

N.A. NEWSLINE

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC. • P.O. BOX 9999, VAN NUYS, CA 91409-9999 • 818-780-3951
VOLUME 6 MAY 1990 NUMBER 6

WCNA-20

The Portland World Convention is progressing nicely. The major logistical arrangements have been made, the program is shaping up, and registrations are arriving daily. The Portland convention will not be consolidated into one or two single large hotels, as some recent world conventions have been. The hotels are smaller, so more hotels are being used. In order to make your convention planning easier, we have reproduced the relevant information about the convention in the following sections.

The events are also listed below so you can understand their general location. Because the world convention has grown to be so large, it has to be designed to fit the facilities and space that is available rather than planning it like we would want to. This means your advance planning will impact your enjoyment of the convention.

It is important to register as soon as possible and pre-pay for those events you desire to attend. The number of tickets for most events is limited. In the case of the banquets, the banquet you attend is determined by when your ticket is purchased.

We look forward to seeing you in Portland for the world convention in August.

HOTELS

For those desiring to stay in hotels, the convention has room price agreements at hotels. As the number of hotel rooms available in each hotel is limited, you may want to make reservations early. The primary events (main meetings, workshops, convention store and registration) will be held at the Memorial Coliseum which is located at 1401 North Wheeler.

Some of the special events (banquets, dances, etc.) will be scheduled for specific hotels. Some workshops will also be held in the Red Lion Lloyd Center Hotel. There will be marathon meetings and hospitality

rooms at both the Red Lion Lloyd Center, which is located at 1000 N.E. Multnomah, and the Portland Hilton Hotel, which is located at 921 S.W. Sixth Avenue.

There is some distance between most hotels and the Coliseum. You may want to make your selection of hotel for the combination of advantages that suit your attendance at the convention. For example, those who may wish to be in the downtown area of the city may elect to choose either the Portland Hilton or the Heathman Hotel. Those members who may wish to be closer to the Memorial Coliseum may elect to stay at the Red Lion Lloyd Center or the Best Western Coliseum.

The following hotels have agreed to offer these room rates for attendees of this N.A. convention, for reservations made prior to August 1, 1990. The hotels reserve the right to charge regular rates for rooms that are reserved after August 1, 1990. Rates quoted do not include tax, which is 9% per night. To make reservations, please contact the hotel using the phone number provided.

Red Lion Inn Lloyd Ctr

1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 281-6111 Rates: Sgl \$70/DbI \$70
(HQ Hotel/400 Rms Available)

The Portland Hilton

921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR 97204-1926
(503) 226-1611 Rates: Sgl \$64/DbI \$70/Other \$76
(HQ Hotel/320 Rms Available)

Inn at the Coliseum

10 N Weidler Street, Portland, OR 97227
(503) 239-9900 or (800)342-1342
Rates: Sgl \$52/DbI \$52/Other \$57
(125 Rooms Available)

The Heathman Hotel

SW Broadway at Salmon, Portland, OR 97205
(503)241-4100 Rates: Sgl \$80/DbI \$80
(100 Rooms Available)

NOTES:

If you need additional help with hotel information, you may call the Portland Oregon Visitors Association Housing Bureau at (503) 279-9799.

The hotels will only hold sleeping rooms until 5:00 p.m. on the day of arrival. Members arriving after this time need to secure the reservation with a credit card or a cash deposit with the hotel.

All rooms available by contract to WCNA are non-commissionable (not available to travel agents) and should be requested only by members attending the convention.

Cancellations of rooms must be made in writing directly with the hotels. Date and name changes must be made directly with the hotels. Failure to notify hotels of late arrival, last minute changes, and/or failure to comply with deposit requirements **MAY RESULT IN CANCELLATION** of room reservations.

The hotels do not mail reservation confirmations until one month prior to arrival. If you want earlier confirmation, you may telephone the hotel directly to verify your reservation. If you do not receive written confirmation from your selected hotel by 20 days prior to your arrival, call the hotel directly.

REGISTRATION

Registration will open on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial Coliseum. Those who have pre-registered will be required to present a copy of the invoice that they received during the pre-registration period. A registration badge will be required for all non-meeting activities (For example: dances, play, etc.).

SPECIAL EVENTS

The following special events are scheduled:

THURSDAY AUGUST 30, 1990**BOAT RIDE**

Lewis & Clark Expedition: This is a boat cruise up to the Columbia River Gorge along the route that was traveled by the explorers Lewis & Clark. This is a two-hour narrated tour on a sternwheeler boat. The ticket price of \$13.00 includes the bus transportation up to the pier from which the boat will depart. Busses

depart promptly at 11:30 a.m. from the Red Lion Lloyd Center and the Portland Hilton Hotel.

DANCES

There will be a D.J. dance at the Red Lion Lloyd Center and a dance at the Portland Hilton Hotel at 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAY AUGUST 31, 1990**BANQUETS**

This year there will be two or three theme-oriented banquets. Each banquet will have a main speaker who will share on a specific topic (example: gratitude). Banquet attendance will be determined by when tickets are purchased. The first 750 tickets sold will be in the Memorial Coliseum, the next 500 in the Red Lion Lloyd Center, and if necessary a final 500 will be in the Portland Hilton Hotel. Banquets will be held in these facilities on Friday, August 31, 1990 at 6:00 p.m.

DANCES

There will be a D.J. dance at the Red Lion Lloyd Center and a dance at the Portland Hilton Hotel at 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 1990**BAR-B-QUE**

The Pacific Northwest is well known for quality seafood. This year WCNA will host a Salmon Bar-B-Que to be held at the Holladay Park from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The price per ticket is \$15.00.

LIVE OLDIES SHOW

There will be a live oldies show at the Memorial Coliseum at 10:00 p.m. The ticket price is \$10.00 per person.

DANCES

There will be a D.J. dance at the Red Lion Lloyd Center and a dance at the Portland Hilton Hotel at 10:00 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP ENTERTAINMENT

This year the fellowship entertainment will take place in the park where the Salmon Bar-B-Que is being held. All members who are interested in performing should contact the WCNA-20 Entertainment Committee at P.O. Box 86887, Portland, OR 97286.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 1990

ALTERNATE STORE

Regions that desire to participate in this Sunday event must submit a written request to the World Convention Corporation c/o WSO by August 15, 1990. Merchandise that contains representations of the N.A. logo may not be sold in any convention hotel or facility by unauthorized vendors at any time.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

As with convention rates at hotels, members can take advantage of volume discounts offered as standard business procedure by other vendors. These are participating companies, and the business relationship does not imply endorsement.

The World Convention Corporation has made arrangements with two airlines that are willing to offer our members slightly lower air fares. For those traveling by air who elect to use American Airlines or Delta Airlines, special rates afford a 5% bonus off published round-trip fares within the United States and San Juan, providing all rules and conditions of the airfare are met. If special fares do not coincide with your travel dates, a 40% discount off unrestricted round-trip coach rates will be offered. (Travel solely on connection carriers and travel from Canadian cities will apply at a 35% discount.) Seven days advance reservations and ticketing will be required.

When you make reservations on American Airlines, please use this group number to be entitled to the special fare: **06Z0UJ**. The toll-free telephone number for American Airlines is (800) 433-1790. You may also find American Airlines listed in the white pages of your local phone directory.

When making reservations on Delta Airlines, use this file number to be entitled to the special fare: **M0194**. The toll-free telephone number for Delta Airlines is (800) 241-6760. You may also find Delta

Airlines listed in the white pages of a local phone directory.

To obtain the discount fare, you must make reservations directly with the airline and not through a travel agent. This discount cannot be used in concert with other discounts or special programs.

WCNA-20 INFORMATION NUMBER:

(503) 230-1196

WCNA-21

A visit was recently made to the Australian Consulate to inquire about the immigration policies of the Australian government because of the increasing number of questions we have received from members. Normally Australia is as difficult a country for ex-offenders to get into as the United States. Members with criminal histories, who plan to attend the convention, will need to apply for a visa starting in September 1990. The Australian government does not grant visas longer than six months in advance of the intended arrival date. However, if you anticipate having to provide additional information as described below, starting in September will allow adequate time for communications, research, and processing of your application. These are the important points from our discussion with the Consulate.

All persons entering Australia must meet the character requirements referred to in the Migration Regulations and the Australian public interest criteria.

A person is unable to meet this character requirement if the applicant:

- (A) has at any time been convicted of a crime and sentenced to death, to imprisonment for life, or to imprisonment for a period of not less than one year; or
- (B) has at any time been convicted of 2 or more crimes and sentenced to imprisonment for a period totalling not less than one year; or
- (C) has at any time been charged with a crime and either found guilty of having committed the crime while of unsound mind or acquitted on the ground that the crime was committed while the person was of unsound mind; or

- (D) has been deported or excluded from another country; or
- (E) has, in the reasonable belief of the Minister, been involved in activities indicating contempt, or disregard, for the law or for human rights; and has at any time been convicted of offences in circumstances indicating, in the reasonable belief of the Minister, an habitual contempt, or disregard, for the law.

To summarize this jargon: a person who has been excluded or deported from another country, been convicted of a crime or crimes and sentenced to prison for a year or more, is an habitual criminal, or is insane would normally be automatically refused a visa.

However, an officer may consider waiving this character requirement, taking into account:

- the nature of the offence(s) or of any such involvement;
- the age of the applicant when the offence was committed;
- how long ago the offence(s) was committed;
- how many offences were committed; and
- the applicant's record since.

Each and every application is treated on its own individual merits and an applicant may be interviewed to assist in the determination.

On the reverse of the Application for a Visitor Visa for Australia, Form 48, question 20, repeated below, covers the public interest criteria:

"Have you or anyone included in this application:

Suffered from any dangerous contagious disease such as tuberculosis?

Suffered from any mental illness?

Used or been addicted to or trafficked in narcotics?

Been convicted of or have any charges outstanding on a criminal offence in any country?

Been deported or excluded from any country?

Had visa for Australia cancelled?

If "yes" to any of the above give details."

It is important that all attendees to the scheduled world convention answer question 20 truthfully and as thoroughly as possible, supported by medical reports or statements of record of criminal conviction(s) issued by the appropriate authorities (if applicable) and clearly identify themselves as attendees to the convention.

There is benefit to Australia as a result of this convention. Aside from the tourist income, the growth and strength of recovery in N.A. in Australia will benefit. The Australian Consulate has assured N.A. that full consideration will be given to all applications lodged by delegates to the convention.

NEWS FROM HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

The H&I department continues to flourish at the WSO. We have recently established a database for the department to more effectively track the correspondence received from addicts and/or professionals in an H&I setting. This database will help in notifying area and regional H&I committees about the contacts received by the office, as well as provide the ability to refer these contacts to the appropriate local committees in a more efficient manner. To this end, we continue to request that area and regional H&I committees register with the WSO, so that in addition to providing these referrals, we may forward WSC H&I Committee information and the H&I newsletter, *Reaching Out*, to the appropriate addresses.

WSC '90 approved the booklet, *Behind The Walls* by an overwhelming margin. The booklet should be available as an inventory item some time this summer. For further information regarding stock item number and other details, please contact the office after June 15th.

The WSC H&I Committee has once again reaffirmed as its top priority, regional and multi-regional H&I learning days and workshops. If your region is planning such an event, and is interested in having member(s) of the WSC H&I Committee attend, please contact the H&I Coordinator at the WSO. Additionally, if you wish to have your learning day/workshop listed in *Reaching Out* notify the H&I

Coordinator of the date, location, and contact information for your event.

On a final note, the WSC H&I Committee has begun discussing the feasibility of making *Reaching Out* available by subscription. The committee is presently working on a letter and a survey to inform local H&I committees regarding this topic and obtain some much needed feedback. The survey, which will include questions regarding the newsletter itself as well as questions about the subscription proposal, will be mailed out at the beginning of July. The proposed deadline for response to the survey has been set for September 15, 1990, in order to allow the committee enough time to review the input received and put together a proposal.

MEMBER SURVEY

Thanks to all of the areas who have chosen to participate in the member survey. We have sent out over 2600 surveys to 97 areas. We do need to ask that areas and groups return the surveys they have tallied to our office as soon as possible. We also would like to notify the fellowship that we are no longer making the surveys available to interested areas.

The preliminary results show that we have 64% men and 36% women, our age breakdown is 15% under 20 years old, 37% 20 to 30, 45% 30 to 45 and 3% over 45. 50% of our members attend 4 or more meetings a week, where available. The clean time breakdown is 53% under a year, 39% between one and five years and 8% over five years clean. Most of our members, 47%, were first introduced to N.A. through a hospital or an institution and another 28% found N.A. through another member.

As we said, these are preliminary results and we need as many of the surveys as possible to be returned to have accurate results. The information will be included in a pamphlet for public information use, which is in the review and input stage currently. For a copy of the pamphlets which are available for review and input, contact your local P.I. committee. We are looking for broad-based fellowship input on this work.

THE GROUP BOOKLET

At the April meeting of the World Service Conference, *The Group Booklet* was accepted as conference-approved literature. Immediately following the week of the conference, we began the production process of this item. It has been typeset and is currently being proofread. After a mock-up booklet is created, it will go to the printers for an initial draft which will also be proofread by WSO staff, as well as both the chairperson and vice chairperson of the WSC Literature Committee. Once all these steps have been completed, the booklet will be printed. We hope that by early July, this item will be in our inventory and available to the fellowship.

THE REVISED LITERATURE HANDBOOK

There were several changes made and approved in the literature handbook at the April meeting of the conference. The production process is similar to what is described above with one main difference. This item is printed in-house and will be available by mid-June. The WSC Literature Committee chairperson will have more details on the revisions in the upcoming *Fellowship Report*

FROM THE LITERATURE CHAIRPERSON

The 1990 World Service Conference established continued progress on the Steps portion of *It Works* and the I.P.'s *In Times of Illness* and *For Those in Treatment* as priorities for the literature committee. These three works remain on the A-list as items for the coming conference year. The daily book is our highest non-A-list priority. We hope that work on this book can proceed in an energized manner this year and remain sensitive to the fellowship's anticipation for the completion of this project.

A theme that recurred throughout the conference was the concern of the fellowship toward our non-English speaking members. This concern has been discussed by the literature committee. In our work

on current projects, we will continue to keep the issues surrounding the translations in mind. We have talked about adding an international member to the committee or having advisory member(s) assist us in translation and other problems associated with literature development for a worldwide fellowship.

With the adoption of a proposed change in our guidelines, we will be able to use the skills of special workers in new ways. Staff writers may now assist us in drafting and editing responsibilities. The WSO has requested that members who have excellent writing skills and an interest in working on N.A. writing projects to contact them. We would encourage you to let them know if you have the skills and the desire to do this type of work.

We are excited about the projects ahead for us this year. We believe that the changes made in our guidelines will allow us to complete our assigned work more efficiently and with better use of all the resources available to us.

ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

ASIA

HONG KONG

Number of meetings: 1

Organization: Not sure, but believe they have not formed any area service committee.

Language: Chinese/English

We have not received any correspondence from the members in Hong Kong since late in 1989. At that time, they expressed their gratitude to the WSO for keeping in touch with them.

JAPAN

Number of meetings: 30

Organization: An area committee, active in translations and P.I.

Trademarks: Application has been made for registration.

Language: Japanese. Literature available: Present-

ly for sale at the WSO are I.P.'s #2, 11 and 16. Available in Japan are the White Book and some I.P.'s. Still in Progress are I.P.'s # 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 16, 22.

Summary of Japanese Translations:

In October of 1988, an agreement was reached between Berlitz and our members in Tokyo to continue translations at a speed commensurate with the time and skill of the members in Tokyo. In the middle of 1989, we were informed that the translated literature was ready for typesetting and printing. The printing actually took place in August and the literature is now available in Japan. Work on Japanese translations appears to have slowed considerably since last summer. We have not been informed of any new translation work having been started.

The number of meetings has increased dramatically in this past year, from nine to thirty. The availability of literature in Japanese appears to have had a very positive affect on the growth of the fellowship. A member attended the meeting of the conference in April as the representative from the Japanese region. A translator was provided for her during part of the conference. She indicated that the fellowship on Japan is growing quite a lot. Meetings have also been started on U.S. military bases in Japan this year.

SOUTH KOREA

Number of meetings: 4

Organization: None

Language: Korean

All of the meetings we know of in Korea are being held on U.S. military bases. It is illegal for addicts to have meetings in Korea (it is illegal for two or more addicts to meet together, as it was in many other countries and is still the law in some places), so the growth of the fellowship will be very slow. A discussion was held with a Korean physician (the only professional we've been in contact with that treats addicts) who wants to assist in getting meetings started in the prisons in Korea. It seems that prison is where most of the addicts are, since if you get caught, you are immediately sent to prison. This physician also expressed an interest in helping to get translations done, but we have heard nothing from him since August of 1989.

THAILAND

We have received a request for starter kits to be used in Thailand, but we have not yet received confirmation of any groups. There is at least one member of the Loner Group in Thailand. No other contact has been made in this country.

PAKISTAN

There have been several requests from professional organizations in Pakistan in the past few months. Information packets have been mailed to these organizations. As a result, some of the professionals are planning to visit the European Service Office. They have also been informed of the dates and hotel information for the World Convention in August/September this year, as they wish to see how the program works so they can assist in getting meetings started in their country. At present, we are not aware of any meetings in Pakistan.

INDIA

Number of meetings: 19

Organization: Two area committees, in Bombay and Calcutta.

Language: 16 primary languages. Official second language is English.

Summary of India Translations:

Our continuing education about India has brought us both hope and pessimism. Since English is a second language throughout most of India, many members will be able to use existing English-language I.P.'s. We have learned that there are sixteen major languages, primarily spoken in different sections of the country.

BANGLADESH

Number of meetings: 1

Organization: None known

Language: Bengali, English

The WSO has not received any correspondence from this meeting since they registered at the office.

AUSTRALIA

Number of meetings: 157

Organization: One region with a regional service office (work on the corporation does not appear to be complete) and numerous area committees.

Language: English.

The fellowship in Australia continues to grow. They are very active in both P.I. and H&I work with functioning subcommittees. The host committee is working diligently on the World Convention in 1991. The members are eagerly awaiting the visit of many members from outside Australia at the convention.

NEW ZEALAND

Number of meetings: 54

Organization: A region with two area committees, one on each of the two major islands.

Language: English and Maori.

This region was recognized by the World Service Conference as a voting member in 1989. They have received much assistance from Australia and are growing rapidly. They also have functioning subcommittees which seem to be doing very well.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

GUAM

Number of meetings: 3

Organization: None, but they are planning to begin an area committee and have requested copies of *Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure* and other service-related material.

Language: English

Two of the meetings on Guam are held at the U.S. military base, the other at a church. There have been problems in keeping a meeting going on Guam, but there are a couple of members in the military who have made a commitment to assist these meetings in their growth.

PHILIPPINES

Number of meetings: 3

Organization: None

Language: various

We have recently gotten requests for starter kits from two separate professional organizations who want to help get meetings started in their country. From most of the correspondence we have received, it appears that most of the meetings are being held by U.S. military personnel. The first meeting outside of Manila was held recently, but we have not yet received any group registration for this meeting. Growth in this part of the world has been slow.

A VISIT TO COLOMBIA

For several years, the fellowship in Colombia has been growing with only sporadic contact with N.A. outside their country. Members have periodically communicated with the WSO, and occasionally had contact with members in other Central American countries.

Despite this minimal contact and support, the fellowship has prospered. Two constant problems, however, were the lack of funds with which to purchase literature and the limited quantity of literature translated into Spanish. Necessity being the mother of invention, they solved the problem by printing N.A. literature in Colombia and distributing it almost at cost.

The pamphlets available in Spanish were published together in book form, rather than as separate single-page items. Additionally, they included two parts of the Basic Text in Spanish which had been prepared as a draft translation in 1986. When WSO learned of this printing effort and the incomplete, unfinished publication of the Spanish Basic Text, the WSO became concerned.

This led to an increased level of communication in which concerns about this printing effort were raised. Letters are a second-best way to address these important and sensitive matters, and it soon became obvious that someone needed to visit with the Colombian fellowship.

An effort was made to bring two members from

Colombia to Puerto Rico in concert with another meeting that was scheduled and held in October 1989. That effort was not successful. Eventually two people, George H. from Miami and Bob S. of the WSO, were scheduled to travel to Colombia for a meeting. The visit coincided with the first meeting of representatives from around Colombia, as they attempted to organize the fellowship into a regional or national structure.

George and Bob arrived late on a Friday evening and were met by Jorge M., a member who provided transportation throughout the weekend meetings.

The following morning they went to the N.A. service office, where they were met by about 35 other members. The office is modest, having been in operation only a few months, but it has great potential. Recovery meetings are held in the office and the supply of literature is stored there. From the office, the participants traveled by bus and several cars up the mountain to a retreat facility where the meeting was conducted.

The meeting began almost at once. Representatives were present from 11 of the 12 cities in which meetings are known to exist in Colombia. Each city sent at least one representative, some cities sent two or three. The fellowship in Medellin was represented by about 12 members. Altogether there were approximately 45 people at the Saturday morning start.

The meeting began with reports from the Medellin area committee. They have committees on public information, hospitals and institutions, publications, finance, and an office committee. Collectively these committees represent the work of several hundred addicts from about 30 meetings in the city. Medellin has a population of over 2 million people.

Each committee gave a written and oral report, followed by questions. After all of these reports were given, representatives from the other cities were invited to give their oral and written reports. This took several hours, until late afternoon.

Members of the Board of Directors of the local service office attended the meeting. The Board of Directors in translation is referred to as trustees or custodians. The title is slightly misleading, but it was soon straightened out. Alcoholics Anonymous has been in Colombia for quite a number of years and it apparently is stronger in Medellin than in other

cities. As a result of that, the Alcoholics Anonymous Service Office for Colombia is in Medellin and serves all of Colombia and parts of neighboring countries.

The members of the N.A. fellowship with the most clean time are those, like in other countries, who found recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous. There were over ten members with more than four years clean time at this workshop, all of them getting their first several years of recovery in A.A. As a result of this background, and because of the interest by A.A. in Medellin to assist N.A.'s growth, the heavy influence of this relationship was shown throughout the weekend.

The Medellin A.A. office was very helpful in getting N.A. started here, and in the work to organize a committee system for N.A. As a result, the Medellin Area is organized in a manner very similar to A.A.

The Medellin N.A. members came with recommendations that would evolve the N.A. structure along the lines of A.A. The Medellin ASC is the largest and most organized element of the fellowship. They offered to serve on a temporary basis as the foundation of a regional or national service organization. During the morning and part of the afternoon, as the various committees made reference to these proposals, there was dialogue among the members from other cities.

There were several members from outside Medellin who had seen and read parts of the *Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure* although it had not been translated into Spanish.

The Board of Directors of the office gave a report. They have both addicts and nonaddicts on the board. Two of the nonaddict directors attended the meeting for a brief time, and one of the addict directors was present for the entire weekend.

In their report they discussed two issues: registration of the office with the government, and the name of the fellowship. They indicated the office is registered with the department of health; it seemed to be a requirement.

They reported the department had informed them that the name *Narcotics Anonymous* was not an acceptable name for an organization's registration. It was necessary to drop the word "Narcotics," as it referred to a specific drug rather than describing people. It was not possible to discuss this issue at length during the office report, and the matter was not discussed at a later time.

In the reports from the various cities, there were several issues that are very troublesome. One, of course, is that the fellowship is very poor, mostly unorganized, and small. The Colombian fellowship exists, like most new N.A. fellowships communities, with a lower than average economic circumstance. In a country where poverty is endemic to begin with, it means the average N.A. meeting will collect only very small amounts of money. It does not seem likely that the Colombian fellowship would be able to financially support a service structure to the same degree as in many other countries.

The other significant issue concerning the groups is how they coexist with treatment programs. There are apparently two or more treatment programs in each of the cities where meetings were held. The meetings are held, in most cases, on property operated by the treatment programs. The usual conflicts between treatment programs and early N.A. development exist in Colombia. The treatment programs try to control the N.A. meeting, send their counselors with their patients, attempt to influence the philosophy of N.A., and in many ways restrict participation.

Later in the day, as the meeting began to focus on the proposals from Medellin, their ideas met a growing volume of objections from those in other cities. As the meeting closed late that evening, the issue of unity was addressed with the hope that compromise would result.

Sunday morning the conflict became clear. For approximately an hour and a half the members argued the pros and cons of adopting the service structure proposed by the Medellin ASC. Eventually an alternative was proposed, which fell on receptive ears. In the following hours the committees reviewed the new suggestions and adopted all of them.

The essentials were: (1) They adopted the meeting they were then conducting as a national service conference for Colombia. (2) They decided that they would meet again next year in March. (3) They will elect seven officers who will serve for one year. The officers, during the course of the year, will prepare a more detailed service structure proposal for approval at the following conference. (4) They adopted a statement to create three committees: an office committee, an H&I committee, and a P.I. committee.

(5) For a one-year temporary basis, they will accept the offer of the Medellin area to have the Medellin area office, H&I and P.I. serve as national committees authorized by the conference. (6) They elected two members from outside Medellin to the board of directors of the office, to give direct input (7) They authorized the office to print and publish literature for use throughout Colombia and to act as the storehouse for their literature.

The two people who were elected to the office board of directors were members with five or six years clean time and with valuable service and business experience.

Election of the other officers took place after lunch. They elected seven people without assigning them to positions. In the course of trying to determine how they might work from there to assign people to officer positions, they asked the presiding officer, George M., who was also one of the seven elected, to suggest who should serve in each position. His suggestions were adopted with almost no objection. There was obvious confidence in the selection and assignments. The positions that they filled in this way were the chairperson and vice chairperson, secretary, an RSR and RSR alternate, and representatives to the H&I and P.I. committees. Eventually they added an assignment for conventions because they decided later to conduct one during the year.

After this organizational work had been done, attention turned to development of a fund flow system, operation of the office, and a budget for the office. The budget for the office was predicated on receiving funds from the groups, as well as from direct contributions and birthday celebrations. They elected to adopt the proposal suggesting donations about birthdays, but did not adopt the others.

In the closing minutes of the meeting, they discussed the convention and decided it should be held in one of the other cities. They then assigned responsibility for conducting it.

During this meeting, a valuable exchange of ideas and understanding took place. Both the visitors and the Colombians learned from each other. Many of the concerns that prompted the visit were discussed, although not fully resolved. Further communication

will take place and solutions can be found.

Several conclusions evolved from this visit. A practical solution to providing help to non-English speaking fellowship communities may be to establish teams of members from more mature communities who speak the language in question. Members of these teams should schedule and arrange their visits to coincide with important meetings, such as the one in Medellin.

The availability of literature in economically underdeveloped countries may have to depend on financing from the older parts of the fellowship. Although license agreements have not proven to be fully successful where they have been tried in the past, special arrangements for printing may be necessary.

There is a great need to expend additional funds for translation and for assistance to new or developing fellowship communities. Critical to these activities are members with considerable service experience and clean time who speak the language.

PUBLICATION NEWSBRIEFS

Last November the WSO produced and made available key tags in French. This event was received with enthusiastic approval from our French-speaking members. Work has recently progressed on key tags in Spanish, Portuguese, and German. We currently expect these new key tags to be available within 45 days. The price for these key tags will be the same as for the existing English and French.

The 1990 edition of the *Phoneline Directory* is ready to go to the printers. Production is expected to take about 45 days, so the availability date for the directory is anticipated to be early July. The price for the 1990 edition will remain the same as last year (\$1.75 U.S.).

The *International Meeting Directory* (non-U.S.) is expected back from the printer in late June. The office expected to send it to the printers earlier, but information received from representatives attending the WSC caused a delay. This edition of the directory will include all non-U.S. meeting information that we have. The directory is available in four volumes: Central America and North America (\$3.00); South America

(\$1.50); Europe, Africa, and the Middle East (\$1.50); and Asia and the Pacific (\$1.50). All four volumes may be purchased as a package for \$6.00.

Ten new speaker tape recordings were approved for inclusion in the inventory. The labels for those tapes are being printed and they will be available soon. A supplemental tape recording catalog sheet will be prepared and mailed as soon as it is available. It will list all tapes available, including old tapes. All tape recordings continue to be \$5.00 (U.S).

FROM BOB STONE

While the important things about N.A. do not change, and should not change, specifically the steps and traditions, much of the rest does change. Over the past years there have been many small changes, some of them important changes. There are several changes that are important to address in this edition of the *Newsline*.

As the fellowship has grown larger and stronger, the demands on the limited amount of money generated within the fellowship have grown faster and larger. At every level of service there seems to be a growing shortage of funds. This is particularly evident at world level.

In recent years, the WSO has existed on a growing budget, but the activities of the conference-supported board and committees have been strained because the available funds are always less than the board and committees need. During the last two years, some meetings and activities of the board and committees were delayed or cancelled because adequate funds were not available.

Even the WSO has reached the position where extra funds are no longer available. As reported by WSO to the conference in 1986 (and several times since), the time would come when the routine operational costs of running the office would consume all the funds generated by literature sales. The WSO reached that position last year. The WSO no longer has the opportunity to provide financial assistance or guarantees to the conference-funded board or committees without having impact on the activities that the office performs.

The WSO has in fact had to make critical adjustments in its operation and planning. It reached a standstill with creating new employee positions, has had to establish inflexible budget ceilings for many expenditures, look for ways to reduce some expenditures, and look for ways to increase its sales income.

Everyone is asking what has taken place and what to do about it. There are numerous answers for both questions and each answer is complex, composed of many factors. In this report and those which follow, this issue of world service funding will be discussed, and it will be discussed in the *Fellowship Report* by others.

Two of the important factors about fellowship finances are establishing priorities and retaining fellowship support for those priorities. If priorities are not established, funds simply dwindle away without clear purpose. And if the fellowship does not support those priorities, they seldom provide sufficient funds. There is an implicit step that precedes both setting priorities and retaining support. That is communications. Despite the number of reports, newlines, phone calls, letters, and meetings put forth by world services, very few members really understand the priorities that world services work on. Consequently, inadequate support is currently available. World services will be communicating more clearly and frequently on these subjects in the immediate future.

Two other important factors concerning funds involve how priorities are established, and whether or not priorities of different levels of service (as well as branches of service at each level) are supported by others with competing priorities. For example, if the mechanism for setting spending authority does not specify expenditure priorities, all committees authorized to operate under their budget may find all the money spent before the year is out and have to curtail their work. The other example is that if areas within a region conclude the financial needs of their area are more important than those of their region, they may refrain from sending money to the region. The region may then have to curtail its activities, even if its priorities are equally important.

An important aspect of this matter is communication with the fellowship. Neither the office nor the conference have adequately informed the fellowship about this growing financial situation. Conse-

quently, as this conference year starts, we face a problem before the work actually begins. Part of the solution, of course, is to adequately communicate the facts and problems. Both the office and the conference will provide more frequent financial reports, showing the relationship of funding to the work being done. In this way, the fellowship can more fully understand the priorities of world services and determine its level of support for those activities.

This may be the first small bell ringing about the current situation, but it will not likely be the last.

On a different subject, this *Newsline* includes a report on the fellowship in Asia and the Pacific Ocean areas. Over the last year, all the major geographical areas have been covered, except for the U.S. Because the U.S. fellowship is so large, it is not possible to report on it in the manner we have used for other countries. Additionally, the *March Fellowship Report* contained reports from RSRs of most of the regions registered with the World Service Office.

We hope that report is sufficient to convey the full level of activity and development in the United States. If you have not obtained a copy of that report, you might ask your area committee to get a copy from the region. It is a large report (over a hundred pages) and may be costly to reproduce.

BANKING AND TAXES

A SPECIAL REPORT

For a number of years, members have inquired of the WSO how to open bank accounts and what the requirements were, if any, to report N.A. financial activities to tax authorities. From time to time we reported in the *Newsline* that the matter was under study and no advice was available.

We are pleased finally to be able to offer some information. On the following two pages is a report distributed at the World Service Conference on this subject. This report represents investigation on these matters as they apply to groups and committees in the United States.

Further work is required and is being done on these matters for those in other countries. The research in other countries will proceed at a slow pace general-

ly and is being done in those places where attention has been focused on the need to resolve the concerns immediately. A factor in resolving these concerns in all countries is the amount of money available to finance the legal research. Area and regional committees in other countries will be kept in touch with these efforts directly by WSO as work progresses.

We encourage those who obtain this edition of the *Newsline* to make copies of the special report and distribute copies to every group business meeting in the U.S. fellowship. This will facilitate wide discussion of the issues and recommendations.

The report has been written from the perspective of offering information and advice about possible alternatives for groups and service committees on how they can manage their banking and tax-related affairs. The information is not a directive from the WSO or the WSC. Groups and committees are not directed or instructed to follow or adhere to the information contained in the report.

The report offers the best legal and tax information that the WSO has been able to obtain. It is provided for your consideration. Every group is autonomous and will seek to address its viewpoint of these matters at such time and in such manner as it decides.

If you have additional questions after you have read the information and discussed it at your group business meeting, you can call the WSO and we will attempt to clarify questions we are able to help with. Unfortunately, this invitation may result in thousands of phone calls, so we ask you to be patient and understanding about our ability to respond. Additional articles on this subject will be published in future editions of the *Newsline*.

The following page can be separated and additional copies made for use in your group business meeting.

A SPECIAL REPORT ON N.A. BANKING AND TAXES

For years N.A. members have asked about how to obtain bank accounts for their groups and committees, and what responsibilities we have concerning tax reports. These matters have been thoroughly discussed and studied with the assistance of a law firm specializing in tax law. We are now able to offer reasonable advice on both subjects.

This memorandum is a synopsis of that research. Although this memorandum pertains primarily to the N.A. fellowship in the United States, similar research is being done in some other countries. As that information becomes available, it will be distributed to those it affects.

N.A. groups and service committees must abide by banking and tax laws and regulations. Just because we consider N.A. to be "non-profit" or "tax exempt" does not mean it is or that we are excused from compliance with appropriate laws and regulations. We believe that it is possible to comply while remaining faithful to our traditions.

The first issue can be handled quite easily. Every group that wants to open a bank account for managing its money, can and should do so. Before doing so, the group should obtain a taxpayer identification number for the exclusive use of that group. The form necessary to acquire this I.D. number is half a page long and easy to use. It can be obtained from the nearest office of the Internal Revenue Service. Ask for form SS-4.

Does this form make the group "non-profit" or "tax exempt"? No. Submitting the form simply gets a tax identification number, which the group then uses when it opens a bank account.

Is the group required to file tax returns? Well, yes and no.

NO. Those groups that take in less than \$5,000.00 a year and meet all of the requirements for tax exemption do not need to file a tax return. So that groups can find out whether or not they qualify for this exception, a draft revision of the Group Treasurer's Workbook is being prepared by the staff and the law firm, and will soon be given to the conference treasurer for evaluation and consideration. Groups that handle their affairs within the guidelines

set out in the Handbook, should be reasonably well protected without applying for tax exempt status.

YES. For those groups that handle more than \$5,000.00 per year, whether or not they meet all the requirements for tax exemption, a return is required. Groups that handle over \$5,000.00 per year have two choices of action. The first choice is to function as a tax paying entity, but act on a non-profit basis without seeking tax exemption. Operating in this manner, the group performs as a "profit making" activity but, since the expenses will normally be approximately the same as the income, there will be little tax to pay. The appropriate federal and state tax forms are completed at the end of the year and taxes are paid if there was "profit" from the years activity. Donations made to tax exempt boards or committees by the group prior to the end of the fiscal year could eliminate most "profit" and allow for fellowship retention of that income. The disadvantage of operating "as a profit making activity" is that a member making a Seventh Tradition contribution to the group cannot claim the contribution on their personal tax report.

The second choice is for the group to obtain recognition as a tax exempt organization by filing IRS form 1023. This course of action has several alternatives that can be followed.

As a first alternative, the group could apply for tax exemption for its own activity and not include other groups. We believe an application for tax exempt status would be granted and afford the group relief from paying tax, but not from the requirement to complete a tax return each year. The group would not need to incorporate. It could submit its reports in the name of the group as an unincorporated association of individuals. The group could incorporate if it was decided that was a preferred choice. A handbook on the alternative of groups filing an IRS form 1023 can be developed, if the conference wishes, but is not available at this time. Because of the administrative ability essential to assure compliance if this alternative is followed, groups handling over \$5,000.00 per year may not find this alternative to be a practical solution.

The second alternative would be to consolidate the financial and tax reporting of nearby groups into a

unit. Such a unit or units could file for and obtain a *group exemption*. This form of IRS recognition is the type used by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and would cover all of the groups in the unit. However, from our investigation of this alternative, we are of the opinion that it is inappropriate for the fellowship as a whole, and maybe even for smaller collections of N.A. groups. This alternative is designed for organizations that have a central administrative unit, with smaller units under its control and authority. Because our groups, according to our traditions, are autonomous, this alternative may not be acceptable for our groups.

There is a third alternative, but it would take a considerable amount of work and time to obtain. An application could be made by world services to the commissioner of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for a special letter of determination or ruling about how all N.A. groups should comply with the IRS reporting requirements. This special ruling procedure can be used any time the laws do not clearly instruct an organization on what it must do to satisfy the law. N.A. is a rather unique organization, and the laws do not seem to fit all of the components of N.A. very well. Consideration has been given to having world services make such an application to provide greater certainty for all groups and to try and obtain a solution that relieves groups that collect over \$5,000.00 per year from the reporting requirements. There is reason to believe that the overall position of the groups, and of N.A. as a whole, could be clarified and improved as the result of such a ruling.

We have decided not to appeal for a special ruling right now. The issue of preparing and making a request for a special ruling requires additional consideration and discussion. This is one of the issues the office has sought and received trustee input and involvement on. Filing an application could affect all of N.A. within the U.S. by attracting attention from the IRS to all of N.A.'s individual groups and activities. The office does not want to make such a far-reaching decision without further careful discussion and consultation.

All of the information above can be applied to area and regional committees. If your area or regional committee takes in less than \$5,000.00 per year, you may not need to file tax reports. Simply keep good records and meet the other requirements for tax exemption.

If your area or regional committee takes in more than \$5,000.00 then you must file a tax return. The committee has three options: filing a form 1023 to get the tax exemption determination, function as a tax paying entity but act on a non profit basis or obtain a *group exemption* determination.

The *group exemption* alternative might, provide an efficient way for area or regional committees to handle their accounts and meet the reporting requirements of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. If an area committee or region chose this alternative, would it have to incorporate? No. The area or region could operate and file its returns as an unincorporated association of individuals. However, if the area or region believed incorporation were the best way to proceed, that, too, could be accommodated.

How would this work? It is fairly easy, but requires attention and full participation. First, the area or regional committee obtains a tax identification number and then files to obtain a *group exemption* determination. Then, all subcommittees would operate out of a single account managed by the area or regional committee treasurer. This single account would be the basis of a consolidated unit tax return at the end of the year. Separate accounts for each subcommittee could be maintained, but if this were done, then all of the financial data for each subcommittee (bank statements, checks, and records of receipts and expenditures) would have to be turned over to the area or regional committee treasurer for inclusion in the consolidated return.

If you have questions concerning this report, you may want to discuss it at your group business meeting or at a service committee meeting. Advice from a bookkeeper or accountant may be helpful. If assistance cannot be obtained locally, you may call the World Service Office for information.

World Service Office

P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, California, 91409
Telephone (818) 780-3951
Fax (818) 785-0923

COMING EVENTS

ALABAMA: June 30, 1990; Openminds and Miracles 12 year Anniversary; United Rubber Workers Union Hall, Madison, AL; Openminds & Miracles, P.O. Box 1632, Decatur, AL 35611

2). Aug. 17-19, 1990; Celebration of N.A. History; Ramada Inn, 8716 Highway 20 West, Madison, AL.; rsvn.s (205) 772-0701

ARKANSAS: Jun. 29-Jul. 1, 1990; 2nd Central Arkansas Area Convention; Arlington Hotel, Park & Central, Hot Springs, AR 71902; In State rsvn.s (501) 623-5771; rsvn.s 1-(800) 643-1502; Registration, P.O. Box 24223, Little Rock, AR 72221

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Jul. 20-22, 1990; British Columbia N.A. Rally; Beban Park Rec. Complex, Nanaimo

2). Aug. 24-26, 1990; 11th Annual Regional convention; Nanaimo Curling Club; rsvn.s (604) 756-2351 or (604) 753-1294;; B.C.N.A., P.O. Box 107, Drawer 1300, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6J8

CALIFORNIA: Jun. 29-Jul. 1, 1990; CMSRCNA 1 In the Spirit of Unity; 164 Block Stone Avenue, Suite 139, Fresno, CA 93701;

2). Aug. 10-12, 1990; South Lake Tahoe Campout; Camp Richardson; rsvn.s (916) 541-4100; South Lake Tahoe Campout, P.O. Box 7121, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731

3). Aug. 17-19, 1990; Set Em Free Campout; Oakwood Lake Water Slides and Campground, Manteca, CA; For more information call (408) 688-5817

COLORADO: Jul. 27-29, 1990; 3rd Annual "Standing on Higher Ground" Weekend; Viking Hotel, Telluride, Colorado; rsvn.s (303) 728-6621; hotiine (303) 728-6094; NA Retreat, P.O. Box 10, Telluride, CO 81435

CONNECTICUT: Jul. 13-15, 1990; 5th Annual N.A. Campathon; Seaport Campgrounds, Old Mystic, CT.; rsvn.s (203) 536-4044

FLORIDA: Jun. 28-Jul. 1, 1990; 9th Florida Regional Convention; Deauville Hotel, 6701 Collins Ave., Miami, FL 33141 RSO (305) 563-4262;

GEORGIA: Aug. 3-5, 1990; Marietta Area Convention; Radisson Hotel, Courtland Street, Downtown; rsvn.s (404) 659-6500; MAC, P.O. Box 81677, Atlanta, GA 30366

ILLINOIS: Jul. 20-22, 1990; 2nd Basic Campout; Okaw Bluff Group Campsite, Lake Shelbyville, IL; phoneline (217) 373-2063; New Beginnings Area, P.O. Box 689, Normal, IL 61761

INDIANA: Jun. 29-Jul. 1, 1990; Campout Retreat; Crawfordsville, IN.; helpline - 1 (317) 634-5463; Central Indiana ASC, P.O. Box 661, Indianapolis, IN 46206

2). Jul. 27-29, 1990; 6th Mid-Coast Convention; Hilton at the Airport, 2500 S. High School Rd., Indianapolis; rsvn.s (800) 445-8667 or (317) 244-3361; send speaker tapes; MCC-6, P.O. Box 47462, Indianapolis, IN 46227

IOWA: Jun. 29-Jul. 1, 1990; 7th Iowa Regional Convention; Holiday Motor Lodge, Clear Lake; rsvn.s 1(800) 528-1234; IRCNA-7, P.O. Box 256, Mason City, IA 50401

KANSAS: Jun. 22-24, 1990; 2nd Annual Southeast Kansas Area; Mirror of Miracles Campout, Elk City Lake, Independence, KS

2). Jul. 5-8, 1990; 12th Mid-America Regional Campout; helpline (913) 232-LOVE; Fellowship For Freedom, P.O. Box 873, Topeka, KS 66601

3). Aug. 10-12, 1990; 3rd Just For Today Campout; Thunderbird Marina, Rolling Hills Area of Milford Lake; phonelines (913) 776-9933 or (913) 762-3861

MICHIGAN: Jul. 5-8, 1990; 6th Michigan Regional Convention; Valley Plaza Inn, Midland; RV park avlbl.; rsvn.s (800) 825-2700; RSO (313) 544-2010; send speaker tapes w/clean dates; MRC-6, P.O. Box 597, Bay City, MI 48707

MINNESOTA: Aug. 4-6, 1990; Southern Minnesota Area Recovery Blast; rsvn.s (507) 345-7551

MISSOURI: Jun. 15-17, 1990; 5th Show-Me Regional Convention; Holiday Inn Executive Center, 2200 I-70 Dr., Columbia; rsvn.s (800) HOLIDAY; phoneline (314) 635-0271; SMRC-5, P.O. Box 373, Columbia, MO 65205-0373

NEBRASKA: Sept. 14-16, 1990; Holiday Inn, North Platte, NE 69101; NCRNA VII, P.O. Box 2254, North Platt, NE 69101

NEW BRUNSWICK: Jul. 13-15, 1990; A Celebration of Recovery; Fredricton, N.B. CANADA; International ACC, P.O. Box 20064, Fredricton, N.B., CANADA, E3B 6Y8

NEW JERSEY: Jun. 22-24, 1990; 11th East Coast Convention; William Patterson College, 300 Pompton Rd., Wayne NJ 07470; phoneline (201) 761-6646; ECC-11, P.O. Box 22091, Newark, NJ 07102

2). Aug. 17-19, 1990; 2nd Unity Convention; Summertime Serenity; Parsippany Hilton, 1 Hilton Court Parsippany, Troy Hills, NJ, 07054; rsvn.s (201) 267-7373

NEW YORK: Jun. 15-17, 1990; 6th Greater New York Convention; Concord Resort Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, 12751; rsvn.s (914) 794-4000 or (800) 431-3850

2). Jul. 13-15, 1990; 4th Recovery in the Woods Campout; phoneline (716) 878-2316; Buffalo ASC, P.O. Box 64, Buffalo, NY 14207

3). Jul. 27-29, 1990; 5th Northern New York Regional Convention; Wells College Campus, Aurora, New York; NNYRCNA, P.O. Box 142, 2604 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

NORTH CAROLINA: Jun. 29-Jul. 1, 1990; 11th Annual Regional Convention; Stouffer Hotel, Winston-Salem; CRC-11, P.O. Box 26782, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

OHIO: Jul. 13-15, 1990; 6th Columbiana County CampVention; Chaparral Campground, 10136 West Middletown Road, Salem; CampVention, P.O. Box 451, Salem, OH 44460

OREGON: Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 1990; WCNA 20-The Journey Continues; Host Committee, WSO; P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91499-4198; rsvn.s (503) 230-1196, (818) 780-3951

PENNSYLVANIA: Jun. 30-Jul. 1-4, 1990; 2nd Annual York Area Spiritual; Cedar Lake Campgrounds; Helpline (717) 848-9988

2). Sep. 7-9, 1990; 9th Little Apple Area Birthday Celebration; George Washington Motor Lodge, Rt. 22 and 145, Allentown, PA; L.A.A. Sub. Comm., P.O. Box 4475, Allentown, PA 18105

PORTUGAL: Jul. 27-29 1990; 7th European Conference and Convention; Colegio Pio XII, Av. Forcas Armadas, Lisbon; VII E.C.C.N.A., Apartado 21644, 1137-Lisboa Codex,

PUERTO RICO: Jul. 27-29, 1990; Primera Convencion de Puerto Rico; Hotel Caribe Hilton, P.O. Box 1872, San Juan PR 00902; reservacion (809) 721-0303; Comite de Convenciones, P.O. Box 10524, Caparra Heights Sta., PR 00922

SWEDEN: Jun. 22-24, 1990; 2nd Mid-Summer Convention; Hola Folkhogskola, Prastmon, Sweden

TEXAS: Jun. 29-Jul. 1, 1990; 7th Western States Unity Convention; Westin Paso del Norte, 101 S. El Paso St., El Paso; rsvn.s (915) 534-3000; WSUC, P.O. Box 12746, -324, El Paso, TX 79913