

POLICY & STRUCTURE/TRAINING & EDUCATION

October 13-14, 1989

The committee met first at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13. Becky Meyer (committee chair) was present, as were Tom McCall and Chuck Lehman. Bob Hunter (WSC Chairperson) and Ann Rider (WSO staff) were also present.

The first topic for discussion was the Conference elections procedure. The WSC Policy Committee is working this year to refine the election procedures, and their drafts were reviewed. The P&S/T&E committee discussed specific procedures for election of trustees, with particular attention to non-addict trustees. Some comments were:

- Non-addict trustees should not be nominated by regions, but reviewed by the Board and recommended for election by the Conference.

- It would be useful to have a set number of seats for non-addicts and to deal with them separately.

- One way to screen non-addicts for potential usefulness on the Board would be to appoint them as members of trustee committees, and then nominate them for election if they prove to be helpful. Perhaps each trustee committee should have a designated seat for a non-addict, whether that non-addict is a trustee or not.

The process being developed by the Policy Committee, and the suggestions for trustee nominations, will be presented to the WSC Administrative Committee, and Bob plans to implement those suggestions. A suggested procedure for trustee elections was developed, and is attached.

Cost equalization was the next topic on the agenda. Bob Hunter passed out a draft for WSC travel. It is no longer cost equalization, strictly speaking. The draft for WSC travel was reviewed, and the committee consensus supported the draft as written.

The committee discussed translations next. Bob discussed the plans of the Administrative Committee. Non-English-speaking regions that wish to send a representative will be asked to notify the Administrative Committee early, and they may suggest a member of their local N.A. community to translate. However, the Administrative Committee will make the final decision regarding translators. The P&S/T&E committee generally supported the plan, emphasizing prudence in the selection of translators.

Seating of new regions at the Conference was placed on the agenda because the WSC Policy Committee is working on a plan this year. Bob plans to discourage inclusion of such a plan in the *Conference Agenda Report*. There was no committee support for such a plan.

Prolonged discussion took place regarding rotation and continuity. The committee reviewed the work of the Policy Committee work group. Consideration was given to an article for the *Newsline*, either by an individual trustee or by the Board. At this time, the committee does not recommend the adoption of a specific policy. Becky will call the Policy Committee chairperson to discourage the formulation of an amendment to the TWGSS for the *Conference Agenda Report*. However, the committee would like to see this topic discussed in open forum at the 1990 meeting of the Conference.

Steve Lantos (WSO staff) joined the committee members and presented a draft from the Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated Groups/Meetings. The committee's discussion focused on the six points that describe a group in the *Guide to Service* chapter on the group. It appears that these isolated groups/meetings may be classified as N.A. groups, depending on the question of access. The committee would like to discuss with the full Board the relationship of the Third Tradition to access.

Following discussion of isolated groups, the committee recessed for the day at 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Bob McDonough (BOD vice chair) was present at the Saturday morning discussions.

BOT policy was the first topic discussed. Garth sent a draft, and the committee reviewed and discussed it. The committee members see as their task the development of a procedural or guidelines manual for the Board of Trustees. This would include the current operating guidelines of the full Board, and a description/purpose of each committee. It would not include operating guidelines for each committee.

Garth's work will be the basic draft. The P&S/T&E committee invites input from the rest of the Board at this time. Garth and Tom will continue to work on the draft and will present it to the rest of the committee by late December. The draft will then be refined in February, and may be ready to present to the full Board. The committee would like some discussion with the full Board this weekend regarding guidelines.

Particular emphasis was placed on communication: between Board members, between trustee committees and the Board, and between the Board and the fellowship. As a result of this discussion, the committee talked about a specific service-oriented newsletter for use by the entire fellowship, as a forum for open discussion of current service issues. The members believe that a newsletter or magazine of this type has been discussed by the WSO BOD. They would like to encourage its development and implementation as soon as possible.

During their discussions of BOT policy, the members shared some concerns with the process used by the Literature Review Committee on the traditions work. In particular, these concerns included the use of members who have been involved with *It Works* for quite some time, and a feeling that any trustee who wants to be involved should be able to participate in this work.

The final topic on the committee's agenda was BOT workshops. The immediate goal is the development of a handbook for use by trustees who are asked to participate in traditions workshops. This handbook would be an outline of salient points that should be covered in a workshop, not a set of answers or rules. Chuck and Becky will work on the development of such an outline. This work will follow a timetable similar to the development of the procedural manual, i.e., the work will be refined at the next meeting in February.

The P&S/T&E committee specifically asks for input or discussion on the proposed trustee elections procedures, the Third Tradition as it relates to access, and the development of a procedural manual for the Board.

DRAFT ELECTION PROCEDURE

At the 1990 meeting of the Conference, according to the motion passed in at the 1989 Conference, there will be seats for three 5-year terms and two 1-year terms. There was a 2-year seat unfilled at last Conference; you may choose to add that as another 1-year term in 1990.

The Board of Trustees operates by a committee system. Members of trustee committees may be trustees or non-trustees, and either addict or non-addict. In all cases, they are assigned and utilized based on the needs of the committee and the particular skills the potential committee member possesses.

In the case of non-addict committee members, they are recruited to help with specific tasks because of their qualifying expertise. At this place in time, the Board of Trustees is still developing its understanding of how best to utilize non-addicts as full BOT members. We do, however, believe that an opportunity to observe and evaluate the qualifications and skills of potential non-addict trustees would be valuable. We feel that this can best be accomplished by having non-addicts serve at least one year as a non-addict member of a trustee committee, prior to being considered for election to the BOT.

For this reason, the P&S/T&E committee would like to discourage the election of non-addicts at the next Conference. To this end, we propose a statement mailed to the fellowship with the proposed election procedures, prior to the Conference: "The Board of Trustees recommends that all possible non-addict nominees for the Board of Trustees be referred to the Board for consideration as possible committee members, rather than being nominated for trustee at the 1990 meeting of the Conference."

Nominees for trustee should not be asked to qualify, as such. However, one question would be posed for each candidate's response prior to elections. The question would not be published in advance. This question period would take place after all nominees for other positions had responded to questions from Conference participants.

All nominees would appear on the ballot. Conference participants vote for the number of candidates that corresponds to the number of seats available. Any candidate that receives over a 2/3 majority vote on the first ballot will be elected. If vacancies remain, a second ballot will be prepared with all candidates that received 51% or greater majority. Conference participants will vote for the number of seats that remain. Once again, a candidate will require a 2/3 majority vote for election. If vacancies remain after a second ballot, they will not be filled at that meeting of the Conference. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will fill the 5-year terms.