

WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This report and the January *Conference Report* are my first "official" acts as the incoming chairperson of the World Service Board of Trustees. For those who did not see the last *Conference Report*, Garth P. from Australia is the new vice chairperson. Having spent two and a half years as vice chair, I had expected to feel better prepared. It is a little overwhelming, but a privilege at the same time. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jack B. for his support and friendship, his many years of service on the board, and his leadership as our chairperson.

This report contains the four items the World Service Board of Trustees are presenting for action at the 1992 World Service Conference: the World Service Board of Trustees Operational Procedures, the WSB Internal Guidelines, a one-year proposal for dual membership on the boards of trustees and directors, and the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust.

Our general discussion sessions and panels often prove to be the most valuable time spent during the annual WSC. Without the pressures of our business sessions, these discussions usually lead to a better understanding of ourselves as trusted servants and how we can serve our fellowship's needs. The WSB section of the January *Conference Report* contains several items we want to address during these discussions, items that need the attention of all conference participants. These items include the second Multinational Development Forum, the work of the traditions ad hoc committee, prejudice in NA, fellowship funding concerns, and participation and representation at the World Service Conference. Other important items and issues from many of the WSC committees and boards are also included in the January *Conference Report*. We encourage you to come prepared to discuss them.

Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust

At the 1991 World Service Conference, two motions were passed concerning publication, distribution, protection, and ownership of NA's literature and intellectual properties.

"To reaffirm that the World Service Office, Inc. is the exclusive publisher and distributor of all World Service Conference-approved literature, including all books, pamphlets, handbooks, and other intellectual and physical properties, as directed by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous through the World Service Conference."

"To reaffirm and ratify that the ownership of all of NA's intellectual and physical properties prepared in the past, and to be prepared into the future, is held by WSO, Inc., which holds such title in trust on behalf of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, in accordance with the decisions of the World Service Conference."

Prior to the conference in 1991, a working group began preparation of a "trust" document describing how the properties of the fellowship are administered and the procedures to follow to affect future changes. This group was composed of the then-chairperson of the WSO board, the then-vice chairperson of the WSB, a WSO staff member, and several interested NA members. The basis of the work centered on the relationship between the WSC and the WSO and reflected past actions of the WSC, WSB, and WSO board in reference to the development, approval, printing, and distribution of conference-approved NA literature. It was also consistent with the current WSO bylaws. Early on in the process, we made a decision that this document should only reflect current practices; any changes to our service structure and/or decision-making processes should be made separately, especially those concerning the relationship of the WSC to the fellowship at large.

Several conference calls were held and written input was distributed among the group members. The input and discussions indicated that a stalemate existed and that a compromise was not attainable to satisfy both sides without significant changes to the existing service structure. This was reported to the WSO Board of Directors at its June meeting. The WSO board then decided that its work was done and that it would be more appropriate for another group to handle this project. The WSC Administrative Committee then assumed oversight of the document and recommended that the WSB Internal Affairs Committee handle the final review. After further review and clarification, the document was presented to a combined world services meeting attended by the trustees, directors, and WSC Administrative Committee members in October 1991. The consensus of the combined meeting was to present the document in the *Conference Agenda Report* as a motion from the World Service Board of Trustees.

The trust document was mailed to all conference participants in early December 1991 so that it would have more time for review and discussion in the fellowship. That document is duplicated in this report as Addendum 3.¹

The motions passed by WSC'91 afforded the fellowship immediate protection of its properties. The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust follows those actions through by establishing a clear policy for the operation and administration of NA's intellectual properties. It is the consensus of the World Service Board of Trustees

¹ Additional copies of the approval form of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust can be purchased at cost from the WSO. See the order form (Addendum 13) at the end of this year's Conference Agenda Report.

that this document is now finished and ready for WSC approval. Postponement of its approval will not provide any particular advantage, but we stand ready to accept the postponement of consideration of the trust if the WSC is clearly not prepared to approve it.

The World Service Board of Trustees therefore recommends that the World Service Conference adopt the following motion:

#8. To approve Addendum 3, "The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust."

Intent: To establish a trust that defines how the intellectual properties of the NA Fellowship are to be administered and protected.

Financial impact: No direct financial impact.

WSB Operational Procedures

The section describing the World Service Board of Trustees in the *Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure* has not changed significantly since 1984. During conference year 1987-88, the board began evaluating its guidelines to improve its ability to serve the fellowship. Shortly thereafter, we initiated the use of our committee system and consolidated several of the responsibilities presently outlined in the *Temporary Working Guide*. We now have a total of three operating committees. The WSB Internal Affairs Committee has been working on a revision of our existing policies and guidelines for the bulk of that time.

Certainly the primary reason for wanting to change our operational guidelines has been our increased workload, coupled with an inadequate complement of trustees. Last year, we operated within the procedures we are proposing and found them to be very helpful in meeting the challenge our work often poses. We also believe the new procedures will improve our interaction with the WSC committee leadership, benefiting our overall effectiveness and service to the conference.

We are proposing our work in three separate motions. Motions 10 and 12 delineate WSC policy from WSB internal guidelines. The separation of WSC policy from internal guidelines is in keeping with motions passed at WSC'91 regarding both WSC PI Committee and WSC Literature Committee guidelines.

The World Service Board of Trustees therefore recommends that the World Service Conference adopt the following motion:

#9. To delete the section identified in the 1991 Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure (pp. 13-16) as "The Board of Trustees," and to replace it with the procedures shown in Addendum 4, "World Service Board of Trustees Operational Procedures," which will become policy of the World Service Conference. Any change to these procedures must be made by the WSC and requires a two-thirds vote.

Intent: To establish new WSC policy regarding the operational procedures of the World Service Board of Trustees.

Financial impact: Cannot be determined.

The next motion we have for your consideration concerns how Section 3, Paragraph F (procedures for WSO board/WSB dual membership) of the WSB Operational Procedures will be implemented for the next year. As many of you know, the requirements for election to each board are different, and we were unable to forward you a simple process by which these members would be selected by the WSC and what their particular qualifications would be. It is for these reasons that we are now only asking for your concurrence to proceed with this section for the next year. We intend to propose a more permanent process at WSC'93.

The World Service Board of Trustees therefore recommends that the World Service Conference adopt the following motion:

#10. To adopt Addendum 5, "Dual Membership Proposal for WSB and WSO Board for Conference Year 1992-93," for a one-year period.

Intent: To allow for the implementation of Section 3, Paragraph F, of the WSB Operational Procedures during the next year.

Financial impact: Cost of \$3,280.

The proposed WSB Internal Guidelines are intended to be just that: separate internal working guidelines. They focus on the duties and responsibilities of WSB officers and committees and how WSB meetings are conducted. The WSB Internal Guidelines are included as Addendum 6.

The World Service Board of Trustees therefore recommends that the World Service Conference adopt the following motion:

#11. To approve Addendum 6, "World Service Board of Trustees Internal Guidelines." Any changes to the WSB Internal Guidelines would be reported to conference participants in the next scheduled issue of the Conference Report. The WSC may reverse any such change by a majority vote.

Intent: To allow the WSB the flexibility to change its internal guidelines, and to establish how any changes are to be reported and/or reversed.

Financial impact: Cannot be determined.

Becky Meyer, Chairperson