



Nicotine Anonymous World Services 2024 Conference (Asheville, NC)

Minutes of the Saturday Delegates Hybrid Business Meeting and Workshops Recap April 13, 2023, 8:45

8:45 am – 11:30 am and 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm ET

Meeting was opened by Danelle R. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer read in Iranian by Reza.

Roll Call: Sharon B in-person and Michelle S online, Quorum established.

Ratification of Officers at Large: Marian D (Chair Elect) and Bill P (Treasurer Elect) ratified by delegates.

Upcoming Voting Items:

- Nominations for 3 new board officers, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary Elect. Three nominations made:
 - Matthew H for chair Elect
 - Terri D for Secretary Elect
 - Jill C for Treasurer Elect
- Workshop motions: After the workshops, please send your motions to the Secretary Emeritus by 6.30pm ET. These will then be distributed to delegates asap, by 8.30 ET at the latest.
- A location is needed for the 2025 NAWS Conference.

Officer Reports: Attached with Friday board meeting minutes

Committee and Intergroup Reports: (Attached)

Note: It was requested that the Business Meeting agenda be sent out with the delegates package in the future.

Saturday Workshop Recap Meeting

Workshop Sessions #1 and #2: Bylaws/Service Structure: Robin

- Workshop participants agreed with conceptual changes, but not all the non-substantive changes
- It's recommended by workshop participants and Bylaws/Service Structure committee that all the bylaws changes be approved now and changed again next year.
- A Motion will be made Sunday to accept all changes as proposed.

Workshop Sessions #3 and #4: Literature: Checko

- Step Six and Step Seven changes were approved in the workshop. Motion to approve proposed changes will be brought on Sunday, with exceptions highlighted in yellow.
- Mental Health pamphlet was approved by all 26 participants in the workshop. Motion to approve will be brought Sunday.

Workshop Session #5: Outreach: Iliana

- Search engine optimization should be done on the new website
- Business cards should be handed out in doctors' office and other locations where appropriate
- NAWS should develop a speaker bureau
- Flyers can be passed out at healthy living events and tacked up on community bulletin boards
- Outreach is needed in schools – members can be trained by members with Traditions experience
- NAWS should develop a PSA
- No motions at this time.

Workshop Session #6: Future of the Conference: El

- Consensus in workshop was to keep the conference hybrid every year. Service is the bridge between business and recovery.
- Some said it may be a consideration to do it online only every other year, or when no one offers to host it. It's necessary to have boots on the ground. And while face-to-face is ideal, it may be necessary to hold online conferences if no one steps up as local hosts. While most people in the workshop want hybrid, not many are willing to host it or work on the committee.
- Money is part of the issue. Intergroups and groups should do more to support their delegates.
- If more advance committee work is done, the conference could be longer, such as a 3-day conference. Use forward thinking while not abandoning what has worked.

- Motion will be brought to ask the board to appoint an ad hoc committee to create a survey regarding the future of the conference to be sent out to the fellowship within 60 days, allowing for 30 days for responses (to ensure process isn't dragged out).
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NAWS Conference 2024

Sunday Morning Business Meeting

April 14, 2024

Meeting opened by Danelle at 9:05 with Serenity Prayer read in Russian by Rita.

- Sharon B did in person delegate count, Michelle S did online delegate count – Quorum reached.

Motion 1, from Future of the Conference Workshop, seconded by Martha

- **That the board appoint an ad hoc committee to create a survey regarding the future of the conference to be sent out to the fellowship within 60 days, allowing for 30 days for responses.**
- In-reach coordinator, Robin, reported that she needs a week to two weeks to get a survey out. She also pointed out that the board can send out a survey at any time and doesn't need a conference motion to do so.
- Discussion ensued, which focused on keeping the conference hybrid, not about creating a survey.
- **Motion failed: 13 for, 24 against, 5 abstain**

Motion 2, from Bylaws/Service Structure Workshops, seconded by Margarite

- **That the fellowship approves all proposed bylaws changes submitted by the Bylaws Committee through the delegate packet as the conference approved Nicotine Anonymous bylaws adopted April 2024 with the recommendation that the Bylaws/Service Structure Committee review the changes suggested at the 2024 workshop for consideration as additional bylaws changes to be presented at the 2025 conference.**

- **Motion passed: 33 for, 3 against, 1 abstain**

Motion 3, from Literature workshop, seconded by Aimee

- **To accept proposed revisions in the Nicotine Anonymous: Book for Step Six as stated in the delegate package with additional highlights in the PDF, (*with friendly amendment*): to become conference approved literature.**
- Extensive discussion ensued about how the changes requested for Steps Six and Seven go beyond the realm of just making the content more inclusive and correcting outdated grammar. Too much of the essence of the spiritual nature of the 12 Steps is being lost in these revisions.
- **Motion passed: 18 for, 14 against, 9 abstain**

Note: It was brought to the attention of delegates how abstaining impacts the results of a vote, as the majority of delegates either voted against or abstained on this motion, meaning that is wasn't a clear majority in favor of it.

Motion 4, from Literature workshop, seconded by Martha

- **To accept proposed revisions in the Nicotine Anonymous: Book for Step Seven as stated in the delegate package with additional highlights in the PDF, to become conference approved literature.**
- Discussion ensued about whether language will become inconsistent in our literature if the changes for this step are not adopted. There may be inconsistencies if this motion fails.
- **Motion failed: 18 for, 22 against, 3 abstain**

Motion 5, from Literature workshop, seconded by Margarite

- **To accept the pamphlet "Nicotine Anonymous Nicotine Addiction and Mental Health Concerns" as presented in PDF to be approved as conference approved literature.**
- Much discussion about how the pamphlet was changed dramatically from the original version sent out in the delegate package. Delegates had to read it overnight and now vote without benefit of their group's input.
- Workshop participants overwhelmingly voted to approve it.
- **Motion carried: 24 for, 12 against, 2 abstain**

Note: After the vote, a member questioned whether the latest changes had gone through the Traditions Committee for final approval. Board will take that under review since delegates have already voted this in.

Motion by Margarite, seconded by Damara

- **That the (mental health) pamphlet as approved by the delegates be reviewed by the Traditions Committee.**
- **Motion failed: 15 for, 20 against, 1 abstain**

Board Nominations

- **Chair:** Matthew H says he feels like he has lots of support and feels very welcomed. Been in the UK NicA since 2005 and other 12-step programs doing much service. He has experienced many roles within committees and the intergroup. "I have learned to avoid being controlling but aim to be influential. I do have strong opinions but fully commit to engage and establish the group conscience."
- **Treasurer:** Jilly C says that usually when she gets involved with a new role, she moves slowly, but surely. She was "voluntold" to take this position, but believes it is her destiny. She has served on many committees and can balance books. "When my heart's in it, I do it wholeheartedly."
- **Secretary:** Terri D says she worked for the state of Florida in many secretarial and administrative roles and is now retired. She has been nicotine free for 29 months. "After I read the March 29 Reflections on Freedom reading, which was the 29th month of my freedom from nicotine, it was kind of like a God-smack upside my head and I knew I would accept the nomination."
- **Motion** made by Robin, seconded by John O that we approve by acclamation Matthew from UK as chair-elect, Jilly from Florida as Treasurer-elect and Terri from Florida as secretary-elect.
Motion passed with no objections.

2025 NAWS Conference

- Nomination for 2025 conference somewhere **in Texas** based on the ability to find a suitable place.
- There were no bids for 2026 conference.
- Reconvene at 12:30 for transfer of new officers and to hear the spiritual speaker to close out the conference.



**Nicotine Anonymous World Services
Conference Meeting, Hybrid
Sunday, April 14, 2024 Minutes**

1. Meeting Opened – Danelle called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. US EDT. Marian D. opened with the Serenity Prayer in Dutch after a moment of silence.
 - Outgoing Emeritus Officers were recognized by the fellowship for their dedication and hard work during their years of committed service to NAWS. The Conference Planning Committee gifted them with VIP bags from Asheville.
 - Danelle welcomed incoming Elect Officers Matthew H from the UK., Jilly C. and Terri D., both from the US.
 - Danelle introduced and welcomed Marian D. from Holland as our new Active Chairperson, the first ever from another country. She was gifted a gavel for use in meetings. Marian stated she plans to enjoy a term making progress, rather than striving for perfection. She shared she would like to have our shared Higher Power heard by the fellowship. She welcomed the new elect officers and expressed appreciation for all those serving as officers.
2. Key Speaker: El R. introduced outgoing Treasurer Emeritus Keith H., attending online, who shared his personal story in a spiritually focused recovery message.
3. Adjournment: Robin L, motioned to close the meeting. Aimee C. seconded the motion. All were in agreement. Marian closed the meeting at 1:00 p.m. to end the 2024 NAWS Conference.