

Hello Family,

A lot has happened since we last meet. In this report I will cover what the World Board discussed in its first meeting of this conference cycle. I will also discuss what I have done between meetings and detailed information from the SZF in Louisville Ky. Held the weekend of Oct. 22-24 2004. I will also express some concerns and possibilities for the future.

Since the WSC this past April the World Board was able to meet and have successfully oriented six new board members, developed the plans for the work approved at the WSC, framed our issue discussion topics, attended several zonal forums, (including the SZF just weeks ago) and other fellowship events, elected there new executive committee for this conference cycle, activated workgroups, contacted members to work on those groups, and scheduled the first of the workgroup meetings.

- **2004-2006 Fellowship Issue Discussions**

In an effort to provide you with more effective discussion tools, NAWS is trying something different with the issue discussion topics this year. Normally, NAWS would send out a News Flash with questions about specific topics chosen for that conference cycle and last year included this information in an online discussion board. This year we have also provided an illustration of some of the more successful discussion sessions. How we have a discussion can be just as important (of not more important) than the discussion itself. We hope that this format will be a helpful tool for discussions at your groups, areas, regions, committees, and wherever else you find the opportunity. The News Flashes are included in the October issue of NA Way

The purpose and scope of using discussion topics is to begin incorporating new methods of problem solving by utilizing discussion as a way to get to the underlying issues affecting local members. It also embraces the idea that not everything of value happens fast or produces a tangible result. Sometimes just discussing things will lead to a solution in the future. It raises out awareness by asking questions about our personal and/or collective behavior and experiences. It provides real life experiences and examples that the world service may share with other members (i.e., when members call the WSO or in NAWS publications.

- **Fellowship Support what's going on in...**

- Russia-

The Russian service structures for the West Russia and Central Russia are currently seeking feedback fro all Russian groups on the proposed glossary change for 'addict' and 'addiction.' A revised IP #1 draft was prepared by NAWS with underlined revision for easier review by the groups. The change involves changing the term *Narkman* (narcotics addict) to a Russian term meaning dependent. Most of Eastern Europe seems to choose this term for addiction.

- Bulgaria-

The Bulgarian keytags are ready and the community appears quite happy to have the first recovery tool in there language. IP #1 evaluation is currently in progress.

- Eastern Europe-

Overall, we are experiencing an enormous increase in activity all over Eastern Europe. Part of it may be due to recent service workshops and European Forum events in Eastern Europe.

- Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania-

NAWS sent 150 pounds of service material to Lithuania for their convention in September. Lithuania will be funding members from NA in Estonia, and members from Latvia will also be attending the convention!

- Iran-

WSO recently spoke with Iran and they shared that they just had the opening meeting at their convention, with 12,000 people in attendance. The meeting was held in a Tehran sports stadium where they read a greeting

from NAWS and the Iranian president before an official “kick-off” with five speakers, three sharing recovery, one on the traditions and one on PI.

• **Public Relations**

Since January, WSO attended the American Society of Addiction Medicine conference, in Washington, DC; the first Asia Pacific Institute on Addiction in Singapore; the annual conference o the National Association of Addiction Treatment Professionals in Tampa; the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in Milwaukee, WI; and the annual conference of the American Corrections Association held in Chicago in July.

• **The Executive Committee of the World Board**

NAWS would like to congratulate our new Executive Committee; Bob J from Nevada is Chairperson, Craig R from North Carolina is the Vice Chairperson, Jim B from Illinois is the Treasurer, and Tom McC from Hawaii is the Secretary.

• **Workgroups and Projects**

NAWS have discussed the overall work plan and its impact on there work as your board and on NAWS for the conference cycle. The World Board has already completed the planning and prioritization process and now they are focusing on *delegation*. The point-people assigned to the projects work with staff in preparing for meetings, facilitating the meetings, and developing reports. Part of being a strategic board is that they cannot do all of the work themselves. They rely on the help of members in the world pool, delegates, and workgroups. The workgroups are formed for a specific task and given a clearly outlined “charge.” The charge tells them exactly what we are looking for and includes a timeline for completing that work. A member of the board helps facilitate the workgroups and reports to the entire board, letting WSO know the progress the workgroup is making. As they move forward, they may make adjustments to the workgroups direction. Once the workgroup has completed the assigned task and it is no longer needed, it is then dissolved.

Some projects require a workgroup that uses members of the world pool, some workgroups have board members on them, some do not, and some projects don’t require a workgroup at all.

For some of projects, NAWS has selected and defined workgroups and listed those assignments here. Other projects will continue to unfold and may or may not require a workgroup at a later date. NAWS will be providing us with more information about each of these projects as they frame them further (and as more is revealed). Go to www.na.org/conference for project updates.

BASIC TEXT

The purpose of this project is to create an approval-form Sixth Edition Basic Text including a new preface, the replacement of some or all of the personal stories, and an introduction to the personal stories.

Send your ideas about what you want to see in the personal stories section to the World Service Office. The workgroup will include Ron H and Giovanna G from the board, and the following World Pool members:

- Jeff B.....Illinois, US
- Jose Luis A.....Puerto Rico
- Joyce F.....New Jersey, US
- Lib E.....New Zealand
- Michael McD..California/Washington, US
- Peter H.....United Kingdom
- Samantha J.....Oregon, US
- Trond E.....Norway

PUBLIC RELATIONS HANDBOOK

This project’s goal is to create a handbook with a broad scope for use in public relations efforts. The handbook, which will be separated by section for ease and flexibility of use, will focus on our relations with the public in all forms, including but not limited to: Public Information, websites, phonelines, Hospitals & Institutions, institutional guides, media, outreach, and inmate correspondence.

A workgroup for this project has been activated and will include Ron M from the board and following World Pool members:

- Billy R.....Arizona, US

Jack H.....Washington, US
 Junior.....Brazil
 Mark H.....New Zealand
 Paul F.....United Kingdom
 Richie S.....New York, US
 Roseann B-A.....California, US
 Stephen K.....Ireland
 Tony W.....South Carolina, US
 Valerie D.....North Carolina, US

PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGY

This project aims to both create a public relations strategy and, with that strategy as a foundation, begin impacting the development of new PR tools. David J and Piet de B from the World Board and the following members from the World Pool will serve on this workgroup:

Bob McF.....California, US
 Donna M.....California, US
 Greg W.....Arizona, US
 John S.....Missouri, US
 Mary Kay B.....Virginia, US
 Simon J.....United Kingdom

BULLETINS PLAN

The scope of this project is to create new and/or revised material on a topic (the first of which is behavior at meetings/giving the newcomer a chance to recover) that concerns NA philosophy to better serve a growing and changing worldwide fellowship. If the creation of this bulletin seems to go smoothly, work will begin on other bulletins.

BUSINESS PLAN

Focused on the business portion of NAWs operations, this Workgroup evaluates our operations and financial reporting on a regular basis and makes recommendations to ensure that we build and maintain adequate resources that grow with the fellowship. This workgroup is currently comprised of members of the WB Executive Committee and:

Bob McD.....Georgia, US
 Cary S.....Illinois, US
 Joao V.....Brazil
 Khalil J.....Georgia, US
 Mario T (Point-Person).....Australia
 Susan C.....Washington, US

THE NAWAY MAGAZINE EDITORIAL BOARD

The Editorial Board reviews the content of the *NA Way* and makes recommendations to the board about ideas for the magazine. This workgroup consists of Mukam H from the board and the following World Pool members:

Gail D.....New York, US
 Keith Paul N.....Tennessee, US
 Mark S.....Canada
 Red.....New Zealand
 Sheryl L.....Pennsylvania

REACHING OUT WORKGROUP

This workgroup reviews the content of each edition of the publication, *Reaching Out*, and makes recommendations to the World Board for improvements. For *Reaching Out*, new members will be chosen by the spring of 2005. The current workgroup is made up of the following members:

Paul M.....New Jersey, US

Rex S.....Washington, US
Susan S.....Tennessee, US

TRANSLATIONS EVALUATION GROUP

The TEG serves to evaluate and make recommendations on initial recovery material offered for publication by specific languages. Daniel S is the board member on this group along with the following members from the World Pool:

Dora de la S.....Brazil
Francoise H.....Israel
Monica A.....Norway

SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORLDWIDE WORKSHOPS

Currently, the scope of this project is to hold up to six workshops in this conference cycle throughout the fellowship. The purpose of the workshops will be to engage in various discussions on a variety of service and recovery issues with as many members as possible.

For this conference cycle, two types of workshops would be held. "Service workshops" will focus on the service structure and/or related issues. A variety of agendas and sessions will be developed for these workshops to allow NAWS to obtain information for future service tools and engage participants in an exchange. The other type of workshop, designated "fellowship development workshops," will engage as many members as possible in various discussions on a variety of service and recovery issues.

As mentioned in the Fellowship Support section of this issue of NAWS News, please use the *NEW* World Services Participation Request Form at www.na.org.

NAWS COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

The purpose of this project is to evaluate and improve how World Services receives input from, reports to, and gets feedback from the fellowship to assist in all stages of the work process.

• **Human Resource Panel**

Before their first meeting, one of the newly elected panel members, Dylan J resigned for personal reasons. This leaves four members on the HRP for this conference cycle. If you are interested in becoming a workgroup member in the future, please submit a World Pool Information Form to the WSO. If you have 5 years clean and a willingness to do world service work, make sure you have a completed and updated resume on file.

• **World Service Office update**

WSO would like to welcome Renee Brazell to their team. She is working as the Administrative Assistant to Conventions, Meetings, and Events. She comes to the WSO with excellent computer skills and an impressive event resume. The newest addition to the staff is Jane Nickels. After fulfilling her term on the board, she relocated to California and will be joining the WSO at the end of August as a project coordinator! The WSO is very excited at the opportunity to continue working with Jane. On a sad note, WSO said goodbye to Donna Smylie. She leaves after working at the WSO for over fifteen years. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

The work that we do in NA World Services would not be possible with the hard work and dedication of our staff—the special workers of the primary service center for Narcotics Anonymous World Services. They are the people who work everyday, helping to make our vision a reality. Everything that we do could not be possible without the efforts of the staff at the WSO in Chatsworth, California and our offices in Canada and Belgium. If you or anyone you know would like to be parts of this amazing team please do not hesitate to contact Roberta Tolkan, the Human Resource Manager at WSO. You may reach her at Roberta@na.org, by calling (818) 773-9999, and dialing extension 121. We look forward to hearing from you.

The SZF in Louisville was a great event. In addition to all the regions from the SZF with the exception of Lone Star, we had RD's and RDA's from Chicagoland Region, Ohio Region, and Red River Region as well as the MWZF Treasure in attendance. Also their representing NAWS was World Board member Mary Banner and Asst. Ext. Director of WSO Becky Myers. As well as guests from Central Ohio Area, West Tennessee Area, Arkansas River Valley Area, Middle Tennessee Area, Greater Nashville Area, and Western Kentucky Area.

FELLOWSHIP CONCERNS/DISCUSSIONS***Area Concerns***

Greater Nashville Area – tax issue that has been recurring. Found a solution and will include that in solutions pamphlet distributed after SZF.

Memphis – 5 to 6 new meetings on the schedule; going through a period of growth.

West Tennessee Area – people who have been around for awhile sharing in meetings that they've worked all the steps and now live the principles and no longer need to work the steps – causing issues with newcomers, asking if you only need work the steps one time.

Regional Reports**Show Me Region**

- Kansas City Metro Formation – United Kansas City area formed to cover entire metro area; Working to create a metro that will provide shared services for H&I, PI and phonenumber to all areas within the metro
- Outreach - Have a strong Outreach chairperson in place; Providing local fellowship development activities including GSR training sessions, RSC officer, RCM and subcommittee chairperson orientations, reaching out to isolated groups or those needing additional support
- St. Louis Area Convention (SLACNA) - Hosted first area convention in October; RSC met concurrently onsite at the convention to show regional support; Had close to 1,000 in attendance
- Literature Committee; Providing input to the World Board workgroup on Basic Text revisions
- Regional Audit - Sending audit questionnaire to RCMs for distribution to groups and area service committees; Requesting input on services provided by the Region, as well as impressions of service provided by RD; Exploring effectiveness of regional functions, communications and ideas for future direction and improvement; Would appreciate input from other regions as to what they have done in terms of service audits that has worked for them; Distributing questionnaire with October minutes with input due January 1, 2005; Will utilize RCM open forum to discuss input and any actions that need to be taken
- Convention Committee Guidelines; There Convention Board would appreciate receiving copies of other region's convention guidelines as they review current guidelines and seek ways to improve service to the region
- Discussion Topic Workshops; RD, working with PI and Outreach chairpersons will facilitate WSC topic discussion workshops in 5 areas throughout the region; Several areas will participate in each session to allow input from all areas within the region; Discussion topics are our public image and developing leadership/infrastructure
- Writing Steps for Recovery; Prison outreach program in which inmates are paired with step writing guides who have received training via WSR orientation prior to having contact; Facilitated by contact within each facility; WSR committee is interested in presenting a WSR workshop during the SZF for regions who are interested in adapting for their own needs; One presentation to take place during the SZF to be held in the Show Me Region in July 2005; would like to offer a presentation during one of our other Zonal meetings held outside the Show Me Region
- Regional Growth; Currently have 15 areas within the Show Me Region, all actively participating in RSC; Many active subcommittee representatives from the areas; Strong subcommittee leadership in place for this cycle
- Regional Phonenumber Service; Moving forward and in the later phases of a rolling implementation; Not all areas will be started at the same time; Coordinating with PI subcommittee to make sure meeting directories and phone systems are in synch; Asking for input from regions who have regional lines that not only provide meeting information but also connect to local addicts for those calls needing an addict with which to speak
- Donation; Donation of \$600 to bring us up to date for this year
- Upcoming Events; MKACNA IX; April 29 – May 1, 2005 in Atchison, Kansas; contact Mike B (913) 367-4634; Cabin Fever Prevention Convention, February 4-6, 2005, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri; contact midmissourina@midmissourina.org

- SZF July 2005 Meeting in Show Me Region; Proposing Kansas City as location; With new areas splitting what was once one large area and seeking to establish metro services, this would provide a needed boost from outside our region and support the addicts in these areas
- Midwestern Governors Conference; Contacted by Crista Mauk from the Plains Zone; Wants to know if they would be interested in participating in a presentation to the Midwestern Governors Conference; Involves 13 states in the Midwest, some in our zone; Apparently a PI type presentation; Phone number emailed to Dickie (712-276-5770)
- World Board PR Strategy Workgroup; Show Me RD participating in the PR Strategy Workgroup; Will be meeting 6 times over the next year and a half; Will develop a PR strategy and framework from which NAWS public relations efforts will come; Working in concert with the PR Handbook Workgroup which will be developing tools for regions, areas and groups to use in getting the word out about NA

Volunteer Region

- Doing well, but need more participation to fill trusted servants positions; currently no subcommittee chairs, but that has been ongoing for awhile; work is getting done, but need people to actually hold positions; hosting zone in Chattanooga; VRC 22 coming up in Chattanooga over Thanksgiving weekend – first time ever in this city and it's a small city, so it's amazing to see the support happening to make this event happen; just wish could get same members helping with VRC to support region by taking committee positions
- Recently government hosted an event to get the word out about recovery tools and programs, called Recovery Fest – Volunteer Region participated by providing PI type information

Louisiana Region

- Doing great and all service positions are filled
- Louisiana Convention Board met for the first time at the last region with officers elected; would like to see other regional convention guidelines; Lone Star provide a great set
- Upcoming conference at correctional facility in which the region is participating; working to show that we are not a secret society
- September is recovery month in Louisiana – special event held over a weekend, is September 30, held in New Orleans, 10,000-15,000 people in attendance, PI chair produced items for distribution at this event, areas used to shy away from these types of events, but are now seeing the opportunities

Tejas Bluebonnet

- Doing well; 501C3 final and have all the paperwork, but has brought up a lot of discussion with areas wanting to use that number
- New area within the region that is considering joining; had been participating with Louisiana and Lone Star previously
- Send RD to service development meeting in Juarez, Mexico a couple of months ago; addicts were very grateful for the assistance and service workshops
- Struggle with getting addicts with time to step up to the plate and be of service and teach newcomers
- Upcoming convention in February in Corpus Christi – visit tejas-na.org for fliers
- PI subcommittee in Esperanza area is doing great things – developed materials in Spanish, very passionate about getting the word out about NA
- RD/RDA dividing ASCs up and visiting all of them during course of their terms; one rural area having problems getting people to attend ASC due to large distances some have to drive; trying to get trusted servants to move toward consensus based decision making, but it's hard for some to release process of voting
- Concern on 1-888 helpline in Texas; recently used that number for an area PI flier day; asked the area to call the number and make sure it worked – finding that the number, when dialed in that particular area, was diverting to Tyler; concern that addicts aren't getting callbacks – concern that this is a big problem for image of NA with people using that 888 number; working to get issues resolved; suggestion to make sure if you're using an 800 number to call it from all the areas within your region to make sure it works

- Many years ago Texas State convention formed and had some controversy about whether it was accountable to the service structure; in the past year, they have been showing accountability and passing funds back to regions within Texas and NAWS

Mississippi

- Doing better than they've done in awhile
- Regional convention went really well and made money, after going in the hole last year; good attendance
- Over the past year have been working on policy; coming along slowly – developing subcommittee and RSC policies; have decided to do all RSC positions on a 2 year rotation basis as 1 year terms were not providing continuity
- Working on PI; chairperson has divided the state up to get the word out better; also looking at doing co-op efforts with areas outside the Mississippi region where they get radio and television stations from neighboring cities that are actually outside the region
- Good luck in the past year having regional trusted servants filling positions and finishing obligations
- Working on regional assembly that is coming up; planning on some leadership development workshops in the coming year; changed name from GSR assembly to trusted servants assembly to improve participation – people thought if they weren't a GSR they couldn't participate; at last regional assembly had 68% off GSRs show up
- Trying to find a better way to collect CAR votes
- Areas within region considering having conventions; discussion about whether it will take away from region or add to it; how will it impact rotation of regional convention as it moves each year

SZF Representative

- Wants to focus on opportunities to advance and improve our communications between zones and improving participation and understanding of what the zones do, the support we provide to the regions, training, and topic presentations
- As representative, want to be sure talks to at least one representative from another zone to see what they have done in the past quarter
- Find out how other zones are dealing with problems we have within our zone, i.e. translations, reaching out to diverse cultural groups
- Have developed survey for participants to help identify the needs of regions, ways to improve the services we provide
- Will contact Plains Zone to discuss upcoming Governor's Conference
- Wants to take advantage of the solutions and discussions we have when we come together and sharing that with others

Input from Guests

WSO

- NAWS is at California Department of Corrections event, Cartajena, International conference of alcoholism and addiction in Venice,
- Recovery is happening all over the world and we all have very common experiences, no matter where we are – sharing our experience, strength and hope in service are very important – but we're not always good about doing that; what NAWS is trying to do is facilitate discussions, have placed discussion boards on na.org – and have many people with days and weeks clean who are posting, so please visit these discussion boards and share
- Encourage people in your regions to participate in public information type events; we need to try some new things to get the word out
- Can't keep up with all the events and growth going on – we all need to help, doing whatever we can in our parts of the world
- Just like recovery, sharing experience, strength and hope related to service will work

- Send copies of guidelines and minutes to the WSO and they put together and send out to regions in the rest of the world; they can only share with people what you share with us; they get distributed broadly to people who ask
- In trying to find out how to communicate better, there will be electronic subscriptions to NAWS News and the NA Way in November; publications are already translated into 5 languages

WB

- As a new member of the board, had the opportunity to attend an orientation meeting which involved a lot of hard work by the office and the outgoing board to share information and provide continuity; what's going on in NA is explosive
- Very interesting to me that over the years, we have tried to develop leadership and teach the conference that there are people who are qualified to serve, who may not necessarily be physically present at the conference; saw the conference open to this concept in the past year
- Agree that we must develop better communication – use the website, the NA Way, NAWS News; amazing that people in home groups don't know of the resources that are available to them
- Had unique experience 2 weeks ago at the first Tex-Mex convention in Juarez, Mexico – discussed challenges that English speaking members face when in countries where it is not primary language
- Available for any questions you may have

Regions Outside Our Zone

Chicagoland Region

- Lots of activity with things changing in terms of planning and workgroups; took lead from NAWS and are writing a strategic plan for the region
- Hot topic is central service office seeking to purchase a building; looking for any input from other regions; the pros/cons and discussion of whether offices should purchase buildings, enter into trusts, etc.; this issue has caused the region to hold onto a large amount of funds the past few years and this is a concern
- Recent lawsuit by a suburban community focusing on a group that was holding meetings in that city; was able to shut the group down based on issues of public health

Ohio Region

- Biggest challenge for past 2 years is theft of funds in the region; working to appropriately resolve; have been in contact with addicts responsible and they are making amends as they are able; resolving without prosecution at this time, maybe not as quickly as some would like, but still being resolved
- Some problem with regional convention being accountable to region – have state convention that rotates between Ohio Region and Buckeye Region – no problem with funds being dispersed, but no good reporting and accountability and organization; last committee did much better job of record keeping and gave this year's group a good start
- Were looking at withdrawing from participation in Midwest Zone, but did take a vote 2 quarters ago and decided to remain

Midwest Zonal Forum

- Currently fine tuning website and getting form letters drafted for PI use – people can download and use consistent format; generally get about 2 emails a week asking for meetings
- Trying to see how to be of better service to participating regions; would be great to better define Outreach

Red River Region

- Went from being big area of Lone Star to being small region
- Exploring best ways to maintain contact with service structure
- After a little more than 12 months; have submitted application for recognition to WSO
- Looking into phonenumber, running into some of the same issues as Show Me – different alternatives, automated and live people options

PRESENTATIONS***Leadership Development***

- At WSC this cycle, we had the beginning discussion on leadership. As we've developed our strategic plan, we've realized you don't get a lot done without leadership. We do have leaders, but what does that mean? It's something we don't talk about and our current literature doesn't provide a lot of direction.
- There will be articles about leadership in the upcoming issues of the NA Way. I certainly consider my sponsor a leader. When I look at your list of topic discussions and issues, they all take leaders to get them accomplished. In all our travels throughout the world, it's amazing that we share the same issues, not only in recovery, but also in service. How do we get the word out about NA other than through treatment centers? How do we foster discussions and start looking at leadership differently? Therefore, there are not a lot of background materials to give on this topic.
- At the conference, we started the thought process about what qualities leaders have, where they come from, etc. What we need to do is look at what the fellowship sees as leaders. What qualities do they want leaders to have, what do you want them to do?
- Exercise to determine what this group thinks about leaders. Qualities identified include trustworthy, motivator, education, strong NA message, ability to train effectively, insightful, listening skills, sense of humor, unbiased, integrity, communications skills, level headed, principles not personalities, determination, ability to listen, encourage through example not power and control, ability to complete tasks, patience, ability to accept criticism, tolerance, confidence, integrity, humility, egoless, open-minded to another's knowledge, gentle but firm, committed, consistent, compassionate, recovery, delegates, visionary, mentor.
- How do we foster leaders? Mentorship – sponsoring people, but on service; training our trusted servants, talking about the benefits of service, teaching our sponsees about service, sharing on service at sharing meetings; if you need a specific position filled at a service meeting, ask if someone can help out just for that meeting, i.e. taking minutes, demonstrate qualities of leadership, ask discerning questions, resisting warm body temptation, set an example, support and mentorship, sponsorship, encouragement and support
- What do we need to do to get people involved? Is NA Working for you? New people and people who have time but aren't currently involved: attitudes toward authority, equating leadership with authority, inability to delegate, ineffective election process, disrespect, poor leaders currently in place, complacency, apathy, reluctance to let go, shortage of qualified candidates. We set people up by asking who is willing rather than who is qualified. Our internal perception of service and leadership is poor. Reminders of spiritual benefits, incentives, feed them, personal contact, resumes and pool resources, willingness list.
- What gets in our way? Reluctance to ask, fear of judgment, attitude toward authority, election process, disrespect, resentment, judgmental, poor leaders/illusion, complacency, apathy, reluctance to let to, perceived rules, finance/resources, lack of qualified people, attitude of people with time, perception of service, internal PR, treatment of servants, us versus them, automatic rotation, environment in service (not fun), personalities over principals, lack of prayer, infrastructure, need for guidance and education.

PRESENTATION 12 CONCEPTS

I have copies of the papers we went over. We did this is large group round table.

FACILITATOR'S REPORT

- In the last quarter worked with World Board contacts regarding logistics for attendance.
- Still working on host organizer document that will give direction and guidelines for the local communities where the SZF is held.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Secretary position in transition. Hopefully we will be electing a person to take over this role as the secretary was elected to move into the representative's position.
- Currently sharing responsibility with John S. to get the minutes typed with Travis handling the higher functions of facilitating communication in the zone and creating the solutions pamphlet.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Submitted request for Tax ID number and still waiting for that paperwork. Once that is received will get it onto our bank account.
- Bank statements for the previous quarter distributed.
- Balance as of this day \$1,778.98; donation to NAWS \$278.98 leaving balance of \$1,500

SZR REPRESENTATIVE

- In the past quarter has been working to create our SZF survey form which was sent out with the minutes; still taking input – this will provide information on the understanding people have of forums, if they've ever attended, what the RDs would like to see, etc.
- Interested in keeping up the practice we've started of ranking the discussion topics presented in the early Saturday sessions, then using those to help identify and prioritize presentation topics
- Compiling information on other forums to better facilitate communication – interested in attending other forums, but believes other members of our forum should attend as well
- Next Midwest Forum is November 14 in Illinois, mzfna.org will have the information
- Point of information that the forums might want to consider posting to the events calendar on na.org

WEBSITE REPORT

- Send suggestions for improvements to the webmaster
- Annual fee due to the host (\$50)
- Domain name registered for 5 years
- All RDs need to send webmaster email addresses to keep them current
- Increase in number of registered participants

ARCHIVIST

- Copies of the agreement guide are available on szfna.org
- Solutions pamphlets are available as well

TOPIC DISCUSSION RANKINGS

- Communication/participation between areas, groups, regions
- Apathy and unfilled service positions
- Generating support between areas
- PI and professional event participation

- Input that it would also be good to host discussion on our public image/PR strategy as that's one of our two WSC discussion topics – and infrastructure development as well
- Request to discuss Tradition 2
- Discussion that all of these topics dovetail into leadership development, our public image and infrastructure. If we don't have the infrastructure in place to support our PR efforts, they won't work.
- Also need to establish a topic for Tennessee so they can start getting point people together and have a better discussion
- Request that we have one of our topics at each SZF from now until next WSC be related to the two discussion topics, realizing that there are many sub issues under each topic
- Agreement for one Louisiana topic to be "our public image"
- Local topic request from Louisiana of Tradition 2
- Need to coordinate people to present in Louisiana – Doug and Bob willing to handle Tradition 2; Tejas willing to handle our Public Image
- Topics for Tennessee will be infrastructure and Tradition one
- Mike B and Travis will coordinate Tradition 1; Arkansas region will take on infrastructure
- Topics for Show Me: our public image and need to come up with a regional topic request

ROTATION SCHEDULE

- January 29-30, 2005, in Lake Charles, Louisiana at the Agape Group's meeting space at 317 Pine Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601. Travel Inn, 1212 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, Louisiana. 337-433-9461 or 1-888-436-2580 (hotel). Room rate \$54.95 plus tax, mention SZF. Please call ASAP as this hotel is across the street from a very busy Casino and fills up quick. Shuttle will be provided by local NA members from and to the airport. Contact Bob L. 337-478-1101 and cell 337-515-3959
- April 2005 Volunteer
- July 2005 Show Me (Kansas City, Missouri)
- October Tejas-Bluebonnet

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- Discussion on decreasing number of meetings to three each year
- If we simply remove the April meeting held in non-conference years, it would reduce the number of meetings to 3 – because in conference years, our April meeting takes place during the conference just among the RDs attending – so it's not a full meeting anyway
- Keith will re-do the rotation schedule dropping off the April meeting for us to review in January
- Discussion that if the number of worldwide workshops is decreased, it's important to keep this forum active and out in the communities
- Information provided by NAWS that they are moving forward with WWW outside the US – as they are well attended by multiple countries or regions, while those within the US are much smaller tending toward 100-150 people; is it our best use of money to do a big production for a WWW in the US – or rather smaller, focused discussions in the US and bigger productions outside the US
- Zones are good at getting out to the different regions, seems that it would work well to do what we did yesterday meaning hosting a learning day on a specific topic
- Board has committed to attending 2 zonal forums a year; with the topics left up to the zones
- If we make the most of this participation and get the word out to the local fellowships, we can get a broader range of input from our members
- Use our zonal/world board joint participation to do “learning days” twice a year
- Don't forget that we have past RDs who are in the zone who would be great resources for us as we explore these topics

ELECTIONS

- Secretary position open
- John S. and Travis are willing to share the work involved; with John S. taking minutes and Travis facilitating communication and creating special communications pieces the SZF does
- Point made that we see this as a solution that will get the work done, but would like to see someone step forward to take on the full responsibilities in the future

MEMBER SURVEYS

- Travis will get SZF survey out to RDs for wide distribution and input from the members, groups, areas

Now for a couple of concerns that I have. In the past few weeks many members asking about 7th Tradition donations being down have approached me asking for some suggestions. I know that with the price of gas continuing to rise and the uncertain economy at this time, many members just can't put what they were putting in the baskets. This is a major concern for myself as well as others as we are a self-supporting fellowship. So where do we go from here? My question to you is what solutions are available to us to? How do we continue to operate with the rising costs and lowering donations? Please if you have any solutions to this please share them with myself so that I may contact those who are concerned.

In addition I have been very concerned with the recent rash of violence that has occurred regarding Narcotics Anonymous. The story that follows is from KRIS TV in Dallas, Texas. This story has gained national recognition.

DALLAS -- Authorities on Saturday were trying to figure out why a man shot and killed two people at a Narcotics Anonymous meeting before staging a four-hour standoff with police.

Yolland Latimer, 43, was being held in the Dallas County Jail on Friday on suspicion of capital murder. His bail was set at \$1.5 million.

Latimer, a former substitute teacher in Dallas, was accused of killing 40-year-old Darryl Sneed and 43-year-old Lois Fields on Thursday.

The three knew each other from Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and Latimer and Fields dated for a short time, police and relatives said. They had a 2-year-old daughter.

A neighbor said they often fought over care of the girl.

"She was always banging on the door, demanding that he come and get the baby," said the neighbor, Harold Jones. "Most of the time, he was talking to her through the door. He would never let her in."

Witnesses told police that Latimer may have thought Sneed was dating Fields, Sgt. Ross Salverino said in Saturday's edition of The Dallas Morning News. Salverino said they had no evidence that the two were dating.

With the knife attack last year in Hot Springs this issue is close to home. With one of the discussion topics this year being Public Image, it is these kind of stories that concern many members and myself. One thing that was stated by public officials during the PR roundtables that NAWS had during the last conference cycle was the violence at meetings. They were concerned that it could very well escalate due to poor self-policing. And by the story in Dallas it has. I hate to see stories like this detract from the value of NA. What can we as members of Narcotics Anonymous do about this issue? The SZF in Louisiana one of the topics will be the discussion topic of Public Image. I would like to be able to bring to the table there some great ESH of the issue of violence in meetings. If anyone has anything that they would like to share about this topic I encourage you to do so. If you have experienced this in your home group and have found a solution please share that. So that others can benefit from it. If you have not yet found a solution please don't give up. The future of our fellowship depends on it.

In December 2003 the Admin. committee set the budgets for RD RDA and SZF liaison. The budget for RD in 2004 was set at \$680 I have spent \$375 that includes an estimate for copies of this report. This falls below budget by \$305. I spent \$55.49 in non-budget items (supplies for WSC and copies of meeting list for WSC) The RDA did not have a budget for 2004 and did not incur any expense. The budget for SZF liaison was set at \$4,020 for 2004. Actual expense for 2004 was 967.82 this falls below budget by \$3,052.18. There are a couple of reasons this fell so short of budget. One was that when the Admin. committee did the budget for 2003 we figured for four forums; during conference years there are only 3. In addition the budget is figured for 2 people. Only one attended forums this year. And I missed the July forum. I have included 2005 budgets for RD, RDA since it is vacant at this time and SZF liaison.

2005 Budget for Regional Delegate

Item	Amount
Travel for 5 workshops on Discussion Topics. Ft. Smith, NW Arkansas, Central Arkansas, NE Arkansas, and SW Arkansas	\$200.00
Supplies for Workshops	\$50.00
Copies of Report	\$160.00
CAR in November	\$110.00
Total	\$520.00

2005 Budget for Regional Delegate Alt.

Item	Amount
Travel for 5 workshops on Discussion Topics. Ft. Smith, NW Arkansas, Central Arkansas, NE Arkansas, and SW Arkansas	\$200.00
Copies of Report	\$40.00
Total	\$240.00

2005 Budget for SZF Liaison (2 persons)

	Item	Amount
Travel	estimated 7463 miles x .14 mile	\$1,045.00
Food	Avg. of \$40 a day x12 days	\$960.00
Hotel	\$75/day 8 days	\$600.00
Registration	\$10 per person 4 times	\$80.00
Tapes	\$20 a set 4 times	\$80.00
Total		\$2,765.00

As seen in my budget I would like to conduct 5 workshops during 2005 on the Discussion Topics voted on at WSC. Public Image and Infrastructure. These would be great to have during a campout, convention or other activity. Please let me know when I can come to your neck of the woods to perform these workshops. I would like to have one in Central Arkansas, NE Arkansas, NW Arkansas, SW Arkansas, and Fort Smith. I would also like to conduct a workshop at the next two regions on the discussion topics with the next region being Public Image and the following region being Infrastructure. Please schedule these into the meeting format if approved by this body. Sorry for the long report but lots of happened during the time we last meet and felt obligated to report all of it. Again thanks for allowing me the opportunity to serve Narcotics Anonymous.

In Loving Service,

Tim A
Regional Delegate.