

# WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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To: The Fellowship

From: Chuck Lehman, Vice-Chairperson  
World Service Conference 1987

Re: Annual Report to the Conference

Date: April 27, 1987

I want to begin this report by thanking the Fellowship for affording me the opportunity to serve as the Vice-Chairperson of our World Service Conference this past year.

My responsibilities have included assisting the WSC Chairperson and Treasurer with the Administrative tasks necessary to facilitate the Quarterly Workshops and the Annual Meeting of the World Service Conference; the coordination of Standing Committee work; membership on the Select Committee working on *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*; and membership on the WCCNA Board of Directors. I have also been invited to participate in various Regional Learning Days and the European Service Conference on behalf of the WSC Administrative Committee.

Our Standing Committees spent many hours at work in an effort to accomplish the tasks established for them by the Conference. Some of them focused much of their effort on projects specifically inherent to their Committee's purpose, while others devoted more attention to internal housekeeping issues such as determining their purpose, developing operational guidelines, and goals and objectives. Each Chairperson will report in detail as to the accomplishments of their Committee.

As Vice-Chairperson, it is my responsibility to report and correspond regularly with the Fellowship. Likewise, Committee Chairpersons are responsible to communicate their Committee's progress, problems, the Committee's need for input, etc. with the Fellowship in a regular basis. In those areas I believe that we have functioned well. Our reports have been comprehensive in nature and were, for the most part, delivered in a timely manner. An area which could be improved upon is the communication between the WSC Vice-Chairperson and the Standing Committee Chairpersons. Although it is a two way street, the Vice-Chairperson of the WSC is responsible for initiating the communication with Committee Chairpersons. I did not perform this task as well as I should have. At times other Conference activities prevented me from keeping up with scheduled phone calls, but communications between the Conference-Vice Chair and the Committee Chairpersons is vital and must be viewed as a priority item. Regular dialogue between trusted servants in general can not help but have a positive impact on our work for the Fellowship.

It saddens me to report the resignations of two of our Standing Committee Chairpersons. The first resignation occurred in February of 1987 and involved the Chairperson of Public Information. The second resignation occurred earlier this month and involved the Chairperson of the Literature Committee. Her resignation was particularly painful as it resulted from relapse. I am reminded that addiction plays no favorites. It seems to have little regard for who we are or what service responsibilities we possess. Our role as trusted servants of the World Service

Conference does not make us immune to this disease. I have heard it said that drugs are not our problem. If we, as recovering addicts, do not have any problem with drugs, then why do we stay clean. If drugs do not represent any problem for us, then why, if we use, do we die mentally, emotionally and spiritually, for no apparent reason.

In several of my Fellowship Reports I have expressed my opinions with regard to working the Steps first and practicing the bureaucracy of service second. If I must be inadequate in one of those two areas, let me stumble over Robert's Rules of Order and not in the area of personal application of the Twelve Steps.

At last year's Conference I was asked to work on the Select Committee. I had reviewed the document titled *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* and felt relatively certain that the manual could be completed in a couple of months. I could not have been more mistaken. As a Committee, we spent many hours working on drafts and revisions. Our meetings were always lively and discussions at times were heated. The Chairperson of the Conference will either report or designate a Select Committee Member to report on the progress of the Select Committee's work and propose a work schedule for the upcoming year.

In my role as a member of the WCCNA Board of Directors, I have attended both Board meetings and participated in numerous conference calls dealing with the closeout of WCNA-16 (London), and with the planning process for WCNA-17 (New Orleans). My role on that board has been largely as the representative from the WSC Administrative Committee.

World Service Conference participants are frequently asked to participate in Regional Learning Days and Service Conferences. As your Vice-Chairperson, I have had the privilege of participating in two Regional Learning Day functions and the European Service Conference held in Dublin.

It is my observation that the participation of WSC trusted servants in Regional Learning Days and Service Conferences pays dividends to everyone concerned. The local Fellowship benefits from the experience of the WSC trusted servant and the Conference participants receive direct feedback from the local N.A. communities on issues being discussed and worked on in our Conference Committees and Service Boards. There are other benefits as well. The therapeutic value of one addict helping another is without parallel. Face to face dialogue helps to tear down the walls of suspicion, fear and mistrust. What is left behind, in many cases, is understanding, trust, faith and mutual respect.

This year has brought with it periods of great joy. I have had the opportunity to work with people who were willing and able to put aside their personal views in order to work for the common welfare. I have observed, what believed to be, the power of a loving God working in our Groups, Service Boards and Committees.

In my reports to the Fellowship, I have tried to touch on how we can disagree without becoming disagreeable. We as a Fellowship have made tremendous progress in the way we relate to one another. In the early days of the Conference it was not uncommon to see people react with hostility to the point of threatening bodily harm in the name of loving service. Generally speaking, this does not happen anymore. We have worked hard at practicing the principles and our efforts are demonstrated in the manner in which we serve Narcotics Anonymous. The lie is dead....We do recover.

During this year there have been times when I have felt capable of accomplishing the tasks assigned to me and there were times when I felt overwhelmed and incompetent to handle my responsibilities. I wish to express my gratitude to Leah G. for her guidance and encouragement, to the staff at the World Service Office for their support and assistance, to my sponsor for his empathy and direction, and to the Fellowship as a whole for their patience, tolerance and love.

Thank you for letting me be of service.