



Conference Report

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WSC ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Introduction

The 1997 annual meeting of the World Service Conference will take place at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, Los Angeles, California, USA. Just a reminder: A lodging reservation form was sent to conference participants in early January and may still be obtained by contacting the World Service Office. The conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday 27 April and adjourn Saturday evening 3 May. The following activities are scheduled for Saturday 26 April: a WSC leadership meeting, a WSC H&I Committee workshop; a WSC PI Committee workshop; a Development Forum meeting; an RSR orientation; and a local fellowship event. We also plan to provide time and space during the conference week for meetings of zonal forums upon request. If your zonal forum wishes to meet in a room provided by the WSC, please let us know so that we can reserve available rooms.

Issue discussion papers

We have included the issue discussion papers in the same mailing as this *Conference Report*. At the annual meeting, time will be set aside for discussion of the issues prioritized at WSC'96: "Retention of Experienced Members, in Service and Recovery," and "Faith and Trust in our Service Structure, particularly with the WSC."

Unity Day

The WSC Administrative Committee is continuing to plan for some kind of Unity Day celebration to take place in September 1997. We hope to provide you with a flier containing complete details at WSC'97.

Role of WSC treasurer

At WSC'96, the WSC Administrative Committee brought a recommendation to the conference that the treasurer be made a voting member of the Interim Committee and be relieved of his responsibilities on the Administrative Committee. This recommendation was accepted. However, having given this recommendation a "test drive" this past conference year, we now believe that this policy puts too great a distance between the treasurer and the Administrative Committee. We believe the idea had some merit, but we do not believe it would be beneficial to continue the practice at this time. Therefore, we would recommend returning the treasurer to the Administrative Committee while keeping the treasurer as a voting member of the Interim Committee. We have discussed this with the Interim Committee, and its members support this change. A motion will be presented at the conference during the new business session to accomplish this.

Zonal forums

Since our last conference report, the WSC Administrative Committee has sent members to several zonal forum events: the Asia Pacific Forum meeting in Manila, The Philippines; the

Michigan Multiregional CAR workshop; the Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference of NA; and the Plains States Forum meeting and CAR workshop in Sioux City, Iowa.

Fellowship development trips

The WSC Administrative Committee has participated in several fellowship development trips this year. A complete report of our involvement, as well as all other boards and committees, will be included in an Interim Committee report that will be available at or before the conference.

WSC committee meetings

This is the first conference year since 1985-86 during which no world services meeting was held. We believed that, since the Transition Group was not ready to discuss its work until the annual meeting, a world services meeting would not be the best use of the fellowship's money. We are happy to report that each world-level board and committee has been able to accomplish its work in fully funded meetings and conference calls.

Financial impact of Motion #16 on the 1997 Conference Agenda Report

The time, resources, and effort to accomplish the objectives of this 1996 conference action were considerable. Between the staff and WSC Administrative Committee members we spent over 150 person hours and hundreds of dollars in faxes and phone calls to prepare the nineteen (19) regional motions in this year's *Conference Agenda Report*. Was it worth the time and effort? Only you can answer this question, but here are some of the things we discovered in the process.

- Many of the RSRs we worked with were not familiar enough with current WSC policies or guidelines, including the TWGSS, to actually do the research themselves or be aware of the choices they had. They instead had to depend on our conference memories, a limited resource, to identify policies that their proposed motions would effect and to what extent. Also, several of the motions could have been directed to specific boards and committees rather than placed in the CAR. Cooperation on these two issues from the RSRs would cut down on the time and effort needed from staff and the Administrative Committee.
- The increased communication between the RSRs and the Administrative Committee was very well received and appreciated.
- Feedback from CAR workshops was that the appendix section proved to be quite helpful.
- Deadline dates need to be moved up to allow for more time to work with the RSRs.

During the conference we will have discussion of this issue, so we ask that you take this information as well as your own experience and consider whether or not the value of this service is worth the dedication of resources.

Committed motions from WSC'96

The following motions were committed to the WSC Administrative Committee at WSC'96:

It was M/S/R Randy K (RSR-A, Ontario Region)/Stefania F (RSR, Italy Region) Motion #85: "That zonal forum chairpersons receive the same mailings as conference participants." The following TWGSS policy would be affected: Page 33: *World Service Conference Report*, line 8. New language: "The report is distributed to conference participants and zonal forums." Page 33: The *Conference Agenda Report*, paragraph 1, lines 3 & 4. "One copy of the report is mailed to each voting participant of the conference, each RSR alternate, and the mailing address of each region and each zonal forum."

Motion #92: "That inventory-related communications mailed to conference participants also be sent to conference standing and ad hoc committee members."

Motion #98: "To allow each zonal forum (who requests) to receive all conference participants mailings."

Michael M (WSC Chairperson) reported that Motions #85, #92, and #98 will all be reviewed by the WSC Administrative Committee over the coming year. He also announced that all zonal forums that have provided mailing addresses, as well as conference committee members, will receive conference participant mailings during the year. At the end of the year, the process will be assessed, the WSC Administrative Committee will report to conference participants, and zonal forums and committee members will report to the WSC Administrative Committee about how well it worked overall. Conference participants expressed unanimous support for this approach.

This year the WSC Administrative Committee and the WSO provided all the conference-participant mailings to any zonal forum that requested them, as well as to all members of WSC standing committees. The only criteria was that the committee/forum provide a current address so deliveries could be made. We only received two zonal forum requests, one from the European Delegates Meeting, the other from the Asia Pacific Forum. The Administrative Committee strongly supports the continuation of this process.

Michael M (WSC Chairperson) responded that WSC Administrative Committee would consider the matter (of a 1995 video featuring Bob Stone—its approval, distribution, and/or a written transcript of it) and let the conference know next year.

After much deliberation and discussion, the Administrative Committee believes that the "Bob Stone Video" should remain in the WSC archives at the WSO. We know that some will be unhappy with this decision, but we believe it is consistent with the manner in which it was given to the chairperson of the WSC in 1995.

It was M/S/R Jim C (RSR, Michigan Region)/Nicholas G (RSR, New England Region) Motion #47: "(Motion #21 1995) That the WSC be given responsibility for translating *Conference Agenda Report* motions and intent (not including the text of addenda) into languages other than English, and for distributing these translations to the respective regions."

AMENDMENT: It was M/R João V (RSR-A, Brazil Region) "To return to the original motion and delete the word 'not' and the parentheses." AMENDMENT REFERRED TO WSC Administrative Committee.

As has been the practice of the WSC Administrative Committee and the Interim Committee in the recent past, this year the *CAR* was translated into five languages: Swedish, Spanish, German, French, and Portuguese. The compilation of the *CAR* has become a joint effort of both the Interim and Administrative Committees. It is already their responsibility to translate it into as many languages as is feasible. We do not believe that creating a policy to order that something be done *that is already being done* would be to anyone's benefit.

It was M/C WSC Administrative Committee Motion #104 ["To delete Section 1.B on Page 13, 1995 *TWGSS* and replace with the following language: 'The site of the World Service Conference is held within seventy-five miles of the World Service Office.' "] carried by 2/3 majority vote. After further discussion, Ron S (WSC Vice Chairperson) announced that this motion will be in the 1997 *Conference Agenda Report*. Conference participants agreed by acclamation.

As agreed, this motion—which was made, seconded, and passed last year—has been placed in this year's *CAR* (Motion 1). Those who were at the WSC last year will remember that this motion was referred to this year's *CAR* because, after the vote was taken, it was called to the presiding officer's attention that the quorum count was not correct. After deliberation, the presiding officer felt it was best to place the motion in this year's *CAR*, even though the motion had the clear support of the conference at that time.

WSC Recognition Assistance Panel

The WSC Recognition Assistance Panel was created by the conference to assist service bodies seeking to have a representative seated for the first time at the WSC. The panel is charged with gathering and verifying information on newly forming regions and reporting this information to the World Service Conference. The panel members this year have been Stu Tooredman and Bud Kenney (WSB), John Halverson and Sandi Stauffer (WSC Policy Committee), with Jon Thompson (WSC Second Vice Chairperson) serving as the chairperson.

So far this year the panel has received inquiries from individuals from the following areas and regions:

- Rock River Area Group Services (Greater Illinois Region)
- New Orleans Area (Louisiana Region)
- South Philadelphia Area, West/Southwest Area, and Inner City Area (Greater Philadelphia Region)
- ABCD Area (Greater New York Region)
- Ontario Region

We have also had continuing communication with the Regional Transitional Committee (Greater New York Region) which requested information last year.

So far, out of these requests, we are aware of two regional formations this conference year. The Queens, Western Queens, and Nassau Areas are joining together to become the Eastern New York Region. This formation process has been going on for a number of years; they have been in regular contact with the RAP, forwarding all progress notes and minutes. They have been receiving nominations for trusted servants positions since January and are holding their elections at the end of May. Because their first regional meeting is not scheduled until June, they will not be seeking seating at this year's WSC. We wish them the best. The new Eastern New York Region will most likely be seeking seating at WSC'98.

Rock River Area Group Services separated itself from the Greater Illinois Region in September to form the Finding Answers in the Heartland (FAITH) Region, with the GSRs remaining as the new region's voting participants. For more information on the FAITH Region's formation, see the RAP report included with their letter of intent. Representatives will be sent to this year's WSC, where they will be seeking seating. This region has willingly kept the WSC Recognition Assistance Panel informed of all its activities during its transition period and has answered all questions required per the conference-approved procedure for seating regions at the WSC. We see no apparent internal problems and welcome them to WSC'97.

The remainder of information packets requested this conference year vary from some individuals just seeking information with no real movement toward formation in the foreseeable future, to actual regional and area ad hoc committees seriously looking into the splitting of their region into multiple regions over the next year or so. The RAP will be keeping in touch with all of these individuals and ad hoc committees and will continue reporting their progress to you.

Motion #78 was committed to the WSC Recognition Assistance Panel at last year's conference. It was to be rewritten with the help of the RAP and the RSR from the Lone Star Region and included in the 1997 *Conference Agenda Report*. This motion appears as Motion #23 in this year's *Conference Agenda Report*.

Micromanagement of Transition Group

There are several motions in the *CAR* this year which seek to change the structure of the WSC before the conference has had the benefit of hearing the Transition Group's report and recommendations. The WSC Administrative Committee is not in support of such micromanagement of the Transition Group's work. We have taken a hands-off approach to the Transition Groups work, other than to give input. While we are excited about the possibility of meaningful changes in the way we work to carry the message, the Administrative Committee believes it irresponsible for any element within the conference structure as it exists today to

offer changes as motions to be decided prior to seeing a structure outlined by the committee we charged with the responsibility to propose specific changes.

A message from your chairperson

As we come to the conference this year, it is with a realization that we are truly moving to a new conference. The process we started in 1993 has begun to lead us to change. While it has been difficult to maintain our resolve and not rescind our decisions, we can all be proud to have held our world service structure up for examination and become willing to change the things that no longer work or are just plain wrong. Just as in our personal recovery we must walk through pain to grow and recover, so are we as members of the WSC growing and becoming willing to make the changes our inventory pointed out to us. As our fellowship nears its fiftieth anniversary, isn't it time to adapt our structure to the fellowship it serves today? Our fellowship has grown tremendously in the last twenty years. It is time that we create the structure that will serve our current members, and members to come, into the twenty-first century. It is a very exciting time to be involved in our service structure.

On a more personal note, this coming conference will be my last as your chairperson. I want to thank the WSC for allowing me this privilege. I shall never forget these years as your chair and the honor and responsibility you have given me. I will never be able to give back what was so freely given to me; I only know that I will continue to try. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Closing

In closing, the WSC Administrative Committee is looking forward to an exciting and productive conference this year. Your Administrative Committee this year is:

*Michael McDermott, Chairperson
Ron Sheppeard, Vice Chairperson
Jon Thompson, Second Vice Chairperson*

WSC INTERIM COMMITTEE

The Interim Committee produces a report to conference participants providing an overview of decisions from their monthly conference calls. Because of this, the Interim Committee does not necessarily include a report in the *Conference Report*. However, as administrators of the Transition Group work we felt it necessary to provide you with the following information:

Continuation of Transition Group work

When the Interim Committee presented the Transition Group plan for conference approval at WSC'96, it was intended to be a two-year project. The timeline provided in the November *Conference Report* by the Transition Group was for two years. To date, neither the Interim Committee nor the Transition Group have received any negative input to their proposed workplan. We will ask the conference to support the continuation of their work for the upcoming year. We support the work so far and, like you, look forward to the discussion of their proposals at WSC'97.

WSC treasurer

At WSC'96 we recommended, along with the WSC Administrative Committee, that for a trial period, the treasurer become a voting member of the Interim Committee and an inactive member of the Administrative Committee. We have come to the end of the trial period and have found that the treasurer, as a result, lost valuable contact with both committees. While we are

recommending that the treasurer become an active member of the Administrative Committee again, we are still in support of the continuation of the voting status of the treasurer on Interim. For more information, please refer to the WSC Administrative Committee report.

Financial condition

The treasurer reported the current trend of contributions will leave us approximately \$100,000 short of projected income for this conference year. Because the conference in Greensboro ended on the first day of the current fiscal year, we once again have experienced a substantial previous conference year expense line item which was not budgeted. What that translates into in real dollars is that we still need \$250,000 in donations to accomplish the projects and budget you gave us at WSC 1996. We appreciate your support so far but encourage you to forward any funds available to defray the budgeted expense to which you have committed for Conference Year 1996-'97. A full report of our decisions and travel will be available at or before the WSC'97.

Interim Committee

WORLD SERVICES TRANSITION GROUP
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Greetings from your World Services Transition Group. Since our last report to you, we held a meeting in January and are currently finalizing our report for the year. Since we published our timeline and workplans in the last *Conference Report*, we will only provide you with an update in this report.

Our report is due to be mailed to all conference participants by the end of March. This would give conference participants a month to familiarize themselves with the material before our presentation at the conference. We are trying to have the report finalized one to two weeks prior to the scheduled date to allow more review time and additional time for translations. We plan to translate this report for distribution prior to the conference. You may actually have our report before you receive this *Conference Report*.

Our report to the conference contains three proposals for consideration that address Resolution A, a new downsized WSC, as well as one proposal that contains two options for Resolution B and C-2, a World Board and standing committee system responsible to that board. We plan to use the conference to help us shape what will become one proposal after this year's conference. We will not be presenting any motions for conference consideration until the 1998 *Conference Agenda Report*. Full details about our proposals and timeline are contained in our report.

It has been a challenge to finalize our report on these far-reaching resolutions in a shortened conference year. We expect next year to be even busier as we prepare our report for fellowship consideration after direction from the conference. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year. We appreciate all conference participants for keeping faith in us and in the process even though you have not seen our proposals. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to serve on this important project.

As always, should you have any questions regarding this or any part of the Transition Group process, we encourage you to contact us through the WSO. The Transition Group looks forward to talking directly with you at the conference.

Transition Group

WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The WSB has had an active and productive year thus far. The trustees have met twice this year at the WSO in Chatsworth, Los Angeles, California, and we will have our third meeting there in March. Our January meeting was an expanded meeting, which means that the WSC standing committee chairs and vice chairs, members of the Administrative Committee, and members of the WSO Executive Committee were in attendance. I've included here a brief overview, followed by the trustee committee reports.

The work teams discussed in our last conference report have worked well. These work teams focused on the outreach handbook project, the Development Forum, various aspects of the Public Relations Work Plan (e.g., the research conference and the NA census survey), and the additional needs handbook. At our March meeting, we expect a full board review of our projects: the draft outreach booklet, an additional needs booklet and pamphlet, the Fellowship Development Plan, and the Public Relations Work Plan and its various components. We began and will continue discussion about an approval process for service-based materials, bulletins, and pamphlets as well.

We have participated in a number of events, and we believe this interface with the fellowship is essential given our ongoing tasks. At this time, trustees have attended and participated in a variety of sessions at the world convention, the Western States Forum, the Asia Pacific Forum, an office/convention workshop held in Denver, and CAR workshops in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Southern California. Should any other requests come in, we hope to be able to accommodate them.

The board received two committed motions at WSC'96. The first one recommended that information about area conferences be included in the *Guide to Local Services in NA*. Although we had scheduled discussion for this item at our January meeting, we were unable to consider the subject and have rescheduled the discussion for our March meeting.

The second set of motions are those concerning the WSO sales policy. Trustees assigned to the WSO Board of Directors have kept our full board informed about WSO activities at each of our meetings, especially in their reports about the WSO Business Plan Committee and its discussions of the sales policy. We will continue our cooperation with the board of directors in the development of its business plan goals, and we will continue our own ongoing discussions of the sales policy at our next meeting.

We have placed a high priority on responding quickly to communications, and we continue to set aside time in our meetings to discuss topics related to fellowship communications and our bulletin projects. We feel this will allow us to provide a more informed response to the fellowship in our ongoing communications.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Fellowship Development Plan

This work team met in December and developed a set of goals that were presented to the board in January. The board reviewed the proposed goals and gave the go-ahead for the work team to proceed with drafting narrative for the goals in time for our March meeting. We hope to add them to our outline for presentation at WSC'97.

Outreach

Two trustees and two members of the former WSC Outreach Ad Hoc Committee formed a work team to review and revise the outreach handbook. Their first task was to determine the focus of outreach and then edit the material in the handbook. Since outreach activities differ greatly depending upon local needs, the material was edited to give general guidelines and suggestions rather than trying to define all the activities that an outreach committee might take on. A resource directory page has been added to help the reader find additional outreach

materials, which we think will encourage outreach committees to assess their local fellowship needs instead of following an arbitrary list of approved functions.

The result of this team's work will be a condensed version of the outreach handbook that is tentatively titled *The Outreach Booklet*. We intend to present it at this conference, then mail it out for a review-and-input period, and finally place it in the *CAR* for approval at WSC'98.

World service information materials

At our January meeting, we talked about the need for an acceptable approval process for service-based information materials. By this we mean those items that are used by committees and boards to address specific issues, such as trustee bulletins, public information bulletins, and the new technology being used by our fellowship. Currently there are several processes used. We believe that if a simple standard can be developed for everyone to use, this would greatly enhance world services' ability to respond to our fellowship in a timely and productive manner. Along with the WSC Public Information Committee, we have asked the WSC Policy Committee to review a draft protocol and give us recommendations for future use. We would expect to have a year-long trial run to work out any kinks in the system before presenting it to the conference, perhaps at WSC'98, for approval.

Development Forum

As we have reported, the list of invitees for the Development Forum has been opened up for WSC'97. As you may recall, the list of funded communities has remained the same for the past several years. Opening the list this year has meant that we were able to extend invitations to two communities who have never been able to attend the WSC: Costa Rica and Norway. Unfortunately, opening the list up also meant that we had to say no to an equal number of communities that previously had been funded: France and New Zealand. We would also like to note that several communities were happy to notify us that they no longer required DF assistance: Portugal, Brazil, and Sweden. Additionally, after a long absence, we are pleased to report that a delegate from Japan will be attending this year's conference. Plans for this year's DF session at the conference have not been finalized but will be discussed at our March meeting.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Additional needs handbook

The full board will have discussions about this handbook based on its review as well as on recommendations from the External Affairs Committee at its March meeting. We will look at the variety of publication formats available for such material: a handbook, a booklet, topic-related pamphlets, or possibly a chapter for inclusion in existing handbooks or in *A Guide to Local Services in NA*. We want to have a final review draft ready for this conference.

Public Relations Work Plan

The EAC recently revised the Public Relations Work Plan at its January meeting in light of two factors: the loss of staff resources with the resignation of Lee Manchester, primary staff member for this project; and the change from what was previously called a "research conference" to a "research roundtable discussion," which has been placed on hold until further discussions and decisions can be made. The revised PR Work Plan was later ratified by the expanded meeting. The status of the various elements of the plan to date is as follows:

Census, demographic survey

As stated in our last conference report, a pilot survey was conducted at the WCNA in St. Louis. Over a thousand survey responses were collected, and the board is currently in the process of examining the raw data. We were encouraged by the positive response of members to this survey, and we are optimistic that obtaining this kind of information about our members' involvement with NA will be a positive tool for future public relations efforts. This pilot survey will

provide the basis for the development of a more extensive fellowship-wide survey. After reviewing the data, the board decided to restructure the coding instrument that presents the outcome of the data. We are consulting with other researchers on the structure of the coding instrument. After this has taken place, we will be in a better position to collate the data into a useful outcome report. We will present a report on the WCNA-26 survey to the conference during the trustee report at WSC'97.

Research roundtable discussions

As mentioned in the previous *Conference Report*, a research conference had been scheduled for October 1996. However, at the August board meeting, we decided that more thorough discussions about the relation between the project and our traditions were needed before we could embark on such an endeavor. After having broader discussions at our expanded meeting, we explored in greater detail issues surrounding the focus of what we are now calling a "research roundtable discussion." Discussions about this roundtable are continuing, and we hope to schedule it for late 1997 or 1998. We will provide the WSC with a report on this matter during the trustee report at WSC'97.

Professional events

Since the last *Conference Report*, we have attended the two remaining professional events targeted in the 1996 PR Work Plan. They were the annual American Correctional Association congress in Nashville in August, and the sixteenth conference of the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations in Jakarta, Indonesia, in December. Detailed reports of our participation in both these events are available from the WSO. A high point of the IFNGO conference came when the Governor of Jakarta presented a medal to Narcotics Anonymous World Services at an opening ceremony in front of some six hundred guests. Other organizations that received recognition for sending international delegations to this event were the World Health Organization, the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, and the United Nations International Drug Control Program. This was indeed an honor for NA, and an obvious benefit of our past efforts and continuity of participation. At our March meeting we will review past, current, and new events for possible inclusion in the 1997 Public Relations Work Plan. We have recently submitted an abstract for a presentation to be made at the ICAA conference in Cairo, Egypt, soon after WSC'97. The ICAA has placed us on their program in a special ninety-minute session. This conference has an Islamic theme, which we accommodate in our presentation paper. Just of interest, we are listed on the ICAA home page as an international non-governmental organization, with a link to the WSO home page.

NA Update

The two issues of this newsletter called for in the 1996 PR Work Plan were completed. *NA Update* is targeted at addictions professionals worldwide.

Informational tools for professionals

The EAC is currently developing a curriculum outline for educating primary health care workers in assisting the initiation of NA meetings in various communities where NA does not exist yet. This outline will be the basis of commencing discussions at our March meeting to further this project.

Multiregional/zonal training events, and "Train the Trainer" tools

WSC PI, in liaison with the EAC, has been developing "Train the Trainer" documented tools. These tools (or guides) are to assist trusted servants with their presentation skills on how to convey information from our various service booklets and manuals to other trusted servants in a useful and consistent manner. Once passed on to the trainee trusted servants, they would be able to pass their skills on to other trusted servants. Once we have a standard tool format, we will be able to measure our effectiveness in years to come through an evaluation exercise.

LITERATURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Step writing guides

Currently, two members of the WSB Literature Review Committee are actively working with the WSC Literature Committee on the step writing guides project. One is a member of the core work group, and another is part of the review group. We hope our participation will be an added resource for the WSCLC.

Trustee bulletin on abstinence

Since accepting our commitment to participate on the step writing guides project, we have postponed work on our bulletins. We hope to begin work on the trustee bulletin on abstinence after WSC'97.

On behalf of the board of trustees, thank you for allowing us to serve.

Stu Tooredman, Chairperson

WSC LITERATURE COMMITTEE

I first would like to acknowledge and extend the committee's gratitude to the members of our fellowship who as individuals, groups, and area and regional literature committees worked on the review and input for the first four Step Working Guides. Once again, you are showing this addict that "together we can." Thank you.

Our committee has already met twice, and as this March report goes to print we will be meeting a third time. The Step Working Guides core group, our small work group, also met twice this conference year. At our March meeting, the committee expects to review and input the first drafts of Steps Five through Eight as well as review the input we've received on the first four steps. When the next set of drafts is ready for fellowship review and input, we certainly hope for the same commitment as was given to the first set of step drafts. More information about the input we received and the next set of drafts will be available in the report we'll be sending you after our meeting.

You will notice the WSC Literature Committee's motion (#10) for approval of our "A" worklist in the 1997 *Conference Agenda Report*. In order to continue our work, we must resubmit our work list each year for approval. Although both the Step Working Guides and the Sponsorship Booklet are on the list, the finances and resources of world services will only accommodate work on the Step Working Guides project. Our plans for this next year include one core group meeting and two full committee meetings. This should enable us to have the final approval draft of the Step Working Guides ready at least ninety days before the 1998 WSC, as mandated by both WSC and WSCLC policy.

As previously reported, the WSCLC has been soliciting input about the personal stories section of the Basic Text, but to date we haven't received any. By an informal straw poll, the committee gathered a consensus opinion that any collection of stories, whether for inclusion in the Basic Text or as a stand-alone book, should be comprised of recovery stories from our worldwide fellowship. We would like the collection to include personal stories from as many nations, cultures, and languages as possible. We still would like you to share your ideas about other options, so please let us hear from you.

Finally, I have a personal recommendation; although it does not come from the WSCLC, I still believe it deserves consideration and discussion. Throughout the seven years during which I have been involved with the Literature Committee, I have had many members of the fellowship speak to me about two topics of great importance to them: sponsorship and service. Drawing

on their input, I have thought about a variety of ways in which we could respond to their desires. I have also advanced my idea to other NA members for their advice and feedback.

My proposal is this: When the moratorium on changes to the Basic Text expires, new chapters on sponsorship and service should be developed and added to the Basic Text. This is not a new idea; in years past, at least two regions have made similar proposals. At WSC'95, the Connecticut Region proposed an additional chapter on sponsorship. Prior to that, the United Kingdom Regional Literature Committee proposed a chapter on service. The UK RLC even submitted an original draft as initial material.

By the time the moratorium expires, it will have been ten years (two moratorium periods of five years each) since any improvements have been made to the Basic Text. I've understood the need for the two moratoriums. We had gone through six changes in the Basic Text in the six years between the book's initial approval in 1982 and the creation of the Fifth Edition in 1988, and we needed a break. By the time the moratorium is over, we will have had a break of ten years; then, I believe, it will be time to move forward again. I want to emphasize that I am not advocating changes to the existing narrative in the Basic Text; I am simply advocating the addition of two new chapters.

Like some members, my first reaction to any proposal for more changes to the Basic Text has been a negative one. However, one particular member said to me, "Jorge, the Basic Text we use today, the Fifth Edition, is not a historical document; it is a tool we use that teaches and guides us. We should all want that tool to be developed to its fullest potential. The only 'historical version' of the Basic Text is our First Edition." His statement, along with my personal experiences, led me to put forth this proposal.

It is my understanding that the moratorium ends at the beginning of the 1998 World Service Conference. Even though we are a year away from the end of the moratorium, it would naturally take a few years to actually get to the stage where we could add new chapters. Our fellowship always desires the opportunity to discuss and determine the direction for the development of our recovery material in advance. Instead of waiting until the 1998 WSC, we can use this time to see what our fellowship says. I believe it is time to act on these ideas, and I appreciate the opportunity to present them to you.

Once again, I would like to thank every member who has contributed his or her time and energy this past conference year. Our love for NA shines through our work. Thank you all.

Love and peace,

Jorge Blanco, Chairperson

WSC HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Greetings from the WSC H&I leadership team. Our committee had quite an ambitious workplan for this conference year. The main focus of our team's assignments originated through conference action, items directly related to the World Services Public Relations Work Plan, and elements of H&I service which directly impact the local area and regional H&I committees we serve worldwide.

Due to the short conference year and the number of our tasks, we anticipated having a world services meeting between WSC'96 and WSC'97. As you all know, this did not come about. Therefore, the WSC H&I Committee submitted and received approval for a funded meeting. This meeting was held 9-11 November 1996 at WSO-Chatsworth. This meeting allowed us time to complete and approve our work for inclusion in the *Conference Agenda Report*, and to complete our other assignments in a timely fashion as well. To conclude this report, I will outline our tasks and the work completed this conference year.

We worked with the World Service Board of Trustees External Affairs Committee on the revision of the *Institutional Group Guide*, which was formerly a part of the *Outreach Handbook* assigned to the trustees. We have completed reworking the *IGG* for accuracy and have approved it for submission to the full board of trustees. The *IGG* has been updated with the intention of being used as a separate piece on its own. We feel that most members—and even nonmembers—could use this piece of service material to start an NA meeting in a correctional institution.

Due to changes in the *Hospitals and Institutions Handbook* approved at WSC'96, the *H&I Guide* (a four-page excerpt from the handbook) had to be updated to reflect those changes. In conjunction with the EAC, we spent time identifying the languages into which the *H&I Guide* should be translated in the future. Translations have currently been completed in French, Spanish, Brazilian, and Portuguese. At this point, we feel the Italian translation needs to be focused on next.

The H&I resources distributed by the WSO—sample H&I area or regional guidelines, resource information for learning days, and referral letters from institutions where H&I meetings or presentations are being held—needed to be reviewed and cataloged. The protocols developed for evaluation of the referral letters and other resources distributed by the WSO staff, which we used to catalog this information, were also finalized. These provided some direction for distribution of this material.

WSC H&I has taken responsibility for approving stories appearing in *Reaching Out*. Since this has not previously been done by our committee, it was necessary to meet and discuss this process, come to a general understanding, and develop guidelines for the approval process.

We have reformatted and updated the DO's and DON'Ts for H&I work in the *H&I Handbook* and developed some DO's and DON'Ts for learning days. Motion 8 in the *Conference Agenda Report* addresses these issues. These changes came about from questions asked of WSC H&I at our learning days and from the questionnaires received from our learning days. This information was also used to create a first draft of the H&I "Train the Trainers" tools mentioned in the PR Work Plan, along with some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

During WSC'96, a motion was referred to WSC H&I, originating from the Region of the Virginians, regarding the lowering of the clean-time requirements for the forensic units section of the *Hospitals and Institutions Handbook*. This matter was given full committee attention, and we have decided to take no action on the motion at this time. There are really two concerns here: First of all, the addicts providing services to these types of facilities need to be screened carefully regarding clean time as well as other H&I experience. Secondly, the conference approved the clean-time requirements (Motion 9, *CAR'96*). Due to our belief in conference direction and based on our experiences in H&I service, we carefully considered these aspects to come to both a practical and spiritual decision.

In closing we, the WSC H&I leadership, would like to thank the conference for the opportunity to serve this fellowship in the area of H&I, and we hope that you all have an H&I kinda day.

Mike Cunningham, Chairperson
Craig Robertson, Vice Chairperson

WSC PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

With a conference year about to end, I feel that I must make amends to the fellowship as the WSC PI chairperson. These amends are concerning the World Wide Web bulletin we promised to release by December 1996. To date, this has not happened.

The work group assigned this task had requested input from the fellowship for the bulletin via the Internet. Our first draft of this document was distributed far beyond our committee's intent within the fellowship. In this draft were statements that were inaccurate. This caused unintended consequences. The fellowship began making requests of the WSO concerning the Internet which they were unable to comply with or support.

We reviewed the intent of our bulletin and decided that the focus of our draft should be narrowed, focusing only on the public information aspect of the Internet and the World Wide Web. We are not ready to release this final draft to the fellowship and plan to do so at the upcoming World Service Conference.

At this time, we would like to give the fellowship some direction about the use of the World Wide Web as a public information tool. The following are basic principles and ideas that can be utilized by the fellowship when setting up and implementing a public information website on the Internet:

1. Our committee decided it would be best to follow our PI guidelines and use the World Wide Web as a tool for PI efforts.
2. We feel that we can use this medium to our advantage and get information out to the general public and the fellowship to communicate who we are, what we do, and where we can be found.
3. We feel that the trusted servant or committee responsible for maintaining a website should be focused on the way a PI committee goes about giving information out to the public and to the fellowship. Do not post any information or other Internet links you have a question about, especially links to websites other than the WSO site at www.wsoinc.com. The most common breach of our traditions is the linking of an NA-supported website to websites that are outside of our fellowship in support, purpose, and intent.
4. The posting of our literature on the Internet is not something we do as a PI committee. We feel that we need to stay clear of posting copyrighted literature on the Internet, especially considering the PI implications of doing so. How many *printed* meeting lists do we know of that have NA literature reprinted on them? Very few! Similarly, we feel that it's bad practice to post an NA informational pamphlet, in its entirety, on a local NA website.
5. The documents that best describe our fellowship to the general public and to the professional who comes in contact with the still-suffering addict are the two presentation papers that are available from the WSO: *Facts about Narcotics Anonymous* and *Narcotics Anonymous: A Commitment to Community Partnerships*. These papers can be found on the WSO website. We highly recommend these PI tools because they are written specifically for the public and describe many aspects of our fellowship and its purpose. They were approved by the board of trustees in October 1995 for use by PI committees and the fellowship on the Internet.

Our committee will incorporate the input and information on NA websites gathered thus far into the upcoming revision of *A Guide to Public Information (PI Handbook)*. We hope to distribute the new and revised "World Wide Web Resource Paper" as soon as possible.

In August of 1996 members of the Administrative Committee and WSO Management advised us that it would be helpful to have a protocol concerning the release of bulletins to the fellowship from a standing committee. This would help to prevent a bulletin such as the "World Wide Web" (bulletin) from being created and released without the prior knowledge of other boards and committees. This would allow those committees and boards the opportunity to impact the bulletin for input and accuracy.

To this end, we have created a protocol for the creation and distribution of a "Resource Paper" instead of a "bulletin" to the fellowship. With WSC leadership support we are working with the World Service Board of Trustees and the WSC Policy Committee to study and refine this protocol for use by our committee. We will seek permission of the WSC for this protocol to become accepted policy for our committee. We expect that all of world services will ultimately address a similar question.

This past year, we have also created a resource paper called "Phoneline Technologies" that is available from the WSO. This paper concerns the many changes in the communications industry allowing for more options in maintaining a communication link with the public and the addict who still suffers. The information collected in this paper will be utilized for the revision of *A Guide to Phoneline Service*.

The WSC PI Committee and the trustees' External Affairs Committee are working closely on parts of the Public Relations Work Plan that require minimal WSO staff support. We feel that the EAC is helping us to participate in projects and events that we should have been involved with and doing for some years. We are participating in more professional events and are having more impact on helping to make Narcotics Anonymous better recognized in the world. Proof of this was when the IFNGO awarded world services of Narcotics Anonymous a special medal to acknowledge NA's contribution as a world-wide organization to the IFNGO. This medallion is at the WSO for all of us to be proud of and see. Garth Popple (WSB) accepted the award on behalf of world services. In our follow-up discussions, we came to understand that this was a very significant event, even allowing for the ceremonial circumstances of the award. This is the first time that our fellowship has been recognized at the IFNGO as a contributor. This recognition adds to our public relations, indicating to the attendees that NA is a beneficial "international institution" as we are noted in the program distributed at the conference. As you may know, portions of the PR Plan have been put on hold by the WSB. We continue to support the PR Plan in its entirety and hope that its importance is not lost or forgotten.

The *NA Update*, the world service newsletter for professionals, will be published only once during the upcoming year (instead of twice yearly, as has been the case in the last couple of years), with a new mailing list to reach more professionals than before. We are discussing the migration of this project from our committee directly to the EAC, since the board of trustees is responsible for the discharge of the PR Work Plan.

One of the responsibilities formerly carried out by staff under the PR Work Plan was to get information out to the fellowship, through the WSC PI Committee, about events for addiction professionals being held in locations throughout the world, especially the United States. This is one of the suspended activities that we feel should be resumed as soon as possible. We found that most of the regional or area PI committees we contacted were unaware of a professional event in their area and welcomed the opportunity to carry the message to many of those who can have an effect on an addict's life. We hope this situation will change in the upcoming year.

We had a fully funded WSC PI Committee meeting in Chatsworth, Los Angeles, California on 7-8 February 1997. We elected Don Frank from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, and Jack Amador from Anaheim, California, USA, to the voting membership of the committee from our pool. It had come to light that we had actually shortchanged ourselves when we decided not to place new members in the pool in 1994 while the world services inventory was being conducted. We had decided that new pool members would be wasting resources to participate in the self-assessment phase of the inventory. We felt that those members already on the committee at that time would have the best insight to the committee. We learned through attrition that we had very few members with long-term experience and interaction on the committee when we looked to our pool for new voting members. We would appreciate the regions of the world sending qualified nominations for the PI pool to the WSC PI Committee so that we can continue to serve the fellowship in the best possible way.

Our most important activity at our February meeting was the revision of the *Guide to Public Information* and the *Guide to Phoneline Service*. In reference to the *Guide to PI*, it has been made a little harder to honor the fellowship's passage of our Motion 11 at WSC 1996. Because we scheduled our meeting late in the conference year, we now feel the need to create two timelines for this portion of the project. We did not fully realize the strenuous time frame within which we had to complete our work, and now we must offer the fellowship a choice of timelines for our work. At the conference, we will ask for direction from you.

To submit a new *Guide* to the fellowship in the 1998 *CAR* for final approval (as stated in our motion from WSC'96), our work has to be finalized by November of this calendar year. To accomplish this under the present circumstances, we would need to limit the participation of the fellowship for review and input on the new *Guide to Public Information*. We would have the new *PI Handbook* sent to WSC participants, the trustee External Affairs Committee, and a volunteer panel of PI-minded NA members for review and input. This panel of PI volunteers would primarily come from the volunteers solicited in our questionnaire to the fellowship concerning the revision of the *PI Handbook*.

(1) Timeline with limited review

- 02/10/97 The work begins
- 04/15/97 Individual sections completed and distributed to WSC PI members
- 04/27/97 Content editing
- 05/02/97 Handbook integration complete, goals for line editing
- 06/01/97 First draft complete
- 06/02/97 Distribution to committed reviewers
- 06/06/97 Review and input begins
- 09/01/97 Review and input complete
- 09/05/97 Input distributed to WSC PI members
- 09/26/97 Meeting to complete final changes
- 10/01/97 Copy edit begins
- 11/15/97 Copy edit complete
- 11/30/97 Approval draft accepted by WSC PI leadership
- 12/01/97 Final draft submitted to *CAR*

Our committee believes it can bring for approval to the 1998 conference *A Guide to Public Information* that will be a quality piece of service material. We believe that the most basic problem with the current *Guide* is its organization and lack of current fellowship experience in PI (new technology, expanded samples of PI materials, etc.). We believe we can amend those deficiencies while updating the handbook with current experience.

However, we understand that some members of the fellowship may not feel the same confidence as we do, either in our ability to accomplish this task in the time allotted or in our suggested method of review. In light of the traditional manner by which the fellowship has developed and/or reviewed service materials, we offer the following timeline as an alternative for work on the *Guide*:

(2) Timeline with full review

- 02/10/97 The work begins
- 04/15/97 Individual sections completed and distributed to WSC PI members
- 04/27/97 Content editing
- 05/02/97 Handbook integration complete, goals for line editing
- 07/03/97 First draft complete, sent to WSC PI leadership

08/01/97 Distribution to area and regional PI committees and conference participants
08/04/97 Review and input begins
01/07/98 Review and input complete
01/30/98 Input distributed to WSC PI members
04/25/98 Meeting to complete final changes
06/01/98 Copy edit begins
08/01/98 Copy edit complete
09/30/98 Approval draft accepted by WSC PI leadership
11/01/98 Final draft submitted to CAR

This second, extended timeline will mean that the final draft will be submitted in the CAR for approval at the WSC in 1999.

The issue of the new *NA Way* is going to come up at the conference, as there is a motion in the CAR. At our February meeting, we talked about this issue and how it would affect the *PI News*. The committee as a whole decided that the idea of getting service information out to 25,000 or more members of our fellowship would be wonderful. We also felt that translating it into four languages other than English would help get members interested in doing service through public information. However, we are very concerned that our committee will have no editorial control over the material we submit. What about our communications to PI committees? Some of the articles we have written in the past covered several pages; how will this be handled in the new *NA Way*? Without the current page space that we have in the *PI News*, we feel that our committee will lose its main tool for communicating with the fellowship. We use this tool to pass along local PI committees' experience, strength, and hope from around the world with the fellowship. Under this proposal we are not sure what will happen to our publication. We also feel that we will lose the ability to list the resources available to the fellowship for public information committees. We will lose the intent of the *PI News*: to allow our fellowship to share their PI experience, strength, and hope with each other.

Thank you all for your support during the last year. We look forward to seeing you at the conference in April.

Tony Walters, Chairperson
Erik Rogers, Vice Chairperson

WSC POLICY COMMITTEE

Hi, everyone. We hope you enjoyed your holidays and are faring well in this new year. The WSC Policy Committee has been very busy since our last report to you, and we are glad to have the opportunity to update you on a few items prior to the conference.

Recommendations on regional motions

These seven motions (#16, #17, #19, #20, #21, #22, and #27) are *not* from WSC'96. They were referred to WSC Policy by the WSC Administrative Committee in November 1996 for recommendations in the 1997 *Conference Agenda Report*. We assessed motions as impacting the world service structure, and recommended in the CAR that they be referred to the Transition Group. However, this decision followed a discussion containing two very different views within the committee.

As a committee, we support the conference's decision to delegate to the Transition Group the task of developing and proposing changes to our structure. Within our committee, there exist different beliefs on what this support means. There are those who believe we could

support the conference's decision and still provide recommendations on whether to adopt or reject each motion. These members believe that *not* to do so could leave the conference less prepared to make decisions on motions presented on the conference floor. Others believe that to make recommendations on whether to adopt or reject specific motions would go against the conference's decision to delegate responsibility to the Transition Group. Not only would this interfere with the process begun by the Transition Group, these members say, but it would be premature to contemplate taking specific actions intended to impact a world structure that hasn't even been seen yet.

The latter was the prevailing view of the committee; thus our recommendation. However, it followed serious discussion on how to best serve the conference, and there remain those who believe specific recommendations were in order. It was unanimous, however, that our committee present to you the contents of our discussion in reaching the decision to refer, in an effort to make all viewpoints heard.

A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous

By now you have seen the motions we are offering in the *Conference Agenda Report*. We would also like to make you aware of three corrections made to the *Guide to Local Services* contained in your *Conference Agenda Report*. On page 21, the statement "This material already fellowship-approved" which appeared in the 1996 printing was removed to alleviate confusion. We had received feedback that this statement led some to believe that the service diagram was fellowship-approved, when in fact the statement was referring only to the Twelve Concepts. Secondly, the MCM/RCM key was mistakenly omitted from page 89 in the 1996 copy, but is in your CAR'97 copy. Finally, on page 100, although the narrative in this chapter refers to the RCM in the area structure, it was incorrectly labeled in the 1996 diagram as ASR, and is now accurately labeled RCM.

Conference orientation

As reported in November, we have been working on conference orientation material. We are continuing to work with the Administrative Committee, and we finalized a portion of our work at our committee meeting at the end of February. We have developed an outline, coupled with the resource material already compiled, and have identified the following areas for an orientation: 1) the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust, 2) roles and responsibilities, 3) conference survival, 4) conference policies and procedures, and 5) elections, among others. We encourage you to provide any input you have on improving the orientation process. We look at orientation as a work in progress, and if we are unable to incorporate your input into our plans prior to the 1997 World Service Conference, we will address it during the 1997/98 conference year.

World Convention Corporation

WCC asked WSC Policy to review an elections issue. When someone stands for a position which he or she will not enter until later in that conference year, when does this person need to meet the clean-time requirements for the position: when elected, or at the time of stepping into the position? Our committee is recommending the person have the required clean time at the time of election. Our reasoning is based on the belief that, when reviewing qualifications needed for a position, we can only make decisions on those qualifications that an individual possesses now, not ones anticipated for the future.

Although WCC's election question was largely based on someone entering a position months after being elected, were the conference to agree with this line of reasoning, it would also impact other elections. Current policy for other conference-elected positions is that the person needs to meet the clean-time requirements when he or she steps into the position, which is at the close of the conference. In the interest of consistency, we would also recommend this be changed to require the specific amount of clean time when the election is held.

Mississippi letter

The WSC Policy Committee was asked at WSC'96 to look at the issue of absentee voting and report back at WSC'97. The question posed was whether a region unable to send a representative to the World Service Conference might be able to vote through a proxy or absentee system. The Mississippi letter asserted that it was unfair that only those regions with the money to send their representatives to the WSC are able to participate in the WSC decision-making process, and asked that this matter be addressed. WSC Policy is sympathetic to the plight of many regions throughout our worldwide fellowship that are unable to attend the World Service Conference due to financial constraints, and we look forward to a system of participation that more equitably accommodates those without the financial means to do so. We do not believe, however, that absentee voting is the solution.

WSC Policy sees a proxy or absentee voting system as an issue that speaks to the common understanding of participation at the conference. The conference has set precedent on different types of participation, from being able to speak only in a committee of the whole to being able to speak during any session and vote. There also exist levels of participation in between these two. There is, however, nothing in our structure that speaks to a vote being pre-cast with the casting body's representative not present at the event. We believe this is more than an issue of policy mechanics, but one that begs the question, "What is participation?" As we currently understand the World Service Conference as an event, a vote is but one aspect of participation and decision making; to separate voting out as its own element is to remove a vital part of our decision-making process as described in the Sixth Concept.

The only part of the conference during which we could even consider an absentee ballot system is in old business, when many of the participating regions will be coming with their votes in hand. This is not practiced universally, however, and even if it were, the conference has not designated a different process for the old business session; participation is a recognized component. Therefore we could not recommend its use even in the old business session.

We recognize the disadvantage regions with smaller financial resources face; at this point, however, we can only recommend the following: 1) the Transition Group address full funding for all world service participants (including regional representatives) to world service events; 2) regions use the *Conference Report* to voice their views and concerns, so that conference participants may consider them; and 3) regions continue supporting each other through multiregional forums, so that those regions unable to attend the WSC have some place where their concerns are heard and included in the discussions of the World Service Conference.

Again, we hope the conference continues to seek solutions to the problem of unequal participation. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Other activities

We have finished our work for the WSC Literature Committee on its internal guidelines, and will submit that work to the WSCLC after our February meeting.

We followed up on the World Services Translation Committee's previous request for assistance with its guidelines. Its chairperson graciously declined, informing us that the need no longer existed.

Our committee's work on the conference and elections procedures is complete and has been submitted to the WSC Administrative Committee.

As always, should you have any questions or input on any of our work, we invite you to contact the WSC Policy Committee in care of Jeff Gershoff at the World Service Office. Thank you for your support and interest during this past year.

Mary Chant-Valentine, Chairperson
Lib Edmonds, Vice Chairperson

WORLD SERVICES TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

Greetings to all of you from the WSTC. As usual, the committee and the staff assigned to us are working at a steady pace. This is our report to you as the 1996-97 conference year draws to a close.

As a result of an increasing demand from non-English-speaking NA communities for translated NA literature, the WSTC was established as a WSC committee in 1991. Soon after, the WSC acknowledged translations as one of NA's basic services. So what does this have to do with giving you the conference report in 1997? Well, I'd like to take a moment to look back on what the WSTC has accomplished during nearly six years of existence.

Today it is possible for NA members to purchase the Basic Text in Spanish, French, Portuguese, Brazilian, German, Hebrew, and of course English. The WSTC has played different roles at different times in helping make our message internationally accessible. We have acted as an information clearinghouse for LTCs, and we have evaluated and approved the publication of translated literature, ensuring that our message has been consistent. In the midst of all this, we developed the necessary skills to manage the responsibility placed with us by the WSC: We started from scratch without any world-level committee experience to lean on. In order to get the work done, we had to use the same tools we were still in the process of developing, and we improved our processes as we gained experience with the intricacies of our work.

So what has happened since the 1996 conference?

In February 1996, 186 different translated NA items were being published. Today, a year later, we have 218 items in publication, an increase of 32 recovery items. Currently, the WSO staff is working on 63 different translation projects. This means that on any given day they may be handling up to 15 projects per staff person that need communication or draft work. In addition to this, we're working on 5 major book projects, and we anticipate 3 more from local translation committees for production by the end of 1997. We are also assisting 11 language groups with their glossaries of recovery terms.

The WSTC tries all the time to streamline its processes and improve the efficiency of its tools. For translation purposes we developed a list of glossary explanations to clarify and simplify the meanings of some of our key terms. We also developed a tool which we call *Translation Basics* that resembles a newsletter and comes in three parts. It is a compilation of answers to questions that LTCs and others have asked quite often over the years. The material contains information on how language groups can get translation work started and how to carry out their work, about evaluation and production processes, and about both the interaction and the differences between the WSTC and the WSO translations staff. It also describes what we mean by "conceptual fidelity." We hope that *Translation Basics* becomes a valuable tool for everyone in our fellowship involved with or interested in translation work, and that it will illustrate why translation work is as work-intensive and resource-consuming as it is.

Some of our committee members have participated in fellowship activities throughout the year. I was invited and locally funded to participate in a workshop in October in Stockholm, Sweden, during the 5th Regional Service Conference. As a result of several world services trips, we got valuable information on what's going on in Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland. When world services attended the Asia Pacific Forum in The Philippines this January, members of the WSTC also had the opportunity to address translation matters with those working in several of the Asian languages.

What are the challenges for the next year?

As a translation committee, we're facing several challenges. One is the nature of the languages we're going to work on in the near future. During the first years of our existence, we were engaged with translations from Scandinavia and the Spanish, German, Portuguese,

Brazilian, and French language communities. This scenario has changed. Many of the language groups that previously needed significant support from our side have become more experienced and self-supporting and no longer require much assistance from us. Up to now, we've been working with Roman-alphabet languages, which are familiar to us from personal experience. Now, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Arabic-speaking communities are rapidly becoming the main focal points for assistance. This opens a new world of opportunity for us: to work with communities whose written language, spiritual beliefs, and cultural background can be vastly diverse and different. Understanding and handling these language projects requires more from us as a committee, and our work with these language groups tends to be more resource-demanding as we have to adapt our processes and methods for production and evaluation. Just an example: We are currently working on 7 different languages from India alone, a country with at least 15 main languages and great diversity in culture and beliefs.

Another challenge for translations results from revisions to existing English literature. Every change in our recovery literature naturally impacts our work, affecting already published translations as well as works-in-progress. The same applies to the development of new recovery literature. Of course, the WSTC is not against either revising old literature or developing new literature; we just have to remember our responsibility to make these materials available in all the languages of NA.

As local service structures are developing worldwide, we are experiencing an increasing demand for translated service materials. Several world service committees are directing their attention toward helping to fulfill this need. Until now, the WSTC has not been involved with the translation of service materials, and has instead kept its focus on recovery literature to make the best use of our limited resources. However, these service materials contain recovery terminology, and we have to concern ourselves with how the NA message is being translated. The WSTC discussed this matter in our last meeting and came up with a suggestion for conference committees: The service material should be translated using the recovery terms in the local language glossary to help ensure that our message is translated correctly and consistently. The WSTC will be happy to provide the necessary material along with any advisory help we can, of course, if there is a need for that.

What is our outlook?

Of course, the WSTC is looking with great anticipation toward future changes in world services. This committee wants to acknowledge the World Service Conference's commitment to translations as a basic service, a commitment that began in the early nineties. Through the years, the WSTC has gained a greater understanding of how important and fundamental translations are as an NA service, and we've striven to share our learning process with you. Through you, the conference, the WSTC has always been provided with the best support possible when we have asked for it, and we really appreciate that.

In order to keep the quality of our work at the current level, we need continued, strong support from the WSC. We hope you will affirm that translations continues to be a basic and necessary service. Our fellowship is growing, especially in the non-English-speaking countries, and with it the need for translated NA literature grows.

I want to express heartfelt thanks to all of our dedicated local translation committees, to all WSTC members, past and present, and to our hard-working office staff. In gratitude for allowing us to be of service,

*Eddie Eriksen, Chairperson
Tata Montilla, Vice Chairperson*

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This year's conference will find the WSO board, along with all conference participants, confronted by difficult times and difficult decisions. The year-end figures for 1996 reflected a continuing decline of Basic Text sales, our principal source of income. Put this together with a lack of new literature products, increasing costs, and no reserve funds and we have a serious threat to the operations of our primary service center.

The board gave its full attention to these matters at our meeting in February. Our budget for 1997 reflects several dramatic and necessary decisions to both reduce costs and increase revenues. These decisions include a reduction in staffing and other personnel costs, a reorganization of WSO functions, and a reduction in general expenses to decrease our costs immediately. In order to increase our revenue we adopted a marketing plan, increased our prices on several inventory items, and developed a plan calling for the incremental reduction of our discounts across our customer base. Because many of our decisions to increase revenue were so far-reaching, their implementation is not scheduled to take effect until we have had a thorough discussion with the WSB and the conference. The details of our decisions will be contained in our annual report which you should receive in several weeks. The WSO board wants to assure you that we are doing everything we can to provide you with the necessary literature distribution and fellowship services in the meantime.

We are continuing the development of our website to ensure that information about NA is provided to the fellowship and to the public at large. We are still discouraging the placement of any of the fellowship's copyrighted literature on the Internet by members, groups, and service committees until such time as we have received sufficient assurance of their protection. We are also reviewing our vendor licensing arrangements and expect to recommend changes that will resolve some of the problems that have been brought to our attention by the fellowship.

We have been conducting research about the issue of group insurance and the board finds itself with a bit of a dilemma. After exhausting our leads on this issue, the only carrier that provides coverage nationally (US) is a company that one of our active consultants has an ongoing employment relationship with. Normally in these circumstances the WSO would just terminate its relationship with the individual or discontinue the process of inquiry. In this case we have been repeatedly asked and had WSC actions committed to us to address this issue. We do not plan to discontinue our active relationship with this particular consultant, and therefore are somewhat reluctant to provide the contact information for the insurance company to those regions, areas, or groups who contact us. We are concerned that there may be some perception that this individual was provided some preferential access or treatment. That certainly did not happen. The simple truth is that this company was the only one that met the needs of our organization. The issue of groups having insurance protection is becoming a growing problem; however, the WSO felt an obligation to report this dilemma to you before making any decisions to forward the contact information to the fellowship.

While the picture I've described to you is not as sunny as we'd all like it to be, the fact is, we *are* taking steps to brighten the future. We hope that you will accept the WSO board's recommendations in the spirit of unity and cooperation in which they are offered. In the meantime, we do thank you for the opportunity to serve a worldwide and growing fellowship.

Yours in service,

*Bob Feneran, Chairperson
Rogan Allen, Vice Chairperson*

WORLD CONVENTION CORPORATION

Greetings from the World Convention Corporation. The seven current directors of the corporation are Donald Griffin (WSC-elected), Pedro Castro (WSC-elected), Cary Seltzer (WSO board), Laura Jennison (WSO board), Rogan Allen (WSO board), Ron Sheppard (WSC Administrative Committee), and Steve Severin (WCNA-27 host chair). The WCC Executive Committee consists of Donald Griffin (chairperson), Pedro Castro (vice chairperson), Laura Jennison (secretary), and Cary Seltzer (treasurer).

WCNA-28

The WCC board has chosen Cartagena, Colombia as the site for WCNA-28, to be held 6-9 July 2000. Cartagena is a beautiful Caribbean city that offers the ambiance of the beach alongside a quaint, 16th-century, walled city. We believe that the city of Cartagena will present an excellent opportunity to further carry the NA message. We want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Colombia, Panama, Argentina, and Brazil regions for their hospitality during our site-selection process.

WCNA-29

The WCC board has reduced the potential sites for WCNA-29 (2002) to three cities. Those cities are Montreal, Atlanta, and Orlando. A final round of negotiations in those cities will result in a final site report being generated for review at the July WCC meeting, with a site being selected at that time. We extend our thanks to the Quebec, New England, Greater New York, Greater Philadelphia, Tri-State, Free State, Chesapeake & Potomac, Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, South Florida, and Puerto Rico regions for their willingness to contribute to this process.

Committed Motion #84, WSC'96

Motion #84 from WSC'96 was committed to the WCC for its consideration. The motion reads, "That the WCC research the need for 'common needs' meetings, workshops or forums at World Conventions of NA and report back at the next WSC." The WCC planned to discuss this motion at its annual meeting. This meeting, typically held in November or December, was actually held in January 1997.

In October 1996, before we had the opportunity to consider Motion #84, the Aotearoa New Zealand Region, the maker of Motion #84, submitted Motion #26 for inclusion in *CAR'97* seeking to change WSC's current policy to allow common needs meetings at world conventions. By the time we arrived at our January meeting we were confronted with two different motions from the same maker requiring two different actions on the same issue. The board's ability to discuss and make recommendations on Motion #84 seemed to have been undermined by the presence of Motion #26 being included in the *CAR*.

In light of this, it seemed impractical for the board to consider researching an issue that will be decided when Motion #26 is considered at WSC'97. Since this motion is included in the *CAR*, it will be discussed by the fellowship, and the fellowship's conscience will be voiced at WSC'97. We believe this deliberation could satisfy the intent of Motion #84. When discussing Motion #84 at our January 1997 meeting, we were in consensus that no further research could be conducted by us prior to WSC'97 other than the historical information on this issue that we have included in this report. For these reasons, we would recommend no further action on Motion #84 until we receive further direction from the conference.

We also believe it is essential to this discussion that we share with you the following summary of conference history on special interest meetings at world conventions:

- At WSC'87, the conference adopted the world convention guidelines which included the following language regarding special interest meetings:

What about Special Interest? To what extent should special meetings or activities be provided at the world convention? NA world conventions are many

things to many people, but most NA members would agree that the world convention is primarily a celebration of our shared recovery, a living testimony to our worldwide unity, and a public statement of our common purpose—to help the addict who still suffers. With these purposes in mind, the idea of special interest meetings at the world convention is narrow and divisive. Special interest meetings compromise the spirit of unity pervading and subvert the purpose of these conventions.

We believe that NA world conventions are not an appropriate place for special interest meetings of Narcotics Anonymous. Unity, however, is something that can always be increased and enhanced. World conventions offer an opportunity for recovering addicts with different backgrounds and lifestyles to learn about each other and, by doing so, break down any remaining barriers between us. The more we know about each other, the more we can help each other.

It is recommended, therefore, that world convention committees be particularly sensitive to the differences in backgrounds of NA members and be careful to select NA speakers who represent a variety of experiences and lifestyles and who carry a message of commonality and unity in recovery.

We also recommend and encourage the program subcommittees of world conventions to schedule workshops open to all NA members which address topics such as sexuality, gender, race, ethnic background, etc., in recovery. These workshops allow us to gain a greater understanding of each other and bring us closer together rather than separate us.

- At WSC'88, the conference further clarified its policy on special interest meetings at world conventions through amending the language adopted at WSC'87 by deleting the following language:

With these purposes in mind, the idea of special interest meetings at the world convention is narrow and divisive. Special interest meetings compromise the spirit of unity pervading and subvert the purpose of these conventions.

We also recommend and encourage the program subcommittees of world conventions to schedule workshops open to all NA members which address topics such as sexuality, gender, race, ethnic background, etc., in recovery. These workshops allow us to gain a greater understanding of each other and bring us closer together rather than separate us.

- The remaining portion of the original language adopted at WSC'87 as amended at WSC'88 was reconsidered by the WCC in 1992. As a result of the WCC board discussions, we proposed Motion #12 in 1992 *Conference Agenda Report* to remove the existing policy from our guidelines. This motion failed due to a lack of 2/3 majority vote; however, the conference was divided on this issue, voting 41 in favor of eliminating the policy, 42 against, and five abstentions.
- Since 1992, the WCC has taken several steps to carry out the current policy in order to ensure diversity in the selection of our speakers. The WCC believes that the most common need our fellowship has is to recover from the disease of addiction. For this reason we select speakers for world conventions who represent a sample of the diversity of our fellowship as a whole. We have worked hard to incorporate this belief into our guidelines. To this end, the following language introduces the section in the WCC Internal Guidelines entitled "Speaker Selection."

A world convention program should be a representation of the diversity of our fellowship. We would like to think that it would not be necessary, but we would remind everyone involved in the speaker selection process to take into consideration issues such as race, sex, sexual preference, and geographic origin.

In addition, the WCC board has taken on significantly more involvement in the final selection of all speakers. This process allows the board to carefully review the recommendation of its host committee in order to create the diversity delineated in our guidelines.

The WCC also works in conjunction with world services to plan service workshops that address the challenges faced by our membership on issues such as HIV in recovery and prejudice and diversity in NA. These service workshops provide us with a forum to discuss how we can work together to address our common needs so that we can recover together. In this way, we believe that we are carrying out our primary purpose in the most responsible manner possible.

Finally, we would remind you that policy established for the world convention is not intended to dictate similar policy be adopted by area and regional convention committees. Nor is this policy intended to encourage similar policy by local NA communities. To the contrary, we would refer you to the final observations included in the report on special interest meetings presented at WSC'89:

The Ad Hoc Committee on special interest meetings understood from almost its beginnings that resolving the issue of special interests in Narcotics Anonymous might be impossible, that the varying opinions on the subject seemed to be irreconcilable, and that we might be able to offer a perspective that would be so fresh and profound and the entire membership of NA would immediately accept our conclusions. We did, however, feel that if we were able to make some objective observations on the subject—devoid of passion and emotionalism—we might be able to do some good.

Here, then, are the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Interest Meetings:

Special Interest Meetings have existed in Narcotics Anonymous for some time. There does not appear to be anything in the Twelve Traditions which inhibits groups from holding special interest meetings, provided that the group has no requirement for membership rather than a desire to stop using. Special interest meetings tend to survive and flourish in local NA communities where there is a need and a desire for such meetings and do not exist in NA communities where there is no need nor desire.

In Narcotics Anonymous, the World Service Conference does not have the authority to dictate policies to groups, and regional and area service committees do not have the policy making authority over the groups. The only authority present in the groups is a loving God expressed in a group's conscience.

The Ad Hoc Committee on special interest meetings concluded that special interest meetings must be appropriate in some NA communities since they exist and flourish with little controversy in these communities. In NA communities where special interest meetings do not exist, and where the need for them is not apparent, there is no reason to create them. Groups, therefore, exercising their autonomy are best suited to decide whether there is any necessity to have special interest meetings.

In conclusion, we believe that the WSC, not the WCC, should determine policy on this issue. We will then work to carry out the conscience of the conference.

Miscellaneous

Just a reminder that the board has decided to postpone Rhonda Richetta's seating in the past-host-chair position on the WCC Board of Directors until WSC'97, when we will ask the conference to ratify her appointment.

Finally, a complete report of all WCC business will be forthcoming in the WCC Annual Report, to be distributed to conference participants prior to WSC'97.

*Donald Griffin, Chairperson
Pedro Castro, Vice Chairperson*