

Proposed Agenda Conference 2004 Philadelphia

Friday, April 23

- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. NAWS Officer's meeting
3:00 p.m. Registration Opens
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Dinner on your own (Meet in hotel lobby)
8:00 p.m. - Gratitude Meeting – Kick off Speaker Kate M.
3:00 p.m. - Midnight Hospitality Suite - Penthouse

Saturday, April 24

- 8:00 a.m. - Registration
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Business Session
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Voting Items
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. No-host lunch
2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Workshop Sessions
 a. BODM – new meditations
 b. Outreach/Service
 c. Questionnaire
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
 a. How it Works
 b. What defines a NicA group
 c. Literature Workshop
 Preface to Rodger's Story & Meditation writing workshop

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Session Recaps
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Dinner - PHILLY BLOCK PARTY
 Speakers – Bill C.
 Martha K.

All Day until Midnight - Hospitality Suite

Sunday, April 25

- 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Sunrise Meeting
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Voting on Issues
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Gratitude Brunch
 Speaker – Milton M.
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - NAWS Officers Meeting
3:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m - After Conference Activity – Ride the Ducks



XIX Conference Report

My name is Robin, a grateful recovering nicotine addict. One of the benefits of being Chair Emeritus is that I get the opportunity to write one more article for Seven Minutes: A recap of the conference. The 19th Annual World Services Conference for Nicotine Anonymous was held the weekend of April 23-25, 2004. The city where freedom was born, invited us to celebrate our freedom from nicotine. Philadelphia, PA was the site of NAWSC XIX. We stayed in the heart of downtown, just blocks from Independence Hall at the Radisson Warwick Hotel. The NJ/PA intergroup did a fantastic job hosting us. Saturday night we were treated to an authentic Philadelphia style block party with old fashioned philli cheese steaks. For those who stayed after the conference, we took a tour around the historic area of Philadelphia on the *Ride The Ducks*.

We had a total of 70 registrants from around the United States with representatives from the states NY, NJ, PA, CA, GA, IL, LA, MD, TX, and for the first time we had representatives from NC, KY and OH (hope I didn't miss any). There were recovering addicts present with as little as 9 hours of nicotine free to 24 years. What a joy it was to be around other recovering Nicotine Addicts as we did the work of Tradition Five – carrying the message to the nicotine addict who still suffers. This was my 7th conference, and each one reconfirms my love for the program of Nicotine Anonymous without which I could not have developed a relationship with my Higher Power and found the love and support of others. It was a very humbling experience.

Friday night began as usual with the Gratitude Meeting. Kate W., the Secretary Emeritus, kicked off the meeting sharing her gratitude for the program and the privilege it has been to work on the Book of Daily Meditations. She introduced the fellowship to our third book: *90 Days, 90 Ways* – A book of meditations written by recovering nicotine addicts. There is no comparison to the gratitude meeting which goes on as long as there are people who desire to share.

Saturday morning was spent reviewing the activity of World Services this past year. We started the day with a need for members of the fellowship to step forward as trusted servants to fill many vacant positions. I want to announce that by the end of the conference, all positions were filled. Thank you to those who were willing to put their gratitude into action and help this fellowship. We also confirmed Bill P from Carrollton, TX who stepped forward to fill the vacant position of Treasurer-Elect. Financially we are in good shape. We have remained fairly stable with our income and expenses with minor fluctuations from last year. Overall donations from individuals and groups to World Services are slightly down. Here is a recap of the activities of the committees:

- a. **Outreach:** Jeff C. reported that we funded five outreach projects in various cities. We also produced our first Public Service Announcement CD for distribution to local radio stations. We are asking for a donation of \$5 to cover the initial cost of producing these CDs. If you are interested, please obtain a copy of the CD on the website or by writing to World Services in Huntington Beach, CA.
- b. **Intergroup Liaison:** Jean L-S. reported that the New England Intergroup has closed

- c. **Seven Minutes:** Catherine C. has once again done a tremendous job editing and publishing our quarterly newsletter. Gary M. has joined the team as the publisher. Catherine is looking for someone to groom as a possible replacement in the coming year. Please contact her at sevenminuteseditor@nicotine-anonymous.org
- d. **Book:** Dan P. has resigned from his position. Prior to resigning, he worked hard trying to reduce the redundancy of the questionnaire section of the book and make the questions flow better.
- e. **Teleservice:** Scott J. reported that he is weakly staffed and needs more teleservants (a number of people have stepped forward). He also shared the new phone meeting that has started on Sunday evenings. For more information, check our website.
- f. **Email:** Alan K. reported that his committee is fully staffed. They have handled almost a 1000 emails this year requesting information and/or support
- g. **Webservant:** I have been acting as webservant this past year, and will continue in this service position. The website has added flags/links to the home page to identify countries where we have literature that has been translated. We also added to the Contact Us: page where individuals can directly contact servants and officers.
- h. **Literature** – We started this conference without a coordinator. Checko M. has stepped forward to fill this position. He will also be coordinating further revisions on the questionnaire section of the Book. Milton M. has agreed to become the trusted servant to continue the work on the Traditions section. A group has also begun working on a Step Study Guide. This is still a work in progress.
- i. **Book of Daily Meditation:** Kate W. took over this position when Jennifer M. (and Steve M.) gave birth to our youngest member of the fellowship – Lily. Kate announced the publication *90 Days, 90 Ways* and also shared the new meditations that have been written this year.
- j. **Pen Pals:** We have had some email penpals, but there does not appear to be a big demand.
- k. **WWML:** Scott M. has done a great job keeping on top of the meeting list. He has added and deleted meetings as he is given the information. There are about 100 meetings that still need to be confirmed.
- l. **Conference 2004:** Jan S. thanked her committee for doing a great job. This year, there were “*golf*” shirts in many different colors instead of T-Shirts. They were well received.
- m. **Conference 2005:** The conference next year will be held in my backyard – Atlanta, GA. The registration form and activities are completed and will be available on the website soon. The conference will be May 6-8, 2005. The reason it is in May is to avoid conflicts with Tax season and religious observances.
- n. **Traditions:** Bill P. is stepping down, but Lenna M. quickly stepped forward to fill this vacancy. The Traditions committee answers questions from the fellowship about issues that come up to ensure that we keep within the spirit of the program and the Traditions.
- o. **Archive:** Jan F reported that the fellowship has rented space to sort and organize the 20 years of fellowship papers. It is the hope that we can soon have some of this information on our website in the archive section of the “About Us”.

Sunday morning we elected our officers for the coming year. The new officers are: Chairperson Elect is Kathy K. from New York. Secretary Elect is David B. who is also from the New York area. The Treasurer Elect is Annette A. from New Jersey. The site of the 2006 World Services Conference XXI will be in the Chicago, IL area.

Saturday afternoon was spent in workshops discussing voting items and direction from the fellowship. The issues discussed were the 131 submissions of additional meditations as we come closer to the 366 day meditation book. The fellowship approved 128 of the submissions. In addition to the workshop to discuss the submissions, we also had a workshop devoted to writing additional meditations. Do you have a thought you would like to share – write a meditation and submit it to dailymeditations@nicotine-anonymous.org. During the meditation writing workshop the preface to *Rodger's Story – A New Freedom* was discussed. The preface: “Rodger F. is one of the co-founders of Nicotine Anonymous. This is his personal story of recovery from *nicotine* with historical information on the start of what today is known as Nicotine Anonymous” was eventually approved.

Literature issues were also discussed in a workshop about the questionnaire edits that were submitted. The fellowship felt this needed more refinement and was tabled until the conference in Atlanta in 2005. A rough draft of the *Nicotine Anonymous How It Works* was presented and ideas were discussed that included making it a

Conference approved piece of literature, removing any similarities it might have to the AA How It Works, keeping all references to the present and removing any statements that make it appear as if we were telling individuals what to do. It was also recommended that we keep both versions of the Welcome – short and long in the starter kit.

Outreach and Service work were also discussed in a workshop. Jeff C. and John O. explained the needs and benefits of service work.

The final workshop discussed the concept of “What Defines a NicA Meeting.” It was essential that a meeting be a safe place and that it not be a Question and Answer session. The fellowship strongly felt that a meeting should not be delisted if there were problems. Each group needs to be autonomous.

Sunday morning started out with the moving and powerful early morning Sunrise meeting. This was followed by voting items and the Brunch.

What would any World Services Conference be without memorable speakers. Saturday night, Bill C. of NJ and Martha K. of New York and Sunday Milton M. of PA, shared their experience, strength and hope of recovery as they talked about the difference Nicotine Anonymous has made in each of their lives. They were all very inspiring.

I would like to again thank Jan S., Maureen M., and the rest of the NJ/PA Intergroup for a job well done. I would like to send a special thanks to the officers that have completed their terms – Jan F., Kate W. and Ramona F. Finally, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow in my recovery and to be of service to this fellowship. See you all in Atlanta in 2005.

Robin L.
Chairperson Emeritus