

February 15th, 1976

Dear Friends:

Well, it's that time again. I hope all is well with you and yours and that the weather hasn't caused too many problems in your area. Earlier this month I was elected to serve for the remainder of the year as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. So I'll continue to try to write to you each month; because I think better communications is vital, because I enjoy it, and because I made a commitment to myself to do it.

Thanks to those of you who have written me. I enjoyed hearing from you and hope we can keep the communications going. From your letters, I've noticed that there may be some confusion about the Trustees and the World Service Office. These are two separate parts of our Service Structure, performing separate functions. They are not inter-related except by coincidence.

The World Service Office has done a much improved job this year; most of your literature orders and letters were answered within a week, all the bills got paid, and they have a reasonable supply of literature. The WSO sent out almost 200 starter kits and nearly 10,000 pamphlets last year. The WSO occupies a 9x11 ft. room in Jissy Kinmon's house (where it all started 45 years ago), has half-a-dozen pieces of second hand equipment, and no paid employees. Ever without rent, salaries, and adequate equipment, it still costs about 500 dollars a month to run the office. During 1977, however, the WSO received less than \$50 a month (average) in donations from our members, Groups, and Service Committees. Almost all of the donations came from two Area Service Committees here in Southern California and from Pennsylvania; our thanks go out to these areas. The rest of the money to run the office had to come from literature sales. The WSO isn't in trouble, but they could do a much better job with a little more support. I would like to propose that each Area make a commitment to donate at least one dollar each month for each active Group. Even though money is tight, almost all groups could afford \$1.00 per month, and the money could sure be put to good use at WSO.

So much for my Crusade of the South. I hope you all have had a chance to see WSO's new Newsletter. I enjoyed getting mine. This is the fourth time they've tried to start one that I know of. All the others have folded after a couple of months due to lack of response and support. If you'd like to see a newsletter (or even monthly magazine like the Grapevine) for all of N.A., then it's up to you; a couple of people at WSO can't make it happen alone; so send your stories and articles to WSO - The Voice.

With this letter I'm sending some stuff on the conference, and the minutes from the last Trustee meeting. The Board doesn't send out minutes normally except to regional committees, but I've sent out a couple to help let you know what's going on around here. You can get a copy of trustee minutes from the WSO at any time. I'd also like to know what's going on in your area, so write me; I'd love to hear from you, and I'll try to answer my mail I get.

The World Service Conference is coming up very, very quickly, it's only 1 1/2 months away now. The WSC will be held here in Los Angeles on April 1st and 2nd. The real thrust of this year's Conference will be to firmly establish the WSC as the body which defines and implements the policies of N.A.

The first WSC in 1976 and last years attempt didn't really make it; they were really great business meetings but they didn't really accomplish all that they could have. I hope we'll do a better job this year. Representation is the key! The WSC can only be truly effective if it is representative of the N.A. as a whole.

DONT FORGET THE CONVENTION

Hope to meet you all in person soon,


Greg Pierce