

1984

Voting History  
on change  
of  
3rd ed 4th & 9th  
Traditions



**REPORT ON THE 1984 WSC POLL  
3RD EDITION BASIC TEXT CHANGES**

A variety of questions have been raised regarding the validity of the fellowship poll taken in 1984 that resulted in a change in the language of the essays on Traditions Four and Nine in the Third Edition of our Basic Text. The following is a complete report on all the facts related to this matter of which we are aware.

**FROM REVISED MINUTES, WSC'84, APRIL 23-27, 1984**

The following is an exact transcript of all WSC'84 motions related to the fellowship poll that resulted in the Third Edition changes in the essays on Traditions Four and Nine in the Basic Text.

**April 25, afternoon**

MOTION: Ginni S., (Chair, WSC Literature Subcommittee) moved, seconded by Denny S. RSR (Mid-Atlantic) "that quotations from 'The Little White Booklet' be printed accurately in future editions of the 'Basic Text.' " Yes-34, No-9, Abstentions-5, CARRIED AS AMENDED BELOW.

AMENDMENT: Chuck G., (President, WSO Board of Directors) moved, seconded by Chuck L., RSR (Arizona) "that the next printing of the 'Basic Text' also reflect the wording used in the Special Edition and the First Edition for Traditions Four (4) on page 61 and Tradition Nine (9) on page 68 of the current edition." Yes-37, No-11, Abstentions-0, CARRIED.

MOTION: Ginni S. (WSC Literature Subcommittee) moved, seconded by Denny S. RSR (Mid-Atlantic) "To take from the table the following motion (as stated below)." Yes-44, No-0, Abstentions-1, CARRIED.

MOTION: Ginni S., (WSC Literature Subcommittee) moved, seconded by Denny S., RSR (Mid-Atlantic) "that all literature submitted to this conference for approval require a 2/3 majority vote of participants." Yes-38, No-2, Abstentions-3, CARRIED AS AMENDED BELOW.

AMENDMENT: Leah G. RSR (Florida) moved, seconded by John F., (Chair, WSC Policy Subcommittee) "that it take a 2/3 majority vote at WSC to withdraw current NA literature from the category of approved literature." Yes-39, No-6, Abstentions-3, CARRIED.

MOTION: Bob K., RSR (Volunteer Region) moved, seconded by Bo S. (WSB) "to reconsider the passage of the motion which amended Traditions 4 and 9 (Four and Nine), that the same should go back [to the Fellowship] for group conscience." ROLL CALL VOTE:

Alabama-NW Florida--yes  
So. California--no  
Chesapeake-Potomac--yes  
Mid-Atlantic--yes  
Greater Philadelphia--no  
Louisiana--yes  
Nebraska--no  
New York City--no  
Pacific Northwest--no  
Lone Star--no  
Volunteer--yes  
Mid-Coast--yes  
Steve B. (WSB)--no  
Jack B. (WSB)--no  
Michael B. (WSB)--no  
George H. (WSC)--no  
John F. (Policy)--yes  
Robin H. (N.A. Way)--yes

Alaska--yes  
No. California--no  
Colorado--no  
Hawaii--yes  
Iowa--no  
Mid-America--yes  
No. Nevada--no  
New York State--no  
Show-Me--no  
Tri-State--yes  
West Virginia--yes  
Wyoming--no  
Sally E. (WSB)--no  
Bob B. (WSB)--abstain  
Dutch H. (WSB)--no  
Susan C. (WSC)--no  
Ginni S. (Lit.)--abstain

Arizona--no  
C. Great Lakes--no  
Florida--no  
Georgia--no  
Ireland--no  
Mississippi--yes  
New Mexico--no  
Ohio--yes  
Carolinas--no  
Upper Midwest--no  
Best Little Region--yes  
Chuck G. (WSO Pres.)--no  
Carl B. (WSB)--no  
Sydney R. (WSB)--no  
Bo S. (WSB)--yes  
Carol K. (WSC)--no  
Garry J. (Finance)--yes

Tallied as follows: Yes-18, No-32, Abstentions-2, MOTION TO SEND BACK TO THE FELLOWSHIP FAILED.

#### April 26, morning

MOTION: Robin H., (NA Way Chair) moved, seconded by Bob K., RSR (Volunteer) "to reconsider amendment passed (YESTERDAY) regarding changes in the 4th and 9th Traditions in our Basic Text." Yes-35 (2/3 majority). RECONSIDERATION WAS APPROVED AND THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS INTRODUCED.

MOTION: Chuck G., (WSO President Board of Directors) moved, seconded Bob K., RSR (Volunteer) "that the wording in the 4th and 9th Tradition go out to the Fellowship and be approved or disapproved within 60 days from close of this WSC Conference. Alternative wording to be introduced shall be from the 1st and special edition. The above shall take place prior to the printing of anymore books." Yes-40, No-0, Abstentions-7, CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE.



MOTION: Chuck G. (WSO) moved, seconded by Chuck L. RSR (Arizona) [PERTAINS TO THE TABULATION OF VOTES ON 4TH AND 9TH TRADITIONS] "that a 2/3 majority of all voting participants, 1983/84 WSC, will be necessary for this motion to pass. The count to be computed by the Chairperson of WSC 83-84, copy to be sent to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and published in the WSO NEWSLINE." Yes-39, No-0, Abstentions-11, CARRIED.

AMENDMENT: Mike C., RSR (Central Great Lakes) moved, seconded by Danny W., RSR (West Virginia) "to allow only RSRs to vote and delete officers." Yes-5, No-40, Abstentions-4, DEFEATED.

AMENDMENT: Danny W., RSR (West Virginia) moved, seconded by Tully A., RSR (Alabama-Northwest Florida) "to delete officers of WSC and add Board of Trustees." Yes-3, No-35, Abstentions-10, DEFEATED.

#### **INITIAL LETTER SENT TO FELLOWSHIP**

On May 14, 1984, a letter was sent to the fellowship summarizing the above actions and asking the question, should the Basic Text essays on Traditions Four and Nine read as in the First Edition, or the Second Edition? Viewpoints pro and con this question accompanied the letter. Each region was to poll its groups on this question. The letter noted that "the conference motion requires receipt of responses from each region by June 30, 1984."

#### **DEADLINE EXTENSION**

On June 15, 1984, Robert B. Stone, WSO executive director, sent a letter to the fellowship informing them that the WSC chairperson, after polling conference participants, had extended the deadline for response to the initial letter. A two-week delay in preparation of the initial letter was given as the reason for the two-week extension. The deadline was extended from June 30, 1984 to July 15, 1984.

#### **ORIGINAL TALLY**

In the August 1984 *Fellowship Report*, a letter from Robert R., former chairperson of the World Service Conference, dated July 18, 1984, reported his count of ballots received on the question posed regarding the Basic Text essays on the Fourth and Ninth Traditions. He reported that, of 46 ballots received, 38 had voted yes to the change resulting in the Third Edition, 8 had voted no.

## BALLOT RECOUNT

The Third Edition ballots were misfiled and could not be located for nearly seven years. On March 1, 1991, WSO staff found them in the WSO fire-safe files used to store WSC Literature Committee papers. The ballots were immediately examined, recounted, and photocopied.

We found 46 ballots. One "yes" ballot had to be invalidated because the envelope attached to it was postmarked two days after the deadline. Apart from that one ballot, the remaining ballots appeared to be in reasonable order. We found 37 valid "yes" ballots, and 8 valid "no" ballots. Of the 45 valid ballots found, 82% voted "yes," exceeding the 2/3s sufficient to alter approved literature; 17% voted "no."

In reviewing these ballots, a question arose: Should only the ratio of "yes" to "no" votes be considered, or should the "yes" votes be calculated as a percentage of the total number of conference participants eligible to vote at the time the poll was taken? Since there were 58 voting members of the WSC at the time the poll was taken,<sup>1</sup> the 37 "yes" votes would only account for 64% of eligible participants, a percentage not sufficient to alter approved literature. However, a thorough examination of the roll calls and votes taken at WSC'84 clearly demonstrates that the voting policy applied at that time required only that a motion be approved by the necessary percentage of those actually voting yes or no on a particular question, *not* of those voting yes, no, or abstain on the question, and *not* of the number of eligible voting participants counted in the most recent roll call. We must therefore conclude that, according to the rules of the time, the margin of approval received by the motion to change the Basic Text essays on the Fourth and Ninth Traditions was sufficient for passage.

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<sup>1</sup> 35 RSRs were counted on one or another of the roll calls recorded in the Revised Minutes of the 1984 World Service Conference. At the time the poll was taken, 4 conference officers, 7 conference committee chairpersons, 1 chairperson of the WSO Board of Directors, and 11 trustees were eligible to vote on World Service Conference matters.



# RECOUNT OF 1984 WSC POLL 3RD EDITION BASIC TEXT CHANGES

## REGIONS (28 valid ballots cast):

23 total yes ..... 82%

5 no ..... 18%

Alabama-Northwest Florida .....	Barry U. Montgomery, RSR.....	yes
Alaska .....	Candy M., RSR.....	no ballot
Arizona.....	Chuck Lehman, RSR .....	yes
Best Little Region in Texas .....	Daniel Gomez, RSR .....	no ballot
Carolinas.....	Ross Catterton, RSR.....	yes
Central Great Lakes.....	Michael J. Christie, RSR .....	yes
Chesapeake-Potomac.....	Randy Jones, RSR.....	yes
Colorado.....	Steve Sigman, RSR .....	yes
Florida.....	Leah Goodrich, RSR.....	yes
Georgia.....	Shirley Charboneaux, RSR.....	yes
Greater New York.....	Roger Teague, RSR.....	yes
Greater Philadelphia.....	Bobby Bonds, RSR.....	no
Hawaii .....	Tom McCall, RSR.....	yes
Iowa.....	Raphael A., RSR .....	no ballot
Ireland.....	Shane Doyle, RSR .....	no ballot
Lone Star .....	Toni Clemons, RSR .....	yes
Louisiana.....	William Hall, RSR .....	yes
Mid-America.....	Mark Tomer, RSR .....	yes
Mid-Atlantic.....	Dennis R. Sampson, RSR.....	yes
Mid-Coast .....	Jeff Bronson, RSR .....	yes
Mississippi .....	Christi Price, RSR .....	yes
Nebraska.....	Sally A. R(illegible), RSR.....	yes
New Mexico.....	Kim Johnson, RSR.....	yes
New York State.....	Melkon Babigian, RSR.....	yes
Northern California.....	Jim Wymore, RSR.....	yes
Northern Nevada.....	Don Davis, RSR .....	yes
Ohio .....	Tom Guthrie.....	no
Pacific Northwest .....	Henry Boschman.....	no ballot
Show-Me.....	Robert W. Richart .....	yes
Southern California.....	Danette Banyai, RSR .....	yes
Tri-State.....	Dale R. Andrews, RSR.....	no
Upper Midwest <sup>1</sup> .....	Willie Lubka, RSR .....	late ballot--invalid
Volunteer Region.....	Rick Woody, RSR .....	no
West Virginia.....	Dan W., RSR .....	no
Wyoming .....	RSR unknown .....	no ballot

<sup>1</sup> The postmark deadline for this poll was July 15, 1984. The envelope attached to this ballot was postmarked July 17, 1984. Incidentally, this region voted "yes."

**WSC OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS (7 ballots cast)**

6 yes ..... 86%

1 no ..... 14%

George Hollahan, Chairperson, World Service Conference.....yes  
 Leah Goodrich, Vice Chairperson, World Service Conference.....yes  
 Susan Chess, Treasurer, World Service Conference.....no ballot  
 K. Bea Chadbourne, Secretary, World Service Conference.....no ballot  
 Ginni Swanson, Chairperson, WSC Literature Committee.....yes  
 William Hall, Chairperson, WSC Policy Committee.....yes  
 Dale R. Andrews, Chairperson, WSC Finance Committee.....no  
 Bobby Bonds, Chairperson, WSC Convention Committee.....yes  
 Roger Teague, Chairperson, WSC International Affairs Committee.....yes  
 Bob Bergh, Chairperson, WSC Hospitals and Institutions Committee.....no ballot  
 Kim Johnson, Chairperson, WSC Public Information Committee.....no ballot

**WSO Board of Directors—1 yes—100% yes**

Chuck Gates, Chairperson.....yes

**WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (9 ballots cast)**

7 yes..... 78%

2 no ..... 22%

Bob Barrett .....yes  
 Steve Bice.....yes  
 Michael Bohan.....yes  
 Sally Evans .....yes  
 John Farrell.....no  
 Dutch Huber .....yes  
 Robert Rehmar .....yes  
 Sidney Rosen.....yes  
 Bo Sewell.....no  
 Jack Bernstein.....no ballot  
 Shirley Charboneaux.....no ballot

**SUMMARY--BALLOTS RECEIVED****TOTAL (out of 45 valid ballots received):**

37 yes ..... 82.22%

8 no..... 17.78%