



*United States Service Committee*  
*Of Narcotics Anonymous (USSC)*  
*Newsletter*

ISSUE 9 April, 2014

**CONFERENCE CALL MEETING SCHEDULE (update 3/8/2014)**

<b>TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>PUBLIC INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>BUDGET &amp; FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE</b>
Phone # 559-726-1300 Access Code 877259#	Phone # 559-726-1300 Access code 586963#	Phone # 530-881-1400 Access Code 868308#
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month
10:00 PM Eastern	9:00 PM Eastern	9:30 AM Eastern
9:00 PM Central	8:00 PM Central	8:30 AM Central
8:00 PM Mountain	7:00 PM Mountain	7:30 AM Mountain
7:00 PM Pacific	6:00 PM Pacific	6:30 AM Pacific
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>GUARDIAN COMMITTEE</b>	<b>OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE</b>
Phone # 209-647-1600 Access Code 968584#	Phone # 209-647-1600 Access code 879096#	559-726-1300 Access code 268565#
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month	April 5 ,2014 @ noon EST	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month
9:30 PM Eastern	12:00 PM Eastern	9:30 PM Eastern
8:30 PM Central	11:00 AM Central	8:30 PM Central
7:30 PM Mountain	10:00 AM Mountain	7:30 PM Mountain
6:30 PM Pacific	9:00 AM Pacific	6:30 PM Pacific
<b>ADDITIONAL NEEDS SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>HOSPITALS &amp; INSTITUTION SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>CONFERENCE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE</b>
Phone # 805-399-1200 Access Code 108418#	Phone # 209-647-1600 Access Code 442279#	Phone # 559-726-1300 Access Code 907861#
Last Wednesday of April	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month	4 <sup>TH</sup> Wednesday of the month
8:00 PM Eastern	9:00 PM Eastern	8:00 PM Eastern
7:00 PM Central	8:00 PM Central	7:00 PM Central
6:00 PM Mountain	7:00 PM Mountain	6:00 PM Mountain
5:00 PM Pacific	6:00 PM Pacific	5:00 PM Pacific
<b>SERVICE MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT &amp; DISTRIBUTION SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>USNSB Quarterly Meeting</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month Phone: 209-647-1600 Access code: 537933#	Saturday, May. 3, 2014 Phone # 209-647-1600 Access Code 968584#	
9:30 PM Eastern	1:00 PM Eastern	
8:30 PM Central	12:00 PM Central	
7:30 PM Mountain	11:00 AM Mountain	
6:30 PM Pacific	10:00 AM Pacific	

## Sub Committee News

### Hospitals and Institutions

Greetings! We want to share a recent email from an NA member in the North East:

Dear USSCNA H&I Subcommittee:

We are soooo grateful for your help! My husband and I ran up against a brick wall trying to get NA literature – the Basic Text, It Works, How and Why, the Just For Today, and the Living Clean Book – to him into the maximum security prison, which only allows soft covered books with a plastic binding. Because this facility, as do many across the country, has rules that require that books to inmates come directly from a publishing house, I did not get answers or action from my Area or Regional subcommittee H&I trusted servants that brought results! Thanks to you, an addict now has the literature he needs to refer to and to start an NA meeting in prison. I can't thank you enough for making the primary purpose of our message supersede the red tape and run around!

USSC ROCKS!!! We are so grateful for God, NA and NA Members like you!

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### Public Information

A good deal of work was done to finalize the updates to a Service Guide called "A Guide to Phonenumber Service" that has been out of circulation for quite a while in NA. Thanks to help from an Area Subcommittee, a new chapter was added that covers from A-Z; how to convert from a live phone line to an automated service that is fully functional and generally saves considerable money. The Draft Copy for review of this guide has been posted to the Forum Section of the USSCNA website. Work on a PowerPoint companion piece for this Service Guide is in the works.

Also on the Forum section of the USSC website is a *revised* draft of the brochure "What is the USSCNA – the Basics. Motions for approval of both of these pieces have been submitted.

We welcome input, questions, and suggestions from any groups from around the country interested in helping to develop a National platform, and hearing from other groups about what's working and what challenges you face locally in the area of Public Information.

We need support and someone interested in becoming Vice Chair of this Subcommittee.

ILS,  
USSC-PI

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## Conference Planning

Greetings from Conference Planning.

Conference Planning has submitted guidelines which are being reviewed prior to asking for fellowship approval at the USSCNA in October.

We are asking, and trying to see what the conscience of all the registered groups is on what you visualize the conference to be. Remember this is your fellowship, and in keeping with the vision and purpose of the USSC we encourage you to send any ideas, concerns, questions regarding the Conference to Conference Planning [cpc@usscna.org](mailto:cpc@usscna.org). We will do our best to consider all replies. We look forward to serving you and hope to see you at the Conference in October.

In service,  
USSC-CP

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## Additional Needs

Hello All!

How many of you are disabled either by vision, hearing or mobility? How many of you have friends that are disabled? We need to hear from you! Too many of you have become silent. Remaining silent about this matter suggests to our NA community that there are few who are disabled and that concerns about accessibility are not necessary!! Each and every member of NA, no matter what their situation, is important to the recovery of all.

Our subcommittee has grown and with growth have come new ideas. We did an experiment on a Face Book page where there are 5000+ members. We put up a poll asking how many groups have accessible meetings and how many do not. Out of 5000+ members, so far only 45 have answered!

Did you know we do have NA literature about Additional Needs? There is Additional Needs IP 26 and a booklet, Additional Needs Resource Information. This information is dated 1998/1999! Do you know how many changes have been made, by law, for accommodation since then? It has been submitted to NA World to update this information. But, we need your help. Since members are not speaking up about their needs, disabled members' barriers are not being addressed.

What would the benefits be to speaking up and letting the membership know about accessibility difficulties? We would attract more new members. Our present members, especially those who have accidents or illness, would be able to continue to attend and contribute to our meetings. Our graying members will be able to attend, giving us that valuable ESH we all need. Additionally, many of the disabled community have the willingness to step up as Trusted Servants.

What do we need from you, the members of NA, whether you are disabled, a friend of a disabled person or a concerned NA member who wants to insure that Tradition 3 reaches out to every person with a desire not to use drugs? We need to hear your voice. We need to be told about accessibility issues in your meeting and about disabled people facing access challenges or overcoming them, service dogs, topics you wish to be discussed....anything!

You can email us at [addneed@usscna.org](mailto:addneed@usscna.org). Or you can attend the next phone line meeting. The silence on this is loud. Please help us to help you.

Our meeting time has changed. Our next Additional Needs meeting is Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm EST. Conference Call Phone 805 399 1200. Access code 108418.

Thank you for allowing us to serve,

USSCNA Additional Needs Subcommittee

<http://naphonemeetings.blogspot.com/p/contact-us.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/NAphonemeetings>

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## Outreach

A formalized procedure for newly registered USSC groups to receive a “Welcome Letter” is being finalized for approval at the next Conference (October 2014). The “Welcome Letter” is the starting point for the group representative to make the connection with other groups and will start building the back and forth communication process. The “Welcome Letter” also helps clarify the National Subcommittee purpose of Outreach which involves breaking down the isolation that groups and service bodies may experience. Outreach is the linchpin between the groups and the fellowship because it gives groups a place to talk, exchange ideas and find solutions to their issues, which can then be implemented as they see fit. Outreach is the accumulation of issues concerning the voice of groups and getting that information to subcommittee service bodies.

On a recent Outreach Subcommittee call, a member from an unseated region was asking how their groups would or would not have a voice in the USSC structure. We answered his questions and concerns. The main response to how to have a voice in the USSC starts by becoming a registered group. The USSC as a service body does what the registered groups direct it to do. Along with that, anyone with a desire to serve on any of the standing subcommittees need only get on a phone call and that specific subcommittee will walk them through the process of becoming involved. All the subcommittee conference call information is on the first page of this newsletter and can be found on the [usscna.org](http://usscna.org) site. Anyone who has questions or concerns can either send an email request/question to the appropriate subcommittee or better yet get on the conference call and get the answer directly from the source, while plenty of people think they know what the USSC/USSCNA is, most don't or have old/misinformed “data”. If I want information about plumbing, I will ask a plumber not a data entry specialist that googled plumbing, hence if anyone knows what the USSC is, it's the USSC Subcommittees. In closing, I would like to remind everyone that there is only one stupid question – it's the one you don't ask!

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## Technology

We now have 133 groups currently registered. The map has been updated. There was a motion submitted for fellowship approval at *USSCNA III – Oct. 2014* to amend the current newsletter policy (Item E.) from electronic distribution “every other month” to: “quarterly distribution”, starting January 2015. Approval of this motion would allow time to solicit and include more in depth articles for publication in upcoming issues.

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### ASK THE COMMITTEE:

We would like to share an email with you written by a member of our fellowship.

Thank you for your interest in the USSCNA. I recently received your email. I appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions/concerns. Your questions/concerns are in bold print.

**“I'm just myself, trying to understand what the USSCNA is...but already I am seeing what appears to be some crazy misinformation. How do I address those that claim that USSCNA is trying to replace NAWS? Or that they can only get information by 'registering' their group, which in turn means the USSCNA has 'taken their groups vote' although they don't seem to have any idea what you've stolen the vote for....HELP!”**

Our basic text states: “we were misinformed by misinformed people.” This appropriately appears to be the case in this situation. USSCNA website information and resources is open to all those who are interested in the USSCNA. By registering, each group is given a voice, and the USSCNA a means to communicate more directly with member groups across the United States. *The voice of far too many groups in the United States Fellowship is not being heard!*

The USSCNA is dedicated to upholding the principles contained in the 12 Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous. Group conscience is the foundation of NA. Registration with, and participation in the USSCNA will bring group conscience back to the forefront in the United States fellowship of NA, and possibly even the rest of the worldwide fellowship. Please take the opportunity to visit our website: [www.usscna.org](http://www.usscna.org). If you have further questions please feel free to contact us at [info@usscna.org](mailto:info@usscna.org). Again, I would like to personally thank you for your interest in the USSCNA.

In Loving Service,  
USSC Administrative Chairperson

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## INTERVIEW WITH C.A.N.A. VICECHAIRPERSON

**Newsletter (NL):** We were prompted to contact you after we received an email from a member in Edmonton, Canada in support of our efforts as a young national service body. The USSCNA looks to CANA in the same way that “France looked at the American experience in setting up a republic”. The USSCNA wants to hear the perspective of our more experienced counterpart!

**Vice Chair, Canadian Forum (VC):** We would consider ourselves a zonal forum. We are in a unique position because one of the things that we face here is the geographical expanse. Our country is so huge but isolated geographically. We now serve those isolated groups because World Service can't take on those issues. We also have two national languages and all the literature has to be translated to French. World service's is overwhelmed with projects, so we are implementing what we can do ourselves.

We are very aware of where we fit in the service structure- since there is no spot for us in the service structure we don't try to sway people about what to do. While some members don't understand what we do - once we get the information out then ultimately the members understand. The CANA body is made up of the Regions in Canada, so all of our initiatives are driven by the Canadian fellowship. Quebec split into 2 regions, and one of them joined the European Forum because they were involved with French translations. They are back at the table now since that project has finished. We've always had support from regions “Who is missing from our meetings” identified the Inuit communities on our priority focus. Then there are considered Fellowship Development workgroups - Reaching out to medical health care professionals. FD does all the workshops to professionals, for example the National Council on Addiction, all the PI stuff – and Outreach. PI is the resource to provide members with workshops. CANA has consciously side-stepped the SSP issue and chose to blend the Guide to Local Service with our needs.

**NL:** Having read the origins of CANA on the history page of your website, [www.canaacna.org](http://www.canaacna.org), we wanted to understand more of the backstory that prompted the split from World Services and the opening of the World Services office in Canada.

**VC:** The world office is just a literature depot. Fellowship Development wasn't really around back then, but some of the areas that are geographically isolated are set up into a pool where Canada draws members who can travel to isolated members. We use a pool. We are solely funded by contributions from the regions, who are the biggest funders. There is no prudent reserve. Budgets projections are set up by work groups. Current workgroups are: Translations, 800 Number, Policy, PR, and Strategic Plan. These workgroups are prioritized based on what regions are telling us. The budgets are set. Our national budget is about \$60,000 yearly. Money is set aside for a yearly convention. National members also pledge to work the convention. There are six member regions.

**NL:** How would you describe the process that CANA uses to conscience groups and develop and prioritize projects?

**VC:** Our biggest issue is getting the info to the members. We're still working on developing our website to accomplish this. Getting information and staying connected is one of my personal reasons for getting back involved into service after a number of years. I've moved from a city where we could pick and choose meetings to Manitoba where there is no NA. We try to get people working yearly on these projects and the Canadian RDs caucus before they meet at the World Service Conference. During the year we use technology and calls to do workgroup monitoring. We utilize Skype for group discussions. Then we make sure that the info gets updated and then we have time lines. The Regional Delegate will report on what kind of workshops the fellowship wants. We do struggle with the process of getting the info out. Our current workgroups are 1-800 number workgroup CANA, attendance at professional events. The point person is the fellowship development person. Some medical professional events are expensive and financial resources are given for member attendance. Our current priorities are Guidelines workgroup, National Insurance Quote, Public Service Announcement Project, Workshops for Professionals, and Translations to make sure that the language is correct.

**NL:** How would you describe the best way for USSC members to understand what CANA does?

**VC:** Why doesn't your admin committee send should send a bunch of guys to Canada? – It's like experiencing a convention for the first time clean. It's hard to describe but memorable in experience. .Our next CANA conference is Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Sept 23, 24, 25, 26 for Canadian assembly meeting from 8am to 11pm.

## Help Wanted

### Administrative Committee

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month  
9:30 am EDT  
Phone: 530-881-1400  
Access Code: 868308#

**Need Alt Secretary and Alt Treasurer**

### Budget and Finance

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.  
9:30 pm EDT  
Phone: 209-647-1600  
Access Code: 968584#

**Need members**

### **Additional Needs**

Meets Last Wednesday of April  
2:00 pm EDT  
Phone: 805-399-1200  
Access Code: 108418#  
**Need Chair, Secretary, members**

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### **Conference Planning**

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month  
8:00 pm EDT  
Phone: 559-726-1300  
Access Code: 907861#  
**Need Secretary and members**

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### **Hospitals and Institutions**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
9:00 pm EDT  
Phone: 209-647-1600  
Access Code: 442279#  
**Need members**

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### **Outreach**

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
9:30 pm EDT  
Phone: 559-726-1300  
Access Code: 268565#  
**Need Vice- Chair and members**

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### **Public Information**

Meets 1st Sunday  
9:00 pm EDT  
Phone: 559-726-1300  
Access Code: 586963#  
**Need Vice chair and members**

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### **Service Material Development and Distribution**

Meets 4th Thursday  
9:30 pm EDT  
Phone: 209-647-1600  
Access Code 537933#  
**Need members**

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### **Technology**

Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Monday  
10:00 pm EDT  
Phone: 559-726-1300  
Access Code: 877259#  
**Need Vice Chair, members**

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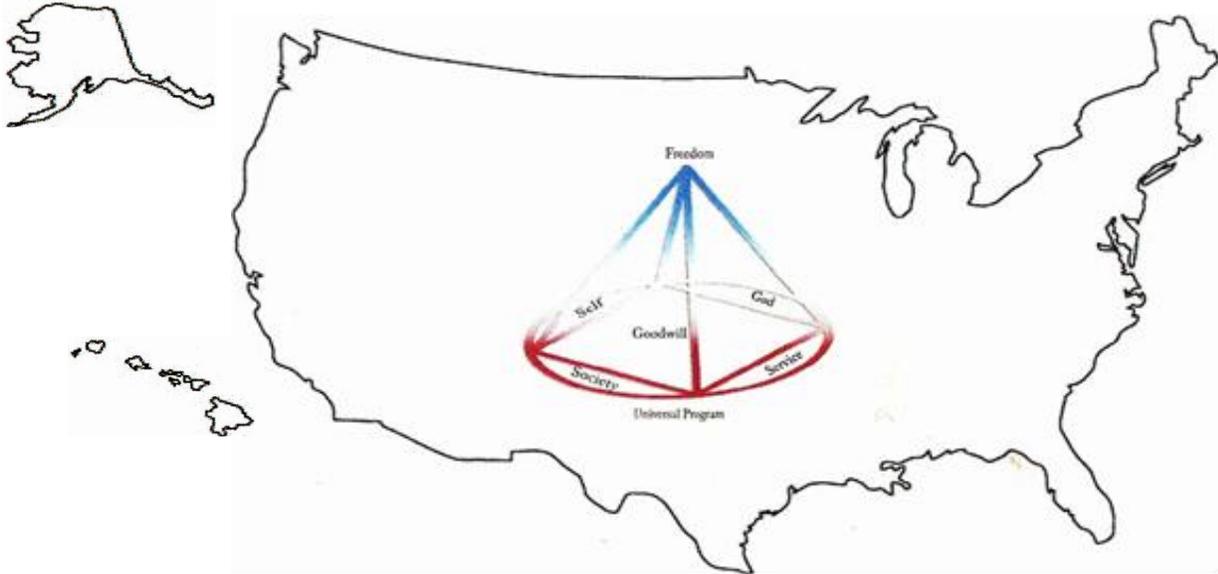
Positions are also open in the **Guardian Committee**. Resume and Nomination forms can be found on the website at the bottom of every page. Send all forms in to our PO Box: USSCNA  
PO Box 8378  
Rockford, IL 61126

Visit our website  
<http://www.usscna.org/>



*United States Service Conference  
of Narcotics Anonymous - III  
(USSCNA-III)*

October 3 – 4, 2014



*Let every group's conscience be heard*

***Clarion Hotel Greensboro***

*415 South Swing Road, Greensboro, NC 27409*

***More Information coming soon.***

***Contact: Betsy B. 336.707.7317 ~Cobey C. 913. 568.4033***

## USSC Registered Groups



\*133 Registered Groups

\* Updated April 7, 2014