

**WSC AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NA SERVICE
REPORT TO THE 1993
WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE**

This is our 1993 report to the conference regarding our work on *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. We are pleased to be able to inform you that we have been successful in our efforts to complete the *Guide*. It is attached to this report.

During this year the committee was chaired by Dave Tynes. Others on the committee were Becky Meyer, Mary Chant, Stu Tooredman, Debbie Ott, Jon Thompson, Walter Johnson, Dawn Foran, and Tom Logan. Anthony Edmondson was asked to participate in committee discussions regarding national and world services, while Marjorie Kleiman and Floyd Best attended those meetings dealing with metro committees and other components of local services. Paul Tanner of Spain and Jorge Mejia of Colombia were invited to attend a meeting that dealt with developing NA communities and world services.

The committee held five meetings during this past year. In addition to the meetings, committee members attended sessions where members of the two boards provided input on world services, and the WSC Policy Committee and the WSB Internal Affairs Committee provided a considerable amount of input this past year. The committee also mailed out a questionnaire about national and world services to conference participants, to which they received 193 responses.

All of the input we've received this year as well the input we received prior to this year has helped us to develop the attached version of the *Guide*. In addition to some discussion about various components of it, we'll present some possible recommendations regarding its approval later in our report.

Our work this past year

We started off our work for this year while attending the conference in Dallas, where our committee held a brief meeting. We decided that during the first part of the year we should focus on the local services chapters, including the chapter on metro services, and in the meantime invite input from members of the WSC Policy Committee, the WSB Internal Affairs Committee, and the fellowship-at-large about the issues surrounding national/world services. To help focus the input, we asked the policy committee to concentrate on the sections dealing with delegate review panels and the conference itself in the review material, and the trustees to look at the material dealing with the WSB, the WSB committees, and the nominations panel. In the meantime, we prepared to address local services.

We held meetings in May and July 1992 on local services. We reviewed the work we'd done in the past on chapters about the group,

area, and regional levels of service, and also discussed the information we had obtained during the previous year on metro services. With the help of Marjorie from New York and Floyd from Detroit, we were able to develop the new chapter on services in a metropolitan setting. We are grateful for their considerable assistance in the development of that chapter.

In the meantime, the trustees scheduled a full day of their September 1992 meeting to discuss the national and world services chapters of the *Guide to Service* so that they could provide us with their input. Between our May and July 1992 meetings, we'd decided to send out a brief questionnaire to conference participants about national/world services to obtain some additional direction on how to proceed. A small group of committee members met in August 1992 to develop an outline for the world services chapter that the trustees and the WSO board could review and comment on. It was during this meeting that the first discussions started about not having a chapter on national services in the material, opting instead to present a model that called for the consolidation of world services that could serve the fellowship as whole much more effectively.

Some of our members attended the September 1992 World Service Board of Trustees and WSO Board of Directors meetings and brought back input to our meeting the following month. We also had the results from the questionnaires we had sent out earlier. After lengthy discussions, we decided to not include a section on national services, notify the fellowship of our decision, and offer amends if we had confused you with our previous reports about this issue. The next opportunity we had to meet with fellowship representatives occurred at the Cincinnati WSC meeting in late October. We presented our model to the participants there and obtained some additional input to help us develop the final version of the chapter on world services. At our meeting in December we expanded upon the outline for world services, this time giving far more detailed direction to the staff team working with us. We also decided that we needed to communicate with each other prior to our next meeting in March 1993 so that we would have the opportunity to know of each other's concerns about the next draft prior to that meeting, considering that we had to have our final review of the *Guide* in its entirety.

Prior to the start of our last meeting, some of our members had some concerns about the world services chapter and the amount of time we had left to complete it. All of us, however, came prepared to work and stay up as long as it took to complete our task, knowing that it would be our last opportunity. Despite some of our misgivings, we all left the meeting believing that whatever individual concerns we had, they were addressed and the resulting draft would be one that we could all wholeheartedly support. We are pleased that the *Guide* is finally completed and that we have been able to fulfill our commitment to last year's conference.

During this past year, a number of issues arose that we have to discuss in more detail. These include the issue of a chapter to deal with a US

national conference, indigenous literature and its approval, and the future of the *Guide*. In the next few sections we will endeavor to provide some more information about these issues.

National/world services

Regarding a US national conference, rather than adapting our October 1992 report, we quote two paragraphs from it: "At our October meeting, the committee decided to recommend that no American conference be created, and that world services continue to serve NA in every country as they do now. We recognize that, right now, there is no coherent program for delivering services affecting NA in the US nationwide. However, we believe that the fragmentation of our world services into independent arms (WSO, trustees, conference committees), not the lack of national focus in the US, is responsible for poor US service coordination. We are convinced that consolidation of world service administration--that is, the establishment of a single effective point of decision and accountability for world services when the WSC is not in session--is the most important step we can take to ensure creation and effective delivery of NA services in the US and elsewhere worldwide.

"The committee, in good conscience, could not encourage the creation of an American conference. We believe that creating a US conference would put the Americans farther and farther away from exposure to world development issues, making them less and less able to include worldwide NA unity-and-common-welfare issues among their top priorities. Under current circumstances, a US conference would probably undercut our worldwide fellowship's efforts to fulfill our primary purpose. We do not, however, wish to see the possibility of an American conference precluded forever. If circumstances change significantly in the future, we can change our service structure--but only when the circumstances have actually changed." As a result of this discussion, there is no national chapter in the *Guide*.

The world services chapter is the result of many hours of discussions and a tremendous volume of input received over the past nine years. This chapter in the material is not, however, meant to take the place of the *Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure*. Rather, it is meant to be a structural overview of the proposed world level, describing its composition, the relationships between the various entities, and the purpose and scope of responsibilities for each service body. Additionally, we described what a typical conference may be like under this new system. We recognize that the *Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure* includes items like individual committee and board guidelines and other similar matters of conference policy. We propose that items such as these be adapted and compiled in a "World Services Handbook" after the *Guide* itself is approved.

"Indigenous" literature development

In reviewing fellowship input, our committee saw that one particular subject area needed clarification: the issues surrounding local literature development activities. Since we could not find a place in *A Guide to Service* itself where these issues could be addressed, we agreed to

address them here in our report. Our committee agreed that local development of new NA literature should not be discouraged under the new world services system; once a piece is completed at the local level, it can be turned over to the World Service Conference for a decision about whether to prioritize the project for completion at the world level or not. However, our committee agrees that local approval of NA literature should be vigorously discouraged. Narcotics Anonymous, as a united worldwide fellowship, should have only one body of approved literature.

Committee members who had attended the 1992 European Conference and Convention said that when NA members there spoke of "indigenous literature," they either meant local newsletters with articles of some substance or Basic Text stories relevant to their own NA community. Policies already exist to accommodate both, and this should be stated loudly and clearly.

A *Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Newsletters* has been on the list of conference-approved service guides since 1986. The 10-page handbook discusses how an ASC or RSC can form a local newsletter subcommittee, suggested topics for newsletter articles, how to edit local newsletters, and how to handle production and distribution. The *Handbook for NA Newsletters* costs \$1.65 and is available from the World Service Office.

As for Basic Text stories, it has been a long-standing component of NA's literature translation policy to encourage NA communities whose primary language is other than English to compile local stories depicting NA recovery for inclusion in their language's edition of the Basic Text. Details of this policy have been consolidated by the World Services Translation Committee into the proposal appearing in this year's *Conference Agenda Report*.

While our committee believes NA worldwide should have only one body of literature, we have recognized one particular circumstance in which a local NA community might be encouraged to develop recovery material for its own use: *adapting the NA message to unique cultural backgrounds*. In some places, it may be essential to the fulfillment of our primary purpose for the NA community to develop a pamphlet for local use that clarifies one aspect or another of the NA program against the local cultural background. Such literature could be developed and approved locally, reviewed by world services to ensure fidelity to NA philosophy, and then distributed by the NA community that had developed it. However, this process for developing culture-specific material would not allow an NA region in the USA, for example, to adapt existing NA recovery literature--say, the Basic Text--to its own unique philosophical perspective. Nor would the process allow such a region to distribute a new book of its own on, say, prayer and meditation that had not been approved as NA worldwide literature.

Approval options for the Guide

In our report concerning our December 1992 meeting, we offered a possible option for the consideration of conference participants. That option called for the *Guide* being sent out for a one-year approval period that would culminate in the conference acting on it at WSC'94. If there

had been no new developments since that report, this would be the only option we would propose. However, that is not the case.

In the meantime, the *Conference Agenda Report* has come out with Motion #1 calling for a world services inventory. After some discussion, our committee decided that, if the conference decides to accept Motion #1 or some variation of it, then we will recommend that the *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* be put aside for the 1993-94 conference year. We will further recommend that after the inventory is completed, the *Guide* be utilized as a tool to compare the findings of the inventory against. At the same time, it should be sent out for a one-year approval period culminating in a vote by the conference at WSC'95. If the conference, however, decides not to have an inventory process take place next year, then the recommendation we made in December would stand--that is for an approval vote at WSC'94.

Conclusion

As a committee, we have worked very hard this year to complete *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. This project has been in the works for many years, but we believe that the finished draft will serve the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous well for many years to come. We believe that, unlike the *Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure*, which has had to be changed frequently, the *Guide* will stand the test of time. As a result, we have completed the task assigned by WSC'84.

We are gratified by the conference's decision to approve *The Twelve Concepts for NA Service* by such an overwhelming margin last year. It is our hope that, after studying the material in the *Guide*, the fellowship, through the conference, will adopt this work by a similar margin.

The committee would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the members of staff who've been assigned to the committee to help with its endeavors. We thank them for their hard work and dedication. We thank you for allowing all of us who have worked on this material to serve the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service