

**MINUTES OF JUNE, 1989 MEETINGS OF
WSB INTERNAL/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

June 23, 1989

Present were:

WSB Members

Kim J., Chairperson
Greg P.
Stretch G.

WSO Staff

Bob Stone
Steve Sigman
Steve Lantos

- I Meeting was called to order at 1:45 PM.
- II First item of business was discussion of motions referred to committee at WSC '89, requiring guidance from the Board of Trustees.
 1. The motion, regarding a January meeting of an expanded JAC, had been discussed previously by the BOT, resulting in board support (with some dissention) of the proposal. Therefore, **the Internal/External Trustee Committee sees no need for further discussion.**
 2. A motion was referred to the BOT concerning religious endorsements in Conference-approved service materials, and uniformity and consistency in service committee formats in respect to opening and closing meetings. **Recognizing two unrelated points in the motion, each with nonspecific intents, the committee will need more information. As a prudent action, the committee recommends writing the maker of the motion asking for specific intents and also clarity of each part of the motion. It was also suggested to have WSO staff survey our service literature for religious endorsements.**
 3. The motion referring to an Additional Needs advisory panel of the WSB Internal/External Affairs Committee was then discussed in detail. The motion calls for two panel members who will relay communication and pertinent issues to the Internal/External Committee. Discussion highlighted the need for members who possess an intimate knowledge of a handicap, good communication skills, and stability in recovery. Further discussion focused on the lack of budgetary funds for extensive transportation of these advisory members, clarity about their function, and the written and telephone communication which will be required. **It was decided to send letters to appropriate individuals, inquiring about their interest in this type of service, if**

appointed, and also asking for a return response including a letter of introduction. The letters will specifically describe expectations for this service position, emphasizing their role in advising the Internal/External Committee as opposed to representing the BOT. WSO staff will collect names and addresses and prepare drafts. (See minutes of 6/24 for updated information regarding this motion.)

4. A motion to amend the TWGSS, page 24, referring to using the NA symbol and logo was examined. **The committee suggests writing the maker of the motion and requesting clarity. The letter should inquire about specifically what this will accomplish, as well as ask for a reworded motion. Drawings of the symbol and logo should be included for specificity.**

- III The next item of business was a report from the WSO Coordinator for Public Information. The written report was summarized, requesting input on the **survey proposal** and on long range planning efforts. Discussion included a request for the Internal External Committee to be informed of broadcast dates for media coverage. Further discussion centered on **international involvement and decision making at the world level. The chairperson led a discussion concerning the need for 1 or 2 trustees to keep abreast of ongoing international developments with the purpose of formulating recommendations for long range planning in this area.** Additionally, there was some discussion about the need to separate the internal and external aspects of this committee, as combining them has caused some possible confusion in regards to areas of purview.
- IV A report was then presented from the H & I Coordinator, describing the status of H&I projects. **The priority project, *Behind the Walls*, will be presented to the Literature Review Committee and also this committee by August 1. Input is needed by October 1. A conference call is suggested for the end of September.**
- V Working with WSC Committees was the next topic. A long discussion ensued, **focusing on long range planning.** The trustees, with each member serving 5 years and having lengthy experience, can offer a long range perspective to conference committee leadership. **Three levels of interaction were specified: goals, projects, and events. A prominent role for trustees is in goals and goal policy statements.** This was discussed in terms of year to year goals for the conference committees. With respect to projects, discussion centered upon parameters as opposed to details, and also ongoing knowledge of project management. Each trustee and staff member shared their thoughts, and the discussion concluded with a suggestion to utilize some time in Albuquerque for discussion with the chairs and vice-chairs of H&I and P.I.

Further discussion emphasized **providing guidance in the context of long range views, broadening perspectives, and theme recommendations.** Developing themes for each committee's work can effectively mobilize the fellowship around issues and impact long term change. One suggestion included **N.A.'s image with various segments of society (reference pages 28 & 29 of Guide to PI).** While it was generally agreed that we may have some knowledge of what our image is within some sectors of society, i.e. some treatment professionals, some correctional facilities, etc., the consensus was that increased awareness in this area was needed. Questions discussed included: How do we want to be perceived and how do we accomplish this? It was hoped that our meetings with the H&I and PI leadership will lead to the development of a long range plan relating to the improvement of our public relations policy which would have a positive impact upon our public image. **Other themes discussed included embezzlement of funds, prejudice and spiritual principles, strengthening services by decentralizing world level services, communication between committees and boards at all levels.**

- VI A recommendation was made to include some past chairpersons of conference committees as members of this trustee committee. Also, it was emphasized that **the discussions in Albuquerque will likely result in an expanded list of specific ideas for theme issues which will be useful at the next BOT meeting.**

The agenda items for Saturday's committee meeting will include; non-addict trustees, international needs, priorities of trustees, the survey proposal, and a workplan for the year.

- VII The chairperson thanked all participants, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

June 24, 1989

Present were:

WSB Members

Kim J., Chairperson
Greg P.
Stretch G.
Garth P.

WSO Staff

Bob Stone
Steve Sigman
Steve Lantos

- I Meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.
- II First item of business was further discussion centering around international involvement. For details regarding the discussions, refer to the report attached. After lengthy discussion, **the consensus of the committee was that the Internal/External Affairs Committee, as part of their responsibilities, will stay abreast of the development of the international fellowship and will strive towards assisting in the formulation of a development plan for the support of the growth of the international fellowship.** Greg and Kim were assigned to work on this task.
- III Next item was discussion of the P.I. Survey. The committee **requested that consideration be given to the inclusion of rural and otherwise isolated areas in the survey. The committee was generally supportive of the concept of the survey.**
- IV A general workplan was established for the non-addict trustee issue. A conference call including members of the committee, Bob Stone, Mike Bohan and possibly Jerry Synold will be scheduled to discuss Kim's proposal. **The committee has elected to focus on revising the election procedure of non-addict trustees, and intends to have a discussion about the specifics of such a proposal during the next meeting of the committee. Each member of the committee was requested to submit input regarding this issue by September 1.**
- V In further discussion about interfacing with the WSC P.I. and H&I committees, it was requested that the scheduling for the Albuquerque special meeting include time for two breakfast meetings, one with each committee's leadership. It was further decided that following the special meeting, a conference call would be held to discuss specifics of a plan of action for interfacing with the Conference committees.

- VI Regarding the previous discussion about the Additional Needs Advisory Panel, the committee decided against sending letters to prospective members, requesting instead that WSO staff develop a list of willing individuals, along with a short description of their experience and background. This committee will review this list and will make appropriate appointments before or at the October meeting.
- VII Final topic discussed was non-trustee members of the BOT committees. The consensus of the committee was to recommend that each BOT committee evaluate some non-trustees for addition to their committees. These nominees would be evaluated and appointments may take place at the February meeting. Additionally, there would be a resource pool of non-trustees created to help on specific tasks and projects.
- VIII Kim thanked all participants, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

INTERNAL WORKING DOCUMENT FOR INTERNAL/EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS TRUSTEE COMMITTEE, JUNE 24, 1989

**INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NARCOTICS
ANONYMOUS**

The Internal/External Affairs Trustee Committee recognizes that, as a service board, the BOT has not had an active role in international growth and development issues over the past several years. As a result, the committee held a lengthy discussion on this subject with the purpose of working toward development of an outline to guide their interface with international service arms over the next several years. Highlights of the discussion are summarized here for reference in future meetings.

Recalling a visit to Australia by a trustee several years ago, it was emphasized that N.A. growth was stimulated by the sharing about structure, terminology, and unity. Recognizing the value of personal visits by appropriate people at the right time, many questions were asked about the decision making process for who goes and when. There is sometimes a great deal of curiosity (even suspicion) about these decisions. Also of interest is what happens to international contacts which are referred to WSO?

Discussion emphasized that actual decisions are always made according a process which has remained unchanged for six years. The team involved is composed of WSC Chairperson, WSB Chairperson, and WSO Board Chairperson. Prioritizing and scheduling of visits was discussed at length, highlighting fund availability as a determining factor for the level and frequency of these activities. A mixture of staff and non-staff is sought.

The discussion shifted to practical versus theoretical relationship of the Board of Trustees to the growth and developmental issues. WSO staff functions to maintain consistency in relationships with new fellowships, and WSO licensing agreements in some places can serve as a most efficient use of resources where the need is substantial. Individual letter writing from the BOT or individual trustees was discussed, resulting in a suggestion that a letter from the BOT Chair could possibly be of value in conveying a more personal type of encouragement.

The Internal/External Committee sees a responsibility to be involved in broad discussions of allocating resources to international travel rather than the hands-on planning of each visit. How is this participation achieved? The first step is inter-trustee communication. Discussion continued, emphasizing the goal of changing from solving problems to initiating involvement before problems occur.

Concluding the discussion, the committee decided to address the question of BOT involvement in short term and long range development plans for the

growth of the international fellowship. As a first step in this task, the committee will receive updates of the international report and correspondence digest. After becoming sufficiently informed the committee can then proceed with discussions which address the specifics of trustee involvement.

The committee does recommend that trustees assigned to this task remain assigned for a lengthy period in order to insure continuity and maintain the necessary consistency in these efforts.

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