

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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To: The Fellowship

From: Leah Goodrich, Chairperson
World Service Conference

Re: Report to WSC 1987

Date: April 27, 1987

I'd like to welcome you all to the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the World Service Conference for Narcotics Anonymous. This has been a very busy year, filled with aspirations, hopes, disappointments, and successes, but most of all, for me, a lot of challenge. We have planned, worked on and completed most of the tasks the Fellowship has asked us to do. In arriving at our decisions, the discussion and disagreements have been lengthy, but I believe that our primary purpose has always been foremost. The team spirit and mutual respect that is present in our World Services has nurtured us through what has seemed like trying times. It is because of this team spirit that I feel so grateful to be of service. I would like to personally thank the Administrative Committee, the Joint Administrative Committee, the World Service Board of Trustees, the World Service Office Board of Directors, the World Service Office staff and the Fellowship as a whole for the help, support and guidance that was freely given throughout this year. We have enjoyed successes and faced mistakes. All has been received with love and understanding, and that's what keeps me coming back.

There are several issues that I would like to bring to your attention. As we move through the days of this Conference, we will be concerned with the work of the past year. I would hope that before we make our decisions, all questions will be answered fully, keeping in mind what will benefit the addict who still suffers and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. Our common welfare must come first because our personal recovery depends on N.A. unity.

I have observed and participated in the growing understanding and commitment in our International N.A. communities. It has become very obvious to me that the needs of the Fellowship outside of the North American Continent is very real and growing all the time. Since our message has crossed the water it has become quite obvious that we must work on a more effective and direct way to serve the whole Fellowship. Now is the time to face our current limitations, and prepare to service equally the worldwide membership of Narcotics Anonymous.

Other issues have caused great concern. One in particular regards motions coming from various regions, without first being presented to the appropriate WSC Committee. It states in the Temporary Working Guide that issues should be brought to the committee that it affects so that thorough discussion and consideration is given before it comes to the Fellowship at the World Service Conference. In many instances this did not occur. Instead, it was done incorrectly and inappropriately. We cannot disrespect the integrity of the Fellowship. It's just not right. If we are trusted servants, then it is our responsibility to never abuse our trust. I encourage everyone that has issues or concerns, to handle it in the appropriate way and leave the results to a loving God.

Another thing I would like to address is the financial status of the World Service Conference, and services on all levels. I'm certain our Treasurer has facts and figures for you, but I'm talking about the diversion of funds away from the established service structure. We have had many area and regional offices emerge this past year. It is a wonderful thing that these offices are created when needed, as long as we consider providing the necessary services first. It has been my experience this past year, that a lot of money was being channeled to the various service centers rather than being used prudently at area, regional or World Services. I get concerned that in our need to be grandiose or "keep up with the Jones'," that we're not providing the necessary services first and are sacrificing these needed services in order to create service offices. We need to be certain that the creation of an office is to enhance our primary purpose and not feed our personal needs of money, property, ego, pride and prestige.

Prior to electing our new trusted servants, we need to consider several elements. Let's look closely at the commitment, the responsibility it entails, and the qualifications of those nominated. Have they completed their previous commitments, and will they communicate on a timely basis? Was the job done effectively? It is imperative that the WSC elected trusted servants are prepared to sacrifice their time, money and other personal responsibilities, because I'm telling you, it is a lot of work. Sometimes I have felt overwhelmed with the amount and nature of the work that has to get done. If I don't deal with it a little at a time on a daily basis, it becomes unbelievable. Please, seriously consider what I'm saying before nominating or accepting a nomination. Let's not be apprehensive in questioning the qualifications of nominees prior to electing them to serve the Fellowship.

Before closing this report, I want to mention briefly our WSC workshops. The participation in Minneapolis last July and again in Charlotte last October, was quite productive. This year we've planned to have two more and we've decided to have the first one the third weekend in July, to be held in Newark, New Jersey, and the second one to be held in Denver, Colorado. We'll be sending you the information about them later on, as far as where and such, but I just wanted to tell you this now.

In closing, I would like to say that I'm glad we're all here and that I hope this World Service Conference will be one of love, mutual respect and maturity, and that we all remember why we're really here. I believe it is because a loving God has a plan if we just let it be revealed. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.