

Greetings from Your World Board

We're back. In our April report we pointed out that it had been a long time since you heard from us. Well, this time we'd like to point out that this *NAWS News* is hitting the streets just two short months since the last one. And there is a good reason for that: there is a lot to report. First, here is an update on the strategic plan.

As you have heard from us many times before, we are firmly committed to being a strategic board, one that is able to consider and impact the overall direction of NAWS while not getting overly involved in the operational details. Many of us who have spent our years of service immersed in the operational details have found this quite challenging. But again, we are committed to this strategic process, and we are grateful for our partnership with the WSC and for your support for this work.

NA World Services Vision Statement

All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous World Services are inspired by the primary purpose of the groups we serve. Upon this common ground we stand committed.

Our vision is that one day:

- Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;
- NA communities worldwide and NA world services work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery;
- Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

As our commonly held sense of the highest aspirations that set our course, our vision is our touchstone, our reference point, inspiring all that we do. Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of these ideals. In all our service efforts, we rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power.

An analogy of this strategic process might be a boat sailing down a stream towards the ocean (represented by the included sketch from our May 2003 meeting). Our strategic framework is a map toward the horizon, which signifies fulfillment of our vision statement. The stream is the path that moves us toward that goal. NA World Services is the boat, the vehicle designed to make the trip to fulfill the vision. The trip is a long journey with ports along the way (objectives and milestones). Rocks and rapids and other elements (external factors) can be barriers to the goal, but some elements, such as favorable winds or a strong current, might make the trip easier. Finally, repairs and maintenance to the boat (internal factors) must be considered.



Our challenge is to create, maintain, and modify the strategy that will move us down that stream, toward our vision. Each conference cycle brings us the opportunity to move closer to that goal. And each cycle involves assessment and planning for the next.

One of our charges at the May World Board meeting was to begin planning for the 2004-2006 conference cycle. First, we needed to consider our ever-changing world, both in and out of the fellowship, including things like the global economic condition and demographic changes in our membership. Then, we tried to understand how to strategically adapt and respond to our environment to best move forward toward our vision.

As your World Board, our responsibility is to “frame” these issues, or create a basic outline that will facilitate their discussion and consideration. The World Service Conference then impacts that framework and directs the implementation of any projects that emerge. As you can see, it takes all of us to reach our vision; none of us can do it alone.

We made substantial progress updating our strategic plan at our May 2003 meeting, and we will continue this work at our next meeting in August 2003. In addition to that work, in this issue we are also reporting on our

decisions and recommendations regarding changes to the service structure, the sponsorship book, and the Basic Text, as well as other items of importance. So, please read on; we hope you enjoy this volume of your *NAWS News*.



Considering Changes to the World Service Structure

“What,” you ask, “changes to the structure? I thought we just changed the structure a few years ago.” Well, 2004 will mark six years since we adopted the current world service structure, including the World Board, the Human Resource Panel, and the WSC Cofacilitators. That six-year period was identified as the *implementation period*, one full World Board term, when we would work within the new system before offering any recommendations for changes. That time has passed, and we are prepared to make recommendations to improve the current world service structure.

The first thing we considered was the size of the World Board. Originally, in 1998, a 24-seat board was adopted by the WSC. Two of the most important reasons for that specific number were membership diversity and sufficient human resources to complete assigned tasks. But as we fully develop as a strategic board, we are in agreement that a 24-seat board is too large and not an efficient use of our resources. We feel that anywhere from 14 to 18 seats is an ideal size for the board. This number still gives us the opportunity for diversity within the group while maintaining a manageable size to operate as a *strategic* board. With that in mind, we will be recommending a guideline change to reduce the size of the board to *up to 18 members*.

Though we will recommend reducing the number of seats, we do acknowledge that fewer than twelve board members would place a hardship on the board. However, we are not prepared to support a mandated minimum at this time.

We will also recommend eliminating the mandated standing committee structure. We do remember the passion related to this topic back in 1998, but the truth is that the current standing committee structure has begun to experience very same pitfalls as the pre-1998 standing committee system, when we were committee-driven. As a plan-driven board, we need to be flexible to respond to our ever-changing work.

This does not mean that we would cease to use workgroups and committees—quite the contrary. It would be impossible to implement most projects without the World Pool, and we remain committed to utilizing members beyond the board to move forward on our work. The program workgroup for WCNA-30 is a good example of how we are completing tasks without a standing

committee. As previously reported, we are using members from the board, the World Pool, and NAWS staff to complete this work. The dissolution of the standing committee structure would make way for us to document these current responsive, dynamic practices.

The board also looked at the WSC Cofacilitators, and we are prepared to recommend that the description in *A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous* be clarified to reflect that this position serves as an impartial facilitator for the *business sessions* of the World Service Conference. We also acknowledge the need to improve communication between the board and the cofacilitators, and the need for training to standardize their facilitation of the conference.

We are also taking a broad look at the Human Resource Panel system. We believe that the difficulties with nominations and elections will not be fully addressed until we develop a system that cultivates, identifies, and creates a leadership pool and instills confidence in the nominations process. With that said, some options considered at a joint meeting of the WB and the HRP include 1) leave the HRP system as is, 2) change the current system to allow for World Board recommendations on nominations, 3) change the current system by involving the World Board in the nomination/selection process, 4) eliminate the HRP system, reassigning the responsibilities to the World Board with or without external assistance. Again, these were some options considered; we have come to no conclusions regarding recommendations at this time.



Want to get involved?

The World Pool Information Form is available on our website. The newest version can be downloaded or completed online. If you have not filled out the newest version of the form and have five years clean, please go online and complete a new form. If you are interested in serving in any way, check it out!

Regarding the NA World Services budget, though we do acknowledge problems with this system, we are not recommending any changes at this time. Our budget is project-driven. In other words, the project plans are a part of the budget system. The initial idea was that project plans would stem from a dialogue between the board and delegates. The budget would then reflect adopted projects

that emerged from that dialogue. For the most part, that dialogue has not happened. We are considering focused communication, possibly including a workshop at the WSC, for both delegates and board members, regarding the budget and the project plan process. Our hope is that, as a result, all concerned would better understand the foundational theory of the system. For more information regarding the NAWS budget please see *A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous*, page 26.



Changes to the FIPT

WSC 2002 approved specific copy edits to the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (and the Intellectual Property Bulletins). These changes have now been made; our current terminology and practices, such as the two-year conference cycle and the addition of the group logo as a trademark of NAWS, are now reflected in the FIPT. The specific changes include adding the group logo to Bulletins #1, 2, and 3, and to the Operational Rules, pages 13 and 42; adding www.na.org to all bulletins; and deleting all references to Bulletins #6 and 7, which no longer exist.

We will also replace WSC *annual* meeting with *biennial* throughout the publication; *calendar year* with *conference cycle* in the Operational Rules, pages 2 and 23; *TWGSS* with *A Guide to World Services in NA* throughout the document; *RSR* with *RD*, page 38; and *WSC Literature Committee* with *World Board*, page 40. The newly copy edited FIPT will be available soon.

The Basic Text: From Evaluation to Recommendation, *An Update*

We are continuing to make progress on the Basic Text Evaluation project passed at the last conference. As we told you in the last *NAWS News*, in March we decided to recommend to the WSC that certain changes be made to our *Basic Text*. These changes include revising the personal stories and adding a preface to the personal stories as well as adding a new preface to the book as a whole. We spent a great deal of time in our May meeting further discussing our recommendations.

One of the first things we talked about was our vision of Book Two. The Basic Text explains that it is “the shared experience of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous,” and we see the personal stories in this light. Book Two is a place for us to share our recovery—to show the program in action, if you will. We see a new Book Two as a collection of personal stories that reflect our current fellowship, representing the richness of our diversity, both in terms of who we are and what we have experienced and grown from in our recovery. If the conference accepts our recommendation, we hope that the personal stories in a sixth edition would come from and speak to members across all amounts of clean time. With this common vision of the personal stories as our foundation, we will be better prepared to move forward with this project.

We talked a lot about how Book Two could best represent our diversity. Specifically, we are considering whether the stories should represent demographic characteristics, such as range of age, race, gender, socio-economic background, and sexual identity, to name a few. We are ever mindful that the paramount quality of the stories be their overall ability to carry the message of NA recovery.

We have not decided whether to recommend replacing some or all of the current stories. But we have decided that every story need not have the same structure: how it was, what happened, and how it is now. A new Book Two could have some stories structured in this way and others perhaps focused on specific events or principles. We have also discussed the possibility of sectioning the personal stories, grouping them in some meaningful and/or helpful way.

Considering other recommendations, we have decided to recommend adding a preface to Book Two. We will also recommend adding a preface to Book One, to accompany the existing preface. We also considered but decided against a foreword or introduction. Yes, there is a difference, and thanks to this process, we have learned what each is.

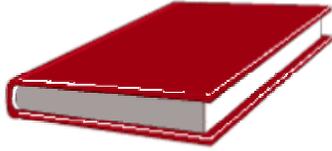
Finally, we are considering a recommendation to move the symbol and/or the accompanying text elsewhere in the book. The point was raised during our discussion that it may be better suited placed after the preface(s), at the end of Book One, or as an appendix at the end of the book.

Regardless of what changes are adopted by the conference, we see this process as a multi-cycle project. To ensure that we have the time to commit to this project, we expect that this work will take at least four years. Until we actually make the decision regarding each recommendation, considering a timeline beyond that is not reasonably possible.

HELP!

In order to communicate effectively, we desperately need accurate contact information, including email addresses, particularly for ASCs, RSCs, regional delegates, and regional delegate-alternates. Please forward your contact information to us at fsteam@na.org or by calling 818.773.9999 ext 771.

Thank You!



Approval Form of the Sponsorship Book Completed

It's done! We are excited to announce the completion of our work on the approval form of the sponsorship book. We knew that we had to finalize the text during either our May or August meeting in order to have it ready in time for the *CAR*, and we are happy to report we were able to do so in May. Now we are anxiously waiting to get the final revisions and copy edits completed so that we can release it to the fellowship for your consideration and possible approval at WSC 2004. The release will come in July 2003, when the approval draft of the book will be sent to all conference participants and will be available to all through NAWS at a cost of \$5.00 plus regular shipping and handling. The approval draft of the book will also be included in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

We have also completed our revision of IP #11, *Sponsorship*. If adopted, this revised IP will replace the current IP #11. It will be included in the July mailing as well as in the *CAR* for your consideration and possible approval at WSC 2004.

We want to point out that this endeavor was a great example of the workgroup-style project that we hope to use more in the future. This workgroup of seven pool members and two board members worked diligently on this project to complete it on schedule. They were able to maintain their focus on their work without distraction. We give a big thank you to our workgroup members: Bella B and Jim B, from the board, and World Pool members Billy R, Chuck G, Gwen M, Janet C, Lasse W, Louis H, and Ron M.

We also want to thank all of the members who participated in this project. As we have reported before, we received a great deal of input from throughout the fellowship since we began asking in 2000. Your efforts ensured that this book is a true reflection of the entire fellowship. Thank you!

The Business Plan

As a part of The Business Plan charge, the business plan workgroup met in April at the World Service Office. Currently serving on that group are previous pool members Mario T, Bob McD, and Cary S, and new pool members Khalil J (Georgia, USA) and Joao V (Brazil), great additions to this group. Members of the board's Executive Committee and WSO executive management also participate at the workgroup meetings. This workgroup is invaluable to the board, functioning as an informational resource for many of our business decisions.

The workgroup discussed NAWS's 90-day prudent reserve. Some of you may remember that just a few years ago we were in the uncomfortable position of having less than one day of operating reserve available. That means that we had enough money in the bank to pay for less than one day's operating expenses. Today we have approximately 48 days reserve available, quite a change. We continue to work toward our goal of a 90-day reserve.

Regarding our scheduled 1 January 2004 five percent overall retail price increase, the business plan workgroup recommended, and we agreed, to put that increase on hold. We are doing that for two primary reasons: 1) to study where specific price increases might be appropriate and 2) as a gesture of goodwill to our customers, who have struggled through the present economic downturn. Plainly stated, NAWS **will not** increase retail prices on 1 January 2004, as previously scheduled.

We also agreed with the workgroup recommendation that we move forward to implement an online shopping cart. For those of you not familiar with this service, it will enable anyone with Internet access to purchase NAWS merchandise and literature online, using a credit card for payment. In addition to facilitating retail sales, this service will include a member contribution portal, where members can forward contributions to NAWS electronically, again using a credit card. We will keep you apprised on this activity as we progress.

Speaking of contributions, we spent some time discussing NAWS income, which includes contributions and literature and merchandise sales. Our sales continue to flatten and our contributions decrease, while demand for our services keeps increasing. Contributions now account for less than nine percent of our income. And as we reported to you in the last *NAWS News*, regional contributions have not increased to offset NAWS funding RD travel to the WSC.

Philosophically, we believe that we should be less dependent on sales and more dependent on contributions to fund services. The issue seems to be "how do we tell this story?" How do we convey the information that will raise members' awareness and willingness to contribute? Explaining where our money goes and why we need it is critical to this effort. We have made a commitment to work toward this goal, and your help in the effort will be invaluable.



The NA Way Update

The NA Way Editorial Board met in March. The editorial board is comprised of World Board member Tom McC and pool members Dana H, Sheryl L, and Marc S. We agree with the editorial board's idea to change the current theme-based approach, which sought article submissions related to a particular theme. Unfortunately, it did not have the impact that we had hoped. Though our members continue to tell us

they value reading the magazine, they are less enthusiastic about submitting themed articles for it.

With that in mind, we will implement other actions, on a one-year trial basis, including offering suggested topics for articles and asking questions that might spark members' interest in writing and submitting articles. We will also let submissions influence the theme, or maybe there will be no specific theme to a particular edition of the magazine.

We agreed to solicit members for articles through a mass mailing or emailing. We also agreed to add a "Did You Know" feature. This feature will highlight snippets of interesting information throughout the magazine.

Did you know that you
can receive a free
subscription to
The NA Way Magazine?
Simply call or email
NAWS at
818.773.9999 or
info@na.org

Speaking of interesting, over the years, The NA Way has tried various approaches as to how to deal with the controversial issues that might be of interest to our members. Recently, there has been some confusion internally, as to whether we should address these issues in this magazine. After much discussion, the editorial board recommended, and we concur, to remain open to address any controversy that deals with NA recovery in a substantial way—as long as it does not conflict with NA principles.

Finally, editorial board members will now serve three-year terms. There are three members on the board, and each year one will roll off, making way for a new member. This will ensure continuity, while at the same time, allowing for rotation of membership.

Regardless of our policies and procedures, the fact remains that this magazine will only be as good as the submissions from the fellowship. So, start writing and sharing your experience, strength, and hope!



Help Wanted!

WSO is on the lookout for qualified & skilled applicants for various positions, so send in your resume or contact Roberta@na.org if you are interested in becoming a special worker. Currently, positions are available for a staff accountant and two project coordinators/writer/editors.

New "Stuff"

As we reported in April, we are about to make available for sale a 20th anniversary edition of the Basic Text. With gilded pages and a padded, embossed cover, this text will sell for \$25, fully discountable. We are producing 15,000 copies of this numbered, commemorative text.

We are also bundling some of our other new recovery products. *The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides* will be bundled with a CD-ROM version of the guides, which allows members to load the entire text on their computer and then type responses to questions as they appear on the screen.

You will now be able to purchase the Basic Text and CD-ROM Basic Text, as well as *It Works: How and Why* and CD-ROM *It Works: How and Why* as bundles. These electronic versions of our recovery books are fully searchable PDF formats.

The CD-ROM version of *Just for Today* is also ready for release. This software will allow you to view the daily meditation reading at your computer and search the text as a whole. It includes an option to have each day's reading automatically open.

All of these interactive, computer-based products are being produced in direct response to fellowship requests, and we are very excited to be bringing them to you. And everything, including the commemorative text will be available 3 July 2003 at WCNA-30 or through your usual literature distribution channels. Please see the included *WSO Product Update* flyer for more information.



WCNA-30

It's right around the corner: 3-6 July 2003, WCNA-30, San Diego, CA. We are very excited about the 30th World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, celebrating 50 years of "One Addict Helping Another." Needless to say, we have been quite busy getting ready, as we work to make this a unique and memorable event for all.

Pre-registration for the world convention is now closed. However, members can register onsite at the convention. The program has been finalized, entertainment booked, lots of merchandise ordered, and we are now putting the finishing touches on this "once in a lifetime event." We hope to see you all. Safe travels!

A Few Words About Pre-Registration

An alarming trend seems to be developing over the past few years regarding conventions throughout the fellowship, including WCNA. Our members seem to be opting not to pre-register and instead are choosing to register when they arrive at the event. This makes planning for such events extremely difficult. The result is that those responsible for planning must make hard decisions regarding numbers of registration packages and pieces of merchandise, balancing projected need with fiscal prudence of the fellowship's money. Equally challenging is forecasting the amount of meeting space, especially at the Saturday night events.

This trend of not registering in advance continues to plague many committees. It also can create very uncomfortable situations with meeting facilities. These facilities expect us to provide accurate attendance numbers so that they too can adequately prepare to staff and secure their properties.

How does this relate to WCNA-30? Well, although WCNA promises to be one of the largest events in our history, pre-registration numbers are not as high as we thought they would be. For this reason, we have adjusted our plans to accommodate a smaller number of attendees based on current pre-registration projections rather than "gamble" on those members who may (or may not) show up. For your information, our original forecast was for 24,000 registered members, and we are currently forecasting 20,000.

Please keep in mind that members who did not pre-register may arrive at WCNA-30 to find that special events are sold out, adequate merchandise is not available, or meeting facilities are not sufficient to accommodate them. Patience and understanding will be

helpful, and know that we will do our best to be responsive to make last minute logistical changes while trying to minimize incurring significant expense. However, there are some things that we may not be able to change at the last minute. This will probably mean that access to the main meeting room, especially on Saturday night, will be restricted to those who are registered. Although requiring a registration badge is not a new phenomenon for many fellowship conventions, it will be a new approach for the World Convention.

With that said, we hope that when you consider attending conventions and the like, you will encourage each other to pre-register if at all possible. This will help the trusted servants who are planning these events to make them memorable for all who choose to participate. Please remember this when planning for your next regional or area convention.

Professional Events

We are excited to report that while many of us are celebrating our 50th birthday in San Diego, a few members will be on NA business elsewhere. We will be sending a travel team to Cuba in early July 2003 to participate in the 1st Latin American Congress of Drug Addiction. This is another great opportunity for NA to cross borders to carry the message of recovery.

But even before that, in June 2003, we will be sending a staff member to South Korea to participate in an addiction forum. We will be traveling with members from Japan to assist in efforts to start NA meetings in South Korea. Again, we are filled with gratitude as we consider the possibilities that might result from this visit. Of course, we will give you full reports on these trips in the next *NAWS News*.



Public Relations Roundtables

We conducted the first-of-its-kind Public Relations Roundtable in April 2003 in Chatsworth, CA. The event was a prearranged gathering of seven professionals who, as members of the criminal justice sector, may direct addicts to NA as a part of their daily routine.

The objective of the meeting was to gather information in order to help formulate a PR strategy. We hope to increase cooperation and identify any real or perceived barriers between NA and the criminal justice professional community. The group discussed a variety of issues pertinent to NA's image and explored ways to raise public awareness of NA.

This event proved to be very valuable. For instance, one thing these professionals told us was that *The NA*

Way is a great public relations tool. They said that it clearly shows non-members the global nature of our fellowship as well as the essence of our recovery program, one addict helping another.

As a direct result of this roundtable discussion, we have created another public relations tool, *NA in Brief*. This new, single-sheet informational tool will be used at professional events and will be tailored to address specific audiences, as needed.

With this experience behind us, we are planning for the next three roundtables, one with medical professionals, one with treatment providers, and one with US governmental agencies. We will keep you updated on these activities as we move forward.

The roundtables are just part of a bigger picture. It will take a commitment from all levels of service and all parts of the fellowship to improve our image with the professional community. We hope to provide some tools, insights, and understanding to help in these efforts. When we consider how many of these individuals have the opportunity to direct suffering addicts to us each day, we begin to realize the importance of this endeavor. If you have any experiences, good or bad, in your efforts working with professionals please forward them to us. As always, your help is invaluable.



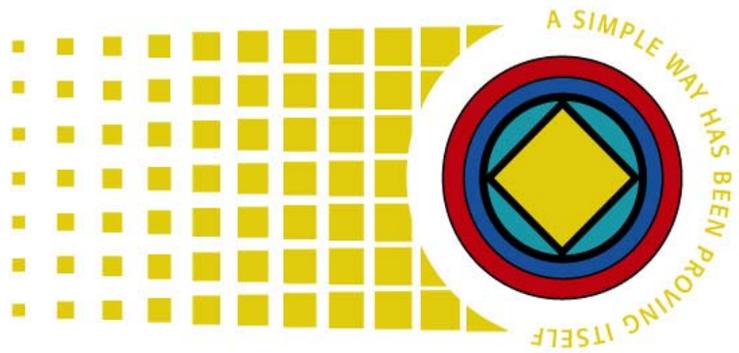
Worldwide Workshop News

We are planning the final two worldwide workshops for this conference cycle. The first will be held in Lima, Peru on 12-14 September 2003, and the second in Bangalore, India on 17-19 February 2004. This will complete the schedule of five workshops since WSC 2002.

Reports from the two previous workshops, Austin, TX and Philadelphia, PA, have been distributed to workshop participants and RDs. We hope you've found those reports interesting and meaningful. In addition, we've received and responded to RD requests for workshop session information so that they too can use those resources when conducting workshops and learning day events in their home regions.

To finish our work for this cycle we have the daunting task of evaluating the workshops. This evaluation will be completed and distributed before WSC 2004.

A word about the Philadelphia workshop, in our efforts to acknowledge those members who helped us with that workshop, we neglected to recognize the contribution of Sheila B, GPRSO Administrative Special Worker. Sheila worked hard in contributing to the success of the Philadelphia Worldwide Workshop. We apologize for this oversight and want to say "thank you Sheila."



Upcoming Calendar for NA World Services	
3-6 July 2003	WCNA-30, NA's 50th anniversary celebration in San Diego, CA, USA
7-9 August 2003	World Board meeting
25 August 2003	Regional motion deadline for inclusion in <i>Conference Agenda Report</i>
31 August 2003	Deadline for World Pool forms for those seeking nomination at WSC 2004
12-14 September 2003	Worldwide Workshop in Lima, Peru
23-26 October 2003	World Board meeting
24 November 2003	English <i>Conference Agenda Report</i> available
23 December 2003	Translated <i>Conference Agenda Report</i> available
15-17 January 2004	World Board meeting
23 January 2004	<i>Conference Approval Track</i> material deadline
17-19 February 2004	Worldwide Workshop in Bangalore, India
15 February 2004	Regional Report deadline for inclusion in March <i>Conference Report</i>
11-13 March 2004	World Board meeting
25 April-1 May 2004	World Service Conference 2004

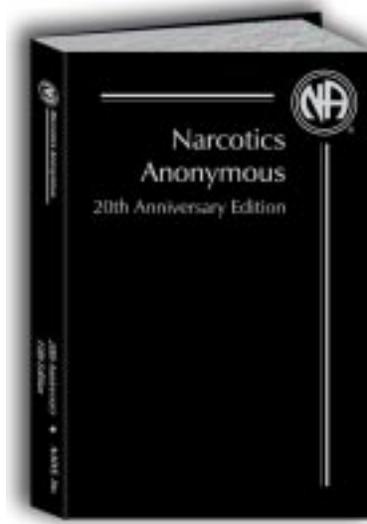
WSO PRODUCT UPDATE

English

20th Anniversary Basic Text

2003 marks the 20th anniversary of the first publication of the Basic Text. To commemorate this event, we have produced a limited-edition of the Fifth Edition Basic Text. Each book is hand-numbered with a black leatherette cover, platinum-foil embossing, platinum-gilded edges, and a sewn-in black satin bookmark.

Item No. 1104 Price US \$25.00



English

It Works: How and Why on CD-ROM

A CD-ROM version of our book featuring searchability by words or phrases.

Item No. 8910 Price US \$18.85

The NA Step Working Guides on CD-ROM (for PCs only)

An interactive, user-friendly CD-ROM. Members can type in their answers in response to each step's questions and save as a Word document.

Item No. 8911 Price US \$18.85

Just for Today on CD-ROM (for PCs only)

An interactive version of our daily meditation book with the ability to display the current day's meditation when you turn on your computer, as well as a journaling feature.

Item No. 8912 Price US \$18.85

CD-ROM/Book Packages

Our books packaged with their respective CD-ROM versions.

Basic Text CD-ROM/Book Package	Item No. 8930	Price US \$27.00
<i>It Works</i> CD-ROM/Book Package	Item No. 8931	Price US \$25.00
<i>The NA Step Working Guides</i> CD-ROM/Book Package	Item No. 8932	Price US \$25.00
<i>Just for Today</i> CD-ROM/Book Package	Item No. 8933	Price US \$25.00

Farsi

IP #9: *Living the Program*

زندگی به روال برنامه

Item No. FA-3109 Price US \$0.21

Finnish

Group Reading Cards

Item No. FI-9130 Price US \$2.20



Nederlands

Basic Text

NA-Anonieme Verslaafden

Item No. NL-1101 Price US \$9.70

Portuguese

Just for Today

Só por hoje

Item No. PO-1112 Price US \$7.70

Russian

IP #22: *Welcome to Narcotics Anonymous*

*Добро пожаловать в
Анонимные Наркоманы*

Item No. RU-3122 Price US \$0.21