

Hello to my sisters and brothers in fellowship. My name is Michael and I am a nicotine addict, and I have the pleasure and privilege of being the Nicotine Anonymous World Services Board Chair for this, our 29th World Services Conference.

I am going to begin this chair's report by saying something unusual to you, "Thank you for being here." That may not seem unusual on the surface, but ...

Today, thank you for being here is more than just a greeting. It means thank you for being here.

- There are persons all around the world - many of you right here in this room - who have been devoting considerable chunks of your private lives to helping others find and maintain freedom from nicotine.
- I want you to know if you don't already that what you do matters. Never doubt that, and the miracles keep happening. They often happen when we least expect them.
- Nicotine Anonymous is the only place I go to where I can expect to see miracles. I just never know exactly when, but they will keep happening.
- It isn't always easy to see it, but your work bears fruit. You make it safe for people to ask for the help they desperately need. To know that, just think about yourself and how you were received and welcomed when you most needed it. It's not our way to keep statistics.
- We are our own proof.

Since the last WSC in Long Beach California,

- As we heard from Chick and Teresa, our treasury has increased. For the first time in recent memory, we have had an increase. Nicotine Anonymous is alive and well and growing stronger. As per a motion passed by the Delegates last year, the name of the Give and Live Program was changed to be the Gift of Gratitude Program and made more obvious on the website. Also, a new flyer was created. It is in your folders. We did not get to add the word "donate" to the website, but we're working on it. We also did not get to recommend an extra basket during 7th month. However, donations to Nicotine Anonymous World Services more than tripled from \$5,705.93 in 2012 to \$18,573.33

in 2013. For this I have to thank all who donated and worked so hard and also another member whose name I forget, but the member has the initials HP.

- The website is running better. Thank everybody including Dan who made a few key improvements that caused it to run much better. Is the Dan who made the changes here today?
- We are still in dire need of a webmaster!
- The WWML is much improved. Thank you, Gwynn for your diligence and devotion. If she's calling you up and getting your attention, it's because she's doing HPs work. Please do your best to give her updates on changes as they happen. Nic A will benefit, and there will be fewer occurrences of someone going to a meeting to find nobody home.
- Are we truly an international fellowship, or do we just say so? We have been connecting with more countries, but we need members to staff our International Committee in order to bring more countries into NAWS. For example, all the countries outside of the US should be receiving the benefits of NAWS membership and also contributing donations. We need policy and protocol on all these international procedures, and that's why we need our International Committee fully staffed and working on this. In addition, our Intergroup List only contains US, Phone Meetings and VONR as groups. That's great, but we also need to add Intergroups in other countries. This will lead to increased and improved communication and international outreach.
- There are still so many members who leave the comfort of their homes to open meetings and serve in very committed ways, and as I said, many of you are right here in this room.
- As well as the 12 written Traditions, we have unwritten traditions One of them is rotation of service. As well as experience, a fellowship needs an infusion of new ideas and an ability to think outside the box in order to grow and thrive.

We have also had our sad moments and our challenges:

- 2 who I know of, of our most devoted members passed this year – John R and Roz.
- Our chair-elect needed to resign, and there must be a chair-elect. This year, it will be a true apprentice position. I believe I can make certain

changes in the position of chair-elect without changing the bylaws or the Policy and Procedures Manual, and I intend to help the next chair to be fully prepared to assume the gavel in April 2015. It is my intention that the next Chair will do more, learn more and be better prepared to take the gavel.

- A preview of the 6 workshops will indicate some of our other challenges.
 - The Evolving Role of the WSO Chair: The position has grown in complexity, but so has it grown in rewards, yet there haven't been many willing to jump into the fire. How can we continue to have and support a NAWS Chair? Join this workshop and give us your wisdom.
 - Step-Study Guide has been previewed for a year now, and there are even some groups who decided on their own to use it. Step-Study is a valuable aspect of recovery. We need an up or down vote on this document.
 - The Abstinence Pamphlet: The times have changed. Are we keeping up with all the changes? Is the e-cigarette an NRT or an NDS, and how do we need to express our view of abstinence?
 - Private Companies Using the NicA Name: Yes, that does happen. What can and should we do about this?
 - Spirituality Pamphlet: It has been in discussion, and we know we need a clear statement as to what spiritual and spirituality mean in Nicotine Anonymous. This document also needs an up or down vote.
 - Outreach: Increasing Membership and Participation: This is the one workshop that we will always need every year. Our primary purpose is to carry the message, and we are unfortunately still the best kept secret in recovery.

Many of you have given so much throughout the years that I hardly have the right to ask you to do any more, but I will anyway. I'm OK with that because I am not asking for myself. I am asking for the members across the world and for the still suffering nicotine addicts who haven't found us yet.

More than a few of us, myself included, are still alive because of our fellowship and are enjoying a better quality of life than if we had never found NicA. Even our friends, who have passed on, had clean time to enjoy and a closer connection with their Higher Power and their families because of Nicotine Anonymous. All around the world, there are folks who leave the comfort of their homes to go out every week to make sure the doors are open to the still suffering nicotine addict, and we are responsible to them – not them to us.

As delegates and Board members and volunteers, we need to continue to support them, and in that way, we do our Higher Power's work.

So I am asking you to do more: Run for one of the 3 offices that will be open this weekend: Chair-Elect, Secretary-Elect or Treasurer-Elect. Volunteer for a committee position or to chair a committee. Form an intergroup where you don't have one and join yours if you do.

If your hands are already dirty with the soil that nurtures Nicotine Anonymous come on in and get them even dirtier. I won't promise you it will be easy or even that you'll always be appreciated. You won't, but I will promise you that you'll get back 10 times what you put into it just as I have.