

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999
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To: WSC Policy Committee
From: Seating of New Regions Workgroup
Date: July 5, 1990

At our June meeting we discussed several items pertaining to Regional Seating. The committee decided that we would include a cover letter about those discussions to lay some philosophical groundwork. It was with those following considerations that we developed the following plans.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE: The development of the "mid" and "most" restrictive plans are based upon the premise that an admissions committee is developed. The committee can be developed by the WSC Policy Committee chair. The TWGSS pg. 49 describes the Policy Committees purpose as "twofold". An admissions committee would fulfill the Policy Committees second purpose.

The working group felt strongly that there is no substitute for "human considerations" in guidelines. The admissions committee would receive reports (based on the plan outlines) and consider those as a group. The admissions committee can then discuss the information contained in the reports and come to a collective conscience on the regions request. Since the policy committee is primarily composed of RSR's and RSR Alternates, we believe that this would be acceptable to the conference

At the conference, the working group recommends that votes for the seating of new regions be taken Region by Region, not all the regions at one time. There may be plentiful discussion during this portion of the conference and folks may lose the content of those discussions by the end of the Regional reports.

DIVIDING REGIONS vs NEWLY EMERGING: Contained within the plans, there are two categories; A) division of regions with existing services and B) Newly emerging regions where no services exist. The working groups recognized that there is a difference in considerations for the two categories. We wanted to make a statement to that effect. While we took caution in making any separation between U.S. and non U.S. regions, the growth of our fellowship clearly indicates that different regions have different needs. The working group edited the "regional inventory" to reflect this difference.

I would like to thank the regional seating working group for their diligence. We look forward to seeing this work finished at some point during this conference year. (Yes, it could happen!) Thanks for the opportunity to be of service. In service and gratitude; Gene, Gina, Mariasha and Ron.

MINUTES FROM THE WSC POLICY COMMITTEE WORKGROUP ON THE SEATING OF NEW REGIONS

The meeting was opened at 9:40 by Gene R. (Workgroup Chairperson) with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Those present were: Gene R. (Workgroup Chairperson) Gina O., Ron S., Mariasha P.W., and Carl Prescott (WSO Staff)

Discussion began on "criteria" or "requirements" for the seating of new regions, and then on the time frame of the working group.

Additional discussion noted that there were two specific types of regional formation we need to deal with: Regions emerging from where there were no existing services, and those regions that are dividing where there are existing services.

Gene gave brief thoughts on least, middle and most restrictive criteria for seating new regions.

There was some question about where we would put documents referring to WSC seating after they were finished. Ron suggested that the emerging regions portion would follow the Area Service Committee section of a Guide to Service, as a reflection of the developmental process of our services. The dividing regions portion would be part of the National Assembly section.

The question seemed to be, when does the WSC begin to interface and provide assistance to a developing region? It was additionally felt that each region has different needs, varying from language to legal, and that those needs must be treated objectively. It was from this discussion that the workgroup felt an *Admissions Committee* would best serve and would be charged with the communication with newly forming regions

Discussion continued about an Admissions Committee and the need to develop criteria for the committee to follow.

Mariasha pointed out that the five step process in the seating of new regions input packet should be utilized in determining the criteria the admissions committee would use. That five point plan should set the foundation for the least, middle and most restrictive criteria for seating new regions.

The committee proceeded to revise that draft.

After drafting the plans there was discussion as to the need for differentiating emerging and dividing regions. It was noted that the basic criteria was essentially the same and that minor revisions could reflect those differences.

Gene was asked to prepare a letter for the full policy committee describing the work that was completed by the group. There was further discussion about the presentation to the Policy committee in Arlington, followed by the closing of the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

I. LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLAN

- a) A representative from the proposed region will show up at the conference, (at their regions expense), be introduced by the WSC chairperson, and state their request to be recognized and seated.
- b) The RSR of the proposed region will present an oral report. This should include geographic boundries, groups served within those boundries and their regional formation history .
- c) Following the oral report there will be question and answer period.
- d) Conference will vote by written ballet. The seating will require a simple majority

II. MIDDLE RESTRICTIVE PLAN

- a) A region seeking to become a WSC participant will notify the WSC Policy Chairperson, through the WSO, no later than 180 days prior to the WSC. An information packet will be made available.
- b) A region seeking to become a WSC participant shall submit a letter of intent to the WSC Chairperson no later than 120 days prior to the WSC for inclusion in the CAR.
- c) The completed packet is due 90 days prior to the WSC along with the proposed regions report. It will then be evaluated by the policy committee for recommendation to the Conference.
- d) A representative from the proposed region will show up at the conference, (at their regions expense), be introduced by the WSC chairperson, and state their request to be recognized and seated.
- e) The RSR of the proposed region will present an oral report. This should include geographic boundries, groups served within those boundries and their regional formation history .
- f) Prior to the vote a written report from the WSC policy committee will be distributed stating it's recommendations.
- g) After the Policy Committee's recommendations there will be a question and answer period
- h) A vote will then be taken by written ballot. Seating requires a simple majority.

III. MOST RESTRICTIVE PLAN

- a) A region seeking to become a WSC participant will notify the WSC Policy Chairperson, through the WSO, no later than 180 days prior to the WSC. An information packet will be made available.
- b) A region seeking to become a WSC participant shall submit a letter of intent to the WSC Chairperson no later than 120 days prior to the WSC for inclusion in the CAR.
- c) The completed packet is due 90 days prior to the WSC along with the proposed regions report. It will then be evaluated by the policy committee for recommendation to the Conference.
- d) A representative from the proposed region will show up at the conference, (at their regions expense), be introduced by the WSC chairperson, and state their request to be recognized and seated.
- e) The RSR of the proposed region will present an oral report. This should include geographic boundries, groups served within those boundries and their regional formation history .
- f) Prior to the vote a written report from the WSC policy committee will be distributed stating it's recommendations.
- g) Parent region(s) must submit a letter stating their support, or the lack thereof, of the development of the proposed new region. **
- h) After the Policy Committee's recommendations there will be a question and answer period
- i) Voting privileges to be granted upon attendance of 2nd consecutive WSC. All rights and privileges, other than voting, will be extended at this time.
- j) A vote will then be taken by written ballot. Seating requires a 2/3rds majority.

** item "g" will be deleted for the newly emerging regional formation packet

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To: Members contemplating the formation of a new
region

From: WSC Policy Committee

We have received your letter, and are pleased to hear of your interest in forming a region. The formation of a regional service structure is an awesome task. We understand some of the problems you are facing. Experience has shown us that some problems which arise in our attempts to serve the groups may require a change in the current service structure. Problems, however, may have more than one solution. In fact, we must also be aware that many actions taken in search of a solution may cause problems that are far more disconcerting than our original set. It is in the spirit of sharing our experience, strength and hope that the Policy Committee encloses a set of questions we have gathered from other regional service structures, which they found useful to ask themselves during their respective formations.

Please answer these questions for yourselves, and if you wish, include a copy of the completed questionnaire in your next correspondence with us. Inclusion of the area meeting lists, recent area minutes describing the processes by which the proposed new region was suggested, an overall statement describing what services the new region would provide that the existing structure cannot, a map showing the proposed new regional boundaries as well as existing boundaries, or any other information along these lines would be very helpful to the Policy Committee as it attempts to help your committee work out a plan.

The Steps and Traditions provide an excellent forum for a personal evaluation of our needs versus our wants in our service structure, as well as in our personal lives. All 24 apply to the question at hand: recognition of a need for change, realization that power to change is vested in a power greater than the proposed service structure, surrender to the higher power of group conscience, an honest and fearless inventory of assets and liabilities of the present and proposed service structures, sharing that information, and on and on. We suggest that your transition committee get together and give the enclosed inventory a try. Let us know what you come up with. Perhaps the need to alter the present structure will seem less intense after that meeting. Perhaps it will be more.

If nothing else, the discussion will promote communication and thereby may eliminate many of the problems necessitating the formation of the new service structure. Let us know how your next meeting turns out. Please keep accurate minutes of all these meetings. The information from those minutes will be of great value to yourselves as well as the rest of the fellowship some day.

Enclosures: questionnaires

GROUP INVENTORY

1. How long has your group been in existence?
2. How long have you had a stable meeting place?
3. Are you self supporting in keeping with the Seventh Tradition? Are there sufficient funds to pass contributions to the area?
4. Are your trusted servants fulfilling their commitments or is there a rapid turnover?
5. How does your group feel about the formation of the new service structure?
6. In what ways does your group feel your needs will be met by the creation of the new service structure?
7. Is your group in favor of or opposed to the creation of the new service structure? Why?

AREA INVENTORY

1. How long has your area been in existence?
2. Is your area service committee able to meet its responsibilities with regard to literature, hospitals and institutions, public information, and help line? Is it of assistance to the groups in the area?
3. Is your area self supporting through group donations in that it is able to fulfill all commitments it has made to the various subcommittees operating within the area? Also, are there sufficient funds available to be passed on to the Regional Service Committee?
4. Are the area service committee trusted servants fulfilling their commitments to service or is there a big turnover?
5. How will your area be affected by the creation of the new region?
6. What are your area's feelings about the creation of the new region?
7. What service needs do you see that will be met by the formation of the new service structure?
8. What service needs do you see will be damaged by the formation of the new service structure?

REGIONAL INVENTORY

For all RSCs affected by a newly forming region.

1. What is the purpose of the reformation of your region(s)? If the answer is to better serve, how specifically will the newly proposed region better serve and how will it adversely affect the remaining areas?
2. How will the division leave each of the newly formed region(s) in terms of:
 - a. Geographical size?
 - b. Population, including numbers of areas and meetings in the new configuration?
 - c. Service offices, helplines and literature stockpiles?
 - d. Prudent reserves and finances, both present and future?
 - e. Amount of service experience and number of servants at area, regional and world levels?
 - f. All other resources?
3. Is the new region primarily urban leaving suburban and/or rural areas to form a region with the remaining areas?
4. Has each area service committee and group affected by the change been informed and asked to participate in the formation effort? Has each group and area service committee been asked to complete the suggested inventory? Are the results of the inventories that were completed attached?
5. Will the new regional boundaries conform to state lines? If not, why is that? Exactly what are the geographical borders of the regions affected? How were these borders decided upon?
6. Are all the service committees, area and regional, affected by the formation effort in agreement on the proposed new region? If not, what are the suggestions or objections of those service committees that do not agree? Is there a plan for the transition process, for example, transferring bank accounts, and do all affected agree upon that?

****REGIONAL INVENTORY**

For a newly forming region.

1. What is the purpose of the formation of your region? If the answer is to better serve, how, specifically will the newly proposed region better serve?
2. Describe the following in the newly formed region
 - a. Geographical size?
 - b. Population, including numbers of areas and meetings in the new configuration?
 - c. Service offices, helplines and literature stockpiles?
 - d. Prudent reserves and finances, both present and future?
 - e. Amount of service experience and number of servants at area, regional and world levels?
 - f. All other resources?
3. Has each service committee affected by the change been informed and asked to participate in the formation effort? Has each group and area service committee been asked to complete the suggested inventory? Are the results of the inventories that were completed attached?
4. Will the new regional boundaries conform to state provincial and/or national lines? If not, why? Exactly what are the geographical borders of the region? How were these borders decided upon?
5. Are all the service committees affected by the formation effort in agreement on the proposed new region? If not, what are the suggestions or objections of those service committees that do not agree? Is there a plan for the transition process, such as establishing bank accounts, and do all affected agree upon that?

*** this inventory has been altered to reflect criteria for newly emerging regional formation committees*