

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
(818) 780-3951



To: World Service Conference 1990

From: Tim Banner, Chairperson
WSC Policy Committee

Having no Motion #11 (1988) or Motion #13 (1989) to dance with at this ball, I was beginning to feel that the WSC Policy Committee was doomed to be a wallflower until the spring edition of *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* arrived in the mail. Our dance card may be filled by the paragraphs under the "No Single Point of Decision" heading on pages 15 and 16:

"No single point of decision. In our current world service system, conference committees are left, for the most part, to establish their own priorities, or to establish no priorities at all; there is no single body with the authority to coordinate, on behalf of the conference, the overall priorities of our world services. One of the results of this situation has been the WSC Policy Committee's lack of direction and low level of productivity. The only project left on its agenda, the development of guidelines for the seating of new regions, is one the committee thought up for itself a few years ago, yet which the committee has consistently been unable to come to agreement on.

"The World Service Conference has not seen fit to redirect the policy committee or to disband it. The Joint Administrative Committee, established in 1986, has nominal responsibility for coordinating the various individual conference committees, but no explicit authority to redirect a committee.

"The WSC Policy Committee has received next to no coordination from either the WSC or the JAC in recent years, and has little internal sense of direction. It is left open for exploitation as a lobbying ground, serving not the interests of the fellowship as a whole but those of the regions who can afford to pay someone's way to the committee's meetings. The same situation--or the potential for such a situation--exists, to a greater or lesser degree, in all the conference committees, not just the policy committee."

The committee discussed in St. Louis the need to take an inventory regarding our direction and purpose. It would appear that we have been handed a Fourth Step guide and given the choice of taking this step ourselves or having others take it for us. I am suggesting that completion of this inventory by the WSC Policy Committee should be a priority item on our agenda in order to determine whether

we should continue as a standing committee with a *clearly* defined purpose and direction, or ask the WSC for permission to disband and allow policy motions to be handled either on an ad hoc basis or by other standing committees.

This is a painful report for me to write and present to this body, because when I came to WSC in 1986, I sat in on all the committee meetings and chose policy as where I wanted to be. Nothing has happened in the last four years to change my mind, but I have become aware of feeling that we are a ship without a destination. There has always been a strong crew on board, and the last two helmsmen are serving as the WSC vice chair and second vice chair, so leadership has not been a problem. When the weather was the worst, a destination was almost in sight, but when the skies cleared we went back to drifting with no particular place to go. So, to those of you who want to sign on for the next voyage, please realize this particular ship could end up on the beach at the next WSC. (I do love metaphors!)

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous during the past year.