

To: The Fellowship

From: Jack Bernstein, Chairperson
 World Service Board of Trustees

Greetings from the World Service Board of Trustees! It has been our pleasure to serve the fellowship during this last year. This has been an active and involved year for us. There are no actual motions for conference business that will be presented by the trustees. This report contains issues that we expect will be discussed during the 1991 World Service Conference. No votes will be necessary on the following information. A full report on the actions of the Board of Trustees during this last conference year will be available during the 1991 conference.

Interaction/Relationship between WSC Boards and Committees

As some of you are aware, the Board of Trustees has been more actively involved in matters and issues affecting the entire fellowship this year than at any period in the recent past. During last year's World Service Conference, we were under the impression that the participants in attendance were asking the Board to be more actively involved in World Service decision-making processes. Consequently, during this past year, we have taken a more active role in our relationship with the WSC Administrative Committee and WSO Board of Directors. We planned for two of our meetings to be held on the same weekends that the Board of Directors were meeting. Unfortunately, we were diverted from our agenda by the need to deal with pressing issues. Due to the fact that a need was seen for a change in direction in the management of the World Service Office, the World Service Office Board of Directors, after receiving our recommendation, did not renew Bob Stone's contract as Executive Director in June. The meeting in October was focused on our attempts to resolve the matter of the "baby blue" Basic Text. While we did not fully achieve the goals and objectives we had hoped for these meetings, the increase in communication between both boards has been very positive.

Every effort has been made to include the members of the WSC Administrative Committee in the trustee committees. This has proven very beneficial to our committees in maintaining an awareness of the actions and concerns of the conference administration. Additionally, we have attempted to continue involvement in our committees with the WSC committee leadership. The chairperson of the External Committee has been invited to attend future meetings of the WSC H&I Committee. These two committees are undertaking a joint venture to involve the regional H&I committees in surveying their local correctional facilities to determine how they can be better served.

WSC Panel Presentation Topics

Presently, we plan to include the relationship and interaction of the WSC service boards and committees in the trustee presentation during the 1991 World Service Conference. One area we would like to see discussed relates to the lack of overall long-range planning and priority development for the fellowship. Under our current world services system, there is no specific board or committee that has the responsibility to look

at the "big picture" of our fellowship and provide specific goals, objectives and priorities. As a result, there have been some fractured efforts on the part of each of the world level boards and committees to determine the focus and priorities for long-range planning. The overlap between our committee system and the conference committee system has, at times, led to a duplication of effort on projects. We are also concerned with the rapid turnover in the present WSC committee membership which has led to some instability in the completion of projects. Some difficulty is also evident in maintaining adequate communication between the present boards and committees.

We also plan to discuss the topic of prejudice during the trustee presentation to the conference. At the July, 1990, WSC workshop in Arlington, VA, an open forum discussion was held on prejudice, allowing for open sharing of thoughts and feelings on this topic by many members. During October of 1990, an article developed through the External Committee on this subject was sent to several convention committees/corporations, including the World Convention Committee. We hope that this issue will be widely discussed within the local fellowships prior to the conference. In addition, there are tentative plans to include the topic of N.A.'s public relations policy during our presentation segment.

International Forum at WSC 1991

The trustee-sponsored International Development Forum will be held on Saturday, April 20, prior to the actual opening of the conference. As was very evident during last year's conference, the issue of whether N.A. is truly a worldwide fellowship is of concern to all of the conference participants. During the final Board of Trustees report at WSC, 1990, a request was made that a report on international development be developed for presentation at the 1991 conference. It has been evident during our discussions that we needed to gather information and answer some very basic questions as a fellowship before a report could be developed. The international forum is our response to this need. It is our hope that this forum will also address the request from conference participants that a list of priorities be developed by the World Service Conference. We hope that this forum will be well attended by non-U.S. members as well as by members from within the continental U.S. Some of the topics that will be discussed include:

Are we a worldwide fellowship? If not, should we be?

What does "worldwide fellowship" mean?

To what extent are groups, areas, regional, and national communities autonomous of one another?

How can they assist one another?

Must each element survive and grow on its own resources?

What services do growing N.A. communities want from N.A. World Services?

What role, if any, should the WSC play in the development of N.A. worldwide?

We had a letter, asking these questions, translated into French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Japanese. These letters were distributed to members throughout the fellowship requesting their input. Their input will also be considered at the forum, whether these members are able to attend or not. The discussion of these questions on both local and regional levels worldwide, will assist us in determining how best our fellowship can carry the message of recovery around the world.

Report on motions committed to Board of Trustees by WSC 1990

We have used the trustee committee system to complete the tasks that were assigned to the Board during last year's conference. Each of the motions from the World Service Conference 1990, that were committed to our board, has been discussed during board meetings and in committees.

Two of the motions committed to the Board last year were actually concerned with the WSO Board of Directors. At last year's conference, an amendment was made to the WSC election procedures relating to the Board of Directors pool nominees. The change requires a majority vote for nominees to be included in the pool. We believe that if this procedure is used during upcoming elections, it will address the committed motion which states, "That the WSC elect all directors of the WSO." The motion stating, "That the WSO BOD elected by the conference shall be a trustee committee" has been debated, with the consensus being that this action is not needed at present. A paper discussing both these motions will be available for participants during the conference.

Regarding the motion stating "That the copyright of all N.A. literature be taken out of the WSO and put in trust to the BOT.", the Board has approved the following recommendation. A paper has been developed explaining our position, which will be available to all conference participants during the 1991 WSC.

"IN CONCLUSION: After a thorough discussion by all members of the Board of Trustees, and after reviewing notes on that discussion, the Literature Review Committee has come to the following conclusion:

- 1. That in order to implement this motion the current Board of Trustees would have to incorporate itself to afford adequate protection to the properties it would be entrusted to hold for the fellowship. The fellowship would then have two corporations at the world level and no doubt some duplication of effort. To avoid duplication, considerable study must be given to establish clear delineation of responsibilities and the right working relationship between the two corporations.*
- 2. As a corporation, the Board of Trustees would need additional funding and staffing to administrate the trust. It is our belief that this additional funding would have to come from the sale of literature it would hold in trust, removing a primary reason for setting up a separate trust in the first place.*
- 3. In reviewing the past performance of the WSO as a fiduciary for the fellowship's properties, we have no reason to believe they have acted contrary to that responsibility or have otherwise placed the fellowship's properties in jeopardy. There also seems to be no apparent conflict in having one entity serve as both the trust and the receiver of income from trust properties. Although there have been concerns about a perceived separation of the WSO from the membership, measures are already being implemented to improve communication and responsibility.*

The World Service Board of Trustees therefore recommends to the World Service Conference that no further action be taken to create a separate entity to hold N.A.'s copyrights in trust."

A recommendation has been developed regarding the motion stating, "That the WSB shall, if necessary, stop action of WSC, WSO, WCC." A position paper fully describing the reason for this recommendation will be available during the conference. The recommendation is as follows:

"After due consideration of the motion to grant "stop action" to the Board of Trustees, it is our recommendation that said motion is not necessary. We perceive that we have the ability to confront and impact problems as they arise in world services. Therefore, no need is seen for the World Service Conference to take action to approve this motion."

The motion, "To reestablish a WSC finance committee to consist of the WSC chair, WSC treasurer, Chairman of WSO BOD, BOT chair, and three RSRs, with the WSC treasurer chairing the committee," has also been thoroughly discussed. Several trustees have been involved in the development process for the proposed Budget Review and Utilization Plan. We support the concepts presented in the proposal and, as such, do not see that any action needs to be taken on the motion to reestablish a WSC finance committee.

Additional Needs Panel

During the October, 1990 Board of Trustees meeting, the two members of the additional needs panel were in attendance. This meeting was very informative for us, and gave us some direction for our efforts in this area. Work is ongoing in this area through participation by the panel members at additional needs workshops. Both of the panel members will also be in attendance at the upcoming WSC. As a result of our October meeting, the following recommendation was adopted by the entire board:

"For the purposes of the N.A. literature translation process, the World Service Board of Trustees recognizes American Sign Language (ASL) as a language distinct from English; that the White Booklet, with stories, be translated into ASL for distribution on video tape; that N.A. audio speaker tapes in the current WSO inventory be translated into ASL; and, that a priority list for further translation of N.A. literature into ASL be developed as soon as possible."

We want to maintain an awareness in our membership of the issue of addicts with additional needs. We would be greatly assisted in this task if service committees would send copies of minutes for their additional needs committees to the Board of Trustees, in care of the WSO. We would like to update our additional needs contact lists so the panel members have the most up-to-date contacts possible. These updates should also be sent to the WSO. Additionally, if your local committees have suggestions to assist us in maintaining this awareness, please let us know.

Traditions Project Update

The Traditions Ad Hoc Committee has been hard at work this past year. Regular reports have been mailed out to conference participants with detailed information on the work that has been done. Committee drafts of Traditions One and Two were mailed out for pre-review by conference participants, after first being reviewed on an individual basis by members of the Board of Trustees and the WSC Literature Committee. The project is coming along on schedule, with plans to have drafts of Traditions One through Six ready for fellowship review around conference time. Plans call for the entire Board to review

these drafts at either their February or April meeting, prior to their release to the fellowship. Adequate time will be allotted during the conference for discussion of the Traditions project. If you would like copies of the reports from the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee, please contact the Special Projects Coordinator at the World Service Office.

Internal Trustee Interactions

During this past year, several trustees have been approached with concerns that board members were on opposite sides of the issues being discussed during last year's conference. It seems that some members of the fellowship feel the trustees should always agree on everything that is being discussed. Fortunately, that is not the case. We are a very diverse group and do not always agree with each other. We do, however, have a deep and abiding respect for each other's thoughts and opinions. This diversity and respect provides us with our ability to serve the fellowship. We feel that the membership of our board is representative of the same diversity that is present in the fellowship. We see this as one of the more positive and healthy aspects of the Board of Trustees. If we always agreed, then all sides of the issues would not be addressed. We feel that this diversity allows us to best serve not only our present members, but to also serve those addicts who are not represented, which includes addicts who have not yet made it into our meetings. We did want to bring this concern out into the open, as it is very likely that the proposed format of this year's WSC will allow for a wide range of opinions to be expressed by members of our board.

Thank you for the time and effort that is being spent to review and discuss this report.