

We will now spend much of our time before our next meeting in March revising Chapters 1-5 of the Guide to Service. We also plan to finish our work on the proposal for future international development prior to that meeting, which will be attended by members from overseas.

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To: The Fellowship

From: Bob Rehmar, Chairperson
Board of Trustees

In the last *Fellowship Report* the Board of Trustees announced the implementation of our internal committee system. At our November meeting we again utilized this system and found it to be a very productive way of handling our business. It is our intention to continue our committee system and report to the WSC its value and usefulness in serving the needs of the fellowship.

At both our August and November meetings we had the opportunity to review the work of each WSC Committee, and then in November to go over the material which will be included in the Conference Agenda Report. This has required a combined effort from the Trustee Committees, WSO staff, and all Board of Trustee members. As a result of our review, a memorandum has been sent to each WSC Committee offering additional ideas or specific recommendations we believe are necessary to their proposals for the Conference Agenda Report. In these instances, the concerns we expressed were simply recognition that certain proposed items need to be improved or developed further. These recommendations are not meant to undermine the work of our WSC committees but are intended to support the process and to insure that only the highest quality material will be presented for approval.

We hope that these ideas and recommendations will be considered thoroughly but we recognize that this is a new procedure and will take time to operate smoothly. We have already realized the obvious scheduling conflict this presents in relation to the meetings of the WSC committees. When we met in November, the WSC committees had completed their work the week before. Since the work was not in final form prior to that meeting, the Trustees did not have the opportunity to meet, review the proposals and then advise the committee of their recommendations. We are now in a very awkward position: having recommendations to the work of the WSC committees but not having the opportunity to present them appropriately to the full committees. Although we have advised the leadership of each committee of our concerns, the members of each committee do not have the opportunity to consider them and decide any modifications or reconsideration. Then there is the other side of the question where we would simply stand aside while the fellowship is asked to take action on proposals that we believe deserve further consideration.

We are certainly not unfamiliar with being in this position. Last year, however, we had to wait until March to publish our concerns about a motion being proposed by a WSC committee and already well into discussion around the fellowship. We have been given a formidable responsibility: to serve the best interests of the fellowship, to maintain our Twelve Traditions, and to deal with those things which may affect the continuation and growth of N.A.. But implementing this responsibility is often misunderstood as interference or meddling. That is certainly not our intention, but until we resolve the scheduling conflicts and clarify the role of trustees and their committees, we will continue to experience this dilemma.

There is also the matter of having individual trustees serve on each WSC committee, conceptually, for this same purpose. However, our experience has shown that when individual trustees participate on the WSC committees, they have a tendency to become more of a committee member rather than serving as a trustee to the committee. During our next Board of Trustees meeting we will be working to improve the interrelationship of the trustee committees with the WSC, and examining how changes in our role will better serve the fellowship.

During the 1988 World Service Conference, the Board of Trustees was directed to work on a project "to define addiction as it relates to N.A., as drug addiction, and whether or not "drugs" includes: caffeine, nicotine, sugar, etc." We have worked on this project and hope to have a finalized draft of our findings available to distribute to the participants at the 1989 Conference.

The Board of Trustees will also be placing several proposals in the Conference Agenda Report for consideration at WSC'89. These proposals concern the general policies of the Board, including a plan for financing trustee activities. Another of these proposals will specifically ask the Conference to adopt a plan to bring the Board to its full complement of members and to stagger the terms. It has become very evident to all of us this year, that the number of Trustees needs to be increased to accomplish our work and that we should insure that there is always an adequate number of experienced members serving at all times. All of our proposals will be finalized pursuant to a conference call scheduled for mid-December.

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To: The Fellowship

From: Donna Markus, Chairperson
WSO Board of Directors

Inasmuch as this will be getting to you in January, I send you Seasoned Greetings - I hope your holidays were full of love and warmth, and that the coming year is one of good health, contentment, and growth for us all.

Although we have been quite busy at the WSO, I don't have much that is new to report; for the most part I would like to bring you up to date in several areas.

For those who may not have received a copy of the most recent *Newsline*, a building became available immediately adjacent to our existing facilities. We entered into a lease, and accordingly, will not be moving (elsewhere) as had been indicated in recent reports.

The effort to open the European branch office of WSO has been moving along, but slowly. Jim W., the member selected to initiate this office, has been in London for about two months and is working on finding an office location. Many members of the fellowship in London have been helpful in this effort. Communications have already begun with members in other countries. We are hopeful that the office will be in full operation by spring time.

In previous reports and articles, we have discussed the unrestricted production of merchandise using the N.A. logo, by private vendors for personal profit. It has been our conclusion that if this practice should continue, it would seriously undermine the legal protection carried by the fellowship, through the WSO, for its copyrighted properties.

We have discussed this issue at our board meetings for some time and examined various alternatives we could recommend that the fellowship take action on. These have included: 1) to convince our members to voluntarily refrain from