

# WSO Position Statements

? Violation of Order  
P15 non financial concern

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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 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, ~~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 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.

By Outside Entities  
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. ~~And to firmly secure the integrity of 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 Book One of the ~~Third Edition Revised~~, with ~~additional language in the Fourth and Ninth Traditions~~, has caused us to place these issues in front of our members again. <sup>Part 4</sup> Our choices are simple, but 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. <sup>NOT</sup> If it is our choice to continue to have the WSO act in this capacity 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. 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.

*Clarify*  
Presently, the WSC may direct the board generally to make changes or reject changes (that the board has made) regarding general operations of the WSO. Recognizing this and in light of the current way changes can be made to the By-Laws, the board has adopted two motions to change the By-Laws. The first 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. The second motion would change Article 2--Objectives and Purposes. The motion reads "to insert in the first sentence of paragraph 4 between the words the and control, and in the first sentence of paragraph 5 between the words the and production, the word exclusive. This change will strengthen the WSO's position as the central management point for the production, distribution and sale of N.A.'s properties. *Section I*  
*Sect II*

*OK*  
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.

*OK*  
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.

*OK*  
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 ~~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 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.





## WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

*November, 1990*

*To:* The Fellowship  
*From:* Ed Duquette, Chairperson  
World Service Conference

I hope this report finds you all in good health and spirits. I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your contributions during these past few months. Although the contributions are still less than the 1990-91 budget requires, we appear to be setting a record for contributions received in a single year. Given that many regions have not contributed thus far, I would like to express a special thanks to those who have given their attention to the financial needs of the conference. I will allow the WSC Treasurer to further address our specific situation in his report. I want to focus this report on the changes to the format planned for the annual meeting of the conference.

The mainstays of these changes are the use of parliamentary procedure and the utilization of motion-making as the prime decision-making vehicle. Parliamentary procedure is designed to protect the minority voice. There is, though, an associated unfairness between those participants with a superior knowledge of procedures and the average participant. It makes little sense to base our service decisions on a vehicle that truly only serves those of us who have an above average knowledge of these procedures. In effect, the procedures designed to protect the minority voice at the conference create a minority. Parliamentary procedure hinders our ability to address the complexity of serving a worldwide fellowship today. The conference procedures allow for only minimal debate, unless we entertain motions to extend debate, which often encourages us to become more deeply entrenched in procedure. It is the goal of the WSC Administrative Committee this year to offer alternatives that will lessen the time spent in parliamentary procedure, while making better use of that time.

Conference procedures direct discussions to be geared toward the motion at hand, rather than the broad ramifications of underlying issues. I believe that the conference's inability to adequately address complex issues stems from the fact that we have come to rely on motions as the solution. Unfortunately, we do not live in a two-dimensional world with black and white answers. Complex issues require broad discussion, time to think, and cooperative resolution. We have in the past focused our time and energies on Band-Aid solutions in the form of specific motions, rather than discussing our problems and our needs.

For instance, for many years we have seen motions regarding whether RSRs should be the only voting participants at the annual meeting. Numerous times we have attempted to deal with this issue by offering motions that are specific to that resolve. This issue has to do with philosophical interpretations of our traditions that cannot be resolved simply by reorganizing the voting entities. The issue is a complex one that requires broad discussion, with members on all sides willing to understand the validity of each other's viewpoints. It's not about being wrong or right, it's about being sensitive and responsive to all perspectives in a cooperative manner. All sides have value. However, utilizing our current system of making motions at problems, we have not had that opportunity for thorough discussion.



attitudes of the members in his region. Unfortunately, he explained to me that, as a direct result of my report, he was having a difficult time trying to change these attitudes. The people he was dealing with were discrediting his motives due to his participation in the "hostage taking," as I had reported.

He also told me that he had done some figures on his own that were significantly different than those I had reported. I had stated that 90% of the 156 motions received during the week of the conference were from six regions, and that this was an attempt to set the conference agenda or, in essence, hold the conference hostage. After I returned from Arlington, he sent me the figures he had come up with. I compared them with the figures I had.

The figures I reported were not accurate. Nor were the ones he sent me, though his figures were more accurate than the ones I had reported. I apologize to the fellowship for inaccurate accounting of figures. I do not, though, apologize for the nature of what I had reported to have happened at the conference. That perception was shared by the WSC Administrative Committee, as well as most of the conference leadership.

One thing that this has brought to my attention is that the *Fellowship Report* does have an impact on our membership, and that editorials by the world services leadership must be accurate. It also supports the concept of a publication that reports conference activities in an unbiased format. A publication that would state facts relating to events and activities, free of editorials by the leadership of world services. The WSC Administrative Committee will be presenting this concept to the conference for consideration in April. The idea is not to eliminate the *Fellowship Report*, as the reports from world services have value, but rather to supplement the *Fellowship Report* with an objective and separate publication.

Another thing that has come to my attention as a result of this RSR's concern has to do with the perception of conference activities by the fellowship. It is easy to pass judgment on individuals involved with the conference if you only hear an account of what has transpired, and have not had an opportunity to see these things firsthand. The WSC Administrative Committee will be presenting to the conference the idea of rotating the annual meeting of the WSC around the United States. We are preparing a presentation that suggests moving the meeting every other year, initially using a zone system similar to the plan presented by the WCC a few years ago.

I remain sensitive to the frustrations that this RSR faces. I was once an RSR and had very similar experiences. I hope that the two aforementioned resolutions will begin to resolve some of these frustrations. There is, of course, much more to be done. I would like to thank the individual who brought this matter to my attention. I offer him my support in his efforts. I know this road is not an easy one; I've been there.

**Reminder:** The annual report to the conference from regions will be included in the March edition of the *Fellowship Report*. Reports from regions should be **no longer than three pages**. Please send your report to the WSO, P. O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409, **no later than March 1, 1991**.

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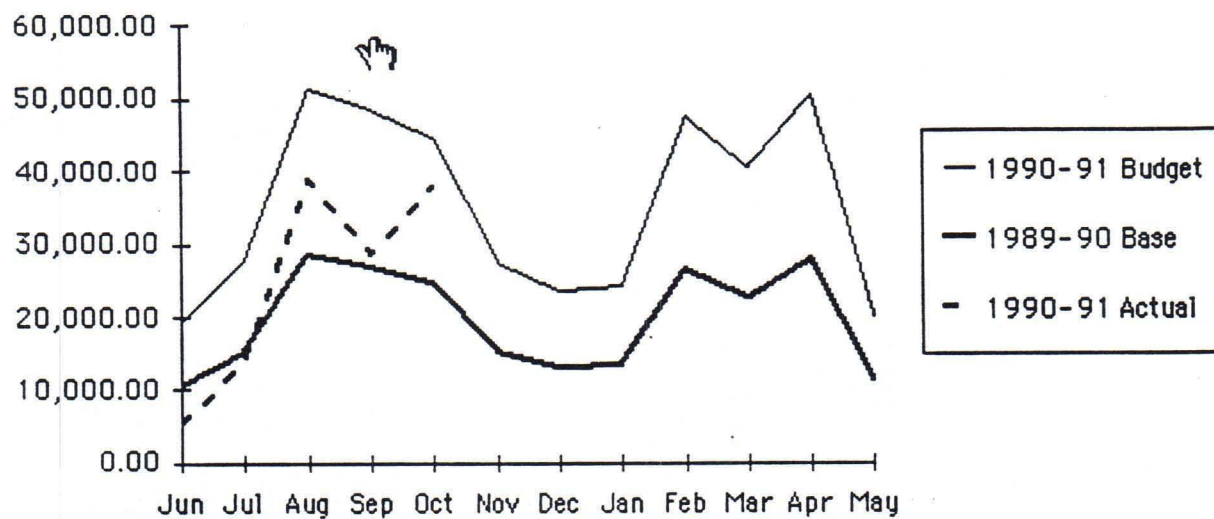
To: The Fellowship

From: Tom Rush  
WSC Treasurer

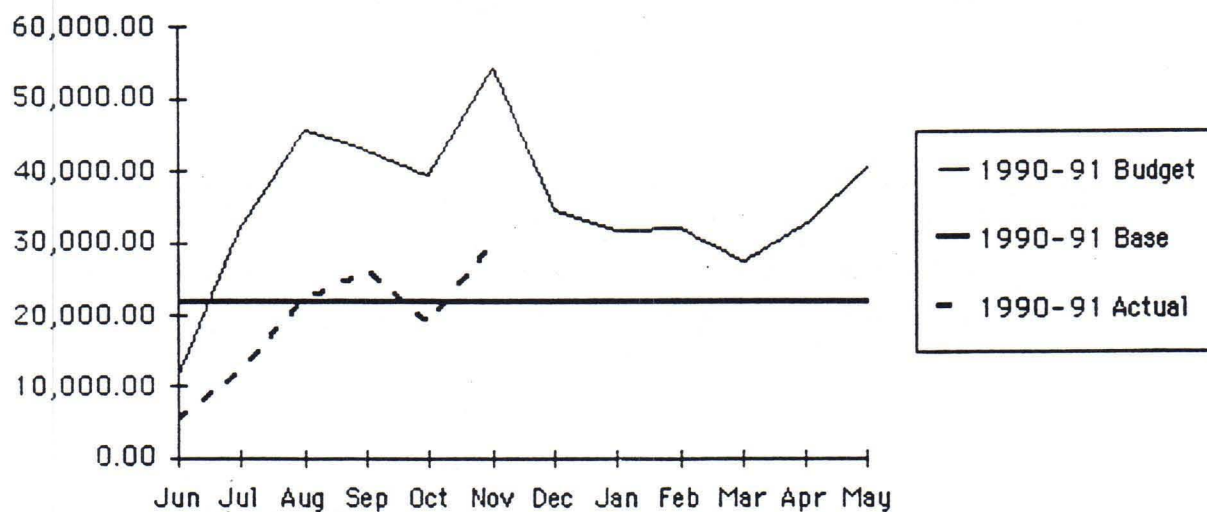
First, I would like to thank all of the regions, areas, groups, individuals, and conventions that have sent in contributions for world services. Contributions are on an upswing. Although they are far short of meeting the expenditures approved at WSC-90, they do appear to be surpassing the amounts received in 1989-90, which has been the largest amount of contributions received so far.



### WSC INCOME 1990-91



### WSC EXPENSE 1990-91





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To: The Fellowship

From: Pete Cole, Chairperson  
WSC H&I Committee

Greetings. The WSC H&I Committee held a very productive meeting at Van Nuys, California on October 19-21, 1990. Our Treatment Tape and Correctional Tape Ad Hoc Committees were combined in order to streamline their efforts. It was the general consensus of the WSC H&I Committee that the individual ad hoc committees had gone as far as they could independently, and now was the time to combine forces and complete the taping process. The committee will proceed towards taping a panel presentation in a coed facility, for insertion into our handbook.

While on the subject of tapes, the committee would like to request any area or regional H&I subcommittee that regularly holds orientation for panel members, please tape them if possible, and send them to the WSO in c/o the WSO H&I Project Coordinator. We are considering adding this type of activity to the reverse side of the panel tape. We would like to hear how you do it for possible ideas.

Our Guidelines Ad Hoc Committee came up with several recommended changes in our committee guidelines. However, our committee did not feel comfortable in voting on the changes, due to the fact that only half of our voting members were present, and some of the changes would affect the manner in which we select our committee membership. The other change the ad hoc committee came up with was to seek permission from the conference, giving us the ability to change the resource section of our handbook as needed. The resource section consists mainly of letters, tracking forms for literature, etc., and we have several items that need updating, i.e., our handbook was developed and approved prior to the booklet *"Behind The Walls"* being approved, and we feel this needs to be placed in the suggested literature section. We also feel changes were needed in the WSC H&I Pool Nominee Form. Rather than make individual motions to the conference as needed concerning the resource section, we felt it more appropriate to make one blanket motion. All other changes to the handbook would still need conference approval.

Our *Reaching Out* Subscription Ad Hoc Committee has determined during their meetings, a subscription plan is in order for our newsletter. Before everyone gets upset and starts writing the *N.A. Way* and WSO, please read on. As far as WSC H&I is concerned, *Reaching Out* will always be free upon request to any incarcerated addict. Area and regional H&I committees will continue to receive their allotted copies. However, beginning July, 1991, all state, provincial, or federal Department of Corrections, as well as county or city law enforcement agencies, can begin to subscribe to the *Reaching Out* newsletter. Additionally, regional and area H&I subcommittees can subscribe as well, if they choose to supplement their current allotment. The subscription plan will be re-evaluated some time in 1992. All of this is pending presentation to the WSO Board of Directors.

While on the subject of *Reaching Out*, I would like to encourage any area or regional H&I committees who may be holding learning days or workshops to send this information to the WSO H&I Project Coordinator at least three months in advance, and we will publish it in the *Reaching Out*. Also, any stories solicited from an addict in a treatment or correctional setting, as well as reports on learning days or workshops, will be considered. We would especially like to hear from our members outside of the United States.

WSC H&I is embarking on a new project in conjunction with the External Committee of the Board of Trustees. The function of the new WSC H&I Ad Hoc Committee will be to gather and disseminate information from professionals, i.e., wardens, social workers, etc., as their thoughts, ideas, pros and cons in regards to H&I and our image worldwide. We will be developing several questionnaires. One will be geared toward the professional, which will help us discover



relationship is that the committee maintains full responsibility for the work. The drafts developed by staff, based on discussions and direction from the ad hoc group, are considered recommendations that the ad hoc group considers. The ad hoc committee uses the drafts developed by staff as a basis for further committee discussion and draft revision.

In August, the committee also discussed and established a production schedule for the book's development. This schedule is designed with a review of the committee's second drafts by the WSCLC and Board of Trustees. After evaluating the input from the BOT and WSCLC, the ad hoc group will produce a third draft. The third drafts of each step will be reviewed again at a meeting of the entire WSCLC. At their meetings, the WSC Literature Committee will spend most of three days going over four separate steps (chapters). Following these meetings, the ad hoc group will finalize the drafts based on a sit-down review with the WSCLC. As you can see, the step drafts will be going through quite a strenuous review process prior to being released for fellowship review.

The production schedule for the steps portion of *It Works* calls for all of the step drafts to go through the process outlined above, and then to be released for a fellowship review period. The drafts will be released in a staggered fashion, probably two drafts at a time. We hope to have several step drafts ready for release by the April 1991 WSC. About five months later the next set of drafts will be released, and so on. Staggering these review periods not only saves time in the overall process, but will allow local committees to structure a review that will encourage an equal and thorough review of all the steps. The total length of time that the steps portion of the book will be out for review under this staggered process will equal a one-year review period. The type of input we hope to receive during the review will be conceptual in nature, pertaining to the book's content, rather than line-by-line input on structure or grammar. Input from regional and area literature committees will provide the basis for the development of a final approval draft. It isn't possible to definitely state when this approval draft will be ready for fellowship review and approval. Both the Steps Ad Hoc Committee and the WSC Literature Committee have established ambitious schedules to move the steps book through the process as quickly and responsibly as is possible.

#### *For Those in Treatment*

The committee finished work on the I.P. *For Those in Treatment* during the October committee meeting. We will include this I.P. in the 1991 *Conference Agenda Report*. This pamphlet will have a ninety-day approval period, culminating in a motion to approve the I.P. at the April 1991 WSC.

#### *In Times of Illness*

The committee also worked on the I.P. *In Times of Illness* at the October meeting. This piece has gone through several changes during its development. It is our impression that this piece of literature is intended to offer experience, strength, and hope to the addict who is faced with difficult situations such as taking medication, suffering from a chronic or terminal illness, or an emergency care situation. The WSCLC believes that the section of the pamphlet on terminal or chronic illness needs further expansion. We discussed several areas that we think would improve the overall perspective of this part of the piece. The committee will continue work on this I.P. and hopes to release it as approval form literature at the 1991 WSC. Since the subject matter of *In Times of Illness* is considered by many to be of a sensitive nature, this would allow for a one-year approval period.

#### *Daily Book*

The committee has been gradually increasing its resources to develop a daily book for Narcotics Anonymous. Following our July meeting, a plan was implemented that includes a review panel made up of WSCLC members. This group reviews work developed by members of the WSCLC and WSO staff. The pieces are being developed by using the hundreds of items of input provided by the fellowship over the years. The review panel met during the October meeting to iron out some details of the process. A decision was made to work more slowly for



three main projects for this year. In the *Conference Agenda Report* for action, you will see our new WSC Policy Committee guidelines. We have come to realize that with the current guidelines, the committee membership rotates so often that it is difficult to complete any projects. We also added clean time requirements and put more emphasis on world service experience, in order to more effectively deal with world level policy. Another new item in the guidelines will be asking the conference to fund the membership of the committee, so that people with experience can afford to be members of the committee. We will ask for approval of our new guidelines at the meeting of the conference in April.

Our other two projects (rotation, and seating of new regions) will be included in the *Conference Agenda Report* as proposals for discussion. We hope you will discuss these issues in your regions and areas, so that your RSR will be prepared to give us specific feedback. Both of these proposals were developed after much work and hard discussion. Since these are proposals and not motions, the discussion at the WSC meeting might result in any of three options. Either or both proposals could be completely rejected, and the committee directed to do no more work on them. Or the conference could accept either or both proposals conceptually, giving directions for further work. Finally, if either or both proposals are accepted, a motion may be made for adoption of part or all of the proposal. We as a Policy Committee believe in the new direction the fellowship seems to be guiding us in, with issues discussed first and then motions formulated after hearing input. We hope you will come to the conference with lots of input for us.

The Policy Committee discussed two regional motions brought to us, one from Mountaineer Region and one from New Jersey Region. Both motions concerned voting participation at the WSC. The Policy Committee felt that the WSC has made very clear through votes in previous years how it feels about voting at the conference. We believe it would be redundant to bring these motions to the WSC. By unanimous vote, the WSC Policy Committee decided not to include those motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*. I have written to both regions, explaining the committee's action.

At the meeting in Van Nuys, the committee had three vacancies to fill due to voluntary resignations. George H. was elected to serve, but due to his status as a special worker and his belief that it was a conflict, he declined. We did fill one position, electing Susan V. from the Carolina Region. The other seats were left vacant.

I would like to thank the fellowship for the increase in donations recently. It appears that the Policy Committee will be able to complete its work this year. Thank you for the financial and written support we have received. Keep the cards and letters coming.

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To: The Fellowship

From: Stephen Ringer, Chairperson  
WSC Public Information Committee

Due to the fact that there are several areas of concern at present, I thought it more appropriate to look at some results of public information work throughout the world of N.A., rather than expound on the number or variety of public information endeavors in which your committee has participated.

We have received several requests from various social institutions for our participation. These include health fairs, mental health conferences, presentations to groups large and small in the judiciary, medical, religious, law enforcement, education and treatment fields, roundtable discussions about addiction or Twelve Step programs with concerned citizens, etc. We also continue to use television and radio PSAs.

Our participation in these events will lead to an increased awareness of N.A. It is the hope of the WSC P.I. Committee that, as awareness increases, we will be forced to maintain some



Given the above considerations, the committee requests that **input on the Twelve Concepts** be sent to the WSO **on or before January 1, 1991** to have any impact at all on the revised drafts to be presented at WSC '91. **Input on the remainder of the Guide** needs to be received **no later than July 1, 1991** in order to be useful to the committee.

Some confusion was expressed regarding the "approval form" of the Twelve Concepts and *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*, scheduled for release in April and September of 1991, respectively. The committee wishes to reiterate its desire not to get locked into thinking of "review" and "approval" drafts as we currently do with literature, with "approval" drafts being "take it or leave it, absolutely no debate" type documents. Because of the nature, scope and impact of our work, we hope to make it clear that the conference has the ability to modify, accept or reject any of our work at any stage of its development.

Discussions then turned to the uncompleted world services section of the *Guide*. Some of our discussions included the purpose, function and composition of various proposed world service bodies, and their relationships to the proposed national entities, as well as with each other. Some committee members held that the new World Service Board of Trustees would be essentially a body holding philosophical discussions, while some members felt that the proposed WSB would have a responsibility to help carry the message worldwide. When the discussions turned to the topic of the functions of a national/world service office, the committee ran into some of the same difficulties it faced in the past. One area was the responsibility of production and sale of literature--is it the function of a national service office or a world service office? Another discussion focused on the concept of "self-support," and the appropriateness of one community subsidizing another. While we had lengthy fruitful discussions, we ended up with some basic questions that we felt the fellowship has not as yet answered.

Some of these basic questions we identified were:

- \* What do we want world services to do?
- \* What "control" is the U.S. fellowship willing to give up?
- \* What financial support is the U.S. fellowship willing to provide to emerging N.A. communities?
- \* What do we all understand as "self-support?"
- \* Should one N.A. community subsidize another?
- \* Is a structural change needed for the WSC, or merely a change in format?

We hope to provide a forum at the 1991 conference to generate some discussions on these and other questions regarding our relationship with each other via the service structure.

At our October meeting, we discussed some of the input given at our workshops on the regional service committee section, and decided on some revisions to this chapter. Some of our discussions centered on the regional assemblies, the need for some regions to have subcommittees, and the specific terminology for trusted servants at the area and regional level.

Regarding the topic of selection of the U.S. national conference delegates, we decided that the seating of delegates by the conference should be along geo-political lines. One option discussed was that each state would have one delegate, and those states that have inordinately large numbers of groups would have more than one conference delegate. The committee further decided that the manner of determining which states would qualify for additional delegates and how many delegates they may be entitled to, would be determined by the conference. Methods of selecting delegates in states with more than one delegate would be determined by each state according to its situation and needs.

We also discussed shared services between various area service committees. This discussion was not limited to areas within major metropolitan areas, but all instances where areas needed to have shared services. We will be making changes in the area service section of the *Guide* to reflect our discussions.

We have our work cut out for us to complete revisions of the Twelve Concepts prior to the 1991 conference, and the entire *Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* prior to September 1991.



To: The Fellowship

From: Jack Bernstein, Chairperson  
World Service Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has met only once since the last *Fellowship Report*. We have, however, had a busy couple of months. A great deal of our time and energy has been spent in discussing the issue of the illicit Basic Text. This included a combined meeting with the WSO Board of Directors at our October meeting. During this meeting we also met with one of the principal members involved in the production of this text. We held this meeting in the hope of avoiding legal proceedings by resolving the issue of that person's involvement. An offer was made to the individual, that he has yet to agree to, in order to avoid the legal process. Based on the letters that we have received, there appears to be a misunderstanding of the motivation for the board's support of taking legal action against the individuals involved in the illicit printing and distribution process. First, this is not a financial concern and the issue is not that this text is going to decrease the WSO's income. While this may or may not affect the WSO financially, the BOT's sole concern is the ability of WSO to maintain legal rights to N.A.'s literature. The board is equally concerned with the separation that this issue is causing, as members are feeling compelled to choose sides. The issue of the text is also providing an opportunity to evaluate other issues that need to be considered and discussed by the fellowship. These issues, however, should not be confused with the text, as they are not justification for violating laws. Some of these issues are: Do we want to be a worldwide fellowship? Does the WSC serve as the place where our group conscience is voiced? How much trust should we, as trusted servants, have and how much trust do we actually place in our trusted servants? These issues need to be discussed and agreed upon in order to determine what the fellowship wants from its boards and committees.

We have also been more involved in the hands-on operation of the WSO through an increase in communication with the Board of Directors. There have been several conference calls including members from both boards and the WSC Administrative Committee regarding the proposals on travel, translations, and budget review and utilization. These proposals are almost ready to go to the fellowship for consideration at the WSC.

During our meeting in October, elections were held with the decision being the re-election of myself, Jack Bernstein, and Becky Meyer, as chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. We also agreed to support the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee's production schedule and plans for fellowship review and input.

In keeping with our plans to interact with the fellowship, and with the positive feedback we received on the open trustee meeting held in Arlington, VA, our next meeting is scheduled for February 7 - 10, 1991 in Philadelphia, PA. The agenda hasn't been set but the plan is to have open dialogue with the members present, at least during Saturday and Sunday. The meeting Thursday and Friday will also be open for members to attend, with the agenda being geared towards our regular order of business. Any suggestions for items to be discussed will be considered and appreciated.

The following is a short report on the work of the trustee committees during the October meeting.

A combined meeting of the *External Committee* and the *Internal Committee* was held to meet with the two Additional Needs Panel members, Darwyn L. and Gordon P., to discuss the needed communication between world services and the panel members. Much support was given for participation by panel members in regional and multi-regional additional needs workshops. A resolution was also adopted that *recommends the recognition of 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, as funds become available, 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. This resolution will be given to the translations committee for action.* There are also plans to create an "Additional Needs Awareness Month" to focus attention on additional needs issues; requesting local convention committees to include additional



celebration and the committee work. I doubt that the board will change its thinking on this issue, but would rather continue to engage in discussions on how to better prepare for registration shortfalls.

The board has anticipated for a couple of years a cash flow squeeze occurring as we come away from the Australian Convention and possibly through the '92 convention year. We find ourselves, as a result of Portland, in that position today. We will be discussing at our meeting how we can modify our administrative expenses over the coming years to accomodate this situation. It is my expectation to leave the meeting with a plan to minimize meetings and site trips and to increase the use of conference calls and using individual members of the board. These measures should in no way affect the upcoming conventions.

All who attended the 20th World Convention seem to agree that it was a success. The host committee worked hard, and should be commended for a job well done. There are tee shirts, jackets, and mugs left, and plans for making this merchandise available to the fellowship will be discussed at the November meeting. If your area or region is interested in obtaining some of these items, contact the WSO.

#### *WCNA-21*

The Australian Host Committee is busy with the preliminary planning. Much interest has been shown for this event through the sale of pre-convention T-shirts, both in the U.S. and Australia. Negotiations are taking place with a hotel under construction directly across the street from the convention center. If this facility is completed as scheduled and the negotiations go well, we would be able to eliminate busing, which would lower our cost and add to the unity of the event. The results of this will be reflected in the pre-registration/information booklet, which we hope to distribute by the first of the year.

We will be considering a plan to use the WSO for hotel booking for this convention which will allow the board the most flexibility with the hotel contracting. All of the deposits collected will be held in a seperate account until we are assured that the facility we want to do business with will, in fact, be finished on time. To insure that we will have accomodations we will enter into agreements with other hotel properties which we could cancel if they were not needed. We sincerely beleive that the hotel across from the center will be complete; however, it just seems responsible to take the necessary precaution to insure that we will have accomodations.

#### *WCNA-22*

The Canadian members are anxious to start planning the '92 event. The liaisons for that convention will probably make a trip to Toronto in late spring, and the host committee will get under way sometime late in the summer of '91. Their chairperson will come onto the board at the meeting this month.

#### *WCNA-23*

Columbus, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and Chicago, Illinois have all worked hard submitting bids. All of the sites seem to be capable of hosting a successful convention. There was a time in world convention planning when the need of an particular area, to have the convention, was the primary consideration in selecting a site. With the tremendous growth of the N.A. Fellowship and the size of the convention today, other factors merit consideration. The ability to localize facilities, the allure of one city over another, transportation access, and fiscal considerations must be considered. The location of the '93 World Convention will be announced at the beginning of the year. Your board will select a primary and secondary site at the November meeting, then at the successful conclusion of negotiations with the facilities, the location will be announced.

#### *CORPORATE*

The WCC Board will work toward adoption of by-law changes at the November meeting, to put into effect changes made by the board and the conference last year. The by-laws need to reflect that the conference elects one of three conference-elected WCC Board members each year, to serve a three-year term. A change to the by-laws will be considered to state that WCC



expenditures, to be published prior to the conference each year. In connection with the unified budget, a specific committee would review and allocate funds according to specific plans developed by the committees or boards. This committee would then develop the yearly budget and present it to each service entity for approval.

On another note, the search for a new executive director is well on the way. The professional search agency contracted by the WSO Board is currently taking applications. We hope that the agency soon will be making recommendations to the Search Committee and eventually to the Board of Directors. This activity is being handled by an appointed Search Committee outside of the World Service Office. If you desire information about the search, you may contact the search agency or Donna Markus, the chairperson of the Search Committee.

Currently the office is doing well. Our sales volume is down, primarily due to the general downturn in the economy. We do not expect to exceed last year's income level, based upon the projections for the remainder of the year. In conjunction, we have been spending at a reduced rate, which seems to have kept us in a good position, making our overall fiscal condition stable.

The lawsuit with the company in northern California is near settlement, and we expect to provide a report on this specific case to the conference in April.

We are currently in the process of preparing for a meeting with local service offices, to be held in Chicago on the weekend of December 6-9, 1990. We have sent letters to the offices and the regions, informing them of this meeting and its agenda. We plan to discuss regional literature distribution, service office operations, the possibility of creating World Service Office branches within the United States, the discount structure, and other general items.

As most of you are aware, we have been dealing with the illegal Basic Text. During the recent World Service Conference workshop in Van Nuys, we gave a report to the participants who were present. During this report, we also raised some questions which we believe need to be addressed. For the convenience of the participants who were not present, we have included a copy of the written version of that report. We will continue to provide current status reports regarding the events and decisions connected to this problem as they occur, as we have in the past.



**RESPONDING TO ILLEGAL PUBLICATION  
A REPORT FROM THE WSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
OCTOBER 20, 1990**

In the last eight years, Narcotics Anonymous has established a system for approving, publishing, and distributing N.A. literature that is legally, practically, and spiritually sound. This year, some individual N.A. members have taken it upon themselves to print and distribute a version of N.A.'s Basic Text which they have altered to suit their own tastes. Their actions are legally, practically, and spiritually unsound. This report looks at the process our fellowship has developed for approving, publishing, and distributing its literature, contrasting that process with the extraordinary actions of the individuals who have pirated our Basic Text. Finally, this report asks for your direction. How should we respond to those who have illegally altered and published your literature? What responsibility does the WSO Board of Directors have to protect the integrity of the fellowship's printed message?

*Legally sound?*

According to the general understanding of our members, new literary items, or revised versions of existing pieces of literature, must be approved by N.A.'s representative assembly, the World Service Conference, in order to be considered "N.A. literature." New literature not yet approved by the conference, or literature revised in contradiction to the directions of the conference, is not considered "N.A. literature." Once approved by the conference, N.A. literature is copyrighted, published, and distributed by the World Service Office. The copyright gives Narcotics Anonymous the ability to protect its literature from alteration or publication by parties other than those designated by the World Service Conference.

The copyrights to our literature, and the responsibility to publish and distribute that literature, is given to the World Service Office in trust as the *fiduciary* of the World Service Conference—that is, the World Service Office is legally bound to publish N.A. literature, for the benefit of the N.A. Fellowship, in accordance with the directions of the World Service Conference. In addition to the WSO's responsibility to publish N.A. literature, the World Service Office is also legally responsible to protect N.A. literature from abuse, on behalf of the entire fellowship. These responsibilities are spelled out both in World Service Office corporate by-laws and in U.S. legal codes.

Those who have altered our Basic Text, calling it "N.A. literature" and publishing it without the fellowship's permission, are thieves. They have stolen our name, Narcotics Anonymous, and have used it for their own purposes, not the fellowship's. They have stolen our literature, our printed message, without our permission. What they stole has been mutilated, altered to suit their own tastes, without any authorization from the fellowship. These are crimes, and the law protects us from those who are abusing the fellowship's rights to its literature.

The N.A. Fellowship has given its literature in trust to the World Service Office corporation, to be published in accordance with the direction of the fellowship's World Service Conference. The individuals who have taken it upon themselves to change N.A. literature to suit their own ideas, and to publish that altered material, have broken trust with the N.A. Fellowship, both ethically and legally. And, according to American trust law, the World Service Office is bound, one way or another, to protect the literature given it in trust from those who have chosen to abuse the trust's "property."

*Practically sound?*

The system Narcotics Anonymous has established for publishing its literature is both reliable and accountable. Literature publishing is a complex affair, requiring attention to a great many details, and a considerable degree of expertise, even for relatively simple publishing projects. Even though every group, area, and region needs N.A. literature, it's not necessary for every group, area, and region to set up its own publishing operation. That job is already done by the World Service Office, on behalf of the entire fellowship.

w/o's permission  
we are the fellowship.

For us  
not  
AGM  
us

5th trad. - carrying the message

Don't we need to give it away in order to keep it?  
We can only keep what we have by giving it away.  
How can we do it the message... we are it away?



Let's sell the Book for less.

The identity of our fellowship as a fellowship is based on the common message of its groups, as represented in N.A. literature. If each group had a slightly different message, and slightly different literature, the variations would quickly compound themselves to the point where we would cease to be a recognizable fellowship at all. For this reason, Narcotics Anonymous has established that N.A. literature can only be approved or altered by an assembly that is representative of the entire fellowship: the World Service Conference. Each group is free to carry out its own activities as it sees fit; but in matters affecting all the groups, they use the established service structure to come to a common decision, effective fellowshipwide. Thus, the needs and rights of *each* groups, and the needs and rights of *all* the groups, are equally respected.

Those engaged in the unauthorized alteration, publication, and distribution of N.A.'s Basic Text have gone far, far down the road of self-will, and far, far away from the principles of recovery. They have taken upon themselves the authority the N.A. Fellowship has given its World Service Conference: the authority to determine the nature of N.A.'s printed message. They've said to us all, in effect, "Dissolve the World Service Conference, and give our gang its authority. *Trust us.*"

To justify their actions, they have deliberately misled other N.A. members concerning the facts of the nature and history of N.A. service, and have slandered the trusted servants and special workers of our world services. When their lies are countered with documentary and eyewitness evidence, they shift their attacks to other subjects and individuals. They have politicized N.A. groups, distracting those groups from their primary purpose of carrying the message to still-suffering addicts. They have pitted N.A. member against N.A. member, severely undermining the unity upon which the personal recovery of us all depends. By fragmenting the N.A. message to suit their own personal ideas, they are threatening to fragment our fellowship itself. Their activities run against everything Narcotics Anonymous stands for--and we should not stand for their activities any further.

#### *How should we respond?*

The WSO Board of Directors, with the support of the World Service Board of Trustees and the officers of the World Service Conference, has already taken the necessary preliminary steps to legally protect the Basic Text from further unauthorized alteration and publication. We have retained a law firm to deal with the infringers, and are preparing a complaint which, when filed, will set the legal process in motion. From that point, we will go through a series of discovery motions and injunctions, followed by an eventual decision. In this process, we are confident that we will be successful, but it will take time.

Do you want us to continue along this path to protect the fellowship's printed message from bootlegging and mutilation? Do you want U.S. federal courts to settle our problems, or do you want us to seek an internal solution? The WSO board feels that both are appropriate. We believe strongly that the rights of Narcotics Anonymous have been violated, from a legal standpoint, a practical standpoint, and a spiritual standpoint. The individuals who have violated the fellowship's trust need to be held accountable for their actions. The question is, how can we effectively call them to account? This decision will be placed before the world service leadership in the upcoming weeks, prior to actually entering the legal arena.

As trusted servants, it is imperative that you consider these points very carefully, that you present them to the members you serve, and that you communicate your wishes in this matter to us as clearly as possible. You, as the membership, will tell us what you believe Narcotics Anonymous is, and what it stands for.

How can World Services waste our contributions  
And our money suing a member of the fellowship  
Please spend the money to carry the message -  
Don't waste it on lawyers and trials.