



Conference Digest

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November 1991

1992 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

When, where, and what format will it have?

The 1992 World Service Conference (WSC) will be held April 25 through May 2, in Dallas, Texas, USA. This is in keeping with the motion passed at last year's conference to alternate locations for the conference between Van Nuys, California, USA, and other geographic zones of the United States. In 1993, the conference will once again be held in Van Nuys, and is scheduled to be away from California in 1994.

Over the past several years, the amount of business conducted at WSC has increased dramatically, making for extraordinarily long business sessions. Additionally, many participants have voiced their concerns about the lack of adequate time for discussion of items of import to their NA communities. In response, the WSC Administrative Committee has decided to adjust the conference format. It will take place over an eight-day span. For approximately a day and a half, a considerable amount of time will be spent on panel presentations, many of which will be occurring simultaneously. These split-panels will be conducted by the same board or committee, with one panel discussing items of business listed in the *Conference Agenda Report* and the other discussing projects or items of specific interest to their work. Regional service representatives and their alternates will be encouraged to split their attendance between these panels.

Multinational Development Forum

The Multinational Development Forum, started at last year's conference, is a special series of meetings focusing on cooperation between developed NA communities, developing communities and NA world services. The continuance of this event was designated as a high priority by last year's participants; in fact, they voted to include it as a part of this year's conference. This year, the forum's meetings and presentations will take place at various times during the conference.

A motion referred by last year's conference to the Interim Committee concerned travel and lodging expenses for non-North American participants for the forum. In response to that action, the Interim Committee has set aside \$20,000 US for the travel and lodging expenses of up to eleven representatives from those non-North American NA communities that have not been able to attend a previous

World Service Conference meeting. Along with no prior attendance, additional criteria included the communities' ability to benefit from the discussions. Local NA communities that have begun forming a service structure were determined to be the most appropriate. Invitations will be extended to France, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, India, Israel, and Peru. Extending a similar invitation to one other NA community may be decided upon at a later date.

Discussions regarding the agenda for the forum have also started. Helping NA communities grow is considered to be of primary importance for the agenda. An additional topic being considered is the development of world services into a worldwide fellowship which supports worldwide growth. Input for the agenda at this year's forum is being sought from members outside of the North American NA community.

Administrative news

Several publications will be mailed in the next four months, all of which contain detailed information relevant to the 1992 WSC. The *Conference Agenda Report*, published in January, will contain items for conference voting. The January *Conference Report* will contain issues for discussion only. The March *Conference Report* will contain reports from regions and world service boards and committees. And finally, the orientation package to be mailed in March will contain detailed information on conference procedures.

The Interim Committee, created at WSC '91 to manage conference finances and to make necessary decisions when the conference is not in session, has continued to hold monthly conference calls and met in October to review funding requests.

The conference treasurer reports that donations for

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June through August exceeded expectations, but donations for September were about half of the projected amount. However, due to the prudence of the various boards and committees, the conference is "on budget" and should be able to meet most of the projected expenses for November through February.

After some discussion, the Interim Committee approved disbursements for approximately \$68,000 US for the next four months. The committee has decided to hold \$40,000.00 US in reserve for WSC '92 meeting expenses and \$20,000.00 US for Multinational Development Forum travel.

NEWS FROM THE WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Major projects

During their October 24-27 meeting, the trustees continued work on a number of items, including the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust, the traditions portion of *It Works: How and Why*, various position papers, and motions committed to the board. Discussions regarding the format for the multinational forum also took place during a combined meeting of the WSB Internal Affairs and External Affairs Committees.

The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust was worked on during the meeting of the WSB Internal Affairs Committee, and was finalized during a joint meeting with the World Service Office Board of Directors held Saturday afternoon. This document formalizes the agreement whereby the fellowship entrusts the WSO with fiduciary responsibility for its intellectual properties and trademarks. The document provides a formal process for protecting NA's literature and logos against misuse. The approval version will appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Other projects currently being worked on by the trustees include a position paper regarding a motion referred from last year's WSC on gender specific language and the word "God" in NA's literature, a position paper on fundraising and the Seventh Tradition, and papers on RSR-only vote at the annual conference, zonal elections of trustees, and the relationship between conference boards and committees, among others. The WSB Literature Review Committee was also able to complete their review of drafts of Traditions Seven, Eight, and Nine. The second half of the traditions portion of *It Works: How and Why* is expected to be released for fellowship review and input in January 1992.

Additional Needs panel

The WSB Additional Needs Panel reported their attendance at a multiregional event in Canada. The workshop was considered a success, with members attending from several regions in Canada and the US. Members of this panel will also attend the multiregional Additional Needs Awareness Weekend to be held February 28 to March 1, 1992 in Johnson City, Tennessee, USA. In addition to attendance at multiregional events, the panel is

continuing work on the video translation of the Little White Booklet into American Sign Language.

Other items of interest

The topic of trustee officer elections and when they should be held received considerable discussion during the October meeting, resulting in a decision to hold future elections for chairperson and vice chairperson at the first meeting after the WSC. To comply with the current policy in the *Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure*, present terms will begin on January 1, 1992. Becky Meyer (Northern California) was affirmed to serve as WSB chairperson and Garth Popple (Australia) was elected as vice chairperson.

A portion of time was set aside for a combined meeting with the World Service Office Board of Directors on Saturday, October 26. The agenda for this meeting included tax alternatives for NA in the United States, the WSO work plan for the coming year, and a discussion of concerns and perceived problems in communication between various world service bodies.

The WSB will hold its next meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada the weekend of February 13 - 16, 1992. It is hoped that members from the central, eastern, and northeastern areas of US will attend along with members from Canada. An announcement of the exact location will be mailed once facilities are secured.

TRANSLATIONS

The WSC Translation Committee, created at WSC '91, held its first meeting October 18 - 20 in Van Nuys, California, USA. They were unable to meet earlier due to the conference's financial position. The committee is composed of Andree L. (Canada, WSCLC member, bilingual in French/English), Becky M. (USA, trustee), Donna M. (USA, trustee), Teresa A.-M. (Brazil, bilingual in Portuguese/English), Chris C. (USA, WSO director, bilingual in Spanish/English), Walter J. (Canada, WSO director), Ursula M. (WSO staff, multilingual in German/English/French), George H. (WSO staff), Mary V. (WSO staff), and Vivianne R. chairperson (Sweden, multilingual in English/French/Swedish/Italian). The committee's first meeting was conducted with enthusiasm, though tempered by financial considerations.

The existing translation policy and its parameters were discussed with the primary concern being maintaining the integrity of the NA message and encouraging the development of NA translations. The committee generally agreed that language groups should have the option to develop and approve personal stories that reflect their own experience.

The committee wishes to encourage local translation committees to provide approximate schedules, including the time needed to complete the task, of work they anticipate developing. The committee also discussed the use of professional translators and determined that they

should only be used to produce first drafts or when the local NA community lacks the resources to develop translations themselves.

The committee also noted several areas where assistance could be given. Differences in languages, dialects, culture, and academic backgrounds were acknowledged as of principal importance in determining the terms used in translations. The committee plans to provide a list of terms that cause concern during the translation process so that communities can review those terms and make necessary word choices prior to beginning work.

Prioritizing all the translation projects and requests became of paramount importance along with determining that the translations of recovery literature supersedes the importance of translating service material. There are twenty-six works in progress at this time. They are divided into three categories--current, pending, and future. The committee expressed enthusiasm for these works, provided a methodical approach was adhered to.

Of the specific requests received, three items obtained support from the committee: the Swedish request to produce a booklet containing chapters four and six from the Basic Text, the Danish request for approval to publish IP #1, *Who, What, How and Why*, and a request from Aetoraroa New Zealand to begin translating some IPs into Maori.

WSC COMMITTEE NEWS

Literature committee

The WSC Literature Committee (WSCLC) met November 21-24 to finalize the work completed so far on both the steps portion of *It Works: How and Why* and the daily meditation book, titled *Just For Today--Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts*. (Please see the order form for specific information regarding the availability of this item later in this issue.) Other discussions included their work-list for 1992 and possible revisions to their handbook.

The steps project is still on schedule. The WSCLC will release the first six steps for fellowship review and input by January. The committee has finalized its work on the daily book and the approval-form of the daily meditation book will appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*. In addition to the daily meditation book, the WSCLC will also present *In Times of Illness* for conference action at WSC '92.

Hospitals and institutions (H&I) committee

As reported in our last issue, the WSC H&I newsletter, *Reaching Out*, is now available by subscription. It is available in this manner to any facility housing addicts, and to any area or regional H&I subcommittee wishing to add to its existing allotment. The cost for an annual subscription is \$28.00 US for twenty copies mailed quarterly. Over ninety subscription orders have been received thus far.

The committee has a number of ad hoc subcommittees working on a variety of topics including: the possible revision of their handbook to address international needs;

an audio tape which will serve as an orientation for new H&I members, and a mock panel presentation; and work with the WSB External Affairs Committee and the WSC PI Committee to develop a questionnaire aimed at correctional facility administrators.

Public information (PI) committee

The PI video project is moving forward, though slowly. The next step involves interviewing the various production companies who have submitted bids. The actual production will commence once funds become available.

Other projects being worked on by the committee include an assessment of providing PI services in rural locales and developing NA communities, development of a plan outlining suggestions to keep recovery meetings and services going in the event of a natural disaster, and revisions to *A Guide to Public Information*. The revised version of *A Guide to Phoneline Service* is complete and will be mailed out for review in the December issue of the *PI News* rather than in the *CAR* as previously reported.

The *PI News*, a twice-yearly publication, reports details of the various WSC PI projects and other items of interest to those involved in PI service. It is mailed to all local PI and phoneline subcommittees. Budget constraints prohibit mailing to a wider audience, but copies can be obtained through local PI subcommittees.

Policy committee

The leadership of the committee has had some discussions with the WSB Internal Affairs Committee and members of the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service regarding its work on seating of regions at the annual conference. Those discussions ranged from obtaining input on its work to an attempt to insure that there is no duplication of efforts between these service bodies. A full report will appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service

The WSC Ad Hoc on NA Service has completed its task of reviewing input received from the fellowship on the Twelve Concepts for NA Service. The approval form has been prepared and mailed to conference participants and regional service committees. It will also be for sale at a nominal charge through the WSO. It will appear in the *CAR* for conference action at WSC '92. (Please see the clip-out order-form in the back of this issue for ordering copies of this material.)

The other item of news from this committee concerns shared services in a metropolitan setting. This topic has been discussed at various times within the committee, but has not been finalized due to a lack of adequate information. The committee requested and received funding for two local workshops to exchange information with interested members. The workshops will take place in New York in January, and in San Francisco in February. For additional information, please contact the committee through the WSO.

WORLD CONVENTION NEWS

Sydney, Australia

The World Convention Corporation chairperson reports that WCNA-21 in Sydney, Australia was a great success. A total of 1500 members registered for this event. Though the convention was small in numbers, its success in terms of being a worldwide event was considered huge. It is believed that the cost of traveling halfway around the world prevented members from North America from attending. However, many others had the opportunity to attend a world convention because it was located outside North America. WCNA-21 was also a financial success. Conservative projections on attendance and merchandise, combined with experience gained at WCNA-16 in London, England, helped influence the fiscal outcome of this convention.

Toronto, Canada

As mentioned in our last issue, Toronto, Canada will be the site for WCNA-22. The pace is quickening on preparations for this event. The board has discussed the fact that many members plan their vacations around world conventions. The board intends to research travel packages which may substantially reduce the cost of traveling to world conventions. More will be reported as information becomes available.

NEWS FROM THE WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

Finances

The chairperson of the WSO board reported that the office experienced a shortfall in excess of \$400,000 US this year. Though several measures have been taken to reduce further losses, the WSO Board of Directors has determined that additional steps must be taken in order to meet the rising costs of operating the primary service center for NA.

Literature and merchandise prices have not changed in over eight years and have never been adjusted to keep up with inflation, rising productions costs, and the increasing demand for services. With the leveling off of sales over the past two years, sales of literature no longer support all the services the office provides to the fellowship. The board of directors was faced with the decision to either cut services or increase the price of merchandise. After thorough discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the following motion: "A 10% uniform increase on all items in WSO inventory as of October 1, 1991 be proposed for implementing at the January 1992 meeting of the board of directors with a proposed effective date of February 1, 1992."

Spanish and Portuguese Basic Texts

The Spanish and Portuguese Basic Texts are available for purchase. Both of these translations and the French Basic Text will be sold for \$5.00 US. The normal discount structure will apply. For additional items, please refer to the order form later in this issue.

ORDER BLANK

No.

Item

New Items Available from the WSO:

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* <i>International Meeting Directory</i> (complete set excluding U.S.), Item #2200 - \$6.00
* <i>Interntl. Mtg. Dir. Vol. 1: Canada, Central America, Mexico & Caribbean</i> , Item #2201 - \$2.50
* <i>Interntl. Mtg. Dir. Vol 2: South America</i> , Item #2202 - \$1.50
* <i>Interntl. Mtg. Dir. Vol 3: Europe, Mid-East & Africa</i> , Item #2203 - \$2.50
* <i>Interntl. Mtg. Dir. Vol 4: Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Pacific Ocean, Australia & New Zealand</i> , Item #2204 - \$1.50
* <i>The Basic Journal</i> , Item #9400 - \$6.95
* <i>N.A. Literature Rack</i> , #9054 - \$18.50
* <i>The Basic Calendar</i> , Item #9410 - \$4.00 |
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Approval-form Items

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_____ | * <i>The Twelve Concepts for NA Service</i> booklet, Item #1162 - \$1.65
Bundles of 25 - Item #1163 - \$22.00
* <i>Just For Today--Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts</i> , Item #1110 - \$6.00
Bundles of 5 - Item #1111 - \$19.25
* <i>Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust</i> , Item #2114 - \$1.65
Bundles of 25 - Item #2115 - \$22.00 |
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Name _____

Address _____

MAIL THIS ORDER FORM TO:
World Service Office, Inc.
P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9999
USA
(818) 780-3951