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## SPECIAL REPORT BEING PREPARED

A special report is being prepared by the WSC Officers and Committee Chairpersons and will be distributed about the same time as this *Newsline* is mailed. Therefore, news about the Conference in this *Newsline* will be limited to those items that were related to the World Service Office.

## ACTION ON THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE BASIC TEXT AT WSC 1988

As one of the two most important issues on the 1988 Conference Agenda, most members are interested in what action was taken.

In the last four weeks prior to opening day of the Conference, the WSO staff was working on a word for word comparison between the Basic Text, Third Edition Revised, the manuscript that was provided to the editor, and the Fourth Edition. This was being done at the request of the Conference Literature Chairperson. The work was not completed until seven days prior to the start of the Conference.

We were stunned at what was discovered. There were a number of places where the manuscript provided to the editor, was missing parts of sentences or whole sentences. In those last few days before the Conference there was not sufficient time to inform the Fellowship at large. It was decided that the complete background to this should be presented to the Conference on the first day of business.

When the Conference got to the General Forum portion of the Monday agenda, the first item discussed was the Fourth Edition of the Text. The WSO Office Manager asked to be recognized in order to give information on subjects that the Conference needed to know. The Annual WSO Report was distributed and everyone's attention was directed to that portion of the written report which addressed the issue.

In order to give the Fellowship benefit of the same information, both the written report and a transcription (initially made at the request of the Conference) of the oral presentation given by Bob Stone are included on this and the following pages. We begin with the oral report.

*"The reason Chuck, that I have asked for this opportunity to give my report to the Conference physically, although there is only one part of the*

*report that I wish to address, is that it has a direct and a significant bearing on the issue of the fourth edition. There are two thoughts that I have to say concerning this matter. One relates specifically to the issue of the fourth edition itself and the other relates to something that I addressed in my oral presentation at last year's Conference. There is a relationship between the two and I wish to address the first one initially.*

*Last year I conveyed to you, I hope, my fears and frustrations over the reality that exists of the two sides of N.A. The two sides being them and us, whoever that happens to be in any conversation or any meeting or any region or area with the world level. It's a tragic thing when it occurs and it has occurred with such frequency and severity that it has caused all of us some pain and some suffering and some problems in our areas and our regions and certainly at the World Service Conference.*

*I am here to address that issue now from a perspective of having experienced the ultimate failure in our ability to get along and overcome this "us versus them" issue. What that issue does is blinds us, it makes us impervious to really listening to what somebody else is saying. And when we become impervious to what other people are saying we do a disservice to the Fellowship and we cause additional problems. And that is what has occurred during the last year. It has occurred over the fourth edition of the Basic Text.*

*When the Basic Text was published as the fourth edition last year as would have been expected, a number of people decided that they should, on their own, go through it word for word and compare it with the Third Edition Revised to determine what they thought about this as a different publication. This is an issue completely aside from the issue whether or not a fourth edition should have been printed and published in the way that it was. That issue I don't care to get involved in at this time. I am concerned, however, with the trail of events that took place as a result of it's immediate publication.*

*Some of those folks who did the word for word comparison were immediately disheartened, dismayed, angered, frustrated, hurt and a number of other adjectives that I could think of in time. It prompted an immediate action on their part to bring to the world's attention the problems they felt were centered in this because of it's differences. Unfortunately the we versus them syndrome entered into the discussion immediately.*



Because of how the alarm was raised and, to some degree, because of who raised the alarm, other people did not as seriously as now seems necessary and appropriate, thoroughly study everything they were saying and determine its validity.

When the issue hit the streets it became immediately an issue of confrontation between those people who were saying something was wrong with it and disagreeing with its content and those who might have had a different opinion. That blindness in my opinion now has been a contributing factor in an error that originated two years ago that I now have to address. That blindness prevented all the people who got that manuscript from the committee that sent the manuscript out. It blinded them from bringing to the attention of all the rest of us and certain key people in particular, what was specifically contained in there that had more validity than they themselves knew or recognized. And here's how that works.

What we have discovered is a result of Michael Lee's insistence that a word for word complete master list be prepared. Those discussions took place in January and February and our staff got assigned that task and began doing that. It was slow work and we did not assign sufficient resources to do that until recently. So what I am going to tell you in terms of sequence only occurred recently.

On Friday, not this last one but the Friday before, it was my tragic and unfortunate experience to learn--that our staff informed me that--there were places in the manuscript that was delivered to the editor for editing and the same manuscript that was used by the Literature Review Committee to review the work where lines of text had not appeared that were in the third edition revised.

Those lines of text, in our review of the events that took place, are relatively easy to understand what took place. And we have included the twenty-five pages on which those lines appear in the back portion of this report. We have underlined the lines that were omitted from the third edition revised as the manuscript was prepared. I cannot tell you nor find words to express my anguish over this and my fear and just general displeasure. There is no excuse, whatsoever, for this to have occurred. Unfortunately I would only tell you that, if we didn't make mistakes we probably wouldn't be human. On the other hand I can tell you that making mistakes of this type are simply not acceptable and had we become aware of them at an earlier date it might have been possible to do something else and perhaps other decisions may have occurred.

Had the alarm that was raised last October and November been raised in a way that the rest of the Fellowship had not been blinded to its content, we might have been following a different course and have entirely different discussion today. So there are two issues here. One and I am taking this one very calmly because in the last ten days since learning the completed extent of this problem I've had to go through a lot of personal growth and personal changes. Those are very hard for all of us to do and they are hard for me as well as for you. It is

important I think for you to understand these changes, excuse my language I am getting nervous. I have attempted to explain on page 48 in a very short number of paragraphs the facts of the event and I've not attempted to induce any language to this discussion other than the facts.

If I had been more diligent in supervising the proofreading it is possible that this error might not have occurred. I do not have any personal assurance that would have been a guarantee, but it has renewed our understanding of the enormity and the preciseness of our responsibility of production. We have made the corrective actions that we believe are necessary or laid the foundation for those corrective actions so this will not occur again in the future.

An example of the corrective action is to go back to how the Second Edition was produced in 1983. The book was re-typeset following the Conference in 1983 and published about four months later. When the book was typeset it was done by a company in Northern California. After the original typesetting was done a proofreading session was held at which members of the Board of Trustees, members of the Literature Committee and WSO Board of Directors participated in a word for word review of the manuscript. It was that manuscript where the majority of the errors were found although even after they finished there were still some that we corrected in the following year. But they found all the big problems, the big problems were corrected and the Second Edition was then printed.

Since that time we have not felt it essential to have that kind of a proofreading session. The tragedy of this mistake clearly pinpoints again that we must return to that formal proofreading session to involve other service arms in such major publications as the Basic Text. And that correction system alone I believe will probably be expanded to include sending copies of the draft prior to its publication to other committees or individuals on a fairly limited basis who may be interested in doing a simultaneous proofreading to assist in this process. We believe that by gaining the Fellowship's participation and assistance in this we can avoid the types of errors that this one highlights.

At the end of the report, as I indicated, there are the words that are missing, typical if you turn to, say page 252 or 238, it seems obvious that when the typist was working on page 238 their eye movement in some way was, as typists normally do, moved from one place to another and when their eye movement came back to type the sentence following the word "I cried" they missed the next part and went right on to "I got right back." It is easy to understand how that mistake occurs and the others generally are of that type. There are some that are a little different, like I said there's no justification for it and I am sincerely sorry and have an inability to express how remorseful I feel over this error. Thank you very much."

This concludes the oral report given by Bob Stone, during the general forum on the Fourth Edition of the text. The following is a reprint of



the written portion of the Office Report that is mentioned above.

### AN EXCERPT FROM WSO REPORT TO THE WSC

Every year there is a controversy concerning literature, usually the Basic Text. This year because the Office was about to publish the Fourth Edition, there was no way controversy was going to be avoided. Immediately upon its publication, the controversy began. Several comprehensive reports have already been published on this subject, so at first it may not seem necessary to include much on it in this report. However, there has been a recent turn of events that requires some detailed comments.

The most recent report by WSC Literature Chairperson Michael Lee provided an excellent history of the issue. Contained in his report was an announcement that the WSO staff was preparing a detailed item-for-item list of changes between the Third Edition Revised and the Fourth Edition. The staff began this word-for-word comparison at Michael's request in early March. The comparison included reviewing the manuscript that was sent to the Literature Review Committee for their concurrence. The project was completed only on this past Saturday, April 16, 1988.

I was horrified to learn what was found. The staff discovered that there were twenty-five separate places where language in the Third Edition Revised was not present in the manuscript used in the editing. There may have been others, but the editor or Literature Review Committee probably corrected them. There was one that was found by the Literature Review Committee and they decided on how to handle that one.

The consequence of this omission was that the final manuscript did not include those parts, as though they were intentional deletions. The Fourth Edition is therefore missing this language, by default, rather than by editor or committee choice. It may be that the editor or the committee, were they aware of the problem, might have chosen to leave the language out, but such conclusions would be pure speculation.

The problem has a simple origin. The manuscript was not adequately proofread before it was sent to the editor. For this error, there is no justifiable excuse. The truth is sometimes painful but we must always stand by the truth. No amount of explanation of the events or the circumstances, regardless of how comforting they might be to ease understanding of the mistake is going to change the facts.

In 1983 when the WSO began preparing the Second Edition for publication, the Text was sent to a typesetting company to be typeset. After the work was done, a committee including WSO Board members, Trustees and WSC Literature Committee members conducted a proofreading session to

identify corrections that were necessary. Most of the errors were found and corrections made. A few minor errors were not found, but identified by members during the year.

In 1984, the WSC decided to change the text again, resulting in the Third Edition. The changes affected only the Fourth and Ninth Tradition language and the other few corrections that had been brought to our attention.

When the Conference met in 1985, changes were made to the White Booklet and the same portions of the text. These changes were supervised by staff but the work was done by the same typesetting company used previously.

At the 1985 meeting the Conference voted to instruct the WSO to have the Text edited. This became the first time the Text was being entered into the WSO computer system as all previous work had been done by the outside company. The typing was done directly from a copy of the Third Edition Revised. As previously reported, there was a delay in selecting the editor, so the project to type the text and proofread it, proceeded at a slow pace. Unfortunately, whatever proofreading that was done at the time did not reveal the errors. So the mistake that we are now discovering actually began two and a half years ago. At the end of this report are copies of each page with the missing language underlined.

I am unable to find words that adequately express the remorse I have for my failure to properly manage this project. The Fellowship has a right to expect the Office will be accurate in the things that count the most and that corrective action will occur without delay when inaccuracies are found. The accuracy of the text is paramount.

A re-evaluation of the policies and procedures concerning proofreading during pre-production of all publications has been completed. The renewed emphasis on following procedures will provide better assurance of accuracy. This will mean that most publications will take longer to become available. However, since accuracy is essential and if delay is the price for accuracy, delay is a small price to pay.

### POST CONFERENCE WORLD LITERATURE NEWS

This will be a very brief recap of just a couple of the hottest literature items which the Conference acted on this year. More details will be available in Fellowship reports, special Conference reports and correspondence from the World Literature Committee (WLC) Chairperson, Vince Daley. Vince has already sent one letter to all area and regional literature committees providing them with the WLC 1988-89 work-plan, plus a timetable to help the committees organize their time and plan workshops.

The Conference approved the five pamphlets which were in approval form. These are *Staying*



*Clean on the Outside, Hey!, What's the Basket For?, The Group - Revised, Am I An Addict - Revised, Working Step Four in Narcotics Anonymous.* These will be available for purchase by the middle of June.

Three review-form pamphlets are now available for your review and input this year. These are Questions and Answers, For Those in Treatment and In Times of Illness. Initial, complimentary copies of review form items are sent to all Literature Committees listed with the WSO. All Area and Regional Literature Committee's are encouraged to hold workshops to review and input these items and to make them as available as possible to their members to work on. Additional copies are sold to literature committees and groups where no ASC exists and can be ordered on the Special Order Form available from WSO. Copies of these will also be available for purchase by the middle of June.

The material on the Traditions section of *It Works*, will be out for review in October 1988 for one year. This will require a significant amount of your literature committee's time and effort and should be planned for accordingly.

Last, but certainly not least, work is continuing on the Handbook for N.A. Literature Committees and input is needed for those sections up to and including page 11. Many items brought up on the Conference floor were accepted as input to the guidelines and will be considered in this year's work. The adoption of the WLC's proposed guidelines will enable the Committee to initiate many new procedures which will be described as they are formalized.

The Fourth Edition of N.A.'s Basic Text was the focus of much attention, both before and during the WSC annual meeting. Shortly after its release last fall, some members commented on what they believed to be significant changes in the way the book read to them. Part of that was due to the fact that it had been edited for grammar (in accordance with a 1985 WSC motion).

Part, however, was due to a series of clerical errors made in preparing the manuscript used by the editor. In a number of places, the typist had accidentally dropped whole lines from the text. These gaps went undetected by the WSO, the editor and the WSC Literature Committee. In fact, they were discovered only days before the annual meeting began during the WSO's preparation of a master list of changes.

The conference addressed the problem by approving a proposal to restore the omissions as well as three intentional deletions and one additional error that occurred between the Third and Third Revised which was carried over to the Fourth. The WSO staff will complete the comparison of the 3rd Revised and Fourth to identify all typographical omissions. Then, an ad hoc committee, to be assigned by the 1987-88 World Literature Chairperson, will oversee the correct re-insertion of those omissions and deletions. This ad

hoc committee will also be responsible for reporting to the Fellowship its final findings and produce a list of all re-insertions which will be available upon request to any member. The WSO will print the corrected version within four months of the Conference and it will be known as the Fifth Edition of the Basic Text. While the restoration is underway, the WSO was authorized to continue selling the Fourth Edition. In addition, the conference approved a moratorium on changes in the Basic Text, insuring that the Fifth Edition would not be modified for at least five years.

## REPORT FROM WLC CHAIRPERSON

The bottom line on the action taken by WSC '88 is that we will be seeing a Fifth Edition of our Basic Text sometime this year. Many options, solutions and alternatives were produced, discussed and soundly defeated. There was common ground that the Conference overwhelmingly agreed upon and so we will be seeing a Fifth Edition. This *Newsline* contains the basic information on what difference there will be between the Fourth Edition and the Fifth Edition. More detailed reports will be out later.

This article is about the Conference's decision "that the Basic Text, Fifth Edition is not eligible for revision for (5) five years from this Conference."

Since our Basic Text was approved at WSC '82, every year the World Literature Committee has received considerable input suggesting changes and revisions to our book. The fact that we'll soon have our Fifth Edition (and sixth book) in six years is testimony enough to all the meddling that has gone on. This has taken up a considerable amount of time, energy and Fellowship finances, not to mention the various controversies, strife and changes many have experienced. This decision basically says, however perfect or imperfect our book is, it's time to leave it alone for awhile. It is our intention to follow the instruction of the Conference and close the door.

From this point forward, all input the World Literature Committee receives on our Basic Text will be placed on a Master List that will be available for the Fellowship's use if the Fellowship decides to revise the Basic Text at some future date.

Certainly this is good news for our non-English speaking members who are laboring to translate our Basic Text into their languages. One of their needs is a stable book.

I realize that some members will not be willing to accept the decision of the World Service Conference. Yet once again we have the opportunity to practice surrender, acceptance and letting go. I witnessed our RSR's and other Conference participants do just that, on this very difficult decision. I believe they acted on what they believed would be best for our common welfare and Fellowship unity.



## EXHIBIT DISPLAYS

In recent years, public information sub-committees have become increasingly active at health fairs, conferences for professionals, and other similar events. Experience has shown and continues to show that exhibit booths and literature tables, as well as open N.A. meetings and other P.I. presentations at these kinds of events are a productive and enjoyable form of P.I. work.

In order to facilitate this type of P.I., several regions and areas are purchasing their own displays. Working together with the World Service Office, these regions are submitting bids as a group to several companies which sell display products. We are now preparing to send out letters, and would like to hear from any area or region who would also like to purchase a display.

Please contact the P.I. Department at the World Service Office, as soon as possible, if your region or area is interested in obtaining an exhibit display.

## CONVENTION INFORMATION W.C.N.A.-18

Here is the latest update for W.C.N.A.-18.

Flyers were sent out to all the regions and with the last issue of the *Newsline*. Because of the limited quantity of flyers available, feel free to make copies and pass them along to the groups in your area. Additional flyers will be sent out within the next three weeks.

The phone number in the flyer is for informational purposes only. Hotel reservations can now be made by phone. The number to the Anaheim Hilton is 1-714-750-4321. All hotel reservations should be made by sending in the hotel registration form. Please pass this information on to other members. When the Anaheim Hilton is full, all reservations will be forwarded to the Anaheim Marriott that is located directly across the street. The room rate at the Marriott will be \$63.00 single/double. If you try to get a room at the Hilton and are unable to do so, then try the Marriott at 1-714-750-8000. Just as in New Orleans, a sizeable portion of the convention program will take place in the Marriott.

The banquet, main speaker meetings, and the Sunday morning breakfast will be held in the same room at the Anaheim Convention Center. There are still tickets available.

The cut-off date for the bus tour is July 17, 1988. The dates of the tour will be Wednesday, August 31, 1988 and Thursday, September 1, 1988. This information will be important when making travel arrangements, so please help by passing it along.

The host committee would like the Fellowship to help make this a great World Convention. In the spirit of unity and fellowship we invite members

from around the Fellowship to participate by leading/chairing a main meeting (two years clean), or as a reader (one year clean), or by leading/chairing a marathon meeting (one year clean). If you are interested please write to the WSO address c/o W.C.N.A.-18 Attn: Program Committee. Include your name, clean time, the time that you would be available, and the name of your region.

The Hotels and Hospitality Sub-Committee also has time slots available for the hospitality room. If you are interested write to the WSO address c/o W.C.N.A.-18 Attn: Hotel and Hospitality Sub-Committee. Please include the information mentioned earlier. Early registration would be greatly appreciated. This will help keep the lines to a minimum.

The Entertainment Committee has been working very hard to finalize the activities for the convention. The Oldies Show is coming into shape and the entertainers planned are the Coasters and the Shirelles. They will hopefully bring back some fond memories. The committee is also actively working on getting quality comedians for the Comedy Show from some of the local comedy clubs. These activities should prove to be very entertaining. The tickets for these events are selling very well.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

## NEW ASSIGNMENTS AT WSO

In order to improve our efforts to serve the worldwide Fellowship and help curb our expenses, we are currently in the process of rearranging our staff. We expect these changes to have very little effect on the overall services the WSO currently provides but as with most changes, the kinks will have to be worked out in time. Most of these changes will not involve our managerial staff, project coordinators and such, but allow us to better utilize the skills and talents of our clerical staff members.

There are, however, some changes with our project coordinators that we should mention. Ginni Swanson who, for almost four years, served as a project coordinator in several different departments, has resigned to seek other employment. Ginni had most recently served in the production and translations department at the WSO. We are also searching for a replacement for Danette Creel, our project coordinator for Literature, who will be moving on in late summer. Danette has been with us since late 1983 and has served in practically every department at the Office. Their departures are deeply felt by all of us at World Services, and their experience and dedication will be sorely missed. We wish them both well in their future endeavors.

There is always some reorganization of staff within the Office that takes place after the annual meeting of the WSC. This year, however, has made these changes even more important. The growing



financial needs of our Fellowship challenges each service committee and board, to provide better, more effective service, especially when facing dwindling financial resources and an increasing workload. It is no different at the WSO. The utilization of Fellowship money needs to be continuously scrutinized and evaluated at all levels of service, to insure its proper use. The utilization of N.A. funds needs to be a concern worldwide. Having experienced our share of mistakes this past year at the WSO, we are acutely aware of the necessity for better procedures and planning methods. The trust and confidence that the Fellowship places in us cannot be taken lightly and it has always been our goal to show that we are worthy of that trust.

This new year gives us the opportunity to commit the WSO to improving all our services. In light of that commitment we pledge our resources to providing more effective, more efficient, and more productive services to all our members and groups around the world. If we all work together everyone wins and the addicts who still suffer may find themselves closer to our doors.

## REVISION OF PUBLICATIONS

The Office is currently preparing the revisions of handbook publications for the *Temporary Working Guide*, the *Literature Committee Guidelines* and *Convention Guidelines*. It is anticipated that these items will be available for sale by the end of June.

Many members and some committees have requested that a larger format be used for these publications. When the small format was chosen, in 1984, it was selected in part, because of the economy of using small page size and the fact the bulk of the material on small page size would be convenient. Because of the continued expansion of these documents, the small size has become an inconvenience. Consequently, the new printings of these publications will be on a 8 1/2" x 11" page size format and three hole punched for convenient use in binders. This will be accomplished with all handbook publications during the coming year.

The Conference adopted the WSO recommendation to authorize publication of an excerpt of the Treasurer's Handbook for use by groups. A draft of the excerpt was included in the Conference Agenda report. Since the bulk of the work necessary to prepare this for printing was already completed, the item is currently at the printer and will be available almost immediately.

Copies may be ordered by using catalog number 535. The cost is \$1.50. Groups may want to purchase their own copies. Another idea is that Area Committees may want to purchase large quantities and give copies to each Group. In this way each group might be assured that it has the appropriate information and forms about group financial record keeping.

## CONFERENCE MINUTES AND FELLOWSHIP REPORTS

The Minutes of the Conference will be completed and available for purchase in June. A draft of the Minutes has been sent to Conference Committee Chairpersons for their review and corrections. Pending receipt of their input and the necessary corrections, the completed Minutes are expected to be available by the beginning of July. The Minutes will include the reports of new Committee Chairpersons made on Friday and the Conference budget.

The budget included will be the revised spending plan generated by the Joint Administrative committee. The Conference instructed the J.A.C. to finalize the budget around a maximum spending plan of \$210,000. The J.A.C., at their meeting in late May, actually adopted two spending plans. Based on discussion that donations might not reach the \$210,00 level, the J.A.C. developed another budget based on last years donations of \$180,000. This lower spending plan will initially determine all WSC budgeted expenditures. Further adjustments to the higher level spending plan will be made in proportion to the level of donations received from the Fellowship.

Cost for the Minute Package will be \$5.00. You may order the Minutes using any WSO order form by requesting *1988 WSC Minutes*.

An important aspect of Fellowship wide discussions is the availability of information to members, groups and within area committees. The Conference has concluded that a stronger effort was desirable in order to more fully provide information. This was accomplished by adoption of a motion to have the *WSO make the Fellowship Report available for sale to any member of N.A. by subscription*. There are two ways this can be accomplished, and it seems desirable to utilize both.

The first is a literal implementation of the motion as adopted, which is to offer subscriptions to individual members on a yearly basis for receipt of each Fellowship Report. Unfortunately every subscription type publication has costs that are larger than simply printing and mailing the publication. That hidden cost is the manpower required to maintain the subscription data for each subscriber.

This manpower cost tends to increase the cost of each subscription to a much higher cost than members think is fair. Although the price may seem unfair it will be set so as to include the estimated manpower cost.

The second way to accomplish the same goal is to consolidate subscriptions through area committees. There is a level of cost efficiency in maintaining the subscription list if the bulk of subscriptions are handled through area committees. Here is how the system works. There are approximately 475 area service committees. These



committees serve the majority of the groups within the Fellowship (about 95 percent). Most ASC's have monthly meetings at which a majority of the groups are represented.

It is more cost efficient to have ASC's subscribe for bulk orders of the Fellowship Reports than to handle large numbers of individual subscriptions. In order to take advantage of this factor, the pricing of the subscriptions will be weighted in favor of bulk subscriptions.

Any individual may purchase single subscriptions of the Fellowship Reports for an annual cost of \$15.00. Any individual or area committee can purchase a bulk subscription for \$55.00 and receive thirty (30) copies of the Fellowship Reports. However, bulk subscriptions will all be sent to one address.

When ordering one or the other subscriptions use the following catalog numbers:

Single copy subscriptions for \$15.00 use item number: 543.

Bulk subscriptions for \$55.00 use item number: 551.

Fellowship reports will still be distributed to each WSC participant, as well as one copy to each RSR, free of charge.

## PHONELINE DIRECTORY

The Conference approved a motion to authorize WSO to publish a directory of N.A. phonelines. This has been discussed extensively during recent years in the *Newsline* and Fellowship Reports. A draft of the directory has been in the works for about a year.

During that time the information has been updated as new numbers were added or old ones disconnected. The current draft was sent to ASC's and RSC's during March, reprinted with corrections and distributed at the Conference. With new changes made after the Conference, there is reasonable confidence that it is as accurate as it can possibly be at this time.

The directory, with the information we currently have, will be printed during early June and will probably be available in late June. Your cooperation will be essential to keep the information updated as changes are made. The cost for the directory will be \$1.75. Use catalog number 527 when ordering.

### FROM BOB STONE

Much has been written in recent years about regions and areas forming corporations for offices and/or conventions. Our March workshop, in Tulsa, on these subjects highlighted the need to approach such action with caution and tremendous study. We have found that several (the number is growing with further investigation) such efforts have not properly complied with appropriate state or federal laws. The difficulties arise from a lack of knowledge of the proper laws and requirements

and from a lack of diligence in learning what is needed.

The penalties for non-compliance include: controversy within the Fellowship, loss of tax exempt status, additional financial expense for legal and accounting professionals to correct the situation, greater scrutiny by state and federal agencies, as well as financial penalties and interest. All of these additional expenditures can and should be avoided by properly doing what is required when it is required.

On more than one occasion a corporation was formed and subsequently dissolved without proper notice being provided of the dissolution. Each of these situations has to be corrected. We must avoid these problems in the future.

In a related matter it seems appropriate, again, to stress the significance of everyone in a region communicating and working together on formation of additional offices or corporations. In several instances, additional offices or corporations were formed in a region without benefit of enough open discussion. An office requires funds for operations. Although much of this can be generated through volume literature sales, there simply is not enough money from literature sales in most regions to support additional offices.

This means additional funds are required in order to pay the bills. This draws money from other service needs which then suffer.

The loss of money in relationship to Fellowship activities is further highlighted by several recent conventions. Four conventions so far this year have lost sizable sums of money. Although we have not received exact financial reports from the regions involved, the amount is in excess of \$50,000.00. From the information we have received, these conventions over-estimated the number of attendees or the number of dinner tickets that would be sold or signed contracts that gave hotels or vendors an upper hand financially.

Most of these problems can be overcome through experience and good planning. The convention workshop held in March provided valuable information on how to avoid some of these situations.

Because of the need for further exchange of information, a second workshop for conventions and offices will be held in October of this year. The date and place will not be set for another month. But because of the importance to offices, and conventions, regions and areas that are planning for one or the other should decide soon to have people at the workshop.

Perhaps the single most obvious element of convention planning and recent convention income shortages is the number of people who attend the convention but do not contribute financially by paying the registration fee. This was aptly demonstrated at the last World Convention. There were over 4,500 people who attended the convention in New Orleans, but only 3,873



registered. Registration was only \$20.00 per person, but the cumulative affect was that the Convention did not have benefit of the \$12,540 that those registrations were worth.

In other conventions the situation is similar. At a recent regional convention approximately 3,500 people registered but there were over 4,500 people present. Their registration fee was \$10. The people who attended but did not register would have contributed an additional \$10,000 to convention revenue. Unfortunately, the convention lost over \$10,000, due to the lack of revenue and other substantial expenses.

Conventions are put on for N.A. members or guests as a celebration of recovery. An important aspect of that recovery should be accepting responsibility for ourselves. Attending a convention without contributing our share to cover convention expenses is expecting and getting a free ride. An attitude most members shared during their using.

Conventions cannot be put on without expending money in advance and at the time of the convention. The convention committee has the responsibility to pay for flyers, registration forms, postage, convention space, coffee, speakers and a large number of other important items. The income that is necessary in order to be able to pay for all of these things comes from the mix of the income producing aspects of the convention. Generally they include a registration fee, a slight income from the cost of a dinner, brunch or other activity, a dance entrance fee and merchandise. Usually the largest amount of income is produced from the registration fee.

However, as fewer people are paying the registration fee, the financial strength of conventions is diminishing. This cannot continue. If more people decline to pay registration fees, conventions will cease because they will continue to lose money. When a convention does lose money, the money has to be found some place. An N.A. convention committee cannot simply tell a hotel that they cannot pay the complete bill because a lot of people simply didn't register.

Where does that money come from? Right out of the basket from meetings is where most of it comes from. Special collections are made at meetings and area/region committees take money right out of their treasuries to make up for the loss. Also, additional fund raising events are held. This adds more work into completing the convention, long after the convention is over. Fund raising to pay off the debts of a convention only drains the Fellowship of money that is badly needed for literature at meetings, as well as P.I. and H&I.

Where is the primary source of the loss? non-registrations. This means that people are attending conventions and forcing others to pay for the good time they had. A member who has the ability to pay a registration fee but does not do so is either

displaying selfishness and a disregard of our purpose, or has no understanding of the impact.

There are people who may want to attend the convention but may not have the money for the registration fee. Sponsors and friends should assist these members by paying for their registration fees. Many conventions, like the world convention, ask members who can afford it, to contribute to a fund against which registrations can be allocated for those who cannot afford to pay.

The message should be fairly clear; we all have the desire to become acceptable, responsible and productive members of society. Part of that responsibility is paying our fair share.

In recent *Newslines* and Fellowship Reports we have reported on developments, along with some of the problems faced, in carrying the message of recovery outside the U.S. One point that seems not to have been stressed adequately is the need to coordinate all these efforts through world services. We continue to hear of individuals and occasionally an ASC embarking on their own international program.

Every N.A. member takes the Twelfth Step personally and seriously, which is as it should be. However, when this is put into practice international, it requires a little more openness than responding to a newcomer at your meeting.

One to one efforts by members should always be encouraged when the recipient is in the next town or down the road a little. However, there are other factors that need some consideration when the recipient is in another country, speaks another language or is in a place that is physically disconnected from those offering help.

Once action is taken internationally it must be supported in an ongoing way and those providing help must be capable and qualified to provide the assistance that is required. If the target of these efforts speaks a language for which translations are already available, the problem is less difficult to handle. However, this is not always the case. When this happens the enthusiasm of the members carries them into having the translations done on their own, without the WSO being informed.

This may only cause confusion, but it might cause legal problems because of copyright requirements within the country in question. Translation of literature is only one part. There are also the letters and inquiries about Tradition interpretations, forming a service structure in a different culture or how to do printing in their own country. If the WSO, as the central information base, is left out of these discussions many problems result.

Frequently, the WSO becomes involved only when problems arise; the key person loses interest or moves, or can't find answers to questions that arise. When the WSO does become involved it takes time to make the adjustment and to find out the complete situation.



This is essentially a request that member's and committees not embark on their own to take N.A. around the world, there is a need for members and when appropriate, committees to be involved. Such efforts, however, need to be done with full information available to and sometimes through the WSO.

A current example of this is one member's continuing efforts to get something going in Russia. The Office has now been in regular communication with this individual and is obtaining cooperation on each new step. We have learned that there is an outside organization that has, as a primary purpose, organizing and conducting trips to Russia to bring recovery to people in that country. Although their focus has been towards other Twelve Step programs, they are interested in accommodating N.A., if there is interest on our part. Unfortunately at this stage it would require private funding and one or more individuals financially able to travel there. There are not sufficient funds available at World Services to have this as part of the current work schedule. Individuals interested in this should let us know.

Some of the work on beginning translations has started, but because of the cost it will be going slow. Some of the other problems are even more difficult. For example, Russia does not recognize the international copyright agreements, that protects our literature in most other countries. We are moving to provide what legal protections are possible under Russian laws, but how comprehensive our protection will be is unknown at this time.

## COMING EVENTS

**ALABAMA:** Jun. 26, 1988; 7th Annual Freedom in the Valley; Monte Sano State Park, Huntsville; Ron S. (205) 852-5315; Freedom in the Valley, 2514 Scenic View Drive, Huntsville, AL 35810

2) Sep. 8-11, 1988; Alabama/Northwest Florida Convention; Gulf Shore Park Resort; Regional Convention, P.O. Box 115, Decatur, AL 35601

**AUSTRALIA:** Sep. 30-Oct. 3, 1988; Australasian Regional Convention; Petersham Town Hall, Sydney, New South Wales; phone contacts (Sydney) Melinda 698-2563, Brett 309-2135; Australasian Convention, P.O. Box B88, Boronia Park, Sydney, NSW AUSTRALIA

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Jul. 22-24, 1988; 9th British Columbia N.A. Rally; Holiday Inn, 711 W. Broadway, Vancouver; Sharon K. (604) 430-6908, Ken T. 261-0298; BCNAR #9, 4035 Kamloops Street, Vancouver, BC V5R 1X5

2) Aug. 12-14, 1988; Third Annual Northern Lights Outdoor Campout Roundup; Bidnisti Lake Resort, 35 mi. west of Prince George; contact Phil H. (604) 562-2931; Warren, Chris 563-5719; ROUNDUP, c/o Warren & Chris M., 2510 Upland Street #113, Prince George, BC CANADA

**CALIFORNIA:** July 8-10, 1988; San Diego Regional Convention; Holiday Inn at the Embarcadero, San Diego, (619) 232-3861; Elisa L. (619) 294-7240, Lea B. 560-5918, Ron G. 282-6777; San Diego Convention, P.O. Box 155, San Diego, CA 92118

2) Jul. 8-10, 1988; Central California Regional Campout; South Lake San Antonio, northwest of Paso Robles; Don A. (805) 528-7439, Howard 995-1429; Central California RSC, P.O. Box 267, Morro Bay, CA 93442

3) Sep. 1-4, 1988; World Convention of N.A.; Anaheim Hilton and Towers, 777 W. Convention Way, Anaheim; convention info (818) 780-3951; addl. info. Anaheim Convention Bureau, (714) 999-8939; World Convention of N.A., P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9999

**COLORADO:** Jul. 29-31, 1988; "Standing on Higher Ground" camping weekend; Telluride, CO; Charlie S. (303) 728-6351, Jim L. 728-6837

2) Aug. 5-7, 1988; Colorado Regional Convention; Clarion Hotel, 1345 28th St., Boulder, (303) 443-3805; Jon F. (303) 642-3273

**CONNECTICUT:** Jul. 8-10, 1988; 4th Annual N.A. Campathon; Seaport Campgrounds, Rte. 184, Old Mystic, (203) 536-4044; Donna (203) 951-6067, Sonny 233-0936, Susy 242-5951; N.A. Campathon, P.O. Box 9525, Forestville, CT 06010

**FLORIDA:** June 30 - July 4, 1988; FRCNA-7; Stouffer Hotel, 6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando FL 32821, (305) 351-5555; contact Charlie M. (305) 588-6273, Lovell H. 291-6138, Richard C. 891-1867; Florida RCNA, P.O. Box 17807, W. Palm Beach, FL 33416

**FRANCE:** Jul. 22-24, 1988; 5th European Service Conference; C.A.A.P. 20, 46 Rue Louis Lumiere, 75020 Paris, 43-61-24-51; Jean-Pierre (1) 42-77-14-25; Narcotiques Anonymes, B.P. 630 04, 75160 Paris Cedex 04, France

**HAWAII:** Jul. 1-3, 1988; Fifth Western States Unity Convention, Beachcomber's Hotel, Honolulu; Tom C. (808) 262-4631, Steve S. 254-1647, RSO 533-4900; WSUC-5, 1305 Aalapapa, Kailua, HI 96734

**ILLINOIS:** June 24-26, 1988; 4th Annual Flight to Freedom; Coy & Wilma's Campground, Rend Lake, Sesser, IL; Earl (618) 735-2409; Jim (217) 347-0305; Lawrence (618) 829-5387; Campout, 107 E. Lawrence, Effingham, IL 62401

2) Aug. 5-7, 1988; Fourth Midcoast Convention; Continental Regency Hotel, Peoria; Susie & Steve H. (309) 274-5675; Linda E. 382-3742

**IOWA:** Jul. 1-3, 1988; Fifth Iowa Regional Convention; Hotel Fort Des Moines, 10th & Walnut, Des Moines, (800) 247-8057; Kelli O. (319) 354-7625; Dannie G. (515) 628-4677; Iowa Regional Convention, P.O. Box 1960, Des Moines, IA 50306

**IRELAND:** Oct. 28-30, 1988; 3rd Annual Irish Convention; N.A. Ireland, P.O. Box 1368, Sheriff Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

**KANSAS:** Jul. 1-4, 1988; MARC '88 Free Campout; Harvey County Lake, Newton; Anita or Warren (316) 687-3916, Pamela 524-3771

2) Aug. 12-14, 1988; Fellowship Campout; Thunderbird Marina, Junction City, (913) 238-5864; Marte D. (913) 762-3596; Steve T. 776-5123; Mike 537-7682

3) Feb. 17-19, 1989; Second Mid-America Regional Convention; Holiday Inn Holiday Convention Center, Salina, (913) 823-1739; Jim M. (913) 825-9510; Mid-America Convention, P.O. Box 383, Salina, KS 67401

**MAINE:** Sep. 9-11, 1988; We're A Miracle V; Bruce & Kim (207) 772-4558; Stan & Jane (207) 784-5863; Bill (617) 563-5885; ASC of Maine, Convention Committee, P.O. Box 5309, Portland, ME 04101

**MICHIGAN:** Jul. 1-4, 1988; Freedom IV; Hope College, Holland, MI; Bob W. (616) 857-2583, Carl D. 344-7530; tickets, John F. (313) 987-8620; 4th Michigan Convention, 523 Butternut #106, Holland, MI 49424



**MINNESOTA:** Jun. 24-26, 1988; Fargo-Moorhead ASC, "Canoe the Crow Wing with Us;" Tree Farm Landing, Huntersville, Minnesota; Darrell H. (701) 293-7541, Newell B. 232-2333

**MISSOURI:** Jul. 29-31, 1988; 9th Annual High on Life Picnic; Orleans Trail Resort, Stockton Lake (417) 276-3566; info (417) 782-1467; Picnic, 119 Connor, Joplin, MO 64801

**NEBRASKA:** Oct. 7-9, 1988; 5th Nebraska Regional Convention; Holiday Inn Northeast, 5250 Cornhusker Hwy., Lincoln; Mike B. (402) 475-8985, Jenny H. 474-1544, Jenny J. 796-2333; NRCNA-5, P.O. Box 80091, Lincoln, NE 68501-0091

**NEVADA:** Jul. 15-17, 1988; Sixth Annual Stampede for Serenity Campout; Stampede Reservoir, Truckee, Nevada; information call hotline (702) 322-4811; Sierra Sage RSC, P.O. Box 11913, Reno, NV 89510

2) Jun. 23-25, 1989; 2nd Sierra Sage Regional Convention; Nugget Hotel, Sparks; phoneline (702) 322-4811; Sierra Sage RSC, P.O. Box 11913, Reno, NV 89510-1191

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** June 24-26, 1988; 9th ECCNA; University of NH in Durham; Jay N. (603) 437-5501; Brian (617) 452-7875; Shirley (617) 458-4808; 9th ECCNA, PO Box 388, Pelham, NH 03076

**NEW YORK:** July 29-31, 1988; Third Northern New York Regional Convention; Wells College Campus, Aurora; Dave L. (315) 331-1361, Kim N. (716) 663-1386; N. New York Convention, P.O. Box 1014, Geneva, NY 14456

2) Aug. 5-7, 1988; Second Annual Recovery in the Woods; Yorkshire, NY; Lynne B. (716) 895-4916; Dan Z. 825-5334; Recovery in the Woods, Buffalo ASC, P.O. Box 64, Buffalo, NY 14207

**NORTH CAROLINA:** July 1-3, 1988; 9th Carolina Regional Convention; Sheraton Greensboro Hotel, 3 Southern Life Center, Greensboro, NC; contact Marc (919) 855-3294, Ed 565-4913; Carolina Regional Conv., 6518 Dusty Road, Liberty, NC 27298

**OHIO:** Jul. 15-17, 1988; Columbiana County Campvention; Paradise Lake Park, 6940 Rochester Rd., E. Rochester; Bill H. (216) 424-7681, Steve S. 823-4390x223

**OKLAHOMA:** Jun. 24-26, 1988; Seventh Annual Clean'n'Crazy Campout; Cherokee Landing, Wildcat Park (Area C), Lake Tenkiller, OK; Mike A. (405) 382-8741; Chuck G. 372-4007; Patrick D. 372-1875

**OREGON:** Aug. 5-7, 1988; 3rd Oregon-Southern Idaho Regional Convention; Eugene Hilton Hotel, (800) 452-8017 (ask for N.A. convention rates); Laurie P. (503) 726-2449; OSIRCNA-3, P.O. Box 1929, Eugene, OR 97440

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Oct. 28-30, 1988; 6th Annual Tri-State Regional Convention; Vista International Hotel, Pittsburgh, (412) 281-3700 (specify N.A. convention); Rox (412) 361-6250, Bob 661-5799, Gloria 521-1086; Tri-State RSO, P.O. Box 110217, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

**SASKATCHEWAN:** Aug. 19-21, 1988; 4th Regina Area Convention; Glencairn Neighbourhood Recreation Centre, 2626 Dewdney E, Regina; Dave G. (306) 525-2686, Gina M. 586-1065, Shannon L. 775-1645; Regina ASC, P.O. Box 3563, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3L7

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Nov. 11-13, 1988; Serenity Festival; Landmark Best Western, Myrtle Beach; Bedford M. (919) 392-4412, Ron H. 867-5006; Serenity Festival, P.O. Box 1198, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

**TENNESSEE:** Nov. 23-27, 1988; 6th Volunteer Regional Convention; Garden Plaza Hotel, 211 Mockingbird Ln., Johnson City, (615) 929-2000; registration (615) 638-4385; VRC-6, P.O. Box 353, Greeneville, TN 37744

**TEXAS:** Jul. 8-10, 1988; Texas Unity Convention, Whitney; David (713) 332-8236; Texas Unity (Whitneys), 1612 Second Street, League City, TX 77573

2) Nov. 4-6, 1988; Best Little Region Convention; Koko Palace, 5101 Avenue Q, Lubbock TX 79412; info Kerry W. (806) 745-4309, N.A. Helpline 799-3950; BLRCNA-1, P.O. Box 3013, Lubbock, TX 79452-3013

**UTAH:** Aug. 19-21, 1988; Utah Campvention; Granite Flats Campgrounds, American Fork Canyon (outside Provo); Steve S. (801) 359-6607, Lou B. 467-8776

**VIRGINIA:** Jul. 16, 1988; Bull Run Area 1st Anniversary, N.A. 35th Anniversary; 9 a.m. 'til dark; Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg; Mike F. (703) 373-2769, Leslie C. 335-2603, Laura J. 335-5434; Bull Run ASC, P.O. Box 505, Triangle, VA 22172-0505

2) Aug. 12-14, 1988; Almost Heaven Area Convention; Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, Front Royal, Virginia, (703) 635-7171; Jeff L. (301) 791-0830, Vicki G. (304) 263-5827, Kevin M. (703) 667-1814; Almost Heaven Convention, P.O. Box 1595, Martinsburg, WV 25401

3) Jan. 6-8, 1989; 7th Annual Virginia Convention; Williamsburg Hilton and National Conference Center; Virginia Convention, P.O. Box 1373, Hampton, VA 23661

**WASHINGTON:** Oct. 8-10, 1988; Eleventh Pacific Northwest Convention; Red Lion Inn at the Quay, Vancouver, (800) 547-8010 (ask for PNWCNA rates); Helpline (206) 573-3066; Pacific-Northwest Conv., P.O. Box 5158, Vancouver, WA 98668

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Aug. 12-14, 1988; Almost Heaven Area Convention; see VIRGINIA

**WISCONSIN:** Jul. 8-10, 1988; Christmas in July Campout; ALSO Multi-Regional P.I. Learning Day, Jul. 9; Horicon Ledge County Park, Horicon; Russell, days (608) 767-2385, eves 795-4567; Badgerland ASC, P.O. Box 649, Madison, WI 53701

2) Oct. 28-30, 1988; 5th Wisconsin State Convention; Ramada Airport Inn, Milwaukee, (800) 272-6232; Ned H. (414) 289-9997, Bob K. 258-5961, Michael D. 546-3688; WSNAC-5, P.O. Box 1637, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1637