



**MID AMERICA
REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE
2018 MAY QUARTERLY MEETING**

**At the Learning Center
308 W. Elm St., Salina, Kansas 67401
(across from public library)**

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS
Saturday, May 19th**

<u>9:00 am -11:00am</u>	Convention
<u>11:00am – 11:30 pm</u>	Public Relations
<u>11:30pm - 1:00 pm</u>	Public Relations Workgroups H&I, Webpage, Phone line, Communications, PR Presentation
<u>1:00 pm - 1:30 pm</u>	Public Relations Wrap-Up
<u>1:30 pm - 2:30 pm</u>	LUNCH BREAK
<u>2:30 pm - 3:00 pm</u>	Fellowship Development
<u>3:00 pm – 4:30 pm</u>	Fellowship Development Workgroups MAN, Soul to Soul, Events, Orientation
<u>4:30 pm – 5:00 pm</u>	Fellowship Development Wrap-Up
<u>5:00 pm - 7:00 pm</u>	Campout

**REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, May 20th**

General business, motions, request for funds.

MEETING STARTS AT 8:00 a.m. and finishes when done



**Mid
America
Newsletter**



**VOLUME 43
ISSUE 1**

P.O. BOX 3534
SALINA, KS 67402
NEWSLETTER@MARSCNA.NET

**SPRING
2018**

“NA unity is our bond with fellow addicts: those who came before us, those who are here today and those who have yet to find us. Out practice of unity makes room for all addicts to recover in NA.”

Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions, page 2



***First Annual Miracle Area
Women’s Retreat***

On February 9th and 10th the Miracle Area hosted it’s First Annual Women’s Retreat. It was filled with women from Area’s in Kansas and Missouri. There was food, fellowship, crafts, laughter, crying, sharing and most of all fun had by all who attended.

There were 2 speakers, a JFT meeting and a stick meeting; plus yoga and meditation. The entire weekend was focused on women’s recovery and how we live and share it.

Each got a bag when we entered with goodies and a notebook and pen. Each lady did something different with their notebook and then passed it around for other women to share in it. It was a great exercise to be able to share with everyone, without spreading yourself thin.

But the greatest gift of the retreat I think was that we all made new friends! New friends in different cities so now our nets of recovery can be cast a little broader just the diamond of our symbol.

If you didn’t get a chance to attend this year, I hope you come next!

Note: The opinions and views shared in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the MAN staff or Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

News From the WSC

IMPORTANT DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAR season is upon us! The Conference Agenda Report (CAR) will soon be available... • In English by 29 November 2017 • Translated by 29 December 2017 Includes 25 regional motions, articles on high interest topics, and a survey to gather members' ideas about recovery lit, service material, and Issue Discussion Topics: www.na.org/conference.
Conference Approval Track materials available on or by 29 January 2018, including budget, project plans, and 2018–2020 NA World Services Strategic Plan.

World Service Conference 29 April –5 May 2018 July 2018 **price increase adjusted downward** from 7.5% to 6% on everything except the Basic Text, which will be increased 5%. Read about the recommended increase and this adjustment on page 7. **WCNA 37: 30 August–2 September 2018** Celebrate Recovery in Orlando, Florida! Learn more, register, and book your hotel: www.na.org/wcna.

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In Times of Illness ...

“Recovery does not guarantee us freedom from living life on life’s terms. In Narcotics Anonymous we can learn to accept the reality of life, which sometimes brings us illness or injury. We’ve learned in NA that we can apply spiritual principles to help us get through these difficult times. When we admit that we are powerless, we can accept our illness and any necessary medical treatment. It may help to admit that we are also powerless over the feelings we experience when we are ill.

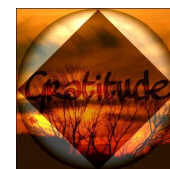
Some members may be faced with the diagnosis of a chronic or terminal disease. It is only natural for this news to be received with fear, despair, or anger. Doubt and hopelessness may eclipse our hard-earned faith in a Higher Power. We have found it possible, however, to continue our recovery while struggling with a chronic or terminal disease.”

I have found that through my years of recovery this has been a topic that is coming more prevalent in our Fellowship. Chronic illness or terminal illness are hard to live with, from this addict’s experience. I had a terminal illness that I was able to survive from. It has been over 5 years that I am in remission now, yet it was not the illness that was the tough part, but the aftermath.

*Through living the steps and applying them to my life I have been able to get through most of the process of healing inside and out. The process has been a slow one for me. There have been a lot of side effects and I have been put on several medications for the side effects that I have so that I can physically function. I have had to read all the literature on medication and *In Times of Illness* to get direction, plus talk to my sponsors over the years, about this particular part of my process. I grew up in the Fellowship where any medication was not okay. Purist viewpoints are good to a point, but you have to grow and accept other points of views as we grow and change in time and circumstance (my opinion).*

I struggle daily with issues from my illness and its aftermath, but I am alive and I find that is what I am most grateful for. But the farther I get from being ill, I still think, what if it comes back? Then, I shake it away because I have only today... just for today. Then I remember that I have a purpose and give my day the best I can. I talk to my Higher Power each morning thanking him for another day and ask him for his will to be done, not mine. When I do that, all is well.
Anonymous

Take my will and life,
 Guide me in my recovery,
 Show me how to live!



Cold as a Nightmare**(to the tune of "Dark as a Dungeon" Merle Travis version)**

Would that I had but listened to my Mother and Dad
That the pills and the booze and the dope was all bad
They turned my life into four decades of pain
And the hopes of my loved ones was flushed down the drain

It's cold as a nightmare, hot as a fire
Twisted and burning on a funeral pyre
Long since stopped believing' that there was any hope
It's death by degree when you're strung out on the dope

I wake in the dark and I'm already sick
With a desperate craving but I don't have a fix
Cursing this life every time I draw breath
Screamin' to heaven and begging for death

It's cold as a nightmare, hot as a fire
Twisted and burning on a funeral pyre
Long since stopped believing' that there was any hope
It's death by degree when you're strung out on the dope

I know I can't stop no matter how hard I try
And each time I wonder if this is "goodbye"
If I ever have a home I know it'll be
Where the door has a lock and I don't have the key

It's cold as a nightmare, hot as a fire
Twisted and burning on a funeral pyre
Long since stopped believing' that there was any hope
It's death by degree when you're strung out on the dope

It must have been angels that showed me that place
A room full of addicts; a smile on each face
They told me that they'd found a way to stay clean
And if I did what they do I could be serene

Now it's warm as a campfire and cool as a dream
With my Higher Power to keep me on the beam
And a fellowship of brothers and sisters who care
The only thing burning is my desire to share

-Ed B.

"No amount of clean time can make us immune to our disease or exempt us from the challenges of life. Recovery is an every day, just for today process. A relationship with our Higher Power requires ongoing conscious contact, and ongoing growth requires that remain teachable. "Keeping it green" means that we are still in process, still willing to change and grow and work on ourselves. We keep our recovery alive by feeding it. If we are not getting ongoing support and nourishment, we get depleted. It is our responsibility to find that support, even if it means we need to reach out across long distances."

- Living Clean, page 233



Functions Around the Region

- 2-24-18 Larrytown Potluck
5:30; Lawrence, KS
- 3-3-18 A Way To Recovery Group
CAR Wkshp, 12 pm
Chanute, KS
- 3-10-18 Bowling Night (WMA)
Wichita, KS
- 3-17-18 Shamrocks & Shenanigans
Fairview, KS
- 3-17-18 WSC Wksp; 11 am
Lawrence, KS
- 3-17-18 Freebirds Group Recovery
Fest Fundraiser; 4 pm
Independence, KS
- 3-24-18 Night Flyers St Pattys Day
Party; 3 pm Lyons, KS
- 4-14-18 Bonfire Meeting
4 pm, Lawrence, KS
- 4/27-29/18 MARCNA XXXV
Topeka, KS
- 5/4-6/18 Spring Clean Campout
Clinton Lake, Bloomington West

Check the website for details ...

Send your input to
newsletter@marscna.net.
Submissions must be in
by May 1st.

From the Editor...

Hey everyone...

This quarter was another challenge. Only a couple submissions, so I got creative. Hope you Enjoy! Please send me things next quarter... Thanks!

I am personally trying to find addicts that might want to share their experience, strength and hope with other addicts. You guys don't mind talking, however when it comes to the written word y'all clam up...lol!

I would like to highlight an area a quarter... who will be the first? Send me your outlook on your area—assets, liabilities, hopes and dreams. Or for that matter your home group. Write us! That email address is newsletter@marscna.net.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

In loving and humble service,
Michelle C.

*"God grant me the Serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can
and the wisdom to know the difference."*

CAR MOTIONS FROM OUR ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Motion 1 Maker: Ohio Region and Michigan Region

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at WSC 2020 to convert the service pamphlet "Social Media and our Guiding Principles" into a Recovery IP that includes fellowship input and review.

Motion 2 Maker: Venezuela Region

Remove from the NAWS catalog and inventory IP 27 "For The parents or Guardians of Young People in NA"

Motion 3 Maker: Baja Son Region

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for a Step Study booklet containing questions derived only from sentences in the Basic Text chapter 'How It works', for consideration at WSC 2020.

Motion 4 Maker: Eastern New York Region

To direct NAWS to produce and add to inventory an MP3 digital download of the Basic Text Fifth Edition in Spanish, previously in inventory on audio cassette. By conference policy, NAWS is not authorized to publish a fifth edition once a sixth edition is available. This motion would provide for a one-time waiver of the policy for NAWS until the Spanish Sixth edition is completed.

Motion 5 Maker: Venezuela Region

To approve an NA Service Prayer, utilizing the language that is already in the intro of the Basic Text, substituting the word write with the word serve, including it in the set of posters of the meetings for NA groups, as shown here: "GOD, grant us knowledge that we may write serve according to Your Divine precepts. Instill in us a sense of Your purpose. Make us servants of your will and grant us a bond of selflessness that this may truly be your work, not ours, in order that no addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction."

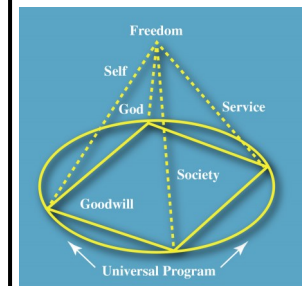
Motion 6 Maker: Eastern New York Region

To direct NAWS to produce and add to inventory keytags that reflect the growth of years clean in Fellowship Worldwide; specifically, Granite for one Decade, Purple for Decades Clean and Pink for 25 Years Clean.

Recently I asked what a favorite part of your literature was and this is what I received as answers

1. *"Everything is subject to revision, especially what we know about the truth."*
2. *"I really believe in magic, for my life is full of it. God is loving us now."*
3. *"Our real value is in being ourselves."*
4. *"Good will is best exemplified in service; proper service is "doing the right thing for the right reason." When Good will supports and motivates both the individual and the Fellowship, we are fully whole and wholly free."*
5. *"We see that, regardless of the presence or absence of material success in our lives, we can be content. We can be happy and fulfilled with or without money, with or without a partner, with or without the approval of others. We've begun to see that God's will for us is the ability to live with dignity, to love ourselves and others, to laugh and to find great joy and beauty in our surroundings. Our most heartfelt longings and dreams for our lives are coming true. These priceless gifts are no longer beyond our reach. They are, in fact, the very essence of God's will for us. In our gratitude, we go beyond merely asking for the power to live up to God's plan for our own lives. We begin to seek out ways to be of service, to make a difference in the life of another addict, to carry the message of recovery. Our spiritual awakening has opened us up to spiritual contentment, unconditional love, and personal freedom."*

It is the four pyramid sides that rise from the base in a three dimensional figure that represents Self, Society, Service and God. All rise to a point of Freedom. All parts are closely related to the needs and aims of the addict who is seeking recovery, and to the purpose of the Fellowship which is making recovery available to all. The greater the base, the broader the sides of the pyramid and the higher the point of freedom.



Motion 20 Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

If Motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered. Zonal Delegates are eligible to receive the same funding from NA World Services as regional delegates when attending the WSC. This funding includes travel, lodging, and meal expenses only.

Motion 21 Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

If Motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered. Alternate Zonal Delegates may attend the WSC with the same rights and limitations as is currently offered to Alternate Regional Delegates only.

Motion 22 Maker: Washington North Idaho Region

To discontinue the WSC Conference Participants Discussion Board hosted and maintained by NA World Services.

Motion 23 Maker: Argentina Region

Direct the World Board to develop plans to move to a three-year conference cycle. This plan would include quarterly web meetings, longer review time for the Conference Agenda Report, and would be developed in a way to provide an opportunity to include other ideas from conference participants.

Motion 24 Maker: Israel Region

In new business the World Board will have one collective vote represented by the World Board Chair. Each World Board member votes only in Elections and may make motions in all sessions.

Motion 25 Maker: Iran Region

To authorize the World Board to investigate and pursue ways for conference participants who are unable to attend the WSC due to visa and other issues beyond their control, to engage in sessions of the WSC.

If you have questions regarding these motions, please contact one of our Regional Delegates: Jeffrey L or Rod D.

Motion 7 Maker: Northern New York Region

To direct the World Board to create a Service Pamphlet (SP) that clearly and simply outlines the rights of groups to reprint Narcotics Anonymous recovery literature covered under the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust and its bulletins.

Motion 8 Maker: Northern New York Region

To replace the first paragraph under "What kinds of literature should we use:" in "The Group" booklet as follows:

Original Paragraph *NA World Services produces a number of different kinds of publications. However, only NA-approved literature is appropriate for reading in Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Selections from NA approved books and pamphlets are usually read at the beginning of an NA meeting, and some meetings use them as the core of their format. NA-approved literature represents the widest range of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous.*

Replacement Paragraphs (it splits) *NA World Services produces a number of different kinds of publications. However, only NA-approved literature is appropriate for reading in Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and then only NA approved edition(s) of literature that conveys a unified message as the most current edition(s). For Basic Texts, this would be the 3rd Edition Revised and newer. Older editions of our literature as well as approval drafts, while valid in history, and while they carry a message of recovery, all carry a message that in some way or ways contradict our current edition(s) of literature and are no longer in unity with the fellowship's conscience regarding our message of recovery. Selections from NA-approved books and pamphlets are usually read at the beginning of an NA meeting, and some meetings use them as the core of their format. NA-approved literature represents the widest range of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. It is suggested that meetings that utilize older editions of NA-approved literature acknowledge the current editions of NA-approved literature for the sake of NA unity.*

Motion 9 Maker: Northern New York Region

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at WSC 2020 to create or revise one piece of recovery literature to directly address Drug Replacement Therapy (DRT) and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) as it relates to NA.

Continued on page 6...

Motion 10 Maker: Upper Midwest Region

Remove Bulletin #29, (WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BULLETIN #29, Regarding Methadone and Other Drug Replacement Programs) from publication and use.

Motion 11 Maker: Upper Midwest Region

Remove "Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication Assisted Treatment" from publication and use.

Motion 12 Maker: Venezuela Region

Assign a week each year as an NA PR week, beginning in 2019. NAWS would establish the dates and would have information available for the whole NA fellowship a minimum of 90 days prior and also have available the possible contents of the program or the suggested agenda for such week.

Motion 13 Maker: Iran Region

To authorize the World Board to define more special days, like unity day, in the yearly calendar.

Motion 14 Maker: South Florida Region

Fellowship Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) will be selected based on the following process: By August 1 following the World Service Conference (WSC), NAWS will create a section on na.org for IDT submissions. The poll should be translated via available software into as many languages as possible. Any member, group, area, region or zone will be able to add an item to the poll. Beginning February 1 in the year before the WSC the process of voting on the poll will start. Any member, group, area, region or zone will be able to vote on the choices in the poll. The poll will close on the final day as set by the Guide to World Services (GTWS) for regional motion submissions. The top six Issue Discussion Topics in the poll will be placed in the Conference Agenda Report (CAR) and voted on in old business at the World Service Conference with the top three being the Issue Discussion Topics for that next conference cycle.

Motion 15 Maker: Portugal Region

To hold a 3 day meeting of 2 representatives from each of the existing zonal forums. The meeting will be planned by NA World Services who will also cover the expenses for the meeting itself. The zonal forums or their regions will cover the cost of travel and meals for the representatives with financial assistance from NA World Services if necessary. This meeting will occur in the 2018-2020 conference cycle.

Motion 16 Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

That the WB develop a project plan, including budget and timeline, for presentation at WSC 2020 on the role of Zones, their relationship to the wider fellowship, including integrating Zonal Delegate participation into the decision making process at WSC.

Maker 17 Maker: Portugal Region

To approve a change in the description of World Service Conference participants from regional delegates to zonal delegates. This change will occur over 3 conference cycles from 2018 to 2024 with the choice of representation left to the seated regions during this transition period. These three conference cycles will be used to develop details for the future. Any policies or ideas developed will be presented back to the fellowship in the CAR. Zonal delegates attending the WSC will carry a vote for all of their seated regions that are not represented by a regional delegate. No new regional seating requests will be considered during the transition.

Maker 18 Maker: Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

That any Zonal Forum with two or more zonally seated regions or communities that are not seated at the World Service Conference, may choose to send one Zonal Delegate to the World Service Conference to represent those regions or communities.

If Motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered. That Zonal Delegates are voting members when in attendance at the World Service Conference. These Zonal Delegates would have one vote.

Continued on page 8...