

**CONFERENCE  
AGENDA REPORT  
1993**



**WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE  
OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

**APPROVAL MATERIALS FOR ANNUAL MEETING  
APRIL 24—MAY 1, 1993  
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA, USA**

**1993 CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT  
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## INTERIM COMMITTEE

*"If not me, who? If not now, when?"* This quote came to mind as I wrote this report for the Interim Committee. For some time now, we've had discussions in hallways and over dinner tables about the workload and pace we set for ourselves in world service. The Interim Committee felt that this discussion needed to be brought out to the fellowship for further exploration. I have no clear-cut definition as to whose responsibility it is to address this issue--but *if not us, who? If not now, when?*

Our World Service Conference met for the first time as an event in its own right in 1978. In the fifteen years since, we've been moving and growing so rapidly that we've barely had time to breathe. Each year has brought new issues, new challenges, and new projects. Each new response to each new demand, in and of itself, has made perfect sense--yet, taken all together, there's been no overall sense of focus in the growth of NA's world services. World services have grown to the point where we are overwhelming our world-level trusted servants, leaving numerous volunteers burnt out and disillusioned. We have become so focussed on our own internal bureaucracy in world services that we focus almost none of our attention on the fellowship-at-large anymore. As often as not, what we do today serves the needs of NA world services more than the needs of NA as a whole. Adding insult to injury, our overgrown bureaucracy has substituted a deluge of detail for true communication.

It's time to slow the spinning world service juggernaut long enough to look at what we're doing and why we're doing it in light of our fellowship's primary purpose. We need to take the time to consider the real needs of the NA Fellowship and how effective our services actually are at addressing those needs. After fifteen years of WSC meetings, we need to pause in our service life and inventory our needs and determine the kind of service organization necessary to address those needs so that we can chart a course for our next period of growth. Are we utilizing our resources in the best way possible? Do we evaluate how and what is being done? Are we addressing the needs of our fellowship? What valuable information and resources have we already researched and filed for future reference only to be "lost in the shuffle?" What worked very well and could be shared with others? These questions and many more come to mind.

The idea of taking a pause in the normal routine of world service for a serious, overall inventory was discussed at the WSC workshop last October in Cincinnati, where RSR response to the proposal was positive. Since then, it has been discussed in depth by the Interim Committee, the World Service Board of Trustees, and the leaders of each of the WSC committees. We find ourselves

now at the end of several major tasks being completed. This could be an excellent time to begin the inventory process. The Interim Committee therefore submits the following motion:

**1. That the World Service Conference engage in an inventory process, taking on no new projects during CY 1993-94.**

*Intent: To allow NA's world services to evaluate and inventory its processes that we may find a more productive way of pursuing our primary purpose.*

At the January 1993 meeting of the Interim Committee, we began discussing how such an inventory could actually be carried out and what services would have to be administered in the meantime. We came up with five "must do" categories, things we would have to do even while an inventory was under way:

1. Preparation for the WSC annual meeting, including the development forum
2. Written communication with the fellowship (*Conference Report* and *Digest*)
3. Basic committee and board administration, including at least one meeting of each
4. Forums and workshops, including regular, face-to-face interactions with the fellowship about the inventory process from all elements of world service
5. Basic services, including literature sales, group services, the H&I literature stock, translation work, continuing world public relations, and support for work with addicts who have additional needs

To further clarify what a world inventory year would look like, we've scheduled a meeting between the Interim Committee, the WSB Steering Committee, and the chairpersons of the WSC committees for late February so that we can develop a detailed plan to include in the March *Conference Report*.

### **TRAVEL POLICY**

In its report last year, the Interim Committee promised to present a travel plan for inclusion in the 1993 *Conference Agenda Report*. Therefore, we ask for consideration of the following motion. The proposal was written to both simplify and streamline our current procedures:

**2. To approve Addendum L, "Interim Committee Travel Guidelines."**

*Intent: To establish guidelines regarding world service travel and reimbursement to ensure that world service travel is planned and completed in a manner producing the highest quality results and consistent with the philosophy of the Fellowship of NA.*

*Mary Kay Berger, Chairperson*

**WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES****FELLOWSHIP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRUST**

The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust was originally released to the fellowship in December 1991 and was included in last year's *Conference Agenda Report*. During panel discussions at the 1992 annual meeting of the World Service Conference, it became obvious that many RSRs wanted additional time to review and provide input on the trust document. Although many WSC participants said they were prepared to approve the document, they felt that most NA members did not understand it. We believed that this document would be effective only if it received fellowshipwide support and agreement. After listening to the discussions, we joined with the WSO board in asking that the motion be committed back to us and that an RSR working group be appointed. The motion passed, giving us direction to solicit, review, and incorporate additional input into the document wherever appropriate. The RSR working group was composed of RSRs from Southern Nevada, Michigan, Ontario, South Florida, and the Mid-Atlantic regions. We think that the use of an RSR working group was very productive for this project and will keep this option in mind for the future. A complete report of the RSR working group meeting was mailed out in December and is available upon request.

We asked for input in each issue of the *Conference Report* and in a separate mailing to all conference participants. Several areas and regions held workshops to gather input, and we also heard from several individual members. We were invited to participate in one workshop and sent members from the World Service Board of Trustees, the WSO Board of Directors, and the RSR working group. Additionally, we personally invited the participation of members of the fellowship who had been involved in discussions that took place in 1991 about the development of the trust document.

A meeting was held in October 1992 in Van Nuys with the RSR working group and three trustees to review all the input received and recommend any changes to be made in the draft. The intellectual property attorney for the World Service Office spent several hours with us, answering questions and advising us of viable legal options. Whatever revisions were made to the trust document and the use policy were the result of this meeting and a brief meeting at the Cincinnati workshop. The important change that we want to call your attention to is that the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, as given voice by its groups through their RSRs at the WSC, is named instead of the World Service Conference as the trustor.

We had two suggestions that we were unable to factor into the document. The suggestions were to name either the World Service Conference or the World Service Board of Trustees as the trustee for NA's intellectual properties. Under California trust law, the trustee is required to manage the day-to-day duties outlined in the trust and is prohibited from delegating those duties. We don't believe that the WSC can fulfill those requirements. And while, conceptually, we would like to see the World Service Board become the fellowship's intellectual property trustee, the conference would have to make certain changes in the service structure before that could occur. Most significantly, the World Service Board and the WSO Board of Directors would have to merge into a single legal entity.

We believe that we have explored all the options presented to us and that an extended review time would not uncover any new or different information. Therefore, with the support of the RSR working group and the WSO Board of Directors, we ask that the following motion be adopted:

**3. To approve Addendum B, "Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust," including the trust instrument, operational rules, reader's notes, and glossary.**

*Intent: To establish a trust that provides for the prudent and effective administration and protection of the NA Fellowship's literature and logos.*

### **INTERNAL USE OF NA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

For several years there have been questions about the use of NA literature and the NA logo by groups, areas, regions, conventions, and individuals, whether NA members or not. In the trust draft proposed last year, there was reference to a then-nonexistent policy regarding fellowship use of trust properties. We assured the conference that we would develop and present such an internal use policy for approval along with the trust document.

The internal use policy is intended to cover the use of copyrighted NA material and registered NA trademarks and service marks by Narcotics Anonymous groups, areas, and regions. It is not intended to cover the use of these properties by individuals. We developed an internal use policy that allows NA groups--*and only NA groups*--the right to reproduce NA literature within the minimal strictures laid out in the policy. There is also wording that describes how service boards and committees may quote or reprint portions of our literature. With the support of the RSR working group and the WSO Board of Directors, we ask that the following motion be adopted:

**4. To approve Addendum C, "Internal Use of NA Intellectual Property."**

*Intent: To provide a simple framework within which NA groups, service boards, and committees can use the fellowship's trademarks and copyrighted materials for NA purposes while still assuring legal protection for our intellectual property.*

If approved, the proposed policy on the internal use of NA intellectual property would make obsolete a motion that currently appears in the *Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure*. Therefore, we propose the following motion:

**5. To rescind the motion approved on May 3, 1981, that reads as follows:**

*The name, Narcotics Anonymous, cannot be used on fliers for dances, conventions, etc. The symbol (NA) can be used on fliers. (TWGSS'92, pg. 25)*

*Intent: To remove the 1981 motion from the TWGSS, eliminating confusion and potential conflict if the new internal use policy is approved.*

**RESPONSES TO WSC'92 ACTION**

At the 1992 annual meeting of the World Service Conference, revised operational procedures and internal guidelines for the World Service Board of Trustees were approved. The last sentence of the opening paragraph of the operational procedures states that, "while the trustees may not represent a specific constituency, they do represent all the members of NA." After this motion was adopted, a motion to amend this sentence was presented "to replace the words *all the members of NA* with *the World Service Conference*." This motion was referred to the WSB and was discussed at our June meeting. The wording in the following motion, which we are proposing for your approval, was agreed upon both by the board and by the maker of the 1992 motion to amend:

**6. To delete from the last sentence of the first paragraph of the WSB Operational Procedures the words "do represent" and replace them with "strive to be representative of" (TWGSS'92 p. 13).**

*Intent: To clarify the way in which the World Service Board of Trustees represents the Fellowship of NA.*

There were two other motions passed at WSC'92 that required discussion and or action from the trustees. One was the motion suggesting "that the WSC Policy Committee and WSB Internal Affairs Committee be directed to review the WSC rules and procedures and recommend possible changes that would afford greater participation by NA communities." The second motion, which was committed to both the WSC Policy Committee and the WSB Internal Affairs Committee, served "to change election procedures to not require attendance at the conference for nomination to the board of directors for the World Service

Office or World Convention Corporation." Since these motions required work from two committees, we agreed to divide the work and concentrate on different aspects of the motions and exchange information about our discussions and work. Both committees understood that their work could result either in conference action or input to the ad hoc committee working on the *Guide to Service*.

The WSC Policy Committee looked at more immediate action that could be taken to respond to the motions while the trustee committee examined options that would take a longer time to implement. The WSB Internal Affairs Committee developed a nominations committee proposal that was reviewed by the full board as well as the WSC Policy Committee. Rather than present it for conference action at this time, the board directed that it be referred the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service as input for the development of the chapter on world services for the *Guide to Service*.

The other result of this cooperative effort between the WSC Policy Committee and the World Service Board is a motion about conference election procedures. The motion is being presented to the WSC by the policy committee; it appears later in this year's *Conference Agenda Report*.

Other motions committed to the WSB that did not result in any action from the board can be found in the January *Conference Report*.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY**

The WSB External Affairs Committee has made it a priority to look at how we, the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship, interact with society-at-large within the scope of our traditions. We spent considerable time this year working with the chairpersons and vice chairpersons of the WSC PI and H&I committees. We also used some other resources in our discussions about public relations. Mike Bohan, MD, a past nonaddict trustee, was invited to our September 1992 meeting and gave us his perspective during our preliminary discussions. Further, we invited a professor from the UCLA School of Public Health to attend our November 1992 meeting and discuss with us how we could best interact with the general public, health professionals, correctional authorities, treatment facilities, and any other organizations that have contact with addicts.

The result of those discussions was a five-phase public relations policy proposal. We believe that we must be proactive in our interactions with other organizations and professionals concerned with addiction. Moreover, we believe that the implementation of this plan will better ensure that a clear and accurate NA message is conveyed by professionals to addicts and others. We are therefore recommending the adoption of the following motion:



**7. To accept the following "Public Relations Statement of Purpose":**

*Narcotics Anonymous is a worldwide self-help organization based on a twelve-step approach to recovery whose primary purpose is to help any individual stop using drugs. Our message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Through our group meetings, members learn how to live drug-free and recover from the effects of addiction in their lives. For the purpose of our public relations, NA services cooperate with the public by providing information about recovery from drug addiction. Furthermore, we seek to increase the awareness of NA's existence through presentations, media exposure, and telephone services. These cooperative efforts enhance our relationships with those outside our fellowship. As a result, we further our primary purpose.*

**This statement of purpose will provide the base from which to develop the following objectives for a long-range public relations plan:**

- 1. Help the still-suffering addict find the NA program.**
- 2. Develop and communicate a positive image of the NA program to society-at-large.**
- 3. Develop cooperative relationships with professionals.**
- 4. Help clarify the role of NA in the community.**
- 5. Increase the awareness of individual NA members about their role in NA's public image.**

*Intent: To provide a public relations statement that will assist our fellowship in furthering our primary purpose by our interactions with the interested public. In addition, this statement is intended for use in our relationships with the non-NA community and professionals. This long-range plan will be reviewed and goals will be prioritized each year.*

Addendum M, "Long-Term Public Relations Plan," describes a five-stage program designed to support this motion. We believe that the lack of clear purpose and specific goals has hampered our public relations with those in the medical, treatment, and corrections fields because many professionals remain unaware or uneducated about our program. We think the plans summarized in the motion above and further described in Addendum M can assist our future growth and help us fulfill our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still-suffering addict.

### **DUAL MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN THE WSB AND THE WSO BOARD**

Last year, we indicated that the system we were using at that time to exchange information between boards and committees was hampering our ability to

participate in making decisions that mutually affected us and our respective assignments. We thought that perhaps we could improve communications by sharing members between the WSO Board of Directors and the World Service Board of Trustees.

A report on dual membership was given by Tim B., WSO Board of Directors dual member, and Chuck L., trustee dual member, at our November 1992 meeting. While supportive of dual membership, they both stressed that dual members should not assume any other assignments other than the position of being a dual member. Attendance at WSB and WSO board meetings, the amount of material to be reviewed, and the number of phone calls required make it impossible to fully participate on any other projects. They also recommended that the designated dual member's assignment be for one year.

Although dual membership didn't work as well as we thought it would or could, it seems to be the only option available at this time. Neither the trustees nor the directors see this as a long-term answer but, until a more permanent solution to our communications and coordination problems can be found, we want to continue sharing board members. As a result of our discussions, both boards agreed to ask the conference for confirmation of the following statement of their position:

**8. We recommend the continuation of shared membership between the World Service Board of Trustees and the WSO Board of Directors for the next year as a means of facilitating communication between the two boards. However, we recognize that a permanent resolution of our communication difficulties will be found only in a combined board.**

*Intent: To facilitate communication between the two boards for the coming conference year while providing basic direction for future development.*

We hope that you will take some time to examine the issues involved in this situation. The idea of consolidating the two boards deserves a frank and open discussion at this year's conference.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Although it is a privilege and honor to be asked to serve this fellowship, the level of activity this year has been difficult for world service members. When I first came to the World Service Conference as an RSR, a high commitment of time and energy was only expected from a few. This is no longer true; the workload has dramatically increased for all of world services, including World Service Office staff.

The good news is that we have grown and developed at a tremendous rate as a fellowship; the bad news is that we haven't had the time or opportunity to look

at what we are doing, how we are doing it, or why. The Interim Committee proposal about using the 1993-94 conference year to inventory ourselves has the support of the entire World Service Board of Trustees. The WSB is convinced that this is the appropriate time for such an inventory and that, as a fellowship, we have the maturity and knowledge to make an inventory process productive. We believe that world services can become more responsive to the fellowship, less bureaucratic and turf-oriented, and much more effective in carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. All that is required is an agreement to work toward a common goal this next conference year.

Once again, thank you for letting me serve this year. The entire board is appreciative of the time and effort that will be required of NA members around the world to review this agenda report. Thank you in advance for the dedication and love this shows for our fellowship.

*Becky Meyer, Chairperson*