



## **WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP REPORT**

March, 1987

To:           The Fellowship

From:        Leah Goodrich, Chairperson  
              World Service Conference

This is the last report you will receive before the upcoming World Service Conference. There are a lot of issues I would like to address. But before I do, I would like to thank the Fellowship for allowing me to be of service. It has been a very busy and interesting year, and personally, very rewarding. I have faced many responsibilities, sometimes with apprehension, sometimes with great concern, and sometimes with fear. As someone who ran from responsibility my entire life, looking back on this past year, I see that it has been productive and oftentimes humorous. The joy I have felt in watching N.A.'s growth has increased my ongoing love affair for Narcotics Anonymous and for that, I am grateful.

So--onto the issues. First of all, in my last conversation with our Treasurer, Bob Hunter, it was brought to my attention that the World Service Conference doesn't have much money. After paying last month's bills, I feel obliged to tell you we're really hurting for resources to continue our tasks. I had to cancel two committee meetings, and if the arrangements hadn't been made and paid for, I would have canceled three more. This does present a problem. The reality is that we must pay our bills. If the work is to be done, the Conference must have money to pay for it. I don't have a solution to this, other than to ask you for support. We maintain a prudent reserve for the World Service Conference, and we have had to dig into that reserve these last two months. So, as you can see, there is a problem, especially with the Conference coming up in April. I'm asking for your help and leaving the results to a loving God.

I would like to share some of my thoughts about RSRs' participation in committees. It is true that there is a mountain of work to be done and very little time to do it. If you decide to accept a responsibility with a committee, please do so if you really have the time and personal resources to participate fully. If your region can provide the support, so much for the better of N.A. All of the committees need active working members. But if a member loses interest or stops participating later in the year, the committee is the real loser. Also, it may prevent the election of another member who could have worked throughout the year. It is

important to remember that whatever responsibility we commit ourselves to, that we stay committed throughout the entire year.

I would also like to say that this year's WSC will bring up various issues that have been discussed at great length throughout the Fellowship. I would hope that participants of this Conference will come with positive contributions and an attitude of love, care and concern. Even though there will be major issues discussed, these issues can be discussed positively, productively and more than that, in the true spirit that is Narcotics Anonymous. I can tell you that doing our best to be spiritually fortified will make all the difference. I pray that we seek the guidance of a loving God and practice the N.A. principles in everything we do.

The election of trusted servants to positions of Chair or Vice-Chair of our Conference committees is also an issue that needs addressing. It is imperative that we elect people who are capable and experienced. But there is something else that I feel is important, and that is leadership ability. People elected as chairpersons or vice-chairpersons of committees must have the time (and financial resources to afford the time), plus the skills and ability to manage the work of a committee spread all over the globe. They must be able to lead the committee, delegate tasks, follow up and see that the work gets done. Too many times a trusted servant is elected who finds committee members, in their zealously, riding ruff-shod over the chairperson. Sometimes a committee forgets they are directly responsible to the body that elects them, not to the committee itself, and when this occurs the committee can easily lose direction and purpose. Yes, there is a responsibility to the committee, but the direct responsibility and accountability is to the electing service body. If a committee chair is intimidated by the committee in any way, the complete effectiveness of the committee is lost.

Another matter concerns some problems that surfaced in recent correspondence. It seems that one region elected a trusted servant to an RSR position and neither the region nor the individual have the necessary funds to attend the Conference. Because it is one of our international regions, it creates an even larger problem because of the great distance involved. The Administrative Committee does not feel we have the authority to give out money for this expense. I feel badly that we don't have a better solution than just saying no. In another letter we learned about the need for a translator for another RSR. The Administrative Committee does not feel comfortable with exercising the authority to provide money for this purpose either. Both problems are especially pressing because of the general shortage of funds discussed above.

These are new and perplexing situations and I would like to share some additional thoughts. If we hire or arrange for a translator to perform a service for N.A. it would seem to fall within the Eighth Tradition as far as hiring special workers. For this reason, the translator issue does not seem exactly the same thing as providing money to bring an RSR to the Conference. We've hired special workers before, but we have not provided a subsidy to an RSR to attend the WSC. I definitely see a difference. We decided to look within the Southern California N.A. membership for a member who speaks the necessary language and see if they would be willing to perform this task. We've asked the WSO to look into hiring or otherwise making provision for a translator. The Administrative Committee feels that we should do this before any conclusion is reached. Because there is no prior Conference action to guide us, and the Conference cannot provide guidance before the action is required, we may be able to only report the conclusion at the Conference. We do not want to change policy, nor set precedent, and we need your understanding in these matters. The issue of language at the Conference is an issue that needs to be discussed. The expectation that trusted servants elected to the Conference will all speak English is not a sure thing, nor may it be an

appropriate expectation. One more time we need to look at the needs and details of our ever-growing Fellowship.

The pre-Conference meeting, that is scheduled for the Sunday before the Conference, will be the first time we've done something like this. We will be discussing Conference procedures, the agenda, standing rules, answering questions and basically providing an atmosphere that hopefully will diminish any apprehension first-time participants may have. The idea of the WSC can be scary sometimes and it is my intention to avoid that if at all possible. For me, meeting new people, feeling inadequate and the fear of the unknown, were normal experiences and I would like to help anyone who might be feeling that way. The entire Administrative Committee is at your service.

The general forum concept, initiated a couple of years ago, will again be part of the Monday agenda. It seems to work very well and generates some good discussion and ideas. Of course, it is limited to Conference participants only and it serves as a way to open dialogue and understanding of Fellowship issues. Aside from questions, constructive criticisms and brainstorming, it has served as an avenue to share various issues that need the Fellowship's attention. I'm sure many of you have things to be discussed and I encourage you to be frank, direct and open-minded in an atmosphere of reasonableness. It will be done in an orderly, loving fashion with the results of our discussions to benefit our common welfare and not to stir emotional causes.

Earlier this year I shared about some of the responsibilities of being a Chairperson that brought me great concern. Well, we have a matter that has moved me to the edge of my capacity to be understanding, loving and patient. In this matter I have tried to be reasonable, tolerant and kind, as well as informative and firm. I have gotten frustrated and angry and I really don't know what else to do. The Administrative Committee, and a large number of others in world services, have discussed and been affected by this problem. Right or wrong, it has taken up a great deal of time and energy and it is important to inform you. The problem is this: There is a group of members who are quite disgruntled about the changes adopted by the Conference last year in our Little White Booklet. They are upset to the point of being angry and resentful. They have not accepted the changes and have discussed it in their area, their surrounding areas and at their regional service committee meetings. They wish to have the book changed back to the way it was before last year's WSC. We've explained that they must use the service structure the regular way, but that's not giving them satisfaction. So, they have written a letter and sent it throughout much of the Fellowship. A report from one of their meetings expressed the desire for a voice and vote at this year's WSC. Such an idea is unreasonable. The group has been informed that any matters they desire the Conference to consider must come through the RSR from that region. Most recently, they contacted the hotel seeking a hospitality suite to better perpetuate their cause. The hotel referred them to the WSO. The Administrative Committee was contacted and then discussed the matter with their representatives. It was explained that at the World Service Conference, we don't have a "convention-like atmosphere" and accordingly, the World Service Conference is not the place to "politic" or sway participants to see their way of thinking.

It is the Administrative Committee's responsibility to provide the appropriate atmosphere for the annual meeting of a spiritual Fellowship. This we have tried to do. This matter has been really difficult to deal with, because I am personally dedicated to the unity and spirit of N.A. I want whatever the Fellowship wants. A long time ago I learned to surrender to the decisions of the group conscience and I am still willing to do that even though my personal opinion may be different. That's what recovery is all about for me--surrender and acceptance. Living life on life's terms is what I'm learning to do through these

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. The issue is being brought to your attention now so it won't be sprung on you at the Conference without warning. How the Conference decides to handle this matter will be decided then as one Fellowship.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the Fellowship for allowing me to further my personal growth and find a little more security through faith in a loving God. I look forward to seeing you at the Conference and I wish you all a safe and happy trip. God bless!

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Chuck Lehman, Vice-Chairperson  
World Service Conference

As I write this report, I find myself reflecting back on this conference year. We, as a Fellowship, have sought to increase and improve our efforts to carry the message to the still-suffering addict through our World Service Conference and its committees and service boards. At times we have found ourselves in disagreement as to the best method for accomplishing our goals, but almost without exception, our disagreements have been tempered with love, respect and application of spiritual principles. I will devote more attention to this topic in my report at the Conference. I did, however, wish to mention that I appreciated and enjoyed those times when our discussions and disagreements could be voiced without the presence of hostility.

You may recall that my last report focused a lot of attention on the pros and cons of motions which originate in regional service committees and are placed in the Conference Agenda Report without having first been referred to the appropriate Conference committees or service boards for study and report/action. I want to take this opportunity to thank and praise the regions who have presented motions in the Agenda Report for their willingness to go the extra mile in order to provide the Fellowship as a whole with as much information about their motions as the region could assemble, including descriptions, intent and possible impact if adopted. It is apparent that these regions were interested in trying to provide the Fellowship with the most information possible in order to facilitate an informed group conscience.

With that as a goal, I still believe that our world service boards and committees provide the most appropriate vehicle for gathering, studying and reporting on input and issues which affect our worldwide Fellowship. Motions which affect our worldwide Fellowship should have the greatest opportunity for study, discussion and input before being proposed to our members. This, I believe, is accomplished most successfully through our World Service Conference committee and service board system.

Finally, I was taught early in my recovery that I must learn to work the Steps.....and then work them. If I ask you for ten dollars and you only have five, you cannot give me ten, you can only give me five and a promise of five dollars later. In essence, you cannot give something you do not have.

This applies to my N.A. service as well. If I am not working the Twelve Steps, I cannot give healthy service. My service will be a reflection of my disease. It is no accident that service isn't mentioned until we are well into the Twelfth Step. That suggests to me that perhaps I need to work all Twelve Steps prior to embarking on N.A. service.

In closing, may I thank the Fellowship for allowing me to be of service. By affording me the opportunity to give, you have increased the chances that I will live.

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To: The Fellowship  
 From: Bob Hunter, Treasurer  
 World Service Conference

As can be seen from this report, additional funds are needed for this year's annual World Service Conference. It is estimated that the Conference could run as high as \$20,000. Funds will also be needed for the functions of the WSC committees, both before and after the Conference.

Work is still being done by WSC committees on the '87-'88 budget. We hope to distribute next year's budget within the next four to six weeks.

Comments or suggestions related to WSC finances may be sent to the WSC Treasurer in care of the World Service Office.

### WSC FINANCIAL REPORT 6-1-86 to 2-28-87

#### CASH RECEIPTS:

		Phone	130.98
Donations:		Postage (Note 1)	1,212.11
RSC's	\$38,999.05	Copies & Production	
ASC's	1,878.11	(Note 1)	3,000.00
Groups	2,180.88		
Members	1,058.17	SUB TOTAL	7,956.68
Conventions/Fund-			
Raisers	15,888.80		
Other Receipts:		Int'l:	
Transfer from previous		Travel	1,904.50
Treasurer	18,435.37	Lodging	517.18
Credit Balance from		Advances	100.00
'85-'86 Lit Committee	106.63	Phone	62.63
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	\$78,547.01	SUB TOTAL	2,584.31

#### CASH EXPENDITURES:

Admin:		Literature:	
Travel	5,860.02	Travel	2,647.00
Lodging	2,045.50	Lodging	1,510.24
Phone	3,139.89	Phone	1,004.32
Postage (Note 1)	1,043.08	Postage	153.35
Copies & Production		Ad-Hoc Committee:	
(Note 1)	2,098.79	Travel	2,794.00
Mtg Rms & Supplies		Lodging	305.30
at Quarterlies	3,943.18	SUB TOTAL	8,414.21
Bank Chgs & Supplies			
& Miscellaneous	471.90		
SUB-TOTAL	18,602.36		

H&I:	
Travel	2,652.00
Lodging	961.59

## Policy:

Travel	2,574.50
Lodging	644.48
Postage	16.77
Copies	28.25

SUB TOTAL 3,264.00

## P.I.:

Travel	2,091.50
Lodging	625.83
Phone	460.10
Postage (Note 1)	692.48
Non-N.A. Events:	
Registrations	718.00
Literature	2,093.02
Task Force:	
Travel	824.40
Lodging	48.00

SUB TOTAL 7,553.33

## Select: (Note 2)

Travel	3,044.00
Lodging	752.08

SUB TOTAL 3,796.08

## Board of Trustees

Travel	17,966.17
Lodging	4,844.57

SUB TOTAL 22,810.74

Miscellaneous (Note 3) 12.00

## TOTAL CASH

EXPENDITURES \$74,993.71

## RECEIPTS LESS

EXPENDITURES \$3,553.30

## BEGINNING CASH BALANCE

Deposited 5-5-86 \$5,000.00

## ENDING CASH BALANCE

02-28-87 \$8,553.30

## Notes to Financial Statements:

Note 1: The majority of postage and production costs are for the Fellowship and Agenda Reports, *Reaching Out* and the P.I. Newsletter.

Note 2: As of February 28, the WSO has paid \$3,360.78 for travel and lodging of Select Committee members. These are the costs for special meetings in order to complete the draft of *A Guide to Service*.

Note 3: The WSO erroneously deposited a check in the WSC account from a member which was, in fact, a subscription to the *N.A. Way* magazine. I subsequently reimbursed the WSO and the matter has been resolved.

*The WSO has also paid additional expenditures which are not reflected here. These constitute a loan from WSO to WSC that the WSO understands may not be repaid.*

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Mary Banner, Chairperson  
WSC International Committee

In response to our recent request, the International Committee has received a great deal of input concerning the Committee's make-up, structure and goals. This material was studied, and it illustrates the need for a lot of soul searching. After three years of international growth and activity, the Committee is at a turning point. The international N.A. communities, and how they relate to the current World Service Conference, are becoming increasingly disillusioned and confused as to how they fit in the service structure.

The World Service Conference created the International Committee at WSC 1983 out of a desire to carry the message to all suffering addicts regardless of their language, location or custom.

The Conference participants have been deeply moved by the reports from the international N.A. communities. N.A. members in the United States have deeply identified with N.A. communities developing in other countries and have been emotionally committed to their development. The creation of the International Committee was an example of this commitment.

The current direction of the International Committee has little practical relevance to the International N.A. Fellowship, because the current members only have vague ideas about what was needed outside the United States. This is a result of the fact that the committee members were predominately from America. During this past year, members of the International Fellowship have been clear in their desire to be a part of the Fellowship as a whole and an integral part of our worldwide services; not merely to participate through the International Committee.

Recently, the Vice-Chairperson and myself were in California preparing for the Conference. At that time we availed ourselves of an opportunity to meet with several trustees, the WSC Administrative Committee, the WSO Board of Directors and office staff. We reviewed all the input that had been received per the request in the November, 1986 Fellowship Report, and a further request sent to IC members and contacts in January, 1987. There are many issues, the most important of which seems to be, "How effective are we at providing worldwide services?" At the current level of service we are only able to meet some of the needs of non-U.S. N.A. communities. However, is it our goal to simply meet some isolated needs?

In order to achieve our primary purpose, we must have as an additional desire to be truly one united Fellowship, encouraging more international participation in our service structure. Discussions held by members of the International Committee, the Trustees and members of the Board of Directors, both individually and collectively, paralleled much of the input received. An understanding that a major change is necessary has become apparent. In the attached three pieces of input which, in our assessment, are representative of all the input received, the shortcomings of the current committee structure and function become evident.

It is clear that a significant portion of the non-U.S. membership lacks proper representation in our service structure. What is also obvious is the fact that the International Committee is not currently meeting the needs of the International N.A. membership nor can it with its current make-up and resources while operating as a standing committee of the WSC. The Committee is, at present, providing the North American membership of N.A. with a false sense of security--believing that

something is being done to fully assist the international development and growth-- while this is not the real fact.

The need to devise a new approach to international participation and a structure to allow that participation to evolve is evident. Currently any standing committee of the Conference does not have the right complement and resources to accomplish this important task.

It is necessary and vital to dissolve the International Committee before real progress can be made. Shane and I intend to make this recommendation to the participants of the World Service Conference. It was our expectation that we would be able to formulate an alternative to the International Committee. Early in our March discussions we realized that any attempt to present a specific alternative to the International Committee as a permanent solution at this time would be premature.

With this in mind, those of us who met over the weekend recommend that an ad-hoc committee be appointed to work through the World Service Office. In examining closely the Fellowship's international responsibilities several conclusions can be reached as to the responsibility for the continuation and growth of Narcotics Anonymous worldwide. The U.S. membership can also assist in these general areas of concern:

- Providing literature

- Services--how N.A. communities carry the message of recovery to addicts

- Structure--how N.A. communities relate to each other

- Insuring the integrity of the N.A. message through translations

- Legal and copyright responsibilities

If a committee is appointed to work on these and other international matters, we recommend the members of the committee include one or two members of the Board of Trustees, one or two members of the WSO Board of Directors, one or two members of the World Service Conference as appointed by the WSC Chairperson, and as many international members as possible. We request that the World Service Office allocate the resources and personnel necessary to accomplish the objectives of the ad-hoc committee.

The committee's objective would be to develop enough data to make a recommendation to the World Service Conference as to what adjustments will need to be made in our current service structure to allow for growth and participation throughout our fellowship. In the interim, until some final resolution is declared, the WSC Administrative Committee could continue to assist with open forums and discussions at international conferences and conventions, and continue to serve the international membership as a resource committee on an as-needed basis. The WCCNA would also include in the program for world conventions an opportunity for international members to exchange information, ideas, suggestions and experience.

We are aware that many people and much effort has been put forth in an attempt to make the International Committee the link to the World Service Conference. We don't approach this recommendation as a failure to do a job, but as a task completed. We have learned and have a better understanding of what it will take to attain a true worldwide Fellowship.

## IC ATTACHMENT ONE

The International Committee as it now exists does not work. I think we need to accept that fact, and move on towards a totally new concept.

The need for international commitment and participation is clear. The World Service Office could become more involved, but there are some things to



consider. The WSO is frequently busy and can be distracted from focusing on the major issues many of these countries are immediately concerned with. Another problem is that the WSO may be looked upon as the headquarters for the N.A. world services. By creating this perception the international N.A. communities may find it convenient for the office to do for them what they must do for themselves.

The International Committee, as I see it today, will have to take on a more supportive function, strongly emphasizing the development of unity amongst neighboring countries, and encouraging the formation of much more autonomous service structures in zones that can benefit by the fact that they share the same location. This has, to some extent, already happened in Europe and Australia.

I think we need to continue supporting the existing service structure to the point of encouraging more autonomy.

When I first inquired as to how the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous developed their world services, I was told that it was all separated, that each country did its own thing. The direction N.A. is going is to unify N.A. worldwide under one Conference umbrella. To be honest, I felt that this was very exciting. I envisioned a United Nations type of atmosphere where representatives from all over the world would come to Van Nuys and spend five days working together to better be able to carry the message to the addict who still suffers all around the world.

I think it is time to interject a little reality. First, there is something basically wrong with the notion that one or two representatives would come from each country representing an entire nation. Where, here on this continent when only two nations are present, we have over fifty regions. If each country were to form as many regions, we would have some serious problems. Administratively it would be nearly impossible to coordinate the issues and motions each region in each country might bring to the Conference. The issues in literature, P.I., and H&I would be quite different.

The very name "World Service Conference" gives the impression that it is truly an international conference. But the Conference predominately represents the United States and Canada.

I personally inquired into the International Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous and studied the history and undertakings of that committee. Although not all of their experience is relevant, some of it provides good guidance. I was very surprised to find out that the Trustees International Committee of A.A. had only been in existence for nine years. Nine years prior to that there had been a world service meeting held every two years. (New York City is the site for every other meeting, the others are rotated from country to country). They called it a meeting rather than a conference because they felt it did not have true world representation. By 1968 they were seeing some resentment because of this. Some of the larger, more established countries had, in place already, a service structure identical or similar to that of the U.S.A. and Canada.

Their conference and office in New York played only a supporting role in international development, and continues as such. One interesting statement that was made was that the New York General Service Office had no desire to be the "World Capitol of A.A.," and they felt it was psychologically unwise. They stated that it would prevent the development of effective leadership overseas. It would also deprive other countries of the healthy responsibility of manning their own overall services.

For N.A. to centralize administration of the N.A. world services in one office would be nearly impossible. In the area of public information alone, it would be unmanageable. Financially, the U.S.A. and Canada already carry a sizable burden of world service expenses. The more responsibility for world services that the WSO takes on, the heavier this burden will become. A drop in

revenue from our literature sales could literally cut off that link. It would be unfair to lead the international membership to believe that all is well and that they need not take full responsibility for their own affairs.

At this point, I am not suggesting that we change the name of WSC or WSO and withdraw from the role we have played in coordinating world services. I do believe that now may be the time to broaden our perspectives and begin transferring some of these service responsibilities to countries that have established a capable service structure, and begin discussing the feasibility of withdrawing from our conference and holding their own.

This is where I see the International Committee truly serving the worldwide Fellowship of N.A., assisting in this transition and being a link between each conference.

A letter of inquiry from the International Committee to all known service committees could set the groundwork for the first World Service meeting. Planning should consider finances, location, representatives, agenda and policy.

Up until this point many of the countries outside of the U.S.A. and Canada have had to look upon the U.S.A. and Canada as the prime role models. Never have the U.S.A. and Canada been in an equal position with the rest of N.A. around the world.

As we have seen from the reports of the European countries, Australia, and Japan, we have much to learn. At times we probably need to use them as models of enlightenment. I believe the formation of a world service type of meeting where the representation is truly equal is something that we need for our overall unity and for sharing our experience.

## IC ATTACHMENT TWO

I am writing to share some thoughts and opinions I have regarding the International Committee.

N.A., as it has emerged and continues to emerge in other countries, presents us with specific problems:

1. Translating our literature
2. Economic differences
3. Participation from non-English speaking N.A. communities in our world service committees
4. Providing open forums where the experience, strength and hope of groups, areas and regions may be shared
5. Compiling a comprehensive set of educational materials in visual form outlining our service structure

Many of these problems have been addressed and policies have been implemented. There are others that need further consideration, and no doubt new problems will come to light as we continue to grow and evolve.

Although the International Committee has not addressed itself to these problems, it has proved to be a good vehicle to channel these problems to the service arms best equipped to deal with them. The International Committee has also done a lot to improve communications, and perhaps of most importance, to further an awareness throughout our membership that we are truly a worldwide Fellowship.

I believe there was a need at one time for the International Committee, as we know it today, but that need has changed. Last year we drew up guidelines that would make the committee more inclusive of international representation, and that was the direction in which we started moving. Today I don't believe a committee of that composition would best serve our needs. In the first place, I

think it would be impractical and costly. Secondly, I believe there is a better way to identify and understand problems through the scheduling of open forums.

There is a need for a body of people from our world services to consider the problems that are particular to N.A. groups, areas and regions as they continue to emerge in other countries. This body would include two members from the Board of Trustees, one member from the Board of Directors, and one member from the WSC Public Information, WSC Hospital and Institution and WSC Literature Committee.

This six-member committee would meet once a year, prior to the WSC, in an open forum type setting with all the international representation present. During the course of the year, all work would be coordinated through the World Service Office. As the need arose, open forums would be set up outside the U.S.A. by the host country, in perhaps three locations; Europe, Southeast Asia and South America. Members from the ad-hoc committee (if this is what this committee would be called), would be drawn to participate at these open forums as they would be best able to respond to the needs of the Fellowship as a result of their experience and knowledge in their area of specialization.

To insure against overscheduling or overlapping these open forums/learning days/workshops, guidelines would be drawn up regulating how many, how often and where these events would take place, possibly utilizing a system of rotation.

It has become clear to me that the International Committee is not a functioning committee, nor can it ever be with its current make-up. Hopefully, the ideas outlined above will give us a viable means to consider and address the needs that exist and those that are presented in the future.

### IC ATTACHMENT THREE

#### Is this a World Service Conference?

The question of how the International Committee functions, or what the International Committee is, should first be considered within a question which is larger than the International Committee: What is the World Service Conference? Is the Conference a World Service Conference or is it an American Service Conference?

The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous evolved, in its earlier stages, most strongly in America. Only in more recent years, and to a lesser degree, has N.A. emanated from its American origins to survive and grow in non-United States nations. There are undoubtedly a number of factors contributing to this circumstance, but for spiritual reasons, the founders of the Conference chose even though there were, at the time exclusively American participants, to refer to the Conference as a World Service Conference. This thinking carried through to the creation of the International Committee. While this has a high sounding purpose and meaning it has, in fact, created some difficulties.

If we look at the relevant aspects of the World Service Conference in recent years, almost all actions of the Conference are actions which are more clearly suited to an American Fellowship rather than being applicable to a worldwide Fellowship. What we have seen in practice is the World Service Conference acting inadvertently as an American Service Conference. This was not intentional. The service structure adopted while this was primarily an American populated Fellowship, between 1976 and 1983, evolved to meet the practices and procedures appropriate in America, but are not realistic for most of the rest of the world. Seemingly as an after thought, in 1983, an effort was made to begin to invest some

thought and energy into the N.A. membership outside the United States. This was done with the creation of the International Committee.

As laudable as the effort was, it has caused as many problems as it might have helped. It initially created in the American membership a positive attitude towards doing something about the N.A. communities outside the United States. But the membership and composition of the committee fostered an imbalance in committee efforts because few non-Americans participated. While it would not be appropriate or correct to attribute the responsibility for this to be the result of actions taken by any one individual or group of individuals, it nonetheless affected the work of the International Committee.

The recent efforts of the International Committee have had little practical relevance to the international N.A. communities. This is in part a result of the accident that there is no substantial participation in the Committee by members of the non-United States part of N.A. Consequently, the true needs of an emerging international N.A. community are learned only through individual communications in person or in writing. This unfortunate aspect has led us to be less than fully knowledgeable of the needs of international members, groups and committees.

Let's discuss for a few minutes the issue of an international World Service Conference. Consideration should be given by the Conference to developing a truly international forum that could be representative of the worldwide fellowship and have that entity given the types of responsibility and authority that would properly befit a World Service Conference. It may be that such a conference could be based on something other than representative participation based on numbers of members, groups, areas or regions. It might more logically be founded less on numerically based factors, and more on cultural or linguistic factors. A true international service conference, must have a broad based international society of members.

There are substantial and important differences in cultures, language, attitudes, value systems and in thinking from one group of people on this earth to another. Some of these may have an impact on the participation by N.A. members in any one forum. Examples might be the difference of perspective that N.A. members from Israel and Iran have. Similarly there are equally great differences in perspective between Germans and members from Peru or Nigeria. It has been unrealistic to expect the World Service Conference, as we know it, to be able to perceive, understand and act on such differences. So far there has not been a way that Conference participants could become aware of the substantial differences in perspective and other cultural dissimilarities.

If the World Service Conference committees had the kind of "across the board" representation from different cultures, they might well have evolved handbooks and guidelines in hospitals and institutions or public information or conventions that were more universally applicable. They might contain explanations of the concepts and related issues that would be applicable. This might have resulted in different documents suited specifically to different cultures created on a country by country, language or cultural basis. In this way the different cultures would apply the N.A. philosophy based on the practical needs of their own cultural, political and sociological circumstances. Unfortunately, because we have not been exposed to these types of issues, the Conference has not evolved in this direction. The committees therefore, because they were composed almost exclusively of Americans, evolved World Service Conference Reports and materials geared toward an American audience. It might be more appropriate for us to discuss an international fellowship rather than an International Committee.

To do so would require some realistic and practical constraints on the actions of the committees as we know them today. To evolve truly international committees on a basis that is realistic and practical, it might be that such world

level committees could not directly involve themselves in the generation of specific materials as our world committees now do. It might more appropriately be that such detailed materials, as are relevant to an N.A. community in one nation or in one culture or in one language, should be evolved through conferences on a more regional or sectional basis.

Following this line of thinking, it might realistically be that a North American Service Conference should be created that would have responsibility for the kind of materials we now see in H&I and P.I. materials that are applicable to that continent and the cultures in it. Similarly, it might be realistic to assign to other groupings, the generation of similar detailed materials for use in other countries or regions of the world. An example might be that South America be divided into two conferences according to the two principle language groups: Portuguese and Spanish. As a result of the evolution of regional service conferences for South America, in each language, efforts could be devoted by them to the development of tools for hospitals and institutions, public information, literature and other service committees applicable to their language and cultures.

Using this approach, it might well be that we find the future World Service Conference Committees being composed of representatives of these entities rather than being principally composed of participants from the North American continents or even from regions as we know them. The alternative course of action would be the continuation of an International Committee along the lines previously discussed.

The practical realities of the last three years have shown that emerging N.A. communities have less need of committee contact than they do of a service agency which provides them with a single source, direct contact, for the types of information and assistance they need. What we have seen in the evolution of the International Committee, however, is a diffusion of that direct, single source contact. The current World Service Office could provide this or a different office could perhaps provide even better the single source direct contact.

The World Service Office has really functioned in the same regard as described above for the World Service Conference. The current World Service Office has its energies directed primarily at serving the North American membership with less emphasis on serving the needs of the rest of the worldwide Fellowship. Although this may sound like a harsh criticism of the World Service Office and the World Service Conference it is not intended to be malicious but nonetheless accurate. It may be that a more appropriate approach to assisting the evolution and growth of an international fellowship is that a new World Service Office needs to be created. The direction and focus of World Service Office activities as we currently know them, have been the subject of recent discussions in the Board of Directors of the Office. In the spring of 1986, and again this winter of 1987, discussions have ensued within the WSO Board of Directors about how the Board is composed and the emphasis of staff activities. Additional discussion was on whether or not the World Service Office Board is truly representative of an international Fellowship. This discussion is timely in that it affects the discussions currently under way concerning the International Committee, and it may be good to consider this aspect of the issue also.

In discussions concerning licensing agreements with the N.A. communities in the United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland and Australia, the appropriateness of the World Service Office entering into a similar agreement with a North American service office was brought up. Such a North American service office would have a focus of attention directed toward serving the North American membership. The World Service Office would perhaps be a smaller entity with a more internationally selected Board of Directors and a staff whose focus would be more

international. While this idea may have startling implications it can nonetheless actually be perceived as a very logical organizational pattern.

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TO: The Fellowship  
FROM: Biff Kramer, Vice-Chairperson  
WSC P.I. Committee

I regret to inform the Fellowship that our committee's chairperson, Bruce Allen, was unable to complete his term of office. His letter of resignation was received and accepted on February 9, 1987. The reasons leading to his resignation were of a personal nature and were unforeseeable at the time he accepted the position. We are sorry that he had to resign, but we look forward to his continued support as a member. In fulfilling my responsibility as vice-chairperson, I will be acting as chairperson until the World Service Conference in April.

The WSC P.I. committee's accomplishments this year were more than they may outwardly appear. In the past several years, we have tended to judge our success on the amount of written materials generated during a conference year. It is not clear that the function of the WSC P.I. Committee should be the generation of written materials. The committee's success may best be measured by the number of members of the N.A. community involved in P.I. work with whom we have interfaced this year. Several members of the WSC P.I. Committee have participated in regional and multi-regional P.I. learning days and workshops. From the reports given, all of these were very successful.

It has been our experience that one area which these learning days best address is educating interested members of the N.A. community, and increasing the overall awareness of the Fellowship as a whole, about P.I. It provides an opportunity to share our collective experience, strength and hope in the practical aspects of public information. This format could also be utilized, with great success, in further enhancing the skills of WSC P.I. committee participants.

Another area of P.I. involvement is our participation in non-N.A. events. We have learned much from this. One valuable lesson was that the local P.I. community can usually adequately meet the manpower needs of these functions. The original motion regarding participation at non-N.A. events included attendance by WSC P.I. members. At the quarterly meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina (October, 1986), based on input from participating WSC P.I. members, it was decided that, in most cases, (except where a regional P.I. committee is either non-existent or limited in their experience) WSC P.I. support should consist only of literature, booth space, and display materials, as per guidelines for participation in non-N.A. events. In keeping with that decision, more and more letters are being sent to regional trusted servants, requesting them to staff the exhibits at these conferences. Hopefully, when your P.I. subcommittee receives information about one of these events, you will be able to participate.

Exhibiting at these non-N.A. events provides a new avenue of exposure. We are able to demonstrate the continued growth and maturity of our Fellowship in a direct and positive manner. These events allow us the opportunity for personal contact with those professionals who are involved with the still-suffering addict.

Although initial contacts are being made at these non-N.A. events, our experience in follow-up and follow-through is still in the formative stages. Further participation will generate more experience and guidance in this area. If your P.I. subcommittee has gained, or is gaining, any experience in the area of follow-up, please share it with us.

Through WSC P.I.'s continued growth and learning, it is becoming apparent that changes in the committee's structure, organization and activity will be needed in the next Conference year. The suggestions and input of the active members of this committee throughout the past year clearly indicate this need. I look towards these changes with optimism and a firm belief that we will continue to receive input and that the dedication of the trusted servants of this committee will help meet the ever-growing need for public information.

The upcoming year affords an opportunity for regional P.I. subcommittees and trusted servants throughout the Fellowship to become more active in public information activities. Hopefully, all the activities previously mentioned will become more and more useful to, and utilized by, the trusted servants at all levels of P.I. service within Narcotics Anonymous.

I want to thank the committee and the Fellowship for all the experiences of the past year. I look forward to seeing many of you in April at the WSC. Until then, may God be with you.

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TO: The Fellowship  
FROM: Randy Jones, Chairperson  
WSC H&I Committee

During the past year the WSC H&I Committee has been through many changes in our outlook on different issues. We feel that the changes we are suggesting will benefit the Fellowship and create an atmosphere of unity between H&I committees and the rest of the N.A. membership.

While preparing for WSC '87 by reviewing the Conference Agenda, we would like to help with questions concerning the H&I Agenda Report. You may contact the H&I Coordinator at the WSO or myself at (301) 987-6916.

One project that is scheduled for completion this year is a worldwide list of all H&I meetings. If you haven't registered your H&I meetings with the WSO, please do so. We are also working on our final draft of Guidelines for Workshops and Learning Days.

In 1987 the committee will probably begin to work on a more comprehensive set of guidelines. The guidelines will hopefully be more specific in dealing with each type of institutional setting (ie. treatment, correctional, etc.). We will be soliciting input for these guidelines during the next few months. It is our hope that members with experience in carrying the message to addicts in institutions will send their input to the committee.

## H&amp;I ATTACHMENT ONE

Special Fund Literature Distribution  
for November & December, 1986

	NOVEMBER					DECEMBER				
	BT	WB	IP	SK		BT	WB	IP	SK	
ALABAMA	5	5	25	0		0	0	0	0	
ALASKA	0	0	0	0		1	10	5	0	
ARKANSAS	0	0	0	0		1	1	5	0	
ARIZONA	1	1	11	0		1	1	5	1	
CALIFORNIA	3	7	41	1		3	11	55	0	
COLORADO	0	0	0	0		1	1	5	0	
CONNECTICUT	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
FLORIDA	1	1	11	0		3	6	30	1	
IDAHO	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
ILLINOIS	0	0	0	0		2	2	35	1	
INDIANA	0	0	0	0		2	0	0	0	
IOWA	0	0	0	0		0	1	5	0	
KANSAS	2	6	66	1		0	0	0	0	
KENTUCKY	0	0	0	0		2	5	25	1	
LOUISIANA	0	0	0	0		1	1	5	1	
MARYLAND	0	0	0	0		1	1	11	0	
MASSACHUSETTS	0	0	0	0		1	1	5	1	
MICHIGAN	1	1	5	0		5	5	49	3	
MINNESOTA	1	1	5	0		0	0	0	0	
MISSOURI	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
MONTANA	0	0	0	0		1	1	5	0	
NEVADA	0	0	0	0		4	1	5	0	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
NEW MEXICO	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
NEW YORK	2	2	35	0		3	4	20	1	
NO. CAROLINA	0	0	0	0		4	4	44	1	
OHIO	0	0	0	0		4	12	55	0	
OREGON	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
PENNSYLVANIA	0	0	0	0		2	1	11	0	
SO. CAROLINA	0	0	0	0		1	2	16	0	
SOUTH DAKOTA	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
TEXAS	1	1	11	1		2	2	15	0	
TENNESSEE	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
VERMONT	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
VIRGINIA	0	0	0	0		3	2	36	0	
WEST VIRGINIA	6	1	65	0		0	0	0	0	
WASHINGTON										
STATE	0	0	0	0		2	1	5	0	
WASHINGTON										
D.C.	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
WISCONSIN	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
WYOMING	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
CANADA	0	0	0	0		1	2	21	2	





D.C.		0		0		0		0				0		0		0		0	
WISCONSIN		1		2		22		2				0		0		0		0	
WYOMING		0		0		0		0				0		0		0		0	
CANADA		1		1		11		1				1		0		0		0	
ENGLAND		2		1		5		0				0		0		0		0	

**H&I ATTACHMENT TWO**  
**WSO H&I Special Fund Financial Report**

Balance brought forward from November 30, 1986\* \$ 7,041.33

Donations for December

Washington/N.Idaho Regional H&I Committee	664.26
Bay Cities H&I Committee	100.00

TOTAL	764.26
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	Balance	7,805.59
September literature distribution		<u>- 520.31</u>

	Balance	7,285.28
October literature distribution		<u>- 385.42</u>

	Balance as of December 31, 1986	6,899.86
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Donations for January 1987

Connecticut Regional H&I Committee	100.00
Seattle Area H&I	157.64
Southern California Regional H&I	800.00
New Orleans Area H&I	100.00
All Arizona Regional Committee	350.00

1,507.64

	Balance as of January 31, 1987	8,407.50
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	November literature distribution total	<u>-260.97</u>
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	December literature distribution total	<u>-625.47</u>
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Balance	7,521.06
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	January literature distribution total	<u>- 438.96</u>
	Balance	7,082.10

February donations

South Dade Area H&I Committee	500.00
BRASCNA H&I	25.00
East Bay Area H&I Committee	204.66
North Dade H&I Committee	500.00
Northern California H&I Committee	2,000.00

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\* The balance reported in the November Fellowship Report has been adjusted to reflect a correction in the balance calculation. There was a \$22.00 error in the \$7063.33 balance that was reported. The actual balance was \$7041.33.

Baltimore Area H&I Committee	340.00
Washington/N.Idaho H&I Committee	676.62
Bay Cities H&I Committee	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,296.28</b>
Balance as of February 28, 1987	11,378.38

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To: The Fellowship  
 From: Suzanne Schifano, Chairperson  
 WSC Literature Committee

There are several recent developments which I'd like to report to the Fellowship. First off, the World Literature Committee has completed work on the new Fourth Step Guide which is entitled *Working Step Four in Narcotics Anonymous*. It is now in the hands of the Board of Trustees who will do a final evaluation to check for any conflicts with philosophy or Traditions. The Fourth Step Guide is the last piece of work to be completed during the 1986-87 work year. It had been sent out for review during 1986, and we received a great deal of input from the Fellowship. I'd like to thank the many literature committees and individuals who reviewed and sent input on the draft. The World Literature Committee then took all of the input into consideration during the preparation of the approval-form version. The approval version will be ready for distribution at the World Service Conference and will be available for a one-year approval period. It will be brought to the World Service Conference in 1988 for approval or disapproval.

It was brought to our attention that a wording change is needed in I.P. No. 22, *Welcome to N.A.* (This pamphlet is on the agenda for WSC 1987). The change will affect the second page, second column, second paragraph. It now reads: "The only way to keep from getting or continuing a habit is not to take that first fix, pill or drink." In order to correct this, and make the wording consistent with the changes adopted by the Fellowship in the Newly Revised Little White Booklet, the World Literature Committee will present an amendment at the WSC to motion #44, to change the wording to "... not to take that first drug."

I'd also like to address a topic relating to the Twelve Steps book, *It Works: How and Why*. It seems that there is some confusion and/or misconception regarding the development and approval process for *It Works: How and Why*, Part I. I cannot address all members' concerns in the confines of this report, but I will try to clarify what has transpired during the past year. In April, 1986, the World Literature Committee submitted the book to the Fellowship for the one-year approval process. For approximately five months we received very little written input. Most verbal input was extremely favorable. Then one person contacted me to discuss some concerns regarding the book. It was at this point that I requested written input from the Fellowship in the November Fellowship Report. Still, we received very little response from the Fellowship.

At our last quarterly meeting in October, concerns were strongly expressed by some members. Feeling a responsibility to respond, yet having an obligation to adhere to our Procedural Guidelines, I was perplexed. The WSC Administrative Committee, members of the Board of Trustees and WSO Board provided assistance and advice, participating in several conference calls. After much discussion, a unanimous decision was made to provide the Fellowship with several options. These options were offered in a special report distributed in December. This was done in an effort to allow the RSR's sufficient time to discuss the issues with their

respective regions, rather than having to make spontaneous decisions on the floor of the Conference.

At the time the options were being discussed (November), we had very little written input and had no way of knowing the amount or nature of what we would receive. Thinking that the input would be generally focused in the same direction, and that the same concerns were shared by a large number of members, the first option was developed. The options were evolved so as to be able to review and act on the input in a reasonable time based on the quantity and diversity of the input received. The other options were intended to provide the framework for digesting and working on larger or more diverse volumes of input. Option One therefore was presented under the assumption that there were a few specific concerns which would have been fairly easy to remediate with a few amendments.

Since the options were presented to the Fellowship, a great deal of input has been received. This input was reviewed by the World Literature Committee--Adhoc I Subcommittee. All members of the ad-hoc committee received and reviewed the input. A conference telephone call was arranged during which the possible courses of action were discussed. It was the unanimous conclusion of the committee that because of the great diversity of the input we could not reasonably offer a few simple amendments and state that they were reflective of all the input. The volume and variety of input has proven that Option One is not practical. The World Literature Committee will therefore not present amendments to *It Works: How and Why* at the World Service Conference. We will introduce our motion to approve the book as is, in accordance with our approved procedure, and trust the group conscience. If the book is not approved and one of the other options is selected by the Fellowship, we will keep the input on file for consideration according to whatever direction is set at the Conference.

I also want to briefly discuss a project which has been on the World Literature Committee's priority list for many years. I wish to point out that input is still needed for our daily meditation book, *Just For Today*. You'll notice that this project is not on the proposed World Literature Committee worklist for 1987-88. This is not because we don't feel the need for the book, but rather because the Committee has so many other pressing priorities for the next year. The input compiled thus far for this project is in a very undeveloped stage. We do yet even have a workable draft. The Committee felt that further work needs to be done, perhaps as a regional project, before it can realistically be completed by the World Literature Committee. Please continue to send in your input along with copyright release forms to the World Literature Committee in care of the World Service Office.

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Ed Duquette, Chairperson  
WSC Policy Committee

There is actually very little to report at this time. The Policy Committee's work for the year has been completed and presented in the Conference Agenda Report. All that is left is to prepare the committee report to the Conference and prepare the presentation of the agenda items.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out some of the achievements the Committee has made this year, while overcoming the difficulties that have stifled productivity in the past. One of the problems with past Policy Committees has been inconsistency of leadership and composition, leaving the committee with

little stability or appropriate direction. This ineffectiveness has led to discussions and motions, at the annual WSC, to dissolve the committee.

Fortunately, these types of problems weren't indicative of the performance of this year's committee. Our meetings were well attended at both quarterly workshops, by virtually all the same members. Most of our work was done in between meetings and finalized at the workshops. We seem to have overcome the problem of continuity from meeting to meeting, although with a fragile foundation. The committee members have been tremendously dedicated this past year. Without the new Committee Guidelines we are still vulnerable to the situations that have plagued the Committee in the past.

This next year appears to have some big things in store for the committee. The Select Committee is applying the finishing touches to *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. This document will give the Policy Committee a great deal of material to familiarize themselves with and to provide input and suggestions to, during the revisional process. In addition, one item from the WSC Literature Committee's work list, "A Resource Guide for the Trusted Servant," was given to the Policy Committee to develop.

With the approval of the new guidelines and purpose for the Policy Committee, there will be a considerable amount of work required to develop a method of reviewing information on the formation of new regional service committees, as well as developing the best possible way of presenting this information to the Fellowship.

These projects are very exciting. I would like to see myself as an integral part of their development. The Committee has accomplished some wonderful things this year. We have solidified as a Committee of the World Service Conference and the momentum is growing. I see only great things in the Committee's future.

For those who are preparing for the Conference as participants or observers, I will see you soon. To the Fellowship as a whole, I thank you for the opportunity to serve you this past year, and I hope you find the work satisfactory.

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Jack Bernstein, Chairperson  
Board of Trustees

Over the past several years, the Board of Trustees has put considerable effort and time into responding to requests from members, groups, and committees in the Fellowship. When asked for guidance, we have felt that it was our responsibility to provide it. These requests have been answered with phone calls, letters, and sometimes with personal visits to regional events.

During 1984 and 1985, we began to focus upon finding a method of responding to requests which could provide useful information to the widest possible section of the Fellowship. At WSC '86, we conveyed our intention to solicit input from the Fellowship and then publish revised articles on several subjects. This was an effort to respond to requests and at the same time present information to the entire Fellowship about pertinent issues of concern. It seemed to be an approach which would go beyond the random process of letter writing.

The Board of Trustees has been working toward the publication of articles on the subjects of "open and closed N.A. meetings," "special needs-common needs," "language of recovery," "the relationship of N.A. to Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous," and "complete abstinence and N.A. meetings." Other subjects have

also arisen from time to time which have been considered as possible articles. This work has been developing over the past ten months, and has intensified since November. Articles about open and closed meetings and common needs meetings were finalized and published in the January 1987 Fellowship Report.

The Board has experienced difficulty in reaching agreement about the content of the other articles and also about the method and even the appropriateness of presenting these articles at all.

Some members of the Board have expressed very strong feelings about the possibility of these subjects not falling within the framework of the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous. Another concern expressed by some trustees is that it may be possible that we have unintentionally contributed to problems by providing information which has been substituted for experience or the group conscience process. This has caused some of the members of the Board of Trustees to question whether or not publishing these articles is in the best interest of the Fellowship.

There are definitely issues in Narcotics Anonymous which are pertinent and need to be discussed. The Board of Trustees has experienced a growing realization of the very difficult position which we are in. Many of our discussions have focused upon the publishing alternatives which are available, and the results of utilizing these alternatives. We see no constructive forum for these discussions at the present time.

Articles from the Board of Trustees about these and other subjects are often perceived and utilized in many different ways by members, groups, and committees. Even though our intention has never been to create policy for the Fellowship, articles or opinions from us do end up having that effect in many cases. The end result in some cases has been that written materials from the Board have been used to fuel controversies, win arguments, or make and enforce rules. Any written information which is provided by the Board of Trustees in response to requests from the Fellowship seems to end up as "policy" in one form or another.

While the members of the Board of Trustees may disagree on some things, all of us are united in the belief that any "policy" for Narcotics Anonymous must be a result of Fellowship action. This action should utilize the structure and process which has been created and modified over many years. For the Board of Trustees to make "policy" for the Fellowship would have the effect of placing our responsibility in conflict with the responsibility of the Fellowship. Policy for Narcotics Anonymous is the direct responsibility of the Fellowship as expressed through the World Service Conference. When we recommend or advise specific action, the decision for such action rests solely with the Fellowship.

In summary, there is sufficient concern within the Board of Trustees to warrant further examination of all of these issues. Pending this further examination, none of the remaining articles will be published at this time.

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Steve Bice, Chairperson  
WSO Board of Directors

Significant progress is being made toward the completion of licensing agreements with three of the service committees outside of the U.S. for the production of approved literature. The licensing agreement concept was originated two years ago as a possible solution to the extra expense and inconvenience non-U.S. committees and offices experience when obtaining literature from the WSO.

The increased shipping costs, length of shipping time, uncertainty of when customs agencies will complete their work and the fees they charge are all factors that make getting literature a difficult task, even if the WSO does everything in its power to make it simple and quick.

The licensing concept is based on having the N.A. community in a particular country form a non-profit corporation that is subservient to their regional service committee. The WSO then enters into an agreement with the corporation authorizing them to print or produce literature or other items to sell only in their country. At the Conference last year this was discussed and three countries were initially targeted.

The corporations in the United Kingdom, Germany and Australia have been formed and with each we are in different stages of negotiation but moving closer to completion. With the corporation in the United Kingdom we are at the final draft agreement stage. Both the WSO Board and their Board have approved the agreement in concept and final agreement is only lacking on a few minor word changes. We expect to be completed with this agreement in two months. Work was started also with the committee in Ireland to form a corporation.

Copies of the U.K. agreement were given to the committees in Germany, Australia and recently to Ireland. The German committee only recently received the agreement and the translated version of the agreement has not been completed. Completion of the agreement could be expected within six months.

The Australian Service Office Board has reviewed the draft, made comments and submitted them to us. Their comments reflect general agreement and point out only a few areas where additional discussion is important. Final agreement with the Australian Board should be accomplished within a few months.

The Irish corporation is still in the developmental stage. Although they have recently been given a copy of the agreement near completion with the United Kingdom committee, close discussion on the agreement is not expected until near the end of this year.

In a matter related to the growing membership outside the U.S. we are making considerable progress in the area of translations. As previously reported, translations into German and French have been real problems. Early translations were found to be unacceptable. The process used in the past was also found to be impractical, creating many problems and conflicts. We have been searching for better solutions. As translation committees have been formed by French, German and Japanese-speaking members and become involved with us, things have begun to improve.

The ability to produce a translation that is true to the spirit of the original approved material is the principal matter and concern in the translation process. For this reason the WSO has been directly involved, using professional translation companies to assist. Even this has not been entirely satisfactory as the professional translators were not always sensitive to our concern over the spiritual implication of the written word. Our hope has been that translation committees in each different language group would begin to be able to provide translations that could be relied upon to be correct in grammar and true to the original message.

The German translation committee is producing excellent translations. Their work accurately conveys the spiritual message embodied in the original English material. The German committee will be having a larger responsibility for the work in the future. The WSO will decrease the utilization of translation services in Los Angeles in favor of relying on the German Committee and utilization of professional translators in Germany.

The same reliance on French speaking committee members is also taking place. Recent discussions with the French translation committee in Quebec has resulted in the selection of a translation company in Quebec. The members in



Canada will work directly with that company to supervise the work, making changes as may be needed and deciding what is acceptable. Several members in Paris are also involved in the translation process, working directly with the Canadian committee and keeping us informed.

The Japanese translation process has not changed. The primary translations are done in Los Angeles under the supervision of WSO. The draft translations are sent to the Japanese translation committee for review and comment. Any changes they believe are appropriate are then discussed and implemented.

We do not currently have translation committees for the other languages into which our literature is already translated or where new work is to begin shortly. We are getting a large number of communications from India; about fourteen different contacts. Some of these are individual members, some are professionals wanting to get N.A. groups started and several are operating groups. Because of the increased communications, it is likely that the beginnings of a service structure can soon evolve there. It may soon thereafter be necessary to begin translations into languages commonly used in India. All communications so far have been in English.

There are also a growing number and volume of communications with emerging N.A. communities in South America. Area committees appear to have been formed in Colombia and in Brazil.

The report from the International Committee Chairperson in this issue discussed a wide range of matters affecting the worldwide growth of N.A. The Office is directly involved with that growth and consequently we spend a reasonable amount of time working to serve the international membership. The staff and the Board have both discussed the reports included in the IC Chairperson's report.

The experience gained from the past four years in matters pertaining to the international growth of N.A. has taught us that the structure of N.A. needs to be flexible. We must be willing to try new solutions to problems and be willing to adapt our policies, assignments of responsibility and structure to the needs of our growing fellowship as we become more aware of the problems. If we are unwilling to adjust or make changes then we fail to serve the still-suffering addict.

The project discussed in these reports and in the *Newsline* about the computerization of the order processing and accounting at the Office is almost complete. The computer was used to process orders starting with those received during the first days of January of this year. We have had our share of minor problems, some embarrassing, but none of significant proportion. The process seems to be working well. We have not had many complaints with the new system. It has made our control of the paperwork easier and more accurate. The accounting that results from the computerization is quicker and more accurate.

We have continued to have one shipping problem that needs to be addressed once again. When ordering, either from the WSO or any other N.A. office, do not use a post office box number for the address to which the literature is to be shipped. Most of our orders are shipped via United Parcel Service. This system is price competitive to the U.S. Postal Service (in most cases UPS is cheaper than the Post Office). The added benefit is that UPS picks up the packages at our door and delivers it to the door of the addressee.

However, if the addressee is using a post office box number, problems arise. UPS mails a notice to the post office box address indicating that the package is at the nearest UPS office and the addressee can come by to pick it up. The packages are held by UPS for only seven days. If it is not picked up within that time, the packages are shipped back to us.

If no one checks the post office box regularly, the days pass and the packages are returned at our expense. Shipments made entirely through the U.S.

Postal Service are almost identical. The Postal Service holds the package for ten days rather than seven. However, it works out to be about the same because the mail time for UPS to get the notice into the postal system and in the post office box adds two days to their seven day count. The U.S. Postal Service day count starts on the day the package is received because the notice is inserted into the post office box on that day.

We received a nasty letter from one area committee who thought we had not shipped their order. It had been shipped to the address they gave, a post office box number, on January 28, 1987 via UPS. It was signed for at the UPS office on February 10, 1987. Apparently whoever picked up the package did not notify the person who was expecting the package that it had been obtained. We received the letter on February 25, 1987. While we had UPS trace the package and eventually find that it had been signed for, we made a duplicate overnight shipment to a residence address of a member of the area. This matter was more complicated because the person writing the letter did not include their name, phone number or street address. We had to work through the ASC Chairperson and other names in the same area to get information and an address for the duplicate shipment.

From time to time we have presented discussions relating to the *N.A. Way Magazine* and the *Newsline*, both in those publications and in the Fellowship Report. These discussions are part of the WSO's desire to have wide discussion of ideas and proposals on matters we have responsibility for before action is taken. There are changes proposed for Conference consideration about the content of the magazine. As initially discussed last year the changes in the magazine, if adopted, would also affect the content of the *Newsline*. However, as the proposal for changing the content of the magazine was finally developed, a proposal on changing the content of the *Newsline* was not included.

It has been the WSO's intention to continue to print and distribute the *Newsline* as before. Recent consideration has been given to making a change in the *Newsline* because of the changing circumstances related to the content of it. The change being considered is to alter the frequency in publishing from producing twelve issues to only producing six issues each year.

When the *Newsline* was started in June 1983, it was intended to accomplish two tasks. The WSO was poorly organized, understaffed, behind in shipping and trying to find solutions to a much larger list of problems. A principal purpose for starting the *Newsline* was to provide information on a regular basis discussing the problems we were working on, potential solutions we found, and include progress reports. Early issues concentrated primarily on this type of information.

The second purpose was to provide an appropriate format for reporting actions taken by the WSO Board of Directors and staff. The *Newsline* made it possible to provide an expanded explanation of what the Board and staff did or did not do. The Fellowship could thereby understand what took place and why. Using the *Newsline* made it possible to know what the problems were, their potential solutions and seek input from the Fellowship at large. This has worked marvelously. The Fellowship has received a constant stream of information, updates, projections and ideas. We have received input including valuable ideas that has helped us find solutions to problems.

Later in 1983, reports from other service committees were added. At that time, only three Fellowship Reports were being made by the WSC and the last report was the Conference Agenda Report. Adding more reports from other boards and committees helped increase the information flow throughout the Fellowship. Starting in the summer of 1984, the Fellowship Report was published every other month. This decreased the utilization of the *Newsline* to provide Conference information and reports.

Since 1985, the *Newsline* has contained information primarily related to the WSO because the Fellowship Report has been published every other month. Although the WSO will continue to face new problems and will need input, it is possible to accomplish the needs with less cost. Consideration is being given to publishing the *Newsline* every other month, alternating it with publication of the Fellowship Report.

The number of copies published and distributed would not change and the WSO is not currently contemplating a subscription system. The only change would be to print only six issues each year. Input on this matter would be appreciated. No action on this idea will be made until after the Conference in April.

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Steve Bice, Chairperson  
World Convention Corporation of N.A.

Convention flyers for WCNA-17 will be available through the World Service Office. Copies of the flyer were recently included in a mailing of the *Newsline*, having been sent out to over 8,000 members of the Fellowship. Because the flyers are expensive to produce, area and regional committees that would intend to distribute them are asked to obtain only enough copies to meet the needs for those members who are planning to attend the convention rather than just to distribute copies of the flyer to members of the Fellowship simply because there are copies available. The flyer contains information about registration and also hotel accommodations. Members are encouraged to obtain hotel accommodations and register for the convention as soon as possible. By acting early, it will be possible for the Convention Committee to make adjustments in space requirements that may be needed if more members plan to attend the convention than are anticipated.

The Host Convention Committee for WCNA-17 recently held a meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana. The Host Committee meets on a regular monthly basis working out details of the activities and events for the convention. Attending this meeting were members of the Program Committee who were working on selections for speakers and participants for different meetings. The Program Committee announced that it is still looking for participants and speakers and invites members interested in participating to send tapes to the Program Committee, WCNA-17, in care of the World Service Office.

In planning for future world conventions, the Convention Corporation is asking for the help of convention committees that are currently working in the area of merchandising. In previous years, individual vendors were selected to provide materials to a convention frequently based on who contacted the Convention Corporation and how soon they were contacted. The Convention Corporation desires to bring a more open and competitive selection process for vendors who supply these types of materials. The Convention Corporation therefore requests that convention committees send names and addresses of vendors they are currently using or who they have considered using, to the Convention Corporation, in care of the World Service Office, so that future vendor consideration might be expanded to include potential suppliers who have not previously been considered.

Regions or area committees interested in proposing a bid to host the 1989 World Convention are invited to review the existing approved *Convention Guidelines* and the language in the proposed changes to the Guidelines included in the Agenda Report. Although some changes may be made by the Conference, the scheduling and bid procedure will not be affected. Accordingly, committees interested in

bidding should be prepared to submit their bids according to the deadline in the Guidelines. Any committees that feel a need to discuss or request information from WCCNA for the development of their bid packages are invited to call the World Service Office to discuss the matter with Bob Stone. The office will be anxious to help committees with information that would be relevant to developing their bid for submission.

Regions are invited to carefully review the statement of need letters included in the Agenda Report so that the RSR's come to the Conference prepared to select one of the two proposed 1988 World Convention sites included in the Agenda Report.