

# WSC'98 Report

A comprehensive overview of the  
1998 World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous

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## WSC'98

### Saturday, 25 April

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Approval of Rules of Order, Minutes
- ❖ New Regions Recognized

### Monday, 27 April

- ❖ Old Business
- ❖ Approval of Election Procedures
- ❖ Fellowship Development Plan Presentation/Discussion

### Wednesday, 29 April

- ❖ H&I/PI Mock Panel Presentation
- ❖ Elections

### Friday, 1 May

- ❖ Board/Committee Reports
- ❖ Budget
- ❖ New Business

### Sunday, 26 April

- ❖ TG Amendments Discussion
- ❖ Old Business

### Tuesday, 28 April

- ❖ Old Business
- ❖ Issue Discussion Prioritization for 1998

### Thursday, 30 April

- ❖ Resolution A Presentation/Discussion
- ❖ Development Forum Presentation/Discussion

### Saturday, 2 May

- ❖ New Business
- ❖ Fund-flow Issue Discussion
- ❖ Farewells to Trusted Servants

# "Together We Can"

## **WSC '98 meets in Woodland Hills, California, and Adopts a New Structure for World Services**

Regional Delegates and world-level trusted servants met from 25 April to 2 May 1998 at the Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills, California for NA's 22nd World Service Conference. The theme of this year's conference was "Together We Can"—a phrase from our literature well suited to a WSC that would address some of the most momentous decisions ever made at the conference regarding our service structure.

On Sunday, 26 April and Monday 27 April, the conference addressed Motions 1 through 5 from the Transition Group's work. This year, the conference proceeded a little differently than in years past with regard to Old Business. Before actually moving into a business session, participants went into a "committee of the whole" in order to discuss these motions, as well as the regional and committee motions relating to the TG's work. After the discussion of each motion, the conference was then afforded the chance to see how much support each motion had by way of informal straw polls of the voting participants. In this way, the seriousness of the structural changes was duly recognized, and the need to hold full discussions regarding these issues, while not limiting those discussions by parliamentary protocol, was honored. Participants each had their chance to have a fair say regarding the Transition Group's work, and the business session itself was able to proceed relatively smoothly.

In the end, the conference adopted the World Board (with only Regional Delegates voting in Old Business) by a vote of 79-6-3. Similarly, the Unified Budget, the World Pool and Human Resources Panel, and the World Service Conference Co-facilitators positions, as well as a two-year conference cycle, were all adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the Regional Delegates, instituting a new structure for world services.

On Wednesday, 29 April, the conference elected the first World Board members as follows (listed by region):

Bella A (Australia)	David J (UK)	Mario T (Australia)
Bob J (South Florida)	Floyd B (Metro Detroit)	Mary Kay B (Carolina)
Cary S (Chicagoland)	Jane N (Connecticut)	Michael M (Northern California)
Claudio L (Mexico)	Jon T (New Jersey)	Steve L (Southern California)
Craig R (Carolina)	Larry R (Hawaii)	Susan C (Washington/N. Idaho)
Daniel S (German Speaking)	Lib E (Aotearoa)	Tony W (Carolina)

The conference also elected Vinnie F (Northern New York) as the single co-facilitator of the conference, and Sonny J (Lone Star), Jeff S (Minnesota) and Tata M (Philippines) as the Human Resource Panel members.

During their meetings after the first Old Business session, members of the WSO Board, the World Service Board of Trustees, and the Administrative Committee all signed the necessary documents that made the conference's action on Motion #1 official. In doing so, the members of these boards and committees relinquished their authority and responsibility to the former corporations, and officially instituted in the new world service system, the new corporation (Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.), and the newly adopted World Board, which will officially take office on June 12, 1998.

## **Development Forum**

A brief orientation was held for all of the development forum participants on Friday night, 24 April, prior to the opening of WSC '98 on Saturday.

On Thursday, 30 April, the World Service Board of Trustees gave a presentation on the history of the Development Forum, describing the first International Development Forum from WSC '91, where the idea of funding international participants to the conference first appeared. The presentation also described how the conference itself has changed as the result of past DF activities, citing the WSC '98's joint H&I/PI presentation as an example of DF influence upon the kinds of activities that have become more commonplace at the WSC since the DF's inception.

A member of the board then shared the board's view that the need for funding newly developing and isolated NA communities to participate in the conference will continue until the conference agrees upon a process of cost equalization. The WSB believes that preference should be given to non-US communities until the issue of whether or not to include NA regions and communities inside the US and North America is discussed more and resolved.

A trustee then outlined the original criteria for funding, including: 1) that prospective developing communities must have an established service committee, 2) there has never been a demonstrated ability to fund a representative to the WSC and 3) the community is considered to be isolated or newly developing. The trustee then described the difficulty in applying the criteria as written, and the following recommendations for revisions to the eligibility and selection criteria: 1) there must be an established service committee that serves the country or region, and 2) there is an inability to fund a representative to the WSC. The presenter discussed the benefits of these efforts and the need for continuing the current practice of fellowship development trips as a necessary component of world level fellowship development activity.

The trustees also asked many participants from around the world to share their own personal experiences with the DF. Conference participants were then encouraged to ask questions and give input regarding future Development Forum efforts. The input session that followed was extensive, and many participants were able to share their support for and concerns about future DF activities.

The conference also discussed the issue of whether US and Canadian regions are also eligible for DF assistance: in a straw poll, participants indicated that all regions should be eligible for assistance.

## **World Services Fellowship Development Plan**

On Monday, 27 April, the Interim Committee gave a presentation on the *Fellowship Development Plan*. The presentation included a history of world level service provision since the 1980s, as well as a review of the creation of the plan.

Members of the Interim Committee reviewed each of the plan's ten goals, which are as follows:

1. Increase and improve world service available financial resources
2. Increase and improve world services available fellowship development tools that address recovery and service related questions and concerns
3. Increase and improve world services retention of fellowship data
4. Increase and improve world services available human resources
5. Increase and improve planning for fellowship development activities and travel
6. Institute a quality assurance program at the WSO
7. Enact the necessary structural changes to allow world services to become more effective
8. Improve world services' written and face-to-face communication with the fellowship
9. Identify new recovery material(s) needed by the fellowship and develop a plan for their creation by 1999
10. Develop a public relations philosophy and develop and maintain strategies that comply with that philosophy, its statements and objectives

The Interim Committee then addressed numerous questions, concerns, input, and suggestions regarding this "blueprint" for future world level service provision.

## **Transition Group:**

### **Resolution A Presentation**

On Thursday, 30 April, members of the Transition Group's Resolution A workgroup gave a presentation on Resolution A, based upon their report to WSC'98 participants released prior to the conference.

Resolution A, as adopted at WSC '96, reads as follows:

*"To approve, in principle, a change in participation at a new WSC to achieve the following objectives:*

1. *to reduce the total number of representatives*
2. *to provide for equal representation from all geographic entities; and*
3. *to encourage a consensus-based decision-making process"*

After the presentation, many conference participants shared their concerns, suggestions, and input regarding Resolution A. Earlier in the week during the prioritization of Issue Discussion items for Conference-Year 1998-1999, the issue of Resolution A was prioritized by conference participants along with improving fellowship communication for issues meriting fellowship-wide discussion.

## **Conference Administration**

During the WSC Administrative committee report on Friday, 30 April, the WSC Chairperson announced the following important deadlines: for *CAR* motions—1 November 1998; for issue discussion papers along with new issue discussion topics for next year—1 December 1998; and for regional reports—15 February 1999. Also, a regional motion relevant to conference administration was adopted at WSC '98 which directs that selection by the groups of issue discussion topics in the *Conference Agenda Report* become an on-going procedure of the World Service Conference.

Another administrative issue dealt with by the conference this year had to do with elections for the World Board next year. The conference decided to hold nominations and elections for any vacant seats on the World Board at WSC 1999. Those nominations are to be brought by WSC participants to the conference next year. The conference also decided to have a space on the agenda at WSC '99 for a zonal forum report session.

## **Board of Trustees**

The World Service Board of Trustees presented the *Institutional Group Guide*, the *Additional Needs Booklet*, the *Outreach Booklet*, and the IP "Self-Support: Principle and Practice" for the conference's consideration at WSC '98. All of these items were approved by the conference, making the trustees' year a productive one.

## **Translations**

On Friday, 30 April, after introduction of the translation committee members, the committee gave their report, which included a description of the translations process and an outline of the projects and recommendations to be given to the World Board.

Other conference action relevant to the translation policy included a decision by the conference to include the Little White Booklet in the Translation Committee policy on Basic Text personal stories. In addition, there was another change to the Translation Policy as follows: the NA Basic Text is to be translated from English into other languages including the Queen's English. The newly created World Board was authorized to evaluate and approve proposals to produce fellowship approved literature in Queen's English version of translated literature.

## **H&I/PI Mock Panel**

On Wednesday, 29 April, the World H&I and PI Committees gave a first-time ever joint presentation to the conference. The Mock Panel presentation modeled for conference participants some suggested means by which local H&I and PI committees could interact with professionals and correctional facilities in their communities. The presentation also demonstrated how H&I and PI committees could operate in a spirit of cooperation with one another, and was well-received by conference participants.

## **Literature**

The WSC Literature Committee presented the *Step Working Guides* to the conference this year, and they were approved as a new piece of NA literature. The literature committee's recommended A-List, which included a new chapter on Sponsorship to be included in the Basic Text; a new chapter on Service to be included in the Basic Text, and the addition/substitution of personal stories compiled from our worldwide fellowship in the Basic Text was forwarded to the newly created World Board for the purpose of preparing a detailed proposal for presentation to the conference in two years.

In addition, the regional motion to continue with the development of a sponsorship booklet as a new piece of literature, which should be given to the World Board Publications committee with a final draft included in the CAR 2000 was also committed to the World Board at WSC '98, to be included in the same process as the A-list.

## **Fund-flow Presentation**

On Saturday, 2 May, the authors of the Fund Flow issue papers that were mailed with the *Conference Agenda Report* presented their viewpoints and experience for discussion. Each shared for approximately ten minutes, and afterward questions, comments, and personal experience followed. Topics included: cost of refreshments at meetings; how a small area can play a part; following the model of one's sponsor; accountability; freedom to make our own decisions; remaining unencumbered by outside influences; survival of Narcotics Anonymous; stigma of talking about money; commitment to individual sharing at the group level; the power of personal example; the power of the lone voice; asking the "tough" questions during elections; ways of attracting people to discussions of 7<sup>th</sup> tradition subjects; the importance of staying aware of wasted fund; the visible results of increased donations; passing on enthusiasm; basing budgets for subcommittees on seventh tradition donations; meeting needs vs. meeting wants; donating a fixed percentage of the group's revenue; donating for each year clean; donating as a way of making silent amends; the use of prudent reserves for worst case scenarios only; and "show-me" philosophies for the use of funds.

## **Issue Discussion Topics for 1998-99**

The conference prioritized two Issue Discussion topics for the 1998-99 Conference Year. Those topics were: 1) Improving fellowship communication; and 2) Resolution A. The deadline for Issue Discussion Topic papers to be included in the *Conference Agenda Report* mailing is December 1, 1998.

All members of our fellowship are encouraged to discuss these topics, and to report on any results of those discussions, to world services so that next year's conference participants may all receive the benefits of hearing what our membership everywhere believes to be important with regard to these issues.

## **Policy**

In addition to forwarding all of their recommendations for future policy-oriented work to the new World Board, the Policy Committee also assisted with the elections process at WSC '98. Because the Human Resources Panel and the Co-facilitator positions were not filled, the WSC Chairperson asked Policy to make a recommendation as to how the conference might best re-open election for those two ballots. On Thursday, Policy was able to forward their recommendation, thus assisting the conference in the elections process this year.

## WSO Board of Directors

The WSO Board of Directors presented the "Group Readings Wallet Card" to the conference this year for consideration, and the wallet card was approved by the conference as a new inventory item for the WSO. Also, at the board's recommendation, the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* was amended to accommodate changes to language resulting from the change in world service structure as well as the changes that resulted from the adoption of *A Guide to Local Services* last year. Also at the board's recommendation, the "Intellectual Property Bulletin #1" was revised to include changes in service structure terminology, as well as changes that will help NA World Services be less likely to be sued or held accountable in lawsuits against local NA service bodies and/or events.

On Friday, 30 April, the board presented the WSO report. A question, answer, and comment period followed, covering the following topics: the coffee table book sales plans; the *Step Working Guides* price and availability; *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* registrations in new countries; recommendations about executive codirectors for the WSO; the 1997 balance sheet; the cost of organizing the Jimmy K archival material; "collection letters" to fellowship customers; recommendations from RG for an external performance audit at WSO; production cost for *The NA Way Magazine* and the need for separate line item for this publication; list of licensed vendors; other future expenses associated with the archive material; public knowledge of compensation for WSO executive codirectors and other employees; language on the cover letter for the financial audits; full text of the report on WSO executive codirectors; sales policy changes and relationship with Hazelden; projected changes in human resources; and sales of *"Just for Today: Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts"* in French.

The report also addressed that the website address will change effective 1 July 1998 to [www.na.org](http://www.na.org), as well as discussions that have been held about a secure services link (SSL) connection being established on the internet by the end of the year, the new WSO database and beta-testing beginning around September, validation of links to the WSO website, and marketing efforts at non-NA events and in the correctional setting.

## World Convention Corporation

On Friday, 30 April, the World Convention Corporation Chairperson gave the WCC report and provided up-to-date information about the world convention in San Jose this year. A question and answer period followed, covering: cost of the entertainment at the upcoming convention, room availability, flyer distribution and design, and negotiations in Colombia.



## CY 1999-99 budget

### World Service Meetings

Annual meeting.....	\$100,000
Development Forum.....	\$30,000
Leadership Orientation.....	\$25,000
World Board Meetings.....	\$109,000
Human Resource Panel.....	\$22,000
WSC Co-Facilitators.....	\$2,750
<b>Total world service mtgs.....</b>	<b>\$288,750</b>

### Fellowship dvlpmnt, add nds

Fellowship asst/workshops/ forums.....	\$40,000
<b>Total fellowship development.....</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

### Public relations

Professional events (non- NA).....	\$15,000
<b>Total public relations.....</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

### Administrative expenses

Bd & com phone/copying	
Bd & com mailings.....	\$18,000
Conference calls.....	\$18,000
Misc office supplies.....	\$2,500
Legal & Accounting Expense.....	\$50,000
<b>Total administrative.....</b>	<b>\$88,500</b>

### Publications

<i>Conference Agenda Report</i> .....	\$6,500
PI publications.....	\$1,200
<i>Reaching Out</i> .....	\$6,500
<i>Conference Report &amp; Digest</i> .....	\$6,000
Publications translations.....	\$12,000
<b>Total publications.....</b>	<b>\$32,200</b>

### Other

H&I literature stockpile.....	\$8,000
Unity Day.....	\$5,000
<b>Sub-Total Other.....</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

**Total WSC Budget .....\$ 477,450**

# Motions

**Format note:** *The following are all the motions approved at WSC'98, listed in the order of consideration.*

**Motion:** "To accept the Rules of Order." The following error was pointed out: RSR should be changed to RD throughout the document.

**Motion:** "To approve the WSC '97 minutes."

**Motion:** "To seat the Eastern New York Region as a participant."

**Motion:** "To seat the Uruguay Region."

**Motion #1:** "To implement Resolutions B and C-2 by adopting the following External Guidelines for the World Board. Further, that elections for the World Board be held at WSC 1998 with the new corporation taking effect 12 June 1998. The current Interim Committee, World Service Office Board of Directors, and the World Convention Corporation will continue to function until 11:59PM 11 June 1998. The Interim Committee will be responsible to make necessary decisions affecting NA world services and to assist in preparing the agenda for the first meeting of the new World Board."

**AMENDMENT:** Motion #78: Delete language in the last sentence of the Membership section: "The executive directors(s) of the WSO...will be non-voting members of the board."

**AMENDMENT:** Motion #79: Add language to the Accountability section of the World Board External Guidelines: "The external guidelines of the World Board are amendable only by action of the WSC."

**AMENDMENT** to Motion #1 as amended: Motion #73: "To amend the external guidelines for the World Board under section Removal of Members as follows: 'Members may be removed from the board by a 2/3 majority vote of the board. Further, the Conference may, by a 2/3 majority vote, direct the board to do so for the following causes:'"

**Motion #2:** "To implement Resolution E by adopting the following Guidelines for the Unified Budget for NA World Services."

**Motion #7:** "To approve the inclusion of the words '*Narcotics Anonymous*' in the name of the legal entity for the new World Board."

**Motion #3:** "To implement Resolutions F & G by adopting the following External Guidelines for the World Pool and the Human Resources Panel. Further, that elections for the Human Resources Panel be held at WSC 1998."

**AMENDMENT:** Motion #59: "To amend paragraph 2, section Nominations to read as follows: 'The Human Resource Panel will make nominations to the World Service Conference for election to the positions of the World Board and WSC Co-Facilitators. Nominations may also be

made for each position by conference participants but it is recommended that all perspective candidates go through the World Pool/Human Resource process. The World Service Conference will nominate the Human Resource Panel."

**Motion #4:** "To create and implement the conference positions of WSC Co-Facilitators by adopting the following guidelines. Further, that the WSC Co-Facilitators be elected at WSC 1998."

**Motion #5:** "To implement a two-year conference cycle beginning at the end of WSC 2000. Prior to implementation, all changes to conference policy will be presented to the World Service Conference by the World Board."

**Motion:** "To adopt the 1998 WSC election procedures for the World Board, Human Resource Panel, and WSC Co-Facilitators."

**AMENDMENT:** Motion #56: "To add language to the 1998 Election Procedures, section on membership that states: 'No anonymous nominations for the World Board be made at WSC '98.'"

**Motion #6:** "To approve the production of the Group Readings Wallet Card as shown in Addendum B."

**Motion #8:** "To amend the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* Instrument and Operational Rules as shown in Addendum C."

**Motion #9:** "To amend NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1, *Internal Use of NA Intellectual Property*, by changing the name of the World Service Office, Inc. to Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. as shown in Addendum D."

**Motion #10:** "To change the name of "regional service representative" to "regional delegate" and "RSR" to "RD" and remove all references to *The NA Way* wherever it appears in the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* Instrument and Operational Rules as shown in Addendum C."

**Motion #11:** "To amend NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1, *Internal Use of NA Intellectual Property*, as shown in Addendum D."

**Motion #13:** "To include the booklet *Narcotics Anonymous* (The Little White Book) in the World Services Translation Committee policy on Basic Text personal stories." (WSC '97 Motion 79b)

**Motion #16:** "To approve *The Institutional Group Guide*, as shown in Addendum E."

**AMENDMENT:** Motion #81: "To add *Behind the Walls* to the section entitled Some Other Recovery Oriented Publications in the *Institutional Group Guide* (Motion 16)."

**Motion #17:** "To approve the *Additional Needs Booklet*, as shown in Addendum F."

**Motion #18:** "To approve the *Outreach Booklet*, as shown in Addendum G."

**Motion #19:** "To approve the IP, *Self-Support, Principle and Practice*, as shown in Addendum H."

**Motion #93:** "To commit to the World Board the Goals section of the WSC PI Committee workplan proposal in Motion #22." (i.e. for revising *A Guide to Public Information* and the *Guide to Phoneline Service* handbooks.)

**Motion #23:** "To approve *The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides*, as shown in Addendum I."

**Motion #24:** "To approve the following as WSCLC's "A" work list for the 1998-99 conference year.

1. A new chapter on Sponsorship to be included in the Basic Text.
2. A new chapter on Service to be included in the Basic Text.
3. The addition/substitution of personal stories compiled from our worldwide fellowship in the Basic Text.."

**Motion #21:** "That all motions, amendments and any other input regarding revisions or additions to the Basic Text or the booklet *Narcotics Anonymous* (The Little White Book), be committed to the World Board who will compile and forward to the conference, in two years, a detailed proposal including options, budgets and timelines for those options." (Note: Before the vote, the chairperson stated that this will include Motion #24.)

**Motion:** "To commit Motion #49 ("To recommend that the WSC place Addendum K 'Am I too Young to be an Addict?', on the WSCLC's A-list.") to the World Board.

**Motion #77:** "To continue with the development of a sponsorship booklet as a new piece of literature. Said booklet should be given to the World Board Publications Committee with a final draft included in the *CAR 2000*."

**Motion:** "To commit motions #49 and #77 into the motion #21 process.

**Motion:** "no new nominations, hold elections for unfilled seats for the Co-facilitator position utilizing single transfer vote system." — regarding further elections after one co-facilitator had been elected.

**Motion #15:** "To select two issue discussion topics from the following list for discussion at the 1999 World Service Conference." Results were: 1) Improving fellowship communication, and 2) Resolution A.

**Motion:** "To adopt the 1998-1999 WSC Budget and Travel Reimbursement Policy."

**Motion #126:** "That all resumes submitted beginning in December 1997, that meet the minimum qualifications of five years clean time, be included in the World Pool."

**Motion #119:** "To amend *TWGWSS* page 31 under WS Translation Policy, section Personal Stories 1<sup>st</sup> sentence to read as follows: 'The NA Basic Text is translated from English into other languages including the Queen's English, in such a way as to achieve the same purpose.'"

**Motion #120:** "To authorize the World Board to evaluate and approve proposals to produce fellowship approved literature in Queen's English version."

**Motion #91:** "That selection by the groups of issue discussion topics in the *Conference Agenda Report* become an on-going procedure of the World Service Conference."

**Motion #107:** "To hold nominations and elections for any vacant seats on the World Board at WSC 1999. Nominations to be brought by WSC participants."

**Motion #115:** "To have a space on the agenda at WSC 99 for a zonal forum report session."

## **New Regions Seated**

Eastern New York Region

Uruguay Region