

A Guide to World Services in NA, Conference Cycle 2006–2008 Edition
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Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants

1. A new region is eligible to apply for recognition as a conference participant after having functioned as a service body for at least three years. For regions forming out of an already existing region, the newly formed region has to have functioned as a separate body for at least three years.
2. New regions should conform to established geographic boundaries, equivalent to state, territorial, provincial, or national boundaries, unless there are certain conditions to the contrary. A region forming out of an already existing region may be seated at the conference by demonstrating that it meets the specific conditions that necessitate separation. From time to time, local service delivery needs arise in existing regions that result in the establishment of multiple regions. These circumstances should be reserved for situations caused as a result of large NA populations, great geographic distances, or such diversity of language or custom so as to impede effective, direct communication between the service committee and the fellowship.
3. A region that meets these criteria may then initiate its request to be recognized as a conference participant by submitting a letter of intent to the World Board not less than one year before a World Service Conference.
4. Upon receiving notification from the region, the World Board will request that the region provide information on the current and past history of the service delivery within the region. The board will inform the region of the type of information that should be submitted.
5. If the region is forming out of an already existing region, the new region should also provide information as to the nature of the extraordinary circumstances that precipitated the formation of the new region, and summarize the consideration and decision-making processes used to create the new region. This statement should also address what special circumstances exist that would preclude the new region from continuing to have its voice heard at the conference by simply participating in some form of shared services (regional assemblies, workshops, or any form of participation in collecting group conscience) with the old region.
6. All regions will also be asked to answer questions such as:
 - Why do you want to become a conference participant?
 - Do you believe that the voice of your NA community is not currently being heard at the WSC? If so, why?
 - Do you believe your community has enough NA service and recovery experience to be a positive contributor to the global decision-making process for the fellowship? If so, explain how.

- Will participation at the conference affect your local NA community? If so, how?
- Do you believe that your region adds a voice or a value to the conference that does not exist in the current conference body?

7. The World Board reviews the information provided using a group of conference participants—World Board members and regional delegates—as a workgroup, who are involved throughout this process, while working directly with the region to obtain any further information. Interactions among the board, its workgroup, and the region may continue until the board is satisfied that it has collected all of the information needed. The board, with the assistance of the workgroup involved, will produce a final report with recommendations for the upcoming conference. The requesting region will see the report before it is distributed to conference participants and may include any additional information it believes is relevant for the conference to consider. A report of the information will then be distributed to conference participants prior to the WSC. Due to the complex nature of regional development, each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, rather than through some arbitrary criteria that establish minimum size and structure of regions in order to address local service issues.

8. Upon the presentation of information to the WSC, the conference will consider the request. Formal recognition as a conference participant requires a two-thirds vote of approval by the conference. There is no need for the region to be present at the conference at which their request is being considered, and funding for attendance will not be provided.

9. The addition of the new region will take effect upon the close of the World Service Conference at which its application is approved. Upon approval, the newly recognized region's delegate is automatically funded to the next WSC.

2008 Conference Agenda Report
World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous

Moratorium on WSC seating (recommendations for seating will be included in CAT material, as usual, along with all requests that we received): In addition to recommendations for seating, which are included in the CAT material as a matter of course, we will be including a recommendation for a moratorium on the seating of regions that have formed from a split as well as a moratorium on the use of a workgroup to make seating recommendations to the board until 2012. We have reported on our challenges with WSC seating at length for more than a conference cycle, and the actions at WSC 2006 reflect the limitations of our seating policy. To put it briefly, the conference made a number of decisions about seating that were contrary to the "letter of the law" as written in our policy.

The seating criteria do not address the desire to stem the growth of US regions seated at the conference or regions formed from an already existing location (these regions form to better meet local service needs, but could have their voice represented at the conference in a different way, perhaps by an existing seated region). In addition, the criteria do not allow the workgroup to evaluate the applications in any way other than by applying the criteria like a template to each case.

We know we need to have more discussions on this subject, and we anticipate having a proposal for the conference to discuss in 2012. In the meantime, were the moratorium to be adopted, new regions forming in developing communities (those not forming from a split) could still be seated at the conference. For more information, see future conference reporting. The Conference Approval Track material will contain more specifics, and the March *Conference Report* may also include more on the subject of WSC seating.