

WSC 1991 Report

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Preliminary Draft

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To: The Fellowship

From: Stuart Tooredman, Chairperson
World Service Office Board of Directors

The WSO Board of Directors does not have any new motions for you to consider at WSC '91. However, we will ask you to ratify three proposals included as addendums of this document and reaffirm decisions made by the World Service Conference in years past.

During this past year several things became painfully clear. First, that many of the previous decisions and actions of the WSC were not adequately documented in the printed record of the conference or subsequently distributed to our members. Second, that the fiduciary relationship between the WSO and the N.A. Fellowship was not clearly understood. Third, that the reasons surrounding the initial creation of a fiduciary trust (WSO), and its purpose and function, for N.A.'s properties was also not clearly understood. In an effort to try and bring a better understanding to the situation, we distributed an essay "The N.A. Literature Trust," in September, 1990. The essay described the various documented decisions made by the WSC, or the WSO Board in the case of the 1987 revision to its by-laws, creating and then substantiating the fiduciary relationship of the WSO to the WSC and the N.A. Fellowship.

The primary reasons for creating a fiduciary entity like the WSO were initially twofold:

- 1.) To establish a legally recognized entity to protect and secure in a fiduciary capacity the exclusive rights to all intellectual properties, trademarks and copyrights of the N.A. Fellowship, as part of our service structure, which will be directed and influenced by the decisions of the fellowship as a whole through the WSC.

The intent was to adequately protect the fellowship's properties and have the ability to take sufficient action, should the rights of the fellowship be infringed upon.

- 2.) To provide an essential mechanism by which all N.A. literature, books, pamphlets, handbooks, and other intellectual and physical properties are exclusively and uniformly managed and controlled, produced, printed, manufactured, sold, and distributed as may be directed by the the fellowship as a whole through the WSC.

The intent was to firmly secure the integrity of the production and distribution of N.A.'s conference-approved written message in a single management point. This would insure that our conference-approved literature and properties would provide a unified message of N.A. to our groups, members, and the general public.

As the WSO grew, additional functions were added such as providing administrative, organizational, and logistical support to the World Service Conference and the fellowship as a whole.

Certainly, the illicit production and distribution of Book One of the Third Edition Revised, with additional language in the Fourth and Ninth Traditions, has brought this to light. We have a choice to make as a fellowship, either to reaffirm our past decisions,

modify them, or allow the properties of our fellowship to exist unprotected. If we choose to extend adequate protection to our copyrighted and trademarked properties, and we believe that this choice is necessary, then the conference will need to act positively on the following statements.

- 1.) To re-affirm that all of N.A.'s intellectual and physical properties are held in a fiduciary capacity by the WSO, Inc., on behalf of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.
- 2.) To re-affirm that the World Service Office, Inc., is the exclusive publisher and distributor of all World Service Conference-approved literature, including all books, pamphlets, handbooks, and other intellectual and physical properties, as directed by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous through the World Service Conference.

During the 1990 Conference, several motions regarding the WSO by-laws were committed to the Board of Directors. One of these motions concerned Article 13--Amendments to the By-Laws, and directed that any changes in the by-laws receive the prior approval of the WSC. A report is now being prepared for the conference meeting, describing what appropriate action the WSC has the option to make directly, including director elections, to the WSO.

Currently, the WSC has the authority to direct the board to make changes or reject changes (that the board has made) to the WSO operational policies. With this in mind there are two changes that we believe are necessary and have subsequently adopted to change the by-laws. The first change is in Article 2--Objectives and Purposes; to include language that defines the fiduciary capacity of the the WSO as the exclusive publisher, producer, manufacturer, distributor, etc., of the intellectual and physical properties of the fellowship. The second change occurs in Article 6, Section 4,--Director Elections. This section now reflects that all directors, whether elected directly or to the pool, are elected by a majority of the conference participants. This reflects the changes made to the election procedures at WSC 1990.

One of the primary goals of the board this year was to make the WSO more accessible to the fellowship, as well as invite more participation from other committees and boards in the decision making. Had we not gotten sidetracked with other issues, we believe the fellowship would have seen a noticeable difference in the overall operations of the office.

As part of our desire to open the door wider, a great deal of information is now available upon request that was previously inaccessible. We have also spent the year working closely with the Board of Trustees and WSC Administrative Committee on some of the more sensitive areas of world service operations. A great deal of the time we spent together was focused on the development of several proposals. These proposals concern areas of responsibility shared by all three service arms, but were previously and frequently administered by only one. The proposals call for the joint administration of these areas and create criteria and methods for how decisions are made.

The three proposals we are asking you to ratify concern a Unified Budget and a Budget Review and Utilization Committee, a World Service Travel Policy, and a Translation Policy. Rather than ask the conference to approve these proposals now, we would request that they be ratified for implementation for one year and then brought back

for WSC approval in 1992. This would allow world services to utilize the policies, prepare a proper budget, work out the bugs, and make necessary changes based on the experience during the year. The conference would then be asked to accept or reject the proposals in 1992. The motions to the conference are as follows:

- #10. That the WSC ratify the implementation of the Unified Budget Review and Utilization proposal for two years.** (This proposal is enclosed as Addendums #3A and 3B.)

Intent: To implement the preparation of a combined (WSC and WSO) budget for the 1993 calendar year; to submit and implement the approved world service budget.

- #11. That the WSC ratify the implementation of the World Services Travel Proposal for one year.** (This proposal is enclosed as Addendum #2.)

Intent: To utilize the travel policy during the coming year and make any necessary changes for improvement prior to formal adoption at WSC 1992.

- #12. That the WSC ratify the implementation of the World Services Translation Proposal for one year.** (This proposal is enclosed as Addendum #1.)

Intent: To utilize the translation policy during the coming year and to make any necessary changes for improvement prior to formal adoption at WSC 1992.

The following section of the WSO report is provided as our commitment to the recent settlement agreement, concerning the controversial production and distribution of the Basic Text. The motions from the agreement, as presented in this section are the culmination of a joint effort by all concerned, to obtain a clear understanding and determination from the fellowship. We encourage all regions, areas, and groups to read the introductory remarks thoroughly, and to consider each motion conscientiously during their subsequent deliberations. As part of our agreement the motions are intentionally presented without any further comment other than the following introductory remarks.

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- #13. That the fellowship reconsider its decision on which edition, or parts thereof (First, Second, Third, Third Revised, Fourth, or Fifth), of the Basic Text shall be produced and distributed by the WSO as the official and accepted text of Narcotics Anonymous. In order for this motion to be considered, a description of the differences between the respective editions will be sent to each registered area and region, along with a copy of the complete Basic Text Third Edition, Revised. It is expected that the WSC will rescind the motions adopted in 1988, which adopted the Fifth Edition as the Basic Text, as well as the motion restricting any change to the text for five years.**

#14. That the WSO produce, at a reduced price, the edition of the text ratified by the WSC. The actual price of this text should be determined in view of the following factors: its affordability to the membership at large; a change in the cost and quality of the materials used in producing the book; the responsibility of the WSO to provide services from the income generated by sales of the Basic Text; and whether it includes personal stories or only the first ten chapters.

#15. That the WSC be directed to obtain a group-by-group tally of all the groups registered with the WSO, on Motions 1 and 2 above. This procedure will begin on July 1, 1991 and continue through December 31, 1991. All the registered groups shall receive a copy of a paper detailing the differences between the editions of the Basic Text, and a complete copy of the Basic Text Third Edition, Revised. In addition, each group shall receive complete information concerning the issues relevant to a reduction in the price of the ratified text.

The committee appointed to supervise this tally shall consist of the following: four RSRs, to be nominated by the entire group of RSRs in attendance at the 1991 WSC; two trustees to be nominated by the members of the World Service Board of Trustees; two WSO directors, to be nominated by the directors of the WSO; and the WSC Chairperson. Those nominated by the RSRs, trustees and directors, respectively, are to be submitted to the World Service Conference in 1991 for confirmation by two-thirds published roll-call vote, failing which, those not confirmed shall be replaced by others nominated by the RSRs, the trustees, or the directors, respectively. Two members of the WSO staff shall also be assigned as non-voting advisory members. The results of the group by group tally shall be published in the *Fellowship Report* and confirmed as official at World Service Conference in 1992.