

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS  
WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting: December 14, 1977

Chairman: Greg P.

Attendance: Chuck S., Bob B., Sylvia M., Jimmy K., Jack W., Greg P. (absent:  
Cliff K., Carl B., Bill B., Gloria C., Dennis Mc., Mal H.)

The minutes of the last meeting were read and a question was raised as to why officer elections were held so late in the year and why the officers would only serve until February. The elections were held so late because of poor attendance at the previous Trustee meetings and the short term was so we could make a fresh start in 1978. The minutes were accepted with this explanation.

The following reports or information were presented:

1. WSO report-- WSO has a cash balance of \$656.88; literature was just paid for; monthly record forms are at the printers; white books have been reordered. For the last year the average monthly income was roughly \$400-500. It was suggested that a petty cash fund of \$50 per month (or up to 10% of the income) be established to help prevent delays and to reimburse those working in the office for out-of-pocket expenses \*\*This was approved by the Board.
2. World Service Conference-- It was reported that the World Service Conference which was scheduled for 10/21/77 in San Francisco was postponed due to lack of attendance of Trustees and Delegates. A portion of a letter Greg put out was read--

"The real purpose of this letter is better communications and to let you know what happened at the World Service Conference. The WSC was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on October 21, 1977 as planned in the agenda. At that time only three trustees were in attendance (none of the Regional Delegates or other trustees had, as yet, arrived). Because of this poor showing the Conference was adjourned until 2:30 p.m. in the hope that more participants would be there at that time. When we reconvened we had gained one trustee, two Delegates and one Regional Chairman (sitting in for his absent Delegate). We opened up the Conference for discussion and the consensus was that this showing was not representative of the fellowship and that the Conference should be postponed until a later date, separate from the convention. The dates March 25 and March 26, 1978 were chosen and the World Service Office will make the arrangements."

3. Greg said he was trying to put out a letter or something each month as an attempt to keep outlying groups involved and informed about N.A. Business. A question was asked as to who received the letter. Greg answered that he had made a mailing list of 108 members and that this included registered Service Committees, anyone who had attended both conferences, and those who were in regular contact with the WSO. Out of the 108 letters sent, Greg reported that he had 12 come back undelivered.

4. Los Angeles/San Gabriel Valley Area Service Committee--A meeting was held last Monday (Dec. 5) with representatives of six groups to form a new Area Committee for the groups which didn't seem to fit into the existing Areas. Greg had been asked and did attend that meeting. Other Trustees had been in contact with some of the people involved.
5. It was reported that in contacting some people in Houston, we heard that things were moving along. They had received more than \$1,000 from San Francisco; a hotel had been booked, and that as hoped for, many addicts in the area were returning to the N.A. meetings. They have 40-50 active members getting together on the convention and at meetings.

The following items of Old Business were discussed:

1. The N.A. TREE, Ad hoc committee literature, etc. It was mentioned that people were again working on the TREE revisions. Most Trustees were already aware of this. It was felt that some kind of procedure had to be set down since the ad hoc committee had dropped the ball. Part of the minutes of the 1976 ad hoc committee meeting were read including the timetable and procedure set up at the Conference. Concern in '76 was expressed that input from Pennsylvania or Canada or wherever wouldn't get considered, and that the parts of the TREE which were good would be torn down along with those things which needed to be changed. It was felt that this review and revision of the TREE would probably turn into a long term project, maybe two years, and that the WSC should work on it after getting feedback from all over. It was suggested that we should try to encourage setting up permanent "Conference" committees for literature and other things and that it should be the responsibility of these committees to do the footwork.

The following topics were considered as New Business:

1. New guidelines for the Trustees were submitted-- there was some discussion but it was felt that these guidelines should be taken home and studied for the next meeting.
2. A Motion was made that the regular meetings of the Board should be held on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August, and November. This way people would know ahead of time of the meeting date and could make plans accordingly. This was voted on and the Motion was carried.
3. It was noted that the date arbitrarily picked for the World Service Conference was Easter weekend. It was suggested that this was a poor choice so date should be changed to the first weekend in April (1 & 2) This was voted on and accepted.
4. A suggestion was made that the agenda for the Conference and for Trustee meetings should be set up in advance so people could come prepared. Greg said that this had been done for the last Conference and that he

New Business: (cont'd)

4. would try to do the same for April. However, if the Conference wings prearranged agendas this should become part of their guidelines. It was felt that this should also be added to the guidelines for the Trustees.
5. Minutes of Trustee meetings: a motion was made that the following section of the proposed guidelines be accepted at this time:
  6. Accurate minutes of all meetings of the USS are taken and published within thirty (30) days of the meeting. A copy of these minutes is sent to:
    - a. Each Trustee
    - b. The World Service Office
    - c. Each duly registered Regional Service CommitteeThese are the only copies distributed, however, any member of the fellowship may, upon request, receive the minutes of a USS meeting from the World Service Office by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope."

This was voted on and accepted.

6. Attendance at Trustee meetings--it was suggested that Trustee meetings should be open to the fellowship. This was discussed and concern was expressed that we must remain responsive to the needs of the fellowship; if the meetings were open the attitude that the trustees were trying to run the show would diminish, that possible misunderstandings and disruption might be harmful, the very fact that our meetings are closed might be creating more problems than it prevents. It was suggested that we might open meetings up on a limited basis for regional delegates or area representatives. This was discussed. A Motion was made that "The regular quarterly meetings of the World Service Board of Trustees are open to members of the fellowship as non-participating observers" This motion was voted on and accepted.
7. A letter from Gloria G., our non-addict Trustee was read. The letter contained two suggestions:
  - a. That all Trustees should be within a distance so they can vote and participate.
  - b. Regions should have a regional advisory Trustee at that level for another area of service.

These suggestions were discussed--it was mentioned that the new guidelines contained a similar suggestion and that with regularly scheduled meetings the problem of trustee participation might be minimized. After discussing the second suggestion it was felt that the concept of Regional Committees appointing outside advisors (probably non-addict) to help their committees was an excellent one and that this idea should be written up and considered, as possible input for the N.A. TREE. It was felt that if a Region felt they needed outside help and if they could find qualified and willing persons they should certainly seek their aid.

8. The petty cash fund for the WSO previously mentioned was voted upon and accepted.

The next regular meeting of the WSB will be held on February 4, 1978 at 8:00 p.m. at Chuck Skinner's house.

The following actions should be taken prior to that meeting:

1. study the proposed guidelines.
2. encourage work on the N.A. TREE and the establishment of Conference committees at the next W.M.
3. announce the World Service Conference to be held April 1 and 2, 1978 in Los Angeles.
4. consider possible officers for 1978.

The following topics will be included in the agenda of the next meeting:

1. election of officers
2. guidelines of the WSB
3. the next WSB

1-13-78

Dear Friend,

Just a quick note to go along with these minutes. I hope all is well with you and your N.A. Groups are flourishing. There's lots going here and we need your help.

Please share these minutes and anything else you get with others in your area. Try to help get and keep members involved. Encourage them to get in contact with other members. If we all pull together great things can happen for N.A.

Please make a list of all N.A. Groups you know about and send it to W.S.O.--P.O. Box 622, Sun Valley, CA, 91352. The new World directory will be coming out soon and we want to be as complete as possible.

Please get together a list of your active members Names, Addresses, and Phone numbers if these will let us talk to or correspond with other members. We need as many contacts as possible since many of us move around alot.

Please do everything possible to get a delegate from your Region to The World Service Conference in Los Angeles, April 1st, and 2nd. Some areas are passing the hat to raise air-fair. If a delegate can make it to Los Angeles, We'll scarce up a place to stay and meals one way or another. I can't stress the importance of representation too much. Personal recovery depends on N.A. Unity.

Please feel free to contact me any-time. I get fixed hearing from other members. I'll try to answer any letters I get and at least try to send something out each month while Im Chairman of The Board of Trustees.

Yours in Fellowship

~~Greg Pierce~~  
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