

TO.....COMPOSITE GROUP (STEVE LANTOS)

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DISCUSSION OF INVENTORY AT EUROPEAN DELEGATES MEETING.

At the E.D.M. in Amsterdam in January the European delegates had a two hour slot in their agenda in which to discuss the World Services inventory. As an EBOC member I was attending the EDM anyway and was thus able to report on the inventory process to date.

I provided the delegates with a written introduction to the session which I had prepared. I also gave them a list of questions concerning the WSC inventory - questions which in my opinion could be major issues from a European perspective. I enclose this written material with this fax.

One of the biggest concerns I had about European participation in the inventory was that European trusted servants were perceiving it to be something that had very little to do with them and their local communities.

This was confirmed for me when I was preparing for the session. Following comments I had heard, and agreed with, that the European R.S.R.s had been part of the decision to have this inventory - and should therefor support it - I looked back at the WSC minutes and the relevant roll call votes. Surprise surprise - only one European member had voted "yes" to the inventory plan. Two more had abstained, and one voted "no". The others were either bewildered, didn't care, or were out of the room!!!! No wonder that they didn't feel very involved with the inventory.

I introduced the inventory process to the EDM in a very simple way - breaking it down into five major parts. I had the impression that this was the first time they had understood the general plan.

(cont)

DISCUSSION OF INVENTORY AT EDM (cont)

We then discussed the questionnaires. Many EDM participants expressed frustration - bad translation, confusing, ambiguous questions, questionnaires not arriving, closed as opposed to open answers etc.etc.

I was able to respond to these worries by explaining some of the practical problems inherent in a task such as this. Their response was very positive - and people became more interested.

We then discussed the WSC inventory for May this year. We read through the question sheets I had provided, and discussed any items that were of major interest to the European R.S.R.s. Discussion became very animated and I think everyone became more aware of the possibilities offered by this inventory process.

I finished the session by requesting the R.S.R.s to list two or three major concerns which they would like to see addressed at this year's WSC. These concerns I have listed below.

All in all I believe the session was very beneficial. Members of the EDM - including those who do not yet get invited to the WSC - feel more interested in, and hopeful about the inventory process. I think they will now be more able to identify the issues at stake for them in the inventory, and participate in it in a more meaningful way.

I will be very interested to hear some report on the composite group report to the World Service meeting!!!

In Fellowship,

DISCUSSION OF INVENTORY AT EDM (cont)

Items EDM members wish to see discussed during WSC inventory sessions:(as written)

1. Leadership and trust.
2. Zonal Forums - their role in the development of NA worldwide.
3. World Service support to multiregional service events.
4. Ensure the cultural diversity of WSC trusted servants
5. How do we deal with the growing of NA at Worldwide, Zonal and regional levels?
6. And always - TRANSLATION. The way it is approved, the way it is done, the cost.
7. Purpose (primary). How to keep it on line.
8. Like to know all possibilities to keep message clear and so available that every suffering addict can reach it
9. How we can make our own part of global/European recovery from disease of addiction?
10. Concerned that CAR arrives on time.
11. Leadership and trust.
12. Are the qualifications necessary to participate in world service set too high for emerging communities (especially non-English speaking).
13. Are our services worth the money they cost?

INVENTORY PROCESS - DOES IT AFFECT N.A. IN EUROPE?

At the World Service Conference last April (W.S.C.93) there was overwhelming approval for N.A. World Services to conduct a complete inventory of its activities.

This process is now well under way, and is due to be finished by WSC 95.

Though at least 7 European R.S.R.s were part of the decision to conduct this inventory, there remains some doubt as to how it concerns our local N.A. communities. Some trusted servants in Europe feel it is a waste of time and energy - another example of strange, bureaucratic behavior from that even stranger monster - the World Service Conference.

"N.A. IS A WORLDWIDE FELLOWSHIP WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE
TRANSCENDS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, CULTURAL BARRIERS AND
LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES"

Approved May 2, W.S.C.92.

How do we reflect the above resolution during the annual
meeting of the World Service Conference?

Please consider the following areas:

PREPARATION -

i) Pre-conference communications - including CAR.

- * How do we ensure they are translated?
- * How do we ensure the style used is appropriate for all participants - including R.S.R.s from worldwide communities who have never attended WSC before?
- * How do we ensure that they arrive at worldwide destinations in a timely fashion?
- * How do we encourage communities in different stages of development to forward their concerns in advance to the WSC?

ii) Agenda items.

- * How do we ensure that WSC agenda contains items of immediate concern to our fellowship worldwide?
- * How do we seek worldwide input for the CAR?

PARTICIPATION -

- * How do we encourage the attendance of representatives from our communities worldwide?
- * How do we enable representatives from 'newcomer' communities to actively participate at WSC by voicing the interests and concerns of their home N.A. communities?

* In our business sessions how do we check to see if all worldwide participants understand the issues they are being asked to vote on? (budget priority lists etc)

* How do we stop limited perspectives and parochial interests from obstructing the primary purpose of WSC?

* How do ensure that cultural diversity and worldwide participation is considered when we choose World Service trusted servants and leaders?

* How do clean-time requirements affect worldwide involvement in these positions?

* How do we 'open up' participation at the conference so that reps from communities in different stages of development feel able to actively take part, rather than just vote?

RESOURCES -

i) Time

* How do we ensure that sufficient time at WSC is spent discussing matters of immediate interest to our groups worldwide?

ii) Experience.

* How do we ensure that 'newcomer' communities receive the help they need once their representative is at WSC? Do experienced RSRs and trusted servants have the opportunity to provide the help requested of them?

iii) Space.

* How do we provide space for small groups to meet to discuss issues brought to WSC by worldwide participants but not placed in CAR?

iv) Practicums.

* What steps do we take to offer reps from new communities the possibility to gain practical service experience whilst at the WSC (local PI public meetings, H+I panels, workshops etc)?

PRIMARY PURPOSE -

- * How do we ensure that the majority vote at WSC does not blind us to our primary purpose of carrying the message worldwide?
- * How do we ensure that the discussions we have at the Conference can then be dealt with, if necessary, during the business sessions?

"WE (WSC) SUPPORT THE CONTINUED WORK OF ZONAL FORUMS"

Approved May 2 - W.S.C.92

How do we reflect this resolution during the annual meeting of the World Service Conference?

Please consider the following questions:

- * How do we enable participants from various Zonal Forums to share experience, strength and hope together while they attend WSC?
- * What efforts do we make to include appropriate Zonal items in WSC agenda?
- * How do we use Zonal Forums to relieve the work load and cramped agenda of WSC?
- * How do we use Zonal Forums to cut down on WSC expenses?

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For some time now European communities have had trouble feeling part of World Services - especially the WSC. In spite of huge efforts to include the Europeans (funded travel to WSC, translations support etc), the WSC still remains a weird affair to most of us - like a well meaning uncle who buys us expensive but sometimes useless presents at Xmas.

This is precisely part of the reason for the World Services inventory.

In this inventory, we (the worldwide fellowship) will have the best opportunity yet to let World Services know what it is we require from them, and what we are able and willing to do to support N.A. as a whole.

THE PROCESS - The inventory will take 2 years to complete. It can roughly be broken up into 5 stages:

1. The group/area/region survey about World Services.
2. WSC committee/board self-assessments or inventories.
3. The World Service Conference will take its own inventory at WSC-94 in Atlanta in April.
4. The results of these 3 inventories will be evaluated by professionals.
5. Using the evaluations various options for change will be presented (in the CAR) to WSC-95. The fellowship will then make the changes it chooses.

Through discussion European communities may find that we share the same ideas about World Services. If so, by working together we can make more of an impact at WSC-94.