

NAWS Chair Report

The end of my term as active chair has arrived. The final three months for me were primarily a time for prepping for the conference in May. I worked with Southern California's Intergroup to help iron out details. It's been great getting to know this group remotely and finally getting to meet them in person.

The conference included some new things this year and I'm happy to report that we learned a bunch during our trials. First, we offered Intergroup Chairs, Committee Chairs and Delegates the opportunity to participate remotely. We had these individuals "present" from their own homes as they listened, provided their thoughts and even voted via the internet. Minus the few disconnections, audio issues and forgetfulness of yours truly on getting input from the group, I believe the trial was a success and will help us build into the future.

Second, we changed our usual workshops into committee working sessions. The literature committee session provided us with feedback on multiple pieces of proposed literature. This committee should continue to grow in the future. The service structure committee session discussed the increase use of remote participation going forward. A motion came out of the session that included having the conference conducted primarily via remote access next year. This motion did not carry and other suggestions were made that may come to fruition in the near future regarding next year's conference. The third committee session was more of a workshop and discussed the differences between the Nicotine Anonymous Policies & Procedures (P&P) manual and the descriptions of those committee chairs. Changes will be forthcoming on this P&P.

Finally, new Officers for the World Service Board were elected. Bill H. was elected to the Chair-Elect position. Martina M. is the new Secretary-Elect and Kenny M. will be the new Treasurer-elect. Thank you three for stepping up to be of service for NAWS.

Unfortunately, our amazing Teleservices Coordinator had to step down from her position this month. She has been truly amazing in this role and her service to Nicotine Anonymous and to those still-suffering across the globe has been miraculous. Thank you, Jill, for all you've given and continue to give. This position is extremely important so when it's not filled, we have issues. A member of our fellowship, Kenny M., quickly stepped up and led the charge during April. Thank you, Kenny. Going forward, this committee will be led by Teresa Q. She is ready to take the reins immediately. I am grateful for all three of these amazing servants. They help make this organization successful.

A piece I worked closely on this year has been the Service Structure committee and helping to prepare for the remote delegate access piece for the conference this year. I believe this is a true game changer for Nicotine Anonymous. The committee has worked hard to make this happen as we believe it will definitely give the entire NicA fellowship a greater voice at the World Service level. Thanks to all the members who have served on this Committee as well.

Since May 1st of last year, I have received over 2500 emails regarding Nicotine Anonymous. Many of these have involved conference details for this year, board meeting minute discussions and updates to our website. None of those should come as big surprises. The emails that really excite me and keep me going are those that come from our Service Committee members, our international members and those that are still-suffering and just looking to do anything they can to stop using nicotine. Interactions with these people reminds me of why I do this.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as Chairperson for the past year. Thank you to those of you who continue to be of service and those who have helped me in my journey.