

To: The Fellowship
From: Jack Bernstein, Chairperson
Board of Trustees

At the World Service Conference last year, the Board of Trustees presented the Fellowship with our opinions on five recurring issues. These articles included: Our Relationship to Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous, Open and Closed Meetings, N.A. Language, Methadone Users in N.A. Meetings, and Special Interest Meetings in N.A.

The articles were presented to the Fellowship for consideration and further input. Additionally, the possibility of voting and Conference approval at the World Service Conference 1987 was considered.

Over the next seven months, input was received and read by each member of the Board. Ad-hoc committees were appointed to study each subject with the purpose of evaluating the input and finalizing their respective statements. This process allowed for each trustee to maintain familiarity with all Fellowship input while at the same time permitting an approach which utilized division of labor and time for each subject.

At our regular meeting in November, the ad-hoc committees gave thorough reports on their projects. During the course of these discussions, we became aware of the need and responsibility to focus upon the most beneficial manner in which to present our work to the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship. Part of our discussions addressed the pros and cons of asking the World Service Conference to vote on or adopt our positions, thus creating "policy."

After long and thorough consideration, the Board of Trustees decided not to present these issues for voting purposes at this time. To do so might lead the World Service Conference or the Fellowship into a "policing" or enforcement role. The purpose of undertaking this work has always been to provide the best possible guidance, philosophy, and concepts to Narcotics Anonymous members. Our own individual thinking has changed with growth and experience, and may undergo further change as time goes on. It is our hope that the Fellowship will accept these concepts to be utilized in service and recovery. However, we feel it would not be in the best interest of the Fellowship to adopt this work, nor any modified version, as some type of "official policy."

Our Fellowship has always relied upon a non-governing type of leadership. The Board of Trustees has been asked to provide guidance based upon experience and knowledge, and we continue to do so. We have faith in group conscience, unity, and our common welfare as foundations for Fellowship action guided by the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

We believe that this material is important and that the single most effective vehicle for presentation to the Fellowship is in the Fellowship Report. This method allows for distribution to all registered area service committees, regional service committees, and World Service Conference participants. There were other alternatives which were explored, all of which seemed less efficient. In the January Fellowship Report, we included two articles which had arisen from our ongoing discussions and had reached a stage of completion. The remaining articles from WSC 1986 are still being revised and will be published upon completion.

In the future there will undoubtedly be more issues which the Board of Trustees will address. Looking ahead, we are planning to explore other alternatives for making this information available to the Fellowship. As our discussions progress, we will keep the Fellowship informed of the possibilities and advantages of each one.

The following motion will be presented to the 1987 World Service Conference.

47. On page 23, section III, subsection C, item 2 of the *Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure*, strike "majority" and replace with "2/3 majority."

The revised sentence would then read; "Nomination and election by separate election for each trustee position by a 2/3 majority vote of the World Service Conference."

Intent: The intent of this motion is to ensure a broader and stronger base of support for members of the Board of Trustees when they are elected at the World Service Conference. Members of the Board of Trustees are called upon to help and advise the Fellowship on a regular basis, and with increasing frequency. It is our opinion that any member of the Fellowship who is nominated for election to this position should receive more than a simple majority vote. Also, since the number of Conference participants has increased steadily over the past several years, it seems judicious and reasonable to seek more than a simple majority vote for electing trustees.