

CAR/CAT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the CAR?

A: The CAR (Conference Agenda Report) is a compilation of motions that have been brought before Narcotics Anonymous (“NA”), at the world level, during a World Service Conference (“WSC”). They are one of the ways NA World Services informs the fellowship of NA, all over the world, what is happening, what needs to be discussed, what needs to be voted on, and the future direction of the NA fellowship, worldwide, as a whole.

Q: Why do we need the CAR?

A: Just as we have motions and business meetings at group levels, area levels and regional levels we also have them at the world level. They are voted on at the WSC, once every two years, by delegates from each region in the world. The CAR is made in preparation for these World Service Conferences. Motions can be made by regions or the World Board, with motions made by regions often involving issues important to the region, and World Board motions important to the entire world wide fellowship. Because these motions affect NA as a whole, and impact NA members all around the world, the delegates from the regions are directed to vote based upon the consensus of the region itself.

Q: What’s in the CAR?

A: Items that typically are included in the CAR would be motions to accept the previous WSC minutes, motions on processes to be used during the upcoming WSC, motions made by various NA Regions around the world, reports, proposals, motions from the World Board and amendments to existing CAR motions. During a CAR-related “Discussion and Decisions” session, at the WSC, motions contained in the CAR (and any amendments to those motions) are carefully discussed and considered.

Q: What is the CAT?

A: The CAT is one of three different types of approval tracks for NA literature and service material (the other two being the Fellowship-Approval Track, and the World Board-Approval Track. For more information, see this PDF entitled “History of the Board-Approval Track” (https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/service/Board_Approval_Track_History.pdf), and/or the current version of the GWSNA (https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/handbooks/2020-2023%20Draft%20GWSNA_May22.pdf)

Q: What types of NA literature and Service Materials would be covered by the CAT?

A: Examples of literature covered in the CAT would include Handbooks (i.e. “Public Relations Handbook”), Service manuals (i.e. “A Guide to World Services”), and Information Pamphlets (i.e. IP #12 The Triangle of Self-Obsession). In addition, the CAT would contain a variety of other material, that was not included in the CAR, such as the proposed NAWS Budget, project plans for the upcoming cycle, seating requests, recommendations from the World Board, and other service, or WSC-related material.

Q: Why do we need the CAT if we already have the CAR?

A: Prior to the Year 2000, all service material motions were included in the CAR making it an even more extensive, and complicated, report than it is now. Many groups complained that the CAR was overwhelming and the focus didn’t feel relevant to them. So, in 2000, a new mailing (the CAT) was proposed that would not only include motions on proposed literature, but would also include other items such as the proposed NAWS Budget, project plans for the upcoming cycle, seating requests, recommendations from the World Board, and other service, or WSC-related material.

Q: Why should I care about the CAR or the CAT?

A: You probably already know, or at least have heard, that NA is a “we” program, not an “I” program. This means your input is both needed, **and** very important to the present, and future, of NA worldwide.

In addition, and the World Board said it best: *“There’s a sense of pride when we can see the results of discussions and decisions after reading the CAR. When we see a particular piece of literature on the rack at our meetings and we can say to ourselves, “I voted on that piece,” we feel connected to NA in a way that we may not have felt before. It’s our chance to be part of that “collective expression” our Mission Statement talks about.”*

Q: How do I take part in this whole CAR/CAT process?

A: Each Group has an opportunity to learn about, and vote on, the motions contained within the CAR/CAT. The Group Service Representative (“GSR”) learns about the motions by attending a CAR/CAT workshop. The GSR then holds a meeting with their group (suggested as a separate one from the business or regular meeting) to explain the motions and conduct voting.

Q: How are votes reported?

A: At their local Area Service Committee (ASC) meeting, the GSR gives the Regional Committee Member (RCM) their Group’s votes. The RCM brings votes to the regional meeting where they will upload them with the help of the secretary team. Or the Group can place their votes online at <https://naflorida.org/gsr>. Then the delegate team (“RD /AD”) at the Regional Service Committee (RSC) meeting reviews the votes and reports the outcome to the regional body. The delegate team then carries the votes from the Region and presents them at the WSC.

Q: What is the FIPT?

A: FIPT (Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust) is the legal document that outlines (in detail) the relationship between Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and the Fellowship as a whole. Basically, NAWS holds the copyrights to the Fellowship's property (recovery literature, the service symbol, the NA symbol, and the original group logo) on behalf of the Fellowship. NAWS is accountable to the Fellowship through elected delegates and ultimately the registered groups of Narcotics Anonymous.

Sources:

http://www.westernqueensna.org/pdf/service/carreport_info.pdf

https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/servicemat/Board_Approval_Track_History.pdf

http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/handbooks/2020-2023_Draft_GWSNA_Oct21.pdf

<https://www.na.org/?ID=legal-fiptfaq#:~:text=1.-,What%20is%20the%20Fellowship%20Intellectual%20Property%20Trust%3F,the%20Fellowship%20as%20a%20whole.>

Glossary of Terms

CAR – Conference Agenda Report

CAT – Conference Approval Track

FIPT – Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust

GSR – Group Service Representative

RCM – Regional Committee Member

WSC – World Service Conference

RD – Regional Delight

AD – Alt-Delight