

World Service Conference Report

WSC Administrative Committee

Introduction

The 1997 annual meeting of the World Service Conference will take place at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, Los Angeles, California, USA. Just a reminder: A lodging reservation form was sent to conference participants in early January and may still be obtained by contacting the World Service Office. The conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday 27 April and adjourn Saturday evening 3 May. The following activities are scheduled for Saturday 26 April: a WSC leadership meeting, a WSC H&I Committee workshop; a WSC PI Committee workshop; a Development Forum meeting; an RSR orientation; and a local fellowship event. We also plan to provide time and space during the conference week for meetings of zonal forums upon request. If your zonal forum wishes to meet in a room provided by the WSC, please let us know so that we can reserve available rooms.

Issue discussion papers

We have included the issue discussion papers in the same mailing as this *Conference Report*. At the annual meeting, time will be set aside for discussion of the issues prioritized at WSC'96: "Retention of Experienced Members, in Service and Recovery," and "Faith and Trust in our Service Structure, particularly with the WSC."

Unity Day

The WSC Administrative Committee is continuing to plan for some kind of Unity Day celebration to take place in September 1997. We hope to provide you with a flier containing complete details at WSC'97.

Role of WSC treasurer

At WSC'96, the WSC Administrative Committee brought a recommendation to the conference that the treasurer be made a voting member of the Interim Committee and be relieved of his responsibilities on the Administrative Committee. This recommendation was accepted. However, having given this recommendation a "test drive" this past conference year, we now believe that this policy puts too great a distance between the treasurer and

the Administrative Committee. We believe the idea had some merit, but we do not believe it would be beneficial to continue the practice at this time. Therefore, we would recommend returning the treasurer to the Administrative Committee while keeping the treasurer as a voting member of the Interim Committee. We have discussed this with the Interim Committee, and its members support this change. A motion will be presented at the conference during the new business session to accomplish this.

Zonal forums

Since our last conference report, the WSC Administrative Committee has sent members to several zonal forum events: the Asia Pacific Forum meeting in Manila, The Philippines; the Michigan Multiregional *CAR* workshop; the Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference of NA; and the Plains States Forum meeting and *CAR* workshop in Sioux City, Iowa.

Fellowship Development Trips

The WSC Administrative Committee has participated in several fellowship development trips this year. A complete report of our involvement, as well as all other boards and committees, will be included in an Interim Committee report that will be available at or before the conference.

WSC committee meetings

This is the first conference year since 1985-86 during which no world services meeting was held. We believed that, since the Transition Group was not ready to discuss its work until the annual meeting, a world services meeting would not be the best use of the fellowship's money. We are happy to report that each world-level board and committee has been able to accomplish its work in fully funded meetings and conference calls.

Financial impact of Motion #16 on the 1997 *Conference Agenda Report*

The time, resources, and effort to accomplish the objectives of this 1996 conference action were considerable. Between the staff and WSC Administrative Committee members we spent over 150 person hours and hundreds of dollars in faxes and phone calls to prepare the nineteen (19) regional motions in this year's *Conference Agenda Report*. Was it worth the time and effort? Only you can answer this question, but here are some of the things we discovered in the process.

- Many of the RSRs we worked with were not familiar enough with current WSC policies or guidelines, including the *TWGSS*, to actually do the research themselves or be aware of the choices they had. They instead had to depend on our conference memories, a limited resource, to identify policies that their proposed motions would effect and to what extent. Also, several of the motions could have been directed to specific boards and committees rather than placed in the *CAR*. Cooperation on these two issues from the RSRs would cut down on the time and effort needed from staff and the Administrative Committee.

- The increased communication between the RSRs and the Administrative Committee was very well received and appreciated.
- Feedback from *CAR* workshops was that the appendix section proved to be quite helpful.
- Deadline dates need to be moved up to allow for more time to work with the RSRs.

During the conference we will have discussion of this issue, so we ask that you take this information as well as your own experience and consider whether or not the value of this service is worth the dedication of resources.

Committed motions from WSC'96

The following motions were committed to the WSC Administrative Committee at WSC'96:

It was M/S/R Randy K (RSR-A, Ontario Region)/Stefania F (RSR, Italy Region) Motion #85: "That zonal forum chairpersons receive the same mailings as conference participants." The following *TWGSS* policy would be affected: Page 33: *World Service Conference Report*, line 8. New language: "The report is distributed to conference participants and zonal forums." Page 33: The *Conference Agenda Report*, paragraph 1, lines 3 & 4. "One copy of the report is mailed to each voting participant of the conference, each RSR alternate, and the mailing address of each region and each zonal forum."

Motion #92: "That inventory-related communications mailed to conference participants also be sent to conference standing and ad hoc committee members."

Motion #98: "To allow each zonal forum (who requests) to receive all conference participants mailings."

Michael M (WSC Chairperson) reported that Motions #85, #92, and #98 will all be reviewed by the WSC Administrative Committee over the coming year. He also announced that all zonal forums that have provided mailing addresses, as well as conference committee members, will receive conference participant mailings during the year. At the end of the year, the process will be assessed, the WSC Administrative Committee will report to conference participants, and zonal forums and committee members will report to the WSC Administrative Committee about how well it worked overall. Conference participants expressed unanimous support for this approach.

This year the WSC Administrative Committee and the WSO provided all the conference-participant mailings to any zonal forum that requested them, as well as to all members of WSC standing committees. The only criteria was that the committee/forum provide a current address so deliveries could be made. We only received two zonal forum requests, one from the European Delegates Meeting, the other from the Asia Pacific Forum. The Administrative Committee strongly supports the continuation of this process.

Michael M (WSC Chairperson) responded that WSC Administrative Committee would consider the matter (of a 1995 video featuring Bob Stone--its approval, distribution, and/or a written transcript of it) and let the conference know next year.

After much deliberation and discussion, the Administrative Committee believes that the "Bob Stone Video" should remain in the WSC archives at the WSO. We know that some will be unhappy with this decision, but we believe it is consistent with the manner in which it was given to the chairperson of the WSC in 1995.

It was M/S/R Jim C (RSR, Michigan Region)/Nicholas G (RSR, New England Region) Motion #47: "(Motion #21 1995) That the WSC be given responsibility for translating *Conference Agenda Report* motions and intent (not including the text of addenda) into languages other than English, and for distributing these translations to the respective regions."

AMENDMENT: It was M/R João V (RSR-A, Brazil Region) "To return to the original motion and delete the word 'not' and the parentheses." AMENDMENT REFERRED TO WSC Administrative Committee.

As has been the practice of the WSC Administrative Committee and the Interim Committee in the recent past, this year the *CAR* was translated into five languages: Swedish, Spanish, German, French, and Portuguese. The compilation of the *CAR* has become a joint effort of both the Interim and Administrative Committees. It is already their responsibility to translate it into as many languages as is feasible. We do not believe that creating a policy to order that something be done *that is already being done* would be to anyone's benefit.

It was M/C WSC Administrative Committee Motion #104 ["To delete Section 1.B on Page 13, 1995 *TWGSS* and replace with the following language: 'The site of the World Service Conference is held within seventy-five miles of the World Service Office.' "] carried by 2/3 majority vote. After further discussion, Ron S (WSC Vice Chairperson) announced that this motion will be in the 1997 *Conference Agenda Report*. Conference participants agreed by acclamation.

As agreed, this motion--which was made, seconded, and passed last year--has been placed in this year's *CAR* (Motion 1). Those who were at the WSC last year will remember that this motion was referred to this year's *CAR* because, after the vote was taken, it was called to the presiding officer's attention that the quorum count was not correct. After deliberation, the presiding officer felt it was best to place the motion in this year's *CAR*, even though the motion had the clear support of the conference at that time.

WSC Recognition Assistance Panel

The WSC Recognition Assistance Panel was created by the conference to assist service bodies seeking to have a representative seated for the first time at the WSC. The panel is charged with gathering and verifying information on newly forming regions and reporting this information to the World Service Conference. The panel members this year have been Stu Tooredman and Bud Kenney (WSB), John Halverson and Sandi Stauffer (WSC Policy Committee), with Jon Thompson (WSC Second Vice Chairperson) serving as the chairperson.

So far this year the panel has received inquiries from individuals from the following areas and regions:

- Rock River Area Group Services (Greater Illinois Region)
- New Orleans Area (Louisiana Region)
- South Philadelphia Area, West/Southwest Area, and Inner City Area (Greater Philadelphia Region)
- ABCD Area (Greater New York Region)
- Ontario Region

We have also had continuing communication with the Regional Transitional Committee (Greater New York Region) which requested information last year.

So far, out of these requests, we are aware of two regional formations this conference year. The Queens, Western Queens, and Nassau Areas are joining together to become the Eastern New York Region. This formation process has been going on for a number of years; they have been in regular contact with the RAP, forwarding all progress notes and minutes. They have been receiving nominations for trusted servants positions since January and are holding their elections at the end of May. Because their first regional meeting is not scheduled until June, they will not be seeking seating at this year's WSC. We wish them the best. The new Eastern New York Region will most likely be seeking seating at WSC'98.

Rock River Area Group Services separated itself from the Greater Illinois Region in September to form the Finding Answers in the Heartland (FAITH) Region, with the GSRs remaining as the new region's voting participants. For more information on the FAITH Region's formation, see the RAP report included with their letter of intent. Representatives will be sent to this year's WSC, where they will be seeking seating. This region has willingly kept the WSC Recognition Assistance Panel informed of all its activities during its transition period and has answered all questions required per the conference-approved procedure for seating regions at the WSC. We see no apparent internal problems and welcome them to WSC'97.

The remainder of information packets requested this conference year vary from some individuals just seeking information with no real movement toward formation in the foreseeable future, to actual regional and area ad hoc committees seriously looking into the splitting of their region into multiple regions over the next year or so. The RAP will be keeping in touch with all of these individuals and ad hoc committees and will continue reporting their progress to you.

Motion #78 was committed to the WSC Recognition Assistance Panel at last year's conference. It was to be rewritten with the help of the RAP and the RSR from the Lone Star Region and included in the 1997 *Conference Agenda Report*. This motion appears as Motion #23 in this year's *Conference Agenda Report*.

Micromanagement of Transition Group

There are several motions in the *CAR* this year which seek to change the structure of the WSC before the conference has had the benefit of hearing the Transition Group's report and recommendations. The WSC Administrative Committee is not in support of such micromanagement of the Transition Group's work. We have taken a hands-off approach to the Transition Groups work, other than to give input. While we are excited about the possibility of meaningful changes in the way we work to carry the message, the Administrative Committee believes it irresponsible for any element within the conference structure as it exists today to offer changes as motions to be decided prior to seeing a

structure outlined by the committee we charged with the responsibility to propose specific changes.

A message from your chairperson

As we come to the conference this year, it is with a realization that we are truly moving to a new conference. The process we started in 1993 has begun to lead us to change. While it has been difficult to maintain our resolve and not rescind our decisions, we can all be proud to have held our world service structure up for examination and become willing to change the things that no longer work or are just plain wrong. Just as in our personal recovery we must walk through pain to grow and recover, so are we as members of the WSC growing and becoming willing to make the changes our inventory pointed out to us. As our fellowship nears its fiftieth anniversary, isn't it time to adapt our structure to the fellowship it serves today? Our fellowship has grown tremendously in the last twenty years. It is time that we create the structure that will serve our current members, and members to come, into the twenty-first century. It is a very exciting time to be involved in our service structure.

On a more personal note, this coming conference will be my last as your chairperson. I want to thank the WSC for allowing me this privilege. I shall never forget these years as your chair and the honor and responsibility you have given me. I will never be able to give back what was so freely given to me; I only know that I will continue to try. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Closing

In closing, the WSC Administrative Committee is looking forward to an exciting and productive conference this year. Your Administrative Committee this year is:

*Michael McDermott, Chairperson
Ron Sheppeard, Vice Chairperson
Jon Thompson, Second Vice Chairperson*