## WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT 1991

#### INTRODUCTION

This Conference Agenda Report represents the work your WSC committees and service boards have prepared for your consideration at the World Service Conference

scheduled in April, 1991.

This report is divided into four sections. The first section contains the agenda for the 1991 WSC. As the agenda for the annual meeting will depart considerably from previous years, we will detail the week's events in a January publication of the Fellowship Report. We generally follow the agenda as set forth in the Conference Agenda Report. However, it frequently becomes necessary to adjust our schedule as the conference progresses, depending on how much we accomplish during each of the sessions. Even though we prefer to adhere to the agenda, we have found it necessary to remain flexible.

The second section consists of reports from new regions. Early in the agenda, on Sunday, new regions will be introduced and asked to present oral reports. A question and answer period will follow, and then the conference will vote on whether to seat each region

as a voting participant of the WSC.

The third section includes reports from each of the WSC committees and boards, and their items for old business. During the 1991 WSC, we will delineate more clearly between those items of old business and items of new business. The items from WSC committees and boards contained in this *Conference Agenda Report* are considered items of old business. These items are printed in **bold** type throughout this report. In addition, amendments and substitute motions pertaining to these items of old business will be considered during old business. All other items of business will be considered new business.

The fourth section contains addenda material. All regional motions received after the WSC committee meetings in Van Nuys are included in an addendum. Regional motions are presented in the same form in which they were submitted.

Also included as an addendum are separate nomination forms developed and used by several WSC committees. They are included here for your information and use, as may

be appropriate.

An orientation package will be mailed to all participants approximately thirty days before the conference begins. There will also be time on Sunday morning during the Unity Breakfast for informal questions or discussion of conference proceedings. This will give us an opportunity to get acquainted and to familiarize ourselves with how the WSC is conducted.

A copy of this report was distributed at conference expense to each participant of the World Service Conference and to each registered RSC. This fulfills the responsibility of the WSC to notify the fellowship of items being considered at the 1991 conference. Additional copies, however, can be purchased from the WSO by any member, group, or service committee. An order form was distributed in December.

If there are any questions pertaining to this report, please call the WSO and one of our staff will assist you or arrange for assistance from a member of the appropriate

committee.

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC. P.O. BOX 9999 VAN NUYS, CA 91409 (818) 780-3951 To:

The Fellowship

From:

Jack Bernstein, Chairperson World Service Board of Trustees

Greetings from the World Service Board of Trustees! It has been our pleasure to serve the fellowship during this last year. This has been an active and involved year for us. There are no actual motions for conference business that will be presented by the trustees. This report contains issues that we expect will be discussed during the 1991 World Service Conference. No votes will be necessary on the following information. A full report on the actions of the Board of Trustees during this last conference year will be available during the 1991 conference.

# Interaction/Relationship between WSC Boards and Committees

As some of you are aware, the Board of Trustees has been more actively involved in matters and issues affecting the entire fellowship this year than at any period in the recent past. During last year's World Service Conference, we were under the impression that the participants in attendance were asking the Board to be more actively involved in World Service decision-making processes. Consequently, during this past year, we have taken a more active role in our relationship with the WSC Administrative Committee and WSO Board of Directors. We planned for two of our meetings to be held on the same weekends that the Board of Directors were meeting. Unfortunately, we were diverted from our agenda by the need to deal with pressing issues. Due to the fact that a need was seen for a change in direction in the management of the World Service Office, the World Service Office Board of Directors, at our recommendation, did not renew Bob Stone's contract as Executive Director in June. The meeting in October was focused on our attempts to resolve the illicit basic text controversy. While we did not fully achieve the goals and objectives we had hoped by these meetings, the increase in communication between both boards has been very positive.

Every effort has been made to include the members of the WSC Administrative Committee in the trustee committees. This has proven very beneficial to our committees in maintaining an awareness of the actions and concerns of the conference administration. Additionally, we have attempted to continue involvement in our committees with the WSC committee leadership. The chairperson of the External Committee has been invited to attend future meetings of the WSC H&I Committee. These two committees are undertaking a joint venture to involve the regional H&I committees in surveying their local correctional facilities to determine how these facilities can be better served by the N.A. fellowship.

# WSC Panel Presentation Topics

Presently, we plan to include the relationship and interaction of the WSC service boards and committees in the trustee presentation during the 1991 World Service Conference. One area we would like to see discussed relates to the lack of overall long-range planning and priority development for the fellowship. Under our current world services system, there is no specific board or committee that has the responsibility to look

at the "big picture" of our fellowship and provide specific goals, objectives and priorities. As a result, there have been some fractured efforts on the part of each of the world level boards and committees to determine the focus and priorities for long-range planning. The overlap between our committee system and the conference committee system has, at times, led to a duplication of effort on projects. We are also concerned with the rapid turnover in the present WSC committee membership which has led to some instability in the completion of projects. Some difficulty is also evident in maintaining adequate communication between the present boards and committees.

We also plan to discuss the topic of prejudice during the trustee presentation to the conference. At the July, 1990, WSC workshop in Arlington, VA, an open forum discussion was held on prejudice, allowing for open sharing of thoughts and feelings on this topic by many members. During October of 1990, an article developed through the External Committee on this subject was sent to several convention committees/corporations, including the World Convention Committee. We hope that this issue will be widely discussed within the local fellowships prior to the conference. In addition, there are tentative plans to include the topic of N.A.'s public relations policy during our presentation segment.

### International Forum at WSC 1991

The trustee-sponsored International Development Forum will be held on Saturday, April 20, prior to the actual opening of the conference. As was very evident during last year's conference, the issue of whether N.A. is truly a worldwide fellowship is of concern to all of the conference participants. During the final Board of Trustees report at WSC, 1990, a request was made that a report on international development be developed for presentation at the 1991 conference. It has been evident during our discussions that we needed to gather information and answer some very basic questions as a fellowship before a report could be developed. The international forum is our response to this need. It is our hope that this forum will also address the request from conference participants that a list of priorities be developed by the World Service Conference. We hope that this forum will be well attended by non-U.S. members as well as by members from within the continental U.S. Some of the topics that will be discussed include:

Are we a worldwide fellowship? If not, should we be?

What does "worldwide fellowship" mean?

To what extent are groups, areas, regional, and national communities autonomous of one another?

How can they assist one another?

Must each element survive and grow on its own resources?

What services do growing N.A. communities want from N.A. World Services?

What role, if any, should the WSC play in the development of N.A. worldwide?

We had a letter, asking these questions, translated into French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Japanese. These letters were distributed to members throughout the fellowship requesting their input. Their input will also be considered at the forum, whether these members are able to attend or not. The discussion of these questions on both local and regional levels worldwide, will assist us in determining how best our fellowship can carry the message of recovery, both in the United States and around the world.

Report on motions committed to Board of Trustees by WSC 1991

We have used the trustee committee system to complete the tasks that were assigned to the Board during last year's conference. Each of the motions from the World Service Conference 1990, that were committed to our board, has been discussed during board meetings and in committees.

Two of the motions committed to the Board last year were in reference to the WSO Board of Directors. At last year's conference, a change was made in the election process for Board of Director pool nominees which requires a majority vote for nominees to be included in the pool. We believe that if this process remains in effect during upcoming elections, the process will address the committed motion which states, "That the WSC elect all directors of the WSO." The motion stating, "That the WSO BOD elected by the conference shall be a trustee committee" has been debated, with the consensus being that this action is not needed at present. A paper discussing both these motions will be available for participants during the conference.

Regarding the motion stating "That the copyright of all N.A. literature be taken out of the WSO and put in trust to the BOT.", the Board has approved the following recommendation. A paper has been developed explaining our position, which will be available to all conference participants during the 1991 WSC.

"IN CONCLUSION: After a thorough discussion by all members of the Board of Trustees, and after reviewing notes on that discussion, the Literature Review Committee has come to the following conclusion:

- 1. That in order to implement this motion the current Board of Trustees would have to incorporate itself to afford adequate protection to the properties it would be entrusted to hold for the fellowship. The fellowship would then have two corporations at the world level and no doubt some duplication of effort. To avoid duplication, considerable study must be given to establish clear delineation of responsibilities and the right working relationship between the two corporations.
- 2. As a corporation, the Board of Trustees would need additional funding and staffing to administrate the trust. It is our belief that this additional funding would have to come from the sale of literature it would hold in trust, removing a primary reason for setting up a separate trust in the first place.
- 3. In reviewing the past performance of the WSO as a fiduciary for the fellowship's properties, we have no reason to believe they have acted contrary to that responsibility or have otherwise placed the fellowship's properties in jeopardy. There also seems to be no apparent conflict in having one entity serve as both the trust and the receiver of income from trust properties. Although there have been concerns about a perceived separation of the WSO from the membership, measures are already being implemented to improve communication and responsibility.

The World Service Board of Trustees therefore recommends to the World Service Conference that no further action be taken to create a separate entity to hold N.A.'s copyrights in trust."

A recommendation has been developed regarding the motion stating, "That the WSB shall, if necessary, stop action of WSC, WSO, WCC." A position paper fully describing the reason for this recommendation will be available during the conference. The recommendation is as follows:

"After due consideration of the motion to grant "stop action" to the Board of Trustees, it is our recommendation that said motion is not necessary. We perceive that we have the ability to confront and impact problems as they arise in world services. Therefore, no need is seen for the World Service Conference to take action to approve this motion."

The motion, "To reestablish a WSC finance committee to consist of the WSC chair, WSC treasurer, Chairman of WSO BOD, BOT chair, and three RSRs, with the WSC treasurer chairing the committee," has also been thoroughly discussed. Several trustees have been involved in the development process for the proposed Budget Review and Utilization Plan. We support the concepts presented in the proposal and, as such, do not see that any action needs to be taken on the motion to reestablish a WSC finance committee.

#### Additional Needs Panel

During the October, 1990 Board of Trustees meeting, the two members of the additional needs panel were in attendance. This meeting was very informative for us, and gave us some direction for our efforts in this area. Work is ongoing in this area through participation by the panel members at additional needs workshops. Both of the panel members will also be in attendance at the upcoming WSC. As a result of our October meeting, the following recommendation was adopted by the entire board:

"For the purposes of the N.A. literature translation process, the World Service Board of Trustees recognizes American Sign Language (ASL) as a language distinct from English; that the White Booklet, with stories, be translated into ASL for distribution on video tape; that N.A. audio speaker tapes in the current WSO inventory be translated into ASL; and, that a priority list for further translation of N.A. literature into ASL be developed as soon as possible."

We want to maintain an awareness in our membership of the issue of addicts with additional needs. We would be greatly assisted in this task if service committees would send copies of minutes for their additional needs committees to the Board of Trustees, in care of the WSO. We would like to update our additional needs contact lists so the panel members have the most up-to-date contacts possible. These updates should also be sent to the WSO. Additionally, if your local committees have suggestions to assist us in maintaining this awareness, please let us know.

### Traditions Project Update

The Traditions Ad Hoc Committee has been hard at work this past year. Regular reports have been mailed out to conference participants with detailed information on the work that has been done. Committee drafts of Traditions One and Two were mailed out for pre-review by conference participants, after first being reviewed on an individual basis by members of the Board of Trustees and the WSC Literature Committee. The project is coming along on schedule, with plans to have drafts of Traditions One through Six ready for fellowship review around conference time. Plans call for the entire Board to review

these drafts at either their February or April meeting, prior to their release to the fellowship. Adequate time will be allotted during the conference for discussion of the Traditions project. If you would like copies of the reports from the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee, please contact the Special Projects Coordinator at the World Service Office.

#### Internal Trustee Interactions

During this past year, several trustees have been approached with concerns that board members were on opposite sides of the issues being discussed during last year's conference. It seems that some members of the fellowship feel the trustees should always agree on everything that is being discussed. Fortunately, that is not the case. We are a very diverse group and do not always agree with each other. We do, however, have a deep and abiding respect for each other's thoughts and opinions. This diversity and respect provides us with our ability to serve the fellowship. We feel that the membership of our board is representative of the same diversity that is present in the fellowship. We see this as one of the more positive and healthy aspects of the Board of Trustees. If we always agreed, then all sides of the issues would not be addressed. We feel that this diversity allows us to best serve not only the addict who is already here, but to also serve the addicts who are not represented, including the still-using addicts who have not yet made it into our meetings. We did want to bring this concern out into the open, as it is very likely that the proposed format of this year's WSC will allow for a wide range of opinions to be expressed by members of our board.

Thank you for the time and effort that is being spent to review and discuss this report.

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 are asking for your consent to continue our work with the WSC and WSB, on three proposals (included as addendums) and reaffirm some important decisions made by the World Service Conference in years past.

During the 1990 Conference several important matters were brought to our attention. First, 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 of the WSO to the N.A. Fellowship is not understood to the satisfaction of our members. Third, that the initial reasons surrounding the creation of a fiduciary responsibility for N.A.'s properties was also not clearly understood.

The initial reasons for creating a fiduciary entity were twofold:

- 1.) To establish for N.A., the capacity to protect and secure all intellectual properties, trademarks and copyrights of the N.A. Fellowship.
- 2.) To provide an essential mechanism by which all N.A. literature, books, pamphlets, handbooks, etc., would be uniformly produced, printed, manufactured, sold, and distributed.

The intent was to adequately protect the fellowship's properties and to have the ability to take sufficient action, should the rights of the fellowship be infringed upon by others; and to firmly secure the production and distribution of N.A.'s conference-approved written message in a single management point. Thus the WSO was created and strengthened. 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 activities during this past year, concerning the production and distribution of an earlier version of Book One, has caused us to place these issues in front of our members again.

Our choices are not simple and require a great deal of discussion; to reaffirm our past decisions, modify them, or provide another mechanism to protect and hold the properties of our fellowship. We encourage you to consider the issues carefully and be prepared to discuss them at length at the Conference.

If the fellowship wishes to continue to have the WSO act in this capacity then the conference will need to discuss it thoroughly and choose 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.

China Andrea

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. We have asked our attorneys to prepare a full report for the Conference on this matter and will distribute it to all the participants along with our annual report on or about April 1st.

The board did adopt a motion to amend its By-Laws at the January meeting. It concerns Article 6, section 4,--Director Elections, the motion reads "to insert a new item D "All Nominees to be included in the nominations panel (pool) must receive a majority vote of the WSC", and move the existing item D to item E." This change reflects the action the WSC took last year in amending its election procedures.

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. There are now a number of new policies we have implemented and we believe you will see 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. Although we are not able to provide a full archival service as of yet we are working hard to make it a reality in the near future.

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 your consideration on are, 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 supported for further work, ratified for implementation and then brought back for WSC approval in 1992. This would allow world services to utilize the policies, prepare a combined budget proposal, 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 or in 1993. The motions to the conference are as follows:

#10. That the WSC supports continuing the work in progress outlined in the Unified Budget and Review proposal. (This proposal is enclosed as Addendums #3A and 3B.)

Intent: To have the WSC show its support for additional research and investigation to be done towards the preparation of a combined (WSC and WSO) budget for the 1993 calendar year.

#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 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. The motions are not accompanied with intent statements and are presented without any further comment other than the following introductory remarks.

These are the comments of the Honorable Louis H. Pollak, J., United States District Court For the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

THE COURT: We have spent the day hearing testimony in this matter. It is not the kind of a controversy that a court welcomes. It is, quite evidently, a controversy which is essentially internal to a group with many, many members, many dispersed subentities, a common purpose, a common purpose of great social consequence.

It is evident that the fellowship has engaged over the years the devoted participation of tens of thousands, now maybe hundreds of thousands, of people, people who have in their own lives been deeply troubled, and who have striven very hard to liberate themselves in the course of time, to help liberate others to brave this sort of peril.

For a controversy to arise in an enterprise of that kind is regrettable, certainly one that is controversy that seems to be deeply schismatic. It is more regrettable, and it appears to be beyond the capacity of the participants to resolve their differences internally, recognizing the larger importance of common purposes than the areas of disagreement. That is to say, the more regrettable one. An appeal is made to the secular authority of the courts to make dispositions.

I asked the parties to try their best to reach some resolution, at least on an interim basis, not on a final basis, and the efforts on the 27th and 28th of December evidently were not fruitful. Today's testimony only underscores for me the importance of some serious

I would beg Your Honor, if there is ever a time that someone come before your court that is in need of an organization such as ours, that you not hesitate to call upon me personally or any one of the people who were here in this courtroom, because, quite frankly, sir, we will go to the mat for them, and we're going to the mat for you, too. Thank you.

THE COURT: Well, I thank you, Mr. Moorhead, for what you have said. And I thank all of you for the very constructive spirit in which you have approached this matter.

There are lots of lawsuits that come to a federal court ranging all over the canvass, civil and criminal alike, and most people don't come to court unless there's considerable trouble. There are occasional times when one feels that a judicial intervention serves some constructive purpose. There are many times when one feels that all a court can do is contribute an orderly framework for the disposition of a problem and determine what the society's response must be where people are unable to resolve disagreements for themselves. But, not infrequently, one feels not a great sense of accomplishment besides registering society's verdict and establishing the discipline framework.

One doesn't feel a great sense of accomplishment in the sense that too often one is not very sanguine that constructive things will follow. This litigation is an exception, and an enormously gratifying exception to that generalization.

On the basis of what you, Mr. Snyyestvedt, and you, Mr. Moorhead, have said, and on the basis of the text of the agreement you've arrived at, and the Order of which you are asking me to sign, and which I very happily do sign, I feel that the auspices are very good for moving forward in a constructive way, with efforts which obviously are of enormous consequence to the society. And I'm most gratified to the extend that our efforts here, the day before yesterday and this morning, have led in this proper direction.

I certainly will bear in mind, Mr. Moorhead, as I continue to do my work here, that we are in some significant sense institutionally working in parallel ways for these very important common purposes. And I will look forward to hearing, I hope -- perhaps the parties will favor me with letting me know what happens to accomplish the ends which are identified in your agreement, most particularly what provisions are ultimately determined by the process which are contemplated for further consideration by the Conference.

I should add that I am gratified at the thought that the parties have felt that something useful might be accomplished by publishing what I had to say in court on January 2. I will tell you that after that hearing, I was a little concerned, perhaps more exigent in my censure and less appreciative of your various efforts than I should have been. But I am glad that some positive message came through, and that in response to it, you were able to work so successfully together.

So I have signed this Order, and I will ask if you, that you -- will you undertake to file this, Mr. Synnestvedt?

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Perhaps if you would kindly return a copy of the agreement to my chambers.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: Yes, Your Honor. The agreement is to be modified slightly by those typographical corrections. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you all. Unless there's anything further, we are in recess.

(Whereupon, the Court adjourned the proceedings at 10:00 a.m.)