

**DRAFT MINUTES--FOR APPROVAL AT WSC '92****1991 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE****SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1991**

The meeting was called to order by Ed D., Chairperson of the World Service Conference 1990-91, at 12:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with a moment of silence to remember the still-suffering addict, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

A roll call (#1) of voting participants was conducted by Tom R. (WSC Treasurer), showing the following participants to be present: Alabama/NW Florida; Alaska; Alsask; Arizona; Australia; Best Little Region; British Columbia; Buckeye; California Mid-State; Carolina; Central California; Chesapeake/Potomac; Chicagoland; Colorado; Connecticut; Florida; Georgia; German-speaking Region; Greater Illinois; Greater New York; Greater Philadelphia; Hawaii; Indiana; Iowa; Kentuckiana; London; Lone Star; Louisiana Purchase; Michigan; Mid-America; Mid-Atlantic; Mississippi; Mountaineer; Nebraska; New England; New Jersey; New Mexico; Northern California; Northern New Jersey; Northern New York; Ohio; OK Region; Ontario; Quebec; Region of the Virginias; San Diego/Imperial; Show-Me; Sierra Sage; Southern California; Southern Nevada; South Florida; Together We Can; Tri-State; Upper Midwest; Upper Rocky Mountain; Utah; Volunteer; Washington/N. Idaho; Wisconsin; Ed D. (WSC Chairperson); Reuben F. (WSC Vice Chairperson); Barbara J. (WSC Second Vice Chairperson); Tom R. (WSC Treasurer); Debbie O. (WSC Policy Chairperson); Pete C. (WSC H&I Chairperson); Steve R. (WSC P.I. Chair); Bryce S. (WSC Literature Chair); Stu T. (WSO BOD Chair); Jack B. (WSB Chair); Becky M. (WSB); Greg P. (WSB); Kim J. (WSB); Garth P. (WSB); Chuck L. (WSB); Donna M. (WSB); Danette B. (WSB); Stretch G. (WSB).

Tom R. (WSC Treasurer) announced a total of 77 participants present. 52 represents a 2/3 majority; 39 represents a simple majority; and 59 regions are present.

Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) introduced the WSC Administrative Committee, Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, and the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of each committee. He also introduced the new Executive Director of the World Service Office, Joe Gossett. He then asked George Hollahan to introduce the WSO staff.

Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) introduced Don Cameron, the parliamentarian.

Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) asked RSRs who want to participate in the RSR committees to notify the WSC Administrative Committee in writing before the dinner break.

After further announcements, a correction to Tom R.'s (WSC Treasurer) annual report was distributed. Also a substitute motion for #6 in the *Conference Agenda Report* was distributed. This substitute motion contained language to correct errors in *Conference Agenda Report* Motion #6 as originally printed. The corrections were explained by Pete C. (WSC H&I Chairperson).

Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) announced the opening of the general business session.



We Can; Tri-State; Upper Midwest; Upper Rocky Mountain; Utah; Volunteer; Washington/N. Idaho; Wisconsin; Ed D. (WSC Chairperson); Reuben F. (WSC Vice Chairperson); Barbara J. (WSC Second Vice Chairperson); Tom R. (WSC Treasurer); Debbie O. (WSC Policy Chair); Pete C. (WSC H&I Chair); Steve R. (WSC P.I. Chair); Bryce S. (WSC Literature Chair); Stu T. (WSO BOD Chair); Jack B. (WSB Chair); Becky M. (WSB); Greg P. (WSB); Kim J. (WSB); Garth P. (WSB); Chuck L. (WSB); Stretch G. (WSB).

Tom R. (WSC Treasurer) announced a total of 80 participants present. 53 represents a 2/3 majority; 41 represents a simple majority; and 64 regions were present.

It was M/F (WSO BOD) "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. MOTION FAILED BY ROLL CALL VOTE (See roll call vote #2 below), after the following.

It was M/S/F Stu T. (WSO BOD Chairperson)/Stretch G. (BOT) "To go into the committee of the whole for one hour, with the conference population as participants, for the purpose of discussing motions 13, 14, 15 from the *Conference Agenda Report*. MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE after the following:

It was M/S/C Rudy S. (RSR, Carolina)/Mark S. (RSR, Northern California) to call the question on motion #13. MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY VOICE VOTE.

Carlos G. (RSR-Alt, Colorado) requested a roll call vote on MOTION #13. The Chairperson granted the request.

Tom R. (WSC Treasurer) conducted roll call vote (#2): Alabama/NW Florida-YES; Alaska-YES; Alsask-NO; Arizona-NO; Arkansas-YES; Australia-NO; Best Little Region-YES; Bahamas-YES; British Columbia-NO; Buckeye-YES; California Mid-State-NO; Carolina-ABSTAIN; Central California-NO; Chesapeake/Potomac-YES; Chicagoland-NO; Colorado-YES; Connecticut-YES; Florida-YES; Freestate-NO; Georgia-YES; German-speaking Region-NO; Greater Illinois-NO; Greater New York-YES; Greater Philadelphia-YES; Hawaii-NO; Indiana-ABSTAIN; Iowa-ABSTAIN; Ireland-NO; Kentuckiana-NO; London-YES; Lone Star-NO; Louisiana-YES; Michigan-NO; Mid-America-ABSTAIN; Mid-Atlantic-YES; Mississippi-NO; Mountain Valley-NO; Mountaineer-NO; Nebraska-NO; New England-YES; New Jersey-YES; New Mexico-NO; Northern California-NO; Northern New Jersey-NO; Northern New York-NO; Ohio-NO; OK Region-NO; Ontario-NO; Quebec-NO; Region of the Virginias-YES; San Diego/Imperial-YES; Show-Me-NO; Sierra Sage-NO; Southern California-NO; Southern Idaho-NO; Southern Nevada-NO; South Florida-YES; Together We Can-NO; Tri-State-NO; Upper Midwest-NO; Upper Rocky Mountain-NO; Utah-NO; Volunteer-NO; Washington/N. Idaho-NO;



Wisconsin-YES; Ed D. (WSC Chairperson)-NO; Reuben F. (WSC Vice Chairperson)-NO; Barbara J. (WSC Second Vice Chairperson)-NO; Debbie O. (WSC Policy Chair)-NO; Pete C. (WSC H&I Chair)-ABSTAIN; Steve R. (WSC P.I. Chair)-ABSTAIN; Bryce S. (WSC Literature Chair)-NO; Stu T. (WSO BOD Chair)-NO; Jack B. (WSB Chair)-NO; Becky M. (WSB)-NO; Greg P. (WSB)-YES; Kim J. (WSB)-NO; Garth P. (WSB)-NO; Chuck L. (WSB)-NO; Danette B. (BOT)-absent; Donna M. (BOT)-absent; Stretch G. (WSB)-NO

MOTION #13 FAILED BY ROLL CALL VOTE: YES-23; NO-51; ABSTENTIONS-6;

It was M/F (WSO BOD) "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." MOTION #14 FAILED FOR LACK OF 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE, after the following:

It was M/S/C Carlos G. (RSR-Alt, Colorado)/Forest B. (RSR, S. Florida) to call the question. MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, and the conference moved to voting on the motion at hand. Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) ruled that the motion would require 2/3 majority vote. Al R. (RSR, Greater Philadelphia) challenged the ruling, and the conference UPHELD THE DECISIONS OF THE CHAIR for requiring a 2/3 majority vote.

It was M/S/F (WSO BOD) "That the WSC be directed to obtain a group-by-group tally of all the groups registered with the WSO, on Motions 13 and 14 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 nonvoting 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."

MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF 2/3 MAJORITY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (see roll call vote #3 below), after the following.

It was M/S/C Vince D. (RSR, Freestate)/Kim J. (BOT) to call the question. MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.



Jon T. (RSR, New Jersey) requested a roll call vote. Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) granted his request and reminded voting participants that this motion also requires a 2/3 majority vote. Upon challenge, Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) posed the question to the conference about motion #15 requiring a 2/3 majority vote. The conference responded in the affirmative by VOICE VOTE.

Tom R. (WSC Treasurer) conducted roll call vote (#3): Alabama/NW Florida-YES; Alaska-YES; Alsask-NO; Arizona-NO; Arkansas-YES; Australia-NO; Bahamas-YES; Best Little Region-YES; British Columbia-NO; Buckeye-NO; California Mid-State-NO; Carolina-NO; Central California-NO; Chesapeake/Potomac-YES; Chicagoland-NO; Colorado-absent; Connecticut-YES; Florida-NO; Freestate-NO; Georgia-YES; German-speaking Region-NO; Greater Illinois-NO; Greater New York-YES; Greater Philadelphia-YES; Hawaii-NO; Indiana-YES; Iowa-ABSTAIN; Ireland-NO; Kentuckiana-NO; London-NO; Lone Star-NO; Louisiana-YES; Michigan-NO; Mid-America-ABSTAIN; Mid-Atlantic-YES; Mississippi-NO; Mountain Valley-NO; Mountaineer-NO; Nebraska-NO; New England-YES; New Jersey-YES; New Mexico-NO; Northern California-NO; Northern New Jersey-NO; Northern New York-NO; Ohio-NO; OK Region-YES; Ontario-NO; Quebec-NO; Region of the Virginias-YES; San Diego/Imperial-YES; Show-Me-NO; Sierra Sage-NO; Southern California-NO; Southern Idaho-NO; Southern Nevada-NO; South Florida-YES; Together We Can-NO; Tri-State-NO; Upper Midwest-NO; Upper Rocky Mountain-NO; Utah-NO; Volunteer-YES; Washington/N. Idaho-NO; Wisconsin-YES; Ed D. (WSC Chairperson)-NO; Reuben F. (WSC Vice Chairperson)-NO; Barbara J. (WSC Second Vice Chairperson)-NO; Debbie O. (WSC Policy Chair)-NO; Pete C. (WSC H&I Chair)-ABSTAIN; Steve R. (WSC P.I. Chair)-ABSTAIN; Bryce S. (WSC Literature Chair)-NO; Stu T. (WSO BOD Chair)-NO; Jack B. (WSB Chair)-NO; Becky M. (WSB)-NO; Greg P. (WSB)-NO; Kim J. (WSB)-NO; Garth P. (WSB)-NO; Chuck L. (WSB)-NO; Danette B. (WSB)-NO; Donna M. (BOT)-absent; Stretch G. (WSB)-NO.

MOTION #15 FAILED BY ROLL CALL VOTE: YES-21; NO-55; ABSTENTIONS-4;

It was M/S/C Barbara J. (WSC Second Vice Chairperson)/Jack B. (Board of Trustees Chairperson) to go into a committee of the whole for 30 minutes for the purpose of discussing the issues surrounding the Basic Text and the issues surrounding motions 13, 14, 15. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The conference entered into committee of the whole at 7:40 p.m. Several participants emphasized the need for WSC to make a strong statement for the individuals distributing illicit books to hear, and also for the World Service BOT and WSO BOD to take guidance from. Many participants stated that it is our responsibility to give a clear message of the wishes of conference. One participant emphasized that the claims, by some, of ownership to the Basic Text are seen as absurd by many other members because the foundation of the Basic Text is the White Book, which was here long before many of the people making claims.

Another participant talked about the destructive effects of illegal publishing of N.A.'s literature on the world service budget and the resulting management paralysis. He called for using our process to effect change, instead of breaking the law and causing destruction. Several participants spoke about their region's absolute refusal to endorse the disunifying and illegal activity. Others expressed the view that the controversy would disappear if the groups could decide the issues.



One participant related that her region believes that the text approved by the conference is the one to use and that before the conference even voted on the motions today, a new version of the illegal book has surfaced. She spoke of the resulting anger when members and trusted servants feel manipulated by others who refuse to accept decisions of the fellowship. Some participants indicated that the illegal texts have not been an issue in their region, and expressed the hope for unity to be restored throughout the fellowship. Several people emphasized the support of their region for all actions of WSO, and stated that a less expensive text is not worth losing the ability to help the international fellowship in other ways.

A member of WSO staff talked about the need for clarity, emphasizing that the various motions do not make a clear enough statement to help with this recurring problem. He also stated that the member who entered into the legal agreement with WSO has honored the agreement. He asked participants to discuss the issue of a lawsuit against a member of NA or a service committee of NA, so that WSO does not leave this conference without clear direction. He urged everyone to use this opportunity to bring N.A. members together by giving careful consideration to all of our actions.

Many other participants expressed their personal perspective, some historical aspects, and their views on how to resolve these controversies. One participant shared about how our internal controversy can not only affect N.A. as a whole, but also the general public.

It was M/S/C Mike C. (RSR-Alt, Iowa)/Jim E. (RSR-A, Chicagoland) "To extend discussion for another 30 minutes." MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

One participant spoke about Traditions One, Four and Twelve and the effect of the Basic Text controversy on the fellowship. He pointed out that this controversy is an example of what happens when we ignore the traditions; tragic disunity, diversion from our primary purpose, our message does not get carried, common welfare gets lost. The illegal printing has clearly affected other groups and N.A. as a whole, and personal attacks on each other have come before our principles. He expressed his hope that an answer is forthcoming about whether decision making should be done by the membership or a more experienced group of trusted servants. He called for some basic questions about ownership of N.A.'s literature and member's rights to be answered. Does WSO or NA as a whole own the literature. Does a member have the right to violate our traditions in standing up for what they believe in. The pain and tragic loss of productive energy caused by this controversy can only be resolved by focusing on our principles. Another felt that the direction for WSO to prosecute was not carried out and felt that the individual involved was now being rewarded by forcing the WSO to spend time on motions 13, 14, and 15. Several participants suggested reconsidering motions 13 and 15, with the thought that fellowship consultation will help resolve the issues. Another suggested that perhaps neither this assembly nor the groups of N.A. will resolve this controversy. He expressed faith that the members of N.A. will find resolution by applying our principles to their daily recovery. He also stressed that the WSO BOD has been empowered to protect the Basic Text, and he would be offended if they didn't do so. A member from outside the US talked about the need for a lower priced book in poor countries, and that we should find a way to meet this need without all the destruction caused by illegal printing and controversy.

It was M/S/C Jeff P. (RSR-A, S. Florida)/Stan S. (RSR-Alt, New England) "To extend the committee of the whole for enough time to allow the people at the



microphones to speak." MOTION TO EXTEND DEBATE CARRIED BY SHOW OF HANDS.

One member spoke about how the group conscience of the WSC on these motions will be followed by his region even though they voted the other way. A non U.S. member of the Board of Directors spoke about seeing this controversy from a distance and the false sense of luxury in viewing this controversy as a U.S. problem. He related that, without any guidance from the WSC, the BOD has no choice but to uphold its responsibility the best way it can determine to do so. WSC needs to make clear statements, not motions, for the benefit of the BOD who will follow. Another participant talked about the manner in which we agree or disagree with each other, and the impact of individuals living spiritual principles on this process. He encouraged everyone to admit mistakes when they are made. Someone else spoke about the core issue being one of trust, rather than a specific piece of literature.

Reuben F. (WSC Vice Chairperson) announced that time had expired, and the conference returned to the WSO business session.

It was M/S/ Jenny D. (RSR-A, Nebraska)/John H. (RSR, Wisconsin) "That the WSC issue a statement to all registered groups, ASC's and RSC's that reads:

"The World Service Conference has one Basic Text that is conference-approved for use by the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. This is the only edition of Basic Text that is recommended for use in Narcotics Anonymous meetings, H&I committee presentations in facilities, public information committee presentations, literature committees, and all other arms of our service structure. Any person or persons, service committees, or any other arms of our service structure that participate in the production, circulation, or sale of any property that is in any way a facsimile of N.A.'s intellectual properties will be asked to immediately cease and desist their actions or consequently be held accountable to the full extent of the law.  
MOTION COMMITTED to ad hoc committee after the following.

Howard offered a friendly amendment to change "will be asked" to "are asked". Accepted by Jenny D.

Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) asked for a sense of the conference about forming an ad hoc committee to consider this motion and other new motions about the same subject. He proposed that the ad hoc committee report back on Thursday night following the third election session, so that any restructured motions can be considered on Friday during new business. Hearing no objections, Ed D. (WSC Chairperson) committed motions #116, 117, and 119 to the ad hoc committee. He appointed Jenny D. (RSR-A, Nebraska) to chair the committee, Kim J. BOT, George H. (WSO), Al R. (RSR, Greater Philadelphia), Jan C. (RSR, Lone Star), Jeff P. (RSR-A S. Florida), and George S. (RSR, Michigan).

It was M/S/W Jon T. (RSR, New Jersey)/Pete C. (WSC H&I Chairperson). "That the WSO, in conjunction with the WSC Literature Committee, develop and publish for distribution to the fellowship, "An Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous" consisting of only Conference-approved literature, as a low cost inventory item. Price to be determined by the WSO BOD."

After some discussion and attempted amendments, the MOTION was WITHDRAWN to be presented in the new business session.