



PUBLIC INFORMATION

Last month's *Newsline* included a lot of information about the P.I. Committee's involvement with the media and non-N.A. professionals. It was apparently quite timely, as many P.I. members called or wrote to comment on the help it provided in their response to various types of requests for information about Narcotics Anonymous. Those calls and letters also provided input and material for several items which the WSC P.I. Committee rededicated itself to during the recent mini-conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Several regional P.I. committees informed us of materials they had created which WSC P.I. task forces needed to complete assignments. Others indicated the ability and desire to work with the task forces on developing other materials for a variety of tasks. This type of support from P.I. committees is one of the wonderful results which WSC P.I. had hoped for as it began its communication efforts over two years ago. Now work that may have taken years to complete may be presented for Fellowship approval more quickly.

Many important items were discussed over the week end in Charlotte relating to public information. Several motions will be presented at WSC '87 regarding non-recovery literature approval procedures which will allow the world service committees to provide the Fellowship with service materials in a much more timely manner. Several new sections for the *Guide to P.I.* will also be presented for Fellowship approval.

The WSO was advised of some new items which P.I. committees would like to have available as inventory items. These include a press/info. packet and signs for the interior of city buses.

The creation of audio-visual P.I. tools, in addition to more PSA's, was discussed at length and an audio-visual ad-hoc committee was established to research the possibilities of films, slides, etc. Conference approved slides and films could be used by P.I. committees for internal training, community meetings, and also by treatment centers for their own staff information. They would also be helpful in responding to media contacts which include requests to film N.A. meetings or members.

Representation by Narcotics Anonymous at non-N.A. events was also discussed during the Charlotte meetings. WSC P.I. members have been attending

those events that are sponsored by national and/or international organizations, as well as supplying financial support. The regions in which the event takes place have also supported them by sending P.I. committee volunteers. It has become increasingly clear that it is not necessary to spend money to transport WSC P.I. members, unless there is reason to believe that national press coverage may be involved. The Committee decided that future events would be supported by WSC P.I. primarily through literature and payment of registration fees and that, whenever possible, regional P.I. committee members would provide the people power.

The Chesapeake/Potomac Regional P.I. Committee has been involved with two of these national non-N.A. events. In addition, they attended a Drug Awareness Day, in D.C., which was sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services. Their experience and input on these and other P.I. items will be discussed more fully in the next issue of the *P.I. News*.

A few interesting lessons, in addition to finding out we didn't need to send WSC P.I. members, resulted from this year's involvements in these events. Last year's budget included a line item for the purchase of a transportable booth, which was to be paid for by WSO. That turned out to be unnecessary because booths are ordinarily provided as part of the registration fee. However, WSO will be purchasing one, possibly two, collapsible display walls, with space for literature racks and visual aids. Visual aids, for now, might include enlargements of our PSA storyboards and photos of our literature. Down the road, we may have some of those visual aids mentioned above. A sign or banner is also helpful, along with a special info. packet for any media people who might show up and a world directory, as a resource for those participants from other parts of the country who want to know how to contact N.A. in their home towns.

Literature, rather than simply being set out for participants to pick through, is easier to hand out if it is pre-packed in packets, including a local meeting directory and WSO order form.

All this experience and information is going to be compiled into a "Non-N.A. Exhibit Kit," which will help in standardizing the types of materials shipped and also provide the regional volunteers with guidance to make their job easier.

Input from those regional P.I. members involved in these activities indicates that, even more important than what literature we bring and how we hand it out, is the attitude we go with. It's important to understand and believe that participation in these events is our responsibility. That to carry our message to other addicts through P.I. means informing the public of N.A.'s existence, letting them know where and how to find N.A. and being examples to the fact that addicts can find recovery and become responsible, productive members of society. Practicing the principles of love and willingness in all our affairs means that we work just as hard on those principles with non-N.A.'s who request information about our Fellowship as we do with the recovering addicts who come through the doors of our meetings.

If we are to do this responsibly, it is imperative that P.I. committees put time and effort into developing a core of P.I. volunteers who are experienced and ready to participate in non-N.A. events. A response made by a P.I. volunteer to a request for information may be the only impression of this Fellowship a nonmember ever gets. We must be prepared to respond promptly and efficiently. Our program's spiritual principles dictate that we ought never be organized, but the service committees we create are directly responsible to those they serve. Part of every P.I. committee's responsibility is to be organized well enough to respond to those requests which have a bearing on how many addicts may get a chance to learn about recovery the N.A. way.

The *P.I. News*, WSC P.I.'s quarterly publication, appears to be helping in the goal of disseminating information more and more widely. Many requests are received from members not directly involved in P.I. who want to receive *P.I. News*. This has created a problem, because last year's WSC P.I. budget allowed only enough funds to send it to P.I. or phonline committee chairpersons and vice-chairpersons. It is evident that a policy will have to be developed in order that any member can receive the publication, while still keeping the WSC P.I. budget within reason. At the present time, it costs about \$500.00 to mail one copy to each of the listed P.I. and phonline committee chairpersons and vice-chairpersons.

One suggestion is the use of a purchase policy similar to the one used by H&I for their *Reaching Out* publication. That policy allows for any service committee or individual member to purchase an annual subscription in bulk lots. The cost of the subscription is set according to the actual cost of production and mailing. Based on the expected size of future editions of the *P.I. News*, and requiring a minimum purchase of 10 copies, an estimated cost for a year's subscription, (4 times a year) would be approximately \$25.00. Another method would be to continue providing the publication free of charge to P.I. and phonline committee officers, but charge a per issue price for any other interested members, who would then

have to send a request and payment to WSO at the time of each printing. It's also important to keep in mind that the current cost to WSC of \$500.00 per issue will increase markedly as the number of those committees increase.

Any suggestions or input on this concern will be appreciated.

CONVENTIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

There seems to be a growing movement throughout the Fellowship to advertise conventions in the non-N.A. community through the use of press releases. This is due in some part, no doubt, to the fact that references regarding this practice currently appear in sections of the *Convention Guidelines* and the *Guide to Public Information*. Some confusion seems to arise from the fact that the service provided by P.I. subcommittees in the usual sense has been assumed to be the same for convention P.I. committees. This, of course, is not the case. Public information committees deal with informing the public about the existence of Narcotics Anonymous, what it is and how to make contact. P.I. committees respond to requests from nonmembers who are interested in learning more about our Fellowship.

Conventions, on the other hand, are recognized as celebrations of recovery for our members, and as such, are not an appropriate or beneficial time or place to encourage this type of public information. P.I. subcommittees of a convention might more accurately be titled convention information subcommittees. The primary responsibility of those subcommittees is to inform the N.A. Fellowship of the upcoming convention, working closely with the registration and arts and graphics committees. The convention information subcommittee should also establish contact with any treatment facility, hospital, etc., whose clients (addicts) may want to attend the convention.

Although the celebration of recovery which a convention exemplifies is not the place to which we want to invite media attention, there is always the chance that they will show up. It is, therefore, important that the convention's P.I. subcommittee be prepared. This preparation is best accomplished by utilizing the experience of the regional P.I. committee. It is suggested that P.I. volunteers be present during the convention, that a press/media info. kit be available for any members of the media, and, whenever possible, that a room be designated as a press room, staffed with P.I. volunteers to which reporters can be directed.

Registration desk volunteers must be instructed in dealing with members of the media who might show up. Every effort should be made to have reporters escorted from the registration desk to the press room by a P.I. volunteer.

The shared experiences of the WSC P.I. Committee and the WCCNA during the last year

have led to proposed changes to both of the previously mentioned handbooks which, if adopted by the WSC '87, will help clear up the confusion between these two areas of service. For now, we encourage any convention committee P.I. committee chairperson to contact the WSO for further information about conventions and P.I.

SERVICE COMMITTEE REGISTRATIONS

In the very near future, we will be sending Fellowship Reports and the Conference Agenda Report to all area service committees which have registered with the World Service Office. Hopefully, this will facilitate a more efficient dissemination of this important information.

We have been accumulating the contact information for service committees and trusted servants over the past eight months. At the present time we have information for approximately 300 area service committees. Undoubtedly, there are many service committees out there for which we have no information at all or outdated information. Please help us to help you by filling out the attached service committee registration form. This form may be used to register new committees or advise us of any changes in existing committees.

The information provided on these forms will be compiled and maintained in our computer thus being available for future mailings by the World Service Conference and World Service Office.

WORLD DIRECTORY

The time is fast approaching to think about the next printing of the World Directory. During the next few months we will be updating our World Directory listings and sending them to RSR's for examination and correction.

Please utilize the attached forms to register any meetings or update our listings as soon as possible. It is very important that we receive your help in compiling accurate and complete information for the World Directory.

H&I REPORT

During the WSC H&I quarterly meeting in Minneapolis, several regions brought issues to the Committee which involved "open access" H&I meetings. The term "open" was being used to indicate that anyone could walk in and attend these meetings. Often, they are listed in local meeting schedules, although they are labeled "H&I."

Some regions reported problems with those in the facility using the "open" meeting to meet friends who were still using. On occasion, drugs were passed to those in the facility. When these incidents were discovered by the staff, the

meetings were shut down. These seemed to be situations which clearly were harmful to Narcotics Anonymous. Even though the individuals involved were not members of N.A., since the incidents occurred during an N.A. meeting, the Fellowship suffered.

Other regions expressed concern about "open" meetings being heavily attended by recent alums of the facility. Frequently, this resulted in a message being carried which was different than the message of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous.

The WSC H&I Committee felt that perhaps we needed to make an effort to educate the Fellowship about what an H&I meeting is. "An H&I meeting is a special or introductory meeting brought into facilities where addicts cannot attend regular N.A. meetings or where other restrictions apply." H&I meetings may use a topic discussion format, but are more commonly speaker or panel discussion meetings. Most H&I committees have clean time guidelines for those who participate in these meetings and utilize members who have a message of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. The H&I panel chairs try to maintain an atmosphere of recovery at meetings and this becomes very difficult to achieve if there is open access to the meetings.

We need to remember that H&I meetings are also special or introductory because most of those in the facility are in early recovery. For this reason H&I panels will generally select a topic or direct their remarks toward the newcomer.

Of course, the primary purpose of H&I meetings is the same as that of any other meetings--to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Many people now recovering in N.A. also share that the H&I meetings they attended in early recovery helped them gain an understanding of what our Fellowship is and is not. It is important that we make it clear that N.A. is not a small group, not pop psychology and not the newest thing in self-help, but a spiritual program of recovery from addiction. The WSC H&I Guidelines suggest a question and answer period at the end of a meeting no matter which format is selected. By using this period, we can answer some basic questions about Narcotics Anonymous. If we do not take time to explain our program to the addicts in these facilities, then others will explain it for us. Our experience shows that our program is best explained by our members. We need to have people in attendance at H&I meetings with experience living in recovery to best carry out this task.

The "open access" H&I meeting seems to be inviting trouble from two sides. It places the reputation of Narcotics Anonymous in jeopardy and perhaps inhibits our efforts in fulfilling our responsibilities to the newcomer. After much discussion, the WSC H&I Committee voted unanimously that we would not recognize or condone these "open access" H&I meetings.

When the committee met in Charlotte, North Carolina for our October quarterly meeting, the

issue of "open access" H&I meetings was brought up again. Various regions came back to the Committee with objections and exceptions to our earlier decision. We listened to a lot of discussion about why this format was needed. People told us that they didn't have enough involved members to provide panels and/or speakers for these meetings. We heard about problems securing other places to hold meetings which would be open to the Fellowship. Members talked about the popularity of these meetings in some areas. We understand that it is difficult to address unpopular issues. As addicts, we do not like to be inconvenienced, we do not like to do things which require effort, and we do not like change. We also understand that these are the kinds of things it is necessary to do in order to recover.

As a Committee, we reaffirmed our earlier position and felt that there were principles involved in this issue that could not be compromised. Compromising, when it seemingly would make things easier, is not how principles operate. We decided that we could not make exceptions for the sake of expediency and we would stand behind the consensus of the WSC H&I Committee and the WSC H&I Guidelines as approved.

We suggest that any problems resulting from the existence of "open access" H&I meetings be dealt with through the service structure of Narcotics Anonymous; first on an area level, then on a regional level if solutions are not found. The WSC H&I Committee is here to offer guidance and experience on this or any other issue involving H&I work in Narcotics Anonymous.

MONTREAL, CANADA CONVENTION

OCTOBER 10-12, 1986

The Second Bilingual Convention was held on October 10 through 12, 1986. The attendance of 661 members was more than double the attendance at last year's First Bilingual Convention. Over 200 members came from outside Quebec, mostly from the States, a few from Ontario, and two from France.

Simultaneous translation (translation channeled through headphones to permit listening in one's own language) was used with the main speakers to provide everyone with the opportunity to hear about recovery outside of Quebec. There were three American speakers, one speaker from Montreal and one from Paris. We had hoped the process would generate a lot more interest than it actually did, but those who took part in it found it a most valuable experience. It gave French members the chance to hear long-term recovery and for Americans to listen to French recovery, if they so wished. There also were other meetings going on at the same time in different rooms: an English room and a French room. Apparently, the majority

of members were more comfortable listening to someone in their own language.

A workshop on how to get a region together was held, where we heard the experience of four members who had been involved in the beginnings of their respective regions. The regional committee was elected, and we hope that we will be able to grow by taking advantage of the experience shared with us at the Convention. We now have an "official" region: the Quebec Region.

A literature/translation meeting was also held, with members from the French and Quebec N.A. communities, and two members from the World Service Office Board of Directors. We shared together on what was going on with the translation of the N.A. literature into French. The French N.A. communities (France and Quebec) were very happy to be able to say that they felt confident about being able to produce a French translation that will be acceptable to both sides of the Atlantic. The first result of this combined effort has been given to the World Service Office Translation Coordinator through the International Committee and we await the Office response on our work.

All in all, the Convention was a great success. The local N.A. members were, at times, overwhelmed by the boisterous attitude of their American neighbors. Despite the cultural differences, there was an overall feeling of unity. We were all quite happy with so much support from outside of Canada. Many Americans also shared with us that they felt a lot of warmth and love at our Convention, as well as feeling very welcome.

The most important affect on the local N.A. community of such a large support from outside Quebec is that it made them aware of a greater N.A. expanse. It made them see that they were not alone.

WORLD SERVICES UPDATE

The Joint Administrative Committee will be meeting at the WSO, the week end of January 10, 1987, to compile the Conference Agenda Report which contains the issues to be presented at the annual meeting of the World Service Conference. *** The WSO has just received its first shipment of the Basic Text Third Edition Revised. This edition contains the changes the WSC approved for the Little White Booklet and reflects those changes in the appropriate passages. *** The process for approving tapes for resale through the WSO is progressing smoothly. The Tape Review Committee, made up of 24 N.A. members, has been reviewing tapes submitted from the Fellowship. Tapes are given to one of three advisory committees and if approved, sent on to a fourth group for final approval. The committees are in contact monthly through conference calls to discuss the proposed tapes and have been working on guidelines for the review process. If you would like to submit a tape

for the review process please send it to Tape Review Committee, c/o Trinka Castro, at the WSO.

*** Members of WCCNA have been very busy these past few months with improving our Convention Guidelines. These recommendations will appear in the Conference Agenda Report. They have also been working very closely with the host committee planning WCNA-17 in New Orleans.

*** During the month of October our International N.A. communities were busy hosting a number of conventions around the world. A report on the Montreal Convention appears elsewhere in this *Newsline* but there were also N.A. conventions held in Germany, Ireland, and Australia. From what we have heard here at the WSO, they were all quite successful. *** From the International Department at the Office: our correspondence regularly contains information on new groups starting around the globe. Lately new registrations have come from our South American neighbors, Mexico, India, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, Africa, the West Indies, and Western Canada. Two new area service committees have been formed in Columbia and the Bahamas.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Several projects discussed by the International Committee in Charlotte included an international literature workshop, an orientation meeting before the Conference involving international N.A. representatives, a survey for the International communities asking for their impressions about the WSC International Committee, and a quarterly meeting outside the U.S.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee will present to the Conference a new purpose and function adopted by the Committee in Charlotte. One of the new aspects of their function is to make recommendations (based on submitted information) to the WSC regarding new regions and their application to become voting members of the Conference. They also adopted guidelines naming the voting members of the Policy Committee.

Also being presented to WSC '87 will be three processes for the adoption of service-oriented materials such as handbooks, audio-visual tools, and specific P.I. tools for immediate use.

SELECT COMMITTEE

Meetings have been scheduled for November, December and February. The Committee projects a completion date of March, 1987, for the new service manual which will be sent out in April, 1986, for approval at WSC '88. There is a tremendous amount of work to be accomplished but the committee is making substantial progress

and looks forward to meeting the prescribed deadlines.

COMING EVENTS

This space has been reserved for coming events anywhere in N.A. If you wish to list an event, send us a flier or note at least two months in advance. Include title, location, dates, contacts.

CALIFORNIA: Mar 27-29, 1987; 9th NCCNA; Marriott Hotel, Burlingame, CA; 9th NCCNA, Box 6323, San Mateo, CA 94403;

CANADA: Apr 10-12 1987; 1st Annl Ontario Reg Conf; Windsor NA, Box 175, 2890 Dougall Ave, Windsor, Ontario N9E 1R9; (519) Bob 977-1743; John 255-7318

2) Nov 22; 1st Annl Roundup; Edmonton Area, P.O. Box 1213, Edmonton, Alberta 75J 2M4; Neil (403) 465-5424

CONNECTICUT: Jan 2-4 1987; 2nd Ct.RCNA; Box 124, Clinton, CT 06413; Trumbull Marriott, Trumbull, CT; Brian B. (203) 669-8083

FLORIDA: Nov 13-16; Serenity By The Sea; Colonnades Hotel, Singer Island, WPB, FL; Recovery 5, Box 164, Delray Bch, FL; (305) Ray 734-2601; Joe 499-2354

HAWAII: Jan 9-11, 1987; 3rd Annl Gathering of the Fellowship; P.O. Box 23436, Honolulu, HI, 96813; Claudia (808) 235-0819; Mark 373-9774

INDIANA: Nov 15 at 5:30 pm; 1st Indiana Reg Fundraiser; UAW Hall Local 1166 on US 31 North, Kokomo, IN; Kenny F. (317) 453-2321

LOUISIANA: Nov 7-9; Second Chance Group 4th Campout; Burns Point State Park, So of Centerville LA; (318) Howard 386-5161; Fred 828-5888

MARYLAND: Feb 27-Mar 1, 1987; 1st Annl Ches/Pot Reg Conv; PO Box 374, Pasadena, MD 21122; (301) Len 787-1273; Mike 437-6055

MICHIGAN: Jul 3-5 1987; Freedom III RCNA of MI; Interested Speakers should submit tapes A.S.A.P. for review to Program Committee, P.O. Box 770, Flint, MI 48501

NEBRASKA: Dec 31; 3rd Annl New Years Eve Party; OACA Bingo Hall, 1/2 block So. of 40th & Dodge, Omaha, NB; Al (402) 345-2012

NORTH CAROLINA: Jan 1-4 1987; Asheville's 2nd Area Conv; Mike R., 32 Starmount, Asheville, NC 28806; (704) 252-8812

NORTH DAKOTA: Nov 15-16: Meet your N.Abor days; 1st & 3rd St W Dickinson; Mike: 701-225-4392

OKLAHOMA: Nov 21-23; 2nd Annl Fall Retreat; Camp Takatoka on Fort Gibson Lake, Choteau, OK; EASC, c/o CSO, 4611 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74105; Leo 747-4556; Mike 747-6442

PENNSYLVANIA: Mar 27-29, 1987; 5th GPRCNA; Dunfey Hotel, Philadelphia; GPRCNA, PO Box 42628, Philadelphia PA 19101-2628; (215) Steve S. 925-7766; Marge 534-2887

SOUTH CAROLINA: Nov 7-9; Serenity Festival IV; Myrtle Beach, SC; David Pressley, PO Box 91, Columbia, SC 29202; Stan (803) 781-2841

TENNESSEE: Nov 26-30; 4th Regional Conv.; Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fourth & Union, Nashville, TN; PO Box 121961, Nashville, TN 37212; Charlie (615) 868-3150

TEXAS: Mar 27-29, 1987; LSRCNA II; LSRCNA II Pro Subcom, PO Box 300794, Houston, TX 77230-0794; (713) Gino 697-4045; Mack 870-9048

WORLD DIRECTORY UPDATE FORM

O = OLD MEETING
N = NEW MEETING

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES FOR OUR MEETING

State	City	Day/Time	Type	Address
O _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
N _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
O _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
N _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

PLEASE DELETE THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

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PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

State	City	Day/Time	Type	Address
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Contact Person _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

Please include a contact person for each new meeting. Use reverse side of this form for additional information if necessary.

HOTLINE CHANGES _____

Please mail this form to:
WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.
P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE COMMITTEE REGISTRATION FORM

[] REGION [] AREA DATE _____

COMMITTEE IS IN WHAT AREA AND/OR REGION: _____

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (P.O. BOX) OF COMMITTEE:

Committee Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Area/Regional Phonenumber _____

OFFICERS OF COMMITTEE FOR CONTACT PURPOSES

SERVICE REP. (RSR or ASR)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____ Phone _____
Country _____

SERVICE REP. ALT (RSR or ASR)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____ Phone _____
Country _____

CHAIRPERSON

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____ Phone _____
Country _____

SECRETARY

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____ Phone _____
Country _____

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

LITERATURE

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____ Phone _____
Country _____

H&I

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____ Phone _____
Country _____

P.I.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____ Phone _____
Country _____

OTHER

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____ Phone _____
Country _____

If your service committee has any specific needs, problems, or questions, use the reverse side of this form to communicate them. Thank you.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

*c/o Group Services
P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409*