

To: The Fellowship

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

In past months, one of our foremost concerns has been the independent printing and distribution of the Basic Text. I am very pleased to report that we have reached an agreement that secures the fellowship's copyrights, and brings the issues connected to the Basic Text to the fellowship. This has been a long and stressful road for the WSO Board of Directors. We appreciate the time and effort members have taken to write, ask questions, and share their thoughts with us. While the WSO board continues to be firm about the protection of N.A. intellectual properties placed in its care, the board also believes strongly that the issues related to the Basic Text need fellowship resolution and should not be settled only by the WSO Board of Directors. Keeping that in mind, we urge you to participate in the resolution of these long-standing issues. We are grateful that the matter at hand has been settled, and that we can again focus our combined efforts on the fulfillment of our fellowship's primary purpose--carrying our message to the addict who still suffers.

By now, each conference participant should have received a copy of the agreement and the attached order. The motions coming from the agreement are included in the *Conference Agenda Report*, and a joint statement is included as the final attachment to this *Fellowship Report*. I believe they are self-explanatory, so I will not go into any further discussion here about the agreement. However, if more information is needed, please contact the World Service Office.

Over the next few weeks, regions and areas will begin to receive additional information called for in the agreement, including: a description of the changes made in each edition of the Basic Text, a complete copy of the Third Edition, Revised, information about the projected impact of a reduced price book, and information on possible options in producing a reduced price text. We will also, at the same time, be in the midst of a concerted effort to update our contact information on all regional and area service committees and N.A. groups. Your cooperation will be most appreciated.

In the course of reading the many letters we've received concerning the Basic Text, it has come to the board's attention that there is a misunderstanding about whether the WSO Board of Directors supports the work of the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service. The board has not adopted any motion stating its support; in fact, the board gave its chairperson a vote of confidence last year to oppose the continuation of the work. Whether or not the work is eventually accepted is a decision to be made by the fellowship. We just want to set the record straight.

The board approved the 1991 World Service Office operating budget at our January meeting. In contrast to previous years, our growth forecast for income during the next year reflects little or no growth. This can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the recession in the general economy, a declining market for our products, and some uncertainty about how the fellowship will resolve the literature pricing issues during the year. Considering those factors, and a net loss of approximately \$230,000 from 1990, the board approved the budget only after making further cuts in general administrative expenses and projected income from the basic text. The approved 1991 budget shows only an \$11,000 cushion for income over expenses. The board will monitor the budget closely, and may make additional adjustments at its March meeting. All of the information regarding the WSO budget will be included in our annual report.

This year, the World Service Office Annual Report will be divided into four sections: Report from the Directors, Administration and Support Services Division, the Fellowship Services

Division, and Year End Financial Report. It will be mailed out around the middle of March. This should allow enough time for the participants to familiarize themselves with all the information in the report and prepare questions they may have about WSO operations.

There are several matters, to be discussed in the annual report in detail, that are important to mention here. First, the board has recommended that a full, certified audit of all World Service Office operations be conducted this summer. The results of the audit will then be reported to the fellowship.

The second matter concerns a complete review of our current sales policy, and subsequent recommendations for changes in the policy. There are number of things in the current policy that bear closer scrutiny, especially the discount structure for both fellowship and non-fellowship purchasers. In the time preceding our next meeting in March, we will be discussing this matter with fellowship service offices and our non-fellowship customers, so that our policy may better the serve the needs of our groups and members.

Given the possibility that the fellowship may direct the office to produce a lower-priced Basic Text in some form, we will be preparing information on the subject for your consideration. This information will be published in our annual report, and will also be presented at the conference. We encourage all members to discuss this issue openly and objectively.

Those of you who ordered the *International Meeting Directory* will be receiving a refund shortly. After reviewing the final form from the printer we found it be unsatisfactory and stopped production. A new format is now being developed and we should have it in the inventory sometime in March.

Report from the Executive Director Search Committee

The Search Committee has held preliminary interviews with several potential candidates, and is still accepting applications. The committee has been surprised that, of the applications received so far, only a very small number have come from members of Narcotics Anonymous. As the search process nears a close we are hoping that more candidates, especially members of the fellowship, will apply. We would like to again ask all members of the fellowship to assist us by encouraging qualified acquaintances to inquire about the job. A one-page insert, giving more details about the application process, is included with this *Fellowship Report*. Please feel free to distribute the insert widely. Be assured that all applications are held in the strictest of confidence.

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