

The process

WSC Minutes page 28 - THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1984

The Chairperson of the 1983-84 WSC Administrative Committee [Bob Rehmar] appointed Bob R., RSR (Show Me); Dutch H. (WSB); Steve B. (WSB); Dale A. (WSC 1984-85 Finance Chair); Susan C. (WSC 1984-85 Administration Committee Treasurer); Bob K RSR (Volunteer) to serve with him on the WSC 1984-85 Ad-Hoc Select Committee.

Newsline 1984 - Vol. 1 No. 9

*** * * * * SELECT COMMITTEE * * * * ***

As everyone in the Fellowship should know by now, the Conference established a Committee to prepare a draft Service Manual that will contain detailed description of the service structure of the Fellowship. The Select Committee as it has been named has held its first meeting. Although much was accomplished, the task is enormous. Additional meetings are scheduled for early July and August. The Conference had established a cutoff date for the receipt of new input for the committee but that deadline has passed with little input. The Committee desires that the Fellowship know that they will accept for consideration input that may be received during July. The Fellowship is encouraged to forward any suggestions for the service manual to the WSO, labeled Select Committee input.

The Committee will make reports in the quarterly reports on the progress they make.

Newsline 1984 - Vol. 1 No. 11

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE SERVICE STRUCTURE:

This committee was created by the World Service Conference to develop a comprehensive revision to the existing service manual. This task has consumed a tremendous amount of Fellowship energy, and been the center of controversy for several years. The Select Committee was created as an alternative to an endless stream of changes to the existing service structure. The Select Committee has had several lengthy meetings and reviewed a considerably large amount of input.

The task of writing a comprehensive manual on service which includes a revision to the service structure is a much larger and more difficult project than was first envisioned. The World Service Conference, in their action to create the committee, gave instructions to have a draft available for circulation by this November in order to allow about six months review for comment prior to the next meeting of the Conference in 1985. The committee has made a diligent effort to accomplish their assignment within the schedule established. Unfortunately the work is not complete enough for a draft to be ready for circulation. The committee does expect the draft will be ready for circulation to submit to the Conference for preliminary review within the Fellowship in early January. In order to capitalize on the effort already invested and allow for adequate review, the committee would then seek input on the draft for about 60 more days. A meeting of the committee will be held in March 1985 to review input from the fellowship and make changes to the draft.

The result of this March meeting will be presented to the World Service Conference when it meets in April 1985. An additional review period would then begin, with final comments and suggestions to be received by August 1985. The Committee would meet in September and make the final changes in the

publication. The final proposed manual on service would then be prepared and distributed for consideration by the Fellowship starting in November 1985. Final approval of the manual could then be accomplished at the World Service Conference in April 1986.

This manual on service will be one of the major publications of our fellowship. It should receive the same lengthy review that the Basic Text received. Your ideas and suggestions for the manual are still solicited, along with your prayers.

Policy Committee Letter to Fellowship - December 17, 1984

The following is a questionnaire compiled and edited at the WSC Policy meetings in Chicago and Knoxville. Please distribute to all members of your groups who actively participate in group decisions. Make your answers as brief as possible, and try to give a true picture of what is going on in your group, as you see it. Please send your completed questionnaires to:

Bill Hall, Policy Chair
P.O. Box 66651
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

Responses should be received at the above address by March 30, 1985 in order to be compiled at a service workshop in early April, 1985.

Thank you for your experience, strength and hope.

GROUP CONSCIENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Is a majority vote the best means of expressing the conscience of an N.A. group?
2. What is your definition of the conscience of an N.A. group?
3. Who is eligible to participate in a vote gauging the conscience of an N.A. group?
4. If you were asked to express your feeling of what "Group Conscience" means to you, what would you say?
5. What is the voting procedure used in your group?
6. What changes, if any, could be made to improve this voting procedure?
7. Do you feel the autonomy of a group would be better protected by limiting a member to having one Group Conscience vote to be expressed only in one N.A. Group?
8. Are your Group Conscience votes taken at regular meetings or at separate meetings composed of group members only?
9. Should votes concerning group matters and matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole be handled differently?
10. What is the function of a group steering committee? Does your group have one?
11. Should you trust your GSR to make decisions at the ASC meeting on issues pertaining to other groups or N.A. as a whole that have not been discussed by the group?
12. Should you trust your ASR to make decisions at the RSC meeting on issues pertaining to other areas or N.A. as a whole that have not been discussed by the group?
13. Should you trust your RSR to make decisions at the WSC on issues pertaining to other regions or N.A. as a whole that have not been discussed by the groups?
14. Is Group Conscience always right?
15. How often should Group Conscience be reviewed?

Yours in loving service,
Bill Hall
WSC 84-85' Policy Chair

Newsline 1985 - Vol. 2 No. 1

*** * * * * A GUIDE TO SERVICE * * * * ***

The first stage publication of a WORK IN PROGRESS on a new manual on service prepared by the Select Committee on Service Structure was distributed at the conference in April/May. Copies of this publication can be obtained from the World Service Office on the Supplemental Order Form. This document is a work in progress, and should not be confused with the approved document on our structure, the Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure.

The committee work in progress should be reviewed and suggestions made in writing to the Select Committee, addressed to the WSO. The Fellowship needs a comprehensive service manual, and your participation is essential. Obtain a copy of this for your area committee and hold a workshop to develop recommendations.

Fellowship Report, September, 1985

To: The Fellowship

From: George H., Chairperson WSC

...The Select Committee will meet very soon to continue the work assigned to it by the World Service Conference. All input concerning this committee and the work in progress, A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous, should have reached the WSO by the time you read this. This input will serve to guide the committee in obtaining the best possible source of experience, to aid trusted servants in continuing and maintaining a responsible service structure to fit our needs, now, and in the future...

A GUIDE TO SERVICE IN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

March 27, 1985

TO THE FELLOWSHIP:

On the following pages is the comprehensive work in progress towards the development of a manual on service. It contains a tremendous quantity of material, greatly in excess of what is contained in the existing Service Structure known as The Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure.

This work in progress reflects hundreds upon hundreds of hours of work of the committee and the Fellowship. The committee sifted, sorted, studied and discussed the ideas, policies and procedures contained in this draft and many others that are not included. The committee felt it's duty was to take all the input received and produce the best possible draft containing what the committee felt was the

best ideas, policies and procedures. Many of the items submitted conflicted with other ideas submitted by others and some represent departures from the policies or patterns that have previously existed in the Fellowship.

An effort has been made to include as many ideas as possible that were suggested if they could be integrated in a way that did not conflict with other ideas. This necessarily implies that a choice was made. In many cases the choices were easy and in others it was hard.

Many of these ideas or policies worked for the Fellowship at some time and in some places. This draft presents changes in some areas of policy and procedure in an effort to improve some aspect where conflict exists or previous policy or procedure was vague.

The committee understands and accepts that not everyone is going to like every part of this work-in-progress. It is expected that many changes to these ideas will be suggested and many new ideas will be advanced. All of these ideas are welcomed. The committee believes that the Fellowship should and will determine, the final draft to be prepared during the coming year.

A new approach is reflected in this draft. An effort has been made to explain how the experience of the Fellowship has pointed to change and how our Traditions exist as the foundation for most of the duties and procedures. Some will say, of some parts of this draft, that an attempt is being made to change something that works and it should not be changed. The committee has been brave enough to believe that putting forth the ideas from the Fellowship, be they the same ideas or new ones, will result over time in the formulation and approval of a complete manual on service.

The committee believes in group conscience of the Fellowship and submits this work humbly not with the pride of authorship that gets in the way of analysis or change but in the spirit of loving and humble service.

The committee asks that this work in progress draft be carefully and fully studied. The Fellowship will be best served if no response from groups, areas or regions is developed for at least 90 days. A deliberate effort should be made to study this work objectively and questioningly before a list is hurriedly sent that contains a shopping list of changes.

After a thorough review has been made by individuals it would be helpful for area committees to establish study committees to review the material over a period of- weeks or months.

The Select Committee recommends that input from the Fellowship be made in writing and sent to the committee between July 1, 1985 and September 1, 1985. A special workshop will be held by the select committee in November 1985 to review all input and develop a final draft.

You will discover, that Chapters One, Three and Five are not complete and are not included at this time. Chapters Two and Five are nearly complete and will be available soon to be mailed to those who have received this early draft. Please complete the form on the following page and these Chapters will be mailed when they are available.

Chapter Three will not be complete for a considerable period of time. It covers an area of work that the Select Committee felt should be handled by the Policy Committee since they were working on this

subject during the current year. They do have a draft on the subject of group conscience and the trusted servant, it will be prepared and made available to the Fellowship.

The Committee apologizes to the Fellowship for the delays in making this work available to the Fellowship. The Committee was fully aware of the schedule established by the Conference in 1984. However the overriding importance of this work was so keenly felt by the Committee that it believed a more deliberate document was in the long run the better choice and in the interest of the Fellowship.

Additionally the Committee is guilty of one tactical error that had advantages for the final work but which delayed its development. The task of assembling the majority of this work was assigned to one individual. The committee revised all the input then developed the parameters, and general philosophy through its meetings and discussions. The “fleshing in” of this to be a comprehensive work process was assigned to one individual in order to promote consistency in language and style.

Unfortunately the task proved larger than the members of the Committee imagined when the decision was made. There were several deadlines set and passed but the Committee was too far committed to substantially alter this original course of action without big penalty to the quality and clarity.

There are two positive aspects of this unintentional delay. The review of the work can be done without interfering with the work of the Conference in 1985 and review by the Fellowship can be more fully done with leisure.

The committee had two full committee meetings lasting several days each. There were countless telephone discussions among the members and input was reviewed throughout the full year. Much of the information for some parts of the draft was changed several times as new information was available, new evidence of experiences revealed which policies or procedures worked and which did not.

An example of the continuing change is that of Chapter Seven on the [International Affairs Committee] IAC. It was changed after the current IAC experienced internal problems and a new concept was proposed and recommended in principal by many of the IAC participants. This took place in the 90 days prior to the final copy of the draft being prepared.

This was a learning process for everyone involved. We were presented with new and innovative ideas that can have positive effects for the Fellowship for generations.

This work is being advanced in part with the idea that a complete manual on services will be used for many years without substantial change, and that it will serve the Fellowship for many years.

In loving service to the fellowship,
Robert R. – Chairperson Select Committee on Service Structure

A GUIDE TO SERVICE IN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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Newsline July 1986 - Vol. 3 No. 5

FROM BOB STONE

In the March issue of the *Newsline*, I reported that we were initiating a search for another employee to assist in the management of the Office...

... The member selected was George H., the immediate past Chairperson of the WSC. His vast experience and knowledge will be of tremendous help to WSO. He began working almost immediately. His primary tasks will be to better coordinate the activities of the project coordinators and their service to the Conference Committees. He will directly participate as an assistant to the International Committee. Because of his overall supervision of all other project coordinator activities, serving with the International Committee will provide for the most complete assistance to that committee.

During the past several years George has worked with all of the Conference Committees. By taking advantage of this we have assigned him also to work with the Policy and Select Committees. His service with these two committees will aid in the completion of their work programs.

Newsline September 1986 - Vol. 3 No. 7

FROM BOB STONE

... In the July issue of the *Newsline*, I reported that we had selected George Hallahan as the Administrative Assistant for the WSO. As part of his acceptance he had to resign from the WSO Board of Directors. He had been elected to the WSO Board for a one-year term by the Conference when it met in April. The WSO Board took action at their September meeting to fill the vacancy.

WSC Minutes page 40 - FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1987

It was M/S/C Chuck L., (WSC Vice Chair)/Mary V., RSR (Lone Star) "At the WSC quarterly in July, 1987, an open forum meeting will be held by the Select Committee to answer questions, receive input on the draft, and to otherwise have a general evaluation of the work. The Select Committee will receive additional written input from the Fellowship until Dec. 1, 1987. The committee will meet to consider input and to propose any further changes to the draft that are warranted from the input. This completed work will be sent out to the Fellowship in approval form by July 1, 1988 for consideration at WSC 89."
CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Fellowship Report, September, 1987

From: Leah Goodrich, Chairperson
WSC Select Committee

The Select Committee will again hold an open forum input meeting at the Denver WSC workshop in October. This has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 16, 1987, from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. We will try to focus the discussions on the information presented in the following report. It is very important that members and service committees study this new information and be prepared to give your comments on the proposed concepts. It will be your comments on these proposals that will determine the future direction the Committee will take.

If the proposed concepts are received favorably, this may alter the work schedule for the *Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. The next committee meeting will be held in November, at which time we will be discussing a possible change in scheduling for the Guide, based on the input we receive. All motions committed by the WSC to the Select Committee will again be reviewed at that meeting and reported in the subsequent Fellowship Report. We will also continue to factor in the input we have received on the current draft. Please continue to send us your comments on the current material.

FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SERVICE STRUCTURE

During the past three years, as the Select Committee on Service Structure has been working to prepare a handbook on service in N.A., there have been a great many lessons learned by the committee. The task was much greater than any member imagined it would be. As the committee members began to participate, they found that they were hard pressed to conceptualize the changes in the structure that now seem fairly obvious.

At first glance the task seemed to be to simply rewrite the existing *Temporary Working Guide* and incorporate some of the ideas presented by members in their letters. The learning process that resulted from the lengthy discussions revealed a much more comprehensive task. These past six months have been the most enlightening. They have revealed the need for a comprehensive change in the structure of the world level of service as we currently know it. The report that follows is an attempt to describe the current discussions of the Select Committee on Service Structure. These discussions are still incomplete at this time and in no way imply any final decisions. This is simply a report on our progress and offers only a single option. Other options will also be examined in the coming months. The Committee invites members to comment on this material by sending written input to the Committee through the World Service Office.

The Service Structure of Narcotics Anonymous

The basic elements of the service structure of the Fellowship are already proven to work and need little change. The group, the area committee and the regional service committee comprise the structure of service in N.A., and the method for decision making for the Fellowship as a whole. This report includes few changes in that existing service pattern.

Where a major change seems to be needed is at the level of service beyond the scope of an individual region. In earlier service materials it was presumed that the next level of service was the world level.

While that was a logical assumption then and has been tried, there have evolved some problems with the quick jump from a region to a truly worldwide conference.

The difficulties involved in that jump include differences in language, culture, distance and ability to provide services. While the Fellowship grew primarily in the U.S. and Canada these problems were not fully visible. Now that the Fellowship is growing strong in places so far away as Australia, South America, Europe and Asia the difficulties of language, culture, distance and self-support, must be addressed.

There are several practical matters that highlight these problems. After three years of trying different techniques for translation of literature written in American English into different languages, no simple or single process has been found to be universally practical or satisfactory. Some language materials have been in the translation process for all of these past three years. Some items have been translated and re-translated several times and a completely satisfactory product has not yet been achieved. In addition to the difficulties of translating the material adequately and ensuring the accuracy of the N.A. message, there is the question of cultural differences making some of the material unsuitable even if translated correctly.

Although our disease is universal, language and cultural differences make it hard, if not impossible, for addicts in many places to identify with the settings, terminology, and experience described in much of the American recovery stories. Addiction in the rural areas of the Philippines, Columbia or Jordan is a real problem, but the patterns of living are so culturally different that stories of Americans provide little common ground for identification.

The translation of service materials approved by the World Service Conference, for things such as the *Guide to Phoneline Service* or *Convention Guidelines*, is simply not even being addressed. With such vast differences existing in cultural foundations these materials are not relevant in places like India, most of Africa, and parts of Europe or South America.

This non-relevance therefore raises a question of the propriety of calling such materials "World Service Conference" tools. This matter of relevance can be expanded to question why such materials should be sent to places in the Fellowship for "world approval" when actually they are not relevant to the entire world Fellowship. And of course if they are not relevant, why translate them?

These significant issues have been made more clear as a result of the participation of more non-Americans in the past two World Service Conferences and efforts to participate in various Conference Committees. As a result of these lessons and growing discussions, new ideas for service beyond the regional level have taken place. On the pages that follow are the results of those discussions. The first task was to establish concepts that can form the basis for more detailed discussions. Following refinement of those conceptual discussions, the specific language that can formulate structural options is presented. In order to foster open debate on these options, several options are presented for those elements when more than one option was widely discussed or developed.

General Concepts

World services should be a term applied to those issues and activities that are generally universal in their application rather than specific to a particular language, culture or geographical area.

Future recovery literature should be developed and approved more along language and cultural lines rather than a universal worldwide basis. Similarly, service materials should be developed and approved more for the setting in which they will be used rather than attempting to evolve a single document on each segment of service.

Both recovery literature and service materials must reflect a consistent application of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of N.A. and should not be changed, altered or modified. The concepts must remain true to our current understanding regardless of language or cultural differences.

Although nationalism has not been a large issue within N .A. discussions, and it generally conveys negative concepts with respect to a spiritual program, there are some situations where our service structure may benefit by taking into consideration the geo-political structure of nations. Some service materials and structures may work more effectively on a nation by nation basis than on the basis of regions as we now know them. An example of this may be the N.A. community in the United Kingdom. They currently have one region covering the greater London area but other regions will soon evolve. In matters of H&I or P.I. service especially, it would be logical that the Fellowship would benefit from a committee that served the UK as a whole. In some ways this has already been accomplished through the formulation of the UK Assembly which will be an administrative unit responsible to handle concerns affecting all of the UK. The London Region, and others as they form, will continue to function as elements of the World Service Conference. But they will also function as part of the UK Assembly, although the UK Assembly will not have a direct relationship to the World Service Conference.

World services need to be practical, affordable and effective. As the Fellowship grows in the years ahead it will eventually have as many meetings (areas and regions too) outside the U.S. as there are inside the U.S. This may mean as more addicts are elected to world service, many may speak languages other than English. This may also mean that an extraordinary financial burden may be involved for the conduct of a World Service Conference. The movement of trusted servants around the globe to attend the Conference meeting or committee meetings alone will be staggering. Additionally, the cost for translation of even the basic conceptual materials will remain a long, awkward, and expensive process.

A more practical and effective approach seems to be to encourage a system that permits the evolution of N .A. decision making, take advantage of prior experience, strength and hope, but does not require all of that to take place at one World Conference each year. Developing decision making elements like the UK Assembly or Continental Service Conferences seems the most reasonable and practical solution. However, consistency to our basic spiritual principles must be continually assured.

For this reason, an effective worldwide element must exist within the Fellowship. That element should be large enough to be representative of the whole N .A. Fellowship while at the same time small enough to be practical and efficient. Whichever method we choose to accomplish our Fellowship's goals, the responsibilities of our worldwide service element should be wide reaching in some ways but rather restricted in others. For example, it should be the holder of the ultimate copyright and trademarks of N.A., including the name Narcotics Anonymous. It should be able to grant permission to print and distribute literature within continents or countries, it should conduct the world convention, it should be the caretakers of our spiritual principles. It should not, however, involve itself in the approval of specific programs and/or activities that are relevant only to parts of the Fellowship, it should not impede or delay the structural development unless that development affects the Fellowship as a whole and it should not be involved in the development of service tools intended only for limited use within the Fellowship except to check for consistency with N .A. principles.

World services need to be small enough to be practical, but large enough to avoid the stigma of "an elite" or remote circle of members. There must be a practical relationship between world service and other service elements.

Financing of these service units is through the Seventh Tradition. This should include funds sent along through the service structure from funds collected at N.A. meetings, revenue from Fellowship events and sales of approved literature or other materials.

What these general concepts are intended to express is the manner by which the whole Fellowship becomes responsible for the safe keeping of the Narcotics Anonymous principles. To guarantee and preserve the opportunity for all our future members to find the chance for a new way of life, no matter where, who, or when that might be. For this, we are ALL responsible.

On the basis of these concepts, the following is a first draft of notes upon which the service structure could be developed.

Recovery Literature Approval

The basic spiritual principles that are embodied in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions provide the framework for recovery and unity in Narcotics Anonymous. We believe that these spiritual principles make it possible for an addict, any addict, to arrest the harmful effects of our progressive and incurable disease. Those who have come before us and sustained N.A. when it was young have preserved for us a complete concept for a new life. In order to preserve our own recovery and share that recovery with others, it is essential that N.A. remain true to the meaning and understanding of these spiritual principles.

In order for us to fully understand these spiritual principles and to share them with others they have been written down and are embodied in the recovery material available at our meetings. So that we adhere to our Twelve Traditions with respect to the use of literature in N .A. we take special effort to abide by several of these spiritual principles that have close relevance to literature. Specifically, the concepts which lead us to turn our lives and our will over to a Power greater than ourselves, strive to maintain N .A. unity and to assure that group conscience has the opportunity to provide guidance for our efforts in literature development and use.

The N .A. experience in recovery has proven that our disease is one that affects people regardless of geography, culture, language or ethnic background. Our N .A. experience has proven that our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions when understood and applied, can be successful regardless of all other factors that surround an addict's desire to recover.

Our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, although originally written in the English language, have endured the tests of time and translation into numerous languages. N.A. members have found their vital significance in different cultures in different words and with different expressions, but the spiritual principles, and the bearing they have on our success, have remained essentially the same.

In order to preserve the integrity of these spiritual principles, and therefore their universal application and understanding, a method has been developed to maintain the consistency of these spiritual

principles when they are translated or new material is written. The basic elements in this guardian role are the individual members and their participation in N.A. groups who read and use the material. *(The administrative procedure to be used to assure consistency will be specified as this draft is developed.)*

In addition to the members' personal participation for their own recovery, a member also participates so as to strengthen the group's recovery and carry the message to the addict who is still suffering. This participation must always include a watchful eye to important matters presented by assembly or conference, which affect changes in literature and the interpretation of the Twelve Steps and Traditions. While it is not expected that each member spend vast amounts of time studying everything that assembly or conference committees do, when information is available that includes new language that would be used as "recovery literature," attention should be given.

This attention and therefore involvement can then be expressed through the service structure so that our Twelve Steps and Traditions are preserved.

To facilitate this at the assembly, conference and world levels, several practices have been developed that provide for a long and thorough review process. This process has been developed so as to accommodate the translation of the understandings and meanings of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of N.A., including their description and application, into different languages, different cultures and different living conditions.

Service Literature Approval

This World Guide to Service provides the framework for our evolving Fellowship that includes different languages, cultures and environmental living conditions. This was done in recognition of the vast differences that exist between members living in different continents whose disease may be the same, but whose language, customs and cultural concepts may be entirely different. The particular elements and organization of the service structure in one culture may be entirely different from other structures. In order to accommodate these differences an element of autonomy has been incorporated into the approval process for service related decisions.

It is anticipated that the primary elements of the service structure will remain as they are described in this Guide. The application of this structure and how it is described in a particular language is best left to those most familiar with the language and culture in which the structure is being developed. Accordingly, groups and area committees, when forming regional service committees, may elect to form an assembly committee to serve certain needs within the structure of N.A. which impacts their own circumstances.

Actions taken by assemblies and continental conferences which approve recovery literature or service materials affect N.A. as a whole. By the nature of such materials they are in effect declaring what N.A. believes and how N.A. is organized. Accordingly, some mechanism must exist to provide opportunity for assurance to the rest of the Fellowship that approval of such materials by an assembly or continental conference is consistent with the common perceptions of N.A. shared by the rest of the Fellowship. *(The mechanics of that process need to be developed and included in this publication.)*

The worldwide Fellowship has evolved service materials that contain general concepts and principles covering each of the fields of N.A. service. These materials provide the framework for most service activities. Continental conferences, assemblies and regions frequently develop addendum to these

publications to provide information that is relevant to the circumstances found in the area served by that conference, assembly or region. The approval of these addendum materials rests with the respective conference, assembly or region.

Service materials for use in an area served by an assembly or a continental conference can be developed and approved by that assembly or conference. Examples of such efforts would be the creation of hospital and institution materials by the N.A. assembly of a nation with a single and integrated penal or judicial system. There are enough differences and unique circumstances in different nations that we have found this approach more realistic than a single detailed publication that is expected to cover all countries.

National Assemblies

Although the regional service committee shall remain as the primary administrative unit for the Fellowship, there are many circumstances where efforts of several regions should be consolidated so as to permit concentrated action for some purposes. The national assembly has been created as a service element for this purpose. The assembly may be created when the N.A. community in a particular area with a common language, governmental agency or cultural background determines that such a service element would provide better serve to the Fellowship.

National assemblies are service forums created by regions to meet specific needs of those regions. The authority and responsibility of the regions and their participation in their respective service conference shall not be affected by the creation of an assembly. An assembly may exercise responsibility to approve recovery literature and service materials, when such materials are relevant specifically to the area served, consistent with other sections of this publication on approval of literature and service materials.

A service assembly may be formed to accommodate the needs of two or more regions having certain mutual needs. Common bonds for such service conferences are language, geography, political boundaries, and cultural distinctions. In the spirit of our universal principles, the option to create such service assemblies based on these mutual need categories should be exercised in an inclusionary manner rather than an exclusionary one. In order to avoid the violation of our Tenth Tradition such service assemblies should not be created to foster or institutionalize N. A. service according to nationalism, political ideology, racism or other divisive bases.

Service assemblies should be formed for purposes of serving the specific needs of the Fellowship with the common bonds identified. The regional service committees of these same N.A. communities should also be part of a service conference which serves a larger unit of the Fellowship. These service conferences are normally organized along large geographical boundaries such as the North American Continent or Europe. This approach will permit addicts from different languages and customs to learn from one another while they organize and conduct the services that a conference may need to accomplish.

It may be desirable to create specialized service boards or committees with more limited scopes of responsibility and duty. Such limited conferences may also be organized so that their memberships can participate directly in a larger conference setting.

For example, the language and cultural similarities in some geographical areas (frequently along national borders, but not necessarily so) may be large enough to support a service conference to handle such

matters as literature development, public information, and hospital and institution work. Frequently such areas are part of a larger land mass geographical feature that facilitates easy communication and travel to adjacent language and cultural areas. Europe is a good example. It may be desirable to have service assemblies that serve the specific languages or cultures separately while having a larger conference serve the whole European Continent for certain needs.

To accommodate this manner of organization, assemblies that serve a portion of a continental service conference may be identified according to national or cultural terms. The use of such terms should be thought of only as an identifying factor rather than as promoting nationalism or differences between members.

Examples of this pattern may be that service assemblies may be created in each of the major language groupings in Europe. These assemblies may meet to accomplish tasks that are common to their language, culture or nation because they may be substantially different from neighboring regions. These assemblies may meet to organize efforts in hospitals and institutions because their national medical delivery system or treatment services are consolidated or substantially different from those in adjoining countries. Similarly, penal systems may operate so differently that a unified approach may be essential. These assemblies may obtain license from the World Service Office to translate, publish and distribute approved literature and use the Narcotics Anonymous name, N.A. logo or other registered trademarks. This may be done to take advantage of single language units, or unified postal systems, to avoid international shipping difficulties (customs, inspections and delays), or to avoid shipping materials great distances.

Continental Service Conferences

In order to obtain the benefit of the experience, strength and hope of others, permitting service assemblies to exist in isolation in other respects would be detrimental. Consequently, such service assemblies as may be created to serve single language groups, nationalities, etc., should be unified through a service conference having service responsibilities that are more general and varied. Again, using Europe as an example, there may be service assemblies for each of the major language groupings, English, German, French, etc., while a single European Service Conference exists to serve the larger needs.

Each conference will select a Board of Trustees to serve the needs of the membership of that conference. Each conference will select Trustees according to the general principles outlined in this publication for Trustees. The exact number and duties of the Trustees shall be determined by each conference. Each conference shall further make provision for the participation of some Trustees on the World Service Board of Trustees.

(The form of world service and what it is called is not certain and will be confusing. In order to avoid conflict the following sections on World Service Conference and World Service Board of Trustees will be expanded through additional work and discussions by the Committee. It may be that a World Service Conference is maintained or it may be possible to reduce the size of the body we currently know as the world body and take advantage of a smaller group, such as a World Service Board of Trustees with members from the Trustees of each continental conference.)

World Service Conference

The World Service Conference serves as the focal point of worldwide efforts of N.A. Most N.A. activities occur at the group, area and regional levels. Limited activities occur at the assembly or continental conference levels. As detailed in earlier sections, assembly and continental conference responsibilities give the assemblies and continental conferences authority to develop and authorize most items of literature, structure and procedure and require only a concurrence from the world services.

The focus of responsibility of the World Service Conference is more limited in scope, but universal in its application. The WSC, for example, is vested with the responsibility of reviewing service and recovery materials developed by continental conferences or assemblies. The nature of such review is not for the language or specific details of such materials, but only to assure that they remain consistent with the common understanding of the spiritual principles of the N.A. Program. The nature of the action of the World Service Conference in this regard shall be to advise the originating assembly or conference that no conflicts were found, or if they were found, that they were identified by the WSC in the report returned with the review material. It is the responsibility of the originating assembly or conference to then review the material and make such changes as they believe are appropriate.

The World Service Conference is composed of representatives of each of the continental conferences and selected members from those parts of the Fellowship that are not part of or served by a continental conference. Each continental conference selects fifteen of its members including its Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and three Trustees to serve on the World Service Conference. The World Service Conference meets during each even numbered year.

World Service Board of Trustees

The World Service Board of Trustees serves as the committee with whom the Fellowship as a whole has vested the responsibility and authority to oversee the international and inter-conference activities and responsibilities of the Fellowship.

The World Service Board of Trustees includes five Trustees from each continental service conference and such additional Trustees as may be selected by the Board. Each continental service conference may elect to have their five world level Trustees serve only these inter-conference and international needs, or may wish to have them perform their world level duties in addition to duties assigned as service to the conference which selected them. The selection of the Trustees and their replacement shall be accomplished according to such procedure and schedule as may be established by each continental service conference. It is requested that each conference provide for rotation in such manner that no Trustee serve less than three years nor more than six years consecutively and that the rotation provide that not more than three Trustees have concurrent terms of office. In order to avoid the additional expense and burden necessitated by multi-language activities, continental conferences are requested to select Trustees that read and communicate in one of the universal languages.

Service Offices

Service offices have proven to be of value to the growth of the Fellowship and our ability to carry the message of recovery to the addict. Service offices can be formed by service committees within the structure of N.A. There may be area, regional, assembly or conference services. Every office is formed by one of these service committees and the office it creates serves only the membership of its sponsoring committee. In order to avoid confusion and conflicts, offices at some levels of service are restricted from performing certain types of activities.

Some offices of assemblies or conferences enter agreements with the World Service Office that permit the office to publish, print, distribute and/or translate literature and other items within the area served by the office. Such agreements are evolved on a fairly limited basis, in order to minimize the administrative costs associated with such offices, while at the same time making provision for cost effective distribution and access to literature. These agreements provide that each office pay a royalty payment to the World Service Office. This royalty is a small portion of the sales price and is intended to provide the funds essential for the operational responsibilities of the World Service Office to the Fellowship as a whole.

New World Service Office

The World Service Office has an adequate staff responsible for assisting the World Service Board of Trustees. The Office provides a number of services for the Fellowship as a whole and the general population.

Public Information Services: The Office serves as the public information distribution center for our worldwide Fellowship. Primary public information energies of the Office are directed toward coordinating the public information activities of the Fellowship on a worldwide basis. Specific public information efforts include coordinating N.A. participation in international public information projects and activities.

The Office may organize and/or participate in international forums where N.A. participation may be appropriate.

The Office will have direct responsibility to perform the types of public information duties and responsibilities that are described for continental conference public information committees for those areas not served by a continental conference. These activities will include the full range of public information responses and projects that develop understanding and attraction to N.A. The Office will assist the development of public information efforts in these unserved areas so that they can become self-sustaining.

General Services: The Office will be responsible for providing general services in geographical areas that are not served by a continental service conference. The Office will encourage the development and growth of N.A. in such areas and assist in the structural development of these new N.A. communities so that they can develop service boards and committees and become self-sustaining.

The Office will hold the worldwide copyrights and trademark rights to specific N.A. properties. These properties include the logos and symbols that are adopted by the Fellowship in their original form and such variations as may be adapted throughout the Fellowship. The copyrights to our literature, the use of the name Narcotics Anonymous, or any items developed for use by the Fellowship throughout the world.

The World Service Office further will be responsible for production and distribution of literature in those geographical areas that are not served by a continental service conference.

The Office will have the sole authority to enter into agreements to license or authorize the use of the Narcotics Anonymous name in any language, N.A. logos, symbols and production of literature. Such

agreements will be authorized so that continental service offices may fulfill the needs of the N.A. communities they are created to serve. The Office shall be responsible for the protection of N .A. rights to these properties and, in conjunction with continental service offices when appropriate, take such action as may be necessary to preserve the rights of N.A. in the use of these properties.

The World Service Office will be responsible to provide the administrative services that the World Board of Trustees may require. These services include the financial and planning needs for Trustee meetings and participation of World Trustees in events, meetings or activities in which they are called upon to participate.

The Office will facilitate and arrange for an interchange of information between continental conferences and/or their various boards and committees. This responsibility may include international conferences or meetings, the exchange of service materials and recovery materials generated by separate conferences.

The Office is responsible for ensuring the integrity of the translation of material into any and/or all languages that are not already served through the activities of an existing continental service conference.

The World Service Office will be responsible for the conduct of the world convention of N.A. The world convention will be held on a periodic basis in different locations which may best serve the Fellowship at large.

The Office will be responsible for the administration of the World Service Conference or other international and inter-conference workshops and meetings.

Fellowship Report, November, 1987

From: Leah Goodrich, Chairperson
WSC Select Committee

The date (Dec. 1st) for submitting input on *A Guide to Service* is drawing near. At our November meeting we began the process of factoring in the input we have received so far. Most of this input has been directed on Chapters One through Five, with very little attention given to the proposal on world services published in the September Fellowship Report.

At the input session held during the Denver workshop, the comments the Committee heard were very positive towards the proposal. However, we would appreciate hearing from those committees and members currently reviewing the guide, on what their thoughts may be about the present direction we are taking.

The World Literature Committee, in Denver, voted to turn work in progress, "In Loving Service," over to our committee. "In Loving Service" is not a service manual type of work but could serve to enhance the information normally associated with service handbooks. Each member of the Select Committee will be studying this draft and determining if the material is suitable for expanding the *Guide to Service*.

At our November meeting we also discussed our present timetable for completion of the *Guide*. We will be discussing this further and advising the Fellowship of our thoughts about revising our schedule.

Fellowship Report, January, 1988

From: Leah Goodrich, Chairperson
WSC Select Committee on Service Structure

What we are faced with, both as a Committee and a Fellowship, are some rather difficult subjects. We have tried somewhat inadequately to resolve our problems while ignoring basic concepts and principles. Our Traditions, while adequate to meet our group purposes, leave much to be desired when applied to our Fellowship's services. Up until now, we have not really confronted the basic principles, but have weaved our way around them, often presenting what could be called half-baked ideas. There are a variety of reasons why we are in this position and they need to be discussed now before we end up compromising ourselves further.

Issues involving our world services are sometimes complex and difficult for members of the Fellowship to follow and comprehend even if you have been in service for a while. The Select Committee basically started from scratch again after the 1986 WSC. Most of the members were new to this level of service and we went through a process of familiarization. As is true with any committee, it takes awhile before members are comfortable with one another so they may speak freely about their ideas. Once the Committee members began to get used to working with one another, our meetings became more productive and useful. This past year we have been able to work as a cohesive group and we need to continue in this manner in order to complete our work.

We have sometimes found it very difficult to proceed with certain parts of the Guide, because of the division of opinion existing in the Fellowship, in regards to certain basic issues. This is not news, it's been a fact of life for some time now. But the Committee is now reaching the point that in order to go ahead with their work, we must have these issues addressed and commonly understood. Otherwise, we will end up with nothing better than what we have already.

At our November meeting, there were a number of basic questions and issues discussed by the Committee. Questions about our Traditions and how they relate and apply to our service structure as opposed to our groups. In March the Committee will be meeting again to formulate questions, on which they will ask the Conference for specific guidance.

A number of the issues we are concerned about appear in the Conference Agenda Report as motions from WSC Committees and Boards. The Policy Committee has a motion regarding WSC participation and the WSO has a motion regarding their relationship to the Fellowship. Although these motions seem reasonable on the surface, the underlying principles are not discussed nor addressed properly. What will happen at the WSC is the specific motions will be decided but the principle will not. The WSO motion clearly involves our Eighth Tradition while the Policy Committee motion addresses the principle of full

participation by all trusted servants throughout our service structure. This principle of full participation brings up other related issues, such as the Twelve Concepts for Service used by other Fellowships who explain their principles this way: The Steps (members' recovery), the Traditions (groups' unity), the Concepts (trusted servants, service). Where do we stand with the application of these principles? What are the rights and responsibilities of our groups and members and what are the rights and responsibilities of our trusted servants, service boards and committees?

These are the principles that need to be addressed by the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous. If we confront these issues and come to a common understanding of their applicability, all the other things we get caught up with, and in, will become rather simple by applying basic principles.

The proposal for restructuring our world services was published (September Fellowship Report) as a general outline and did not describe in-depth details of the proposed plan. This proposal took years of discussion and thought before it was put on paper as a reasonable and achievable goal. Unfortunately it did not reach fruition until after we completed our revised draft in April, 1987, and it took the better part of the summer to be completed and published. Decisions regarding the actual function and purpose of the proposed world service entity, the interrelationship of each continental conference, and their duties and responsibilities, will have to be made to complete the proposal.

During the year, the Select Committee spent a considerable amount of time encouraging the Fellowship to comment and input on the revised draft of *A Guide to Service*. Open input sessions were held at both WSC Workshops to give members the opportunity to discuss the revised draft and the concepts it contained. We also received a substantial amount of input in writing from committees and individual members. After reviewing all the input we have received to date, it has revealed some major shortcomings with this type of process. When the Fellowship is familiar with the areas of work (i.e. groups, areas) their comments are well founded, comprehensive, and specific. But, for instance, when it comes to inputting material about world services, the comments are vague, unsure, and general, if at all. As a result Chapters One through Five have been assigned to individual Committee members to factor in all the input we have received, while the Committee as a whole will review and revise the remaining chapters.

The 1988 WSC budget for the Select Committee will include proposed funding' to have five meetings. It will be crucial that the Committee focuses maximum effort towards completing its work during the upcoming Conference year. The Conference has been indulgent, patient, and understanding and we certainly realize the frustration experienced in waiting for the results. But if we are to have something worthy of consideration we need the extra time and full support of the Conference.

Fellowship Report, March, 1988

From: Leah Goodrich, Chairperson
WSC Select Committee

At our March meeting we examined many of the basic ideas and concepts which may be applicable to our service structure. We looked at those developed by other Twelve Step Fellowships as well as concepts we have developed in our experience. The basis of most of our discussion concerned our experience with the Traditions. What became most apparent was how little information has been recorded over the years regarding our own experience and that which had been written down was not readily available for reference. In our discussions we were able to resolve, to our satisfaction as a

committee, some of the many recurring philosophical issues confronting our service structure. Some of our resolutions were the result of our complete agreement but with others we were unable to establish a clear consensus at this time.

The committee has believed for some time now that we had arrived at a point in our work that to go any further without wider consultation and discussion would be inappropriate. The ideas and concepts we have been discussing concern all of us throughout our Fellowship. The subject of our deliberations concerned our basic philosophy of service and the possible development of a foundation of principles that coincide with our Traditions to specifically guide our service efforts. Questions which we addressed included: the purpose, function, and responsibility of our service structure, how our trusted servants are guided in fulfilling their responsibilities, how our Traditions are applicable to service, what is N.A., what is N .A. as such, who is an N .A. member, what is group conscience, how is group autonomy related to the expression of an ultimate authority, what does direct responsibility imply, and how does self-support relate to the service structure. As a result of our deliberations we have developed some consensus responses as a committee, which will be presented in our report to the WSC in April for further discussion from the participants. It has become clear that a common understanding of the purpose and function of our service structure is needed. The basic responsibilities of our groups and members, as well as those of our trusted servants, service boards and committees needs to be well established, defined, and presented in any guide to service in N.A. During our report at the WSC, we will request the chairperson to allow us to go into a committee of the whole for a comprehensive discussion of these issues and the responses developed by the committee.

There are several other important issues that are more of a structural nature that we request further consideration of. We published in the September, 1987 *Fellowship Report* our thoughts on a plan about our evolving worldwide structure. This plan has received in general, a lot of favorable support and we will continue to work in this direction. However, we would also like to get a consensus from the WSC to continue work in this direction. The detailed development of each continental conference structure will take time and we don't expect the plan to be initiated until the early 1990's. In relationship to each continental conference our committee has been discussing the feasibility of having a single, larger, centralized Board (25-30 members) to have the chief responsibility of administering continental service affairs (in much the same way as our three service arms WSC Admin., WSB, and WSO do now while the Conference is not in session). This is in addition to the conferences themselves. There are several options to this plan and we have not settled ourselves on any one option. Members of this central board could divide their responsibilities into more specific areas of concern, such as: several members (6 or 7) would be responsible for office management, others could be assigned to work with the service departments and/or ongoing WSC Committee responsibilities, but all together would be jointly responsible for all continental service affairs. This particular option resembles somewhat the plan outlined in the N .A. Tree. Please consider these ideas and be prepared to discuss the subject during our report.

Terminology is also a concern of the committee. With all the confusion resulting from some common practices in our Fellowship we are trying to make things more clear and descriptive. One of the solutions we discussed would be to use the term "conference" instead of "committee" when describing ASC's and RSC's. Our other great concern was for the term group conscience. Over the years it has been loosely used to describe and/or justify just about everything we do. We hope to have some more discussions about these things and will report our progress in the future.

We would like at this time to thank all the committees and/or members who have taken the time to input the current draft of the Guide to Service. It is our expectation that the amount of input will begin to increase as we get closer to a completion date. If the WSC decides favorably on our motion to amend our work schedule for the coming year, we will meet at least five times, with two-three day meetings. Upon completion of our work we will publish a draft and present it for whatever approval process the Fellowship desires. Until that time we will need the full support of the Fellowship to successfully complete our work.

There is one other issue in particular that received overwhelming support of all committee members. This concerned changing the name of our committee to reflect a better understanding of our purpose within the Fellowship. We will discuss this further and offer some suggestions for the WSC participants to consider during our report.

To: The World Service Conference 1988

From: The WSC Select Committee on Service Structure

During this past year the following members served on the committee: Leah Goodrich, Chuck Lehman, Jack Bernstein, Greg Pierce, Ed Duquette, Dave Tynes, Mary Van Every, Mark Daley, Jim Wymore, Terry Boring, Beth Kuecher; and Leo Smothers. Of the twelve members only two had not previously served on the committee. Continuity of service is important to our committee and will be especially so during this next year.

The committee held two open input sessions at the WSC Workshops in Newark and Denver, and three working meetings in June, November, and March. We also received written input from individuals and service committees throughout the year. Our open input sessions did not produce the kind of participation and discussion that they were intended to. However, the committee felt that the effort to bring greater visibility to their work will engender a better understanding towards the project. The written input we received was sometimes very difficult to understand and combine with the draft. Most of our input seemed to concentrate the majority of its comments to language usage and not to conceptual expressions and ideas. Most Select Committee members felt that this type of effort was more important at a later stage of development and resulted in some rather inconclusive evidence, as far as judging the support of the Fellowship was concerned. We would like to go on record though that several service committees submitted very useful material in a simple, practical form. It is very obvious from this experience that more time and effort must be put into assisting the Fellowship with the preparation of input material.

At both our June and March meetings the committee reviewed and discussed all the motions that were committed to us by WSC'87. These motions concerned the terms, rotation, and number of WSO Board of Directors, the function of the WSO staff, and the term for Board of Trustees. In our deliberations we felt that any recommendation from us on these issues would be premature, since we were not developing those sections of the Guide to Service at this time. We have notified the appropriate RSC's regarding our deliberations and our intention to give full review to these items during the next Conference year.

Our working meeting were very productive, we just weren't able to have enough of them. Our June meeting brought forth the draft proposal on an evolving International structure. This proposal provided information about the direction our committee believed would be most supportive to the growing

needs of our worldwide Fellowship. There were two ideas presented in that draft that are very important. The first was the recognition of the need for more autonomous flexibility in the development of services within the many cultures and countries existing around the world. The second important concept we wished to express in the proposal was that the responsibility for the integrity of the Narcotics Anonymous program belonged in the hands of the worldwide membership and would no longer be perceived as the property of the American Fellowship. As of this report we have not gone any further with the details of this proposal which we will have to complete during the next year. The actual implementation of this plan would not be taking place until sometime in the early 1990's.

The WSC Literature Committee unanimously recommended that the work in progress, "In Loving Service", be turned over to our committee as input to our work. Each committee member was given a copy to study the possible utilization of this material in whole or partial form. We have discussed this thoroughly and at this point, do not believe it is useable for our purposes. However, we are not recommending any action concerning this material until we move closer to a decision regarding the actual format and the possibility of any additional components of the Guide to Service.

Our November and March meetings concentrated on generating discussion about service concepts designed to provide general guidance to our whole system of services. This came about as the result of our continuous discussions about many of the recurring issues most commonly debated in previous years or those that have gone unresolved. These discussions revealed some interesting observations and startling conclusions. Practically speaking we have actually had very little experience with our own principles in operating as a whole Fellowship. We have also never compiled what past service experience we have learned into a reference form, that clearly discussed and explained the reasons for establishing service policies and procedures. The results of our inexperience with our principles and our lack of written explanations often show up in the form of repeating mistakes. This is usually evidenced in cycles when a turnover in leadership has taken place and takes the value of the lessons learned with them. The service manuals we have produced so far have been more guideline oriented and do not necessarily satisfy the many questions that arise about our service structure and our groups.

The task of producing a comprehensive manual on service has not been an easy one to complete. Even the smallest detail often brings considerable discussion. Our individual understandings of the purpose and function of each service level or unit, has sometimes differed so widely, that it has been difficult to arrive at a consensus among us. . At first we were somewhat perplexed at how this could be in a Fellowship whose first principle concerns unity and common welfare. But after much thought and deliberation it became quite evident why we have developed that way. We have not yet established a commonly understood relationship of our basic principles to our services and groups. Without access to the experience we have gained our services will always be somewhat unstable and many singular interpretations and approaches to service will continue to develop.

Our trusted servants on every level need to have a clearly defined understanding of their functional boundaries in the performance of their duties. The relationship of the service structure to our groups often becomes a question of appropriate authority and responsibility, which has never been stated or defined and universally accepted. This brings to light the conflict we have observed at every WSC meeting regarding group conscience and trusted servants, ultimate and delegated authority, and mutual trust. The Traditions speak precisely to the groups and their purpose but have not been thoroughly developed and expressed in material to guide our services. Our service committees and boards, and especially our trusted servants need to understand what decisions they have the authority to make and which ones are the province of the groups themselves.

We considered the magnitude of the problem this type of inconsistency creates in our services, and went on to examine and explore our Traditions, to see if we could possibly support some type of common understanding in a manner we could, as a committee, be comfortable with. The following statements reflect only a summary of our thoughts and are not intended to be considered final conclusions on these issues: ·

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority-a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience." The first part of this Tradition recognizes that ultimately, the authority and responsibility for all services is in the hands of the group conscience as expressed in the N.A. groups. This is accomplished in several ways. The service structure is dependent upon the support of the groups, both financially (fund flow) and with the selection of trusted servants. Without that support it cannot and will not function. Secondly, ultimate authority is expressed by the acceptance or rejection of any decision made by a service board or committee. Group autonomy gives each group the right to accept or reject any decision made in its behalf, even if that decision is otherwise supported or rejected by the vast majority of other N.A. groups.

(Having said this, we recognized existing policies in our structure that are contrary to these thoughts such as the N .A. fund flow system which actually places the authority in the RSC's to make most financial support decisions about world services.)

"Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern." A good servant is one who is able to anticipate the needs of those they serve. They are chosen for their experience, their knowledge of principles, and their ability to reflect those principles in their actions. They are not governors or enforcers of rules and regulations. They act for us, and are subject to the same disciplines found in our principles that our groups and members are. It is the principles that we rely upon (mutual respect) and not the personalities. Trusted servants are endowed with the ability to fully participate in their defined service responsibilities, and to make decisions on how best to serve and when they should consult further on important matters with those they serve (mutual trust). A practical balance between the group conscience and trusted servants does exist. (At this point we discussed those things that absolutely need to be brought back for group conscience: any change in the Twelve Steps or Twelve Traditions or the nature of N.A. and the approval of recovery literature. Other things were discussed also but not decided upon.) Even though we understand and accept these as a basis for how our trusted servants function in their defined service responsibilities, the groups retain the right to instruct their representatives implicitly.

(With these thoughts in mind another question about our current structure became evident: Why in the direct line of transference (GSR to ASR to RSR) of delegated authority, does it all of a sudden stop at the RSR and not continue?)

We discussed other basic questions also and developed responses similarly or have simply posed the question.

1. What is the purpose and nature of our service structure? The purpose of our service structure is to make the N.A. message of recovery available on a broad scale to the addict who still suffers. (Our groups and members are how we actually carry the message.) It is the natural evolution of our principle of service as stated in our Steps and Traditions. It provides unity and enables our Fellowship to act as a

whole upon important matters. It maintains the integrity of the group and its purpose, by doing those things for the group that it cannot or should not do for itself.

2. What is the relationship of the Twelve Traditions to our service structure? The traditions protect the groups from distracting or disruptive influences; They also create the service structure and provide the basic spiritual guidance for all N.A. services.

3. How do we define professionalism in N.A.?

4. Are special workers trusted servants?

5. What is group conscience? The collective utilization of spiritual principles by members of a group to preserve the common welfare and fulfill the primary purpose of the group.

6. What is meant by the term "direct responsibility"?

7. How do we define self-supporting in relationship to our service structure?

8. What is our responsibility as a Fellowship?

These are only examples of the many basic questions that we have come upon, and there are certainly many more that need to be raised before we are completed with our work. We have included them in this report so you can see for yourself the in-depth nature of our work. Your understanding and participation will assist us in completing our task.

The focus of our deliberations shifted to include the general perception of the WSC, its role, purpose and function. The results of our in-depth discussions of the WSC, pointed out a variety of additional, related items of concern about the operation of the Conference. The WSC guidelines as they appear in the TWGSS, were meant to describe the annual meeting itself and not the continual year around operation of the Conference and its committees. Consequently, we have spent the last seven years amending this section which was never suppose to fulfill the full responsibilities it has since been required to. This confusion has further been complicated by other misconceptions. Leading the way is the general perception that the decisions made by the WSC are the expression of a collective ultimate authority. Through our investigation of our Traditions we believe that this is fundamentally incorrect. "The WSC is instead the place where the effective voice of our groups from around our Fellowship, through their chosen representatives, come together with those responsible for our world service operations to establish direction and guidance for our worldwide service efforts." This statement more correctly acknowledges the functional reality of the WSC and does not imply any authority with is out of balance with our principles. If we take a step back and look closely we may conclude; that the WSC (nor any service body) cannot speak as an ultimate authority. It is only meant to be the collective voice of our Fellowship, determining the mainstream of N.A. experience, which it has properly been delegated to do. The groups, utilizing their group conscience as an ultimate authority, in reality decide the force of any of our service decisions, not the participants of the WSC.

These discussions illuminate the critical importance of our work during this next year. As a Fellowship and as a committee, we have had to overcome many obstacles in the past four years. Our tremendous growth has magnified many problems that resulted in a crisis management approach (concentrating our efforts on immediate situations), rather than having the luxury of an extended evaluation process.

Although this has been the case, our committee members feel confident that if the WSC participants decide to support our recommendation and our budget request, we can finish our work and produce an acceptable draft for review. However, as a Fellowship, we must commit ourselves to a wide reaching and in-depth examination of our principles and their relationship to our service structure. The draft we produce may contain many concepts generally unfamiliar to many members, but as a committee we feel it is imperative that this work consists of an exhaustive, thorough effort, to provide the Fellowship with a guide to service based on the integrity of our principles. To this end we have fully committed ourselves. Thank you for allowing us to be of service.

WSC Minutes Page 49 THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1988

Mary V., Select Committee member presented the WSC Select Committee report to the Conference. The report was followed by a question and answer period.

It was M/S/C Bob H., (WSC Treasurer)/Taylor P., RSR (Louisiana Purchase) "That the Select Committee be released from the previously adopted (WSC '87) work schedule, requiring a revised draft by July 1, 1988 and be instructed to issue a draft by July 1, 1989." The Vote: MOTION CARRIED VOICE VOTE

WSC Minutes Page 50 THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1988

It was M/S/C Ed D., (WSC Policy Chairperson) Jay V., RSR (Florida) "To change the name of the 'Select Committee' to the 'WSC Ad-Hoc Committee on N.A. Service.'" The Vote: MOTION CARRIED VOICE VOTE