

World Service Conference Report

WSC Administrative Committee

Introduction

Greetings! This report covers the activities of the WSC Administrative Committee since WSC '96. We have met twice and have had three conference calls. Our primary concerns have been Unity Day, regional motions, and whether a world services meeting needs to be held this conference year. We hope this report will answer most of your questions.

Unity Day

The Unity Day celebration was held Saturday, 31 August 1996, during WCNA-26 in St. Louis, Missouri. It was a successful event resulting in on-site contributions in excess of \$9,000. This year fifty-one regions/participants paid to join the celebration by telephone, and twenty-two non-US regions were provided hook-ups at no charge. The service this year was improved; there were only four problems, three of which were beyond the phone company's control. The fourth resulted in one refund to a member in British Columbia, Canada.

At WSC '96, Michael McDermott (WSC chairperson) informed the conference that the Administrative Committee plans to have a Unity Day celebration every year, regardless of whether there is a world convention (which became a biannual event this year). Plans are being made to hold the 1997 Unity Day event in the New England Region. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

WSC Leadership Training Sessions

WSC leadership training sessions were held for the Administrative Committee and leadership of the WSC Literature, Policy, and PI Committees on 16 August 1996, at WSO-Chatsworth. A second training was held 20-22 September 1996, with the leadership of WSTC and the H&I Committee at WSO-Chatsworth.

The sessions included an overview of the general operations of the World Service Office. WSO executive management and the WSO Management Team provided details of major functions of each team. Committee leadership was provided with a history of each committee since 1987, and standing WSC and WSO policies were reviewed. Trusted servants were then given a view of how the WSO is fulfilling its mission, and had an opportunity to meet with each staff person assigned to their respective committee so that leadership could establish a working relationship with those staff.

Regional Motions

We have spent considerable time and effort over the last several months assisting the regions which have submitted motions for the 1997 *CAR*. The impact of Motion #16 has made this task an overwhelming one for both the staff and trusted servants involved. None of us had any idea how much research, communication, and administration was involved in identifying all the different policies these motions would affect, as well as putting the motions in a form more suitable for conference action. This experience leaves us with questions about the value of this whole process, and the acknowledgment that the impact of Motion #16 was not sufficiently understood when the WSC approved it.

Many of the motions that were submitted for placement in the *CAR* should have been directed to our long-standing process of working with the committees and boards. As you know, this system was designed to give regional input/motions a thorough review from many perspectives prior to preparing those motions (if necessary) for fellowship consideration. The Administrative Committee feels that a single region alone should not have the ability to move the fellowship into action, for such individualism both dilutes the purpose of the WSC and its committees and boards, as well as minimizes the principle of unity found in our First and Fourth Traditions.

A good portion of the regional motions addressed the changing of conference policy. This raised the question as to why we would want to change specific policy now when we have the Transition Group designing a new structure. Are the motions to change policy really intended to provide additional direction to the TG? Does the WSC now want to micro-manage the TG's project? We hope not! If the answers to these questions are yes, then we have entered into a conflict with our concepts, especially Concept Three. We will be passing our thoughts on to the boards and committees these motions are referred to and asking for their input.

On a positive note, the Administrative Committee would like to add that the additional communication between the RSRs who submitted motions from their regions and the Administrative Committee has been appreciated. Please let us know what your thoughts are on these matters.

Conference Agenda Report

The *Conference Agenda Report* will be prepared in December. The target date for mailing to conference participants is 24 January 1997. The cost has not yet been determined. In early January an order form will be sent to all conference participants and RSCs.

Issue Discussion Papers

Just a reminder that the two issue-discussion topics prioritized at WSC '96 are: (1) *Retention of experienced members in service and recovery*, and (2) *Faith and trust in our service structure; particularly with the WSC*. The deadline for submission of these papers is 1 December 1996, and they will be mailed with the March *Conference Report*.

Zonal Forums

In July world services participated in the European Delegates Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, and the Western States Forum in Tempe, Arizona. In November participants will be sent to the Southern Forum in Memphis, Tennessee. In February world services plans to attend MARLCNA in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and the Midwest Forum CAR workshop in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Decisions most likely will be made in December on the requests received from the Plains State Forum and the Northeast Forum. If your zone is planning an event and you want world service participation, please send verification that it is a multiregional event, date and location of the event, tentative agenda, and all pertinent information to the Interim Committee for their consideration.

Just a reminder: At WSC '96, the WSC Administrative Committee announced that zonal forums that wanted to receive conference participant mailings needed to register their mailing address with the WSO; so far only two forums have made this request.

World Services Meeting

In July the Administrative Committee made a recommendation to the Interim Committee not to schedule a world services meeting at that time because there didn't appear to be a specific need for one. Since that time the WSCLC has requested several meetings and begun work on the Step Working Guides. Additionally, the WSC H&I Committee and the WSC Public Information Committee have been approved for fully funded committee meetings. In the near future we expect a request from the WSC Policy Committee for a meeting some time in early 1997. Because all the committees' immediate needs are being taken care of through the scheduling of these meetings and conference calls, and because the Transition Group is not ready to discuss their work before the annual meeting of the World Service Conference, the Administrative Committee is still recommending that the Interim Committee not schedule a world services meeting.

World Service Conference Annual Meeting

The 1997 annual meeting of the World Service Conference will take place 27 April(3 May 1997 at the Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, California. The telephone number (818) 887-4800 (818) 887-4800; the fax number is (818) 347-0907. The room rate is \$84.00 plus 14% room tax, for a total of \$95.76 per night.

Please note, when you begin making your travel arrangements that the conference does not adjourn until late Saturday. When participants start leaving early on Saturday, this creates a problem during the new business session. In order to try to avoid the new business "time crunch" experienced in years past, the WSC Administrative Committee is considering scheduling other conference activities instead of ending the conference with the new business session. However, in order to be certain that you will be present for all conference actions, please plan your departure for after 6:00 p.m.

Rotation of WSC

You may recall at WSC '96 the following motion was passed: *The site of the World Service Conference is held within seventy-five miles of the World Service Office.* However, after further discussion, an announcement was made that this motion would be placed in the

1997 Conference Agenda Report and conference participants agreed. Therefore, the Administrative Committee will be placing a motion in the *CAR* about this subject.

WSC Recognition Assistance Panel

The WSC Recognition Assistance Panel was created by the conference to assist service bodies seeking recognition at the WSC. The panel is charged with gathering and verifying information on newly forming regions, and reporting this information to the WSC. The panel members this year are Stu Tooredman and Bud Kenney (WSB members), John Halverson and Sandi Stauffer (WSC Policy Committee members), and Jon Thompson (WSC 2nd vice chairperson).

So far this year the panel has received inquiries from individuals from the following areas: Rock River Area Group Services (Greater Illinois Region), New Orleans Area (Louisiana Region), and South Philly Area (Greater Philadelphia Region). We have also had continuing communication with the members from the Queens Regional Transitional Committee (Greater New York Region) which requested information last year. Other inquirers from last year are being contacted to update their status. Out of all these requests we are aware of only one regional formation so far. The Rock River Area Group Services has separated itself from the Greater Illinois region, forming the Finding Answers in the Heartland (FAITH) Region. We have received a letter of intent, and they will be seeking seating at WSC '97.

Motion #79 was committed to the WSC Recognition Assistance Panel by the conference. It was to be rewritten with the help of RAP and the RSR from the Lone Star Region and included in the 1997 Conference Agenda Report. This motion concerned zonal forums having a voice on the WSC floor and receiving conference participant mailings. The panel has worked with the RSR and agreed on a reworded motion to fulfill their intent.

Closing

The *Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure*, 1996 edition, will be available some time in December. As always, should you have any questions, comments, or concerns you can contact the WSC Administrative Committee c/o World Service Office.

Michael McDermott, chairperson

Ron Sheppeard, vice chairperson

Jon Thompson, 2nd vice chairperson