

WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
(818) 780-3951



DATE: January 24, 1992

TO: World Service Board of Trustees
World Service Office Board of Directors
World Service Conference Administrative Committee
Past Trustees

FROM: Hollie Arnold, WSO Staff

Just a small mailing to keep you all up-to-date. First is a copy of **draft minutes of the trustee conference call** on 12/17/91. *If you have any input or revisions, please get them to me by 2/6/92.*

Next is an **copy of the RSVP list** being kept for attendance at the MDF. I just wanted to let everyone know who has called and how things are going with plans for this event.

A **draft response** to a letter about posting the helpline number in local bars is next in the package. *Any input or revisions need to be gotten to me by 2/6/92.*

The next item is in regards to **members being asked to leave closed meetings if they have children with them**. The letter was addressed to the WSO board and was referred to me by Anthony/Angie. This topic seems to be cropping up for discussion all over our fellowship and lots of calls/letters have been received here at the WSO about this issue. Both Becky and Garth see that this is an issue which may need to be addressed by the trustees, since the trustees have already written an article on "open and closed meetings" in the past. Becky reviewed and approved my response. She is requesting that you consider what you might want in a routine response or position paper on the issue of children at closed meetings. *This may be something you would want to add to your agenda for next year.*

Last in the package is a copy of the **area minutes from Trinidad**. Becky wanted me to send it to y'all. Item two may be of interest to you.

I'll be sending out the pre-meeting package within the next two weeks. If you have anything you want included in this package, please let me know.

MDF 92 RSVP List

Positive Responses

Brazil--Phone call on 1/16 from Eduardo in Rio de Janeiro. They will be electing a representative to attend at regional meeting next week. I asked him to let us know as soon as they had a name so we could start making travel arrangements. He expressed his sincere gratitude for Brazil being invited.

Israel--Spoke with Shraga on 1/14. He advised us they will be electing a representative to attend at meeting this weekend and will inform us of who it will be as soon as possible. He is the newly elected RSR but is not sure if they will be sending the RSR or someone else. He says ticket prices from Israel to Dallas run about \$1700.00 US if purchased on his end.

Peru--Letter received on 1/13 (in Spanish) advising us they will be attending. They may also have two other members in attendance along with the representative we fund. They will keep us informed. Additionally, they will need a letter to the US Embassy requesting a visa to attend the WSC.

The Philippines--Spoke with Jose Montilla, the representative from Manila, and he advised us they will be attending. They also will need a letter to the US Embassy to assist in obtaining a visa.

Sweden--Phone call received from Jon Svedman in Stockholm on 1/13. They will definitely be sending someone to the WSC. Elections for the representative will be held this weekend. They will contact us with the reps name sometime during the next couple of weeks.

Nigeria--They were not invited, but have sent us a letter indicating they will be sending three representatives to the conference. Barbara J. is to send them a letter in return. A copy of their letter has been FAXed to her.

India--Spoke with P.T. Ivan in Bombay on 1/21. They have not yet determined who will be their representative, but have five names on the list. They will be FAXing us all five names so we can write letters to the US Embassy to assist in obtaining a visa. As soon as they make a decision, they will let us know, but it may be a month.

Colombia--George has been reading their regional minutes. They indicate that the selection process for a representative is underway, and they will advise us when their final selection is made.

France--George spoke with Christian G. in Paris. He indicated that they are also in the process of selecting a representative and will let us know ASAP.

No Response

Argentina--

Portugal--George expects to speak with them while he is in Europe.

Spain--As above. George will see them in two weeks.

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505 Sunnydale Ln SE
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 280-0575
Dec. 7, 1991

World Service Board of Trustees
World Service Office, Inc.
Van Nuys, Calif. 91409

Dear Trustees,

I am the attacking chair for the policy subcommittee of the Open Door of the Southeast Area Service Committee, located in Rochester, Minnesota.

We have been referred a question by our Public Information Subcommittee. " Would it be a violation of the 12 Traditions or do any Traditions support the posting of a Hotline Number in the local bars, if so how, and which come to play here?

Our subcommittee had opinions on this, but we could not find clear wording of the fellowship to properly address this question.

We addressed the question by listing the places of distribution from " A Guide to P.I.". Yet, we where hesitate to address anything in regard to Traditions. We have choose instead to write this letter and report your response.

A speedy response would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Wallace
ODSASC Policy Subcommittee Chair

DRAFT RESPONSE

January 15, 1992

Tom Wallace
505 Sunnydale Ln. SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter with the question about whether it would be a violation of the traditions to post the Hotline Number in local bars. The traditions do not restrict where the NA hotline number can be posted as long as you are not making any promises that NA is "the answer to your drug problem." We can't assure anyone that NA is what will work for them, only that we are available if they want to try to stop using drugs. In this way we remain consistent with the spirit of Tradition Ten, in that we are attracting members rather than promoting NA as the only way to get or stay clean.

Instead, the answer to your question would seem to be more a question for the PI subcommittee to answer. Our suggestion would be for the PI committee to set a list of priorities for posting the hotline number. It seems reasonable that you would want to post the hotline number in locations where it would be most useful to addicts who may need to find NA. We know of cities where the helpline number was displayed in locations such as methadone clinics, jails, probation offices, or other places where addicts could see the number. In that manner, we can make sure that anyone who needs our program has the opportunity to find out that we are an option for recovery.

We hope this has assisted your PI subcommittee in coming to a resolution their questions. If we can be of any assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

In fellowship,

Becky Meyer, Chairperson
World Service Board of Trustees

DEC 30 1991

Dear Board of Directors,

My name is Gary F. and I've been clean and a member of NSA for 5½ years. I have a problem with one of the meetings I attend and would like your opinion on it. This meeting is on Tuesday nights on Lincoln Street in El Cajon, Cal. It is a closed NSA meeting. During the 5 years I have been attending I have on numerous times have seen addicts asked to leave because they brought their children with them. One time in particular a homeless woman who had to walk to every meeting pushing her newborn baby was asked to leave. One and a half years ago I became the father of a baby born addicted to heroin. My son was born an addict. I recently attended this meeting with my son. At the beginning of the meeting the secretary read "that" this is a closed meeting, open only to addicts or people

^{info} feel they have a drug problem, all others must leave." Then she looked at me I said, "what if my son was born an addict." She said, "well, if he says he is." Now my son is ~~at~~ only 18 months old and doesn't talk yet so he can't speak for himself. I left the meeting not wanting to cause any hard feelings. I would like to know how you feel about this because I don't feel any addict should be turned away from an NA meeting. Thank you

GARY FREEBURG

6003 SEVERIN DR.

LA MESA, CAL

91942



WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
818) 780-3951

January 24, 1992

Gary F.
6003 Severin Dr.
La Mesa, CA 91942

Dear Gary,

Thank you for your recent letter in which you shared some of your recent experiences with a local meeting. We very much appreciate you keeping us advised of the N.A. activities in your geographical area.

Questions about babysitting have been occurring with more frequency over the past few years, as more addicts are coming into recovery who also have children. What seems to be happening is that some groups are focusing only on one aspect of Tradition Three (*"The only requirement for N.A. membership is a desire to stop using."*). While it is true that the only requirement for NA membership is a desire to stop using, nowhere in our literature does it state that membership is contingent on any other issues. As it states on page nine of the Basic Text, "Anyone may join us, regardless of age, race, sexual identity, creed, religion or lack of religion." What is implied in this statement is socioeconomic status, as well. While it is true that closed meetings are for addicts only, or those who think they have a problem with drugs, to deny attendance at a meeting by an addict who is accompanied by their child may not be in the best interest of that addict. If it is true that we try to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering addicts, then we need to consider whether our actions may be harmful to any addict seeking recovery.

What many people don't understand is that when one tradition is being discussed, they also need to think about how their actions impact on the other traditions. The first tradition speaks to our common welfare depending on NA unity. If the actions of the group are having a negative impact on the unity of the members, then they may need to reconsider their decision. Tradition Two tells us that our Higher Power is the only ultimate authority as expressed through our group conscience. Sometimes groups forget this important fact and view a group conscience as simply a vote. An additional consideration is that group conscience utilizes information and discussion. Most groups take advantage of all resources available to them for informational input. Many times a vote is taken before a thorough discussion has allowed all participants to view the information

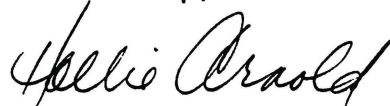
with respect to our spiritual principles. In many cases this results in a divided or split group conscience which does not give clear direction. Many times this simply means that the ultimate authority (a loving God) has been left out of the process or discussion is not complete.

In considering the Fifth Tradition, we need to remember that carrying the message to the addict who still suffers is the primary purpose of any NA group. When we deny attendance at a meeting by any addict, then we need to consider whether we are actually following the spirit of this tradition. Many groups have discussed other options such as allowing children in meetings with their parents as long as they don't disrupt the meeting, having members rotate to watch the children in a different room in the facility where they meet or having someone (whether an NA member or non-member) keep the children on a regular basis and using a portion of the group donations to compensate this person. It has been our experience that the majority of groups allow children to be present during meetings unless they have been asked by the meeting facility not to have children there. Ultimately, though, it is up to the group to make a decision on whether they will allow children in the meeting.

We have enclosed a copy of an article written by the World Service Board of Trustees on "Open and Closed NA Meetings." This is the only written material we have on this topic.

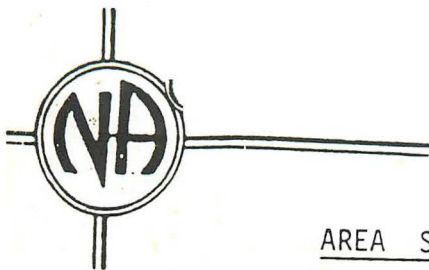
We hope this response has answered your questions. Please keep us informed of how the situation is resolved so that we can use your experience, strength and hope in answering this question in the future. Best wishes in your continued recovery.

In fellowship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hollie Arnold", written in a cursive style.

Hollie Arnold, Coordinator
Group Services Department

Enc: "Open and Closed NA Meetings" article



AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (TRINIDAD)

DATE : SEPTEMBER 21st 1991

TIME : 2 : 00 pm

VENUE : MARITIME OFFICE, TECU BUILDING, MARABÉLLA

PRESENT : Phyllis , Rex , Dereck , Leslie , Chris , Winston , Robert ,
Bert , Selwyn , Dickie , Harry , Giles , Leo .

Due to the late arrival of Harry and the absence of the interim co-chairman the meeting was chaired by Rex.

Bert opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Reading of minutes of last meeting : Rex

Confirmation of Minutes - Dereck

Seconded by Leslie.

Business arising out of Minutes of Last Meeting.

(1) Requirements for officers to serve in A.S.C. Chairman, Co-Chairman, Secretary, Co-Secretary, Treasurer, Co-Treasurer, Area Service Representative and Alternate, Sub Committee Member.

(2) Any member who relapses and who still has the desire to serve would have to serve in the position of a Trustee.

(3) Feed back from groups on the idea of the A.S.C. Leslie suggested to go to meeting places and try to convince members to start forming groups. Also to start adhering to the Twelve Traditions.

(4) Updating of List of Meeting places - Total of 28. To be typed and copied for next meeting - Rex and Bert.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Election of officers to be held at next meeting.

(2) Discussion of plans for the balance of the year ending 31/12/91.

NEXT MEETING - SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER 1991

TIME : 2 : 00 pm

VENUE : ST. JOSEPH R.C. CHURCH, ABERCROMBY STREET, ST. JOSEPH, MARACAS.
(STREET, OPPOSITE POLICE STATION ON MAIN ROAD.)

N.B. : ALL GROUPS ARE KINDLY ASKED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THIS MEETING.

SINCERELY,


BERT FLEMMING
(SECRETARY)

Service Committee
Saturday 7th September, 1991 at 1:30 p.m. A decision was
made by all groups informing members of this meeting.
at 11:55 a.m.

**WSB CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES DRAFT
12/17/91**

Present: Becky M., Jack B., Chuck L., Stu T., Steve B., Kim J., Donna M., Bob McK., Greg P., Garth P., Jamie S-H., Danette B.

WSO Staff: Joe Gossett, Hollie A., Steve L.

The call began at 6:00 PM with Becky clarifying her reason for scheduling a closed session on Thursday morning, 2/13 in Montreal. She indicated she felt there is a need to "clear the air" after the last WSB meeting, not specifically to discuss elections. Strenuous objections to the session were voiced by only one trustee, with several members indicating they felt the need to have this session. The closed session will remain on the agenda.

Stu then opened discussion of the WSB Operational Procedures and Guidelines. He indicated that several "holes" has been filled in since the October meeting after receiving input from the WSC Treasurer. Several minor changes were then suggested by various trustees which were noted by Hollie for revision. Discussion turned to the "dual membership" proposal. A decision was made to remove this section from the operational procedures and have it as a section separate from the procedures (5 A-C). A couple of the trustees were uncomfortable with the "dual membership" section but were reminded that they approved the entire document, including this section, at their October meeting. Bob McK. indicated he would like to see a motion put before the WSC to make the WSO board a subsidiary board of the WSB.

M/S/C Jack B./ Kim J. "To approve the WSB Operational Procedures and Guidelines, as amended." (Unanimous voice vote)

The motions to appear in the Conference Agenda Report were next to be discussed. There was general consensus that there will be a motion to approve the Literature Trust Document. Also motions will be drafted to delete the WSB section presently in TWGSS and replace it with the WSB Operational Procedures just approved. The WSB Internal Guidelines will be included in the CAR as an addendum. Bob McK. indicated he would like to add discussion of making the WSO board a subsidiary WSB board to a future agenda. He also wants to lodge his dissent of the approval of the Literature Trust document.

Becky then moved on to other items for the A and B panel discussion topics. The A panels will be discussions of the motions in the agenda report. B panels will be those discussion items included in the January Conference Report. During the January JAC meeting, there will be some discussion of combining topics. There is a possibility that prejudice could be included as part of the WCC special needs panel. Several members disagreed with combining prejudice with the special interest discussion as they felt it needed wider discussion. Other members felt that having this as a topic would only allow members to "dump" their

feelings during the WSC but would not allow for developing any solutions. There was agreement that the panel is not the place for "horror stories" but needs to be solution oriented. Becky reminded everyone the panel discussion notes they received in their package on the prejudice topic were more solution oriented questions. It was decided that prejudice will be one of the B panel topics with the intention of developing a report to the fellowship leading to again bring this topic to the forefront of the fellowship, but without presenting specific goals or solutions. Instead, this would be further follow-up to the previously released article on prejudice from a couple of years ago. Kim left the call at this point (7:50 PM).

Becky then shared that the topic of participation and decision making will be addressed as regional topics, in addition to the trustee paper on this issue. Some of the trustees were hesitant in putting the present paper out as they felt it was "too one-sided" while other felt it was "too neutral." It was generally agreed that the purpose of the paper should be to present unbiased information to conference participants. Stu indicated that he feels this is impossible unless two separate papers are written. A straw poll was taken which indicated support for putting the paper out in the January *Conference Report* with some minor changes. Several specific wording and punctuation changes were suggested, accepted, and noted by staff.

M/S/C Jack B./Jamie S-H "To approve the 'Participation and Decision Making at the WSC' paper, as amended." (Approved by unanimous voice vote)

The "Direct Contributions" motion response paper was next for discussion. Some serious concern was voiced that this paper does not have the impact it is intended to have; that it also does not support our present service structure through the fund flow. Additionally, it was felt this paper does not assist members in understanding how their contribution supports the fellowship. Other trustees felt it adequately addressed the questions presented in the motions. After further discussion, it was determined that the language supporting direct contributions will be taken out, and language will be added that this paper is "for discussion purposes only." It will then be included in the January *Conference Report* for discussion as a B panel topic.

Jamie then signed off the call after advising the remaining members he wishes to discuss the ESC meeting in January as well as his invitation to the conference in Redding, PA prior to the WSB meeting in Montreal.

After several minor grammatical changes were suggested and accepted, the position paper on "The Seventh Tradition and Fundraising in NA" was accepted as amended by consensus of the WSB for release in the January *Conference Report*.

The WSB spending priorities were then discussed. It was decided to delete the word "trained" prior to facilitator. Bob McK. then voiced his concern with having a director/member of the budget committee on each world service board or committee. He voiced concern that the budget committee proposal, if

accepted, will mandate having all WSC funds controlled by the WSO board. Both Jack and Stu related this budget proposal came out of the unified budget proposal from last year, when there was discussion of combining the WSO and WSC budget. Jack also indicated that the interim committee has not yet made their recommendation for next year concerning the budget, but that they were formed by the WSC to oversee conference finances. Bob wanted to go on record as opposing the entire process of having a director on each board or committee for financial discussions, but does see a need to support development of a budget policy to oversee audits, etc. Becky indicated she will contact Bob McDonough to discuss this issue with him.

All the trustees then indicated they plan to attend the meeting in Montreal. Jack shared he may not make the WSC in April due to personal reasons; Donna and Danette also may not make the WSC due to school commitments.

The call ended at 8:45 PM.