

N.A.W.S.C Western New York Regional Delegate Alternate Report
Woodland Hills, California 4/25/14-5/4/14

“The Ties That Bind Us Together”

Good afternoon and thank you for letting me be of service. i am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve my region and to attend the WSC. to say it was a spiritual and humbling experience is quite an understatement. Being able to gather with addicts from all across the globe in order to conduct business and help shape the direction of our fellowship for years to come is beyond rewarding and i would like to share my experience with you and bring back some pertinent information from the conference.

The conference started on Saturday (4/26/14) at 10 am with a World Board forum. WB members introduced themselves and members of the fellowship (not just conference participants) were able to ask the world board questions regarding the conference, world board matters or anything else regarding our fellowship. Questions mostly centered around what appears to me, a feeling of “US vs Them” in regards to the WB and the rest of the fellowship. most delegates questioned the W.B’s communication process and if they have sought out other solutions to our money concerns and potential conference growth. myself being a trusted servant responsible for performing my duties to the best of my ability for my region and this fellowship as a whole i can honestly say that i feel that all members of this conference share this same sentiment. after the W.B forum we were taken to the WSO, had lunch, fellowshiped and headed back to the hotel to prepare for the international speakers panel.

The second part of the day consisted of an international speaker panel which was also attended by the local fellowship. speakers from around the world (Israel, Italy, Argentina, Texas and Iran) shared their Experience, Strength and Hope while reminding all of us in attendance that recovery is available to any addict anywhere in the world.

4/27/14

On Sunday the first morning session was held in a small group style setting. delegates sat at round tables getting acquainted with one another. some regions were asked to share some information from their regions:

Georgia-formed in 1980 1974(first meeting) 15 areas, 301 groups, 855 weekly

Arizona- formed in 191 groups, 451 meetings

Portugal- 130 groups, 9 areas, formed in 1985,

Chile- seated in 04. formed in 03, 6 areas, 49 groups

in addition to the regions that shared for us it was also pointed out to us that out of the 115 regions seeded, 112 were present (France, Nepal and Le Norde were absent)

After the break we reconvened for the second morning session where the delegates participated in a workshop, small group discussion. the workshops were centered around service and why we serve? what spiritual principles do we focus on when we think about why we are of service to narcotics anonymous. the most interesting facet of this exercise were the similarities. that no matter where we were from, how much time clean we had, or how many times we attended the conference, service was done in order to keep what we had by giving it away. we learned a lot about each other and the theme for this conference was something that could be felt and shared by all. at the close of this workshop a delegate was asked to read his personal story that was recently published by the N.A way. Jamie, (New England RD), shared with us the story of his father coming to him seeking recovery. tears of gratitude and identification washed over the entire conference which could be felt for the rest of the day. after the emotional moment we were asked to write an essay about why we serve.

The final sunday session was an overview of what the conference will entail, what to expect and a handout of the proposed agenda a brief explanation of business policies/ processes. the purpose of this was to get everyone prepared for business sessions. last conference a lot of time was spent dragging down business CBDM will still be used in most of the decision making processes in fact, a session will be devoted towards changing GWSNA in order to make more decisions w/out parliamentary procedure.. we broke for the day and prepared for old business discussion on monday

4/28/14

OLD BUSINESS SESSION

monday afternoon started with an old business discussion. in keeping with the CBDM experimentation at the WSC this session (2) these sessions are used to build or to gauge a consensus (via straw polls) before actual binding voting takes place in formal old business. the idea and intent was to see where everyone was at with the motions the world board created and the proposals that were submitted by the regions. having experience with separate sessions in order to discuss issues and matters before we actually vote on them at the area level made me excited for this particular session. after some time it was obvious that all involved parties (delegates, alternates, co-facs, world board and NAWS staff) became quite frustrated and stressed out. given the large size of

the conference. getting the chance to be heard isn't easy for everyone, having delegates that spoke a primary language that was not english was difficult as well. motion and proposal discussion/straw polling moved quite slow. the feeling i got from the session was that a lot of delegates were scared to trust the process and to remember that the conscience of our regions was the most important element of us being at the conference. as the day wore on old business discussion moved right into the part of the day that formal old business was scheduled for. delegates became tired and agitated but many people still felt the need to speak and be heard. at about midnight it was decided that we needed to break for the evening, start up in the am and finish up old business discussion and go right into formal old business before lunch break. at this point i feel that given the large (and potential for an even larger conference moving forward) more time needs to be dedicated to the old business discussion of the conference in order to be a true consensus based body.

On Tuesday morning the body reconvened open minded and refreshed. judging from the mood and demeanor of the cofacs they appeared defeated. after a long moment of silence and the co-facs addressing the body imploring us to "trust them" we wrapped up old business with time to spare before lunch. the mood improved and with the benefit of parliamentary procedure and Robert's rules of order everyone anticipated a more manageable session.

FORMAL OLD BUSINESS

4/29/14

This session dealt with voting on the motions that were workshopped by the RD's and RDA's that were contained in the CAR. in order for motions 1-3 to pass, they required a 2/3 majority vote motions 4-6 only required a simple majority. there were 111 regions present, requiring 74 in favor for 2/3.

Motion 1- motion passed. (unanimously) we have a new I.P

Motion 2- motion failed. alternate delegates will still be attending the WSC

Motion 3- regional delegates will be funded to attend the WSC by NAWS. alternates will still have to be funded by their region if they would like to send them

Motion 4- motion passed.

Motion 5- motion passed

Motion 6- motion passed

4/29/14

afternoon session
N.A.W.S report

the delegates received a report of all contributions

there is a beta version of a step working guide app in production

regions and areas allowing PDF's of our literature for free is an issue for our poor literature sales

WCNA- over 19,000 pre-registrants
newcomer packages were not being distributed fairly. NAWS will review a new policy.

literature is the ultimate source of revenue, there has been a significant decline and recently they started printing in house

if each group contributed 12.00 a month to NAWS we would have ZERO fiscal problems

HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL REPORT

4/29/14

an overview of the services provided by the HRP and a description of the nomination process for the world board members including a copy of the application to be added to the world pool. the first three questions that are asked at the beginning:

1. do you have a sponsor?
2. do you attend meetings on a regular basis?
3. have you worked the steps?

CPR-candidate profile review

Elections @ 9 on thursday

There are 4 candidates for 2 positions

4 candidates for 2 HRP

2 for 1 co-facilitator

2012 was the first time in the history of the WB that every seat (18) was filled. a common trend in the past was not to vote for vacant spots. i do not see any reason why the WB will stay full moving forward based on explaining voting criteria

final voting tallies:

- 4 Candidates for two World Board positions (one reelected, Junior) world board now has a vacancy
- 4 Candidates for 2 Human Resource Panel (Michael Bennett, Sherry Vorbach)
- 2 Candidates for Co-facilitator position (Laura Brown)

A great deal of the conference consisted of presentations from the P.R panel in regards to the surveys that were taken at the WSC and online at the time of the WSC I added the findings in my report:

Public Relations Presentation

Membership survey (from surveys collected at the World convention)

1. 57% male
2. US 84%
3. 76% caucasian
4. 59% employed
5. 87% are sponsored
6. 57% sponsor others
7. 25% are not of service
8. average meeting attendance is up
9. 1/3 attend other fellowships (27% AA)
10. 56% had families in recovery
11. opiates 19%
12. avg clean time 11.8 years
13. 41% never relapsed
14. average times relapsing= 3
15. identification is number one influence to stay
16. 47% were employed before getting clean
17. 53% taking medication
18. 1% are taking drug replacement

This session was followed up with a Fellowship Development presentation:

Fellowship Development

- 1.N.A speaks 76 languages
2. lit published in 42
3. book distribution: english, farsi, brasilian
4. membership is growing
5. north america: 12 zones,
6. latin america: 2 zones (LAZF & Brasilian)
7. iran is fucking amazing and they face the same issues that we do
8. we watched a video on fellowship development in afghanistan
9. first meeting in 2011. 5 members
10. 10 groups, 4 cities
- 11.asia pacific: 2 zones
- 12.eastern europe- 3 zones
- 13.5 regions in Russia. more splits seem imminent

New Business discussion and New business session contained many of the same obstacles that Old Business contained. lots of discussion, point making and regions speaking on many of the same subjects created a longer day than most people expected. one of the brighter points i would like to mention was the the Dominican Republic was seated at the conference. they will be active participants in 2016.

Throughout the conference, the delegates broke off into workshop sessions facilitated by WB members and NAWS staff titled "planning our future" in addition to the WB facilitating, some WB members actually participated in the small group sessions. the focus of the sessions was to see where we as a group see N.A in the future and what the ideal service system would be. many delegates felt as tho we were being led or actually "corralled" into a particular service model that would limit participation at future WSC's given the areas of the world that are underdeveloped as far as N.A goes it is safe to say that at some point we could outgrow our current conference. based on how difficult it was to gauge an accurate consensus during our business discussions smaller representation makes sense to me. some regions are a little leery of the idea. it was important to keep an open mind and to remember our primary purpose during these sessions and to remember what you were and are asked to do as a trusted servant.

All in all this conference left me in a state of complete gratitude in regards to being of service, the new friends i made and everything that i learned. there were times however when i felt that N.A and NAWS did not care about us (the U.S) anymore. the more i realized and felt the fact that we are now more than ever a true worldwide fellowship it became very apparent to me that some of the ways we've been of service

and how we conduct business may not be the best model for new areas and regions. money was a topic, representation was discussed to no end by mostly the U.S and i felt that most of the U.S was a bit nostalgic and not very open minded to the direction that NAWS and the rest of the world may be moving in. there were times that i wanted to run away, back to my homegroup and become the worlds best coffee maker or greeter. other times i wanted to stand up and scream “why don’t you care about our underdeveloped regions and areas?!?!?!?” and there were other times that i just wanted to hug every single addict that came within 2 feet of me because i learned that this was the most gratifying, confusing and stressful of service that i have ever been blessed to be asked to perform to the best of my ability. i included pertinent information that we as a region decided was the best way to move forward for the good of N.A and we were not alone based on the C.A.R motions, anything i may have missed i am sure the R.D did not. we do not get clean alone and we should certainly not serve alone. i know this to be true now more than ever. i am moved beyond words after this experience and i am moved to be completing my report to this body at this time. i struggle in writing my reports because it is not very easy to explain how i feel as i fulfill these commitments. the heart and the mind are not the best at communicating with one another it seems. thank you for allowing me to be of service and a trusted servant.

Stephen R Dysert