



**WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, Inc.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

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FEBRUARY 1984

TO: THE FELLOWSHIP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

SUBJECT: POLICY FOR FELLOWSHIP MAGAZINE

Dear Fellowship:

Attached is a proposed policy for the Fellowship magazine that was considered at the recent World Service Conference Policy Subcommittee meeting in Florida. Although the Policy Subcommittee proposed revision of the Structure of N.A. does not include this item, the WSO Board feels so strongly that a new and more comprehensive policy be adopted, that we requested it be included in this material for Fellowship review.

A comprehensive report on the World Service Office experience with the N.A. Way magazine was presented in the Fellowship Report and was circulated recently. That report details most of the significant problems that have become apparent in the exercise of the WSO responsibilities in the publishing of the magazine. The proposed magazine policy would permit the publication of a magazine without the major problems that were detailed in the report sent to Fellowship.

The attached proposed policy provides a clear, positive direction for the production of a successful Fellowship magazine. We believe that if the policy is adopted at this World Service Conference in April 1984, a regular on-time publication of the magazine will result within 90 days of the close of the WSC meeting.

The publication of the NEWSLINE has been well received and carries a vast amount of information, that the Fellowship needs on a regular basis, and can easily be integrated into a publication that is described in the proposal.

The tremendous strides that WSO has made during these past months toward becoming an effective publisher for the Fellowship has been obvious. The responsibility that the enclosed proposal would assign to the WSO can be discharged with the same competence WSO has recently demonstrated.

The magazine proposal is comprehensive and well thought out. It provides a balance in the review process for stories submitted for consideration to be included in the magazine and in the editing responsibilities. The proposal provides for the regular publication of letters and reports from the Trustees, WSC

officers, and subcommittee chairpersons that will not be edited and for guest editorial features.

Additionally, there is provision for letters to the editor that would permit open discussion within the fellowship of an unlimited field of issues and matters that there may be confusion or disagreement on.

Adoption of this magazine proposal would create the important and greatly needed forum for the Fellowship to discuss, in writing, important matters and have everyone be party to the discussion at once. The dialog that could be presented in such a magazine, as has been demonstrated in the NEWSLINE, is almost limitless.

Adoption of the proposed magazine policy would be an important step forward in the unification of a Fellowship that becomes fragmented because of miscommunication or no communication at all.

The WSO Board of Directors therefore recommends that the attached magazine policy be reviewed by the Fellowship and adopted at the World Service Conference in April 1984.

In service to the Fellowship

Charles B. Gates
WSO Board President

PROPOSED MAGAZINE POLICY

MAGAZINE CONTENT AND PURPOSE

The current magazine has presented a much too narrow approach to the needs of the Fellowship. There is no point in criticizing the current magazine for the individual stories or their editorial presentation or treatment even though the magazine presents only stories related to a certain perspective of recovery. These stories should indeed be in a Fellowship magazine, but these stories should be only a part of a Fellowship magazine publication effort, not the whole magazine.

The WSO has been publishing a monthly newsletter to inform the Fellowship of things related to their responsibilities and duties and the problems they have experienced. This has recently been expanded to include announcements of events in regions, notices from WSC Committees and letters from the Board of Trustees.

If these two publications were essentially combined into a single effort there would only be one major area of need within the Fellowship that would not then be provided in the magazine.

There needs to be a convenient method by which the Fellowship can have a dialogue within the Fellowship. For instance in the discussion of a revision of the Structure, there is not currently the opportunity for the Fellowship at large to know what the most recently proposed structural changes are and to have ability to comment on them. If, on the other hand the proposals were presented in the magazine and opportunity over a several month period for letters to the magazine that could be printed from the Fellowship at large, this would be the opportunity for the Fellowship to be really involved and be part of the discussion of change. This principal applies to every aspect of the changes and growth in the Fellowship; literature approval, H. & I. policies, new approaches for Public Information, etc.

POLICY CONCEPTS

1. The Fellowship magazine is hereby revised in its policy so that all of the concepts for benefit of the Fellowship mentioned herein, are included into a single publication. The purpose of the magazine is to provide the Fellowship in one publication, opportunity to learn what is happening in the Fellowship and to have stories and messages of encouragement for recovery and abstinence.
2. The magazine shall print articles by WSC officers and chairmen on proposals in their individual areas of work and invite reply by the Fellowship. The magazine will print representative responses as "letters to the Editor" and as guest editorials as space is available. WSO shall have regular

articles advising the Fellowship of the same information that they are currently printing in their NEWSLINE.

3. The Trustees shall have a regular segment to convey messages about their work and matters that require interpretation by the Trustees. Written dialogue on these articles should be encouraged and shall be printed in the magazine as mentioned above as letters to the editor, with the same constraints.

4. Essays, poems, stories and experiences that provide insight to recovery and encourage recovery will be presented. These original works should subsequently be considered for "approved literature" for the Fellowship, if they warrant such consideration.

ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The recent track record of the WSO has shown that WSO can operate efficiently and at the direction of the Fellowship. Although no institution is perfect, WSO has come a long way toward proper performance of the publication duties assigned to them by the Fellowship. WSO appears to be capable of accepting and performing the tasks of publishing a magazine of the type described.

All that is needed is to organize the functions that WSO should not be expected to create on their own or have the option to control.

1. The WSO should have overall management responsibility for the Fellowship magazine. WSO shall receive all input, prepare layouts, print and distribute the magazine. WSO shall have responsibility to edit, (that is to have ability to arbitrarily change words, meanings, sentences, paragraphs, etc.) only the portions of the magazine in which they report on activities of WSO. They shall employ one or more individuals to discharge duties outlined herein and be responsible for the communications required. The principal employee selected to discharge responsibilities of the WSO for the production of the magazine shall be known as the Managing Editor. The person selected to be the Managing Editor must have had either two years previous experience in the writing and publication of professional quality print publications (newspaper or magazine, or four years college education in journalism).

2. The WSO shall charge a reasonable amount for the magazine on a yearly basis to cover the costs of the publication, including staff time and all materials and production costs.

EDITORIAL BOARD

1. There shall be an Editorial Board that shall have the responsibility to edit (have arbitrary power to change words, meanings, sentences, paragraphs, etc.) all parts of the magazine

except as noted in the following paragraph, have authority to decide what is put in each issue and to decide which articles are included or not included.

2. The Editorial Board shall not have authority or ability to change in any manner the following: reports submitted for publication from WSC officers, or sub-committee chairmen, letters to the editor (although they will decide which letters will be included and which shall not), guest editorials and articles submitted by the Trustees that represent decisions or announcements of the Trustees in their capacity of custodians of the Traditions.

3. The Editorial Board shall be composed of and include the Managing Editor, a Trustee (referred to as Associate Editor) , and a person selected by WSC (referred to as Associate Editor). Each member of this Editorial Board must have not less than 5 years abstinence at the time of initial participation.

4. At the annual meeting of WSC held in even numbered years, one person shall be elected by a majority vote, to serve on the Editorial Board who must reside close enough so as to have daily {if needed} direct supervision and participation. The person so elected shall serve for a period of two years. In the event the person elected does not complete their period of service, the Chairman of WSC will appoint a qualified replacement within 30 days of notification that said person has resigned or failed to perform assigned duties for a period of 30 days. The appointed replacement shall serve for the unexpired term of service until the next regular scheduled election.

5. The Trustees may select any of their members to serve as a member of the Editorial Board. The Trustee selected must reside close enough so as to have daily (if needed) direct supervision and participation. However, the appointment should be made for a continuous period of not less than two years. In the event of resignation or other need of replacement of the Trustee member of the Editorial Board, the Board of Trustees should act with dispatch in such selection. The Editorial Board shall continue to operate without interruption if there is not an appointed Trustee acting as a member of the Editorial Board.

REVIEW PANNEL

1. Articles submitted as stories, poems, etc., shall be reviewed by an additional review pannel prior to their consideration by the Editorial Board for inclusion in the magazine. The review pannel shall be composed of the following and their appointment shall be for a period of not less than two years. All members of the review pannel must have not less than 5 years abstinence at the time of initial participation. The members: Three Trustees, three former N.A. newsletter editors and three individuals selected by WSC.

2. The review pannel shall review articles proposed and give individual suggestions for editing and improvement or for rejection. The Editorial Board has the option of adopting any of the changes or all the changes proposed by the review pannel, but may not include in the magazine articles that a majority of the review pannel recommends against printing.

3. Every newsletter or monthly or quarterly publication within the Fellowship that is organized as an extension of a group, area or region service committee for the purpose of communicating to the Fellowship of that group, area or region may register with the WSO. Each newsletter that wants to have its editor participate as a member of the review pannel, must keep the current editor registered with the WSO. The WSO will publish on a yearly basis, the names of each editor, the publication they edit, its area of service and the length of service each editor has given. Those editors that desire to participate in the selection of members for the review pannel or serve on the review pannel must advise the WSO. During the month of March of every even numbered year, those editors currently registered who had requested to participate, will be sent by WSO, a ballot which must be returned by the last day of April. The ballot shall contain space for the placement of three names to be rated in order of preference. WSO will report to the WSC at its annual meeting the results of this selection process. In the case of two or more nominees receiving the same number of votes, all such persons shall serve on the review pannel, but shall have a divided vote (each individual receiving the votes shall have a fraction of one vote, equal to the other members for which the tie was created). Replacement if vacancies are created shall be automatically made by selecting in sequence the person who had received the next highest number of votes. Replacement may be made by the editorial board if a member does not respond to magazine deadlines for more than a 30 day period.

4. The Board of Trustees may select in any manner they choose, the three members of their Board to serve on the review pannel. The three so selected shall not include the Trustee selected to be a member of the Editorial Board. In the event that the Trustees fail to select any of the required number of members (or select fewer than three) to serve in this capacity or if the Trustees selected individually fail to perform assigned duties during any 30 day period, the review pannel may continue to operate normally without input or participation of the missing Trustees. The Trustees selected for this service should be appointed and serve for a period of not less than two years.

5. At the annual meeting of WSC held in odd numbered years, three individuals shall be elected by a majority vote of WSC to serve for two years as members of the review pannel. Each of the members of the review pannel selected by WSC must have served for not less than one year as an officer of WSC or as a Sub-Committee Chair person. If a member elected to the review pannel shall

fail to complete their period of service, the Chairman of WSC will appoint a qualified replacement within 30 days of notification that said person has resigned or failed to perform assigned duties for a 30 day period.]

CONCEPT OF SERVICE

1. The magazine for N.A. is one of the most important assets of the Fellowship. As such, it should be managed on the basis of strict application of the concept of principal and not personality. Each person who is elected to serve on the Editorial Board or review pannel should accept this duty as a primary N.A. activity and subordinate other conflicting interests.

