

## WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

*November, 1990*

**To:** The Fellowship  
**From:** Ed Duquette, Chairperson  
World Service Conference

I hope this report finds you all in good health and spirits. I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your contributions during these past few months. Although the contributions are still less than the 1990-91 budget requires, we appear to be setting a record for contributions received in a single year. Given that many regions have not contributed thus far, I would like to express a special thanks to those who have given their attention to the financial needs of the conference. I will allow the WSC Treasurer to further address our specific situation in his report. I want to focus this report on the changes to the format planned for the annual meeting of the conference.

The mainstays of these changes are the use of parliamentary procedure and the utilization of motion-making as the prime decision-making vehicle. Parliamentary procedure is designed to protect the minority voice. There is, though, an associated unfairness between those participants with a superior knowledge of procedures and the average participant. It makes little sense to base our service decisions on a vehicle that truly only serves those of us who have an above average knowledge of these procedures. In effect, the procedures designed to protect the minority voice at the conference create a minority. Parliamentary procedure hinders our ability to address the complexity of serving a worldwide fellowship today. The conference procedures allow for only minimal debate, unless we entertain motions to extend debate, which often encourages us to become more deeply entrenched in procedure. It is the goal of the WSC Administrative Committee this year to offer alternatives that will lessen the time spent in parliamentary procedure, while making better use of that time.

Conference procedures direct discussions to be geared toward the motion at hand, rather than the broad ramifications of underlying issues. I believe that the conference's inability to adequately address complex issues stems from the fact that we have come to rely on motions as the solution. Unfortunately, we do not live in a two-dimensional world with black and white answers. Complex issues require broad discussion, time to think, and cooperative resolution. We have in the past focused our time and energies on Band-Aid solutions in the form of specific motions, rather than discussing our problems and our needs.

For instance, for many years we have seen motions regarding whether RSRs should be the only voting participants at the annual meeting. Numerous times we have attempted to deal with this issue by offering motions that are specific to that resolve. This issue has to do with philosophical interpretations of our traditions that cannot be resolved simply by reorganizing the voting entities. The issue is a complex one that requires broad discussion, with members on all sides willing to understand the validity of each other's viewpoints. It's not about being wrong or right, it's about being sensitive and responsive to all perspectives in a cooperative manner. All sides have value. However, utilizing our current system of making motions at problems, we have not had that opportunity for thorough discussion.

We have been approaching decision making at the conference in a fashion that perpetuates division of our membership. Those of us who are the "winners" become weary of continual resurrective actions of our unsatisfied members. Eventually we become intolerant, alienate others, and pass judgments on each other's personal recovery. The battle lines form, and before long we begin to attack one another, in the form of motions on the conference floor. In all actuality, the conference has become the battle ground for rivaling factions. As the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous, we cannot afford to be diverted by infighting. We have a responsibility to properly address all the difficult issues facing our fellowship. We are not proposing that the changes in this year's format are "the" answers to all the conference's inadequacies. It is the beginning of a transition in how we are to conduct business at the annual meeting that may take several years to complete.

One significant change will be to begin the process of redirecting the conference's focus from parliamentary procedure to a discussion based format. We are planning various panel presentations as the center of the conference's activities. Each conference committee, the WSO Board, and the Board of Trustees will be preparing a panel of five or six people who will each speak for about five minutes on a variety of topics. The remainder of each two-and-a-half-hour panel presentation will be geared to open discussion and/or questions directed to the panel by the conference population (RSRs and alternate RSRs, trustees, members of the WSO Board, conference committee chairs and vice chairs, and WSO staff). There will be panel presentations by the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service and the Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated Groups. We are also planning panel presentations for discussions of the WSC budget and the ongoing work on the steps and traditions book.

Another significant change has to do with a more efficient use of the business segments of the annual meeting. Following each panel presentation will be business sessions at which motions will be entertained. These sessions will be reserved for "old business" items (items from the *Conference Agenda Report* presented by the WSC Committees, the trustees, and the WSO BOD). It is our belief that these business sessions will be more productive, as most relating discussions would have taken place during the preceding panel presentation sessions.

All items of "new business" (items not identified as "old business" from the above paragraph) will be addressed on Friday, after the new committees/boards have had the opportunity to review them. The "new business" session will be a short one at which the conference can act on those items if it so chooses, but we will encourage the conference to commit those items to the appropriate committee/board for consideration throughout the year. At next year's annual meeting, those "new business" items will become "old business" items for discussion and possible action. This move is to encourage the conference to be a place for discussion of issues, rather than the place where we only vote on motions. The WSC Administrative Committee believes that the committees and boards should be the place where the issues are developed and prepared for the conference to discuss.

Although we will be including regional motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*, as we did last year, we would prefer that regions submit issues to have included in panel presentations. The WSC Administrative Committee will review issues submitted by regions for inclusion in a panel presentation. Should an issue be chosen, the RSR or alternate from the region submitting the issue will be included on a panel to present that topic. **The deadline for submitting regional motions and issues for discussion is December 21, 1990.**

We will be publishing a special January *Fellowship Report*. This publication will include a summary of the WSC 1991 schedule, a description of each panel presentation, including subtopics, and the standard conference reports. We will also include a list of all the issues received from regions, regardless of whether they are to be included in presentation panels.

There is one other item I wish to talk about, and it has to do with my perception of the events that took place at last year's annual meeting, and my reporting of those events in the *Conference Summary Report*. During the Arlington WSC workshop, an RSR approached me concerning my *Conference Summary Report*. He had come to the conference as one of the regions that "held the conference hostage," as I had stated in that report. As a result of his experience at that conference, he explained that he had decided to stop fighting and try to help change the

attitudes of the members in his region. Unfortunately, he explained to me that, as a direct result of my report, he was having a difficult time trying to change these attitudes. The people he was dealing with were discrediting his motives due to his participation in the "hostage taking," as I had reported.

He also told me that he had done some figures on his own that were significantly different than those I had reported. I had stated that 90% of the 156 motions received during the week of the conference were from six regions, and that this was an attempt to set the conference agenda or, in essence, hold the conference hostage. After I returned from Arlington, he sent me the figures he had come up with. I compared them with the figures I had.

The figures I reported were not accurate. Nor were the ones he sent me, though his figures were more accurate than the ones I had reported. I apologize to the fellowship for inaccurate accounting of figures. I do not, though, apologize for the nature of what I had reported to have happened at the conference. That perception was shared by the WSC Administrative Committee, as well as most of the conference leadership.

One thing that this has brought to my attention is that the *Fellowship Report* does have an impact on our membership, and that editorials by the world services leadership must be accurate. It also supports the concept of a publication that reports conference activities in an unbiased format. A publication that would state facts relating to events and activities, free of editorials by the leadership of world services. The WSC Administrative Committee will be presenting this concept to the conference for consideration in April. The idea is not to eliminate the *Fellowship Report*, as the reports from world services have value, but rather to supplement the *Fellowship Report* with an objective and separate publication.

Another thing that has come to my attention as a result of this RSR's concern has to do with the perception of conference activities by the fellowship. It is easy to pass judgment on individuals involved with the conference if you only hear an account of what has transpired, and have not had an opportunity to see these things firsthand. The WSC Administrative Committee will be presenting to the conference the idea of rotating the annual meeting of the WSC around the United States. We are preparing a presentation that suggests moving the meeting every other year, initially using a zone system similar to the plan presented by the WCC a few years ago.

I remain sensitive to the frustrations that this RSR faces. I was once an RSR and had very similar experiences. I hope that the two aforementioned resolutions will begin to resolve some of these frustrations. There is, of course, much more to be done. I would like to thank the individual who brought this matter to my attention. I offer him my support in his efforts. I know this road is not an easy one; I've been there.

*Reminder:* The annual report to the conference from regions will be included in the March edition of the *Fellowship Report*. Reports from regions should be no longer than three pages. Please send your report to the WSO, P. O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409, no later than March 1, 1991.

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To: The Fellowship

From: Tom Rush  
WSC Treasurer

First, I would like to thank all of the regions, areas, groups, individuals, and conventions that have sent in contributions for world services. Contributions are on an upswing. Although they are far short of meeting the expenditures approved at WSC-90, they do appear to be surpassing the amounts received in 1989-90, which has been the largest amount of contributions received so far.

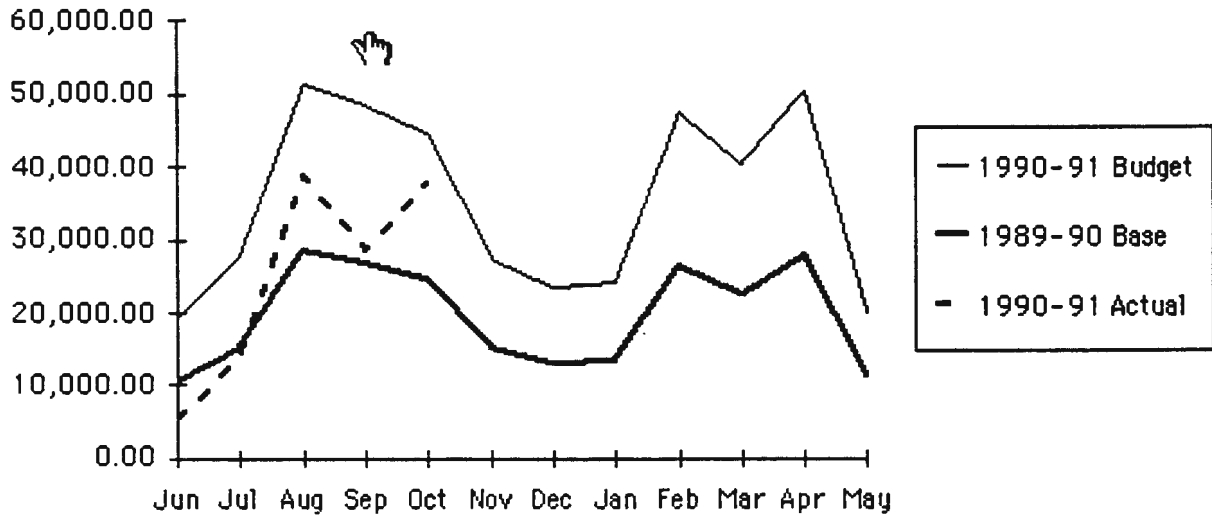
Since my last report, I was able to track down the progress on the *Treasurer's Handbook*. We now have working drafts. We plan to form a smaller developmental committee and receive input and suggestions. We hope that some directors, two current RSRs, one former RSR, and two key members of the WSO staff will agree to participate (the only sure member at this time is me). Since the current working drafts do have some references to our traditions, these documents will be submitted for review by the Board of Trustees. In addition, before the document is finalized, it will be reviewed by our tax attorney. There seem to be some items that are diverting our attention lately, and I don't foresee the book will be ready by WSC-91. It is our goal to have a draft for possible review at WSC-91. Then changes will be made and the draft finalized, prior to and ready for possible approval at WSC-92.

It is my opinion that the key to being fiscally responsible with expenditures during the year is income forecasting. It is this process that determines if projects are curtailed and/or halted. It is the *accuracy* of this process that will determine if we "deficit spend," or if our expenditures will be matched by income. The WSC does not have vast pools of cash, nor do we have a banking "line of credit" from which we can draw cash to even out the "ebb and flow" of contributions and expenditures. We are fortunate that the 1988-89 conference year ended with a surplus of about \$39,000. Last year, 1989-90, about \$20,000 of that surplus was used to meet expenses. Although it is known that contributions are typically at a low level during May, June, and July, this year they were very low and it appeared that we would have to use the \$19,000 reserve. The increase in contributions has made this unnecessary.

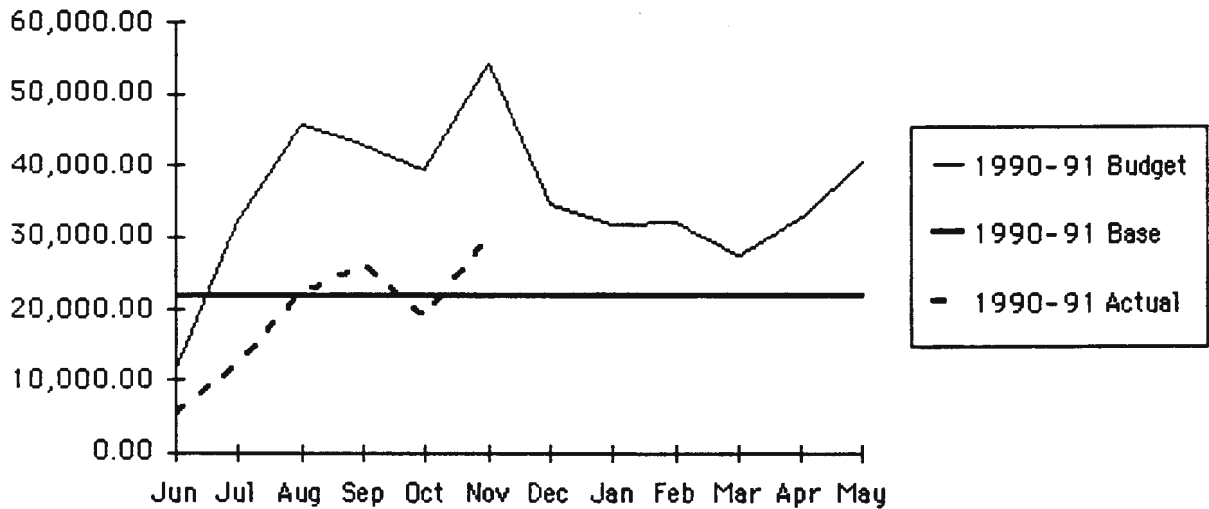
Forecasting and tracking expenditures is an entirely different ball game. There appear to be some more or less fixed expenditures, such as H&I's literature stockpile and *Reaching Out*, at least two meetings of the Board of Trustees and the JAC, the *Conference Agenda Report*, and the World Service Conference. There are also expenditures made in advance, such as some public information non-N.A. event registrations (6 months to a year in advance), contracts with hotels for the "quarterlies" (30-90 days in advance), and this year, due to the threatened air fare increases, we advance-purchased airline tickets, saving about \$4,000-\$5,000. When the income trend was very low, the WSC committees and the Board of Trustees voluntarily delayed some activities and cut others. In addition, the Administrative Committee made some decisions that affected expenditures. At the quarterly in Van Nuys, I heard many members of committees discussing our responsibility to the fellowship, and trying to determine the cost effectiveness of procedures, as well as how to get more "bang for the buck from the basket." This was very encouraging to me, since it seems like we in Narcotics Anonymous don't like to discuss money unless we are criticizing someone for spending it.

I have included the attached tables and graphs to illustrate the above information. As can be seen, the projected expenditures are intended to match the projected income. However, I monitor these trends at least twice each month and revise the forecasts as necessary. Please do not confuse the "Base" with the concepts of "Baseline" and "Optimal" budgets used in the past. In my next report, I plan a short explanation on budgets and budgeting. If there are any questions, please write to me through the WSO or give me a telephone call. However, you probably better have more than a dime. I enjoy discussing N.A.

**WSC INCOME 1990-91**



**WSC EXPENSE 1990-91**



**WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE**

**Oct-90**

**Income**

Month	Total 1986-90	% to Total		1989-90 Base	1990-91 Actual	1990-91 Budget
Jun	33,543.00	4.54%	Jun	10,661.86	5,088.30	19,306.89
Jul	48,052.00	6.51%	Jul	15,273.64	13,462.86	27,658.07
Aug	89,180.00	12.08%	Aug	28,346.45	38,647.06	51,330.77
Sep	84,346.00	11.43%	Sep	26,809.93	28,490.79	48,548.39
Oct	77,401.00	10.49%	Oct	24,602.42	37,784.16	44,550.94
Nov	47,503.00	6.43%	Nov	15,099.14	17,638.97 *	27,342.07
Dec	40,650.00	5.51%	Dec	12,920.87	15,094.29 *	23,397.58
Jan	42,227.00	5.72%	Jan	13,422.13	15,679.87 *	24,305.28
Feb	82,673.00	11.20%	Feb	26,278.16	30,698.41 *	47,585.43
Mar	70,338.00	9.53%	Mar	22,357.40	26,118.14 *	40,485.58
Apr	87,275.00	11.82%	Apr	27,740.93	32,407.24 *	50,234.28
May	35,016.00	4.74%	May	11,130.07	13,002.26 *	20,154.72
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$738,204.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		<b>\$234,643.00</b>	<b>\$274,112.35 *</b>	<b>\$424,900.00</b>
			Jun-Oct	\$105,694.31	\$123,473.17	\$191,395.06
			% of 1989 Base	116.82%	% to Budget	64.51%
				<b>Estimated or Projected= *</b>		

**Expense**

	Average 1988-90	1989-90 Base		1990-91 Actual	1990-91 Base	1990-91 Budget
Jun	9,289.50	21,019.74	Jun	5,657.77	21,780.97	11,600.00
Jul	28,931.50	21,019.74	Jul	12,070.22	21,780.97	31,926.67
Aug	19,999.00	21,019.74	Aug	22,141.45	21,780.97	45,866.67
Sep	16,783.00	21,019.74	Sep	25,957.66	21,780.97	42,866.67
Oct	15,409.00	21,019.74	Oct	18,803.15	21,780.97	39,566.67
Nov	15,325.00	21,019.74	Nov	29,423.83 *	21,780.97	54,226.67
Dec	13,355.00	21,019.74	Dec	26,277.29 *	21,780.97	34,326.67
Jan	16,953.50	21,019.74	Jan	19,498.41 *	21,780.97	31,826.67
Feb	11,313.50	21,019.74	Feb	25,135.68 *	21,780.97	31,963.34
Mar	18,683.00	21,019.74	Mar	21,487.53 *	21,780.97	27,476.67
Apr	14,878.00	21,019.74	Apr	22,241.32 *	21,780.97	32,826.67
May	22,326.00	21,019.74	May	32,677.38 *	21,780.97	40,426.67
	<b>\$203,246.00</b>	<b>\$252,236.84</b>		<b>\$261,371.69 *</b>	<b>\$261,371.69</b>	<b>\$424,900.00</b>
		% of 1989 Base		103.62%	% to Budget	61.51%
				<b>Estimated or Projected= *</b>		

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Pete Cole, Chairperson  
WSC H&I Committee

Greetings. The WSC H&I Committee held a very productive meeting at Van Nuys, California on October 19-21, 1990. Our Treatment Tape and Correctional Tape Ad Hoc Committees were combined in order to streamline their efforts. It was the general consensus of the WSC H&I Committee that the individual ad hoc committees had gone as far as they could independently, and now was the time to combine forces and complete the taping process. The committee will proceed towards taping a panel presentation in a coed facility, for insertion into our handbook.

While on the subject of tapes, the committee would like to request any area or regional H&I subcommittee that regularly holds orientation for panel members, please tape them if possible, and send them to the WSO in c/o the WSO H&I Project Coordinator. We are considering adding this type of activity to the reverse side of the panel tape. We would like to hear how you do it for possible ideas.

Our Guidelines Ad Hoc Committee came up with several recommended changes in our committee guidelines. However, our committee did not feel comfortable in voting on the changes, due to the fact that only half of our voting members were present, and some of the changes would affect the manner in which we select our committee membership. The other change the ad hoc committee came up with was to seek permission from the conference, giving us the ability to change the resource section of our handbook as needed. The resource section consists mainly of letters, tracking forms for literature, etc., and we have several items that need updating, i.e., our handbook was developed and approved prior to the booklet "*Behind The Walls*" being approved, and we feel this needs to be placed in the suggested literature section. We also feel changes were needed in the WSC H&I Pool Nominee Form. Rather than make individual motions to the conference as needed concerning the resource section, we felt it more appropriate to make one blanket motion. All other changes to the handbook would still need conference approval.

Our *Reaching Out* Subscription Ad Hoc Committee has determined during their meetings, a subscription plan is in order for our newsletter. Before everyone gets upset and starts writing the *N.A. Way* and WSO, please read on. As far as WSC H&I is concerned, *Reaching Out* will always be free upon request to any incarcerated addict. Area and regional H&I committees will continue to receive their allotted copies. However, beginning July, 1991, all state, provincial, or federal Department of Corrections, as well as county or city law enforcement agencies, can begin to subscribe to the *Reaching Out* newsletter. Additionally, regional and area H&I subcommittees can subscribe as well, if they choose to supplement their current allotment. The subscription plan will be re-evaluated some time in 1992. All of this is pending presentation to the WSO Board of Directors.

While on the subject of *Reaching Out*, I would like to encourage any area or regional H&I committees who may be holding learning days or workshops to send this information to the WSO H&I Project Coordinator at least three months in advance, and we will publish it in the *Reaching Out*. Also, any stories solicited from an addict in a treatment or correctional setting, as well as reports on learning days or workshops, will be considered. We would especially like to hear from our members outside of the United States.

WSC H&I is embarking on a new project in conjunction with the External Committee of the Board of Trustees. The function of the new WSC H&I Ad Hoc Committee will be to gather and disseminate information from professionals, i.e., wardens, social workers, etc., as their thoughts, ideas, pros and cons in regards to H&I and our image worldwide. We will be developing several questionnaires. One will be geared toward the professional, which will help us discover

exactly what we are lacking in the context of carrying our message, and how we can better fulfill this within the framework of our traditions. The second questionnaire will be directed at area and regional H&I subcommittees to attempt to determine exactly how many H&I presentations and meetings we have at the current time. Other questions will include: How many presentations in 1985? How many addicts are attending? Armed with these facts, we will be better prepared to approach a facility in which we plan to begin an H&I meeting. At this particular time, there are places on this planet where incarcerated addicts are not allowed to hear the message we hear daily. One of the most memorable events I can recall during my tenure with WSC H&I happened during WSC 90 when, through an interpreter, the RSR from Japan stated that members in Japan had been trying, unsuccessfully, to get the message of Narcotics Anonymous into prisons, to no avail. Perhaps if they were armed with the facts of who we are, what we are, and where and how many we are, they may have been more successful. We have asked all of our international members on WSC H&I to serve on this committee. We will be contacting all known H&I subcommittees in the world. If any of you have suggestions for us, please send them to the WSO H&I Project Coordinator.

Other issues were discussed, as well. One of our committee members made a motion to seek permission to get a lower priced Basic Text, Book One paperback, printed by the WSO and sold at a reduced price to H&I subcommittees. The committee determined this was not within our purview, and it is something the fellowship needs to resolve. Other concerns expressed included, why should an addict have a different Basic Text because of his/her physical surroundings? It was also stated this issue would surely come up at the conference anyway.

It was also discussed that the committee needed feedback from regions where pool members reside. We have discovered in the past, regions had complaints about pool members or pool members were not involved in H&I endeavors in their home regions, or they were not accessible to the home region.

The WSC H&I Committee wound up its work on isolated groups and turned over its findings to the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated Meetings/Groups. The WSC H&I Committee strongly feels these meetings are not H&I, as defined in our conference-approved *Hospitals & Institutions Handbook*. We feel it is a fellowship decision on how best to serve these addicts. We wish the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated Meetings/Groups well, and fully support their endeavors.

In closing, I would like to mention, if your region is hosting a multi-regional H&I learning day and you would like our participation, please contact us through the WSO H&I Project Coordinator. In spite of all the above projects, WSC H&I feels its main focus is learning days and workshops. We remain committed to helping carry the message to the addict who still suffers, who cannot attend a regularly scheduled meeting of Narcotics Anonymous.

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To: The Fellowship  
 From: Bryce Sullivan, Chairperson  
 WSC Literature Committee

Greetings from the WSC Literature Committee. Here is a report on the status of each of our literature projects at this half-way point in the 1990-91 conference year.

*The Steps, It Works: How and Why*

The Steps Ad Hoc Committee has met three times since the April World Service Conference. At our second meeting, we met with the staff team that was formed to assist the committee in draft development. During this meeting, the committee and staff discussed the relationship between the ad hoc group and the staff team. The essential point made regarding this



relationship is that the committee maintains full responsibility for the work. The drafts developed by staff, based on discussions and direction from the ad hoc group, are considered recommendations that the ad hoc group considers. The ad hoc committee uses the drafts developed by staff as a basis for further committee discussion and draft revision.

In August, the committee also discussed and established a production schedule for the book's development. This schedule is designed with a review of the committee's second drafts by the WSCLC and Board of Trustees. After evaluating the input from the BOT and WSCLC, the ad hoc group will produce a third draft. The third drafts of each step will be reviewed again at a meeting of the entire WSCLC. At their meetings, the WSC Literature Committee will spend most of three days going over four separate steps (chapters). Following these meetings, the ad hoc group will finalize the drafts based on a sit-down review with the WSCLC. As you can see, the step drafts will be going through quite a strenuous review process prior to being released for fellowship review.

The production schedule for the steps portion of *It Works* calls for all of the step drafts to go through the process outlined above, and then to be released for a fellowship review period. The drafts will be released in a staggered fashion, probably two drafts at a time. We hope to have several step drafts ready for release by the April 1991 WSC. About five months later the next set of drafts will be released, and so on. Staggering these review periods not only saves time in the overall process, but will allow local committees to structure a review that will encourage an equal and thorough review of all the steps. The total length of time that the steps portion of the book will be out for review under this staggered process will equal a one-year review period. The type of input we hope to receive during the review will be conceptual in nature, pertaining to the book's content, rather than line-by-line input on structure or grammar. Input from regional and area literature committees will provide the basis for the development of a final approval draft. It isn't possible to definitely state when this approval draft will be ready for fellowship review and approval. Both the Steps Ad Hoc Committee and the WSC Literature Committee have established ambitious schedules to move the steps book through the process as quickly and responsibly as is possible.

#### *For Those in Treatment*

The committee finished work on the I.P. *For Those in Treatment* during the October committee meeting. We will include this I.P. in the 1991 *Conference Agenda Report*. This pamphlet will have a ninety-day approval period, culminating in a motion to approve the I.P. at the April 1991 WSC.

#### *In Times of Illness*

The committee also worked on the I.P. *In Times of Illness* at the October meeting. This piece has gone through several changes during its development. It is our impression that this piece of literature is intended to offer experience, strength, and hope to the addict who is faced with difficult situations such as taking medication, suffering from a chronic or terminal illness, or an emergency care situation. The WSCLC believes that the section of the pamphlet on terminal or chronic illness needs further expansion. We discussed several areas that we think would improve the overall perspective of this part of the piece. The committee will continue work on this I.P. and hopes to release it as approval form literature at the 1991 WSC. Since the subject matter of *In Times of Illness* is considered by many to be of a sensitive nature, this would allow for a one-year approval period.

#### *Daily Book*

The committee has been gradually increasing its resources to develop a daily book for Narcotics Anonymous. Following our July meeting, a plan was implemented that includes a review panel made up of WSCLC members. This group reviews work developed by members of the WSCLC and WSO staff. The pieces are being developed by using the hundreds of items of input provided by the fellowship over the years. The review panel met during the October meeting to iron out some details of the process. A decision was made to work more slowly for

now, and to wait for the WSC to place this project on the A-list before more substantial resources are devoted to it.

*International literature committees*

The WSCLC has renewed its efforts to better serve non-U.S. and non-English speaking literature committees this year. Language and distance seem to be the primary barriers involved. We discussed this matter in October and will implement two services which we hope will provide improvement in this area. First, since the WSCLC's purpose is to develop literature, not to translate it, our role in translations will be to write literature that is readily translatable. Two newly appointed members of the committee are bilingual and will give much insight to this task. Second, we also plan to mail review and approval literature to international literature committees earlier than it is released to literature committees in the U.S. This will mean sending them literature in manuscript form rather than the usual review or approval style format. Although we realize that this will not eliminate the difficulties that these committees have in reviewing literature, we hope it will be a step in the right direction. We look forward to hearing from any non-U.S. committees for additional ways we can better serve them.

*Literature Assignments*

For the past nine months, many regional and area literature committees have been working on a variety of literature assignments. We sent assignments to over sixty committees, and of that number we have heard back from approximately a third. The deadline for these projects was October, although it was extended for any committee that requested it. WSCLC members assigned to each of the projects receive copies of any work that is returned to us. We will use all of this input to evaluate these projects for further development. This next year is shaping up to be an exciting one for literature committees, since both the traditions and steps work groups plan to release review drafts of their work. Additionally, the I.P. *For Those in Treatment* will be out for approval, and we have one small ongoing evaluation project. Any committees interested in the evaluation project can contact the literature department at the WSO. We would like to commend all the literature committees for their hard work and efforts in assisting the WSCLC to evaluate and develop Narcotics Anonymous literature.

*1991 Conference Agenda Report*

The WSCLC will be presenting three motions in the 1991 *Conference Agenda Report*. One motion will be to approve the pamphlet, *For Those in Treatment*. The second motion will be to adopt the A-list (committee priorities) for the 1991-92 year. We will propose to the WSC that the daily meditation book be placed on the A-list. The third motion will propose that the committee be allowed to modify its guidelines and handbook.

This concludes the highlights of the WSC Literature Committee's work. We would like to thank those of you who answered the call we made for fellowship financial support in our last *Fellowship Report*. As always, if you have any comments or input on any of our work or responsibilities, please contact us.

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Debbie Ott, Chairperson  
WSC Policy Committee

Greetings from the polliwogs of service, the WSC Policy Committee. We had a very productive weekend in Van Nuys, California. The Policy Committee was able to complete its

three main projects for this year. In the *Conference Agenda Report* for action, you will see our new WSC Policy Committee guidelines. We have come to realize that with the current guidelines, the committee membership rotates so often that it is difficult to complete any projects. We also added clean time requirements and put more emphasis on world service experience, in order to more effectively deal with world level policy. Another new item in the guidelines will be asking the conference to fund the membership of the committee, so that people with experience can afford to be members of the committee. We will ask for approval of our new guidelines at the meeting of the conference in April.

Our other two projects (rotation, and seating of new regions) will be included in the *Conference Agenda Report* as proposals for discussion. We hope you will discuss these issues in your regions and areas, so that your RSR will be prepared to give us specific feedback. Both of these proposals were developed after much work and hard discussion. Since these are proposals and not motions, the discussion at the WSC meeting might result in any of three options. Either or both proposals could be completely rejected, and the committee directed to do no more work on them. Or the conference could accept either or both proposals conceptually, giving directions for further work. Finally, if either or both proposals are accepted, a motion may be made for adoption of part or all of the proposal. We as a Policy Committee believe in the new direction the fellowship seems to be guiding us in, with issues discussed first and then motions formulated after hearing input. We hope you will come to the conference with lots of input for us.

The Policy Committee discussed two regional motions brought to us, one from Mountaineer Region and one from New Jersey Region. Both motions concerned voting participation at the WSC. The Policy Committee felt that the WSC has made very clear through votes in previous years how it feels about voting at the conference. We believe it would be redundant to bring these motions to the WSC. By unanimous vote, the WSC Policy Committee decided not to include those motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*. I have written to both regions, explaining the committee's action.

At the meeting in Van Nuys, the committee had three vacancies to fill due to voluntary resignations. George H. was elected to serve, but due to his status as a special worker and his belief that it was a conflict, he declined. We did fill one position, electing Susan V. from the Carolina Region. The other seats were left vacant.

I would like to thank the fellowship for the increase in donations recently. It appears that the Policy Committee will be able to complete its work this year. Thank you for the financial and written support we have received. Keep the cards and letters coming.

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Stephen Ringer, Chairperson  
WSC Public Information Committee

Due to the fact that there are several areas of concern at present, I thought it more appropriate to look at some results of public information work throughout the world of N.A., rather than expound on the number or variety of public information endeavors in which your committee has participated.

We have received several requests from various social institutions for our participation. These include health fairs, mental health conferences, presentations to groups large and small in the judiciary, medical, religious, law enforcement, education and treatment fields, roundtable discussions about addiction or Twelve Step programs with concerned citizens, etc. We also continue to use television and radio PSAs.

Our participation in these events will lead to an increased awareness of N.A. It is the hope of the WSC P.I. Committee that, as awareness increases, we will be forced to maintain some

integrity in our groups and meetings. As we continue to share with people, whether one on one or in a larger setting, how wonderful Narcotics Anonymous is to be a part of and how loving, caring and nurturing is "one addict helping another," we need to make certain that what we are claiming is true.

We invite people to come to a meeting, hoping like hell they don't show up at one where 1) the language is barroom and boorish, or 2) the men are drooling over some newcomer, or 3) the cigarette butts are knee-deep in the carpet, or 4) someone rants for 20 minutes on how their boss is controlling their lives, or 5) perhaps where some members of the dark side are pushing "the illegal text" (or the only truly real text, depending on your politics). Unfortunately, we occasionally hear that N.A. has not matured nor earned the respect of our communities.

I believe the solution lies in our responsibility as individual members. Perhaps we can begin to use our group conscience as it was meant to be used... Taking a group inventory, examining our behavior as members of N.A., and living the principles of the program can all go a long way toward improving and maintaining the positive message of recovery in our rooms.

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To: The Fellowship

From: Reuben Farris, Chairperson  
WSC Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service

Greetings from your ever-active WSC Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service. Since our last report, we have been busy conducting a series of multi-regional workshops across the United States. Following the workshops, we met as a full committee the weekend of October 12-14. Additional meetings are scheduled for November 17-18, December 8-9, and January 12-13, in Van Nuys to consider input, revise final drafts of the Twelve Concepts, and complete the chapter on world services.

The recent workshops held in Philadelphia, Columbus, Seattle, Atlanta, Kansas City, and Los Angeles allowed the committee to present a great deal of information regarding our work, as well as to answer questions, with the hope that the information disseminated would filter back to regional and area discussions. The workshops also allowed the committee to receive ideas and input from the participants. Attendance at these workshops was generally light, averaging 30+ members each at the early workshops and perhaps twice that at the later sites.

The input received at the workshops was recorded on location, and these records have been reviewed by the committee. Since these records contain only the input, and not the replies or discussions of committee members, the committee decided at our most recent meeting not to distribute these records. The package of "presentation notes" and resource materials used by the committee members to conduct the workshops is available upon request.

Input received at the workshops, together with the prior written input received, will be prepared and arranged by staff topically according to the Table of Contents of the *Guide*. The committee decided that the origin of the input would be given no special priority, but rather each individual piece of input would be considered on its own conceptual merit.

Deadlines for receiving input were then discussed. It was acknowledged that input generated from local workshops following our multi-regional workshops could realistically take several months to reach the committee. However, with our commitment to have revised drafts of the Twelve Concepts completed prior to the 1991 conference, and with our remaining meetings scheduled for November, December and January, it became clear that input received after our November meeting may be difficult to factor into our revision drafts. It was pointed out by several committee members that the Twelve Concepts have been out to the fellowship since September 1989, and the remainder of *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* since March 1990.

Given the above considerations, the committee requests that **input on the Twelve Concepts** be sent to the WSO **on or before January 1, 1991** to have any impact at all on the revised drafts to be presented at WSC '91. **Input on the remainder of the Guide** needs to be received **no later than July 1, 1991** in order to be useful to the committee.

Some confusion was expressed regarding the "approval form" of the Twelve Concepts and *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*, scheduled for release in April and September of 1991, respectively. The committee wishes to reiterate its desire not to get locked into thinking of "review" and "approval" drafts as we currently do with literature, with "approval" drafts being "take it or leave it, absolutely no debate" type documents. Because of the nature, scope and impact of our work, we hope to make it clear that the conference has the ability to modify, accept or reject any of our work at any stage of its development.

Discussions then turned to the uncompleted world services section of the *Guide*. Some of our discussions included the purpose, function and composition of various proposed world service bodies, and their relationships to the proposed national entities, as well as with each other. Some committee members held that the new World Service Board of Trustees would be essentially a body holding philosophical discussions, while some members felt that the proposed WSB would have a responsibility to help carry the message worldwide. When the discussions turned to the topic of the functions of a national/world service office, the committee ran into some of the same difficulties it faced in the past. One area was the responsibility of production and sale of literature--is it the function of a national service office or a world service office? Another discussion focused on the concept of "self-support," and the appropriateness of one community subsidizing another. While we had lengthy fruitful discussions, we ended up with some basic questions that we felt the fellowship has not as yet answered.

Some of these basic questions we identified were:

- \* What do we want world services to do?
- \* What "control" is the U.S. fellowship willing to give up?
- \* What financial support is the U.S. fellowship willing to provide to emerging N.A. communities?
- \* What do we all understand as "self-support"?
- \* Should one N.A. community subsidize another?
- \* Is a structural change needed for the WSC, or merely a change in format?

We hope to provide a forum at the 1991 conference to generate some discussions on these and other questions regarding our relationship with each other via the service structure.

At our October meeting, we discussed some of the input given at our workshops on the regional service committee section, and decided on some revisions to this chapter. Some of our discussions centered on the regional assemblies, the need for some regions to have subcommittees, and the specific terminology for trusted servants at the area and regional level.

Regarding the topic of selection of the U.S. national conference delegates, we decided that the seating of delegates by the conference should be along geo-political lines. One option discussed was that each state would have one delegate, and those states that have inordinately large numbers of groups would have more than one conference delegate. The committee further decided that the manner of determining which states would qualify for additional delegates and how many delegates they may be entitled to, would be determined by the conference. Methods of selecting delegates in states with more than one delegate would be determined by each state according to its situation and needs.

We also discussed shared services between various area service committees. This discussion was not limited to areas within major metropolitan areas, but all instances where areas needed to have shared services. We will be making changes in the area service section of the *Guide* to reflect our discussions.

We have our work cut out for us to complete revisions of the Twelve Concepts prior to the 1991 conference, and the entire *Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* prior to September 1991.

With your continued prayers and support, and a little blood, sweat, and tears from the committee members, we should be able to accomplish the task.

Thank you for your continuing support. Keep those cards and letters coming.

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Dave Tynes, Chairperson  
Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated Groups

In my last *Fellowship Report*, I reported that our ad hoc committee was struggling and was unable to accomplish very much during the July quarterly due to scheduling, and the fact that members of our committee are also members of other conference standing committees.

It is my pleasure to report to you that during our meeting in September, this was not the case. Due to the support of the WSC Administrative Committee, we had a second meeting in Van Nuys, California in September, separate from the quarterly meetings.

During this meeting, the committee made substantial progress in completing its agenda. The conference set our agenda by asking us to answer those questions which will be finalized by conference call in early December.

The committee has also drafted two recommendations in answer to question #5 in last year's report from this committee, which basically asked, how does the conference plan to serve the needs of these groups? The committee is recommending the creation of a standing WSC Outreach Committee for a period of two years, at which time the need to continue the committee will be reviewed. The committee is recommending a standing committee as opposed to continuing the ad hoc committee, due to their feeling that this work merits the importance and credibility that is given to a standing committee.

The second recommendation is that a publication geared towards isolated meetings/groups should be created for the purpose of communication between these groups, as a means of sharing their experience with each other.

The committee met briefly during the October quarterly at the request of the JAC. The committee listened to concerns presented by a few members of senior WSO staff and a BOT member regarding our recommendations. The options presented by these members were discussed. However, the ad hoc committee voted to go forward with our original recommendations for the creation of a standing committee and publication for a two-year period.

I'm sure this report will leave you with many questions regarding the particulars of our recommendations. A much more lengthy and in-depth report will appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*, outlining our findings and recommendations in a more detailed manner.

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To: The Fellowship

From: Jack Bernstein, Chairperson  
World Service Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has met only once since the last *Fellowship Report*. We have, however, had a busy couple of months. A great deal of our time and energy has been spent in discussing the issue of the illicit Basic Text. This included a combined meeting with the WSO Board of Directors at our October meeting. During this meeting we also met with one of the principal members involved in the production of this text. We held this meeting in the hope of avoiding legal proceedings by resolving the issue of that person's involvement. An offer was made to the individual, that he has yet to agree to, in order to avoid the legal process. Based on the letters that we have received, there appears to be a misunderstanding of the motivation for the board's support of taking legal action against the individuals involved in the illicit printing and distribution process. First, this is not a financial concern and the issue is not that this text is going to decrease the WSO's income. While this may or may not affect the WSO financially, the BOT's sole concern is the ability of WSO to maintain legal rights to N.A.'s literature. The board is equally concerned with the separation that this issue is causing, as members are feeling compelled to choose sides. The issue of the text is also providing an opportunity to evaluate other issues that need to be considered and discussed by the fellowship. These issues, however, should not be confused with the text, as they are not justification for violating laws. Some of these issues are: Do we want to be a worldwide fellowship? Does the WSC serve as the place where our group conscience is voiced? How much trust should we, as trusted servants, have and how much trust do we actually place in our trusted servants? These issues need to be discussed and agreed upon in order to determine what the fellowship wants from its boards and committees.

We have also been more involved in the hands-on operation of the WSO through an increase in communication with the Board of Directors. There have been several conference calls including members from both boards and the WSC Administrative Committee regarding the proposals on travel, translations, and budget review and utilization. These proposals are almost ready to go to the fellowship for consideration at the WSC.

During our meeting in October, elections were held with the decision being the re-election of myself, Jack Bernstein, and Becky Meyer, as chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. We also agreed to support the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee's production schedule and plans for fellowship review and input.

In keeping with our plans to interact with the fellowship, and with the positive feedback we received on the open trustee meeting held in Arlington, VA, our next meeting is scheduled for February 7 - 10, 1991 in Philadelphia, PA. The agenda hasn't been set but the plan is to have open dialogue with the members present, at least during Saturday and Sunday. The meeting Thursday and Friday will also be open for members to attend, with the agenda being geared towards our regular order of business. Any suggestions for items to be discussed will be considered and appreciated.

The following is a short report on the work of the trustee committees during the October meeting.

A combined meeting of the *External Committee* and the *Internal Committee* was held to meet with the two Additional Needs Panel members, Darwyn L. and Gordon P., to discuss the needed communication between world services and the panel members. Much support was given for participation by panel members in regional and multi-regional additional needs workshops. A resolution was also adopted that *recommends the recognition of American Sign Language (ASL) as a language distinct from English; that the White Booklet, with stories, be translated into ASL for distribution on video tape; that, as funds become available, N.A. audio speaker tapes in the current WSO inventory be translated into ASL; and that a priority list for further translation of N.A. literature into ASL be developed as soon as possible. This resolution will be given to the translations committee for action.* There are also plans to create an "Additional Needs Awareness Month" to focus attention on additional needs issues; requesting local convention committees to include additional

needs in their logistical and workshop planning; attendance by the additional needs panel members at one WSC workshop each year to meet with the WSC P.I. and H&I committees; and attendance by the panel members at one Board of Trustees meeting each year.

The *External Committee* completed its review of an article entitled "Freedom from Prejudice," which follows this report and will also be included in the next *Newsline*. A letter will also be sent to local convention committees and the World Convention Corporation, recommending that a workshop on this subject be included in their convention programs. Discussion of the proposed International Development Forum was held with a recommendation to the full board that this event be held on the Saturday prior to the World Service Conference, 1991. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized for this event. This forum will be separate from the actual conference, but still a conference activity.

The *Internal Committee* devoted the majority of its time to the preamble of the Board of Trustees section that is presently in the *Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure*. There was consensus within the committee that the present preamble doesn't accurately describe the board. Further discussion of the BOT operational procedures ensued, with several more changes being made. During discussion of the procedures by the full board, it was determined that more discussion needs to be held to develop a consensus of the board regarding the proposed changes of direction by the board. A draft resolution on the "BOT Stop Action" motion, along with several supporting paragraphs, was proposed by this committee, with acceptance by the full board after minimal changes were suggested.

The *Literature Review Committee* continued its discussion of translation projects status. They were updated on the works in progress for Spanish, Portuguese, Brazilian, Castilian Spanish, Hebrew, Russian, Polish, Swedish, Dutch-Flemish, German, and Lithuanian. There was further discussion on the status of the Spanish Basic Text and the future work of the Spanish Basic Text committee. The literature review committee reviewed and approved a recommendation regarding the committed motion to place copyrights in trust to the Board of Trustees. The recommendation to not consider this motion for conference action was approved by the full board with the understanding that further work needs to be done on the position paper supporting the recommendation.

The board would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the fellowship for the increased financial contributions to the WSC during the past few months. Once again, we have pulled together and shown our support for the work being done by our world service boards and committees.

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To: The Fellowship

From: Bill Winterfeld, Chairperson  
World Convention Corporation

This report should reach you around the time when your convention board will be meeting (November 16, 17, and 18) for the first time since June. The agenda for that meeting will include much of what is contained in this report.

WCNA-20

The registrations fell short of what we had hoped for. 3,337 people registered out of what we conservatively estimated would be 4,500 in attendance. The percentage of people who paid for registrations was obviously lower this year than in previous years. The board's philosophy has always been to minimize the cost of registration as much as possible so that enough funds will be generated to pay for the event, and produce enough revenue to fund the business of the committee. Registration is kept low, as the sale of merchandise has assisted in paying for the



celebration and the committee work. I doubt that the board will change its thinking on this issue, but would rather continue to engage in discussions on how to better prepare for registration shortfalls.

The board has anticipated for a couple of years a cash flow squeeze occurring as we come away from the Australian Convention and possibly through the '92 convention year. We find ourselves, as a result of Portland, in that position today. We will be discussing at our meeting how we can modify our administrative expenses over the coming years to accommodate this situation. It is my expectation to leave the meeting with a plan to minimize meetings and site trips and to increase the use of conference calls and using individual members of the board. These measures should in no way affect the upcoming conventions.

All who attended the 20th World Convention seem to agree that it was a success. The host committee worked hard, and should be commended for a job well done. There are tee shirts, jackets, and mugs left, and plans for making this merchandise available to the fellowship will be discussed at the November meeting. If your area or region is interested in obtaining some of these items, contact the WSO.

#### *WCNA-21*

The Australian Host Committee is busy with the preliminary planning. Much interest has been shown for this event through the sale of pre-convention T-shirts, both in the U.S. and Australia. Negotiations are taking place with a hotel under construction directly across the street from the convention center. If this facility is completed as scheduled and the negotiations go well, we would be able to eliminate busing, which would lower our cost and add to the unity of the event. The results of this will be reflected in the pre-registration/information booklet, which we hope to distribute by the first of the year.

We will be considering a plan to use the WSO for hotel booking for this convention which will allow the board the most flexibility with the hotel contracting. All of the deposits collected will be held in a separate account until we are assured that the facility we want to do business with will, in fact, be finished on time. To insure that we will have accommodations we will enter into agreements with other hotel properties which we could cancel if they were not needed. We sincerely believe that the hotel across from the center will be complete; however, it just seems responsible to take the necessary precaution to insure that we will have accommodations.

#### *WCNA-22*

The Canadian members are anxious to start planning the '92 event. The liaisons for that convention will probably make a trip to Toronto in late spring, and the host committee will get under way sometime late in the summer of '91. Their chairperson will come onto the board at the meeting this month.

#### *WCNA-23*

Columbus, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and Chicago, Illinois have all worked hard submitting bids. All of the sites seem to be capable of hosting a successful convention. There was a time in world convention planning when the need of a particular area, to have the convention, was the primary consideration in selecting a site. With the tremendous growth of the N.A. Fellowship and the size of the convention today, other factors merit consideration. The ability to localize facilities, the allure of one city over another, transportation access, and fiscal considerations must be considered. The location of the '93 World Convention will be announced at the beginning of the year. Your board will select a primary and secondary site at the November meeting, then at the successful conclusion of negotiations with the facilities, the location will be announced.

#### *CORPORATE*

The WCC Board will work toward adoption of by-law changes at the November meeting, to put into effect changes made by the board and the conference last year. The by-laws need to reflect that the conference elects one of three conference-elected WCC Board members each year, to serve a three-year term. A change to the by-laws will be considered to state that WCC

officers do not take their seat until after the current convention ends. Additional clarification as to when the approaching convention chairs come onto the board will be discussed.

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To: The Fellowship  
 From: Stu Tooredman, Chairperson  
 World Service Office Board of Directors

In the last several months, the office has been going through some difficult times. As a result of the change in executive director and adjusting to the changes which were necessary, the office has been experiencing adjustment difficulties (mailing, response time, committee and board coordination, etc.). This, combined with being forced to deal with an illegal production of our Basic Text, has made it difficult for the staff to adjust to the new policies and procedures which are being implemented. The staff members will continue to do their best to fulfill their responsibilities.

We have been involved for several months with the development of new policies to cover several areas of World Service Office operations, including travel, translations, budgeting, and personnel. In the development of these policies and procedures, the Board of Directors worked with the Board of Trustees and the WSC Administrative Committee. The proposed plans for travel, translations, and budgeting will place responsibility for decision making in the hands of a unified, task-oriented committee, rather than having each service board or committee make decisions independent of each other. These plans have reached final review stages and will soon be distributed to the fellowship. We would like to thank all those who participated in developing those plans, as well as the members outside the committees who provided input and review at our request. Following are brief descriptions of the proposed travel plan, the proposed translations plan, and the proposed unified budget and budget review plan.

The office frequently receives questions from participants of the conference and other members of the fellowship regarding travel for world services, how decisions about are made and implemented. A well-defined travel policy is currently under development. All travel undertaken by world services will be covered within the scope of the policy, if and when it is adopted. In that way we can be confident that all travel decisions are handled using the same criteria. This will provide a uniform policy to guide the new executive director, as well as providing to the fellowship an accurate reporting of travel activities. There has always been an administrative policy for travel. It did not, however, necessarily apply to other branches of world services. The proposed policy will be applicable to all of world services.

Another major concern has been the development of translations. The WSC committees and boards have been working on a translation policy that provides for a specific translation committee. That committee would include a variety of members, both from world service boards and committees, and from within and outside of the local fellowship communities for which N.A. literature is being translated. This committee, combined with set criteria for the translation process and what literature is to be translated, would make for an overall productive plan for translations. While the World Service Office has had a translation policy, it addressed the needs of the WSO Board and did not include interaction with other service boards or committees. The plan under development will also include a decision-making committee that is comprised of all world service entities.

The boards and committees also have been working on a plan for a unified budget, and a budget review and utilization committee. This process would combine all the resources of Narcotics Anonymous world services, place them into a collective pool, and then allocate resources according to projects and specific operations. This should allow for a more effective management of our resources. Included in this process would be a report thoroughly explaining

expenditures, to be published prior to the conference each year. In connection with the unified budget, a specific committee would review and allocate funds according to specific plans developed by the committees or boards. This committee would then develop the yearly budget and present it to each service entity for approval.

On another note, the search for a new executive director is well on the way. The professional search agency contracted by the WSO Board is currently taking applications. We hope that the agency soon will be making recommendations to the Search Committee and eventually to the Board of Directors. This activity is being handled by an appointed Search Committee outside of the World Service Office. If you desire information about the search, you may contact the search agency or Donna Markus, the chairperson of the Search Committee.

Currently the office is doing well. Our sales volume is down, primarily due to the general downturn in the economy. We do not expect to exceed last year's income level, based upon the projections for the remainder of the year. In conjunction, we have been spending at a reduced rate, which seems to have kept us in a good position, making our overall fiscal condition stable.

The lawsuit with the company in northern California is near settlement, and we expect to provide a report on this specific case to the conference in April.

We are currently in the process of preparing for a meeting with local service offices, to be held in Chicago on the weekend of December 6-9, 1990. We have sent letters to the offices and the regions, informing them of this meeting and its agenda. We plan to discuss regional literature distribution, service office operations, the possibility of creating World Service Office branches within the United States, the discount structure, and other general items.

As most of you are aware, we have been dealing with the illegal Basic Text. During the recent World Service Conference workshop in Van Nuys, we gave a report to the participants who were present. During this report, we also raised some questions which we believe need to be addressed. For the convenience of the participants who were not present, we have included a copy of the written version of that report. We will continue to provide current status reports regarding the events and decisions connected to this problem as they occur, as we have in the past.

**RESPONDING TO ILLEGAL PUBLICATION  
A REPORT FROM THE WSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
OCTOBER 20, 1990**

In the last eight years, Narcotics Anonymous has established a system for approving, publishing, and distributing N.A. literature that is legally, practically, and spiritually sound. This year, some individual N.A. members have taken it upon themselves to print and distribute a version of N.A.'s Basic Text which they have altered to suit their own tastes. Their actions are legally, practically, and spiritually unsound. This report looks at the process our fellowship has developed for approving, publishing, and distributing its literature, contrasting that process with the extraordinary actions of the individuals who have pirated our Basic Text. Finally, this report asks for your direction. How should we respond to those who have illegally altered and published your literature? What responsibility does the WSO Board of Directors have to protect the integrity of the fellowship's printed message?

*Legally sound?*

According to the general understanding of our members, new literary items, or revised versions of existing pieces of literature, must be approved by N.A.'s representative assembly, the World Service Conference, in order to be considered "N.A. literature." New literature not yet approved by the conference, or literature revised in contradiction to the directions of the conference, is not considered "N.A. literature." Once approved by the conference, N.A. literature is copyrighted, published, and distributed by the World Service Office. The copyright gives Narcotics Anonymous the ability to protect its literature from alteration or publication by parties other than those designated by the World Service Conference.

The copyrights to our literature, and the responsibility to publish and distribute that literature, is given to the World Service Office in trust as the *fiduciary* of the World Service Conference--that is, the World Service Office is legally bound to publish N.A. literature, for the benefit of the N.A. Fellowship, in accordance with the directions of the World Service Conference. In addition to the WSO's responsibility to publish N.A. literature, the World Service Office is also legally responsible to protect N.A. literature from abuse, on behalf of the entire fellowship. These responsibilities are spelled out both in World Service Office corporate by-laws and in U.S. legal codes.

Those who have altered our Basic Text, calling it "N.A. literature" and publishing it without the fellowship's permission, are thieves. They have stolen our name, Narcotics Anonymous, and have used it for their own purposes, not the fellowship's. They have stolen our literature, our printed message, without our permission. What they stole has been mutilated, altered to suit their own tastes, without any authorization from the fellowship. These are crimes, and the law protects us from those who are abusing the fellowship's rights to its literature.

The N.A. Fellowship has given its literature in trust to the World Service Office corporation, to be published in accordance with the direction of the fellowship's World Service Conference. The individuals who have taken it upon themselves to change N.A. literature to suit their own ideas, and to publish that altered material, have broken trust with the N.A. Fellowship, both ethically and legally. And, according to American trust law, the World Service Office is bound, one way or another, to protect the literature given it in trust from those who have chosen to abuse the trust's "property."

*Practically sound?*

The system Narcotics Anonymous has established for publishing its literature is both reliable and accountable. Literature publishing is a complex affair, requiring attention to a great many details, and a considerable degree of expertise, even for relatively simple publishing projects. Even though every group, area, and region needs N.A. literature, it's not necessary for every group, area, and region to set up its own publishing operation. That job is already done by the World Service Office, on behalf of the entire fellowship.

Those individuals illegally publishing the Basic Text have provided inconsistent, unreliable, irresponsible service to the groups they have contacted. Each individual do-it-yourself "publisher" has to either typeset the book himself, make printing plates from second-hand layouts of already-published copies of the Basic Text, or simply photocopy an existing book. Then, they have to buy their own paper, choose a local printer, and find a bindery, all with little or no background in these matters. The methods used to illegally publish the book to date have produced copies of consistently low quality, with fuzzy, hard-to-read type, cheap paper, and poor binding.

Within the N.A. Fellowship, the Basic Text is sold through the established service structure. The World Service Office sells the book to regional service offices, who sell it to area committees, who sell it to groups, who make it available on literature tables at N.A. meetings. When N.A. members want a book, they know where to find it, and they know they *will* find it.

The service structure has established a pattern of consistent, reliable service in the area of literature distribution. If it does not distribute literature in a reliable fashion, it can be held accountable by the fellowship. If the World Service Office does not deliver reliable service, the World Service Conference will call it to account. And if a regional or area committee cannot consistently supply N.A. literature to the groups it serves, it will be held accountable by those groups.

Supplies of the illegal book have been spotty, and suppliers have been difficult to find. Because distribution of the book is illegal, sales have been conducted secretly. Limited funds have meant limited publishing runs, meaning limited supplies. All in all, illegal publishing has meant anything *but* a reliable supply of N.A. literature to those who have chosen to use the illegal text. And, because the illegal text is published by individuals outside the service structure, they cannot be held accountable for the quality of the service they render.

The Basic Text is produced by the World Service Office for about \$2.00 U.S., and is sold by the office to its customers at an overall average price of \$6.00. The American retail price of the book is \$8.00. Book sales produce extra income both at the world and local levels of service, income which is used to support other services. At the world level, that income is spent according to the directions of the World Service Conference; at the local level, according to the wishes of the region, the area, or the group. At the world level, literature sales pay for support services to World Service Conference boards and committees, information and starter kits to new N.A. groups, fellowship communications, services to new N.A. communities in many countries, translation of N.A. literature, and a number of other services.

Sales of the Basic Text through the normal service structure lends to ready accountability for all funds involved. Each year, the World Service Office presents a complete financial report to the World Service Conference, covering both the costs for producing the Basic Text and other literature, and what was done with proceeds from N.A. literature sales. Receipts are provided to regions, areas, and groups who buy N.A. literature, so that their treasurers can fully account for literature purchases to those they serve, as required by our traditions.

The individuals who have illegally altered and published your Basic Text pay about 60 American cents to print their version, then turn around and sell it to groups for about \$1.25. They are not responsible, through N.A.'s service structure, to spend the proceeds from sales of their book on other authorized N.A. services. In fact, because they have consistently refused to make a financial accounting of their activity, no one knows exactly *what* they used the proceeds for. They make their sales on a cash basis only, so as not to leave any kind of incriminating paper trail, and offer no receipts to group treasurers, who are subsequently unable to account for their literature purchases.

### *Spiritually sound?*

The established N.A. literature approval, publication, and distribution system is spiritually sound, especially for a fellowship like ours. Narcotics Anonymous is a very loosely organized fellowship, placing a high premium on the independence of its individual groups: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole." Each group is free to believe and act as it wishes, so long as its actions do not impact nearby groups or the worldwide fellowship.

The identity of our fellowship as a fellowship is based on the common message of its groups, as represented in N.A. literature. If each group had a slightly different message, and slightly different literature, the variations would quickly compound themselves to the point where we would cease to be a recognizable fellowship at all. For this reason, Narcotics Anonymous has established that N.A. literature can only be approved or altered by an assembly that is representative of the entire fellowship: the World Service Conference. Each group is free to carry out its own activities as it sees fit; but in matters affecting all the groups, they use the established service structure to come to a common decision, effective fellowshipwide. Thus, the needs and rights of *each* groups, and the needs and rights of *all* the groups, are equally respected.

Those engaged in the unauthorized alteration, publication, and distribution of N.A.'s Basic Text have gone far, far down the road of self-will, and far, far away from the principles of recovery. They have taken upon themselves the authority the N.A. Fellowship has given its World Service Conference: the authority to determine the nature of N.A.'s printed message. They've said to us all, in effect, "Dissolve the World Service Conference, and give our gang its authority. *Trust us.*"

To justify their actions, they have deliberately misled other N.A. members concerning the facts of the nature and history of N.A. service, and have slandered the trusted servants and special workers of our world services. When their lies are countered with documentary and eyewitness evidence, they shift their attacks to other subjects and individuals. They have politicized N.A. groups, distracting those groups from their primary purpose of carrying the message to still-suffering addicts. They have pitted N.A. member against N.A. member, severely undermining the unity upon which the personal recovery of us all depends. By fragmenting the N.A. message to suit their own personal ideas, they are threatening to fragment our fellowship itself. Their activities run against everything Narcotics Anonymous stands for--and we should not stand for their activities any further.

#### *How should we respond?*

The WSO Board of Directors, with the support of the World Service Board of Trustees and the officers of the World Service Conference, has already taken the necessary preliminary steps to legally protect the Basic Text from further unauthorized alteration and publication. We have retained a law firm to deal with the infringers, and are preparing a complaint which, when filed, will set the legal process in motion. From that point, we will go through a series of discovery motions and injunctions, followed by an eventual decision. In this process, we are confident that we will be successful, but it will take time.

Do you want us to continue along this path to protect the fellowship's printed message from bootlegging and mutilation? Do you want U.S. federal courts to settle our problems, or do you want us to seek an internal solution? The WSO board feels that both are appropriate. We believe strongly that the rights of Narcotics Anonymous have been violated, from a legal standpoint, a practical standpoint, and a spiritual standpoint. The individuals who have violated the fellowship's trust need to be held accountable for their actions. The question is, how can we effectively call them to account? This decision will be placed before the world service leadership in the upcoming weeks, prior to actually entering the legal arena.

As trusted servants, it is imperative that you consider these points very carefully, that you present them to the members you serve, and that you communicate your wishes in this matter to us as clearly as possible. You, as the membership, will tell us what you believe Narcotics Anonymous is, and what it stands for.

## FREEDOM FROM PREJUDICE

*The following is not a policy statement from the World Service Board of Trustees. It is intended merely to stimulate thought and discussion on the topic of prejudice and how it affects Narcotics Anonymous.*

*--WSB External Affairs Committee*

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using," isn't it? That's what our Third Tradition says. But in some N.A. groups, it almost seems as if a few more membership requirements have been added. Though it may not be said aloud, the impression you get from such groups is this: "You've got to come from the same racial, or ethnic, or social, or economic, or educational, or sexual background as we do in order to be accepted here. It's not enough, just to have a desire to stop using."

In July, the World Service Conference held a workshop in Arlington, Virginia. One panel focused a portion of its discussion on the subject of prejudice in Narcotics Anonymous. Participants felt the discussion was long overdue, and that we as a fellowship should begin to further explore ways to "raise our consciousness" and, thus, to begin changing our attitudes and behavior. The purpose of this article is to begin raising our awareness of how we treat one another so that, ultimately, any addict seeking recovery, "regardless of age, race, sexual identity, creed, religion, or lack of religion," may find what they seek among us.

### AWARENESS

We can't begin to change unless we're aware there is a need for change. As addicts, we reflect the society we come from. We bring our racism, classism, sexism, and all our other prejudices with us into recovery. We accept unacceptable behavior, in ourselves and in each other, because "that's the way it's always been." We all suffer, to greater or lesser extents, from this kind of thinking; it's the way of the world we've been raised in.

What can we do? Well, to deny our bigotry only allows us to continue in old thinking and behavior. But when we admit we discriminate, we can begin to address that thinking and behavior with the tools of recovery.

In N.A., we're told to "show up and tell the truth." When addicts hear other addicts share their pain and their fears, something wonderful happens. Open discussions in our meetings can be very important in helping us see how prejudice affects our ability to recover, and our ability to carry the message to others. Choosing "Freedom from Prejudice" as a discussion meeting topic, for example, can open the lid on the defects we try to hide from one another, and sometimes even from ourselves.

Sponsorship is another tool to be put to work. What would occur if we all took a mini-inventory of ourselves, an inventory focused on prejudice, its affect on our lives, and its impact on the life of our fellowship? And what would happen if every N.A. member talked with their sponsor about their fears of people from other backgrounds or lifestyles? Whenever we work the steps with open minds and hearts, healing begins to take place.

### INTO ACTION

When we can accept that we are indeed bigoted, without making any excuses, then we're ready to take action. The miracle begins when we accept that, as individuals and as a fellowship, we frequently fall short of our own principles. Yes, this is who we are today--and yes, today, we need to change. Acceptance here does not mean, "Well, that's just the way things are." Acceptance means taking responsibility for ourselves, and seeking the courage to change.

At the Arlington workshop, individual members shared about their own experiences of prejudice--not only ways in which they had felt its cruel sting, but ways in which they had inflicted that sting on others. People talked about not being hugged because they were black; being

shunned because of their use of essential, prescribed medication; avoiding members who have disabilities; being fearful of people from different educational levels; avoiding anyone with different sexual preference from their own. Some of these things hampered their own recovery; some hampered their role in supporting the recovery of others; all of it made them hurt. They admitted it, and they asked all of us, as a fellowship, to help them change.

Yes, it's true: we come from a prejudiced society. That does not mean, however, that we must remain forever bound by prejudice. The N.A. program offers freedom, not only from drug addiction, but from the insidious defects of character that keep us from living full, healthy, happy lives. By working the steps, we can rise above our shortcomings. In doing so, we can set an example for one another, and for others in our communities, of what spiritual recovery is about.

How can you "show up and tell the truth" about prejudice in N.A.? You can:

1. Raise the topic at a discussion meeting.
2. Contact your regional convention committee, and ask them to hold a workshop on prejudice at the next convention.
3. Ask your area and regional service committees to consider whether prejudice affects any of their services.
4. Talk with your sponsor about how prejudice--yours and others--affects you and your recovery. Talk with those you sponsor, too.
5. If your group conducts an annual inventory, ask that "prejudice" be one of the subjects they examine.

Prejudice in N.A. hurts the whole fellowship, from the oldest old-timer to the newest newcomer. We, as members of a fellowship based on spiritual principles, cannot, and must not, settle for anything less than freedom from prejudice.