



# Conference Digest

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The March 1992 *Conference Report* was the last issue to be mailed before the World Service Conference holds its annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, USA from April 25 through May 2. The *Report* includes overviews of work completed this past year by the various world service boards and committees, a look into next year's work, and annual reports from thirty-seven regions. Any *Conference Digest* readers wishing to purchase a copy of the complete *Conference Report* for March 1992 may use the clip-out order form on page 4 of this issue.

## CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION

### Chairperson reflects on reserves, home groups

In her annual report, the conference chairperson writes, "I see us as a fellowship doing great things and in some disarray. We continue to provide services and products of great benefit to addicts, but we often seem to do this the hard way. Non-US regions [have] expressed their need for help from NA in the USA, but the money problems of the fellowship in the US seem to be getting worse at all levels. I suspect that the amount of money being held by all levels of service in prudent reserves would astound us if totaled. Is this necessary? I hope that these issues can be addressed at all levels of service--inventoried, if you will."

Home groups, she says, are NA's foundation: "If I had the ability, which luckily for me and you I don't, I would declare the next conference year the Year of the Home Group! There are still GSRs sitting in [area committee meetings] with only a few months clean. Why aren't GSRs and ASRs better informed when I know the amount of information that goes out about issues and projects? Why is it that I can sit in my home group business meeting and hear issues brought back that bear little resemblance to what I know was discussed at the regional meeting? If our fellowship is to be strong in any way, it has to be based on strong groups. We can never be stronger than our foundation. There is no better message we can carry of how to make NA strong in newly developing areas than to encourage them to concentrate on building strong groups."

### Vice chairperson calls for discussion of literature issues

This year, as WSC Administrative Committee liaison to the conference literature committee, the WSC vice chair had

the opportunity to ponder questions related to literature development. "In my travels," he writes, "I have heard some heated and what I considered unfair comments about the WSC Literature Committee. Most of the discussion I hear is not about what's in our literature but about how it's written or who writes it. I believe the time has come to bring this discussion to the people who use what is written and ask them how we should serve them. I believe this can be accomplished through mailings and also through forums," he writes, also suggesting that "anyone having problems with the WSC Literature Committee or our literature process [should] have their RSR bring their concerns to the WSC and share them in the literature committee's B panel."

### Treasurer reports on '92-93 budget process

In the March *Conference Report*, the WSC treasurer describes the process being used this year to develop the WSC 1992-93 budget. In December 1991, all of the WSC committees and the World Service Board of Trustees were asked to submit their plans and ideas for 1992-93. The data was reviewed and revised by the Interim Committee and presented in the *Conference Agenda Report* for fellowship discussion and consideration.

At the Dallas annual meeting, conference participants will be provided with updated information on the financial position of the World Service Conference. A panel discussion will examine a variety of issues related to world service funding. Toward the end of WSC'92, the conference will vote on the proposed budget and spending priority list. After the annual meeting, the Interim Committee will factor into the final budget any "last minute" conference actions that will affect 1992-93 spending.

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**Interim Committee**

This year, an Interim Committee composed of the WSC treasurer and the chairpersons of the trustees, office board, and conference has been responsible for world service finances. In the March *Conference Report*, the committee presents a list of this year's funding decisions and the criteria used in making them.

Each quarter, the Interim Committee placed world service funding requests alongside the spending priorities the WSC had voted on last April. Based on how much cash was on hand and how much was expected in the next month or two, the committee approved requests for the higher priority projects.

The March *Conference Report* also includes the Interim Committee's recommendation on a motion to fund all conference committees, referred to them at last year's WSC meeting. A report from the treasurer provided information on present committee and board funding. He also reported several assumptions about committee size, membership, meeting location and frequency, necessary for analyzing the impact of this motion. He then analyzed the additional funding which would result if the motion were adopted. This analysis resulted in the WSC Treasurer's estimate that this proposal would add \$58,800 to the annual budget, money that is not currently available. The committee therefore recommends that the WSC take no action on the motion this year.

Finally, the Interim Committee reports it has made some changes in guidelines for a WSC Budget Committee. Though guidelines are not ready for conference approval, the committee's work-in-progress appears in the March *Conference Report*.

**Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service**

"During the past five to eight years," the committee reports, "NA has grown tremendously in large cities, mainly in the US, but also in Canada and other non-US communities. In fact, this growth has resulted in sometimes several area service committees being formed within a large metropolitan district. In some cases, growth has evolved to the point that some metropolitan districts have become

<b>WSC FUNDS, JUNE 1991 THRU FEBRUARY 1992</b>			
	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGETED</b>	<b>OVER (UNDER)</b>
Contributions	\$221,410	\$199,529	\$21,881
Expenses	\$154,650	\$188,582	(\$33,931)
<b>FINANCIAL FORECAST, MARCH 24</b>			
Advance payments made.....			\$61,173.40
Currently in bank.....			73,521.84
Projected contributions.....			57,034.47
Projected expenses.....			(98,503.20)
Projected year-end cash, May 31.....			\$93,226.50

regions. Along with such rapid growth, problems have also evolved; not the least of these is the delivery of services. Many of these areas have multiple helplines and H&I subcommittees, with minimal coordination among the various area committees. Additionally, many areas are experiencing some of the structural problems associated with rapid growth, such as having more service commitments than trusted servants to fill them, service meetings become so large that individual groups have difficulty getting their needs met, and the resulting need to investigate alternative service structures."

To address these needs, the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service plans to include a chapter in *A Guide to Service*, the revised manual currently under development, suggesting a number of new ways to effectively organize NA services in larger cities. The committee held workshops on metro services in New York City and San Francisco before meeting in March to outline material it hopes to complete next year, provided the *Guide* project is continued at WSC'92.

**Translation Committee**

The committee's year-end report shows eighty-eight NA translation projects currently underway in twenty languages. "Conceptual fidelity," the committee says, "is by far the largest responsibility that has been entrusted to us by the World Service Conference. As we are all aware, the Basic Text is written in contemporary American English. For many countries whose language is classical or even exotic in nature, the translation of NA literature can pose a serious challenge. The basis for any grammatical leeway [in the course of translation] is... that it maintains the meaning of the original."

The World Services Translation Committee also reports on its research into the tremendous expense involved in translating NA literature and the need for additional money and staff. "Using the classical Spanish language [as a basis for comparison]," the committee writes, "we discovered that, including staff labor, it costs approximately \$30,000 to produce the Basic Text in about two years' time. Staff time can be estimated at 1,000 work hours, which certainly doesn't include the many, many hours devoted by the local translation committee. We have an imperative need for increased funding, not only for our committee but for additional WSO staffing as well, if we hope to meet the challenges we have before us."

<b>TO ORDER MATERIAL FOR REVIEW AND INPUT</b>	
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Guide to Service, _____ copies @ \$5 ea.....	_____
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## TRUSTEES

The trustees report that plans for the Multinational Development Forum, being held at this year's conference, are close to completion. "The agenda for the forum sessions will try to bring many issues to the forefront of WSC discussions during the week," the trustees write. "Our hopes for the agenda are to provide all participants with relevant information about NA's worldwide development, what is occurring now, what helps and what does not, and what are our limitations and abilities for the future as a World Service Conference."

In the *March Conference Report*, the World Service Board of Trustees also discusses its thoughts concerning a motion referred to it at WSC'91, "that all references to God [in our literature] be changed to *Higher Power or Power greater than ourselves*." "Our fellowship embraces the devoutly religious as well as the atheist," the trustees observe. "We are faced with the dilemma of meaningfully addressing diverse and evolving personal spiritual orientations. We feel that, prior to making a change which could profoundly impact our philosophy and interpretation of principles, significant discussion and agreement need to take place within the fellowship at large."

Looking forward to WSC'92 and trustee elections, the WSB expresses some concern about the racial, gender, cultural "mix" on the board. In the coming year, they intend to ask people more representative of the NA Fellowship's many diverse elements to serve on the three trustee committees so that, come WSC'93, the conference will have a broader pool of trustee candidates to choose from.

Finally, the trustees report that they hope to begin a process of short-term and long-term world services planning, along with the leadership of other conference boards and committees, at their June 1992 meeting.

### Additional Needs Panel

This two-member trustee panel reports its participation over the past year in multiregional workshops in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada and Johnson City, Tennessee, USA. "During our workshops," the panel writes, "several topics are covered, such as what is an *additional needs* addict, meeting accessibility, the traditions and additional needs, and the interaction of additional needs in PI, H&I, and literature committees. We also spend time discussing what responsibility NA has to make sure our message is available to our brothers and sisters with additional needs. We are hopeful more workshops of this type can be scheduled for the next year, perhaps in the northeast [of the USA] and somewhere west of the Rockies."

The panel has investigated proposals that WSO produce NA literature in Braille for blind addicts. However, "requests from members for these items have numbered only three to five each year. There is a process already in effect," the panel says, "by which individual members can request that their local Braille service providers do a translation at a cost of about 5 cents per page. By using this process, a blind member could get a copy of the White Booklet for \$1.80. In

contrast, for the WSO to have 250 copies made of the White Booklet and each IP will cost almost \$10,000. We feel those funds could be used to purchase Braille labels for already existing audio tapes, or to make videotapes for deaf members who may not have the reading skills needed to use our existing literature." The panel reports that work has already begun on developing American Sign Language videotapes of NA's White Booklet and information pamphlets.

## LITERATURE COMMITTEE

The seven-member WSCLC Ad Hoc Steps Committee has completed the review-and-input form of the 2nd half of the stepbook ahead of schedule. To order your copy, use the clip-out form on page 2. Comments on Steps 1-6 are due by June 30; input on Steps 7-12 is due by August 30. Four WSC Literature Committee panels will process fellowship input; two other panels will meet to review *their* work; then, the literature committee itself will finalize the material. The approval form of Steps 1-6 is scheduled for release on September 15; Steps 7-12 should be ready on November 24. This schedule assumes that WSC'92 will react favorably to the review-and-input material developed so far and that fellowship input will be largely positive. If review shows that the material needs a lot more work, the process will have to move much more slowly.

## HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

The conference H&I committee reports that, next year, they plan to do two kinds of work: *research* on outreach to isolated addicts, external contacts, and worldwide H&I support; and *review and production* of revised committee guidelines and resource materials. To accomplish this work, seven subcommittees have been established. "Our hopes are that all the ad hoc subcommittees will share work responsibilities with each other," the committee chairperson writes, "and work closely with other standing committees when necessary. We also hope to work on gathering input from area and regional H&I subcommittees."

The committee also reports that \$4,227.75 of conference funds was used to distribute literature from May 1, 1991 through January 31, 1992. The committee was able to mail 228 Basic Texts, 426 White Booklets, 2941 pamphlets, 744 copies of *Behind the Walls*, and 270 copies of *An Introductory Guide to NA* to addicts in H&I settings.

### TO ORDER MARCH 1992 CONFERENCE REPORT

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PO Box 9999, Van Nuys CA 91409 USA.**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

The conference PI committee reports that a revision of its *Guide to Phonenumber Service* has been released for review in the latest issue of *PI News*, the committee's newsletter.

Speaking of which, the WSC PI Committee reports it is taking another look at the usefulness of *PI News*. The newsletter was originally established "as a sharing forum for area and regional phonenumber and PI committees" the committee chairperson writes in the *March Conference Report*. "[Now,] we find ourselves searching for relevant, fresh, and/or innovative material to fill each issue."

In February, the first issue of the PI committee's biannual *Newsletter for Professionals* was mailed to five hundred addresses, mostly outside USA. The committee reports that initial response has been largely positive. A second issue of the newsletter is currently in preproduction.

A PI working group examining committee guidelines has recommended a substantial reduction in WSC PI Committee membership. Current guidelines call for 18 members. More on this will appear in June 1992 *Digest*. Another WSC Public Information Committee working group has focused on finding ways to assist developing NA communities worldwide who wish to begin PI work. The group's first task in the coming conference year will be to identify PI needs in young NA communities. The committee hopes this year's Multinational Development Forum will provide it with more direction for this working group.

During the past year, the committee reports, NA world services have participated in conferences of the two largest outside organizations concerned with addiction and recovery, the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities and the International Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations. In August, a WSCPI member will attend the International Conference on Alcohol and Addictions being held in Scotland. Further public information work for the next conference year will include completion of materials on rural PI, development of new tools for use at non-NA events, and a "disaster plan" on how to keep NA functioning when a community is hit with a hurricane, earthquake, or other natural catastrophe.

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

Discussing the last year's work in the *March Conference Report*, the WSC Policy Committee reflects that WSC'91 left it somewhat confused. Only a third of conference participants voted to approve the revised guidelines offered by the committee. A motion to dissolve the committee altogether received support from more than 50% of the WSC, but not the two-thirds necessary for passage of such a proposal, while a motion to place the WSC Policy Committee under the wing of the trustees' Internal Affairs Committee for the coming year gained 59% support. The policy committee hopes for clearer direction from WSC'92.

In the coming year, the committee hopes to continue work begun in 1990 on a rotation and continuity policy for world services. The committee intends to strengthen its ties with the WSB, initiated this year when the WSC Policy Committee chair was made a nontrustee member of the Internal Affairs Committee. Policy also looks forward to participating in a program proposed by the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service to complete the *Guide to Service* in conjunction with the trustees. Further direction, particularly on the subject of zonal conferences being addressed during the committee's "B" panel discussion at WSC'92, will depend on the outcome of this year's World Service Conference meeting.

**WORLD SERVICE OFFICE**

This year's WSO annual report is available in a 4-page digest. For your copy, write the World Service Office, Box 9999, Van Nuys CA 91409 USA, or call (818) 780-3951.

Four motions were committed to the WSO Board of Directors at WSC'91. A report of the board's actions pertaining to these motions can be found in the *March Conference Report* and also in the WSO annual report.

**THE GROUP BOOKLET**

*Not just for new groups!* This 22-page conference-approved booklet looks at how we build and maintain strong NA groups. Covering open and closed meetings, formats, business meetings, trusted servants, group responsibilities, and problem solving, *The Group Booklet* is an ideal tool for group inventories. To order copies for your group, use this clip-out form. *Available in English and Portuguese.*

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