



NEW YORK CITY AREA
OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



Disruptive & Violent Behavior Workshop

Come to learn about solutions to behavior that may be affecting you or your group.

There will be interactive sessions and resources made available



Wednesday
July 1st, 2026

Held Virtually
Meeting ID: 824 2194 1926
Passcode: 191146

🕒 08:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST

For more info contact:

areachair@nycna.org or vicechair@nycna.org

www.nycna.org

Welcome to the Workshop

In response to the groups of the New York City Area, the Administrative Body of the New York City Area Service Committee (NYCASC) is hosting this workshop to help each other learn about spiritual solutions to issues facing the groups.

As a service committee, our task is to help our groups fulfill their all-important primary purpose.

This Workshop is open to all interested members of Narcotics Anonymous and those who think they might have a problem with drugs.



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Agenda Topic	Time
Welcome and Introduction	5 minutes
2026 World Service Conference (WSC) Updates	15 minutes
Atmosphere of Recovery	25 minutes
Small Group Breakout Sessions	65 minutes
Closing	10 minutes

Why Are We Here?

Before coming to the Fellowship of NA, we could not manage our own lives. We could not live and enjoy life as other people do. We had to have something different and we thought we had found it in drugs. We placed their use ahead of the welfare of our families, our wives, husbands, and our children. We had to have drugs at all costs. We did many people great harm but most of all we harmed ourselves. Through our inability to accept personal responsibilities we were actually creating our own problems. We seemed to be incapable of facing life on its own terms.

Most of us realized that in our addiction we were slowly committing suicide, but addiction is such a cunning enemy of life that we had lost the power to do anything about it. Many of us ended up in jail or sought help through medicine, religion, and psychiatry. None of these methods was sufficient for us. Our disease always resurfaced or continued to progress until in desperation we sought help from each other in Narcotics Anonymous.

After coming to NA, we realized we were sick people. We suffered from a disease from which there is no known cure. It can, however, be arrested at some point and recovery is then possible.

Reprinted from the Little White Booklet, Narcotics Anonymous.
© 1986 by Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc., PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409
ISBN 0-912075-65-1 10/00

- ✓ Addressing predatory, disruptive, or violent behavior
- ✓ Conventions & Events
- ✓ CBDM
- ✓ Groups
- ✓ Financial, Legal, and RSO
- ✓ Guidelines, Bylaws, etc. (ASC, RSC, & Subcommittees)
- ✓ Miscellaneous
- ✓ NA Logos (Please Read FIPT Bulletins 1 and 3 before downloading files)
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Public Relations (PR/PI, Phonenumber, PSA, H&I, Inmate Step Writing)
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Rural Service Resources
- ✓ Service System
- ✓ Technology
- ✓ Trusted Servant Training & Elections Resources
- ✓ Workshop Resources
- ✓ Local Service Resources in Other Languages (French, Hindi, etc.)

na.org/localresources
resources from local service bodies

**DISRUPTIVE
& VIOLENT
BEHAVIOR**

**SERVIDORES DE CONFIANZA
DEL GRUPO:
FUNCIONES Y
RESPONSABILIDADES**

**COMPORTAMENTI
VIOLENTI E
DESTABILIZZANTI**

**السلوك المعيق
والعنيف**

na.org/sps
Disruptive & Violent Behavior
Service Pamphlet written
in 2007

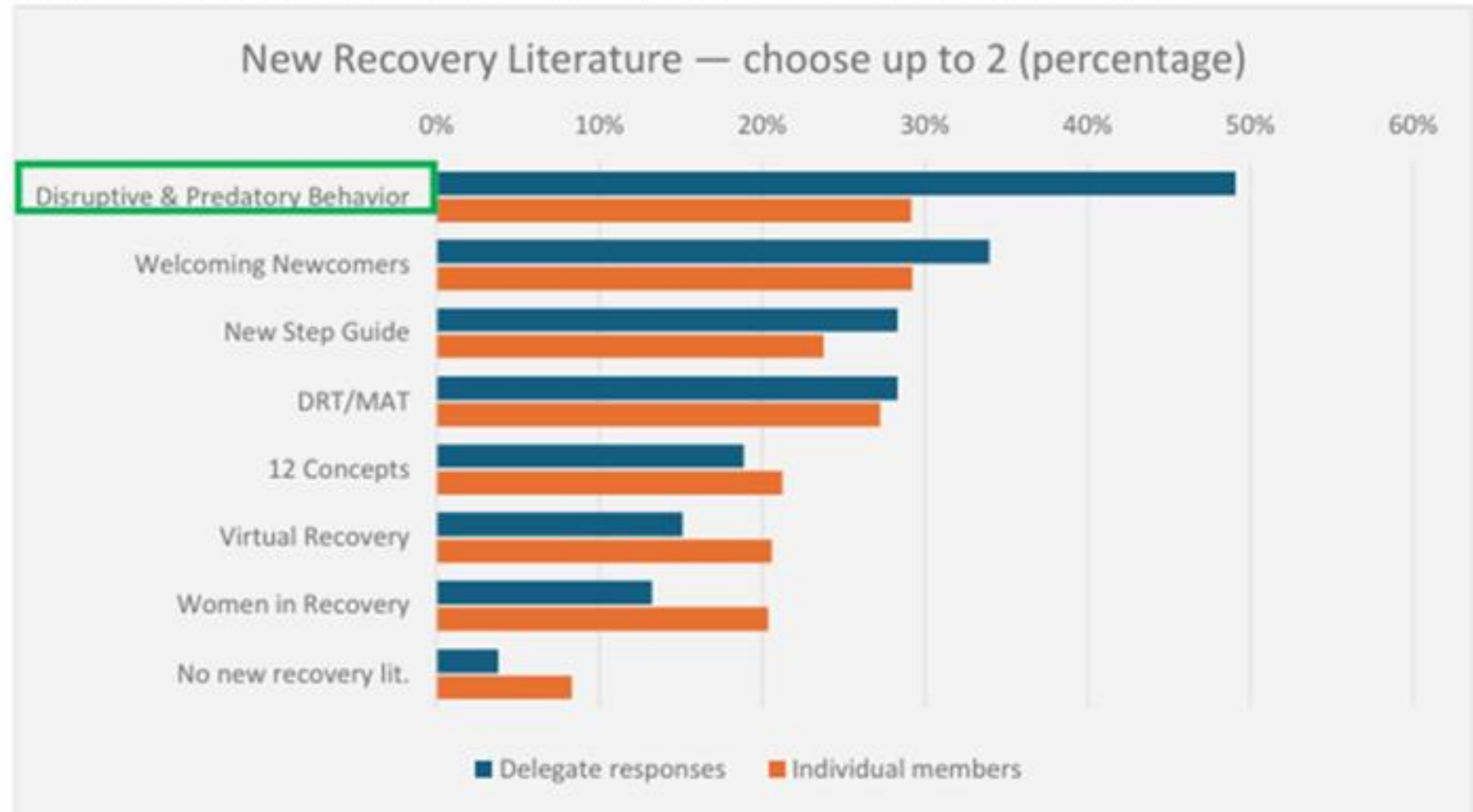
A *new* Disruptive & Predatory Behavior Service Pamphlet has been recommended for prioritization for the new recovery literature based on the Fellowship input.

The Disruptive & Predatory Behavior topic was the clear choice from a Regional Delegates (in blue) and was tied for the top choice among the individual members who completed the CAR survey (in orange).

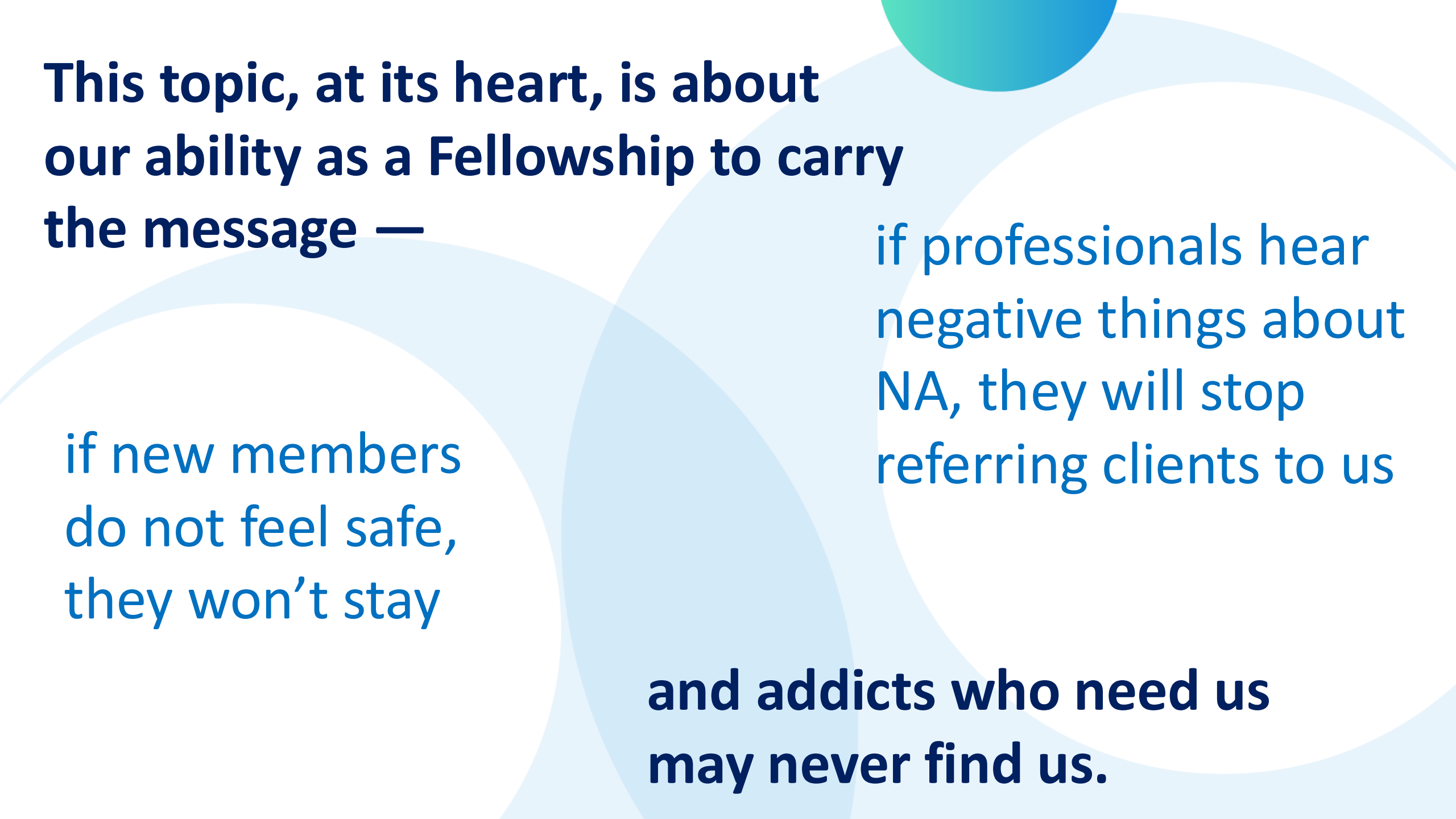
WSC = World Service Conference
CAR = Conference Agenda Report
WB = World Board
RD = Regional Delegate



Note: The board's recommendations for project plans are bracketed in green.



WB Recommended - Disruptive and Predatory Behavior



**This topic, at its heart, is about
our ability as a Fellowship to carry
the message —**

if new members
do not feel safe,
they won't stay

if professionals hear
negative things about
NA, they will stop
referring clients to us

**and addicts who need us
may never find us.**



From
*Living
Clean...*

**“All our lives we had
looked for the peace and
safety we experience in
recovery.”**

*Addressing predatory and
disruptive behavior is part
of how we give it away.*

Atmosphere of Recovery

An atmosphere of recovery is about making sure everyone who needs NA feels safe and welcome.

*Anonymity, sharing, listening, respect,
no judgment, and safety.*

What else characterizes an atmosphere of recovery?



Ideas to increase the atmosphere of recovery:

- leading by example
- welcoming and paying attention to newcomers
- creating a safe meeting environment
- sharing in a way that members can identify
- mentoring trusted servants
- group unity

What else contributes to an atmosphere of recovery?

How do I contribute?

Negative Behaviors

We need to come to a common understanding of the problem before we can seek a solution.

One way to think about disruptive behavior generally is behavior that interferes with the peace, security, and integrity of a meeting and its members



Negative Behaviors

Predatory behavior happens when a member knowingly or unknowingly takes advantage of another member's vulnerability.

- Sometimes blatant, sometimes subtle
- Characterized by manipulation
- Sexual connotation or targets sexuality



Some examples of disruptive, violent and predatory behaviors:

- Bullying/picking on/harassing
- Threatening physical violence
- Racist words or actions
- Homophobic words or actions
- Theft
- Asking members for money
- Private messaging members (virtual)
- Distribution of non-approved literature
- Gossip
- Stalking
- Violating restraining orders
- Use phone to record during meeting
- Loud family members/pets (virtual)
- Disruptive children (in-person)
- Interrupting when member sharing
- Making unwanted sexual advances

Positive Solutions

We should be clear to all addicts:
You are welcome.

*Behavior that harms others or disrupts the
atmosphere of recovery is not welcome.*



*The Group
Booklet*
reminds us

**“Common sense, open minds,
calm discussion, accurate
information, mutual respect,
and healthy personal recovery
enable a group to deal
effectively with almost anything
that comes its way.”**

Positive Solutions

The worst thing we can do for a newcomer is make NA feel like where they came from.

We need to do our best to protect our members, while respecting their right to make their own decisions.

- It can be a fine line between being protective and overbearing
- Am I the right person to offer help?



Disruptions in Virtual Meetings

Sometimes an attendee's bad behavior might be a sign that they really need a meeting!

There are steps we can take to protect the meeting:

- mute or turn off a camera
- restrict screen sharing
- close down the chat feature

There are tools and suggestions
in Virtual Meeting Basics: na.org/basics



Here are some possible solutions:

- Add a paragraph to the group format
- Approach new members and make sure they feel welcome
- Join another member(s) and pull aside the member exhibiting the behavior and try to talk to them
- If someone is violating a protective order, have a couple of people offer to go to another meeting with them
- Turn off camera/put a member in the waiting room (virtual)
- Discuss behavior in a group business meeting
- Chairperson/leader/group secretary can request a short break or ask group to join in a prayer or moment of silence
- Hold a recovery meeting focused on a discussion about atmosphere of recovery
- Discuss with other groups at a local service body meeting
- Approach member in a loving and caring way
- Temporarily suspend meeting
- Call law enforcement



Small Group Discussions

What is our responsibility as members?

**What is our responsibility as groups
and service bodies?**

**Given that, how do we address the
behavior with spiritual principles?**

Breakout Session 1

Instructions:

- Each group has a designated facilitator to help guide you, but the group members will be providing the solutions.
- Each group has been given the same scenario, but they can decide whether to provide a solution for an in-person or virtual (or both) meeting.
The intent is to come together and share the various solutions for the same issue, so please try to stay on topic.

A home group member with significant clean time is jeopardizing the meeting space for the group and/or not adhering to the group policy.

Questions for small groups:

- 1. What is our responsibility as members?**
- 2. What is our responsibility as groups and service bodies?**
- 3. Given that, how do we address the behavior with spiritual principles?**

Breakout Session 2

Instructions:

- Each group has a designated facilitator to help guide you, but the group members will be providing the solutions.
- Each group has been given the same scenario, but they can decide whether to provide a solution for an in-person or virtual (or both) meeting. **The intent is to come together and share the various solutions for the same issue, so please try to stay on topic.**

A person comes to the meeting from time to time with a weapon and/or makes sexual advances/glares during the meeting. What do you do?

Questions for small groups:

- 1. What is our responsibility as members?**
- 2. What is our responsibility as groups and service bodies?**
- 3. Given that, how do we address the behavior with spiritual principles?**

Breakout Session 3

Instructions:

- Each group has a designated facilitator to help guide you, but the group members will be providing the solutions.
- Each group can decide their scenario. **The intent is to help members with specific issues get solutions.**

Group's decision...

Questions for small groups:

1. **What is our responsibility as members?**
2. **What is our responsibility as groups and service bodies?**
3. **Given that, how do we address the behavior with spiritual principles?**

Closing



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NAWS Service Resources:

1. [Disruptive and Violent Behavior Service Pamphlet](#)
2. [Dealing with Disruptive and Predatory Behavior IDT Handout](#)
3. [Virtual Meeting Basics](#)

Locally Developed Service Resources:

1. [Addressing Predatory Behavior 2025 \(locally developed resource\)](#) This pamphlet should be used by members, groups and sub-committees as a resource rather than being read in an NA meeting. This literature was approved by the Western Wayne County Area (Michigan) of Narcotics Anonymous in January of 2024
2. [Safety Statement \(locally developed resource\)](#) This statement was approved by the Western North Carolina Area of NA for the groups in their area to read at their meetings. It supports the groups by directing questions to the service structure if they need help, which is what the area is for, and ideally, promote consistency and unity in messaging.

“By maintaining regular two-way communication between NA groups and the boards and committees serving them, we create an atmosphere of responsibility that serves our fellowship and its primary purpose as well.”

It Works How and Why, page 192.