



**TEMPORARY  
WORKING GUIDE  
TO OUR  
SERVICE STRUCTURE**

## THE TWELVE STEPS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

1. *We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable.*
2. *We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.*
3. *We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.*
4. *We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*
5. *We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*
6. *We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*
7. *We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.*
8. *We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.*
9. *We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*
10. *We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.*
11. *We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.*
12. *Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

*Reprinted for adaptation  
by permission of A.A.  
World Services, Inc.*



**TEMPORARY  
WORKING GUIDE  
TO OUR  
SERVICE STRUCTURE**

©1986 by World Service Office, Inc. All rights reserved  
Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 0-912075-44-9



World Service Office, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, California 91409 U.S.A.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Purpose and Function of the Service Units of N.A. ....	1
The Member.....	2
The Group.....	2
Secretary .....	4
Treasurer .....	4
Group Service Representative and Alt.....	6
Area Service Committee.....	10
Regional Service Committee.....	14
World Service.....	19
The World Service Office.....	19
The Board of Trustees.....	22
The World Service Conference.....	30
Amendments to the Temporary Working Guide .....	42
Addendum 1 -- World Literature Committee.....	51
Addendum 2 -- N.A. Way Magazine .....	59
Addendum 3 -- Audio Tape Review.....	63

## **THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE SERVICE UNITS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

1. The primary purpose of an N.A. MEMBER is to stay clean a day at a time and carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers by working with others.
2. The primary purpose of an N.A. GROUP is to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers by providing a setting for identification, and a healthy atmosphere for recovery, where addicts can come for help if they have a desire to stop using.
3. The purpose of an AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE is to be supportive of its areas and groups and their primary purpose, by associating a group with other groups locally, and by helping a group deal with its day-to-day situations and needs.
4. The purpose of a REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE is to be supportive to its areas and groups and their primary purpose, by linking together the areas and groups within a region, by helping areas and groups deal with their basic situations and needs, and by encouraging the growth of the Fellowship.
5. The purpose of a WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE is to be supportive of the Fellowship as a whole, and to define and take action according to the group conscience of Narcotics Anonymous.
6. The purpose of a WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, our main service center, is to carry out the directives of the World Service Conference in matters that relate to communications and information for the Fellowship of N.A., its services, groups and members. The World Service Office achieves this purpose by maintaining correspondence with N.A. groups and service committees, by printing and distributing WSC-approved literature, and by maintaining the archives and files of Narcotics Anonymous.

7. The purpose of a BOARD OF TRUSTEES, who act as guardians of the Twelve Traditions, is to ensure the continuation and growth of N.A. by seeking new and better ways to carry the message to the addict who still suffers, by seeking to ensure the maintenance of the Twelve Traditions, and by dealing with those things, both within and outside the Fellowship, which affect its continuation and growth.

## MEMBER

The front line, so to speak, of N.A. service is an individual N.A. member. Any addict can be a member—the only requirement is a desire to stop using. The services that each of us provides are the most important in N.A. It is a member who carries our message of recovery and works with others. Without an active membership there would be no need for the rest of this service structure. There would be no N.A.

The benefits of membership are clear to us all: a drug-free life, the chance to grow, friendship, and freedom. However, membership is not without its responsibilities. It is the responsibility of all members to maintain their personal recovery. Also, it is the responsibility of each of us to share freely our experience, strength and hope with an addict who still suffers, and work to ensure that what was freely given to us remains available to the newcomer and old-timer alike.

The gathering together of two or more member addicts for the purpose of learning how to live a drug-free life by practicing the principles of N.A. constitutes an N.A. meeting. When such a meeting is held regularly, it can become a group.

## GROUP

An N.A. group is any meeting which meets regularly at a specified place and time, providing that it follows the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (has no outside affiliations and receives no outside financial



support). To facilitate communications and unity, and to better serve N.A. as a whole, groups should register with the World Service Office of Narcotics Anonymous. The group is the second level of our N.A. service structure.

The primary purpose of an N.A. group is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. However, it also provides to all members the chance to express ourselves and to hear the experiences of other members who are learning how to live a better life.

Groups hold two basic types of meetings: Those which are open to the general public and those closed to the public (for addicts only). Meetings vary widely in format from group to group. Some are participation meetings, some speaker, some question and answer, some topic discussion, and some have a combination of these formats.

Despite the type of format a group uses in its meetings, the function of a group is always the same: to provide a suitable and reliable environment for personal recovery and to promote such recovery.

A group has proven to be the most successful vehicle for Twelfth Step work. After sharing one's personal experience, strength and hope, the most valuable thing a member can do is to bring prospective new members (addicts) to a group meeting. In this way, a group meeting becomes a place where newcomers know they can come for help. Often the first thing that can open the doors of recovery for addicts is the recognition of themselves in others. A group provides a setting in which the newcomer can find this identification by hearing a number of recovering addicts, rather than just one or two.

The group is the level at which we first find some of the day-to-day business of N.A. being taken care of. There is rent to pay, literature to buy and distribute, refreshments to be provided, a meeting hall to be kept clean, a time schedule to follow, announcements to be made and other things to be done for the maintenance of a group. A group should stay in contact with other groups in its local area and with the rest of N.A., so it can find out about activities, learn of new groups opening up, get new literature, and find



out what's happening in N.A. This can best be accomplished by a number of groups in an area creating an area service committee (ASC). This will be further discussed later in this manual. This is also the first level at which Fellowship funds are handled, and the correct use of this money is essential for the preservation of a group. It is at a group level that the principle of the trusted servant comes into being: "Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern." The officers of a group are elected by a majority vote of the group conscience. They are: (A) a secretary, (B) a treasurer, (C) the group service representative, (D) the group service representative-alternate. These trusted servants are the nucleus of the steering committee. The steering committee is made up of those people who regularly attend, support a group and attend the business meetings.

#### **A. Group Secretary**

A secretary is responsible for the day-to-day functions of a group. It is his or her responsibility to assure that the group meeting takes place when and where it is supposed to. The secretary selects a leader for each meeting, makes sure the coffee and refreshments are ready, arranges for group business meetings, arranges for the celebrations of "birthdays," makes sure that the meeting hall is left in proper order, and answers all correspondence. This job is important because without a good secretary a group has little chance of surviving and providing an atmosphere of recovery.

#### **B. Group Treasurer**

A treasurer of an N.A. group is responsible for the funds which come into a group from the collection, and for the handling and distribution of these funds. The money collected in our meetings must be carefully budgeted. There are numerous expenses necessary for running a group. The treasurer keeps an accurate record of all the group's financial transactions, maintains meeting log books, maintains a group

bank account, and distributes money to pay the rent, purchase literature, provide refreshments, buy supplies, and cover the cost of any miscellaneous expenses a group incurs. In order to maintain our Fellowship and freedom, monies which come from a group's collections and member's contributions must always be used to further our primary purpose. A group must first support itself.

After paying its bills, any remaining funds should be placed in a group bank account, accumulating a reserve adequate to run a group for one month. After this "prudent reserve" has been established, excess funds should be diverted to the area service committee. In cases where no ASC exists, send this balance to your regional service committee (RSC). If no RSC exists, send this balance to the WSC Treasurer. One of the biggest problems we have faced has been the misuse of a group's money. This abuse severely limits what the N.A. Fellowship can offer to recovering addicts. A Treasurer has a grave responsibility, and much thought should be given to selecting a member to perform this function. (Also see the *Treasurer's Handbook*.)

As a general guide we have found that the treasurer and secretary are most successful if they have certain assets necessary for the performance of their responsibilities. These qualifications include:

1. The willingness and desire to serve;
2. We suggest a minimum of six (6) months continuous abstinence from all drugs;
3. Knowledge of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions;
4. Active participation in the group they are to serve.

The two remaining trusted servants of an N.A. group are a group service representative (GSR) and a GSR-Alt. Because the roles of the GSR and GSR-Alt. are so important to the success of an N.A. group, these two trusted servants will be discussed in greater detail in the next section of the manual.

A group secretary and a treasurer serve for a period of one year, after which time they are

succeeded by another member who has been elected by the group. The use of any drug while serving as an officer constitutes an automatic resignation of that office.

NOTE: One of the responsibilities of officers of a group is to train other group members to replace them. A group can be strengthened by new officers who are prepared to take over the responsibilities of those they replace. Continuity of service can be aided by staggering the election of trusted servants and overlapping the terms of service. For example a secretary might be elected in November to begin serving in January, and the treasurer elected in March can begin serving in May. This would always allow a group to have representation from experienced officers. Remember: Choose your trusted servants well. It is you whom they will be serving.

### **C. Group Service Representative and GSR-Alternate**

A group service representative (GSR) is first in line of communication between a group and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. They are the links that bind the groups together in the performance of our primary purpose. It is their responsibility to keep a group informed and to express a group's conscience in all matters. In other words, they are, in fact, the voice of their group. Electing GSR's who will take an active part in the business of N.A. is probably the most important thing we can do to improve the unity of the Fellowship. Active representation, more than any other thing, can strengthen the ties that bind us together and promote our common welfare.

The GSR's speak for their group at area service committee meetings. They take part in the planning and implementation of any functions which affect the members of their group. As a result of their participation they can keep their group informed about what is happening in N.A. Members of a group should always be able to go to their representative and find out about activities, other groups, how our N.A. service structure works, the Twelve Traditions, and how they can become more involved.

A group service representative normally serves for a period of two (2) years. The first year is spent as a GSR-alternate, working closely with an existing GSR, learning the duties of the office and taking over in case the GSR is ill, or cannot for any reason continue to serve. Also, if the GSR cannot attend one of the monthly area service committee meetings, the GSR-alternate has the responsibility to vote in their absence. It is also suggested that a GSR share some of the responsibilities with the GSR-alternate. The second year they become the group's GSR, taking over the full responsibilities and functions of the office, and in turn are helped by a newly elected GSR-alternate. The "apprentice" system serves two purposes: First of all, it helps to provide a continuity of service which never leaves a group unrepresented; and secondly, the year spent as an alternate provides the training necessary for an effective GSR. As you can see, the role of a GSR is not a simple one, not one to be taken lightly. The election of effective GSR's and GSR-alternates is probably the most important thing that you, as an individual member, can do for the unity of N.A. In choosing your representative, remember that they are your voice and your ears in N.A. If you wish to be well represented and well informed, it is your responsibility to elect the best possible nominee. For this reason we suggest that candidates for GSR should have:

1. The willingness and desire to serve.
2. We suggest a minimum of one (1) year of continuous abstinence from all drugs.
3. An active participation in the group they are to serve.
4. Knowledge of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
5. An understanding of our N.A. service structure and the responsibilities of a GSR.

The requirements for the office of GSR-alternate are the same as those for GSR, except that there is a minimum of (0) months of continuous abstinence from all drugs. These qualifications are not, of course, hard fast rules. They are, however, some of the things you

should consider in the selection of your representatives. The group service representatives, as we have described them, are your link to the rest of N.A. They are also the ties that bind the personal service you and your group perform to the next type of service which is offered by N.A.: area and regional service.

It is suggested that when holding elections for group officers, the description of each officer's job and the suggested qualifications for nominees be read, and members of the group fully appreciate the responsibilities and ramifications of each office.

## **AREA AND REGIONAL SERVICE**

The next level of service in N.A. is area and regional service. These services provide the support necessary for groups of N.A. members to work together for their common welfare.

In 1969, N.A.'s first committee specifically designed to fill our general service needs at the group level, was established. This committee and others like it have contributed greatly to the growth of N.A. However, today it is no longer enough to have a few members getting together to keep their groups going. N.A. is growing.

Area and regional services are both geographic and functional designations. When an area or region grows to a point where it cannot efficiently serve its members' needs, that area or region should divide. An area is designed to provide service to individual groups with specific needs, and a region to provide services to areas with common needs. This difference in function is important to keep in mind as we discuss, in the following section, these very similar services. Our experience has shown that our groups have situations which they cannot handle on their own. In the spirit of our Fellowship, we as individuals seek help from one another to deal with our living situations; just so, groups can find help from other groups. However, most of the situations a group faces are of such nature that another group located many miles away can be of little assistance; and for this reason this part of our service structure contains both area and regional committees.



A DESIGNATED AREA within N.A. is any local area, community or town with a significant number of N.A. groups. Any set of groups within definable geographic boundaries that need to function together as an area can be a designated area.

A DESIGNATED REGION is a broader geographic unit made up of a significant number of areas. Normally we consider a region to be any state in the United States, or any other country. Again, the definition of a region is ultimately one of need. Areas with this need can be considered a designated region. We feel it is necessary to stress that, for the purposes of N.A., the designation of a region should always be based on specific needs. Successful growth of any region will result in dividing into additional regional committees. This is beneficial since it allows these service committees to more effectively serve the needs of their member groups.

A. Suggested Service Committee Meeting Format:

1. Opening prayer
2. Reading of the Twelve Traditions
3. Minutes of the last service meeting
4. Treasurer's report
5. Representative reports
6. Subcommittee reports
7. Group reports
8. Old business
9. New business
10. Announcements
11. Closing prayer

NOTE: GSR's are the only voting members at ASC meetings; ASR's are the only voting members at an RSC meeting; all service committee meetings are open to the Fellowship.

## AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE

An area service committee (ASC) is a committee made up of representatives (GSR's) from groups within a designated Area, which meets monthly for the express purpose of serving the specific needs of its member groups.

There are certain facilities which are necessary to the service provided by an ASC. In the beginning these may simply be a permanent mailing address (usually a post office box), a bank account, and a place to hold meetings.

As the membership and number of groups within an area increases, or when an area decides that it needs a broader spectrum of services, more facilities may be needed. These might include a telephone answering referral service, a ditto machine, a typewriter, an adding machine and a place to store literature, among other things. As an area grows still more, the members may decide to consolidate and improve these facilities by opening and staffing a local office.

Most ASC's have found that a subcommittee does the actual work to implement ASC directives. The subcommittees normally deal with a single service such as public information, hospitals, and institutions, or entertainment, and may meet to do the work as needed during the month between regular ASC meetings.

The most important service which an ASC provides is that of group support. Whenever a group has a specific situation or need which it has not been able to handle on its own, it can come to its area service committee for help. These situations are almost limitless in scope; however, we have learned that we can get much accomplished when we work together.

An ASC performs other functions which are of help to the groups. It can help new groups get started or give aid to floundering groups. It may hold workshops or seminars to train trusted servants. It can look for potential places or keep a stock of literature which the groups can purchase. The point is that an



ASC handles whatever functions are necessary or helpful to its groups.

In order to provide these services, an ASC needs the active participation of its GSR's. A group supports its area service committee both financially and emotionally. It takes money to provide the services we have described. It is a group's responsibility to offer this support. When an ASC is first formed, this need for funds may be minimal: just enough to pay for a post office box and a meeting place. However, as an area grows, the financial needs of the committee also grow. In order to provide a full line of services it requires a steady, reliable flow of money. Some areas provide these funds through activities. These alternate sources of financial support are helpful, but the bulk of the responsibility still falls on the members of a group.

The active participation of each group representative is essential for a successful ASC. Each GSR must keep his or her own group informed, and must represent that group's conscience in all committee decisions. An agenda for an ASC should be sent to the groups ten (10) days before the committee meets. Representatives should evaluate each vote in terms of the needs of those they serve or take it back to the group. In addition to this, a GSR participates in helping to carry out the ASC's other specific functions. The attracting of new members, the planning and implementation of activities, and the aid given to groups with special situations are services which require much more effort than a monthly meeting.

In order to coordinate its services, each ASC elects officers yearly. These officers include a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer, an area service representative (ASR), and an area service representative-alternate (ASR-alt.) Leadership and the ability to organize and give the committee direction and incentive must come from its officers. Upon election, the officers shall resign as GSR's. Their groups then elect new representatives, thus ensuring all groups equality of representation.

## A. **Officers**

1. A **chairperson** arranges an agenda for and presides over the monthly meetings. They are also responsible for correspondence, maintaining area files and archives. The chairperson should be one of the co-signers of the ASC's bank account. At committee meetings they can vote only in case of a tie. A chairperson must be capable of conducting a business meeting with a firm, yet understanding hand. For this reason, it is suggested that they have a minimum of two (2) years' continuous abstinence from all drugs.

2. A **vice-chairperson** coordinates all subcommittee functions. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson. The vice-chairperson should be one of the co-signers of an ASC's bank account. It is suggested that a vice-chairperson have a minimum of one (1) year's continuous abstinence from all drugs.

3. A **secretary** keeps accurate minutes of each ASC business meeting, types and distributes copies of the minutes to each GSR no later than one (1) week following each ASC meeting. These minutes should be verified by the chairperson before copies are made. It is suggested that a secretary have a minimum of one (1) year's continuous abstinence from all drugs.

4. A **treasurer** shall make a report of contributions and expenditures at every regular ASC meeting, as well as an annual report at the end of a calendar year. The treasurer shall be the other co-signer of an ASC's bank account. The treasurer can also be made responsible for bulk purchases of literature for the groups. It is suggested that a treasurer have a minimum of two (2) years' continuous abstinence from all drugs.

5. An **area service representative (ASR)** is to an ASC what a GSR is to a group. As the representative of the area, the ASR's speak for the members and groups within the area service committee. The primary

responsibility of an ASR is to work for the good of N.A., providing two way communication between the Area and the rest of N.A., particularly with neighboring ASC's. They represent the group conscience of an ASC at a regional level and provide the area with the agenda for the RSC at least ten (10) days before the RSC meets. An ASR attends all regional service committee meetings and takes part in any decisions which affect the region, speaking as the voice of the ASC's group conscience. An ASR may serve on one or more of its ASC and RSC subcommittees but not as a chairperson. The office of ASR is immensely important, for an ASR is the next link in expressing the will of a loving God. An ASR must be able to work for the common good, placing principles before personalities at all times. Therefore, in addition to the regular qualifications for GSR's, it is recommended that nominees to the post of ASR also have:

1. Service experience
2. The willingness to give the time and resources necessary for the job.
3. A suggested minimum of three (3) years of continuous abstinence from all drugs.

The office of ASR also parallels that of GSR's in that it is a two (2) year commitment. The first year of service is spent as an ASR-alternate becoming familiar with the job, attending all ASC and RSC meetings, and filling in for the ASR if he or she are absent or for any reason unable to complete the term in office. Naturally, the recommended qualifications for election of ASR-alt. are the same as for ASR, with one exception: a suggestion of two (2) years' continuous abstinence.

## B. Election of ASC Officers

Committee officers should be elected from the active GSR's. Prior service experiences such as group secretary, group treasurer and subcommittee member are of value. ASC officers do not normally represent any group and have no vote at an ASC. Any ASC member

or officer may be removed during their term in office by a majority vote of that ASC. Also, all ASC members and officers may succeed themselves in office, but in keeping with the Ninth Tradition and the principle of rotating leadership, it is recommended that no officer serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Note: A word to the wise: Committees are notorious for getting lost in their own dust as they stumble down the road of uncertain destiny.

## REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

A regional service committee (RSC) is a committee made up of the ASR'S from all the areas within a designated region. This service committee is designed to provide service to its member areas. An ASC and an RSC are similar in nature and purpose, but their respective functions are slightly different. While an ASC serves the specific needs of its individual member groups, an RSC serves the common needs of its member areas.

The primary function of an RSC is to unify the areas within its region. Another function is to carry the N.A. message of recovery through RSC public information subcommittees. Addicts who cannot attend regular meetings are served through an RSC hospitals & institutions subcommittee. A third basic function of this committee is to contribute to the growth of N.A., both by initiating much of the work to be finalized at the World Service Conference and by helping to support our world services.

Just as an ASC often deals with situations that the groups cannot deal with on their own, an RSC responds to situations that the areas cannot resolve on their own. This is one way in which an RSC strives for unity; another is by providing a meeting place for areas and a center of communication with other regions and the N.A. Fellowship.

Area and regional service committees are autonomous, just as the groups they serve "except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole." The first thing an RSC must have in order to establish its identity is a permanent mailing address (post office



box). After the p.o. box, the next thing an RSC should do is register with the WSO, Inc. Groups and committees must be registered if they are to be listed in the World Directory and to receive information and support.

The final thing that must be done when forming a region is to set down some kind of framework or guidelines within which to function. Generally, ASC meetings are fairly flexible in their format in order to deal with a wide variety of situations that might come up.

RSC meetings, on the other hand, are usually pretty well structured. The format of an RSC meeting is virtually identical to that of an ASC meeting, but an RSC deals primarily with common situations, working on a broader scale.

Some regions have found it valuable to conduct their meetings according to a pre-arranged agenda. The RSC officers get in touch with the ASC officers through their ASR and collect topics for discussion so situations can be dealt with on a priority basis, and similar situations can be combined to prevent duplication of effort.

Each service committee should have some kind of guidelines to ensure that its services continue to be provided regardless of changes in officers or representatives. These guidelines should include a description of the committee, its purpose, and the scope of its services, and should define the functions and responsibilities of its participants, officers and subcommittees.

A regional service committee sponsors major activities such as service conferences, conventions, camp outs and round-ups. These functions can stimulate N.A. unity in a region. Most of us have, at some time, attended an activity of this type and we are aware of the unity and fellowship they can inspire. Each region is encouraged to hold at least one major function or activity each year. These can be as simple as a camping trip or as involved as a service conference. Usually the planning and implementation of such an event is left to a regional activities subcommittee specifically established for this purpose. We have found

that a subcommittee system is even more important at a regional level than it is in our areas. This is because an RSC covers a greater number of meetings. By necessity, most of the work (excluding major decisions and matters of group conscience) must be done by subcommittees. Only the initiation and the finalization of a project takes place in a regular RSC meeting. Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. This is just as true for an RSC as it is for any group. All RSC functions have this purpose as a goal; some functions, however, relate directly to carrying the message. As we have noted, the areas basically work to bring the addict to the Fellowship, through public relations and public service announcements. Institutional work is the responsibility of an RSC, and is usually handled by one or more subcommittees.

An RSC needs money to operate. Most RSC's normally publish quarterly meeting directories. Large quantities of literature are often supplied to institutions and hospitals though in some cases this is handled through a separate institutional fund. Additional funds are needed for postage, stationery supplies and the like.

Another important part of an RSC's function is to contribute to our world services. Regional support in the nature of funds, ideas, and confidence is essential to the work of our world services. Any excess funds which accumulate at a regional level should be contributed directly to the treasurer of the World Service Conference. Monies are needed for major activities. These activities are ideally self-sustaining, with enough money left over from one activity to secure the next. Many regions sponsor their representatives to the World Service Conference. Most of the suggestions, ideas, and new literature presented at a World Service Conference are initiated at a regional level. These are submitted in writing to the proper subcommittee of the World Service Conference ninety (90) days prior to a World Service Conference itself in order to be considered for placement on the agenda. Sixty (60) days before a World Service Conference meets, copies of the agenda are mailed out to the regions by the WSC secretary for group

conscience discussion. [Editorial note: Although this paragraph was not modified specifically, these time sequences have been superseded by action of the 1984 WSC,—see page 33.] [See also page 47 for details pertaining to new literature.]

## **A. Elections of RSC Officers**

Like an ASC, an RSC elects officers each year from among its participants. They include: 1) a chairperson, 2) a vice-chairperson, 3) a secretary, and 4) a treasurer. Their functions and responsibilities are similar to those of ASC officers. An RSC also elects a regional service representative (RSR) and a regional service representative-alternate (RSR-Alt) who speaks for the region at the World Service Conference.

## **B. Regional Service Representative**

A regional service representative (RSR) is to a region what a GSR is to a group and an ASR is to an area. An RSR represents and speaks for the members and groups that comprise the regional service committee. The primary responsibility of an RSR is to work for the good of N.A. providing two-way communication between the region and the rest of N.A. An RSR is the Fellowship's link with the World Service Conference and the World Service Board of Trustees. An RSR provides two-way communication between these service levels and the various areas within their region and other regions. They present minutes of the WSC and WSB to the RSC. They attend all RSC meetings and as many ASC meetings as possible.

The office of regional service representative is a year-round job. An RSR participates in the World Service Conferences, and takes part in any decisions which affect N.A. An RSR serves on one or more WSC subcommittees, communicates regularly with the World Service Board of Trustees, works closely with regional officers and subcommittees, and is a source of information and guidance in matters concerning the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.



Each year an RSC elects a regional service representative-alternate from among the qualified members in the region. An RSR normally serves for a period of two (2) years: the first as an alternate representative and the second as a voting representative. The RSR-alternate also fills in if the RSR is absent for any reason or is unable to complete their term in office.

In order for an RSR to do a good job, it is recommended that each nominee should have the following qualifications:

1. A commitment to service
2. Service experience
3. The willingness to give the time and resources necessary to do the job
4. A suggested minimum of five (5) years of continuous abstinence from all drugs, for an RSR-alternate
5. A good working knowledge of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions of the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship

An RSR is the voice of the region, and votes the group conscience of the region at the World Service Conference. Whenever a voting matter occurs where the group conscience of their region has not been given to them, they should evaluate each vote in terms of the needs of the members they serve.

In order to prevent the necessity of tabling important clarifications and motions for a year, RSR's should have, before leaving their region, a vote of confidence that they are authorized to vote their member's group conscience on motions not on the World Service Conference agenda. When appropriate, a motion can be tabled to allow representatives to check with their group conscience, and the motion can be brought to the floor later in the same World Service Conference.

A regional service representative should be selected from the best informed, most trusted and most active members in order that they may serve their region's need and the need of Narcotics Anonymous.

## **WORLD SERVICE**

The final type of service which N.A. offers is world service. These are the services which deal with the problems and needs of N.A. as a whole, and which N.A. offers to its members, its groups, and to society. The basic purposes of our world services are communication, coordination, information and guidance. We provide these services so that our groups and members can more successfully carry the message of recovery, and so that our program of recovery can be made more available to addicts everywhere.

Our world services include three specific bodies: 1) the World Service Office, 2) the World Service Board of Trustees, and 3) the World Service Conference. These three branches of service are interrelated and work together to benefit all of N.A. However, each branch of world service functions within its own framework and guidelines.

Within our world services we again find new service concepts developing. First, our world services work for the good of all N.A. Although all parts of our service structure affect and are affected by N.A. as a whole, only at this level do we find service bodies designed to deal with problems which involve our entire Fellowship. A second new concept found at this level is that of the non-addict servant. These individuals have valuable skills from which our Fellowship can benefit.

### **THE WORLD SERVICE OFFICE**

Probably the single busiest part of our service structure is the World Service Office (WSO). WSO is the main contact and distribution point.

One of the most important functions of the WSO is to link our widespread groups and members into a single, cohesive Fellowship. The WSO stays in close contact with our groups, areas, and regions. This contact is maintained through correspondence, our quarterly newsletter, and through the representatives within our service structure. WSO offers considerable

aid to new groups, existing groups with special problems, institutional groups, groups outside the United States, members who travel extensively, and loners. This aid is in the nature of sharing the experience which other groups and members have reported to the WSO, and by putting those who seek aid in touch with other groups or members within our Fellowship. The WSO is also available to aid convention and conference committees, etc.

Another major function of WSO is the publication and distribution of literature. This office publishes yearly a World Directory, quarterly newsletters, all World Service Conference material, and new literature in English and other languages. In order to provide these publications, WSO needs financial support. WSO is also responsible for the printing, warehousing, and distribution of all existing literature. Additionally, a number of kits such as the Group Starter Kit are available. As a sideline to literature, the WSO offers reel-to-reel and cassette tape recordings of important N.A. functions, personal "pitches," typical meeting and discussions on various topics.

In order to provide communications, coordination, information and guidance services, the WSO must keep extensive files of correspondence and other records. These files include: letters to and from those who have contacted WSO; a file of all correspondence with each N.A. group; a record of all starter kits sent out; the name, address, and telephone number of all GSR's, ASR's, and RSR's; and the addresses of all general service committees and their officers. Along with these files and records, WSO keeps the archives of N.A.'s history. These archives contain relevant documents, newspaper articles, photos of original meeting places, etc. Records such as these are necessary so that we may learn from our past mistakes, stay in contact with all of N.A. and serve our Fellowship.

One of the most difficult jobs of the World Service Office is dealing with public anonymity breaks. Due to the nature of our Fellowship, no part of our service structure should ever serve as a disciplinarian; this would not be in keeping with our basic principles. When public anonymity breaks do occur, the WSO does

function in an educational role. We try to explain to the individual or group and the media involved that actions of this type are in violation of our Traditions, and that this type of publicity can potentially cause grave problems which could threaten the survival of our Fellowship. It is never our place to attempt to punish--we can only try to prevent the reoccurrence of this type of problem.

The final WSO function we shall discuss is that of public relations. Much of our mail consists of requests for information from individuals, agencies, and other drug programs. It is our policy to answer each inquiry; however, we stress that our function is not informational or referral. Our program is principles and people. Our relationship with those outside our Fellowship is cooperative and our Traditions make it clear that we must stay unattached if we are to survive.

All these functions make it necessary for our World Service Office to be more of a "business" than a part of the Fellowship. WSO is separate from N.A., but works for N.A. WSO, Inc. functions as a non-profit corporation; with managers, departments, administrators, paid employees, subsidiaries, and the like. The corporation has five (5)\* regular members who act as the Board of Directors of WSO and are its officers: president, vice-president, treasurer, director, and secretary. WSO, Inc. operates under a standard set of corporate bylaws with this amendment: "The Board of Directors and any additional boards or committees shall be subject to and abide by the Twelve Traditions as stated in the book entitled Narcotics Anonymous."

\*(Note: The corporation has changed its bylaws and added seven member/directors since this paragraph was adopted by the WSC.)

Our office is administered by our World Service Board of Directors and acts upon the directives of our World Service Conference. WSO is truly a business: Its raw material is the program, its product is recovery and its function is service.



## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The WSB does not govern. Its nature is that of a custodian, providing guidance. The World Service Board consists of both addicts and non-addicts, and its members are known as trustees. Their only purpose is to serve the best interests of our Fellowship, and through the World Service Conference we give them the authority to do this. All the actions of the Board are guided by our Traditions. Although the primary aim of the Board is to ensure the maintenance of the Twelve Traditions, the trustees also serve in many other capacities and have other responsibilities.

The World Service Board utilizes a subcommittee system similar to that used by our World Service Conference. These subcommittees meet throughout the year and are composed of trustees, members, and an occasional non-addict. Committee members are selected on a "what they have to offer" basis and each brings special skills or experience relevant to the committee function.

The internal structure of the World Service Board is different from those of the rest of our service branches. The trustees do not represent; they serve. This service is for a five (5) year term, to ensure the continuation of the quality of service. The WSB works closely with the World Service Conference and Conference committees but functions within its own guidelines.

- I. The purpose of the Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") is to contribute to the continuation and growth of Narcotics Anonymous and to serve as a primary resource for the Fellowship of N.A.
- II. The functions of the Board of Trustees and its members are:
  - A. To deal with those things, both within and outside the Fellowship, which affect the continuation and growth of N.A.

B. To promote Fellowshipwide understanding of and adherence to the Twelve Traditions of N.A.

C. To provide and encourage the exchange and availability of service related information and experience.

D. To actively seek and encourage ways of carrying the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers.

The Board and its members are responsible to the Fellowship as a whole through our service structure, and they must remain responsive to the needs of the Fellowship.

III. The membership of the Board of Trustees of Narcotics Anonymous conforms with the following:

A. The number of trustees serving at any time is limited to a maximum of fifteen (15). There need not be a full complement of trustees serving at any given time; ultimately, the number of trustees will be determined by need.

B. Trusteeship is one of two basic types: addict or non-addict. Of the trustees, at least two thirds (2/3) are recovering drug addicts.

C. The qualifications required of addict trustees include:

1. The willingness to serve as a member of the Board.
2. Nomination and election by separate election for each trustee position by a majority vote of the World Service Conference.
3. A commitment to service as shown by experience working as a member of other N.A. service committees, and his or her

contributions to the continuation and growth of the Fellowship.

4. The time and resources necessary for active trusteeship.
5. A minimum of eight (8) years' continuous abstinence from drugs.
6. A good working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Steps of N.A.

D. The qualifications required of our non-addict trustees are:

1. The willingness to serve as a member of the Board.
  2. Nomination and election at the World Service Conference.
  3. The time and resources necessary for active trusteeship.
  4. A good working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions of N.A.
  5. A good understanding of the nature of the addict and of our program of recovery.
- E. A trustee is selected by the following procedure: Candidates for the Board are nominated and elected at the World Service Conference.

F. The term of trusteeship for a member of the Board of Trustees of Narcotics Anonymous is five (5) years.

G. A trustee may be removed from office for due cause.

H. The resignation, retirement or removal of a trustee does not exclude him or her from future nomination and election at the World Service Conference.

IV. In order to function more effectively, the Board of Trustees of Narcotics Anonymous elects officers.



A. The officers of the Board of Trustees include:

1. The chairperson.
2. The vice-chairperson.
3. The secretary.
- B. The duties of these officers are:
  1. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees:
    - a. Presides over all trustee meetings.
    - b. Holds such powers and performs such duties as may be required, from time to time, by the Board.
    - c. May appoint and define the duties of committees as authorized by the Board.
    - d. Is elected from, and is a member of the Board.
  2. The Vice-chairperson of the Board of Trustees:
    - a. Performs all the duties, and holds all the powers, of the chairperson in his or her absence.
    - b. Holds such powers and performs such duties as may be required, from time to time, by the Board.
    - c. Is elected from, and is a member of the Board.
  3. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees:
    - a. Keeps a record of the proceedings of the Board and of the trustees.
    - b. Prepares and publishes accurate minutes of the meetings of the Board within thirty (30) days of such meetings.
    - c. Is selected because of ability, and need not actually be a member of the Board.
- C. These members are elected by the Board at the final regular trustee meeting of each calendar year, and serve for the following calendar year.

D. The officers of the Board of Trustees may serve more than one (1) term of office, provided that they are reelected for each term.

V. The meetings of the Board of Trustees conform to the following:

A. The Trustees hold regular quarterly meetings on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November.

B. Additional special meetings are held whenever needed upon two (2) weeks notification by the chairperson.

C. The regular quarterly trustee meetings are open to members of the Fellowship as non-participant observers.

D. The attendance of at least two-fifths (2/5) of the active Trustees at a meeting constitutes a quorum for conducting the business of the Board.

E. Each trustee is expected to attend at least two (2) regular scheduled meetings each year. A trustee who is unable to attend may be asked to resign his/her trusteeship.

F. A record is kept of the meetings of the Board.

1. Accurate minutes of all trustee meetings are taken and published within thirty (30) days of the meetings. A copy of these minutes are sent to:
  - a. Each trustee
  - b. The World Service Office
  - c. Each duly registered regional service committee.
2. These are the only copies normally distributed; however, any member of the Fellowship may, upon request, receive a copy of the minutes of trustee meetings from the Chairperson of our Board by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

G. The regular meetings of the Board of Trustees follow this basic format:

1. Opening
2. Information and reports
3. Old business
4. New business
5. Closing

VI. In order that we may better serve, we utilize a subcommittee system between the meetings of the Board.

A. The purpose of our WSB committees are:

1. To be a resource and provide continuity for World Service Conference committees.
2. To be an available source of information, experience and guidance in their areas of specializations.
3. To be a place where valuable trusted servants can contribute to our Fellowship after their term of office as a trustee has passed.

B. The standing committees include:

1. Internal affairs; concerned with what occurs within our Fellowship and Service Structure; with emphasis on WSO, WSC, finance, activities, etc.
2. External Affairs; concerned with how our Fellowship and structure interface with society with emphasis on Hospitals and Institutions, Public Information, Public Relations, Relations with the Medical Profession, Criminal Justice System, and the media, etc.
3. Policy and Structure; concerned with the growth and development of our Fellowship and its services, our service structure, formal service, planning, etc.
4. Training and Education; concerned with providing service related information and experience for all levels of our

service structure, including monthly articles on service topics, service learning, conferences, training sessions distribution of service information, etc.

5. Literature Review; concerned with literature review and verification, newsletters, periodicals, etc.

C. Trustee committees are chaired by a trustee who has been selected by the WSB Chairperson because of his or her experience in a specific area. Other members of these committees include other trustees, members of the Fellowship, or non-addicts as appointed by the committee chairperson.

D. Minutes of all subcommittee meetings are taken and copies of these minutes are maintained by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees and by the World Service Office.

VII. The WSB and its members participate in, contribute to, and respond to N.A. and our Service Structure.

1. An addict trustee can participate in and contribute to our Fellowship just as any other N.A. member can except:
  - a. A trustee should make it clear when he or she is acting as a trustee and when he or she is acting as an N.A. member.
  - b. A trustee should keep in mind that trusteeship places us in the role of examples, and avoid politics, personalities, and controversy.
  - c. A trustee should minimize other elective service positions.
2. An individual trustee may present a formal recommendation or opinion as a trustee but should avoid speaking for the the Board as a whole. These actions should be documented and a copy sent to the WSB Chairperson for inclusion in our records.

3. Any Service Unit (group, area, region, WSC, or committee thereof) may initiate an "Opinion of the WSB" by submitting a written question to the Board for consideration.

VIII. The Board of Trustees is an advisory Board rather than a directive Board, except responsibility may be exercised by the Board of Trustees, when acting unanimously, the Board of Trustees may act to correct violation of Traditions if such is found in our printed literature. When taking this action, the Board of Trustees will immediately notify the Fellowship as a whole and will have the matter placed on the agenda of the next World Service Conference. It is our responsibility to offer guidance to our members, our groups, and our service committees in matters concerning the Traditions or which affect N.A. as a whole.

A. The actions of the Board or of any individual trustee are documented so that we can learn from our experiences. The following basic format is used in documenting trustee action:

1. Date, location, trustee(s) involved.
2. Description of problem.
3. Action taken.
4. Effect of action.

B. In keeping with our role as an advisory Board, the WSB offers opinions and recommendations rather than directives or mandates. The implementation of WSB recommendations lies with those requesting information or guidance.

IX. These guidelines may be amended at any time by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the World Service Conference.

## THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

The final part of our service structure is the World Service Conference (WSC). It is the nerve center of our Fellowship. Our Conference is the one time each year when all our service branches come together. Unlike all other branches of N.A. service, the Conference is not an entity, it is an event--the coming together. In the spring of each year the regional service representatives, the Trustees of the World Service Board, and the Managers and Directors of the World Service Office meet to discuss questions of significance to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

The Conference itself can last up to a week, however, the planning and implementation associated with the Conference is a year-round proposition. The WSO is responsible for the administration of the Conference itself. The Trustees and Directors who attend the WSC must spend time in preparation, studying problems to be discussed and gathering information upon which decisions can be based. Each representative must be knowledgeable about the needs and feelings of his region, and be prepared to contribute to the Conference.

The Conference usually begins with an opening meeting which includes opening ceremonies, an overview of topics to be presented, and a review of the meaning and affect of the Twelve Traditions.

From this general meeting, the Conference splits up into six (6) committees at which all suggestions, questions, and problems which have been submitted are discussed. These topics can include anything of major importance to N.A. as a whole.

These committees include: Administrative, Policy, Literature, Institutional, Public Information and International. Each representative serves on one committee; each committee contains at least one trustee; and those committees which have equivalents in the WSO or WSB meet in conjunction with them. The purposes of the committees are to discuss all input within their scope, resolve items which do not require major policy decisions, and prepare resolutions for policy items.



These resolutions are designed to occupy as little general meeting time as possible and include a simple statement of the resolution, arguments for and against, and the facts which support these arguments.

After the agenda for the general meeting has been prepared from resolutions gathered from the committees, all Conference members get together as a body once again. At this general meeting each resolution is presented and considered. Some resolutions can be acted upon by the Conference, and some must be taken back to each region, area, and group for conscience decisions. But the Conference can, because of our service structure, initiate action which will benefit all members.

Once the Conference has considered all resolutions and decided which require Fellowshipwide group conscience votes and which are within the realm of Conference action, the committees meet once again to plan for the implementation of the Conference resolutions. The committees decide which branch--the WSO, the WSB, or one of the Conference subcommittees--can take the most effective action. Based on these decisions, directives are drafted and submitted for final approval.

Then, all Conference members meet together once again for the closing meeting. At this time the directives are approved and the closing ceremonies take place.

It sounds like the World Service Conference has a lot of power. This isn't true. All Conference matters are conducted in strict accordance with our Traditions, each Conference member is a trusted servant and has shown an understanding of our Traditions, and all items discussed in the Conference originate within the Fellowship. Due to its very nature, the Conference is the servant of the Fellowship.



Everything that occurs in the course of N.A. Service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. It was for this reason that this work was begun. We must always remember that as individual members, groups and service committees we are not, and should never be, in competition with each other. We work separately and together to help the newcomer and for our common good. We have learned, painfully, that internal strife cripples our Fellowship; it prevents us from providing the services necessary for growth.

The intent of this service Manual is to help clarify what needs to be done so that we can provide better service. The service structure of Narcotics Anonymous as described here does not exist everywhere in N.A. today. It is an ideal towards which we can strive, and in so doing make recovery available to a greater number of addicts.

NOTE: This description of the WSC was contained in the original input of the WSC '79 Literature Committee. There is no record of its' deletion according to the minutes of WSC '79, or subsequent conferences.

## **WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The World Service Conference is established by and is responsible to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. Its purpose is to be supportive to the Fellowship as a whole, and to define and implement the policies of Narcotics Anonymous. The World Service Conference does this by joining the members, groups, areas and regions into a unified Fellowship; by dealing with the problems and the needs of the Fellowship, and by actively encouraging the primary purpose and growth of Narcotics Anonymous.

The World Service Conference does not make policy; it cannot because it is not a governing body.

I. THE GUIDELINES OF THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. The World Service Conference meets in the Spring of each year. The last weekend in April has been arbitrarily selected as a target date; however, the actual dates of the conference may vary slightly from year to year.

B. The site of the conference is within commuting distance (approximately 25 miles) of the World Service Office.

C. The participants of the World Service Conference consists of:

1. Duly elected World Service Conference Officers.
2. Duly elected regional service delegates.
3. Members of the Board of Trustees.
4. President of the Board of Directors of the World Service Office.
5. Subcommittee chairperson from previous year and this year's conference.
6. In the absence of a duly elected Regional Delegate, the conference will recognize a qualified replacement from that region.

NOTE: An individual can only participate as one of the aforementioned; e.g., A World Service Officer who is coincidentally a trustee can only participate as one or the other, not both. Also all subcommittee chairpersons decline any delegate positions to avoid confusion over voting since they already have a vote at the World Service Conference.

D. Only conference participants are allowed to vote, make motions, or address the conference. The World Service Office Manager will be allowed to address the conference, to make reports, answer questions, and

discuss matters of his responsibility when requested by the Conference.

E. A person chairing the Conference, conducting a vote, or officially counting a vote does not have a vote while serving in this capacity.

F. All presentations, motions, statements, etc., will be made from the podium and then clearly restated by the Chairperson. This is to facilitate the taping of the Conference and to assure an accurate record of the proceedings.

G. Items for consideration at the Conference must be submitted in writing to the Conference.

H. Input for consideration at the Conference must be submitted to WSC Chairperson 120 days prior to the Conference, and distributed to the Fellowship for review 90 days prior to the Conference.

II. The consensus of the World Service Conference is determined by a majority vote.

A. Each Conference participant shall have one and only one vote.

B. Any item to be voted on shall be displayed in writing before the vote.

C. Prior to the actual vote, a voice vote (yea-nay) will be taken to determine if the item is Conference business or if it should be returned to each group for a "group conscience" vote.

D. Actual votes will be taken as follows:

1. The Chairperson will call for a vote.

2. If the outcome is unclear, if any participant challenges the judgment of the Chair, or if any participant challenges the validity of the vote in any way then a standing vote is called.

3. For a standing vote the Chairperson will ask all in favor of the item to stand and remain standing.

4. The number of participants standing will then be counted by three independent counters (the tallies of these three (3) counters must agree prior to continuing the voting process).

5. Those in favor will then be asked to sit, and the procedure will repeat for those opposed to the item in question.

6. The tally of those in favor and the tally of those opposed will be compared and the position in plurality will be declared.

NOTE: In case of a close vote, the Chairperson will accept a motion for one recount or for disregarding the vote in favor of sending the item to the group level for a final decision.

III. Officers of the World Service Conference are elected each year and begin serving upon completion of the World Service Conference and continue to serve until the close of the next year's Conference.

- A. Chairperson
- B. Vice-Chairperson
- C. Treasurer

It is the responsibility of these officers to plan and arrange the next World Service Conference; to maintain lines of communication between Conference participants, subcommittees, and service units throughout the year.

1. The Chairperson of the World Service Conference:

- a. Presides over all of the activities of the World Service Conference;
- b. Has such powers and performs such duties as may be required from time to time by the World Service Conference;
- c. May appoint and define the duties of special subcommittees as authorized by the World Service Conference.

2. The Vice-Chairperson of the World Service Conference:

- a. Performs all duties of and has all the powers of the Chairperson in his/her absence;
- b. Has such powers and performs such duties as may be required from time to time by the World Service Conference.

3. The WSO performs the duties of the WSC Secretary. These include keeping a record of the proceedings and publishing accurate minutes of the WSC within three (3) months of the close of the Conference.

4. The Treasurer of the World Service Conference:
- a. Keeps an accurate record of the financial transactions of the World Service Conference;
  - b. Prepares and presents a yearly financial report at the Conference;
  - c. Is responsible for any and all World Service Conference bank accounts;
  - d. Dispenses monies throughout the year to the World Service Conference officers or subcommittees, however, all cash disbursements require the approval of the Administrative Committee.

#### THESE OFFICERS ARE ELECTED BY THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES:

1. Nominations for any elective World Service Conference position are accepted from Conference participants. All subcommittee chairpersons must submit a list of all subcommittee members one month prior to the next WSC.
2. Nominations must be seconded.
3. The nominee is entitled to decline the nomination.
4. The names of the nominees are posted prior to the vote and each nominee briefly qualifies.
5. A standing vote is taken and repeated until a single nominee receives the majority support of the Conference participants.
6. In order to expedite the voting process in a case where no single nominee receives the support of a clear majority, the nominee who received the least support is excluded prior to each subsequent vote.



IV. In order to minimize the time spent discussing and debating within the Conference as a whole, a subcommittee system is used by the World Service Conference. All input to the Conference including questions, ideas, motions, suggestions, etc., is directed to a specialized committee. These committees are the following:

- A. Administrative Committee
- B. Policy Committee
- C. Literature Committee
- D. Institutional Committee
- E. Public Information Committee
- F. International Committee

The basic purposes of these committees are to collect, clarify, define and state the decisions of the Fellowship within specific areas of concern and to initiate and coordinate actions based on these decisions. Just at the World Service Conference as a whole does not make policy, these committees do not govern. They are, instead, the servants of the Fellowship performing a necessary task.

The World Service Conference **ADMINISTRATIVE** Committee consists of the newly elected World Service Conference officers and the officers of the current Conference. This committee serves the administrative needs of the Conference (i.e., locates and arranges for the next year's Conference).

The World Service Conference **POLICY** Committee's purpose is to provide the service committees of Narcotics Anonymous with practical procedures designed to help further the primary purpose of N.A. as a whole within the general policies of N.A., as expressed by the Twelve Traditions. The Policy Committee provides guidance for the understanding and application of group conscience and the relationship of the trusted servant to group conscience. Its function is to receive input regarding procedures used and viewed as inefficient or counterproductive. Input is collected, clarified, defined and analyzed in order to give in recommendations as to the effectiveness of the procedure. The Policy Committee is responsible for the development of proposed changes or modification to the service structure of Narcotics Anonymous.

The World Service Conference **LITERATURE** Committee deals with our primary purpose as it is achieved in writing. This committee seeks the input of

the Fellowship, compiles this input and presents it to the World Service Conference.

The World Service Conference **INSTITUTIONAL** Committee acts as a resource to regions, areas, groups and individual members in their efforts to carry the message into institutions such as jails, hospitals, detoxification centers and recovery houses. Its goal is to help avoid Tradition violations while carrying our message to those who cannot come to us.

The World Service Conference **PUBLIC INFORMATION** Committee deals with how Narcotics Anonymous interfaces with society; the image of Narcotics Anonymous, and how we can get those outside of the Fellowship to carry our message to addicts we cannot reach. This committee deals with matters of attraction through the media, (i.e., supplies regions and areas with the information necessary to initiate public information campaigns).

The purpose of the **INTERNATIONAL** Committee is to provide outreach services to the Fellowship outside the continental United States.

#### THE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE ARE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING:

1. These committees are chaired by a Conference participant elected to the position during the Conference.
2. Each committee includes at least one trustee.
3. No committee has a preponderance of members from any particular geographical area or region.
4. Committees are composed of Conference participants who may appoint additional committee members as needed.
5. The new committee chairperson for the next year and the old committee chairperson for the current year meet with each committee during the subcommittee session.
6. The committee discusses each item of input during the committee sessions. The committee then drafts a brief report on the discussion (including all important points, pro and con). The report is later presented to the World Service Conference as a whole.

7. The discussion of a committee need not be limited to specific input it has received, but each particular committee is expected to limit itself to its area of specialization.

8. All subcommittees should submit their issues of business to the Administrative Committee 120 days prior to the WSC.

9. All subcommittees must submit a quarterly financial report to the WSC Treasurer.

10. In the event of the resignation of a WSC subcommittee chairperson, the WSC Administrative Committee shall make the decision regarding the most appropriate person to serve as chairperson pro-temp until the next WSC, drawing on the experience, knowledge and level of ability of said committee's members. In the event of resignation of a WSC subcommittee vice-chairperson, the committee members shall elect an individual to serve out the remaining term as vice-chairperson pro-temp and actively serve in that position until the next WSC.

11. The Administrative Committee, all subcommittees of the WSC, and the WSB, submit annual budgets for approval by the Conference. The budget should include line-item projected expenses. The subcommittee chairpersons shall be allowed the flexibility to readjust line item allocations within their budget throughout the year according to actual expenses, upon written consent of the majority of the WSC Administrative Committee. The overall WSC budget shall include a reserve fund which may be allocated by the WSC Administrative Committee to any of the committees or boards, when unforeseen expenses cause that committee or board to exceed its projected budget.

NOTE: It is important that we remember that these committees cannot do the day-to-day work. (The Policy Committee doesn't actually make policy.) Only the members can do these things.

## V. BASIC FORMAT OF THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

### SESSION ONE

- A. Opening
- B. World Service Conference Officers Reports
- C. World Service Business Reports
- D. Subcommittee Reports

### SESSION TWO

Election of officers and subcommittee chairpersons.

### SESSION THREE

Subcommittee deliberations

### SESSION FOUR

Subcommittee presentations to the World Service Conference

### SESSION FIVE

Committee planning

### SESSION SIX

Closing

## VI. AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES

Any section or sections of these guidelines may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the World Service Conference.

EDITORIAL NOTE: On the pages following are amendments that have been approved by the World Service Conference. Each separate motion has been included below, or if appropriate, the specific language that was changed, has been so changed in the previous pages of the text. If the amendment or amended language was subsequently amended or replaced, the obsolete language has been omitted. For example in 1983, amendments were made to the section relating to Literature approval. In 1984, a complete new section on Literature approval was adopted. In this case the old language which was inconsistent with the new procedures was deleted.



DATE CARRIED 5/4/80

It is permissible to either pass or display H&I cans at any N.A. meeting or function.

DATE CARRIED 5/4/80

Recommendation (carried motion) that any meeting using outside literature that is not WSC approved be dropped from any N.A. directories.

DATE CARRIED 5/3/81

The name, "Narcotics Anonymous" cannot be used on flyers for dances, conventions, etc. The symbol (NA) can be used on flyers.

DATE CARRIED 5/3/81

No outside issued be mentioned or listed in context with Narcotics Anonymous.

DATE CARRIED 5/3/81

No outside enterprises be listed in the meeting directories.

DATE CARRIED 5/5/83

That the report of the Vice-chairperson, concerning the compilation of the N.A. Service Manual be accepted and that it be titled A Temporary Working Guide To Our Service Structure.

DATE CARRIED 5/6/83

That the WSC, as of this year, elect a Vice-chairperson for the subcommittees who will, pending affirmation at the WSC the following year, become chairperson of the committee. In the event the conference does not affirm the Vice-chairperson, it (the conference) will elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson.

DATE CARRIED 5/6/83

That the WSO will have 180 days to have the review material available.

DATE CARRIED 5/6/83

To reword our literature approval procedure to lengthen the literature review period to a "minimum of one year."

DATE CARRIED 5/6/83

That all literature be reviewed by WSB prior to 180 days deadline for Tradition inconsistencies.

DATE CARRIED 5/6/83

That "approval literature" submitted by WSC Literature Committee to the WSC be marked and labeled as literature for approval and be sold along with our approved literature by the WSO and that "approval literature" be sold only to groups, areas, or regions that are registered with the WSO. All review material should be obtained for cost and mailing during the time for review until time of approval.

DATE CARRIED 5/7/83

That this WSC permit the WSC PI Subcommittee to produce and distribute N.A. PI material after approval within 60 days by the WSB without the necessity of Fellowship review and WSC approval.

DATE CARRIED 5/7/83

That WSC directs all subcommittees (including but not limited to) Policy, Administration, Literature, Finance, H&I, N.A. Way, Public Information; and any Ad hoc subcommittee in existence to report to the N.A. Fellowship every three (3) months said reports to appear in all Fellowship Reports.

DATE CARRIED 4/25/84

That the Procedural Guidelines for the creation and development of new literature be approved. (The guidelines are attached as Addendum 1.)

DATE CARRIED 4/25/84

That all literature submitted to this conference for approval require a 2/3 majority vote of participants and that it take a 2/3 majority vote at WSC to withdraw current N.A. literature from the category of approved literature.

DATE CARRIED 5/2/86 (Replaces motion passed 4/25/84)

Any nominee to the WSC Administration Committee, WSB, WSO Board of Directors or for any WSC Standing Committee Chair or Vice Chair must be present at the nomination and election sessions of the annual meeting of the WSC.

DATE CARRIED 4/26/84

To designate the WSO, Inc. the treasurer for the World Service Board of Trustees.

DATE CARRIED 4/26/84

That material presented to the Fellowship for approval be written in a form that lends itself to a yes-no vote and specifies the conceptual changes involved to affirm and support this process. Only material approved by a WSC subcommittee is sent out to the Fellowship in "Approval Form."

DATE CARRIED 4/27/84

That the WSO be entrusted to prepare an informational booklet that will provide sufficient information to enable those regions, areas, or committees, that so choose, to be able to satisfactorily manage their financial activities relative to the conduct of conventions, retreats, conferences, dances, etc., and also properly record, report, and control those funds.

DATE CARRIED 4/27/84

That each area be requested to hold a fund-raiser for the benefit of WSC in July of each year and send the proceeds of such fund-raiser to the WSC Treasurer; the first to be during July 1984.

DATE CARRIED 5/1/85

That individuals participating in any national television program be selected jointly by the World Service Board of Trustees, the WSC P.I. Chairperson and the WSC Administrative Committee Chairperson.

DATE CARRIED 5/1/85

That approval of the pamphlet For Those We Love and Others be removed and its use in the Fellowship be discontinued and the copyright be released to Nar-Anon unconditionally.

DATE CARRIED 5/1/85

That the Procedural Guidelines for the WSC Literature Committee be approved and replace the Procedural Guidelines for the Creation and Development of New Literature.

DATE CARRIED 5/1/85

That the WSO Board of Directors assign a Board member to be an active member of the IAC Subcommittee [now called International Committee].

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

To approve the Treasurer's Handbook and that this handbook and language in the existing Conference-approved literature be accepted as the complete approved language pertaining to finance and previous language be considered void.

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

That the WSC Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance Committee.

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

To approve WSO proposal #1, page 151 of the Fellowship Report. (Proposal #1 pertained to deleting the following language in Addendum 2, N.A. Way Magazine Editorial Board, paragraph one.)

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

To approve WSO proposal #2, page 151 of the Fellowship Report. (Proposal #2 pertained to Non-English printing policies.)

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

That the World Service Conference adopt one of the proposed medallions outlined on page 151 of the Fellowship Report Addendum #3. (Option #5 was adopted.)

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

To approve #4 of WSO proposals on page 151 of the Fellowship Report. (Addendum #4 pertained to the procedures for electing persons to the WSO Board).

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

To have bound into the Basic Text an order blank offering materials available through WSO, including the Basic Text and other materials deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees.

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

That an archives service be established through our WSO for the purpose of making available minutes and other written material to the Fellowship at nominal cost with the inventory listed on the order form.

DATE CARRIED 5/2/85

That travel expenses of WSO Board members for board meetings, be paid by WSO.

DATE CARRIED 5/3/85

That welcome keytags available through WSO read "Just for Today," replacing "One Day at a Time."

DATE CARRIED 5/3/85 and amended 4/30/86

Our annual meeting held in the spring of each year, would remain the same in accordance with our policy as stated in the Temporary Working Guide. During the remaining quarters of the year, a World Service Conference Subcommittee workshop would be held on a rotating basis in different regions, determined by the WSC Administration Committee and presented to the participants at the annual meeting.



DATE CARRIED 5/3/85

Groups, areas and regions wishing to donate excess funds collected in H&I cans, or through other H&I fund-raisers, to WSC-H&I should make those donations to a WSO special fund, from which literature can be sent to needy H&I groups. It is suggested that this fund be administered by the WSO Coordinator of H&I services.

DATE CARRIED 5/3/85

To approve with amendments the Hospitals & Institutions Guidelines.

DATE CARRIED 5/3/85

Replace the words "International Affairs Committee" as it appears in the Temporary Working Guide or in any other N.A. literature or service manual with the words "International Committee."

DATE CARRIED 5/3/85

That the WSO act as the Treasurer of the World Service Conference Convention Committee.

DATE CARRIED 5/3/85

Change any and all N.A. approved literature where it has "recovered" to "recovering" in future printings.

DATE CARRIED 5/3/85

That the WSO be instructed to have the Basic Text professionally edited to ensure consistent and correct use of capitalization, verb tenses, gender, singular/plural endings and other grammatical errors and that the edited text be returned to the Literature Review Committee for acceptance and approval prior to printing and distribution.

DATE CARRIED 4/29/86

That matters of procedure such as "lay on the table," require the approval of 2/3 of the members voting "yes" and "no." Matters of policy, literature approval, or matters effecting the service structure require a 2/3 majority of all registered, eligible Conference participants present at the most recent roll call.

DATE CARRIED 4/30/86

That the WSO keep a record of the proceedings of the World Service Conference and prepare and publish accurate minutes of the World Service Conference within 30 days.

DATE CARRIED 4/30/86

That the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, Inc. (WCNA-14) be acquired as a gift and become a wholly owned subsidiary of World Service Office. The subsidiary corporation of the World Service Office, Inc., known as the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, is the agent for the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous for the conduct and management of the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous and such other activities as the World Service Conference may from time to time direct or authorize.

The by-laws of the World Convention Corporation for Narcotics Anonymous shall be adopted and utilized as the initial by-laws of the Corporation, the existing officers and directors shall continue to serve in their current capacities until the next meeting of the Corporation which shall be the First Annual Meeting of the Corporation and shall be held annually on the second Saturday of the month of June at which time such new officers and directors as may be elected at the 1986 meeting of the World Service Conference shall take office.

The members and Directors of the Corporation shall be:

- A. The Vice Chairperson of the World Service Conference
- B. The Vice Chairperson of the World Service Board of Trustees
- C. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the World Service Office and three additional members as the World Service Office Board may select
- D. One member from each of the committees of the three immediately previously held World Conventions as may be selected by that committee, provided that at the time appointed in the by-laws following the conclusion of each successive world convention the member from the world convention which was held first shall step down as a member. The retiring member will be replaced by a member from the most recently completed world convention host committee.
- E. Two members form the host committee for the site scheduled for the next world convention.
- F. Two members will be elected at the annual meeting of

the World Service Conference. These members shall have not less than five years clean time at the time of their election. They shall serve for one year terms of office as described in the by-laws.

DATE CARRIED 4/30/86

That the World Service Conference acknowledge and approve actions taken pursuant to the acquisition of WCNA-14 Inc., and utilization of that Corporation for the management of the London World Convention in the World Service Office Report to provide for management of WCNA-16 and the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, Inc.

DATE CARRIED 4/30/86

That matters of Conference budget policies development, review, and reporting be the responsibility of the committee proposed as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer of the WSC, the Chairperson of each Conference Standing Committee and the Board of Trustees Chairperson. The committee shall be known as the joint Administrative Committee and this committee shall be chaired by the WSC Treasurer when sessioned to discuss financial affairs.

DATE CARRIED 4/30/86

That the following be adopted as a means of financing attending at conventions, seminars or other annual meetings of national or international organizations of professionals who come in contact with addicts.

A. The one time expense of purchasing a transportable booth and transportation and lodging for a member of the World Service Conference P.I. Committee or a World Service Office staff member will be paid by the World Service Office.

B. Registration fees and transportation of the booth are shared equally by World Service Office and World Service Conference P.I. Committee

C. The cost of literature for display and handouts is shared equally between the World Service Office, and the World Service Conference P.I. Committee. The regional service committee in which the event takes place is also invited to share the cost of literature for these events.

DATE CARRIED 4/30/86

That the proposed policy on publishing additional copies of the H&I Newsletter Reaching Out be approved. The proposed policy reads: Adopt the following authorization as policy and part of the WSC budget for 1986/87: Increase the Conference expenditure from the current publishing level of

2,500 copies to 3,000 copies bi-monthly. Also authorize the World Service Office to publish an additional 3,000 copies of Reaching Out bi-monthly. These additional 3,000 copies will be sold at cost by the World Service Office. This would bring the production total up to 6,000 copies bi-monthly.

## WORLD SERVICE

The final type of service which N.A. offers is world service. These are the services which deal with the situations and needs of Narcotics Anonymous and which the Fellowship offers to its members, groups and to society. The basic purposes of our world services are communication, coordination, information, and consensus. We provide these services so that our groups and members can more successfully carry the message of recovery, ensuring that our program of recovery can be made more available to addicts everywhere.

Our world services include the World Service Conference which meets annually in open conference, and the World Service Board of Trustees, which meets quarterly. These branches of service are interrelated and work together to benefit all of N.A.

Within our world services we find new service concepts developing. Our world services work for the good of all of N.A. Although all parts of our service structure affect and are affected by the N.A. Fellowship only at this level do we find service bodies designed to deal with situations which involve our entire Fellowship.

*Note: The three paragraphs above on world service are from the proposed revised policy manual (green manual, 1982). They are similar to language that was previously published in the service manual and not removed when the first fifteen pages of the green manual were adopted. The language above is redundant to that shown on page 19 and has been placed here to avoid confusion.*

## ADDENDUM 1.

### PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Approved literature is the embodiment of the message of recovery developed by the Fellowship according to these policies. The World Literature Committee acts as the trusted servant for the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous in all matters pertaining to the development of literature. In the Guidelines below, the name of the Literature Committee is used to mean the Literature Committee acting for the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

Any member of the Fellowship can propose new literature. A proposal can be a simple letter suggesting a subject or title or it can be as comprehensive as a draft of a complete work. All proposals should be sent to the WSC Literature Committee at the World Service Office. A copyright release form should also be submitted along with all works written by any individual. Copyright release forms are essential if the Literature Committee is to give consideration to the item. The copyright release gives the Literature Committee the rights to the ideas, outlines, language and "story" suggested. Without a release, the Literature Committee does not have a legal right to use the idea or story and no work can be done.

The Literature Committee is comprised of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, who also acts as secretary of the Committee, a Literature Review Committee and registered members. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are elected by the World Service Conference in accordance with the provisions of the N.A. Service Manual. As a means of encouraging Fellowship-wide participation in the Literature Committee, no more than two members from the same region may serve on the Literature Committee simultaneously, regardless of the manner by which members are selected.

1. There are eight (8) members of the Literature Review Committee (LRC). Before members are considered for the LRC, they will have gained and demonstrated in prior service work their knowledge and understanding of the



Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous through service at area, region and/or world levels for a period of at least five (5) years, three (3) of which were directly involved with literature committees. Our experience has shown that those involved in service for these longer periods of time have demonstrated the ability to complete lengthy commitments and usually bring a deep understanding of recovery through the Narcotics Anonymous Program. These individuals share valuable perspective and experience in living the N.A. principles which is then reflected in the literature produced by the World Literature Committee. Many lessons have been learned throughout the history of the Literature Committee, resulting in more effective methodologies and these Guidelines. In order to benefit from this experience, there is a great need for continuity among the members of the Literature Committee. In an effort to promote such continuity, members of the Literature Review Committee, except for the appointees of the Chairperson, serve for three years.

A. Three (3) members of the Fellowship are elected by the World Service Conference. These members may be re-elected for consecutive terms to the Literature Review Committee.

B. One member of the Committee shall be a member of the Board of Trustees appointed by the Board in such manner as they may select. The Trustee member serves as a regular member of the Literature Review Committee, except that s/he presides over the meetings of the World Literature Committee and further acts as a liaison to the WSB. The Trustee member will normally be found to have considerable experience (four or more years) in literature development.

C. The Chairperson of the World Literature Committee is a member of the Literature Review Committee.

D. The Vice-Chairperson of the World Literature Committee is a member of the Literature Review Committee.

E. Two (2) members are appointed by the World Literature Committee Chairperson to serve for one-year terms. These members may be reappointed by succeeding Chairpersons. In order to utilize the experience and

knowledge gained through involvement with literature development, previous members of the World Literature Committee will frequently be found to be appointees by Chairpersons.

2. There are eleven (11) registered members of the World Literature Committee. These members demonstrate their interest and ability in literature work, as well as knowledge and understanding of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, through prior service on area or regional literature committees for a period of at least three years.

A. Five (5) registered members are selected by the World Service Conference by election to serve for one year. Each registered member may be re-elected at a succeeding World Service Conference. The registered members elected are chosen from regional service representatives attending the Conference, previous RSR's or previous registered members of the World Literature Committee. Regional service representatives elected to serve as registered members of the World Literature Committee continue to serve as registered members for a full year from the end of the World Service Conference at which they are elected, regardless of their term of office as a regional service representative.

B. Six (6) registered members are selected by the World Service Conference by drawing to serve for one year. Each year, prior to the World Service Conference, eligible regional service committees may nominate a member of the Fellowship from their region to be selected for membership as a registered member of the World Literature Committee. The five members are randomly selected by a drawing at the World Service Conference from these nominees. In order to promote the widest possible participation in the World Literature Committee, registered members selected by drawing are not eligible for selection in the same manner the following year and the region from which the member was selected cannot submit a nominee for the following year.

The World Literature Committee receives a variety of proposals from N.A. members, groups and service committees. These proposals reflect a full range of specialized publications representing the principles and philosophies of the Narcotics Anonymous Program. In the evaluation of literature

proposals, the Literature Committee uses the following criteria in determining if a particular piece of literature is appropriate.

1. The proposed item will expand the inventory of materials adopted by the Fellowship that aid members of the Fellowship in an understanding and application of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

2. The proposed item carries the message of Narcotics Anonymous to the addict who still suffers from active addiction.

3. The proposed item supplies valuable information to the professional fields with whom addicts would most commonly come in contact.

4. The proposed item clarifies the nature of addiction to the general public.

The Literature Committee reviews all proposals received each year. An outline of each item is included with a summary of the work to be considered. The members of the Literature Committee indicate to the Chairperson which projects they feel are the most important to be finalized in the upcoming year. These responses are then used in the preparation of a prioritized worklist which is submitted, with other Conference materials, 90 days prior to the World Service Conference. The prioritized list reflects a manageable number of projects on which the committee plans to work in the upcoming year. The World Service Conference may then adopt the list as recommended, amend the list, add or remove proposed items from the list prior to adoption.

Once a project is approved as part of the priority list, the Literature Committee undertakes to develop or have developed the specific items of literature. Depending on the nature of the project, the Literature Committee Chairperson may assign an item to a local, area or regional literature committee; the Literature Committee may complete the work themselves at a workshop or conference; or have it done by other individuals such as professional writers or editors.

Drafts completed by any of these means available to the Literature Committee are thoroughly evaluated by the Literature Review Committee. The Literature Review Committee recommends any changes they conclude are

appropriate. Before the final draft is complete, the recommended changes are made at a World Literature Conference, special workshop, by an appointed ad-hoc committee or a professional writer/editor. At such time as the Literature Review Committee is satisfied that the draft meets criteria, the proposed item is forwarded to the registered members for further evaluation.

The registered members evaluate draft literature, recommending any changes they feel are appropriate. If a majority of the registered members recommend any change(s), the recommended change(s) are then evaluated by the Literature Review Committee. If the LRC concurs with the recommendation, the changes are made, in the manner described in the paragraph above. Although this process is somewhat lengthy, the experience of the World Literature Committee has demonstrated that an overemphasis on speed often results in unnecessary errors. Although time is certainly of the essence, the Literature Committee must remain focused on quality, if it is to fulfill its purpose of carrying the message of recovery in the written form.

The evaluation of proposed literature assures that an accurate representation of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous is presented when the steps or traditions are included in full or in part of a draft. Before the evaluation is complete, the draft is edited to ensure correct use of morphological and syntactic rules (including spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization). This process further maintains consistency in writing style and Narcotics Anonymous terminology.

The development of literature and the internal working of the Literature Committee involves expression of a group conscience of the Committee. Developing literature for a spiritual Fellowship is a delicate and important process for it conveys not only the language of recovery, but also the framework for a new relationship of an individual to his/her perception of a Higher Power.

In an effort to assure that the Fellowship receives materials which reflect the best efforts of the trusted servants to whom the responsibilities described herein are entrusted, the concept of complete unanimity is incorporated into the

deliberations. The Literature Committee will normally be able to achieve near-unanimous approval for draft materials before the draft materials are submitted for Fellowship consideration. As a last resort, when a unanimous decision cannot be achieved by the Literature Committee, a vote system is utilized. Each member of the Literature Committee, as described above, has one vote in the deliberations. When this may become necessary, the Literature Committee shall rely upon a two-thirds majority for recommendations to be followed

The World Literature Committee meets no less than twice a year, and as often as necessary to accomplish its goals and objectives. Although any N.A. member is welcome to attend and observe the meetings of the Literature Committee, participation is limited to the actual members of the Committee. The annual meeting held at the World Service Conference is for the purpose of deliberating on any input received from the Fellowship in the form of general suggestions, and for planning the accomplishment of its worklist. Agreements may be reached with certain regional literature committees to write drafts of specific items, special workshops may be planned and arrangements made for the annual November meeting of the Literature Committee.

At the [November meeting] (See note \*), generally held in a central location of the continental U.S., the status of each project is discussed. At that time, reassignments of certain projects may be made if necessary, or other provisions made in order to accomplish work on the prioritized items. The meeting is an informal gathering of the World Literature Committee for the purpose of working and/or completing projects on the approved worklist. Items to be brought to the upcoming World Service Conference are also discussed. It is generally not appropriate for registered members of the WLC to introduce actions related to developing or changing the internal workings or policies of the Committee. Any actions of this nature are considered by the Literature Review

---

\* NOTE: The World Service Conference subcommittees meet quarterly at locations which are selected by the WSC Administrative Committee.



Committee who then makes recommendations to the Chairperson. In this way, the Literature Committee avoids the conflict and controversy often associated with internal "politics," concentrating its efforts entirely on the creation and development of literature for Narcotics Anonymous.

The Literature Committee may recommend that a completed piece of literature be distributed to the N.A. Fellowship for review and additional input. The Fellowship is normally provided a period of nine months in which to review the new literature and generate input for the Literature Committee. The input received may be used in the preparation of an approval form, which may be accomplished at a World Literature Conference, special workshop, by an appointed ad-hoc committee or a professional writer/editor. The new item is then forwarded to the World Service Board of Trustees for evaluation. This evaluation by the WSB ensures that the piece accurately represents the principles of Narcotics Anonymous as outlined in the Twelve Traditions. Any language which is inconsistent with the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous is automatically revised based on the recommendations of the Board of Trustees. Upon completion of this process, the approval form is distributed to the Fellowship one year prior to consideration at the next World Service Conference.

The printing and distribution of review-form and approval-form literature is accomplished by the World Service Office. Review-form literature is distributed only to area and regional literature committees, for the purpose of generating additional input and encouraging the growth and support of area and regional literature committees. Approval-form literature is distributed to N.A. members.

Any written material (input) which is received by the World Literature Committee pertaining to a piece of literature not on the Committee's priority list, is kept on file for future consideration. All WSC-approved literature is considered for



revision at least every five years. Additionally, input may be received pertaining to general topics which is channeled to the Literature Committee resource files. This source material may then be used for a variety of different projects. Proposals received by the Literature Committee which are not placed on the priority list, are kept on file for consideration for the following year's list.

More specific information about the functions and activities of area and regional literature committees, as well as the World Literature Committee, may be found in the *Revised Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committees*. This Handbook also describes, in detail, the roles of the trusted servants of the Literature Committee and ways for individual members to contribute material.

These Guidelines were approved at WSC 1985.

Editorial note: Following are amendments that have been approved by the World Service Conference. Each separate motion has been included below or, if appropriate, the specific language that was changed has been amended in the pages of the guidelines.

DATE CARRIED May 2, 1986.

The World Literature Chairperson may replace committee resignees from the pool of nominees put forth at the World Service Conference and add to the pool based on the consent of the World Literature Committee.

DATE CARRIED May 2, 1986

The Procedural Guidelines for World Literature be amended to reflect that the Vice-Chairperson of the World Literature Committee be a member of the Literature Review Committee for a total of eight members rather than seven.

## ADDENDUM 2.

### *N.A. WAY MAGAZINE*

#### ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The WSO should have overall management responsibility for the Fellowship magazine. WSO shall receive all input, prepare layouts, print and distribute the magazine. WSO shall have responsibility to edit, but editing will be limited to correction of grammatical, syntactical and structural problems in an effort to promote continuity without altering the content or flavor of the article. They shall employ one or more individuals to discharge duties outlined herein and be responsible for the communications required. The principal employee selected to discharge responsibilities of the WSO for the production of the magazine shall be known as the Managing Editor. The person selected to be the Managing Editor must have had either two years previous experience in the writing and publication of professional quality print publications (newspaper or magazine, or four years college education in journalism).

The WSO shall charge a reasonable amount for the magazine on a yearly basis to cover the costs of the publication, including staff time and all materials and production costs.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

1. There shall be an Editorial Board that shall have the responsibility to edit. Editing will be limited to the correction of grammatical, syntactic and structural problems in an effort to promote continuity without altering the content or flavor of the article. Except as noted in the following paragraph, the Editorial Board shall have authority to decide what is put in each issue and to decide which articles are to be included or not included.

2. The Editorial Board shall not have authority or ability to change in any manner the following: reports submitted for publication from WSC officers, or subcommittee chairpersons,\* letters to the editor (although they will decide which letters will be included and which shall not), guest editorials and articles submitted by the Trustees that represent decisions or announcements of the Trustees in their capacity as custodians of the Traditions.

3. The Editorial Board shall be composed of and include the Managing Editor, a Trustee (referred to as Associate Editor) and a person selected by the WSC (referred to as Associate Editor). Each member of this Editorial Board must have not less than five years abstinence at the time of initial participation.

4. At the annual meeting of WSC held in even numbered years, one person shall be elected by a majority vote, to serve on the Editorial Board who must reside close enough so as to have daily (if needed) direct supervision and participation. The person so elected shall serve for a period of two years. In the event the person elected does not complete the period of service, the Chairperson of the WSC will appoint a qualified replacement within 30 days. The appointed replacement shall serve for the unexpired term of service until the next regular scheduled election.

---

\*This language has not been deleted although a subsequent motion passed 4/24/84 specified that "for the present time the *N.A. Way* magazine be strictly limited to articles on recovery and notices of coming events in the Fellowship."

5. The World Service Board of Trustees may select any of their members to serve as a member of the Editorial Board. The Trustee selected must reside close enough so as to have daily (if needed) direct supervision and participation. However, the appointment should be made for a continuous period of not less than two years. In the event of resignation or other need of replacement of the Trustee member of the Editorial Board, the Board of Trustees should act with dispatch in such selection. The Editorial Board shall continue to operate without interruption if there is not an appointed Trustee acting as a member of the Editorial Board.

## REVIEW PANEL

1. Articles submitted as stories, poems, etc., shall be reviewed by an additional review panel prior to their consideration by the Editorial Board for inclusion in the magazine. The review panel shall be composed of the following and their appointment shall be for a period of not less than two years. All members of the review panel must have not less than five years abstinence at the time of initial participation. The members: three Trustees, three former N.A. newsletter editors and three individuals selected by the WSC.

2. The review panel shall review articles proposed and give individual suggestions for editing and improvement, or for rejection. The Editorial Board has the option of adopting any of the changes or all the changes proposed by the review panel, but may not include in the magazine articles that a majority of the review panel recommends not printing.

3. At the annual meeting of the World Service Conference nominations or volunteers will be accepted for members to serve on the Review Panel of the *N.A. Way*. Each volunteer or nominee must have not less than five years clean time at the time of nomination, and should have business experience or educational experience that will assist in the production of a Fellowship magazine. From the volunteers and nominees not less than seven will be selected to serve.

The selection will be based on examples of work produced in actual practice by the members. Volunteers and nominees will be sent material for their participation over a period of months in order to obtain a sufficient exposure of their skills and abilities for the work to be done. A background in English, literature or editing will be important tools. The selection will be upon unanimous agreement by the Chairpersons of the World Service Conference, the Board of Trustees and the World Service Office for a period of service of one year. In order to consistently get the best efforts of our members, they can be assigned for successive terms. More than seven members may be assigned as more are found to be available with time, skills, and ability. Upon the resignation or failure of a member to reasonably participate, the member will be dropped from the Review Panel and a new member selected.

4. The Board of Trustees may select in any manner they choose, the three members of their Board to serve on the review panel. The three so selected shall not include the Trustee selected to be a member of the Editorial Board. In the event that the Trustees fail to select any of the required number of members (or select fewer than three) to serve in this capacity or if the Trustee selected individually fails to perform assigned duties during any 30-day period, the review panel may continue to operate normally without input or participation by the absent Trustees. The Trustees selected for this service should be appointed and serve for a period of not less than two years.

### CONCEPT OF SERVICE

The magazine for N.A. is one of the most important assets of the Fellowship. As such, it should be managed on the basis of strict application of the concept of principles and not personalities. Each person who is elected to serve on the Editorial Board or review panel should accept this duty as a primary N.A. activity and subordinate other conflicting interests.

### ADDENDUM 3.

#### N.A. AUDIO TAPE REVIEW

At the annual meeting of the World Service Conference, nominations or volunteers will be accepted as members to serve on the Audio Tape Advisory Panel. Each volunteer or nominee must have not less than five years clean time at the time of nomination, and should have time available to do the work required. From the volunteers and nominees not less than fifteen will be selected to serve. The selection will be by random drawing and each person will serve for one year. When the drawing is conducted in successive years, those members who are still serving and desire to continue will have their names automatically entered into the drawing. If during the year a member fails to participate they will be replaced by another person drawn from the remaining volunteers and nominees.





