

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM NEWS

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A NETWORK OF NA COMMUNITIES

www.apfna.org

Issue # 48 ~ June 2018

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to our 48th Edition of the APF News. So much has transpired since our APF Conference, the Bangkok Convention, Historic outcome of Motion 11 at WSC 2018, newly created positions and lots of conference calls. We invite you to catch some of the highlights and please pass it along!

Yours in service, Phyllis S ~ Editor (Hawai'i)

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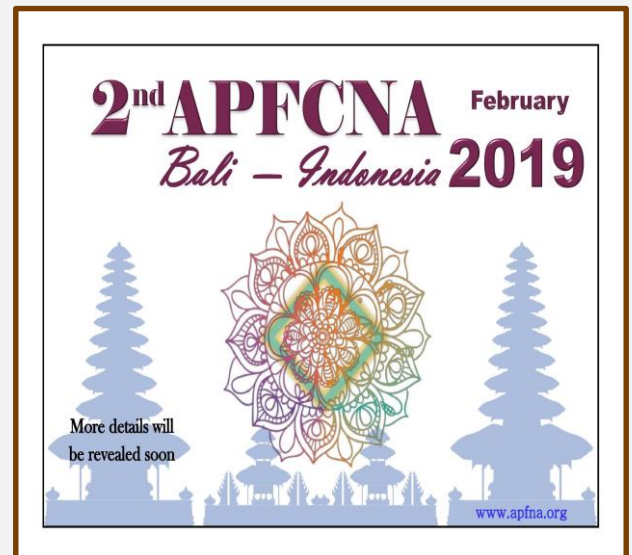
June ~ September

Events/Conventions

*If there is anything you wish to add,
perhaps a clean date or story you would like
to tell, contact us:*

Save The Date

February 2019



apfnews@na.org



A Note from the Chair...

Kia ora koutou, greetings to you all. It is hard to believe we are already a third of the way to our next meeting in Indonesia! Here's an update on what's been happening lately. It certainly has been a VERY busy time.

You may have seen emails or facebook messages about the World Service Conference (WSC) back in April. History was made. Along with the 9 seated RDs from APF, our Zonal Delegate Alt attended for the first time. The 5 APF motions put forward by the Aotearoa NZ and Australia Regions, seconded by SOSONA, all passed. Hammed (our past APF Chairperson), a member from an unseated WSC community, was elected to the World Board. Lib from Aotearoa NZ (a previous Board member) was elected to the Board again, so along with Tali, Paul and Tim there are now 5 World Board members who reside in APF communities.

With a very challenging time frame, our Motion 11 workgroup and APF trusted servants created a process to elect an APF member to participate on the "WSC of the future" workgroup.

Congratulations to Deb F, the current Aotearoa NZ RD, who will tackle the numerous challenges that the WSC has been facing for many years now. We look forward to hearing how this evolves.

The workgroups have each begun having conference calls. Hasib has been elected as the Strategic Planning point person. Planning for our APF meeting in Indonesia, followed by the second APF Convention, is under way. Once negotiations with a venue are completed we will be able confirm the (February) dates. We hope to have this finalised soon. We will be in regular contact with all our communities to keep you as well informed as possible as we prepare for the meeting.

If you have any questions or there is any way we can be of service, please do not hesitate to email - if your message might be of interest to others feel free to email apf@nzna.org, or otherwise emails sent to apfadmin@nzna.org will be seen by all the elected APF trusted servants.

Yours in service,

Roger - APF Chair (Aotearoa NZ)

Reflections on Bangkok 2018

After my first APF in Nepal in 2017, I was very much looking forward to our APF in Bangkok and curious about what experiences and learning it would bring. This year, there were two things that stuck out most for me.

The first was my experience and learning during a breakout session about NA public relations and how we carry the message. After serving on H&I panels for several years in my home area, I had come to take for granted the DO's and DON'Ts of how to carry a clear Narcotics Anonymous message. The PR small group breakout sessions at APF were an opportunity to reflect on this as well as for everyone to share their experience with newer members on how to best carry the message.

We began by asking some of the newer members to service to share how they would carry the message and then shared our own experience in working in public relations services positions and offered suggestions to the members. I was deeply impressed as one of the newer members became very moved about how her group was carrying the message and realizing how they could do even better. It was so wonderful to see the love and support of the fellowship as another member got up and gave her a big, wonderful hug. I could see such a genuine desire to learn, to help each other through service and the importance of carrying the right message, to the best of our ability. I was deeply struck and it was a wonderful reminder to reflect on how I carry the NA message and the importance of mentorship for helping members who are new to public relations service.



The second important takeaway for me was that, coming from the region in China which is still small and growing, our biggest accomplishment this year was to take a major step forward for the Chinese translation of the Basic Text. We had a wonderful bilingual meeting in English and Chinese with our Literature Translation Committee head in China, David W, Uschi, Jane and Paul from NAWS, and delegates from Singapore, Hong Kong and China. We were able to make some good progress on the next steps for the translation. Our goal is to have the Chinese basic text in print before our next APF in Bali. Even coming this far is a great accomplishment and it was nice to see the work that began last year in Nepal bearing fruit.

Personally, each year is an opportunity to reflect on my own personal recovery and broaden my understanding and application of the traditions, "it's only until we get involved in service..." our literature tells us. And for me, this year it was how we work together in service to support each other and encourage each other on this path as we develop both as individuals and as a community.

Ryan U-RD (China)

Brief from the Web



Hi everyone, we are working with the Admin and the convention committee to support the upcoming APF and convention. We have ecommerce facilities with our website and we would love to offer merchandise and possibly online registration and payment through the website. There are a few things to check off with this and we are working through these one at a time.

We had the member who offered to be Web Servant to help us from Iran, I have written back a couple of times, but it is sometimes hard to get emails through to people in Iran. It would be cool if we could make progress on translating our APF website to some other languages; I only speak English, so I won't be able to help directly, but I am hopeful we can make progress in this area too.

We are planning to put our work group meetings up on our events pages so that our communities can see the very frequent meetings and service work that is ongoing.

Yours in service,

Mark H - Web Servant (Aotearoa NZ)

WSC 2018

True North

As I walked into the hotel to get checked in, I could immediately hear chattering in the air, I could feel the smiles and the hugs, the laughter and the barista at Starbucks calling out the names of all the Americanos and Double Espressos. I knew instantly, this was the right place. This is where future happens, this is the place where despair fades away, where lives are saved and Hope is reborn out of a womb of more than 200 fellow members coming together to energize it all over again. I was excited!

I've heard many things about the WSC, what goes on: the late nights, members getting sick, arguing and frustrated trying to get through CAR and CAT. So I remain vigilant of that time to come, and in the meanwhile I head towards "our" coffee shop to order yet another Americanos. That is where I get sucked in, all the members loving, hugging and welcoming you, introducing themselves and their regions, sharing expectations. People are truly happy when I introduce myself and the APF Zonal Rep. I walk into the huge room where all the magic happens and look in awe. Not many people know or realize it, but to me, it was immediately evident, that because of all the great things, decisions, and all the discussions that begin here, I and so many of us are clean today. I wait a while to soak it all in, grateful...

It was almost time to go to bed, to get ready for the big long days: 9am to 9pm for 7 days, I could hear a lot of chatter as I walked along the corridors talking to members, asking me about the Zonal motions and what I thought would or might happen. The only thing I could say was “I honestly don’t know, but whatever happens, may God’s’ will be done.”

As the WSC opened officially, we started with the theme of this year’s WSC “Upon this common Ground we stand committed” and we began sharing with our neighbors. The member I shared with was a great amazing human being and we immediately became friends. Looking out into the room, I could see all my brother and sisters from APF, and smiled at the connection we shared so dearly throughout the years of doing service together. What a beautiful sight.



Tension started to build as we began discussing motions, and when we got to our Zonal motions raised by Australia and Aotearoa NZ my heart sank into my stomach, not knowing what was to be decided by the ballots vanishing from the huge white screen that showed the voted being made. Before the vote was made, many people spoke about Zonal representation, how it would add value and what effects it would bring with it in the future. The hardest part for me was staying quiet, I didn’t know whether to raise my card or not. I kept thinking, if I didn’t raise my card, and the vote was against the motion, how terrible I would feel. On the other hand, if I did raise my card, and the vote still went against the motion, I would still feel bad, but then at least I would have said that I tried my best and intervened as much as I could.

The vote came in “for” the motion, and I was extremely happy, I could not stop smiling! Then for the second, the third, the fourth and fifth!! Zonal representation was finally real! Zones would be able to send Delegates and Alternates to the WSC to represent all the communities that were not seated. What an amazing beautiful thing to watch and be a part of, the future!

When the WSC was done, everyone was talking about how amazing this year was, how great and beautiful, everyone forgot all the things that they were worried about, vigilant to see happen, and I sat down to meditate for a minute and thought about the experience. I thought about all the expectations, both negative and positive, all the words spoken, and all the words that I did not speak. I thought most deeply about everything I did not say when I wanted to speak and chose not to, wondering how I was ok with not saying a word during the motions discussions and still feeling totally fine. And I realized, that I did not need to speak, all I needed to do, was listen to my *True North*, the group conscience, have faith, believe and see,

“That upon this common ground, We Stand Committed” ...

Thank you,

Hammed T- APF Zonal Representative (Kuwait)

FYI



Hello Conference participants,

We are writing to clear up what seems to be some confusion about the WSC of the Future workgroup outlined in the 2018 Conference Approval Track material and approved at WSC 2018. Although some of the framing discussions that we had scheduled for WSC 2018 were not able to occur, this workgroup still has plenty to do in the upcoming cycle. As you know, we are asking for each zone (and Iran) that wishes to, to select a member to be part of the workgroup. This workgroup will be accountable to the World Board (WB), because the WB is elected by and accountable to the WSC. The members of this workgroup will not be expected to act as zonal representatives or to speak for their zone. Like all workgroups, they will come together with a focus provided by the World Board and generate ideas and recommendations to forward to the Board for discussion. The Board will then, in turn, engage participants in a discussion.

We always attempt to represent the diversity of our Fellowship when we put together a workgroup, and having workgroup members selected by zones is a new approach to that principle. Zones are the only service body comprised of multiple regions, other than the WSC itself. We hope that asking zones to select workgroup members will result in a workgroup that regions feel they can trust and invest in because they made collective decisions about the membership. By asking zones to select workgroup members, we are also hoping for a workgroup whose members are each familiar with the workings of their zone, its purpose, processes, and makeup.

A lot happened at the WSC, including the adoption of zonal representatives for zones that have two or more unseated communities. Before those decisions were made, we had already described an initial focus for the workgroup in the project plan that was adopted at WSC 2018. It reads:

“We want to focus our efforts this cycle on building consensus on what *a sustainable, effective WSC* means and what it might look like. In light of that shared vision, we would also like to advance the discussion on WSC seating.”

Additionally, this workgroup, as described in the project plan, is tasked with furthering the following approaches from the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan:

- A. *Strengthen collaboration among zonal forums and between NAWS and zonal forums.*
- B. *Collect and share best practices of zonal forums.*

We have asked for your ideas for potential members of other workgroups to be sent to us by 1 June so we can consider them at our June Board meeting.

We know many zones may be unable to meet this deadline for the WSC of the Future workgroup. We believe most of you have said you can forward a workgroup member name by the end of July. Because of the complexity coordinating and scheduling this type of global workgroup, the end of July is the latest date we believe we can finalize names for a workgroup and still generate meaningful work in this cycle.

Yours in service,

World Board (Trusted Servants throughout Planet Earth)

A Special Gift



On April 22nd a group of Women in the Southern Area of Australia held a High Tea. This was attended by 197 women. The intent of the Committee was primarily to create an event where the women in NA felt nurtured and honoured in their recovery. The recovery theme was reflected throughout the day - amongst much love, respect and camaraderie.

The Committee wished 'any surplus funds' to be donated to the APF Women's Development Group – as we recognise the freedom that we have to attend meetings and be in the middle of the fellowship – the abundant literature and support we enjoy in our region is not the experience of our sisters in other parts.

Endorsed by NA Southern Area Australia

Attendance = 197

Venue: Annandale Community Centre Hall

Donations made by:

- NA Group Members \$100
- NA Kings Cross Women's Wed \$50
- NA North Sydney Friday night 7pm \$100
- NA Manly Women's Saturday 2pm \$100

Catering provided by Committee & other generous bakers – "high tea"

Surplus funds donated to:

NA WOMENS' DEVELOPMENT GROUP ASIA PACIFIC FORUM \$1393.63 (AUD)

Thank you all for coming along and participating in this wonderful

Celebration of Recovery

NA Women's Gathering (Australia)

Pakistan Fellowship Development

Asia Pacific Forum (APF) has successfully conducted Fellowship Development in Pakistan. APF, especially, Pakistan fellowship put a great effort to create a favorable situation to achieve a very effective and fruitful FD in both the North & South Area of Pakistan.

APF selected a team of resource persons who were basically responsible to carry out all activities of FD and coordinate with the local fellowship. The team consisted of three persons – Sumit D. from Nepal as the focal person along with Ali R., & Ahmad J. from South Pakistan and North Pakistan respectively.



This is the focal person's report;

I left to Pakistan on the evening of 17th March with the mixed feelings of excitement & little bit of nervousness. I landed in Karachi Pakistan on 18th March, 9 am in the morning. I was sleepless and very exhausted but when I received a warm welcome by one local NA member, all my tiredness went away & I felt like being in home away from home.

I, along with Ali R., another resource person attended the ASC meeting that same day. The meeting basically was about the planning of FD and few other regular agendas. I made a meeting of Ujala group in the evening same day. I got the opportunity to share my recovery experience as a speaker in the meeting. I was really humbled to experience the love of the fellowship. Since I had a few days to spend here before the FD, I utilized those days by hanging out with local members. I went to another meeting, saw some of cities. We talked many things about NA, services, problems, challenges & of course solutions.

The day of FD, 23rd March, was really exciting. We had been planning for this day for many months and it was the day. One of the facilitators, Ahmad J. had arrived to Karachi on 22nd from Lahore. I, along with Ahmad J. & Ali R. reached to the venue, Rangoonwalla Hall, Karachi, two hours before the workshop and helped set the workshop hall along with local members.

We had already finalized the topics to cover in the workshop while planning for it. Building Strong Home Group, Working Steps with Sponsor & Leadership in NA Services were our topics for the FD. There were about 70 participants all together in the workshop. We facilitated the sessions in local Urdu language.

Members were happy to have workshop in their own language. The enthusiasm and energy level of members were really remarkable.

There were a few newcomers and couple of members with multiple decades of clean time in the workshop. There was a female member too in the workshop. We shared about home group, the challenges and most common solutions of them. We talked about sponsorship, its importance & maintenance of this relationship too. We also discussed about leadership in NA, its' importance, principles of leadership etc. The workshop went until 9 pm and concluded with delicious Pakistani Biryani as dinner.

I, along with two other resource persons went to Nahtia Gali, 80 km north from capital city Islamabad for conducting another FD in North Pakistan. Nathia Gali is one of the famous tourist destinations of Pakistan. There was Regional Convention of North Pakistan too in Nathia Gali. It was really an amazing place situated at 2000 meters of altitude.

The day of second FD in the North Pakistan came. It was 25th March and we started workshop 8:30am in the morning. There were about 35 participants in the workshop. The topics of the workshop were the same as of South Pakistan. We as facilitators tried to cover all the necessary aspects of those topics as much as possible. Many queries & questions were placed by the participants during the workshop.

The participation was mixed with a good number of old timers to newcomers with few years or/and few months of clean time. Participants expressed their willingness to implement the learning of the workshop back to their home groups and area. The workshop was wrapped up with a clean time countdown.

After some photographs, we had scrumptious Pakistani lunch and shared the love of fellowship with each other.

I left Pakistan on 27th March from Lahore with my heart full of gratitude, lots of learning and a sense of satisfaction that we successfully conducted the FD in Pakistan.

Sumit D - Point Person (Nepal Region)

Website North: <http://www.apfna.org/community/middle-east-nations/pakistan-north-nap/>

Website South: <http://www.apfna.org/community/middle-east-nations/pakistan-south/>

Helpline North: +92.300.4300300

Helpline South: +92.21.300.2150933

Email North: na_pakistan@yahoo.com

Email South: na_sunshine@yahoo.com



Once upon a sweet memory time:

Of course I knew what the APF was. Or, more accurately, I thought I knew because I was on the Board, had worked closely with Ron B and Tom & Tali and had served on a workgroup with Tim. I had heard their reports at the WSC. Through my work I had travelled extensively in China. Through NA I had travelled to India and Nepal. How could I not know? The fact is, we often don't know what we don't know until we come face to face with our ignorance. In 2014 in Manila in the Philippines at the APF I came face to face with the APF I had heard lots and lots about, but did not know at all.

What I *did* know is that the APF was big and growing rapidly, that it hosted the largest single Region in the world and, thus, was home to almost as many recovery addicts as the USA, that it was deeply grounded in mutual love and respect, that it functioned as the NA worldwide connection to many emerging regions, and, I suppose, had I thought about it, I would have known that nowhere else in NA did so many diverse language and culture groups come together in service and fellowship.

What I *did not* know, could not have known, was what it felt like to be—to be in and do service in-such a diverse community that quite literally had to rely on the empathetic addict-to-addict connection that lies at the heart of our recovery community. Maybe everyone in the room did not actually fully love everyone else in the room. Maybe there was politics and pettiness and resentments. Definitely, definitely there were moments of misunderstanding and confusion. How could there not be with so many people from such diverse communities with such different histories and experiences. But, at the core, at the heart, there was a commitment to working together to share the message of recovery.

What I learned—the 'take away' as it is often called- is that no matter what the challenges an NA community, service community, faces, when there is addict-to-addict connection, when there is a commitment to share the message, when that commitment is fueled by love and hope, anything—truly anything—is possible.

Thanks APF for this opportunity to serve with you and to learn from you.

Mukam H - (USA)

Clean Time Dates



June

05 June 1991	Tim S	Australia
08 June 1992	Sharon "Muk" H	USA
09 June 1995	Ronnie V	Philippines
18 June 2006	Xueli	China
21 June 1994	Irfan	Pakistan
21 June 1979	Phyllis S	Hawai'i
25 June 1990	Deb F	Aotearoa NZ

July

4th July 2001	Reza A	Bangladesh
25 July 2008	Choney	Bhutan

August

24 August 2002	Noel "Nam" M	New York City
25 August 2004	Sharon K	Aotearoa NZ

September

01 September 2002	Pankaj G	Nepal - RD
01 September 2002	David T	Australia - RD
10 September 2012	Ahmad J	Pakistan (North Region)
12 September 2003	Dondee N	Luzon Area - Philippines
22 September 2013	Zaiman S	Singapore
26 September 2007	Mohit A	Bangladesh

Upcoming Events

Japan

2018 June 22nd (Fri) to 24th (Sun) " June 21st (Thu) is Pre-night DJ Party "

NAGOYA is center of Japan where is between Tokyo and Osaka Very lively big-city in Japan. You can do a Pre-registration from Feb 1st!



JRCNA14 in NAGOYA

Pokhara Nepal



Philippines



EDM Convention & Conference 27~29 July 2018



WCNA 37 – The Magic Is *Still* Real



30 August through 2 September 2018
Orlando, FL, USA

India

Banglore Area Convention of Narcotics Anonymous-8

WINNING EQUATION
BLACNA 8
BANGALORE, INDIA

27TH 28TH 29TH SEPTEMBER 2018

VENUE: BYKES OLD ANCHOR, CAVELOSSIM, GOA

For Registrations, Contact Benny : +91 98453 10070
Email: blacna.convention@gmail.com
Website: www.blacna8.org

Auckland



The poster for the 'IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS' REGIONAL CONVENTION is set against a yellow background. At the top left is the NA logo. The title is in large, bold, red letters. Below the title, the text 'NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND' is written in smaller red letters. The central image is split into two panels: the left panel shows a tropical beach with palm trees and the ocean, while the right panel shows a traditional Maori meeting house (hauora) with a red and white facade. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the registration information in red text.

'IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS'
REGIONAL CONVENTION
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

REGISTER NOW
www.inallouraffairs.nz

19 - 21 OCTOBER 2018
WAITANGI, BAY OF ISLANDS

Hawai'i

25-28 October 2018

