



Webservant Report

Connecticut Region of Narcotics Anonymous

www.ctna.org

October 24, 2008

Web Pages

Reference page was updated to include a map of CT areas. This map is for reference only – NA groups choose which area to belong to.

The schedule page has been updated for those with vision impairments, using screen readers. There is now a pdf version of the schedule that is searchable by town, this is only a temporary solution until we are able to implement the changes suggested by the ad-hoc committee.

The phone line information has been posted on each page throughout the site. Regional positions out to the fellowship are on all pages throughout the site except for the schedule pages, due to the use of a separate template. I hope to be able to use the same template for the entire site after our schedule has been reformatted. This will allow announcements to be placed site wide without having to edit each page individually.

The newcomers page has finally been completed! www.ctna.org/newcomers.htm

Work has begun on the about this site page.

Meeting Schedule Updates

Town	Meeting
Brookfield	Women's Spiritual Journey
Cheshire	Living the Program
Guilford	New Day New Way
Hamden	Hope Without Dope
Manchester	The Journey Continues
Meriden	Mission Recovery (deletion)
New Britain	Thru the Steps

New Haven	Stepping Up Stepping Up (deletion)
New Haven	Sunday Night Recovery
Westport	NA in Westport (deletion)

Website Statistics

In September our website had 4,947 hits (visits) with an average of 164 visits per day, and 423 pages viewed per day.

Routine Maintenance

Outdated events were deleted. New events were posted. Old flyers were removed from the server. E-mail blacklist updated, spam deleted, e-mails answered.

E-Mail Statistics (September)

Activities (In CT)	11
Bulletin Board Events (Outside of CT)	3
Family Support	0
Meeting Information	37
Professional Inquiries	11
Web Servant E-Mail	19
Website Content	6
<u>Total E-Mails</u>	87

I received an email from NAWS for H&I and I have forwarded it.

Ad-Hoc Committee

I will be making a motion to appoint an (acting/temporary) NAWS web contact. For the time being it has been suggested that the webservant be nominated NAWS web contact. In the future, I'm suggesting creating a position "Website/Schedule Coordinator", but we do not yet know exactly what is involved and if this position would be best served as a resource position or a subcommittee position. The ad-hoc committee will make recommendations regarding the possibility of creating a new position after we find out exactly what skills this person will need to have, how we can divide the responsibilities between the Website and the Schedule subcommittee, and what kind of support we could get for a new position. It is possible that the Website/Schedule Coordinator position would only require

knowledge or willingness to learn how to use a spreadsheet and e-mail. We can find out by appointing an initial NAWS web contact and more will be revealed!

Website Committee

We would like to get more people involved with the website committee and transform it from a 2 person job into a committee. There are many things that can be done without any knowledge of html, or programming. In the coming months the alternate webservant, Nicole and I will talk some more about how to get more support and how to structure the website as a "committee". The website currently serves between 150-200 visitors per day, with a total of 315-450 pages viewed per day, and only 2 people maintaining the website and answering e-mail!

Schedule

We are working on creating a printable schedule. I have been working with the printer and GHASC Webservant, Carlos R. The printer will now email a pdf version (proof) of the schedule to us at every printing. Carlos created a printable and searchable (by town) version of the schedule from the proof. The new "eSchedule" that Carlos created is accessible to screen readers. The website committee does not own the software Carlos used to edit the proof. As we find out more about what we can do with the schedule using the database, we will need to consider accessibility options. I will be contacting the Board of Ed Services for the blind to get more information about screen reader technology.

One possible way to make a printable version is from the proof provided by the printer. This method is accessible to screen readers. This doesn't involve too much work, but it requires software. The drawback of this option is that the eSchedule will not include updates since the last printing.

The second method of creating a printable schedule is using the NAWS database, CSS and PHP programming languages. This is a more complex method to learn but dynamic content (PHP) from a database may not be accessible to screen readers - I don't know the exact details yet. Using the NAWS database will enable printing of a list of meetings based on search criteria, but it will not be the same as printing the entire CT schedule. For example a search of meetings within 20 miles of some zip codes will give you meetings in other states. We may be able to configure the database to print all Connecticut meetings, but this still may not be the most practical way to print the entire CT schedule because it could take up 10 or 20 pages.

I will be doing more research to find out the best way to accomplish our goals of having dynamic (synchronized), printable and accessible content. There are more details to be worked out but we do have a temporary solution that is printable, searchable by town, and accessible to screen readers. More will be revealed...

Notes

The alternate webservant, Nicole is doing a great job with the Activities and Bulletin Board pages. I'd like to thank her for her service. She is also the Convention Secretary, so she is very busy and very dedicated!

In Loving Service,
Julie S.
Webservant