

World Service Conference Report

WORLD CONVENTION CORPORATION

Greetings from the World Convention Corporation. Although there won't be a convention after WCNA-26 (in St. Louis) until 1998, the WCC has continued to be very active in planning for our future. At our November meeting, the WCC held its election of officers. The results are as follows: Cary Seltzer, chairperson; Donald Griffin, vice chairperson; Janis Edwards, treasurer; Rhonda Richetta, secretary.

We also welcomed three new directors: Mitchell Soodak, assigned from the WSO board; Pedro Castro, elected at WSC '95; and Susie Longbottom, who is filling the WCNA-25 host chair vacancy. The director terms of Ron Duncan and Jay Reichbaum ended at the close of WCNA-25. Also Randy Jones and Gary Grien will no longer be of service with WCC. On behalf of all the directors of WCC, we thank them all for their service to the board.

The board approved changes to the bylaws that became necessary because of the passage of the WCC external guidelines. We thank the WSO directors and staff who took the time to participate in the revision of the bylaws. As promised at WSC '95, we have presented in the 1996 Conference Agenda Report a motion to approve the WCC Internal Guidelines. We believe that these guidelines will provide us with the tools to effectively execute the framework laid out in our external guidelines and manage the daily operations of the World Convention Corporation.

The WCC has brought to the attention of the Resolution Group the omission of the WCC in CAR Resolution B and is awaiting further clarification from the RG on this issue. As was done at WSC '95, WCC is requesting that the conference seat our chair and vice chair as non-voting participants at WSC '96. The seating of WCC leadership would allow us to participate in conference proceedings.

The writing of a new convention handbook will be delayed until after WCNA-26. The new two-year convention rotation cycle that begins after WCNA-26 will give the board and staff the time to devote proper attention to this important project. As reported in the past, the handbook project would be administered by the WCC executive committee. Board members or non-board members with expertise in certain areas would be brought into the project as needed.

The registration flyer for WCNA-26 has been printed and is being mailed to regions, offices, and past convention registrants. Throughout the years, there have always been requests from individuals in attendance at the WSC that we have the registration flyers out to our membership earlier. Implementation of the convention timetable outlined in our internal guidelines has enabled the WCC to distribute the registration flyer earlier than we have the past few years. This year, we asked staff to come to our November 1995 board meeting with a draft of the flyer. In the past, the directors have developed a draft of the flyer during the board meeting. All the directors had to do this year was fill in the events and have staff finish the flyer for executive committee approval. There is one error on the registration flyer that we want to bring to your attention. The fax number listed on the registration page is incorrect. The correct fax number for the WSO is (818) 700-

0700  (818) 700-0700. We apologize for any problems this may have created.

In keeping with our commitment to ensure that our fellowship's diversity is properly represented at the world convention, the WCC this year decided to translate the registration flyer into French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. We have also asked the Israel, Italian, and German-speaking regions if they would be willing to use the WCNA-26 artwork and translate the material on their own. WCC would be involved in reviewing the translated flyer and would provide some financial support as well. As we did at WCNA-25, WCC will provide simultaneous translations equipment for use throughout the convention in the main speaker room. The number of languages these meetings will be translated into is dependent on what language needs our members indicate. As you will see in this year's registration flyer, we have asked our members not to wait until they register to tell us their translation requirements, or what their special needs may be.

The theme for WCNA-26 is *"Show Me How to Live."* We will be offering three paid events. On Friday there will be a comedy show featuring Craig Shoemaker, who recently performed on Comic Relief, and Tommy Davidson from the cast of the former Fox TV series, *In Living Color*. On Saturday, we will have a live concert held in the Fox Theater, one of two original Fox Theaters in the country that have been maintained historically. We are currently negotiating with several acts for the concert and will inform the fellowship as soon as decisions are made and contracts signed. Also on Saturday we will host a jazz breakfast with a meeting. Adding a food event to the WCC food and beverage profile will increase our bargaining power in future event negotiations. Please note, the Unity Day celebration planned each year by the WSC Administrative Committee will be held during the Saturday night meeting.

This year we are trying to be proactive in finding out how we can make the world convention as accessible to as many members as possible. We are committed to making every world convention a special celebration of recovery for all who attend. We also welcome any of your ideas. Any input you have that will help us achieve this goal is welcome. Please direct all input to the WCC in care of the World Service Office.

Along with the submission of speaker tapes, the board is asking all regions or area service committees to make recommendations for workshop and main speakers for world conventions. Area or regional recommendations should consist of the speaker's name,

address, telephone number, and clean date. We feel this will help us develop a program that will be more representative of a worldwide NA fellowship. All tapes and speaker recommendations must be received at the WSO by May 1, 1996.

We will make available discount airfares to our members attending WCNA-26. This year our discount airfare will be provided by American Airlines. Seven percent discounts will be offered off the lowest published fares to St. Louis from all American Airlines cities in the US, Canada, San Juan, and various Caribbean Islands. Our decision to accept American Airlines' proposal over some of the other airline proposals was based on the potential benefits it will offer to world services as a whole. We are attempting to enter into a multi-year agreement with one primary carrier in an effort to reduce the overall costs of travel throughout world services.

For our members who live outside North America, we actively sought discounts for international travel into St. Louis. However, these fares are regulated by the countries in which travel originates. The restrictions placed on all American carriers by most foreign governments make straight ticket discounting almost impossible. We will offer special rates for travel no longer than seven days and six nights, as the seven-day travel restrictions have been waived. There will be additional discounts from all international cities for groups of ten or more. What is especially nice about our contract with American Airlines is that a reservation can be made directly with the airline's local offices worldwide, removing the need for members to call the US to get discounts, as has been the case in previous years.

Merchandise at a world convention has become a premium item and at every convention since WCNA-23, we have sold out our merchandise earlier than the board would have liked. This year's host committee has requested that we have a T-shirt and coffee mug available for purchase on the registration flyer. Members will be able to purchase one of each item for each registrant paid before July 1, 1996. All purchased merchandise can be picked up on site.

WCNA-27 will be held in San Jose, California. We are planning to meet with the Northern California Region in May to answer questions and begin our relationship with the hosting region.

In October, Becky Meyer, Pedro Castro, and Mike Polin went to South America to begin the site selection process for WCNA-28. Mike and Pedro joined the world services fellowship development trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Buenos Aires, Argentina. If Rio de Janeiro is chosen as the site for WCNA-28, we believe we would be looking at a late May weekend event. One potential problem of holding a world convention in Brazil could be moving revenue in and out of the country. The board plans to consult with an international finance attorney who specializes in Latin American business as we continue to consider Rio as a potential site. The fellowship in Brazil is vibrant, growing, and quickly gaining convention experience. Becky, Pedro, and Mike attended the Latin American Convention, which had over 500 attendees.

If the world convention is held in Buenos Aires, it would be held in late February or early March. Since the seasons in Argentina are the opposite of North America, the climate during a late February/early March convention would be similar to a late August/early September event in North America. The Argentinean fellowship is also vibrant and growing. They will host the next Latin American Convention in 1997 which will give them additional convention experience.

We will join the next world services fellowship development Latin American trip to Panama City, Panama and Cartagena, Colombia in March to complete our initial site visits for WCNA-28. Michael McDermott will join Mike Polin on these visits.

At our November meeting, the board chose San Diego, California for WCNA-30, the special world convention planned to celebrate the fifty-year anniversary of Narcotics Anonymous. This convention will be held over the July 4th weekend in the year 2003.

A reminder to everyone, we move into a two-year convention cycle after WCNA-26 so our next world convention will not be held until 1998. On behalf of the board, thank you for your support and for allowing us to serve our worldwide fellowship.

Cary Seltzer, chairperson