

Nicotine Anonymous World Services Conference XVI
April 27 – 29, 2001
Berkeley, California

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Friday, April 27		
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	NAWS Officers' Meeting	La Jolla Room
3:00 PM –	Hospitality Suite Opens	Hospitality Suite
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Registration in Conference Center Lobby, 4 th Floor	
5:15 PM	No-host dinner	Meet in hotel lobby or on your own
8:00 PM – ??? *	Gratitude Meeting	California Room
Saturday, April 28		
9:00 AM – 11:45 AM *	Business Reports and Presentation of Voting Items	California Room
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM *	Nomination of Officers and 2003 Conference Bids	California Room
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	No-host lunch	On your own
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Workshops – Session #1	
	A. Gender Neutrality in the Steps and The Book	La Jolla Room
	B. Outreach – What More Can We Do?	Santa Barbara Room
	C. Writing Our Traditions	Sacramento Room
3:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Workshops – Session #2	
	A. The Book and Other Literature: Tense and Terminology	La Jolla Room
	B. Literature Development for Those New to Twelve Step Programs	Santa Barbara Room
	C. Literature Development – Our Daily Meditations Book	Sacramento Room

Chairperson's Report for Conference XVI

It is with a sincere sigh of relief and a prayer of gratitude that I have the privilege of writing to you, the members and friends of our fellowship. The Chair Emeritus is responsible for writing a brief summary of the events that occurred during our time together at Conference XVI in California. On Friday afternoon your NAWS Board met to take care of World Service business and to make final preparations for the conference. The major item we examined was the incredible amount of work our trusted servant Joe S. did in moving our remote office service from Harrisburg, PA to Huntington Beach, CA. The logistical problems he overcame were breathtaking and the most exciting part was his report that all of the backlogged orders, requests, etc. were caught up and current. He was quick to point out that he had the help of several other folks, especially Jan F. who dedicated several weekends to stuffing envelopes and filling orders. At this meeting we also passed a motion to ascertain how many issues of *Seven Minutes* were not delivered to our subscribers and that the subscriptions due dates be moved forward appropriately.

On Friday night, we had our Gratitude Meeting. I was only able to open the meeting but did buy a copy of the conference tapes so Karen and I could enjoy the sharing in the future. Saturday morning we began the official proceedings of the conference. A quorum of qualified delegates was confirmed and we moved into the various Business Reports. This time is spent bringing the fellowship at large up to date on the various tasks that your Board has been handling on your behalf. Any items that needed ratification by the delegates are also presented. Motions are made and tabled until Sunday morning for voting. For those of you who were not at the conference I cannot stress the importance of getting a copy of the tapes and listening to what was said during these reports. Your Board serves you, the fellowship, and we are accountable to you for our decisions and activities. As the Emeritus Chair I have to say that your Board consists of some of the most highly motivated, honorable people I have ever known. They are also grossly overpaid. The blessings that we receive being of service to you far outweigh the incredible amount of work that is expected from us. The rewards of love, gratitude, and fellowship, are truly worth it. My reward, for example, was learning how to ask for and accept help. It has been a key component in moving my personal recovery process forward in a tangible way. Volunteerism, although not fashionable in this day and age, has rewards that only volunteers can understand.

Aside from the above plug for service, our morning time also highlighted several pieces of hard work by our committee chairs. Robin L. our *Book* coordinator did a pile of work on our *Book*. She also presented the conference and therefore the fellowship with the opportunity to consider gender changes to our *Book* as well as to our Steps and Traditions. You will be hearing more about these forward thinking ideas in the future. Martha K. and our Web Servant, Bill H. did an outstanding job, in updating our World Wide Meeting List. They designed and implemented Web-based methods of updating the list and keeping the most current information on our web site, where people can access it easily. Now, if only folks would let us know when meetings close, we would have an accurate picture of when and where meetings can be found on a world-wide basis. Maybe someday.... In another area near and dear to my heart, Roger F. requested that our by-laws committee attempt

to amend our bylaws to create a new position on the Board—Vice Chair. He observed that the chair position, as it is currently defined, is overwhelming and will become hard to fill in the future if we don't restructure our Board. I could not agree with him more.

The following items were brought to the floor and tabled until Sunday. (*Delegates and Intergroups will be receiving full copies of the conference minutes and if you really want to know the details, members can ask their delegate or the board members for a copy. As I mentioned above, the tapes are the best and most accurate way to hear what was said during the meetings.*)

I. A motion was presented to add Abstinence Wording to all of our literature.

II. Nominations were made for Treasurer, Secretary and Chair and held open until Sunday morning.

III. Bids for the 2003 Conference were not forthcoming but nominations were held open until Sunday.

Saturday afternoon was dedicated to workshops on the *Book*, Outreach, Traditions writing, Literature Development and a new book of Daily Meditations. A major thank you to the chairs of those workshops and those who attended and contributed their experience, strength and hope. A final summary meeting was held at the end to recapitulate the items discussed.

Saturday night was our traditional banquet night. The special guest speakers far outclassed the delicious food. Our first speaker, Barbara D. was from my neck of the woods, Long Island. Her story was heartfelt and genuine. Following Barbara was an old favorite of mine, Nicholas V. from the Los Angeles area. I first met Nicholas on Long Island when we hosted the quarterly board meeting in my office space. He was the Active Chairperson at that time and a worker of miracles, from my point of view. He, shared with us history, humor, experience, strength, and hope. In addition he expressed his desire to once again help our fellowship with his time and talents in the LA area. We welcome his commitment and rejoice in being able to work with him again.

Sunday morning was my personal waterloo. I had not been able to prepare for the wrinkles and nuances of Robert's Rules of Order that applied to our voting processes. I want to thank John N. for walking me through that arduous task, literally on the fly. The following voting items were untabled and voted on as follows:

I. The motion to add the "definition of abstinence" wording to all of our literature was voted down.

II. A motion to change the references in the *Book* from "smoking" to the "use of nicotine," where appropriate, was approved.

III. Voting for Officers: our new Treasurer is Ramona F. from the Bay Area. Our new Secretary is Kate W. from Texas, and our new Chair is Jan F. from Southern California. This is the first time that an all-female board has been elected to World Services. I have great faith that this new crew of officers will do a fantastic job in bringing our fellowship forward into the new century!

IV. I spoke earlier about that Nicholas V. fellow. He is already getting the service ball rolling in his typical energetic style: our 2003 conference will be held in the Los Angeles or Santa Monica area. I wonder if they could throw in a very minor earthquake if we promised not to ~shake~ too much!

The voting process was closed with the Prayer of Jabez and the Serenity Prayer, led by John N. From there we proceeded to our Spirituality Breakfast with more fantastic food and a spirit-filled talk by Jay N. from the Bay Area.

At this point the conference officially ended and the newly formed Board met for the first time. We met each other, exchanged addresses and worked out where and when we would meet for our quarterly meetings. The plans are as follows: July 21—Southern California, October 20—Phoenix area, January 10th—deep in the heart of Texas, March 16 for the Teleconference and our next World Service Conference on April 19—21st in Brooklyn, NY. I point out these dates because if you can join us at any of these locations, we would be VERY pleased to have you. The board meetings are not secret and we welcome members of the fellowship to give us your input. That is one reason we try meet in different places around the country. The other reason is to save on airfares by meeting where we can save some trips and where host intergroups can provide us with places to meet and stay. I want to offer my thanks to the truly fantastic people that I have had the privilege to serve with during my year as the active chair. It is because of these people that I did *not* resign back in September, during my honeymoon in Sedona, Arizona. They promised me their dedication and support during a very challenging time and they came through. Although I didn't get half of the things done that I wanted to do, they never criticized me or made me feel worse than I already did when I had things left undone. In most cases they picked up the ball where I dropped it and helped me get through the year. I have to give my highest thanks to Martha K. She ended up serving an extra term covering items that I just could not get to. I will always be grateful for her humble and thorough back up. Joe S. is next up to bat. He saw a problem with our remote office service and instead of complaining about it he has become the main part of the solution. Kent B. stood next to me and said he would help me with the chair responsibilities. He encouraged me with an immortal phrase that I now remind him about. When things seem to be falling through the cracks, don't worry, the really important ones will find a way to "bubble back up to the top!" And so they *do!* Jack R. will always inspire me to remember that our fellowship is built on traditions with his ageless wisdom. Annette's stability will remind me of my rock from Sedona. ("Get a piece of the rock.") Michelle and Donna will make me think of dueling laptops. And then there is Jennifer. I thank her for her minutes which I used to create this summary for you. Had she not produced such wonderful detailed minutes of the conference I would not have been able to summarize them for you.

I also want to thank former WS Chair Ed T. and his able committee from Northern California for producing such a seamless conference. Thanks to his expertise and the dedication of his fellow committee members, we not only got our business done, but actually enjoyed ourselves in the process. Ed—you finally got your conference! Thanks for your dedication and diligence in bringing *us* to you.

May our Higher Power continue to Bless us all richly!

Peace, Scott