



Dear NicA Family,

This past year has been truly memorable. It would not have been possible without the help of a loving Higher Power, and a cadre of senior members pointing the way, providing their “voice of experience” as we moved forward.

The fellowship of Nicotine Anonymous is fortunate indeed to continue to have trusted servants. I would especially like to mention that we owe a special place to our emeritus members who have shown dedication and unselfish service at a remarkable level.

Our Chairperson Emeritus Jan S. has been a true friend and a trusted adviser, leading me this year. Scott B., Treasurer Emeritus, has provided not only service in that position, but multiple year continuity on other accomplishments as well. Often, some of our more memorable accomplishments are the result of multi-year efforts. Likewise, Annette A. and Bill P. have provided both of their experience and expertise, enhancing our work.

As this year commenced with the swearing in of new officers at our World Service Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, our July Board meeting was historic. We held our first “on-line” Board meeting, and the meeting went surprisingly well.

This on-line meeting modality for our World Service Board meetings will provide a large saving on those quarterly airfare expenditures, and also eliminates that jet lag consequence of service commitment to hold office on the NicAWSB (board) no matter where one lives. Again, may I boast, our first on-line Board meeting was an unqualified success!

One of the first problems the new Board had to deal with was the perennial problem of the world wide meeting list. For some time this list had been hopelessly out of date. The solution, of course, ultimately was that we were going to need a better way to contact all our various NicA groups.

Scott B. suggested we might wish to try a “push system” available commercially. And the result has not only been that we are better able to keep in contact with the groups, but also serves in a rather elegant way, to inform members of Nicotine Anonymous bulletins for upcoming events. The world wide meeting list continues to be more accurate with our listings, and the fellowship has benefited by the accessibility to this information. We now have the added advantage of giving members the opportunity to respond and a number of members have taken advantage of this service. Along with Scott, the process could not work without Gwynn A. providing the editing and composition, as well as Dennis K. working on maintaining the meeting list. While the meeting list is still a work in progress, great strides have been made in its accuracy.

Probably the largest task we accomplished over this last year was the hiring of a new Office Manager, which included moving the NicAWSO (world service office). For a number of years Joe S. had been our NicA Office Manager and a true asset to the fellowship, but in January of 2011, Joe stepped down from his position. In early April Joe passed on, and will be greatly missed.

Teresa I. was hired to take the job of world service Office Manager in January so the Board packed and shipped both office and inventory, to Dallas where Teresa opened the new office for business. As transitions go, this was smoother than I dared hope. We were fortunate Teresa's expertise contributed to a relatively seamless transition.

At this point I would be remiss to not mention our financial state, always a consideration to a fellowship such as ours. As you can well imagine, the transition of the Office Manager position involved spending money. The good news of course is that we keep a prudent reserve fund and to date we have been able to finance the demands of both the move and our regular expenses without having to touch that prudent reserve amount in our funds, largely because Teresa, who was also our world service Board Treasurer previously, had shown considerable skill in managing our resources. Now, our members' participation as well as wise stewardship by NicA's Board can insure both our survival and growth supporting members in more comprehensive ways than before.

Another exciting project is also on the verge of folding into our theme to strengthen and improve communication and information via the Web. For some time now the Nicotine Anonymous Website has been aging, and our retiring web servant Dan P. has done an excellent job keeping it running.

With Dan's P. approaching departure as Webmaster, Aimee C. has stepped forward and jumped in, to continue his legacy of service. For the past year we have in effect been blessed with two very competent Webmasters who have been working on our new world service Website. More good news is that at during this April, 2011 NicAWSC (conference), Aimee will share some of the new Website features in order to solicit member feedback. How exciting, and proud we are of their work on our behalf.

All in all, it has been an eventful year. I humbly thank each and every one of you for your granting me this service opportunity as the Chairperson of NicAWSB, and ultimately the vast expanse to my life!

John R.

Active outgoing Chairperson  
of NicA WSB to Chair Emeritus

