

To: 1988/89 WSC
From: Bob Hunter, WSC Vice Chair
Re: Cost Equalization

Last year's Conference directed the Joint Administrative Committee to continue work on the Cost Equalization Report as presented at the ⁸⁷8/88 WSC, and to refine it into a practical policy for adoption at WSC '89.

At our May Joint Administrative Committee meeting, I brought the Cost Equalization issue to the attention of the Committee, and I was promptly appointed to chair an ad hoc committee on Cost Equalization. (I believe a lesson was supposed to be learned here; however, that lesson escapes me now) Other members appointed to the ad hoc committee were Stuart S., H&I Vice CHair; Steve R., P.I. Vice Chair; and Bill K., Additional Needs Vice Chair.

We held our first ad hoc meeting at the Miami WSC Committee workshops. We studied the motion passed at the WSC and came to several conclusions. First of all, we came to an agreement that we should use the Cost Equalization report given at last year's conference as our starting point. The principles in that report were approved by an overwhelming majority and it appeared that the Conference merely wanted the JAC to draft a more practical policy.

Therefore, right from the start we tried to avoid considering other possibilities, such as a subsidization plan, which would provide financial aid only for those RSCs who could not afford to be represented at the WSC.

The main concept contained in last year's Cost Equalization report was that of the RSCs sharing equally the cost of travel to the annual WSC meeting. Other concepts from last year's report included: new RSCs

The Administrative Committee decided that it would be in the best interests of the WSC to include the Cost Equalization plan in the Conference Agenda Report, but to not include a motion asking for approval of the plan.

Personally, I believe that before we again address the issue of Cost Equalization, we first should have a fellowship-wide discussion on the spiritual principles surrounding Cost Equalization.

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COST EQUALIZATION PLAN

The Cost Equalization Committee consists of the WSC Chairperson or a member of the JAC appointed by the WSC Chairperson, who will chair the committee; the BOT Chairperson or a member of the BOT appointed by the BOT Chairperson; and three RSRs and/or RSR Alternates selected by the WSC at its annual meeting.

The WSO, under the direction of the Cost Equalization Committee, annually prepares and distributes a report of the estimated costs of travel to the annual WSC meeting. This report is based on the travel costs for one RSR and one RSR Alternate from each region, registered as of October 31 of each year. The travel fares are based on the most economical flight available from the individual's home.

Fifteen percent is added to the cost of travel to accommodate possible fare increases and to help support delegates from N.A. communities where a formal RSC does not exist, but whose participation is found to be necessary and relevant to the WSC. The Cost Equalization Committee has the responsibility for selection of the delegates from the N.A. communities and authorizes the travel for such delegates. The delegate should request travel assistance from the Cost Equalization Committee at least six months prior to the annual WSC meeting.

Those RSCs with questions related to the estimated cost of travel report, will notify the WSO of such questions by November 30th. Then by the first week of December the WSO informs each region of their equalized cost for the travel of their representatives to the annual WSC meeting. Equalized cost is essentially the average cost of air travel for an RSR and RSR Alternate to the annual WSC meeting. The equalized cost is determined in U.S. dollars, therefore applicable exchange rates are to be used to convert non-U.S. dollars when paying equalized costs. Each RSC will send to the WSC Treasurer (c/o WSO) the amount of their equalized cost not later than January 31st. Beginning in February, funds are issued to the RSCs covering the estimated travel costs for their RSRs and RSR Alternates.

New regions that are registered with the WSO prior to the Conference are expected to participate in the funding of the Cost Equalization Plan the same as existing RSCs. The implementation of the Cost Equalization plan requires participation of all RSCs attending the Conference. The Cost Equalization Committee has the responsibility and authority of managing the plan. This responsibility and authority shall include the function to carry out all WSC policies and guidelines regarding cost equalization, but does not include denying an RSCs participation as a voting member at the annual WSC meeting if such RSC declines to participate in the prescribed plan. The WSC as a whole shall maintain that authority.

The WSC Administrative Committee has the responsibility of administering the funds of the Cost Equalization Plan. Cost equalization funds are maintained in a WSC bank account and accounted for by the WSC Treasurer.

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