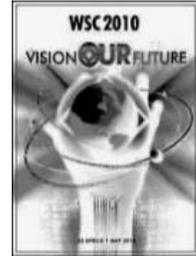




# June 2010 Northern CA Regional Delegate Report



This report is a challenge to write. Traci and I have talked about the challenge in trying to convey the enormity of everything that took place over the course of eight days at the 2010 World Service Conference. We simply cannot do it in a single sitting without contributing to a very long RSC. We're also under strict marching orders from our Chair and Vice Chair to keep it brief today. So, we've made a tactical decision that I will report on the Service System Project, something near and dear to my heart as a member of the Service System Work Group, and a couple other "highlights" of the Conference Week. Traci will give you the essentials on what happened with the CAR motions, and some of her highlights and reflections. She assured me that she would not get too "mushy" in her report, while I can make no such assurances.

## **OUR VISION - OUR FUTURE**

We opened the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NA World Service Conference with an audio excerpt from Jimmy Kinnon's speech at NA's 2<sup>3rd</sup> Anniversary dinner in New York, in 1976:

*"I've always been very highly idealistic and I find out that many other addicts are too, sometimes to the point of illusion. I learned many years ago in reading, as I do, many things. When the emotions are deep and strong, when the words that float on the surface are like a tossing buoy that betrays where the anchor is hidden and this poet told me to cling; cling... to my beliefs and to what the world calls illusion. And many times in the past when we've started to die again and I had to hang onto the idea that the dream is worthwhile: that addicts could live and could recover and could grow and could go where they're supposed to go; to walk like real men and women in the real world. In the past 15 years in particular we have seen this happen. I've said before and I'll say one more time: A man without a dream is only half a man, and a fellowship without a vision is a farce. But in NA we've combined our dreams and made our vision come true."*

Jimmy K had the vision that sustained him through many struggles in our formative years. Today we have a Vision as well. The 2010 World Service Conference Unanimously approved "A Vision for NA Service"

## **A Vision for NA Service**

All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous are inspired by the primary purpose of our groups. Upon this common ground we stand committed.

Our vision is that one day:

- ❖ Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;
- ❖ Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;
- ❖ NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery;
- ❖ Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of our service efforts, all of which rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power.

## **WSC 2010 New Participants**

Perhaps just as important as any motions or business conducted at the WSC, we are continuing to make strides in having our WSC mirror our world -wide fellowship. At WSC 2010, we welcomed Lithuania and Denmark as our guests, and approved their formal seating beginning at WSC 2012.

As I've reported previously in the CAR/NA101 workshops, Denmark had been a long time coming after over a decade of painful internal strife and conflict. Today, with a lot of fellowship development assistance from their neighbors in Sweden, they are a thriving NA Community and finally ready to take their seat at the World Service Conference.

Lithuania is a welcome addition to the WSC as well. As a small country of about 3.6 million people, they will probably never grow to be a very large NA fellowship. However, they have worked tirelessly on translations and fellowship development efforts amongst their neighboring countries. With Basic Text and 31 other pieces of literature translated; they are in a prime position to assist the emerging NA communities in the Baltic States of the former Soviet Union. Perhaps fittingly, Lithuania's first Delegate, was a member who personally devoted a tremendous amount of her time in service doing these translations.

At WSC 2008, we voted to officially seat Egypt and Poland at the conference beginning at WSC 2010. We welcomed the first Delegates from these countries to the WSC during our opening festivities. The conference was very moved by the presence of Egypt. The WSO Translation team has been working furiously, as their hopes are to have the Arabic Basic Text finished by this weekend for the 1<sup>st</sup> Middle East Convention in Turkey; the Arabic Basic Text is a labor of love that the Egyptian Delegate personally put a tremendous amount of effort into.

As you may have heard, we were privileged to be joined by the Iranian Delegate for the first time since approving their seating at WSC 2006. It was a very emotional time when the RD addressed the Conference on behalf of over 16,000 NA Groups and approximately 350,000 NA Members. We had a special translator on hand; a Farsi speaking member from Southern California, who also happens to be the RD's Sponsor! One of the highlights for my week was working in several small group sessions with the Iranian Delegate. In the RD Sharing session on Tuesday night of the Conference, we were talking about the challenges we face with apathy and getting members to do service. This is one phenomenon that doesn't apply to the Iran fellowship; for every service position imaginable, they have a multitude of members desperately wanting the position!

Not all of the aspects of conference seating were rosy. As has become a recent tradition of the World Service Conference, we had well intentioned but misguided US Delegates try to make policy decisions on behalf of non-US communities, with the belief that they know what is best for them. This year it was Northern New Jersey pressing ahead with a formal motion to seat Malta. During our informal seating discussions, and in the Conference Approval Track material, it was explained by the World Board that Malta is not ready for Conference Seating. They have 9 weekly meetings, 5 groups, and 1 area. Despite assurances from several members of the European Delegates Meeting (who did a fellowship development trip to Malta last year) that Malta was being taken care of, pleas from world board members not to formally introduce a motion, and very weak support via a straw poll, the motion was formally made in the conference record. As a result, rather than remaining silent on seating Malta, the Conference issued a formal denial. There was a valiant but failed effort by two board members to "commit" the motion to the WB, to prevent this defeat from appearing in the WSC minutes.

Finally, the World Boards proposed motion to not consider conference seating for any region, for WSC 2012 only, while we come to terms as a conference with the difficult emotional issues that seem to cloud our criteria around seating, failed to pass by 1 vote. Although the Board doesn't anticipate or foresee any emerging community that is ready be seated at WSC 2012, the Conference left the door open. Therefore, we may again be challenged, as we have for the past 20 years, to deal with the difficult issues surrounding WSC seating while potentially having regions with a desire to be seated amongst us in the gallery.

Here are some interesting statistics on the composition of WSC 2010

- There were 216 people seated on the floor of the WSC, and of 114 seated regions, there were 111 RDs present. (Ecuador, Le Nordet, and Nepal were not in attendance)
- Of the 111 RDs from seated regions, there were 67 from the US, 5 Canadian, 39 from outside the US and Canada. In addition, there were 2 invited non-seated/non-voting delegates from Denmark and Lithuania.
- We had 86 Alternate Delegates from seated regions attending, 66 from the US, 5 from Canada, and 15 from outside of the US or Canada. There was one invited alternate from Denmark, a non-seated region.
- We were made up of 154 men and 62 women (71% men)

## **WSC 2010 Community Building – Living Clean**

As part of the community building for the WSC Participants, we all participated in providing written input to Chapter 7 of Living Clean; aptly named “The Journey Continues.” While our hearts were filled with the gratitude of welcoming these new NA communities into NA World Services, the entire conference population had the opportunity to submit written input on the following questions:

- *How do you keep the magic alive?*
- *What does it feel like to be an experienced member? What are some gifts, the pitfalls, and the responsibilities that come with time?*
- *What is the relationship between being a leader and a servant? How do you practice leadership while also practicing the 2nd and 12th tradition?*
- *Have there been times when you felt that you were used as an instrument of a power greater than yourself? What happened, and what made you feel like a higher power was present?*

## **Service System Discussions - WSC 2010 and Beyond**

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the Service System materials at: <http://www.na.org/?ID=servsys>

The Service System discussions at WSC 2010 were, somewhat predictably, a mixed bag. One of the more alarming discoveries we were confronted with at the Conference was that clearly many delegates had not taken the time to read and familiarize themselves with the materials. We had set aside an opening session early in the week to go over questions on the proposed new service system models; and it was clear early on that there was a lot of misunderstanding as to what was being presented.

As might be expected from the Conference Community, the over-arching emphasis of member’s discussions and concerns had to do with seating at the WSC, and the possible re-alignment of Regions and Zones that would impact this. It was quite noticeable that many of the Europeans and non-us communities found these aspects somewhat “non-issues;” most already have their regions formed along Country lines, and have thriving zonal forums that have a focus on fellowship development. The loudest resistance to change was voiced by some of the US Regions who may have to consider a re-alignment as part of healing our service system. While these are important considerations that may resonate more closely with Regional Delegates, there was very little discussion or focus on the changes being offered at the local level to create a culture of enhanced group support, more cohesive public relations, and more efficient delivery of local services.

However, despite some voiced resistance to some aspects of the service system proposals, the WSC unanimously re-affirmed continuing our work for the 2010-2012 cycle. Our working group will be holding a combined meeting with the World Board Executive Committee and senior office staff on June 24-26<sup>th</sup> (Thursday – Saturday), wherein we will flush out our models further and make some preparations for carrying these discussions out to the fellowship. As a part of this, we will start a series of informational workshops across the US to talk with interested members about the proposed

models and options and get their feedback about the ideas. We will also use this time to help “train the trainer” and make sure the Regional delegates and alternates are prepared to hold workshops throughout their regions. We will have a revised report, session outlines, and flash presentations for Delegates to use in forwarding these discussions as well as some type of template to provide us with your input.

Instead of planning two worldwide workshops in the US for this cycle, we are thinking of having five workshops specifically focused on service system between mid-August and mid-November, and we will no doubt be calling on some of you to help us find facilities. We are hoping to keep costs low and make these workshops as accessible as possible for people who want to attend. Right now, we are discussing the possibility of having workshops in places where there seems to be high fellowship density. Perhaps:

- Southern or Northern California
- Texas
- Florida
- New York (within the greater metropolitan area)
- A Midwestern metropolitan area such as Chicago or Detroit

The full board meets for the first time this cycle at the end of July, and we will begin the series of workshops soon after that. These US workshops will take place in lieu of worldwide workshops and some zonal attendance among the 11 zones in the US. We believe we can plan this without adding additional cost to NAWS. We are also asking from input from the Non-US communities not affected by these workshops in the four zones outside of the US – CANA, APF, EDM, and LAZF, on how we can best facilitate getting input from them.

We have a webpage devoted to the project at na.org: <http://www.na.org/?ID=servsys> There will be a link off of the main conference page ([www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference)), and we will update the page as we have more news and develop resources. There is a bulletin board for the project, as well, and that link is available from the service system page.

As a refresher, below are the “Foundational Principles” we are using as the basis for our new service system designs. These principles that are common to each of the models and are foundational to our thinking can be summed up in the following four points. These may represent the most profound areas of change for some parts of our current service system.

### **Foundational Principles**

1. Purpose-driven: Each of the proposed service system units is designed to answer a specific need or group of needs, and the responsibilities of each unit should be clearly defined and understood.
2. Group-focused: The group support unit (GSU) in each model focuses on aiding the groups in their efforts to carry our message.
3. Defined by geopolitical boundaries: Following established geopolitical boundaries for at least some of our service bodies would allow us to better interface with professional and legislative bodies, making it easier for professionals and the general public to find and communicate with us.
4. Flexible: Each model offers ideas for optional service bodies, or “intermediate bodies,” to answer specific needs, but does not mandate their existence if they are not needed. In a general sense, we feel strongly that form should follow function and want to find a way to ensure that communities have the flexibility to create a structure that works best for them.

I have also attached separate handout, “What a healthy service system looks like”, to this report.

## WSC ELECTIONS AND THE HRP PROCESS

The elections process within NA World Services continues to produce results that the conference is not entirely happy with. For the last few conferences, WSC participants have voiced some displeasure with the selection processes used by the Human Resource Panel in their presentation of nominees for consideration. This Conference, the HRP provided 17 names to fill nine seats on the world board. Eleven of these names were forwarded to the HRP by the World Board itself. However, despite having a respectable list of qualified candidates, the Conference only managed to fill 6 of the 9 vacant seats. 5 of the seats filled were incumbent board members returning for a second term, so the net effect of the WSC elections process was to only elect 1 new board member from the 12 additional names offered. With two current board members not returning, the net result was a downsizing of the board to 15 members.

In response to this continuing phenomenon, I offered the following New business motion, in conjunction with the RD from Georgia, in the new business discussion session of the WSC, as a means of gauging conference support for the idea:

### **Motion #47 It was M/S Matt S ( RD NoCal) / Tony O (RD Georgia)**

*“That the World Board undertake an evaluation of the efficacy of discontinuing the Human Resource Panel and replacing their functions with a process for the world board to forward direct nominations for prospective World Board members or Conference Co facilitators to the WSC. The board will submit a recommendation on this issue for possible action at WSC 2012.”*

Intent: “After a decade of amendments and adjustments to the HRP Process, it may be time to look at other methods for identifying and forwarding prospective nominees for world service positions to the WSC. The World Board has active contact with “shining stars”; members throughout our fellowship that have special talents and experience, or who have helped in developing NA communities or participated in World Service Projects. Perhaps the board itself would be the best entity for identifying and bringing for candidates for consideration by the WSC”.

Despite strong support from the World Board Executive Committee, and a recommendation from the Board to commit the idea to the Board, the proposal garnered very little support in the open discussion session and I subsequently declined to formally introduce the motion in New Business. However, as a result of the discussions, the conference participants agreed in our closing session to participate in a blind (confidential) questionnaire wherein we can frankly provide input on why we are seemingly reluctant to elect candidates to the world board.



### **Upcoming WSC 2010 Topics & Sessions**

- The Importance of Environmental Scanning and “APT Lite”
- Service System discussion – in depth with PowerPoint
- 2009 Membership Survey PowerPoint & Pamphlets
- 2010 Fellowship Development Presentation
- Self-Support Session

Thank you for all you do in service to the fellowship.

Matt S  
Northern CA Regional Delegate