southeastern: Kimberly R.

Visitors: Mark W.

Consensus to Accept Last Meetings Minutes: Passed (Unanimously)

Treasurer's Report (3:11 PM):

NRSCNA Treasurer Report					
RSC Meeting Date:	1/8/2021	RSC Meeting Beginning Balance:		<u>\$4,796.90</u>	
		Prudent Reserve:		\$7,325.00	
Donations		Expenses			
Area, Group, or Other	Amount	Chk #	Written To - Description/Purpose	Amount	
Insurance overpaid	\$3.00	1337	Tera Newcombe (H&I)	\$599.66	
ENNA	\$685.38				
CNASC	\$200.00				
TOTAL DONATIONS:	\$888.38				
RSC MEETING SUMMARY REPORT			EXPENSES SUBTOTAL:		\$599.66
BEGINNING BALANCE:	\$4,796.90		NAWS (WORLD) DONATION:		\$0.00
TOTAL DONATIONS:	\$888.38	TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$599.66	
TOTAL EXPENSES:	-\$599.66				
ENDING BALANCE:	\$5,085.62				

Area Reports (3:13 PM):

Columbus: Dearest NA brothers and sisters' meetings are going well, we closed one meeting temporally so we would have enough chairs for other meetings. During the virus, we have had some heroic members keeping our doors open for addicts and the still suffering addicts. We offer masks and sanitizer at the club and clean the club after and before meetings. We are managing our H&I

commitments under the safety parameters of the virus. We were just able to buy Just For Today texts to give to newcomers and members during the Christmas holidays and has been very much a blessing for the Clean Way Club. We have been praying for all members and the still-suffering addict.

Central: Central Area is alive. We are still having face-to-face meetings following guidelines. We are bringing a \$200.00 donation. We are now putting our area minutes on our CNNA area Facebook group. We were also able to help one of our groups out with making their rent. We have now put into the policy that every three months we will be doing training for new people coming into service. And we also have a new PR her name is Tracy K. Other than that, not a lot is happening in the central area we have our area business meeting on 1/10/21. In loving service John D

Eastern: Hello family, The Eastern Nebraska area is doing well. There is at least one meeting open every day in the area, however, H&I efforts have continued to suffer due to pandemic restrictions. We do still have two H&I meetings occurring virtually in ENNA. An update on CECK 2021: the convention has been canceled. Instead, there will be a speaker jam held on February 27. There is a flyer for this posted on the regional website. Everybody that had pre-registered should have already been contacted to see what they would like to do with their pre-registration. If anybody that has pre-registered has not heard from CECK 2021 they can send an email to the convention committee at close-encounters@omahana.org. As mentioned at our last Regional meeting, tax papers had been delivered to a member who was linked to a PayPal account associated with CECK 2020. The convention committee met with an attorney and concluded that they will need to file taxes for 2020 and moving forward. We also had some discussion on masks in groups at our last area meeting. The consensus was that while groups are autonomous when masks are legally mandated as they are in Omaha, this becomes an issue that could affect NA as a whole. GSRs at our area urged each other to consider this while discussing business with our groups. Some groups pointed out that we have literature that may provide helpful tools for enabling us to employ mask rules in a manner consistent with our traditions and principles, namely the IP "Disruptive and Violent Behavior". Thank you, and I hope everybody has a blessed day. Hadrian C

Elkhorn Valley: Hello Family. EVANA is going strong. Meetings are going well and are recovery based. All meetings are open in-person. There are zoom options for certain meetings. We are doing extra sanitation before and after each meeting. We also ask our members to wear a mask. ILS, Chelsey F.

Fremont: Absent

Great Plains: Hello Family. My apologies for not being able to attend today. The Great Plains area is alive and well. Due to the current conditions, most of our area meetings have taken place through emails, text messages, and phone calls. We were able to meet in person in January. Our groups have continued to open meetings following local guidelines; however, meeting attendance has been down drastically. At this time, we do not have a donation for Region. I do have the Votes for the Proposals. I continue to remain hopeful that I will be able to see you all soon. Thank you for letting me be of service! Brian P. (Proposal 1 Yes, Proposal 3 Yes)

Southeastern: Hello family. SENANA continues to hold strong! It has been a challenge to stay connected, but thanks to all the GSR's and Sam for vigilantly keeping our meeting lists up to date, whether they are in person or via zoom. Activities and H&I continue to meet monthly, staying in contact with facilities. Hope is in the air for a new year! May we soon have food, fun, and fellowship! I do have the mail and will get that to our treasurer and H&I subcommittee. I have brought yes votes for proposals #1 and #3. In loving service, Kimberly

Alt RD Report: Greetings NA Family,

Again, I have been busy since I see you in October!

- October 17th, I attended a Conference Participant Webinar. We learned that we had some good news about the US court case we have been involved with. We do not have the final order, but we have the judge's decision in this case. Put (relatively) simply, the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* defines "the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, as given voice by its groups through their regional delegates at the World Service Conference" as the Trustor of the Trust, and only the Trustor has the power to revoke the Trust. We filed a demurrer, which is a legal objection stating that the premise of the legal action is invalid. We filed that the petitioners lacked the standing to revoke the trust and to remove NA World Services as the trustee, and the judge sustained (agreed with) our filing. We will share the final order when we receive it, but we do not expect that to happen for some weeks. We wanted to get what we have received to you before tomorrow's web meeting. We are relieved this case

is over. Thank you to everyone who reached out with encouraging words of support. We also had an update on the financials at NAWS. What they show is that although our income is still low, we have been able to reduce expenses. NAWS is still in a week-to-week situation financially and is committed to regular financial updates. WCNA still has a lot up in the air. We are still not confident in what the world will look like in September 2021, as it relates to things like travel, visas, use of facilities, public health orders, etc. Conference Participants were polled about supporting moving the date of WCNA 38 into 2022 if possible. The poll results were 92% yes, 3% no, 4% abstain, and 4% present not voting. Also, we received a recommendation from Jack, the new Treasurer of NA World Services, Inc. He explained the government programs (PPP) that were available to many nonprofit businesses and non-profits because of the global pandemic and how that falls in line with our traditions. The first, primary project focus is the Local Service Toolbox – Carrying the message Effectively and Virtually and Online Meeting Best Practices. I sent out a survey in November to get some feedback from our groups and posted it on the Nebraska Delegate News page on Facebook.

- ⦿ On October 31st, I attended the conference participant webinar for Online meeting best practices. Over 600 members attended, and a survey was put out to start gathering information for this topic. Some of the information presented included experience about keeping meetings secure, practicing the Seventh Tradition, signing meeting attendance cards, and information about hybrid meetings. There is a lot of information out on na.org/virtual about this.
- ⦿ On November 17th, I attended the Plains States Zonal Meeting. The other Regions in our Zone are experiencing many of the same issues we are having here. Mid America (Kansas) is not printing paper meeting lists currently. They are trying to keep their BMLT updated so the electronic versions are correct. The areas there will be printing their own if needed. They have also canceled their convention in 2021 due to COVID and are still going to try the campout in July 2021. South Dakota is struggling with a crashed domain and a significant loss on their Aberdeen convention back in September. They will be doing some fundraising to offset some of this, so please stay tuned! We had two action items that will be asked of all the participating Regions. 1) How do you feel about a collaborative meeting with the Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum (RMZF) for the 2022 CAR/CAT meeting in Nebraska? 2) How do you feel about our Zone collaborating with other US Zones? We set the next few dates for the zone to meet. Jan 23rd (Business meeting), March 20th (check-in), and May 23rd (Business meeting). Anyone is welcome to sign on and listen in! The Zone is still hosting meetings each weekday at noon and 7pm.
- ⦿ On December 12th I attended the Conference Participants Web meeting. The topic for this meeting was Communication in the Time of COVID. We received an update on the situation at the World Service Office. Over half the staff is still furloughed. US growth has flattened... and along with that, we are still struggling with Literature Sales sustainability. So, the idea has been to try to shift this from Literature Sales to Personal Sustainability. Print subscriptions of NAWS publications have been discontinued due to the financial restraints and operational effects of the pandemic. Just For Today and NAWS News are both available by electronic subscriptions at www.na.org/subscribe. Facilities that previously received hard copies are now getting back editions. The event calendar on the na.org webpage is not being administered at this time due to limited staffing and extensive and widespread NA event cancellations. To compensate and keep the communication lines open, NA has an Instagram page that Region and Zonal flyers can be posted on. Local areas and groups will hopefully be able to post on there later. If you would like to check it out, it is www.instagram.com/narcoticsanonymous. Right now they have just over six thousand followers. If you have a flier for a regional or zonal event to share, send it to socialmedia@na.org. They have added a media page that should make it easy for members to download, repost, and share videos, social media memes, and frequently requested material. This can be found at www.na.org/media. The next update we had was about the lawsuit filed in California last year. Quick notes – the judge ruled in favor of us, however, the other party has filed an appeal. Our resources that have been diverted from this has been expensive and draining. To answer a lot of “how” and “why” questions, **the World Board published two new Bulletins #34 and #35.** I have included these as attachments to my report. I encourage all of you to take a few minutes to read them. They can also be found at www.na.org/bulletins. On an upside, there have been almost 80 translated titles of our literature during all of this... including Book-length pieces, ePUB Basic text, and Informational Pamphlets. I talked a little bit more about this during the general assembly.
- ⦿ Finally, I realize how long my reports are to listen to. I would like to ask this body in general discussion how you would feel about using Slack (a free private app for your phones) so that when some of this information comes out, you will have it to take back to your Areas and groups. We only meet every 3 months and some of this information I don’t feel like I am getting to you in a timely matter to get your input. (example – the survey that came out at the end of October and ended in December) I try to post as much as I can on our Facebook page, however, not everyone has Facebook. With Slack, it is real-time. I have set up a mock account to show you what that looks like and how it is used if you are open to it.

“We learn who we are precisely when we forget ourselves in service to others.” – *Living Clean: The Journey Continues*.

Thank you for letting me serve. In loving service, Brenda, RD. (BULETTINS 34 & 35 ATTACHED TO EMAIL SENT TO AREA RCMS BY REGION SECRETARY)

Sub- Committees (3:21 PM)

NRCNA XXXVII: Hello Family. I am not going to make it today. NRCNA 37 has nothing new to report and still continuing to make it work. Our balance is \$6,403.65 and we still have merchandise to sell. ILS, Donald P.

General Assembly: During General Assembly, we went over information that came out of the last Conference Participants meeting in Dec 2020. Some of the information we went over includes: Print subscriptions of NAWS publications have been discontinued due to financial restraints and operational effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. NAWS News is available electronically, along with a new Instagram page containing events, etc. at www.na.org/media Two new bulletins were released and are available at www.na.org/bulletins Even during the pandemic, we were able to have almost 80 translated titles added! This includes book-length pieces of our Basic Text, It Works: How & Why, Living Clean, Miracles Happen, and 3 electronic publications of our Basic Text, plus many Informational Pamphlets! Contributions are still needed and can be found at www.na.org/contribute We are frequently asked, "How much it would take to directly fund our services through contributions?" If each meeting in the world—other than Iran, which is financially isolated for reasons outside of NA— contributed \$106.22 per year or \$2.04 per week or \$8.85 per month to World Services, that would cover the cost of services NAWS provides directly to the Fellowship. This includes all of the expenses related to and generated by the World Service Conference, which includes the World Board, HRP, as well as Conference-approved projects and Conference-related publications, and for Fellowship Support which includes fellowship publications, workshops, free literature, and public relations as well as the staff and overhead required for all of these activities. PR Service had a workshop on Carrying the Message Effectively and Virtually We talked about the survey that was out last fall We also discussed the idea of using Slack as a way for us to communicate between meetings! We have a demo that everyone is welcome to join and decide if that is something that they would like. In loving service Brenda

H&I: Hello everyone! Sorry, I can't be there. Regional H&I was able to get a step working guide to the 9 main prisons in Nebraska along with a letter to further open up lines of communication and the possibility of continuing to work together in various ways to help fulfill the NA purpose. Despite limitations, I know people throughout our Region are continuing to do H&I work in a variety of ways, such as continuing to do H&I meetings when possible, getting H&I literature into facilities, and doing H&I training. Thank you for all ya'll do! Gratefully in service, Tera N. :)

- Christine: Sam S. gave a report for SENANA during the subcommittee's hour. It is stagnant right now. In central, they can go into detox and in jail. EVANA is doing well with getting into 6 facilities. Some are on zoom and some are in person. Great Plains is locked down at this time. Christine F.

Outreach: Outreach has nothing new to report at this time. ILS Donald P.

Policy: Hello Family. I have completed all of the updates to the Policies of the Nebraska Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous including all proposals passed by consensus, and input from this body, that apply to this document. Below is a summary of the changes:

Change	Reason for change
Section I. AGENDA	The committee performs this task but was not outlined in the original agenda.
B. Inserted "Read purpose statement (page 2)"	
Section I.A.h. Sub Committee Chairs	This subcommittee chair did not appear in the original document.
10. Added "Sponsorship Behind the Walls Liaison"	
Section I.E.d. Sub Committee Reports	This subcommittee chair did not appear in the original document.
9. Added "Sponsorship Behind the Walls Liaison"	
Section I.G. 10 Minute Break	Committee performs this function, but it did not appear in original document.
Added "10 Minute Break"	
Section I.K. Review and Closing	This is the current procedure, but it is not outlined properly in the original document.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Original Text: The Chair will outline the business covered in the meeting, reminding the RCM's of the items that are to be taken back to their Area/Groups, and reminding members of any Commitments made during the meeting.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Text: Chair will ask the Secretary to read the business covered in the meeting as a reminder of items to be taken back to Areas/Groups, and of any other commitments made during the meeting. 	
Section I.L. announce location and hosting are of the next NRSC business meeting	This is the current procedure, but it is not outlined properly in the original document.
Section I.M List open regional service positions	This is the current procedure, but it is not outlined properly in the original document.
Section I.N. Read information applicable to the next NRSC business meeting from ADDENDUM B	This is the current procedure, but it is not outlined properly in the original document.
Section II.D.b. Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added “4. Oversees automatic payments for website, storage, and insurance” 	This is a current function of this position but does not appear in the original document.
Section II.F.b. Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added “15. May act as a co-signer on RSC bank account” 	Maintain consistency with Section VIII.A.c. of existing policy document.
Section III.A.b.6. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Text: Budget of \$200.00 quarterly, of which \$50 is for printing of meeting lists. (10/15) • Revised Text: Budget of \$200.00 quarterly, of which \$100 is for printing of 2000 meeting lists. (10/15) 	Maintain consistency with ADDENDUM C from revised policy document.
Section VIII.C.b. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original: Any Quarter out balance is in excess of this amount, it will be donated to World. • Revised: Any Quarter out balance is in excess of this amount, will be divided by a percentage of 25/75 and donated respectively to Plains States Zonal Forum and to World. 	Proposal passed by consensus: October 2020

I have sent the revision of this document to the IT Chairperson to be posted on our website. Any member that reviews this document and locates any errors or missing information, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can correct it. ILS, Seth R.

PI: Hello family, thank you for letting me be of service. Here is some information going on around us!

SENANA: is still not able to meet totally in person at the normal meeting place due to COVID. Everything is up and running, bills are paid, and some places are starting to meet every once in a while.

ENNA: At this time, there is not a lot going on as far as public relations in the ENNA area. Obviously this due to COVID.

EVANA: Hello Family, PI is in the works of developing a website and continuing to update and print meeting lists. We are still in the process of hanging flyers in the area and continuing to improve carrying the message of narcotics anonymously, ILS Carlos.

There is no CENTRAL, COLUMBUS, GREAT PLAINS, and FREMONT P.I. Chair that I am aware of. Please let me know RCM's if you know who they are for your area. Make sure to be sending any new mtgs or updated mtgs to meetinglist@nebraskana.org ASAP. Please and thanks! :) Also please send any activities and mtg lists to the regional site for posting. This is to help with information passed and more addicts having the ability to be in the loop and having the ability to help save their own lives. ILS, P.I. Chair Christine F.

IT: Please continue to send flyers to the IT email on the website and activities to the activities email on www.nebraskana.org. Especially in COVID times, people don't know what they are going on. If you want people to know what is going on, please continue to send in flyers. There is a new tab on the website called 'Areas In Our Region.' It has the most up to date contact information for

each Area. Please check this to ensure that the information is accurate for your area. The new policies that were revised have already been included on the website. If there is anything wrong with it, please let me know. ILS, Sam.

Archives: Hello family. I'm Dick T. All is well in archives. We do have some of the archive items are at our house because all will not fit in the storage unit. Our kids are aware of this in case something happens to Monica and me. In loving service, Dick T.

SBTW: Hi all, Seth R (Policy) and I are on the road. We will try to Zoom in when we can. Sorry for our tardiness/absence. In the meantime, I don't have anything new to report for Sponsorship Behind The Walls now. I will post upcoming orientations when they get scheduled. Thanks. Tommy N SBTW

Old Business (3:30 PM):

Proposal 1: To approve the Revised Guidelines and Policy for the Plains State Zonal Forum.

Intent: to approve these for use at the Plains State Zonal Forum

Financial Impact: \$0.00

Submitted By: Brenda D

Passed By Consensus 6-0

Proposal #3: To double our storage by renting a second unit that is the same size as the one that we have for Archives.

Intent: To preserve our history.

Financial Impact: \$300 per year for one storage unit. The total for storage would be \$600 a year for both.

Submitted By: Brenda D.

Passed By Consensus 6-0

Open Floor (3:38 PM):

- The Rocky Mountain Region would like to come and join us when we hold the 2022 Conference Agenda Report (CAR). Typically, it is our entire Zone that attends. Iowa, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska. They just wanted us to know that way if someone from World does attend to present that information to us, people are aware that this is what is going on and to start the conversation about it.
- NAWS has been impacted, especially financially, they just don't have the resources to facilitate the communications between zones. They are asking that it come back to Regions that Zones continue to communicate amongst themselves versus NAWS doing this for us. New York has offered RD training, a PR collaboration, NC offered up a hotline for information. Our zones drawing off of each other to provide additional information. Our Zone gave a presentation on Sponsorship Behind The Walls and what a success that it has been here. We were able to share this information with other Zones that may not have had this implemented in their Zone.
- NAWS is operating off 26% capacity. They are taking it one idea at a time as a fellowship for us to work on.
- The current lawsuit that is ongoing with NAWS has cost roughly half a million dollars. This was ruled in favor of NAWS, but there has been an appeal filed. Due to the limited financial resources that NAWS is experiencing, they no longer have the money or personnel to continue the services offered. Many resources are being made available through online resources on the website.
- Slack App is a quick way for us to chat with each other in between meetings. I sent out an invitation and set up a mock chat so we can get into this and be able to keep each other better informed. This is to bring up the topic and get the discussion started to have our members see what they think about using this going forward.

Nominations (4:05 PM)

- Mark W. was nominated for Vice-Chair.

Nominations for Vice-Chair are now closed. Please take this back to your groups for a vote. A bio is included in New Business Under Proposal 4.

New Business (4:10 PM):

- **Proposal 1:** To approve collaboration between US Zones.

Intent: To facilitate information.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Brenda D.
Passed By Consensus 16-0

- **Proposal 2:** To approve a collaboration of Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum at the Nebraska C.A.R./ C.A.T. 2022.

Intent: To facilitate information.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Brenda D.

Passed By Consensus 16-0

- **Proposal #4:** To nominate Mark W. for Vice-Chairperson.

Intent: To be of service to our Region.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Mark W. ‘

Bio: My clean date is 9/26/2015, I have a Narcotics Anonymous Sponsor.

The following are service commitments that I have held and helped serve in:

- Chairperson- Easy Rider group
- H&I Panel Member- Norfolk Regional Center
- H&I Panel Member- Pierce County Jail
- H&I Panel Member- Sunrise Place Boys Group Home
- H&I Panel Member- Prison Yankton, SD
- Chairperson Hug-Up Group EVANA.
- Vice-Chair- EVANA
- Panel Leader- Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Center- Madison, NE
- Regional Committee Member- EVANA and Columbus Areas
- I have helped with Treasurer audits for both EVANA and homegroup.

I have sponsored individuals and currently do and have always had a homegroup. I have worked and continue to live the 12 Steps and have a working knowledge of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts of Narcotics Anonymous. I would have put dates with these, but I honestly don't remember and did not want to guess. I have discussed this nomination for NRSC with my sponsor and after consideration, I would accept this nomination. In Loving Service, Mark W.

PLEASE TAKE THIS BACK TO YOUR GROUPS FOR A VOTE.

- **Bids are open for NRCNA 38. Please discuss this with your Area to consider hosting the next NRCNA convention.**

Open Positions:

Alternate Regional Delegate (Alt. RD)

Treasurer: (Dean has agreed to stay seated until the Treasurer Position can be filled).

Proposal To Close (4:22 PM)

The Next Region will be held on the Zoom Platform on April 10, 2021
(General Assembly Begins at 1 PM; Sub-Committees Begin at 2 PM CST).

Nebraska Regional Service Committee Virtual Meeting Information

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81531678301?pwd=aXcyT29ha3Mwd1FaUnlGSghnWVhOdz09>

Meeting ID: 815 3167 8301

Passcode: 1953

One Tap Mobile:

+16468769923,,81531678301# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81531678301# US (Washington D.C)

Dial By Your Location:

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)



#34 Group Conscience and NA Literature

November 2020

NA World Services Bulletin

From the World Board

The following report from the Board was written in 2015, in response to illicit printing of NA literature. In 2020, we have decided to make this report and the related report from 2014, *NA Copyrights and Literature*, official World Board Bulletins. We left the following report as it was written but updated the NA World Services statistics for the 2018–2019 fiscal year.

We find ourselves again in a situation where some members are acting contrary to the will of the Fellowship regarding the publishing, distribution, and protection of NA literature. The conscience of the NA Fellowship is, and has been, clear that NA literature belongs to the Fellowship as a whole and that World Services holds that literature, NA's "intellectual property," in trust for the Fellowship.

The legal agreement describing this relationship is called the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT)*. NA World Services (NAWS) is the Trustee of the *FIPT*. Our role is to safeguard NA's literature and intellectual property for the NA Fellowship. In 2020 a legal action was brought against NA World Services wanting to remove NAWS as the Trustee of the *FIPT*. In addition to the disunity this caused, it diverted a significant portion of our budget for legal fees, making those resources unavailable to further our primary purpose. The people bringing the case claimed to be representing a region, but we are not aware that such a region exists. The court found in World Services' favor and agreed that the people bringing the suit did not have the legal standing to do so.

In this respect, the law and the principles of NA agree—a group of individuals cannot act on behalf of NA as whole.

There are many ways individuals can have their voices heard in NA. They can bring their concerns to their groups. Many areas and regions have open forums where members can share ideas. Members can write to the World Board with any questions or concerns. As far as we know, none of these avenues was attempted. This group of individuals did not reach out to the Board before taking legal action.

Decisions in NA are made by group conscience, and the vehicle to hear group conscience on a world level is the World Service Conference (WSC). The WSC is the means by which "NA groups have a mechanism to guide and direct the activities of NA World Services" (WSC Mission Statement).

No matter how convinced a group of individual members may be that their cause is legitimate, "we can only be governed by a loving God as expressed in our group conscience." (*Narcotics Anonymous*, Tradition Two). The individuals who brought the legal action were seeking to cancel the WSC decisions through a legal court. That is not how we make decisions in NA. We have paths to follow for issues that the fellowship wants to discuss. When those paths tell you no, guided by our Second Tradition, the answer is not to try to go outside of NA to change that outcome.

We are unified as a Board in our commitment to the Fellowship's conscience.

It's extraordinary for an addict to get clean. In NA, we not only get clean but recover together in unity, carry a message, and fulfill service obligations. Tradition Two tells us this is possible because we are united under an ultimate authority. This Tradition frees us as members from the dangerous belief that we are in charge, or that some of us are more important than others. Seeing this Tradition at work in our groups offers a vision of hope. As we apply Tradition Two in our service—and in our lives—we begin to understand the power and grace available to us in surrender.

Guiding Principles, Tradition Two

In 1991 the World Service Conference passed two motions—one to reaffirm that the WSO holds ownership of NA’s intellectual property in trust for the Fellowship of NA, and another to reaffirm that the WSO is exclusive publisher and distributor of all NA literature.

At the time, WSO’s intellectual property attorney explained to the Conference:

“This needs to be done for the benefit of those people who do not have the time, energy, or the interest to look back at what really happened and would rather argue that the past consists of what they believe should have happened.”

And here we are again—increasing numbers of our members are illegally copying and distributing NA literature around the world, sowing seeds of confusion and disunity, including places where NA is in early stages. In particular, people are publishing a booklet that contains the Third Edition Revised Basic Text with the Second Edition versions of the Fourth and Ninth Traditions, a booklet that was compiled by a few individuals and has **never been Fellowship-approved**. It is bad enough that we have had this ongoing struggle within NA; now it has become a public problem because these texts are being distributed in institutions.

The roots of this conflict go back more than 30 years. The history of the Basic Text is a story that gets told many ways, with different heroes and villains depending on who is doing the telling.

There are some things, however, that are not open to interpretation:

1. **It goes against group conscience.** The fellowship has decided on these issues repeatedly,
 - beginning in 1984 when the fellowship voted to return to the First Edition language for the Fourth and Ninth Traditions,
 - and again in 1988 when the conference rejected the idea of extensive changes to the text beyond fixing the errors in the Fourth Editions,
 - and again in 1991 when the conference voted against reconsidering which edition of the book should be published,
 - and again in 1993 when the fellowship approved the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust*,
 - and again as recently as 2004 when a *CAR* motion was passed authorizing revisions to the Basic Text but specifying no changes be made to chapters one through ten of the text. That 2004 motion resulted in the Sixth Edition Basic Text, which was approved unanimously in 2008.
2. **It’s illegal.** The unauthorized reproduction of NA literature is a violation of copyright law. NA groups can copy and distribute NA literature for use within their groups, but that right does not extend outside the group or to individuals and service bodies.
3. **It doesn’t make sense.** On top of everything else, the portions of the Fourth and Ninth Traditions reinserted into the text of the booklets that are being distributed don’t reflect most members’ understanding of NA service. The Fourth Tradition essay says of service committees, offices, and activities, “these things are not N.A.” The Ninth Tradition essay says that service boards or committees “are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous.” That doesn’t even make sense, does it? Are the funds from your area dance an outside donation? Is your local H&I committee somehow not a part of NA?



We are writing this on behalf of NA World Services, and we consider ourselves a grateful part of NA. NAWS provides support and services to addicts, meetings, and service bodies in 132 countries, speaking 77 languages. We interact with professionals and officials who influence the lives of addicts around the world to make our message more available. Here are just a few figures to give you a sense of our work. In the 2018–2019 fiscal year, we

- ◀ gave away and discounted an unprecedented \$832,315 worth of literature;
- ◀ answered more than 5,500 inmate inquiries with an information packet and NA literature;
- ◀ sent out 418 group starter kits and more than 22 institutional group starter kits;
- ◀ held 17 PR and H&I web meetings
- ◀ published 49 new pieces of translated literature, bringing us to 1,142 translated titles for NA recovery literature; and
- ◀ participated in 34 fellowship development and zonal events.

The money to pay for those services comes mostly from literature sales. In essence, when you buy a Basic Text, you are helping to pay for the literature we give away around the world and all of our other efforts.

Despite that fact, some people will tell you that the Basic Text is too expensive and that is why they are illegally distributing an unapproved version. But again, the fellowship's conscience is clear: The motion to produce a lower-cost Basic Text has been before the conference at least nine times; it's been committed once, ruled out of order twice, and defeated at least six times.

In the end, this isn't about politics or personal views; this is about the spiritual principles of group conscience and NA unity. Please respect the will of the fellowship. Illicit literature has no place in our meetings. For more information about NA's copyrights and world services' responsibility to protect them, see www.na.org/fipt.



2020 Basic Text Timeline



#35 Narcotics Anonymous Copyrights and Literature

November 2020

This essay is being distributed in response to illicit publication and distribution of the Basic Text. As many of you know, this is not a new issue, but recently this activity has increased along with extensive outreach campaigns to members to join forces, obtain free or low cost literature, and distribute it. Some have even challenged World Services to take legal action, using Fellowship funds to do so. We do not want to have to resolve this matter in court, and we believe most of the Fellowship does not want that either. This has become a politicized matter to a great extent, but what's most important to us, as a fellowship, isn't about politics or even the law; it's about spiritual principles.

We are certainly not strangers to the idea that some members of our fellowship are critical of World Services. However, there is no justifiable reason for the illicit production and distribution of NA literature; it is just wrong, and frankly, it's contrary to the clearly expressed group conscience of the fellowship and principle of unity expressed in our First Tradition. We owe our lives to the message of recovery and hope contained in our literature and the current controversy must not ever be permitted to threaten the integrity of that message.

The fact is, the approval of the Sixth Edition Basic Text at the 2008 World Service Conference was a unanimous expression of consensus. The vote was followed by "hugs, tears, and a standing ovation" (WSC 2008 minutes). The Sixth Edition is the only approved edition of the Basic Text in English.

Part of our job at World Services is to protect the fellowship's property on its behalf. We would prefer to never have to write an essay such as this, but we are simply trying to fulfill our responsibilities and honor the trust that was placed in us as members of the World Board. Our duty is clearly outlined in *A Guide to World Services in NA*, the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust*, and our bylaws. These policies are the result of much controversy and pain in the late 1980s and early 90s, long before any of us served in our current positions. The issues were taken up in numerous *Conference Agenda Reports*, discussions at World Service Conferences, and even a lawsuit against a member. That painful process culminated with representatives of all parties involved sitting down and hammering out an agreement to pose the issues in dispute to the fellowship in the Conference Agenda Report and let group conscience decide. The fellowship overwhelmingly voiced its conscience on these matters at WSC 1991, passing several motions including one "To reaffirm and ratify that the ownership of all of NA's intellectual and physical properties prepared in the past, and to be prepared into the future, is held by WSO, Inc., which holds such title in trust on behalf of the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, in accordance with the decisions of the World Service Conference" (67 yes, 9 no, 3 abstaining).

1991 WSC Motion passed by 2/3 voice vote:

To reaffirm that the World Service Office, Inc. is the exclusive publisher and distributor of all World Service Conference-approved literature, including all books, pamphlets, handbooks, and other intellectual and physical properties, as directed by the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous through the World Service Conference.

This led to the fellowship's adoption of the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT)* in 1993. The purpose of the FIPT is to "hold and administer all recovery literature and other intellectual properties of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous in a manner that will help addicts find recovery from the disease of addiction and carry that message of recovery to the addict who still suffers, in keeping with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of NA" (*FIPT*).

The recent publication and distribution of the Basic Text by members not authorized by World Services seems to ignore all of these fellowship decisions. This is about protecting the future of Narcotics Anonymous so that the message, as expressed in our literature, is available to the addict who hasn't found us yet. If you are a trusted servant, you may have been asked questions about illicit NA literature or you may have questions yourself. Here are a few of the more common things people ask about.

Why is it so important to protect our copyrights?

This is first and foremost about the integrity of the NA message and the need to protect NA's property so that NA can continue to own its own material. We have a duty to ensure that Narcotics Anonymous literature contains text agreed upon by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. Protecting our copyrights is the only way to guarantee the conceptual fidelity of NA literature and to safeguard the property of the NA Fellowship.

Why can't we have free literature or a low-cost Basic Text?

The conference has repeatedly entertained and soundly defeated motions to create a low-cost Basic Text. This is fundamentally an issue of economics. Most of World Services' income comes from profit on the sales of literature, and we give away or subsidize more than a half million dollars' worth of literature each year. The money you don't spend on literature impacts our ability to respond to requests for literature from addicts across the globe. We are not a normal business; we are a spiritual fellowship that has to manage a business. But in order to fulfill our mission—to work toward a future where “every addict in the world has a chance to hear the message in his or her own language and culture”—we need to remain financially stable and to protect the property of Narcotics Anonymous. Similarly, many regions and areas depend on the sales of literature to keep phonelines running, texts getting delivered to prisons, and so on.

At the same time, it is important that our message remains accessible to all addicts regardless of their financial situation. *An Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous* is an inexpensive piece of literature that contains the basics of the NA program. The *Intro Guide* was created through Conference action as an alternative to a low-cost Basic Text.

What can I do about illicit publication of the Basic Text and other NA literature?

The only people who can really protect the fellowship's property are NA members and groups. Only our members and groups can effectively enforce the decisions made by the fellowship and put a stop to illicit distribution of NA literature. We are asking you not to participate in this sort of activity and not to condone it. Please help us protect NA's property and take a stand against its illegal production.

Educate yourself and those around you. This memo has been motivated by the purposeful illicit production of NA literature, but there is also a great deal of unintended violation of the FIPT—a service body decides to copy IPs and sell them to groups, a member gets a .pdf of a text and shares it with sponsees; these actions are actually not in line with the Fellowship's decisions and copyright laws. If you are unsure of what is and isn't okay in terms of reproducing NA literature or trademarks, the bulletins related to the *FIPT* answer most any question you might have: www.na.org/fipt.

For those who want more background information, following is a brief factual history of the development of the Basic Text, the issues that arose as a result, and the decisions of the Fellowship at the World Service Conference.

A Brief History of The Basic Text

The World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous approved the Basic Text in May 1982. Having no experience in publishing a full-length book, publication of the First Edition was a very difficult job for the World Service Office. In addition to major problems with the printer initially chosen to publish the book, conceptual problems arose. In the course of preparing the approval-form book for publication, it was noted that portions of the essays on Traditions Four and Nine made it appear that the NA service structure should not be considered a part of Narcotics Anonymous. After much discussion, the WSO Board of Directors and the World Service Board of Trustees agreed that these portions should be removed from the book before publication of the First Edition. In response, the chairperson of the WSC Literature Committee attempted to revoke the earlier release to the WSO of rights to the Basic Text. However, when the World Service Conference met in May 1983, no motion was made to uphold the literature chairperson's action. On the contrary, new WSO by-laws were accepted, clearly stating that NA literature should be held in a charitable trust by the corporation on the fellowship's behalf. The WSO-copyrighted First Edition was officially released on 27 April 1983 by the World Service Office, using the name of CARENA Publishing Company.

Less than a month later, WSC action effectively created the Second Edition Basic Text. Conference minutes of 1983 reflect that a motion was passed, directing "that our book be completely returned to its [original] approved form in subsequent printings." The Second Edition of the Basic Text was released on 28 September 1983, with the missing lines reinserted. The year after the conference directed WSO to reinsert the missing lines from the traditions essays into the Basic Text, the WSC decided that the issue should ultimately be settled directly by the NA Fellowship. In 1984, regional

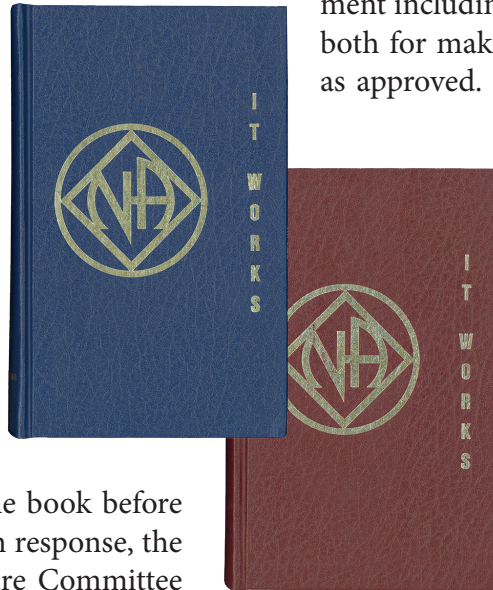
service representatives were asked to poll their groups on whether the wording of the essays on the Fourth and Ninth Traditions should be as reflected in both the original approval form and the Second Edition, or as reflected in the First Edition. The question was submitted to the fellowship in a seven-page document including the proposed changes and the reasons both for making the change and for keeping the text as approved. The fellowship's response was thirty-six votes in favor of changing the text and eight against changing the text. Therefore, at the next printing—the Third Edition—the words originally deleted from the approval-form when the First Edition was published were again deleted, this time in response to a direct vote of the fellowship. The Third Edition was formally released on 20 October 1984.

The 1985 World Service Conference passed a motion to edit the Basic Text for grammatical consistency and correctness. The motion called

for the revised text to be re-viewed and approved by the Literature Review Committee of the WSCLC. At the time, however, the Literature Committee was busy putting together *It Works: How and Why*, so these edits were not completed before the 1986 World Service Conference.

The 1986 conference, nonetheless, moved for further revisions to the Basic Text: A motion was passed to publish a revised version of the Little White Book and to edit the Basic Text to reflect those changes. The revisions to the Little White Book were ones that most members noticed because they changed what was read at most meetings. The Basic Text Third Edition, Revised was released in November 1986 and reflected the changes made in the Little White Book, but not the professional edit.

In the course of reviewing the draft of the professionally edited Basic Text, as charged by the conference, the Literature Review Committee discovered six conceptual inconsistencies with the newly revised Little White Book. The committee consulted with the WSO



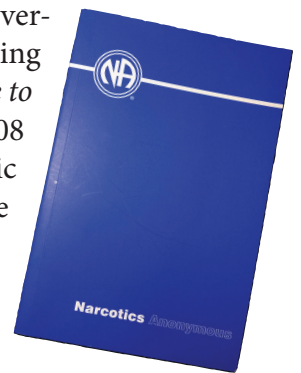
Board of Directors and the World Service Board of Trustees, and a decision was made to defer publication of the Fourth Edition until the conference was able to make a decision about the additional changes necessary to bring the text in line with the Little White Book. The 1987 WSC approved five of those six changes. The Fourth Edition Basic Text, published in October 1987, included these five changes, the earlier conceptual changes brought about by revising the Little White Book, as well as the professional edits. This was also the first version of the Basic Text to include a subject index, per 1986 WSC action.

Not long after the publication of the Fourth Edition, the WSO and the WSC Literature Committee began receiving complaints about errors in the Basic Text. After multiple rounds of line-by-line revision, it was discovered that there were serious transcription errors made in the typescript from which the professional editor worked. At the 1988 WSC, a motion was made to reinsert the missing lines from the Third Edition back into the Basic Text. Some felt that the changes in question were substantial enough to require broader fellowship review, but overall the conference did not agree and voted not even to consider the motion to send a special ballot to RSCs on the matter. Two other motions, very similar to one another, were defeated by overwhelming majorities; these motions sought to return to publication of the Third Edition, Revised, instead of printing a corrected Fourth Edition (i.e., Fifth Edition).

Despite the debate, the motion to reinsert the missing lines passed with significantly more than a 2/3 majority, and the Fifth Edition Basic Text was subsequently published later in 1988. Included in the motion was an amendment making the Basic Text “not eligible for revision for five years from this conference.” The 1993 World Service Conference extended the moratorium for another five years. In 1998 a similar motion for a moratorium failed, but the conference passed a motion to commit to the World Board all input, including motions and amendments, related to revising the Basic Text and Little White Book. The board was to present a proposal to the 2000 World Service Conference. At the 2000 conference, participants voted to begin a process of evaluating possible changes to the Basic Text and/or Little White Book. That process ultimately led to the project that created the Sixth Edition Basic Text.

At WSC 2008, three CAR motions creating the Sixth Edition Basic Text were unanimously adopted. These motions were (1) to replace the existing stories in the Fifth Edition Basic Text with those contained in the CAR; (2) add a new Preface to the Sixth Edition, change the title “Book One” and “Book Two” to “our Program” and “Our Members Share,” add abstracts of each story to the Table of Contents, approve the “Reflections” and the specific titles for the sections of the stories; and (3) give the World Board the ability to update statistical information (number of NA meetings, etc.) in the new preface. The rest of the decisions about the Sixth Edition were carried by substantial majority (over two-thirds) but were not unanimous. The additional motions approved were to include a revised index and make two specific copyedits to the first ten chapters. Those copyedits were to replace “N.A.” with “NA” and to remove a footnote in Tradition Eleven that referenced a PI guide that no longer exists.

This brought us to the current version of the text, and the following statement was added to *A Guide to World Services in NA*: “WSC 2008 approved the Sixth Edition Basic Text. Once it becomes available in October 2008, the Sixth Edition will be the only edition approved for NAWS production with the exceptions called out in the Translations Policy.”



PROTECTING THE FELLOWSHIP'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The statement added to GWSNA about the Sixth Edition was explained in the *Conference Agenda Report* that year, and followed from a decision made at the 1991 conference about the Fifth. In 1990, some NA members took it upon themselves to print a version of the NA Basic Text, Book One, which they had created by combining the Third Edition, Revised, with the essays on Traditions Four and Nine from the Second Edition. In a US federal court hearing, the primary individual responsible for publishing the hybridized Basic Text at that time agreed to stop, and the World Service Office Board of Directors agreed to place three motions before the NA Fellowship in the 1991 *Conference Agenda Report*.

1991 WSC

“That the fellowship reconsider its decision on which edition, or parts thereof (First, Second, Third, Third Revised, Fourth, or Fifth), of the Basic Text shall be produced and distributed by the WSO as the official and accepted text of Narcotics Anonymous.” (Motion failed by roll call vote 23-51-6)

“That the WSO produce, at a reduced price, the edition of the text ratified by the WSC. The actual price of this text should be determined in view of the following factors: its affordability to the membership at large; a change in the cost and quality of the materials used in producing the book; the responsibility of the WSO to provide services from the income generated by sales of the Basic Text; and whether it includes the personal stories or only the first ten chapters.” (Motion failed by voice vote)

“That the WSC be directed to obtain a group-by-group tally of all the groups registered with the WSO, on Motions 13 and 14 above. This procedure will begin on July 1, 1991 and continue through December 31, 1991. All the registered groups shall receive a copy of a paper detailing the differences between the editions of the Basic Text, and a complete copy of the Basic Text Third Edition, Revised. In addition, each group shall receive complete information concerning the issues relevant to a reduction in the price of the ratified text. [The motion includes one more paragraph detailing the committee to supervise the tally.]” (Motion failed by roll call vote 21-55-4.)

All three motions were published in the *CAR*, were subsequently placed before the 1991 World Service Conference, and were defeated.

Following an extended discussion among all conference participants and the deliberations of an ad hoc committee, the WSC decided to issue the following statement to the fellowship:

“The Basic Text, Fifth Edition, is the only edition of the Basic Text that is currently approved by the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous for publication and sale. The World Service Office Board of Directors is entrusted with the responsibility for protecting the fellowship’s physical and intellectual properties, including the Basic Text, and at the Board of Director’s discretion shall take legal action to protect those rights against any and all persons who choose to infringe upon this literature trust.”

Two related motions were also passed at WSC ’91 regarding NA intellectual property ownership and publishing. On a roll call vote with 67 yes votes, 9 no, and 3 abstaining, the following motion was carried: “To reaffirm and ratify that the ownership of all of NA’s intellectual and physical properties prepared in the past and to be prepared in the future is held by WSO, Inc., which holds such title in trust on behalf of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole in accordance with the decisions of the World Service Conference.”

The other related motion was carried by a two-thirds majority voice vote: “To reaffirm that the World Service Office, Inc., is the exclusive publisher and distrib-

utor of all World Service Conference-approved literature, including all books, pamphlets, handbooks, and other intellectual and physical properties, as directed by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous through the World Service Conference.”

Regarding the issue of a low-cost Basic Text, the 1991 WSC did recognize that an inexpensive book containing the basics of NA recovery would be a great product to have for newcomers at meetings. A motion that directed the WSO and WSC Literature Committee to compile and publish such a book, to be called *An Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous*, passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CONCLUSION

Considering the events recounted above, it seems quite clear that the NA Fellowship has expressed its conscience on the matter of its recovery literature. Any efforts by individuals or groups to reprint altered NA literature do not reflect the conscience of the NA Fellowship. The NA groups, as owners of NA’s copyrights, and NA World Services, as trustees in the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust*, are partners in the effort to protect NA’s copyrights. We are asking that you embrace this partnership and remember that NA groups and members have the right and the responsibility to demand that those who would reprint or modify NA literature refrain from doing so. Personal recovery depends on NA unity; we must work together to safeguard the integrity of our life-saving literature.

From: Brenda D.
To: Kendra D

Will you please forward this on to all the Region Contacts? I put it on Slack, however, not everyone has joined. If anyone has any feedback or input, please let me know! Thank you kindly, Brenda D.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Daniel F.**
Date: Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 10:31 PM
Subject: The Journey Continues

Greetings:

I am writing to you as a former Regional Delegate and dedicated NA member to inform you of a month long event. The Washington North Idaho Region passed a motion to coordinate *A Month of Caring & Sharing-The Journey Continues* and we are inviting you to participate in helping us support NA World Services. We are asking each region to participate hosting one event during the month of April.

Why support NAWS? Since the pandemic's onset NAWS has been experiencing a significant financial impact. Limited area and regional events forwarding donations, a significant cut in literature sales, and ongoing overhead are affecting NAWS considerably. NAWS has cut back as much as they can without closing the doors to continue serving our fellowship.

The goal of this event is 5 fold: 1-to share our recovery celebration; 2-to raise financial support for NAWS; 3-to build relationships; to raise awareness of how to access accurate NA information; 4-to expand the discussion of member support of NA service and moving from a literature and product sales support base to individual contributions; 5-to increase the number of recurring contributions by members worldwide.

Each participating region commits to the following guidelines:

To use the committee approved opening statement (much like was used for The Journey Continues 2020);

To connect a direct contribution link to NAWS contribution portal; for all North American Regions (other international regions may have established contribution connections suitable for their community);

To adhere to uniform event log-in requirements;

To select speakers who share the purpose and mission of the event; and

To not invite speakers who are currently on NAWS staff.

We are asking each region to participate or delegate participation in this month-long event by sponsoring a 2-6 hour time block on one of the 30 days in April. This is a work in progress, the idea is developing as we evolve, more will be revealed. Please contact committee members at info@thejourneycontinues2020.org

The Washington North Idaho Region will coordinate days and times in April with the regions that are willing to participate in this event. We will supply guidelines for the event and electronic media exposure through Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and E-Blast. To participate, please contact our scheduling coordinator: D'Lanor by email: dharris9602@gmail.com

In Loving Service

Excerpt from NAWS News: ... We have a long history of recognizing the need for a World Service Office and being challenged to pay for those services. What we need is a change in our culture, and that will only happen when this message is coming not just from World Services, but from our Fellows. The most sustainable income source for World Services is recurring monthly contributions from members. We sincerely believe that one addict talking to another is the only way to begin to effect a change in our attitude towards giving... For full article: https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/nawsnews/en/NN_Dec2020.pdf