

To: The Fellowship

From: Stuart Tooredman, Chairperson  
World Service Office Board of Directors

The World Service Office does not have motions to present for approval by the Conference at the 1990 meeting. There are, however, several matters that should be included in this report so RSRs can come prepared to discuss them.

For a number of years, the office has presented reports concerning the tax status of the fellowship at large. We have encouraged caution, patience, and further study before any action was possible. During the last year, the WSO has been obtaining competent tax and legal advice. We expect to be able to distribute this information at the World Service Conference.

It is not our intention that the conference be asked to take action in 1990. It is our intention, however, to have the information available for distribution at the conference. During the ensuing months, we hope the members, groups, area and regional committees will review this information so that guidance can be provided to world services about an appropriate course of action. The material is not complete as of the date of this report. The attorneys preparing this work have advised us they do not anticipate completion of the information until March, 1990.

In related matters, the office has been engaged in similar discussions with the fellowship and attorneys in five other countries where similar tax problems have been found. This information may also be available for distribution at the conference. As these matters affect N.A. as a whole, the fellowship should examine the alternatives carefully so as to provide direction to world services.

In the oral report given at the last World Service Conference by the WSO Board Chairperson, the matter of clean time requirements for membership on the Board was discussed. It was suggested that the WSO Board would be changing its by-laws to increase the length of clean time required for membership on the Board.

The World Service Office Board manages one of the important service arms of the fellowship. As such, the Board should be comprised of members with extensive clean time, service experience, and personal recovery. As the fellowship is maturing and there are more people with extensive clean time, it seemed prudent to bring the WSO Board clean time requirement in line with those for the Board of Trustees and the conference leadership.

The by-laws had required a minimum of five years clean time for membership. The Board has adopted a phased increase in the clean time requirements, that will eventually require eight years clean time for Board membership. The number of years required effective at this time is six years.

In reviewing the minutes of the 1989 conference, it was discovered that no motions from that conference were officially referred to the WSO for additional study. However, there were several items pertaining to WSO responsibility where additional research has taken place. These items include how to handle the matter of literature that becomes outdated, and making jewelry or other such merchandise available through the World Service Office. Separate reports on these items will be included in the next *Fellowship Report*.

There is a motion enclosed in Addendum #6 that was received from a region, suggesting consideration of additional WSO branch offices. Some research has already been done on this subject, but the motion suggests a wider scope of work to be accomplished in branch offices than has been the subject of completed research. If the conference desires to move in the direction the motion suggests, additional research can be accomplished.