

N.A. NEWSLINE

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC. • P.O. BOX 9999, VAN NUYS, CA 91409-9999 • 818-780-3951
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WCNA-20

The Portland World Convention is progressing nicely. The major logistical arrangements have been made, the program is shaping up, and registrations are arriving daily. The Portland convention will not be consolidated into one or two single large hotels, as some recent world conventions have been. The hotels are smaller, so more hotels are being used. In order to make your convention planning easier, we have reproduced the relevant information about the convention in the following sections.

The events are also listed below so you can understand their general location. Because the world convention has grown to be so large, it has to be designed to fit the facilities and space that is available rather than planning it like we would want to. This means your advance planning will impact your enjoyment of the convention.

It is important to register as soon as possible and pre-pay for those events you desire to attend. The number of tickets for most events is limited. In the case of the banquets, the banquet you attend is determined by when your ticket is purchased.

We look forward to seeing you in Portland for the world convention in August.

HOTELS

For those desiring to stay in hotels, the convention has room price agreements at hotels. As the number of hotel rooms available in each hotel is limited, you may want to make reservations early. The primary events (main meetings, workshops, convention store and registration) will be held at the Memorial Coliseum which is located at 1401 North Wheeler.

Some of the special events (banquets, dances, etc.) will be scheduled for specific hotels. Some workshops will also be held in the Red Lion Lloyd Center Hotel. There will be marathon meetings and hospitality

rooms at both the Red Lion Lloyd Center, which is located at 1000 N.E. Multnomah, and the Portland Hilton Hotel, which is located at 921 S.W. Sixth Avenue.

There is some distance between most hotels and the Coliseum. You may want to make your selection of hotel for the combination of advantages that suit your attendance at the convention. For example, those who may wish to be in the downtown area of the city may elect to choose either the Portland Hilton or the Heathman Hotel. Those members who may wish to be closer to the Memorial Coliseum may elect to stay at the Red Lion Lloyd Center or the Best Western Coliseum.

The following hotels have agreed to offer these room rates for attendees of this N.A. convention, for reservations made prior to August 1, 1990. The hotels reserve the right to charge regular rates for rooms that are reserved after August 1, 1990. Rates quoted do not include tax, which is 9% per night. To make reservations, please contact the hotel using the phone number provided.

Red Lion Inn Lloyd Ctr

1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 281-6111 Rates: Sgl \$70/Dbl \$70
(HQ Hotel/400 Rms Available)

The Portland Hilton

921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR 97204-1926
(503) 226-1611 Rates: Sgl \$64/Dbl \$70/Other \$76
(HQ Hotel/320 Rms Available)

Inn at the Coliseum

10 N Weidler Street, Portland, OR 97227
(503) 239-9900 or (800) 342-1342
Rates: Sgl \$52/Dbl \$52/Other \$57
(125 Rooms Available)

The Heathman Hotel

SW Broadway at Salmon, Portland, OR 97205
(503) 241-4100 Rates: Sgl \$80/Dbl \$80
(100 Rooms Available)

NOTES:

If you need additional help with hotel information, you may call the Portland Oregon Visitors Association Housing Bureau at (503) 279-9799.

The hotels will only hold sleeping rooms until 5:00 p.m. on the day of arrival. Members arriving after this time need to secure the reservation with a credit card or a cash deposit with the hotel.

All rooms available by contract to WCNA are non-commissionable (not available to travel agents) and should be requested only by members attending the convention.

Cancellations of rooms must be made in writing directly with the hotels. Date and name changes must be made directly with the hotels. Failure to notify hotels of late arrival, last minute changes, and/or failure to comply with deposit requirements **MAY RESULT IN CANCELLATION** of room reservations.

The hotels do not mail reservation confirmations until one month prior to arrival. If you want earlier confirmation, you may telephone the hotel directly to verify your reservation. If you do not receive written confirmation from your selected hotel by 20 days prior to your arrival, call the hotel directly.

REGISTRATION

Registration will open on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial Coliseum. Those who have pre-registered will be required to present a copy of the invoice that they received during the pre-registration period. A registration badge will be required for all non-meeting activities (For example: dances, play, etc.).

SPECIAL EVENTS

The following special events are scheduled:

THURSDAY AUGUST 30, 1990**BOAT RIDE**

Lewis & Clark Expedition: This is a boat cruise up to the Columbia River Gorge along the route that was traveled by the explorers Lewis & Clark. This is a two-hour narrated tour on a sternwheeler boat. The ticket price of \$13.00 includes the bus transportation up to the pier from which the boat will depart. Busses

depart promptly at 11:30 a.m. from the Red Lion Lloyd Center and the Portland Hilton Hotel.

DANCES

There will be a D.J. dance at the Red Lion Lloyd Center and a dance at the Portland Hilton Hotel at 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAY AUGUST 31, 1990**BANQUETS**

This year there will be two or three theme-oriented banquets. Each banquet will have a main speaker who will share on a specific topic (example: gratitude). Banquet attendance will be determined by when tickets are purchased. The first 750 tickets sold will be in the Memorial Coliseum, the next 500 in the Red Lion Lloyd Center, and if necessary a final 500 will be in the Portland Hilton Hotel. Banquets will be held in these facilities on Friday, August 31, 1990 at 6:00 p.m.

DANCES

There will be a D.J. dance at the Red Lion Lloyd Center and a dance at the Portland Hilton Hotel at 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 1990**BAR-B-QUE**

The Pacific Northwest is well known for quality seafood. This year WCNA will host a Salmon Bar-B-Que to be held at the Holladay Park from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The price per ticket is \$15.00.

LIVE OLDIES SHOW

There will be a live oldies show at the Memorial Coliseum at 10:00 p.m. The ticket price is \$10.00 per person.

DANCES

There will be a D.J. dance at the Red Lion Lloyd Center and a dance at the Portland Hilton Hotel at 10:00 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP ENTERTAINMENT

This year the fellowship entertainment will take place in the park where the Salmon Bar-B-Que is being held. All members who are interested in performing should contact the WCNA-20 Entertainment Committee at P.O. Box 86887, Portland, OR 97286.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 1990

ALTERNATE STORE

Regions that desire to participate in this Sunday event must submit a written request to the World Convention Corporation c/o WSO by August 15, 1990. Merchandise that contains representations of the N.A. logo may not be sold in any convention hotel or facility by unauthorized vendors at any time.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

As with convention rates at hotels, members can take advantage of volume discounts offered as standard business procedure by other vendors. These are participating companies, and the business relationship does not imply endorsement.

The World Convention Corporation has made arrangements with two airlines that are willing to offer our members slightly lower air fares. For those traveling by air who elect to use American Airlines or Delta Airlines, special rates afford a 5% bonus off published round-trip fares within the United States and San Juan, providing all rules and conditions of the airfare are met. If special fares do not coincide with your travel dates, a 40% discount off unrestricted round-trip coach rates will be offered. (Travel solely on connection carriers and travel from Canadian cities will apply at a 35% discount.) Seven days advance reservations and ticketing will be required.

When you make reservations on American Airlines, please use this group number to be entitled to the special fare: **06Z0UJ**. The toll-free telephone number for American Airlines is (800) 433-1790. You may also find American Airlines listed in the white pages of your local phone directory.

When making reservations on Delta Airlines, use this file number to be entitled to the special fare: **M0194**. The toll-free telephone number for Delta Airlines is (800) 241-6760. You may also find Delta

Airlines listed in the white pages of a local phone directory.

To obtain the discount fare, you must make reservations directly with the airline and not through travel agent. This discount cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts or special programs.

WCNA-20 INFORMATION NUMBER:

(503) 230-1196

WCNA-21

A visit was recently made to the Australian Consulate to inquire about the immigration policies of the Australian government because of the increasing number of questions we have received from members. Normally Australia is as difficult a country for ex-offenders to get into as the United States. Members with criminal histories, who plan to attend the convention, will need to apply for a visa starting in September 1990. The Australian government does not grant visas longer than six months in advance of the intended arrival date. However, if you anticipate having to provide additional information as described below, starting in September will allow adequate time for communications, research, and processing of your application. These are the important points from our discussion with the Consulate.

All persons entering Australia must meet the character requirements referred to in the Migration Regulations and the Australian public interest criteria.

A person is unable to meet this character requirement if the applicant:

- (A) has at any time been convicted of a crime and sentenced to death, to imprisonment for life, or to imprisonment for a period of not less than one year; or
- (B) has at any time been convicted of 2 or more crimes and sentenced to imprisonment for a period totalling not less than one year; or
- (C) has at any time been charged with a crime and either found guilty of having committed the crime while of unsound mind or acquitted on the ground that the crime was committed while the person was of unsound mind; or

- (D) has been deported or excluded from another country; or
- (E) has, in the reasonable belief of the Minister, been involved in activities indicating contempt, or disregard, for the law or for human rights; and has at any time been convicted of offences in circumstances indicating, in the reasonable belief of the Minister, an habitual contempt, or disregard, for the law.

To summarize this jargon: a person who has been excluded or deported from another country, been convicted of a crime or crimes and sentenced to prison for a year or more, is an habitual criminal, or is insane would normally be automatically refused a visa.

However, an officer may consider waiving this character requirement, taking into account:

- the nature of the offence(s) or of any such involvement;
- the age of the applicant when the offence was committed;
- how long ago the offence(s) was committed;
- how many offences were committed; and
- the applicant's record since.

Each and every application is treated on its own individual merits and an applicant may be interviewed to assist in the determination.

On the reverse of the Application for a Visitor Visa for Australia, Form 48, question 20, repeated below, covers the public interest criteria:

"Have you or anyone included in this application:

Suffered from any dangerous contagious disease such as tuberculosis?

Suffered from any mental illness?

Used or been addicted to or trafficked in narcotics?

Been convicted of or have any charges outstanding on a criminal offence in any country?

Been deported or excluded from any country?

Had visa for Australia cancelled?

If "yes" to any of the above give details."

It is important that all attendees to the scheduled world convention answer question 20 truthfully and as thoroughly as possible, supported by medical reports or statements of record of criminal conviction(s) issued by the appropriate authorities (if applicable) and clearly identify themselves as attendees to the convention.

There is benefit to Australia as a result of this convention. Aside from the tourist income, the growth and strength of recovery in N.A. in Australia will benefit. The Australian Consulate has assured N.A. that full consideration will be given to all applications lodged by delegates to the convention.

~~NEWS FROM HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS~~

The H&I department continues to flourish at the WSO. We have recently established a database for the department to more effectively track the correspondence received from addicts and/or professionals in an H&I setting. This database will help in notifying area and regional H&I committees about the contacts received by the office, as well as provide the ability to refer these contacts to the appropriate local committees in a more efficient manner. ~~To this end, we continue to request that area and regional H&I committees register with the WSO, so that in addition to providing these referrals, we may forward WSC H&I Committee information and the H&I newsletter, *Reaching Out*, to the appropriate addresses.~~

WSC '90 approved the booklet, ~~*Behind The Walls*~~ by an overwhelming margin. The booklet should be available as an inventory item some time this summer. For further information regarding stock item number and other details, ~~please contact the office after June 15th.~~

The WSC H&I Committee has once again reaffirmed as its top priority, regional and multi-regional H&I learning days and workshops. If your region is planning such an event, and is interested in having member(s) of the WSC H&I Committee attend, please contact the H&I Coordinator at the WSO. Additionally, if you wish to have your learning day/workshop listed in *Reaching Out* notify the H&I

Coordinator of the date, location, and contact information for your event.

On a final note, the WSC H&I Committee has begun discussing the feasibility of making *Reaching Out* available by subscription. The committee is presently working on a letter and a survey to inform local H&I committees regarding this topic and obtain some much needed feedback. The survey, which will include questions regarding the newsletter itself as well as questions about the subscription proposal, will be mailed out at the beginning of July. The proposed deadline for response to the survey has been set for September 15, 1990, in order to allow the committee enough time to review the input received and put together a proposal.

MEMBER SURVEY

Thanks to all of the areas who have chosen to participate in the member survey. We have sent out over 2600 surveys to 97 areas. We do need to ask that areas and groups return the surveys they have tallied to our office as soon as possible. We also would like to notify the fellowship that we are no longer making the surveys available to interested areas.

The preliminary results show that we have 64% men and 36% women, our age breakdown is 15% under 20 years old, 37% 20 to 30, 45% 30 to 45 and 3% over 45. 50% of our members attend 4 or more meetings a week, where available. The clean time breakdown is 53% under a year, 39% between one and five years and 8% over five years clean. Most of our members, 47%, were first introduced to N.A. through a hospital or an institution and another 28% found N.A. through another member.

As we said, these are preliminary results and we need as many of the surveys as possible to be returned to have accurate results. The information will be included in a pamphlet for public information use, which is in the review and input stage currently. For a copy of the pamphlets which are available for review and input, contact your local P.I. committee. We are looking for broad-based fellowship input on this work.

THE GROUP BOOKLET

At the April meeting of the World Service Conference, *The Group Booklet* was accepted as conference-approved literature. Immediately following the week of the conference, we began the production process of this item. It has been typeset and is currently being proofread. After a mock-up booklet is created, it will go to the printers for an initial draft which will also be proofread by WSO staff, as well as both the chairperson and vice chairperson of the WSC Literature Committee. Once all these steps have been completed, the booklet will be printed. We hope that by early July, this item will be in our inventory and available to the fellowship.

THE REVISED LITERATURE HANDBOOK

There were several changes made and approved in the literature handbook at the April meeting of the conference. The production process is similar to what is described above with one main difference. This item is printed in-house and will be available by mid-June. The WSC Literature Committee chairperson will have more details on the revisions in the upcoming *Fellowship Report*.

FROM THE LITERATURE CHAIRPERSON

The 1990 World Service Conference established continued progress on the Steps portion of *It Works* and the I.P.s *In Times of Illness* and *For Those in Treatment* as priorities for the literature committee. These three works remain on the A-list as items for the coming conference year. The daily book is our highest non-A-list priority. We hope that work on this book can proceed in an energized manner this year and remain sensitive to the fellowship's anticipation for the completion of this project.

A theme that recurred throughout the conference was the concern of the fellowship toward our non-English speaking members. This concern has been discussed by the literature committee. In our work

on current projects, we will continue to keep the issues surrounding the translations in mind. We have talked about adding an international member to the committee or having advisory member(s) assist us in translation and other problems associated with literature development for a worldwide fellowship.

With the adoption of a proposed change in our guidelines, we will be able to use the skills of special workers in new ways. Staff writers may now assist us in drafting and editing responsibilities. The WSO has requested that members who have excellent writing skills and an interest in working on N.A. writing projects to contact them. We would encourage you to let them know if you have the skills and the desire to do this type of work.

We are excited about the projects ahead for us this year. We believe that the changes made in our guidelines will allow us to complete our assigned work more efficiently and with better use of all the resources available to us.

ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

ASIA

HONG KONG

Number of meetings: 1

Organization: Not sure, but believe they have not formed any area service committee.

Language: Chinese/English

We have not received any correspondence from the members in Hong Kong since late in 1989. At that time, they expressed their gratitude to the WSO for keeping in touch with them.

JAPAN

Number of meetings: 30

Organization: An area committee, active in translations and PI.

Trademarks: Application has been made for registration.

Language: Japanese. Literature available: Present-

ly for sale at the WSO are I.P.'s #2, 11 and 16. Available in Japan are the White Book and some I.P.'s. Still in Progress are I.P.'s # 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 16, 22.

Summary of Japanese Translations:

In October of 1988, an agreement was reached between Berlitz and our members in Tokyo to continue translations at a speed commensurate with the time and skill of the members in Tokyo. In the middle of 1989, we were informed that the translated literature was ready for typesetting and printing. The printing actually took place in August and the literature is now available in Japan. Work on Japanese translations appears to have slowed considerably since last summer. We have not been informed of any new translation work having been started.

The number of meetings has increased dramatically in this past year, from nine to thirty. The availability of literature in Japanese appears to have had a very positive affect on the growth of the fellowship. A member attended the meeting of the conference in April as the representative from the Japanese region. A translator was provided for her during part of the conference. She indicated that the fellowship on Japan is growing quite a lot. Meetings have also been started on U.S. military bases in Japan this year.

SOUTH KOREA

Number of meetings: 4

Organization: None

Language: Korean

All of the meetings we know of in Korea are being held on U.S. military bases. It is illegal for addicts to have meetings in Korea (it is illegal for two or more addicts to meet together, as it was in many other countries and is still the law in some places), so the growth of the fellowship will be very slow. A discussion was held with a Korean physician (the only professional we've been in contact with that treats addicts) who wants to assist in getting meetings started in the prisons in Korea. It seems that prison is where most of the addicts are, since if you get caught, you are immediately sent to prison. This physician also expressed an interest in helping to get translations done, but we have heard nothing from him since August of 1989.

THAILAND

We have received a request for starter kits to be used in Thailand, but we have not yet received confirmation of any groups. There is at least one member of the Loner Group in Thailand. No other contact has been made in this country.

PAKISTAN

There have been several requests from professional organizations in Pakistan in the past few months. Information packets have been mailed to these organizations. As a result, some of the professionals are planning to visit the European Service Office. They have also been informed of the dates and hotel information for the World Convention in August/September this year, as they wish to see how the program works so they can assist in getting meetings started in their country. At present, we are not aware of any meetings in Pakistan.

INDIA

Number of meetings: 19

Organization: Two area committees, in Bombay and Calcutta.

Language: 16 primary languages. Official second language is English.

Summary of India Translations:

Our continuing education about India has brought us both hope and pessimism. Since English is a second language throughout most of India, many members will be able to use existing English-language I.P.s. We have learned that there are sixteen major languages, primarily spoken in different sections of the country.

BANGLADESH

Number of meetings: 1

Organization: None known

Language: Bengali, English

The WSO has not received any correspondence from this meeting since they registered at the office.

AUSTRALIA

Number of meetings: 157

Organization: One region with a regional service office (work on the corporation does not appear to be complete) and numerous area committees.

Language: English.

The fellowship in Australia continues to grow. They are very active in both P.I. and H&I work with functioning subcommittees. The host committee is working diligently on the World Convention in 1991. The members are eagerly awaiting the visit of many members from outside Australia at the convention.

NEW ZEALAND

Number of meetings: 54

Organization: A region with two area committees, one on each of the two major islands.

Language: English and Maori.

This region was recognized by the World Service Conference as a voting member in 1989. They have received much assistance from Australia and are growing rapidly. They also have functioning subcommittees which seem to be doing very well.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

GUAM

Number of meetings: 3

Organization: None, but they are planning to begin an area committee and have requested copies of *Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure* and other service-related material.

Language: English

Two of the meetings on Guam are held at the U.S. military base, the other at a church. There have been problems in keeping a meeting going on Guam, but there are a couple of members in the military who have made a commitment to assist these meetings in their growth.

PHILIPPINES**Number of meetings:** 3**Organization:** None**Language:** various

We have recently gotten requests for starter kits from two separate professional organizations who want to help get meetings started in their country. From most of the correspondence we have received, it appears that most of the meetings are being held by U.S. military personnel. The first meeting outside of Manila was held recently, but we have not yet received any group registration for this meeting. Growth in this part of the world has been slow.

A VISIT TO COLOMBIA

For several years, the fellowship in Colombia has been growing with only sporadic contact with N.A. outside their country. Members have periodically communicated with the WSO, and occasionally had contact with members in other Central American countries.

Despite this minimal contact and support, the fellowship has prospered. Two constant problems, however, were the lack of funds with which to purchase literature and the limited quantity of literature translated into Spanish. Necessity being the mother of invention, they solved the problem by printing N.A. literature in Colombia and distributing it almost at cost.

The pamphlets available in Spanish were published together in book form, rather than as separate single-page items. Additionally, they included two parts of the Basic Text in Spanish which had been prepared as a draft translation in 1986. When WSO learned of this printing effort and the incomplete, unfinished publication of the Spanish Basic Text, the WSO became concerned.

This led to an increased level of communication in which concerns about this printing effort were raised. Letters are a second-best way to address these important and sensitive matters, and it soon became obvious that someone needed to visit with the Colombian fellowship.

An effort was made to bring two members from

Colombia to Puerto Rico in concert with another meeting that was scheduled and held in October 1989. That effort was not successful. Eventually two people, George H. from Miami and Bob S. of the WSO, were scheduled to travel to Colombia for a meeting. The visit coincided with the first meeting of representatives from around Colombia, as they attempted to organize the fellowship into a regional or national structure.

George and Bob arrived late on a Friday evening and were met by Jorge M., a member who provided transportation throughout the weekend meetings.

The following morning they went to the N.A. service office, where they were met by about 35 other members. The office is modest, having been in operation only a few months, but it has great potential. Recovery meetings are held in the office and the supply of literature is stored there. From the office, the participants traveled by bus and several cars up the mountain to a retreat facility where the meeting was conducted.

The meeting began almost at once. Representatives were present from 11 of the 12 cities in which meetings are known to exist in Colombia. Each city sent at least one representative, some cities sent two or three. The fellowship in Medellin was represented by about 12 members. Altogether there were approximately 45 people at the Saturday morning start.

The meeting began with reports from the Medellin area committee. They have committees on public information, hospitals and institutions, publications, finance, and an office committee. Collectively these committees represent the work of several hundred addicts from about 30 meetings in the city. Medellin has a population of over 2 million people.

Each committee gave a written and oral report, followed by questions. After all of these reports were given, representatives from the other cities were invited to give their oral and written reports. This took several hours, until late afternoon.

Members of the Board of Directors of the local service office attended the meeting. The Board of Directors in translation is referred to as trustees or custodians. The title is slightly misleading, but it was soon straightened out. Alcoholics Anonymous has been in Colombia for quite a number of years and it apparently is stronger in Medellin than in other

cities. As a result of that, the Alcoholics Anonymous Service Office for Colombia is in Medellin and serves all of Colombia and parts of neighboring countries.

The members of the N.A. fellowship with the most clean time are those, like in other countries, who found recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous. There were over ten members with more than four years clean time at this workshop, all of them getting their first several years of recovery in A.A. As a result of this background, and because of the interest by A.A. in Medellin to assist N.A.'s growth, the heavy influence of this relationship was shown throughout the weekend.

The Medellin A.A. office was very helpful in getting N.A. started here, and in the work to organize a committee system for N.A. As a result, the Medellin Area is organized in a manner very similar to A.A.

The Medellin N.A. members came with recommendations that would evolve the N.A. structure along the lines of A.A. The Medellin ASC is the largest and most organized element of the fellowship. They offered to serve on a temporary basis as the foundation of a regional or national service organization. During the morning and part of the afternoon, as the various committees made reference to these proposals, there was dialogue among the members from other cities.

There were several members from outside Medellin who had seen and read parts of the *Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure* although it had not been translated into Spanish.

The Board of Directors of the office gave a report. They have both addicts and nonaddicts on the board. Two of the nonaddict directors attended the meeting for a brief time, and one of the addict directors was present for the entire weekend.

In their report they discussed two issues: registration of the office with the government, and the name of the fellowship. They indicated the office is registered with the department of health; it seemed to be a requirement.

They reported the department had informed them that the name *Narcotics Anonymous* was not an acceptable name for an organization's registration. It was necessary to drop the word "Narcotics," as it referred to a specific drug rather than describing people. It was not possible to discuss this issue at length during the office report, and the matter was not discussed at a later time.

In the reports from the various cities, there were several issues that are very troublesome. One, of course, is that the fellowship is very poor, mostly unorganized, and small. The Colombian fellowship exists, like most new N.A. fellowships communities, with a lower than average economic circumstance. In a country where poverty is endemic to begin with, it means the average N.A. meeting will collect only very small amounts of money. It does not seem likely that the Colombian fellowship would be able to financially support a service structure to the same degree as in many other countries.

The other significant issue concerning the groups is how they coexist with treatment programs. There are apparently two or more treatment programs in each of the cities where meetings were held. The meetings are held, in most cases, on property operated by the treatment programs. The usual conflicts between treatment programs and early N.A. development exist in Colombia. The treatment programs try to control the N.A. meeting, send their counselors with their patients, attempt to influence the philosophy of N.A., and in many ways restrict participation.

Later in the day, as the meeting began to focus on the proposals from Medellin, their ideas met a growing volume of objections from those in other cities. As the meeting closed late that evening, the issue of unity was addressed with the hope that compromise would result.

Sunday morning the conflict became clear. For approximately an hour and a half the members argued the pros and cons of adopting the service structure proposed by the Medellin ASC. Eventually an alternative was proposed, which fell on receptive ears. In the following hours the committees reviewed the new suggestions and adopted all of them.

The essentials were: (1) They adopted the meeting they were then conducting as a national service conference for Colombia. (2) They decided that they would meet again next year in March. (3) They will elect seven officers who will serve for one year. The officers, during the course of the year, will prepare a more detailed service structure proposal for approval at the following conference. (4) They adopted a statement to create three committees: an office committee, an H&I committee, and a P.I. committee.

(5) For a one-year temporary basis, they will accept the offer of the Medellin area to have the Medellin area office, H&I and P.I. serve as national committees authorized by the conference. (6) They elected two members from outside Medellin to the board of directors of the office, to give direct input. (7) They authorized the office to print and publish literature for use throughout Colombia and to act as the storehouse for their literature.

The two people who were elected to the office board of directors were members with five or six years clean time and with valuable service and business experience.

Election of the other officers took place after lunch. They elected seven people without assigning them to positions. In the course of trying to determine how they might work from there to assign people to officer positions, they asked the presiding officer, George M., who was also one of the seven elected, to suggest who should serve in each position. His suggestions were adopted with almost no objection. There was obvious confidence in the selection and assignments. The positions that they filled in this way were the chairperson and vice chairperson, secretary, an RSR and RSR alternate, and representatives to the H&I and P.I. committees. Eventually they added an assignment for conventions because they decided later to conduct one during the year.

After this organizational work had been done, attention turned to development of a fund flow system, operation of the office, and a budget for the office. The budget for the office was predicated on receiving funds from the groups, as well as from direct contributions and birthday celebrations. They elected to adopt the proposal suggesting donations about birthdays, but did not adopt the others.

In the closing minutes of the meeting, they discussed the convention and decided it should be held in one of the other cities. They then assigned responsibility for conducting it.

During this meeting, a valuable exchange of ideas and understanding took place. Both the visitors and the Colombians learned from each other. Many of the concerns that prompted the visit were discussed, although not fully resolved. Further communication

will take place and solutions can be found.

Several conclusions evolved from this visit. A practical solution to providing help to non-English speaking fellowship communities may be to establish teams of members from more mature communities who speak the language in question. Members of these teams should schedule and arrange their visits to coincide with important meetings, such as the one in Medellin.

The availability of literature in economically underdeveloped countries may have to depend on financing from the older parts of the fellowship. Although license agreements have not proven to be fully successful where they have been tried in the past, special arrangements for printing may be necessary.

There is a great need to expend additional funds for translation and for assistance to new or developing fellowship communities. Critical to these activities are members with considerable service experience and clean time who speak the language.

PUBLICATION NEWSBRIEFS

Last November the WSO produced and made available key tags in French. This event was received with enthusiastic approval from our French-speaking members. Work has recently progressed on key tags in Spanish, Portuguese, and German. We currently expect these new key tags to be available within 45 days. The price for these key tags will be the same as for the existing English and French.

The 1990 edition of the *Phoneline Directory* is ready to go to the printers. Production is expected to take about 45 days, so the availability date for the directory is anticipated to be early July. The price for the 1990 edition will remain the same as last year (\$1.75 U.S.).

The *International Meeting Directory* (non-U.S.) is expected back from the printer in late June. The office expected to send it to the printers earlier, but information received from representatives attending the WSC caused a delay. This edition of the directory will include all non-U.S. meeting information that we have. The directory is available in four volumes: Central America and North America (\$3.00); South America

