

# World Service Conference Report

## Transition Group

*Note: Attachment One to this report contains the vision and mission statements along with all the resolutions adopted at WSC '96 so you may refer to them as you read this report.*

Greetings from your World Services Transition Group. By now you have received our first report which covered our July and August meetings. If you have not and wish to receive a copy, please contact the WSO. Rather than restating what we said within that report, allow us to report on our workload and our October meeting.

The "Transition Plan" calls for us to deliver an outline of what we want to accomplish within this conference year. We will take that a step further by also giving you a rough idea of what our workload for next year will be. As we stated within our first report, we decided to form two workgroups to work on Resolutions A and G and Resolutions B and C2. Each of these workgroups were charged with developing their own workplan, which was presented at our 25-26 October meeting.

### October TG Meeting

At our October meeting we met primarily in our two workgroups. Some of the discussions within each workgroup will be detailed later in this report, along with an outline of our workplan. There is another issue we became aware of during this meeting that we wish to discuss with you here. As most of you know, we sent out a questionnaire to conference participants in early August requesting input. We thank those of you who responded to it, but we also need to report that as of October 15th, the stated deadline, we received less than an eight percent response from conference participants. We also became aware of a possible misperception about our request.

Some conference participants apparently interpreted our request for input as a signal that we lacked direction in our work and were seeking it from you. Such was and is not the case. We felt that, in keeping with the process of open communication and inclusion, we should invite input from those of you who were at the conference, so that we could become aware of your ideas and suggestions about our task. We believed that many, if not all of you, had considered the resolutions prior to voting on them, and we wanted your thoughts and input. After all, we feel that we are doing this work on your behalf, and to do it without actively seeking your input would not be in keeping with the spirit of our task.

**This brings us to the next topic--that of a world services meeting. We discussed the possibility of having one this conference year, but did not feel that it would be prudent due to the current stage of our work. At the time of the discussions about such a meeting, we were still in the planning phase and could not foresee having anything specific to present for discussion and feedback. As we mentioned before, we believe that WSC '97 will provide us with the opportunity to present you with our work to date, and to lead some of the necessary discussions providing us with further direction. We do, however, believe strongly that a world services meeting (WSM) will be essential for next fall, preferably in September, where we can present our proposed model for world services and gather your input. We believe that this would be a far more prudent and inclusive way of approaching our task. It also allows for all interested parties to begin now to set aside funds for next fall's WSM.**

**Before we get into the specifics of the workgroups and their plans, allow us to give you an overview of what we intend to accomplish by or before WSC '97.**

- Develop a comprehensive report about the issues contained in Resolutions A and G, to be mailed out in March, which will lead to substantive discussions about these resolutions at WSC '97.**
- Work on outlines and drafts for proposals regarding Resolutions B and C2 prior to WSC '97, send those ideas out to conference participants by the end of March, and then discuss them at the conference.**
- Maintain clear communication about our work, so that conference participants and other interested members are kept up to date about our progress.**
- Prepare for the discussions about the resolution process at WSC '97, and lead the conference through the discussions about the nature of a smaller WSC--its nature, composition, and functions, leading to specific direction for the TG to be able to finish its work prior to the deadline for the *1998 Conference Agenda Report*.**

**Following next year's conference, we intend to finish our work on all the resolutions by presenting various proposals for conference action at WSC '98. These will include graphic illustrations for the new structure, the effect the proposals would have, and a proposed timeline for implementation. Our intent is to release the results of our work as soon as possible, to allow you the maximum amount of time to study it. If we are done well before the *CAR* deadline in 1997, then we will send the proposals out for your information prior to the *CAR*.**

**As stated in our last report, we cannot do all this work by ourselves. We have created a "resource pool" which includes the list of nominees (for our working groups) developed by the Interim Committee and presented to conference participants at WSC '96, current world services leadership, and former members of the Resolution Group. In fact, both of our workgroups are using the resource pool to send information and to solicit their input and feedback. Thus far, we have had good success using those individuals as "sounding boards" for some of our ideas and concepts. We wish to thank these members for their support and participation in our work.**

## **Workplans for CY '96-'97**

**The group working on Resolutions A and G has had a conference call, and met at both the August and October meetings. While we as a group agreed on a number of items such as decision-making (to be made by consensus) and that the purpose of the conference is contained in the mission statement, there are a number of issues we are still discussing. Certainly the words "equal" and "geographic entities," in terms of representation at the conference, could have a variety of meanings. Does it mean that a new level of service may need to be developed? Does it mean that each "geographic entity" should send the same number of representatives, or are there other alternatives? The workgroup, in looking at this issue, has certainly had to consider the amount of resources, both human and financial, that it would take to insert a new level of service. We are also looking at the entire issue of representation based upon the size and development of NA communities. We recognize that such decisions will need to be based upon the purpose and function of the revised World Service Conference, as well as the direction/input received. While WSC '96, in passing the NA world services vision statement, as well as the WSC mission statement, has provided some direction about this issue, the workgroup believes that far more discussion will need to take place about the various issues surrounding Resolution A.**

**As a result, we will develop a comprehensive report about Resolution A and some of the questions we are facing prior to WSC '97. This report, currently scheduled to be mailed out in March 1997, will also include some structural models for conference discussion. Our intention is to lead the conference through a series of discussions which will provide the TG with direction about a smaller conference, one that will reflect the ideas and concepts contained in Resolution A. During those discussions, more clarity will also be gained about the Human Resources Panel and its responsibility, authority, and accountability.**

**The second workgroup has been working on Resolutions B and C2. (As reported in our previous report, we have decided to hold off working on Resolutions E and F until we have completed much of our work on the others.) This team met at our August and October meetings and by conference calls in between. At our October meeting we developed a draft of some of our ideas about Resolutions B and C2, which was mailed out to gather feedback from our resource pool. These two resolutions are somewhat more straightforward and directive than Resolution A. As a result, the work is going a little quicker and we currently plan to mail out our work to the conference participants prior to WSC '97, for discussion at the conference.**

**If the conference decides to reaffirm this project for another year, the workgroups will draft their work on Resolutions E and F, revise the drafts on the other resolutions, and then develop the structural model based upon the direction received. Following the drafting of our work, we will be prepared to enter into the final input-gathering stage at the 1997 fall world services meeting.**

**What follows is the outline of our work schedule for the balance of this conference year, as well as a projection of our timeline for the next year, leading to conference action at WSC '98.**

## **Timeline for TG work**

### **November 1996**

- **Mail out to the Transition Group Resource Pool detailed questionnaires from Workgroup B about the World Board and the committee system.**
- **Work on preparation of presentation to conference participants about Resolutions A and G.**
- **Both workgroups to communicate via telephone and mail about individual work assignments.**

### **December 1996**

- **Workgroup B continues to work on the development of its report on Resolutions B and C2, including looking at the financial impacts of a world board and downsized committee system.**
- **The group working on Resolutions A and G continues to work on the presentation to conference participants and begins to look at the financial impact of a downsized conference.**
- **Both workgroups will meet by conference call.**

### **January 1997**

- **Both workgroups continue their work and meet by conference call to prepare for next meeting.**
- **Transition Group meeting in Chatsworth, 26-27 January 1997. At meeting, draft of work done by group working on Resolutions B and C2 is reviewed and revised, comprehensive TG report is drafted, room and time needs at WSC '97 are finalized, '97-'98 TG budget is developed, and *CAR* workshop attendance continues to be discussed.**

### **February 1997**

- **Report to conference participants is finalized by TG.**
- **Begin to get legal advice on a variety of issues relating to the resolutions.**
- **Finalize March *Conference Report* and/or meeting report.**

### **March 1997**

- **Comprehensive TG report is mailed out to conference participants.**
- ***Conference Report* and final pre-conference mailing is sent out by 25 March 1997.**
- **Preparations continue for conference presentation and discussion.**
- **TG meeting 28-29 March 1997. At meeting, presentation to conference is finalized and, if time permits, TG begins to work on Resolutions E and F.**

### **April 1997**

- **Finish first drafts of Resolutions E and F.**
- **WSC '97 begins 25 April 1997. TG to lead discussions about Resolutions A and G, do presentation of work on B and C2, and receive direction from conference participants about their work.**

#### **May - August 1997**

- **Integrate conference direction on Resolutions B and C2.**
- **Draft work on Resolutions A and G, as per direction from WSC '97.**
- **Draft work on Resolutions E and F.**
- **Develop structural model based on work done on all resolutions.**
- **Mail out draft of work to conference participants and prepare for world services meeting (WSM).**

#### **September 1997**

- **World services meeting as final input-gathering stage on TG work.**

#### **October - November 1997**

- **Revise work (if necessary) based upon input received at WSM.**
- **Finalize work in preparation for 1 December 1997 deadline for 1998 *Conference Agenda Report*.**
- **December 1997**
- **All work is forwarded for inclusion in *CAR*.**

#### **January - WSC '98**

- **Attend *CAR* workshops to answer questions about work on resolutions.**

#### **WSC '98**

- **Conference to act upon work done by Transition Group.**

#### **Responses to committed motions**

**The final section of our report contains the responses to the motions committed to us at WSC '96. It is important to note that the Transition Group has and will continue to consider these motions as their intent becomes pertinent. For example, if a motion refers to the committee system, it is to be considered by the workgroup developing the work on Resolution C2. Similarly, one that refers to the size or the composition of the WSC either has or will be considered by the workgroup dealing with Resolution A.**

***Motion #57 - (Greater Illinois/Upper Rocky Mountain) Amends Resolution C2: "To approve, in principle, a significantly downsized standing committee structure responsible to the World Service Conference."***

**Response:** This motion is being addressed by the workgroup addressing Resolution C2. A solution will be proposed during WSC '97.

*Motion #58 - (Greater Illinois/Iowa) Amends Resolution D: "To approve, in principle, the adoption of an ad hoc committee structure responsible to the World Service Conference."*

**Response:** This motion is being addressed by the workgroup addressing Resolution C2. The resolution that this motion would amend was defeated by the conference, making the motion moot, but we believe that the concept of creating ad hoc committees is one that needs to be addressed. A solution will be proposed during WSC '97.

*Motion #66 - (Southern California/Northern New England) "The Southern California Region moves that the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, within the geopolitical boundaries of the United States of America, form a National Service Conference to be called The United States Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous-USSCNA."*

**Response:** The team working on Resolution A has discussed a US conference during the development of proposals. Even though recommendations may be given during the WSC '97 presentation, this team believes that, at this time, their efforts need to be directed towards Resolution A and a smaller WSC.

*Motion #73 - (Ireland/San Diego Imperial) "That all service positions at world service level to include BOT, BOD, Admin., Policy, to exclude the standing committees, be limited to a period of 5 years, or two terms of office, and that no members who have served their terms at this level be eligible for other positions at this level until a period of at least 3 years has elapsed since the end of term of their service."*

**Response:** This motion was considered in the development of the working group draft of world board qualifications. Term limits for board members are under consideration. Will be included in presentation at WSC '97.

*Motion #78 - ((Lone Star/Minnesota) "To allow designated representatives of any Zonal Forums a voice on WSC Floor and to include them as non-voting conference participants for inclusion on WSC mailings."*

**Response:** While we have no recommendation at this time, this motion will be discussed at our January 1997 meeting. We will report on our discussions following that meeting.

*Motion #93 - (WSC Policy/Minnesota) "To commit 1993 Motion #145 which reads ['A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous be set aside until the completion of the World Services Inventory. At that point, the Guide will be assessed to determine whether it addresses any of the issues raised in the inventory. If it becomes apparent that additional revisions to the Guide are needed, they will be made after which A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous should go out for a one-year input and review period.'] to the Transition Group as resource material."*

**Response: The Transition Group is using the Guide as one of our resource materials.**

## **Conclusion**

**Once again, thank you for the input we've received. We would encourage you to continue to send us your thoughts and ideas via the WSO. Our next meeting is scheduled for 26-27 January 1997 at the WSO. In closing, we thank you for allowing us to serve on this very important project.**

*Tim Banner, chairperson*

*Jane Nickels, vice chairperson*

---

# **ATTACHMENT ONE**

## **NA World Services Vision Statement**

**All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous World Services are inspired by the primary purpose of the groups we serve. Upon this common ground we stand committed.**

**Our vision is that one day:**

- **Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;**
- **NA communities worldwide and NA world services work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery;**
- **Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.**

**As our commonly held sense of the highest aspirations that set our course, our vision is our touchstone, our reference point, inspiring all that we do. Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of these ideals. In all our service efforts, we rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power.**

## **World Service Conference Mission Statement**

**The World Service Conference brings all elements of NA world services together to further the common welfare of NA. The WSC's mission is to unify NA worldwide by providing an event at which:**

- **Participants propose and gain fellowship consensus on initiatives that further the NA world services vision;**
- **The fellowship, through an exchange of experience, strength, and hope, collectively expresses itself on matters affecting Narcotics Anonymous as a whole;**

- **NA groups have a mechanism to guide and direct the activities of NA world services;**
- **Participants ensure that the various elements of NA world services are ultimately responsible to the groups they serve;**
- **Participants are inspired with the joy of selfless service, and the knowledge that our efforts make a difference.**

**Resolution A: "To approve in principle a change in participation at a new WSC to achieve the following objectives:**

- 1. to reduce the total number of representatives;**
- 2. to provide for equal representation from all geographic entities; and,**
- 3. to encourage a consensus-based decision-making process."**

**Resolution B: "To approve in principle the adoption of a World Board, replacing the current World Service Board of Trustees, WSO Board of Directors, WCC Board of Directors, and the WSC Administrative Committee. Further, that within the consolidated world board, there be a specific group whose purpose fulfills the role and function as originally defined for the WSB who remain guardians of the traditions and ensure the spiritual nature of the checks and balances they provide."**

**Resolution C2: "To approve in principle a significantly downsized standing committee structure responsible to the World Board."**

**Resolution E: "To approve in principle the adoption of a unified budget encompassing all world service funds."**

**Resolution F: "To approve in principle the adoption of a World Pool of experienced trusted servants as a resource to world service projects and initiatives."**

**Resolution G: "To approve in principle the adoption of a Human Resources Panel as a means by which the WSC may choose trusted servants based on the willingness to serve, experience, and knowledge."**