

Two-year Conference Cycle Report

Introduction

This report presents our recommendations to changes of the conference system that will allow us to begin the transition into a two-year cycle. We quickly realized that the most we could accomplish during our six-month project window is only a beginning. The details involved with many conference issues can be taken up after the transition has begun. Most of the items assigned to this project represent issues that the conference has discussed for many years. Criteria for recognition as a conference participant, funding attendance to the conference, and decision-making processes at the conference have been debated for over fifteen years.

We believe our responsibility in this project is to look at the entire conference system, rather than a simple modification of timelines to move from an annual to a biennial conference. What follows are our ideas for interdependent components that create a conference system that focuses on communication and helps the conference to become more effective at reaching its own mission statement.

The World Service Conference brings all elements of NA world services together to further the common welfare of NA. The WSC's mission is to unify NA worldwide by providing an event at which:

- *Participants propose and gain fellowship consensus on initiatives that further the NA world services vision;*
- *The fellowship, through an exchange of experience, strength, and hope, collectively expresses itself on matters affecting Narcotics Anonymous as a whole;*
- *NA groups have a mechanism to guide and direct the activities of NA world services;*
- *Participants ensure that the various elements of NA world services are ultimately responsible to the groups they serve;*
- *Participants are inspired with the joy of selfless service, and the knowledge that our efforts make a difference.*

The goal of this report is to present our work in progress in order to get your thoughts on our proposals. We included many of the options that we have discussed, along with our final recommendations, so that conference participants can understand the reasons behind our proposals. This report is being released in time to gather input at the World Service Meeting (WSM) and from conference participants unable to attend. It is our hope that we can create an effective dialogue in order to create a system that will help us all, as conference participants, better serve the fellowship. We ask you to review our work as a system, recognizing that each component included in this report is integral to the overall success of the system. This does not mean that there are not other alternatives to each component in this report, but that each component must be addressed if the system is to be effective. We believe that one of the reasons that most of the components we address have been discussed at the conference long before any of us were present, is that they were discussed as pieces rather than as a system. We believe that to just eliminate any of these components without replacing them with a workable alternative will negatively impact the entire system.

Having described to you the premise of this report, we are asking for your input. We hope to encourage an open dialogue about the ideas contained in this project at the World Service Meeting and to then produce new written material for *TWGWSS* to be included in the *CAR*. Rather than simply debating the components that we have described, we hope to hear your ideas and solutions for creating a more effective conference system.

We encourage each of you to provide us with written input. Your input can either be given to us at the WSM, sent by e-mail to worldboard@na.org, sent by mail to the WSO, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409, or by fax at 818-700-0700. We need to receive all input by the end of October, at the very latest, in order to finalize our work for inclusion in the *2000 Conference Agenda Report*.

Background

Other than the Transition Group's presentation of a two-year conference cycle in the 1998 *CAR*, there is very little background information that specifically references this project. Since what was intended by the adoption of this motion was never clearly defined or discussed, conference participants have been left with very different interpretations of what the adoption of this motion actually means or what identified problems it was trying to solve. Given this, we reviewed everything we could find about the operations of the WSC going back to the mid-1980's.

The conference adopted the following motion in 1998 (which has been the reason for our work):

*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.*

Intent: To change from an annual conference cycle to a two-year conference cycle beginning after WSC 2000.

Our premise has been that what the conference asked for was not simply a conference that meets half as often, but rather the beginning of improvements to the current conference system. In spite of the complex underlying issues that were discussed for many years, the conference still has no consensus on the resolutions offered by a variety of groups.

As previously reported, we focused our work on five main areas. We examined these areas as a system with components that work in conjunction with each other for the benefit of the overall conference system. These components include the goals and purpose of the two-year cycle, the event known as the World Service Conference, the conference work cycle and the *Conference Agenda Report*, the worldwide workshop system, and funding attendance to the WSC. This report captures our discussions and recommendations to date in each of these areas.

Summary of Our Recommendations

Our fellowship has experienced tremendous growth over the last fifteen years. This growth is reflected at the World Service Conference. In 1984, the conference had 47 participants present, with 34 regions, one being from outside of the US. At WSC 1999, there were 110 participants, representing 93 regions, 27 of which were from outside of the US. We truly have become a global NA community. With this growth has come many diverse and complex fellowship issues that affect NA as a whole.

Our first concept states that in order to fulfill our fellowship's primary purpose, the NA groups have joined together to create a structure that develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole. The World Service Conference is faced with the challenge of how to provide that service to NA groups around the world in an ever-growing fellowship. If the WSC is to effectively work on behalf of the fellowship, it must focus more on fellowship issues and less on the details and parliamentary gymnastics that do little to help our groups deal with the concerns and challenges they face everyday. We believe this goal can be best achieved by creating a discussion-oriented conference system that engages the fellowship in dialogue and prioritizes fellowship wide issues.

In the report that follows, we summarized our discussions and recommendations for several components of the conference system. We are recommending the following items to begin the transition to a more responsive conference system:

- Use the entire two-year conference cycle to consider and discuss new ideas and projects. The Worldwide Workshop System and the Process for Projects would be used as the primary tools for the initiation, discussion, and consideration of new ideas rather than motions in the CAR. Items in the CAR would reflect completed project work whenever possible.
- Move to a more consensus-based, discussion-oriented conference.
- Plan up to six workshops worldwide in the next conference cycle that are planned in partnership with zonal forums and delegates.
- A *Conference Agenda Report* that is released in English a minimum of 150 days before the conference, with translations being scheduled for release a minimum of 120 days prior to the conference.
- Limit seating on the conference floor to one delegate and one alternate per recognized region.
- Fund all Regional Delegates to attend the World Service Conference.
- Adopt criteria for recognizing a new or re-formed region as a conference participant
- Include in TWGWSS a description of zonal forums and add them to the chart of the "Narcotics Anonymous World Service System."

The Goals and Purpose of the Two-year Conference Cycle

Since the premise of our work is improvements to the conference system, it seems logical to begin with a discussion of what we believe is the goal and purpose of the event known as the World Service Conference. The system that we are trying to create revolves around making this event more productive for participants and more effective in serving a worldwide fellowship.

We agree that the WSC Mission Statement outlines the goals and purpose of the conference quite effectively but the conference itself often falls short of the goals that it outlines. Much of the other information describing the conference in the *Temporary Working Guide to the World Service Structure* is outdated and seems to reinforce things about the conference that have been previously identified as problems and actually serve to keep us from accomplishing our mission. We established a common vision for what we believe the WSC can or should be, in order to create a system that reinforces both that vision and the WSC Mission Statement.

Moving to a two-year cycle will involve both losses and gains as all change does. By recognizing what might be either lost or more difficult to accomplish in a two-year cycle, we hope to address these items or at the very least, acknowledge the change that the conference can expect. Potential losses and concerns include:

- ◆ *Annual face to face communication between all conference participants*
- ◆ *Annual communication by RDs to the fellowship*
- ◆ *Annual guidance to world board and WSO*
- ◆ *Annual problem solving and direction setting*
- ◆ *The current role, focus, and term of service for RDs and RDAs*
- ◆ *The annual unifying role of the WSC*
- ◆ *Apathy*
- ◆ *The WSC as a pressure relief valve*

After considering what the conference is now and what loss might result from moving to a biennial event, we held a brainstorming session to identify our dream for the conference of tomorrow. In this session everything was considered to be possible, there were no limits, no "wrong" answers. Each workgroup member participated and all thoughts were included. This became the vision, along with the WSC Mission Statement, that all of our proposals were created to support.

Our Vision for the Conference

Our vision for the WSC is one in which everyone works together as a united, cohesive body focused on our worldwide mission. The conference week would be a reflection of the effectiveness and communication of the preceding two-years. Throughout the two-year cycle, written communications and face-to-face-interactions and workshops would be focused on providing all participants with a grasp of the issues at hand and the agenda of the upcoming conference. The two-year cycle would be used to strengthen the dialogue between all of world services. It would also allow us to provide better communication and feedback to the fellowship through delegates and the rest of world services. We would spend our time effectively planning work and in dialogue as work proceeds on projects. The emphasis of the work of the conference would become much more fellowship focused. We would slow down our pace and concentrate on the quality of our work and service to the fellowship rather than on how much we can get done.

The conference would become an integral part of long-range planning in the development and approval of new projects and ideas to serve the fellowship. The items in the CAR would be minimized and would represent the end of a two-year process. There would be a greater understanding of what was being presented in the CAR because it would be only one part of our process. All conference participants working together would increase trust in each other and the system.

The conference week would be focused on consensus-based processes with informed discussions that move the body to resolution. The conference would provide education to all participants through sharing experience, strength, and hope about current issues of relevance to NA communities worldwide. The conference meeting would be a productive experience, rather than the current mentality of "contain and survive."

There would be a more complete orientation for each conference that would capture what will be addressed allowing all participants to participate fully. Full and equal participation rights would be granted to all conference participants, including simultaneous translations for all languages present. The conference week would support and represent the growing maturity of our fellowship. The World Service Conference might someday move around the world.

Business sessions and motions would be a tool used only when necessary to formalize a decision of the body. The majority of the conference time would be spent in dialogue to better utilize our limited time and resources. Our time at the conference would be used to help us understand all points of view and to create worldwide unity.

None of these are truly new ideas. Most represent discussions that have occurred over many years. Are they idealistic? Perhaps, but to truly move to something new and better will require a cultural shift in what we expect at, and from, our World Service Conference.

The Conference Work Cycle

The routine services carried out by world services are not something that the conference spends much time addressing. Most of the reporting and discussions that take place between conferences and at the WSC are concerned with new or completed projects. We looked at how projects will be addressed or affected by a two-year conference cycle.

The Process for Projects adopted at WSC 1998 is still in many ways a theory for most of us. (We have attached it as Addendum **A** for your convenience.) It was designed to function in a two-year conference work cycle. We have just begun to see what its practical benefits and limitations may be. One thing we do know about this new process is that it demands effective communication and a partnership between all conference participants, regional delegates, and the World Board to make it work. We must establish and maintain a two-way dialogue in the time between conferences. We are all trained to use our current system that is focused on the *Conference Agenda Report* to initiate new projects. But if we keep these same practices and meet only once every two years, the conference will end up being even less responsive to the desires and needs of the fellowship.

The success of the conference work cycle and process for new ideas that become projects is dependent on ideas from individuals, groups, service committees, and the World Board throughout the two-year cycle. The World Board considers all ideas and their recommendation of whether or not the idea can become a feasible project is reported to all conference participants as soon as possible. Regional delegates will need to communicate their thoughts to the board long before the CAR deadline and

particularly after they receive these reports. Whether the delegates believe an idea should become a project or object to the idea completely, maintaining ongoing communication with the board will allow for a timely response prior to the conference. This ongoing communication can occur in writing, at World Service Meetings, workshops, etc.

If these ideas are placed in the *Conference Agenda Report* as regional motions, they will not be considered as a project for at least two years. The current conference policy requires that the board have time to develop a corresponding timeline, budget, and plan, and communicate them to delegates before they arrive at the WSC. This means that the CAR becomes the least effective and timely method to have a new idea considered. Using the CAR as we have in the past also means that the conference will be consumed with motions rather than spending time in discussion, and that the system we have created will not have an opportunity to succeed.

Does this require a change in policy? There are only two immediate changes we see as necessary—a policy for the creation and publication of service material and clarification of items presented to the conference for approval as “projects.” The service material policy is currently being addressed by a separate workgroup. We will address the “projects” issue here.

As we discussed at the conference, the World Board forwarded all new ideas to WSC 1999 as projects, including items like the database that is needed for routine operations of the WSO. The board believes that not all items like this can be forecast two or more years ahead of time. With more time and consideration, we believe that what the conference views as “world service projects” does not include every new idea. Business functions, like the database or opening a new literature distribution site, are business activities or routine services, rather than projects. The conference seemed to support this interpretation at WSC 1999.

It will require better communication and a commitment by all conference participants to use the *system* of the conference cycle and the *process* for projects, rather than the *Conference Agenda Report*. In other words, we will need to participate in the entire system and change the way in which we utilize the CAR. Although only the World Service Conference will approve projects, it is our hope that in the future, we will have a good sense of what projects we do or do not want through the two-year cycle and definitely before we arrive at the conference meeting.

The Transition Group’s report included in the 1998 *Conference Agenda Report* stated:

“Our present “one-year” conference cycle is, for all practical purposes, actually a six-month work cycle. Each year in April, we hold our annual WSC. Office staff and trusted servants alike then scramble afterwards to shift priorities to accommodate the recent conference’s actions, as well as, to report on the proceedings. For all intents and purposes, the actual work mandated by conference actions starts up in June. The *Conference Agenda Report* deadline is December 1. The result? A six-month window, from the middle of June until the middle of December, to complete all board and committee work assigned by the conference so that the CAR can be distributed in January, in time for CAR workshops across the fellowship.

We believe that the two-year cycle will lengthen the actual work cycle to approximately fifteen months—a more realistic time frame in which to complete conference-prioritized work. Within the two-year cycle, projects can proceed from

the June following the conference, through the first of September of the following year—a fifteen month work cycle.

Lengthened review/input and translations processes

Two commonly held complaints about our current system are that (1) our membership rarely has adequate time to review and input world service projects and (2) our translations are either not timely or, when they are produced within a timely fashion, prohibitively expensive.

The two-year conference cycle can allow for greater fellowship review and input, especially in light of the new project development and prioritization process. In fact, we believe that a two-year cycle could easily allow a 150-day CAR review period instead of the current 90-day review period. Additionally, the two-year cycle can allow for longer translation windows, thus reducing translations expenses for service-related communications and reporting. The other advantage offered by the lengthening of the review/input time-frame, is the fact that our membership will have had communication from world services during the life of all world service projects, and so they'll be better prepared to deal with those projects prior to the World Service Conference every two years."

Not much has changed since this report was issued and we support the ideas that the Transition Group presented. There are stacks of background information contained in the inventory and in reports made by subsequent groups that address this issue. Since it appears that the conference understands and supports this idea, we are not including more background information at the moment.

Recommendation:

To state our desire to use the Process for Projects for consideration of new ideas rather than presenting these ideas as motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*. The entire two-year conference cycle will be used to consider and discuss new ideas and projects and to provide input on projects already in development. This will be accomplished through effective written communication as well as, face-to-face interactions such as the Worldwide Workshop System, World Service Meetings, and zonal forum meetings. Items included in the CAR for fellowship review and approval would focus on completed project work that the delegates are already aware of and have had the opportunity to impact. The description of the conference work cycle would be rewritten in TWGWSS.

Decision-Making Processes at the World Service Conference

With the conference occurring every two years, the issue of what types of decisions the conference makes, how it provides direction, and how the time at the biennial (every other year) meeting is spent becomes critical.

One of the issues that has been discussed for many years is how the conference uses its time and the way that it makes decisions. Consensus-based, decision-making has been an ideal that we discussed for years and even adopted in theory as part of Resolution A. In a straw poll at WSC 1999, there was unanimous support for the World Board to make recommendations on how the conference can move toward consensus-based decision making. We all seem to want it but what is consensus based decision-making to us? For the purpose of this report, we are presenting consensus-based, decision-making as a process rather than the end result, that is, a decision or vote. The

issue of voting is one that has divided the conference for years and will not help to further this discussion.

In a two-year cycle, it is our hope that decisions made on items that have been in the *Conference Agenda Report* are clear by the time we arrive at the WSC. Consensus building should be the tool we use to help us focus on providing direction to world services and/or discussing issues that are currently facing the fellowship. In this sense, our vision of the conference is to provide guidance and direction through discussion rather than spending much of the time in business sessions. The elements that seem essential to consensus-based, decision-making are the opportunity for dialogue and the ability to hear all points of view. Many groups have written about this process over the years and we have provided some of that information here.

The Transition Group reported in 1998 that,

"The notion of "consensus based decision making" was the third source of considerable discussion and debate among TG members, as well as within the input we received. Some members believed that consensus-based decision making means discussions that conclude with the vast *majority* of the members coming to agreement. Others believed that such discussions must conclude with *unanimity*. While we believe that unanimity is something that conference participants should always strive for, we are not proposing that the World Service Conference be limited by a demand for it. Our ninth concept reminds service bodies to carefully consider all viewpoints. We believe that, for the purposes of our service bodies, consensus must be based on considering all viewpoints while at the same time trying to find the common ground that every participant can support, even when the eventual decision is not exactly as every participant may have desired. However, we also believe it will be necessary for the fellowship to discuss this issue, and be prepared to forward ideas and recommendations as to how the "consensus-based decision-making" described in Resolution A can become a practical reality at the "new" World Service Conference."

The Resolution Group reported in 1995 their vision of the conference:

"Rather than being primarily a forum for debate, where each side entrenches and defends their position in an effort to prevail, the World Service Conference should be a forum for consensus-building, where all sides share their perspectives in an effort to create initiatives which further our common welfare. The World Service Conference should feel more like a workshop than a deliberative body. Diverse perspectives should be aired in a lively discussion atmosphere whose objective is unity and a common bond. Out of this atmosphere should emerge resolutions about initiatives that are to be taken up by the World Board and/or the ad hoc committees." (1995 RG report, page 30)

The Transition Group followed up with this same theme in their report on Resolution A in 1998. In a section titled "A desire to move toward a more discussion-driven, consensus-based decision-making process," the TG incorporated several quotes originally included in the Composite Group report into the following statement:

"This element received more direct comment than any other in the 1994 WSC self-assessment. Participants noted a "lack of time at WSC for informal discussions" wherein "there is too little time set aside at World Service Conference meetings for informal, non-business-debate, small group, issue-oriented sharing sessions." (CG 60) Participants also believed that, "ego, personalities, best pitch, and lobbying," are big problems in the way we do business, stating that, "turf wars and personal agenda interfere with conference

interactions and our conduct of business. Parliamentary procedure is used inappropriately by some of those especially well versed in it, and cannot be used by those who are not experts, impeding equal participation in the process. 'Mic hogs' dominate the debate and impair the process. (CG 60)

The 1994 WSC also identified "personal, regional, and committee agenda[s], both stated and unstated," as significant problems, wherein "struggle and competition, rather than cooperation and mutual support, characterize conference proceedings. Regional 'wants' rather than the interests of the whole fellowship are what motivate many participants. The conference has a tendency to micromanage world services from the WSC floor, demanding that everything be done 'just this way' according to various participants' specific visions of how things should be done. Some participants even withhold relevant information in the process of debate lest that information divert the body from the decision they favor." (CG 61)

Parliamentary procedure and our rules of order were also identified as significant problems: "The conference is such that everything must be either right or wrong—no neutrals can emerge from it. The process lends itself to micro-management from the conference floor. 'Mic hogs' and Robert's Rules aficionados dominate the process and force the agenda." (CG 61) Meanwhile, WSC business sessions were defined as often "difficult to comprehend" because the "WSC gets caught up in parliamentary procedure. WSC business sessions are difficult for both English- and non-English-speaking participants to follow." (CG 61) "Business sessions, politics, [and] 'motion madness' "create a situation in which "politics divert the conference from handling motions in a calm, considered manner. North American issues dominate the agenda. 'Motion madness'—an obsession with making, debating, amending, and voting on business motions—is compounded by a 'taking care of business' mindset; the format of the Conference Agenda Report reinforces this. Too much time is spent on procedural debates." (CG 61)

So what does all this mean? To truly move to a more discussion-based conference it will take more than an understanding of consensus-based decision-making and the desire to move towards it. We believe that we have the potential to realize this goal if we do several things. We will need to maximize our use of the entire two year's leading up to each conference in order to adequately and effectively communicate the amount of information that we now try to cover in one week at the conference. This will require better planning, improved communication, and most importantly, a commitment to focus on the big picture. It will mean being prepared to make decisions on the work of the past two years when we arrive at the conference and not focusing on the details of what has already occurred.

We need to maximize the use of our time together to focus on those issues that truly affect our worldwide fellowship and allow the voice of the conference to be formed and heard. This means that we will have to be prepared to allow the majority of the conference time to be spent discussing large, global fellowship issues. Many of the questions and details that we all can become interested in will have to be addressed off of the conference floor or before the conference even begins.

At past conferences, small group discussions have been the best way that we found to help the conference reach consensus on an issue. The evaluations from the last two conferences, the reports from the Composite Group, Resolution Group, Transition

Group, and our collective experience seem to bear this out. Besides the obvious preparatory and logistical issues involved, what small group discussions require is sufficient time to conduct them.

We would like to see less time in business and reports and more time in issue-based discussions that impact our fellowship as a whole. We must change the nature of how we conduct business if we are to be successful in moving to an issue-based, discussion oriented consensus building process. This process requires a significant time commitment to work effectively. If the conference maintains its current schedule meeting from Sunday through Saturday, we have seven days every two years to conduct all of the business of the conference. If you consider the time spent in the opening session, world service reports, zonal forum reports, elections, the budget session, and old business, it leaves less than three days for other discussions and/or business.

The current size of the WSC, with well over one hundred conference participants, will challenge our ability to successfully move toward consensus-based, discussion-oriented processes that require small group environments to be successful. This issue must be addressed if we are to move forward. As the premise to all of our recommendations, we will offer solutions that support our basic desire to work toward our vision for the conference of consensus-based, discussion-oriented decision making. We should strive to make changes that build the sense of community, cohesion, and unity that encourages all conference participants to work together in partnership.

Recommendation:

We propose to amend TWGWSS to reflect how time at the conference will be spent.

Worldwide Workshop System**Background**

Since its inception, the Fellowship Development Plan (FDP) has called for the establishment of a fellowship-wide interactive workshop system by 1999-2000 that is developed by world services and uses all available fellowship experience. This objective is called out in Goal 8 of the FDP: "To improve world services' written and face-to-face communication with the fellowship." The rationale for this goal states, "Communication is a factor in everything we do. It was identified as a critical issue throughout the inventory process but has not been directly addressed by the resolutions. In addition to improving our written communications, world services also needs to increase communication with the fellowship in face-to-face workshops hosted by local NA communities..."

The Transition Group included the following language in its proposal for the two-year conference cycle:

"Proactive fellowship development and the world-wide workshop system:

The TG believes that moving to a two-year conference cycle may also allow for the creation of a fellowship-wide interactive workshop system as described in the Fellowship Development Plan by potentially (1) freeing up resources that might have otherwise gone toward conducting the annual meeting; and (2) by creating the possibility for increased face-to-face interaction between world services and our membership that could be made possible by the lengthened work cycle."

This, as yet undefined workshop system, was discussed as the “glue” that holds this new issue-based, discussion-oriented system together. It is intended to improve communication throughout the fellowship and help to address the communication loss from not having an annual conference. The big question is how we accomplish this. In this new system we are creating, there seems to be three separate needs for these workshops—fellowship issues, world service issues, and CAR/Delegate issues. There will need to be a training and education aspect addressed for each of these purposes.

Our vision is that these workshops will help world services to be more responsive to the fellowship we serve and create an opportunity for dialogue, training, and an exchange of experience, strength, and hope. We believe that they can become the hub that allows this new system to be effective and help delegates, World Board members, and WSO staff become more effective in their world service roles.

These workshops would be planned in coordination with existing zonal forums but would be a new type of event for Narcotics Anonymous. Perhaps in some part of the US it will become something that involves more than one zonal forum in the planning and implementation. The challenge that we see is, how to create a partnership that has workshops at least every two years in all parts of the world that are attended by members from throughout our service structure. Very few zonal forums have any more experience in reaching the general membership than world services. We acknowledge that there are some exceptions. How do we create a system that discusses group, area, regional, zonal, and world service experience with our principles and service efforts and has involvement and participation by trusted servants at all of these levels? We certainly do not see these workshops as being conducted by world services alone.

Geographic distance will affect our members' ability to attend these workshops, for expense reasons if no other. Making the topics and discussions relevant and interesting will be imperative in making our members interested in attending. If we can work together to make these workshops interesting and relevant, will our service structure and members be willing to participate? How small or large of a distance are our members able and willing to travel to attend these workshops?

If the fellowship and conference supports this idea, we would like to be able to experiment during the first two-year cycle. We want to be able to create workshops that are planned by world services, zonal forums, regions, and delegates. We would like to be able to have group, area, regional, zonal and world level experience together in choosing workshop topics and participating in panel-type presentations. We would also hope to attract a broad range of experience—recovery and service experience—in the members who attend.

We would partner with members from the zones, regions, and/or delegates involved in order to identify the goals, objectives, and issues that are to be addressed at each workshop. If we are to create effective partnerships, the needs of each specific part of the world will need to be discussed together and plans developed accordingly. Some zones may be better served by having these workshops planned as a separate event while some may prefer coordination with an existing event. The planning, participation, and implementation of these workshops will require all of us to work together to best address local fellowship needs. World services will provide overall coordination in planning these workshops, acting as the clearinghouse for communications, and may or may not be required to obtain the facility and coordinate the overall logistics.

Since no one model will work worldwide, we cannot yet know how many workshops we will be able to hold or what will best serve the overall needs. Much of this will be

dependent on world service and local human resources and the desire and willingness to participate in these efforts in different zones. The ability and distance of travel varies from zone to zone around the world and we believe that this system will have to remain flexible to be successful. We would like to be able to plan up to six workshops in this first conference cycle. Being experimental in nature, the specifics will vary depending on the conversations that occur with the local communities. We expect that these workshops will evolve over time and should be allowed the freedom to be worked out between world services and the local zones and delegates. At the same time, world services will continue to attend multi-regional and regional workshops, fellowship development activities, World Service Meetings, if they are called for, and zonal forum meetings.

We certainly have more experience with workshops that are focused on CAR and delegate issues, but we see these as very different from a "fellowship-wide interactive workshop system". With better communication and planning, we believe that this can be accomplished much as we do it now. World services currently attends most zonal forums and discusses these issues, that with an extended review period for the CAR should be even easier to accomplish.

We also want to continue to have the option to hold World Service Meetings as needed without mandating them. In the past, we used World Service Meetings to discuss and get input on projects that are in development prior to their inclusion in the CAR. We will not know if world services will benefit from holding a World Service Meeting until the specific project needs of each conference cycle are known. World services should have the option, as it does now, of planning these meetings when and if it will benefit our overall needs.

We need your input, especially from the zonal forums, on how we can, together, best accomplish both of these types of workshops. We do not believe that we can fully implement these workshops immediately but with a common goal, they can be implemented in stages and evolve over time.

Recommendation:

To plan up to six workshops worldwide during the next conference cycle. These workshops will be planned in partnership with zonal forums and delegates. The specifics of each workshop will depend on the discussions held with the participating communities.

The Conference Agenda Report

At WSC 1999 a motion was adopted that states: "That NA World Services publish the *Conference Agenda Report* a minimum of 180 days prior to the World Service Conference. Further, that translations as currently done to German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Swedish be completed prior to the release on that date. This policy to take effect in conjunction with the two-year conference cycle."

We are asking participants to reconsider the motion adopted at WSC'99 and support our forwarding an alternative proposal in the *2000 Conference Agenda Report* for several reasons. The motion as written does not state what portions of the *Conference Agenda Report* would be translated. The standard has been to translate the front portion of the CAR only, excluding any appendix or addenda. For the 1999 CAR, we experimented with translating the issue discussion papers, which had never been done before. If we

are to be held to the standard of translating the entire *CAR*, we would not always be able to accomplish it, regardless of the time allowed. Book length pieces of recovery literature are included in the *CAR* as addenda. Most translations of recovery material are done by local NA communities, with only a few of the major language groups using a translator hired by world services. The editing and review are done in the local communities. Either way, it is a long and involved process that entails much more than just a literal word for word translation.

With all of the unknowns in this new cycle, we believe it is much more realistic to establish 150 days before the conference as the minimum for the release of the *CAR* in English, with translations being scheduled for release a minimum of 120 days prior to the conference. (A complete conference cycle timeline is attached as Addendum B.) For translated versions, that represents doubling the time that the *CAR* is currently available for review and fellowship approval. We also recommend that only the front portion of the *CAR* be mandated by policy to be translated. This would allow the board to translate more than is mandated if it is possible. This will be dependent on the information contained in the rest of the *CAR* and the timing involved. This proposed timeline concurs with one of our primary goals of maximizing the time allotted for fellowship discussion of issues in a two-year conference cycle.

We also recommend that the languages not be made policy. The five languages specified in the motion are only the current languages that we are able to reliably translate. This may change in the near or distant future. Last year, the World Board created *NAWS News* and distributed it in all of these languages, in addition to translating more of the 1999 *CAR* than was required, without being mandated to do so. We are asking that you grant us latitude in carrying out this function and would like to point out that very specific policies often serve to restrict our ability to respond to the requests that we receive. This will be even more of a challenge when the conference only meets every two years.

The new system, with a worldwide workshop system and the process for projects, allows for greater discussion of all the work of world services and the needs of the fellowship. The *CAR* should be much less a "surprise" than it currently is and contain work that is more of a culmination of a two-year discussion. This system is designed to change the way we currently utilize the *Conference Agenda Report*.

The motion as adopted at WSC 1999 would make a minimum of 270 days prior to the conference for the *CAR* deadline to allow for translations and the uncertainty involved with contracted translators. With the deadline for regional motions being a minimum of thirty days prior to the *CAR* deadline, this makes at least a 300-day deadline prior to the conference for regional access to the *CAR*. This timeline eliminates any time sensitive information from being contained in the *CAR* from world services or regions, while we are moving to a two-year conference cycle. Our suggestion is to not make both timeframes so restrictive at the same time. Allow us to experiment with the first *Conference Agenda Report* for the two-year cycle with the timeline that we have outlined. If it is not adequate, it can be changed once the transition to the two-year cycle has begun.

Recommendation:

That the CAR be released in English a minimum of 150 days before the conference, with translations being scheduled for release a minimum of 120 days prior to the conference. We also recommend that we only require the front portion of the CAR to be translated and that the specific languages for translations not be made conference policy.

Participation at the World Service Conference

Regional Delegates and Alternates

A straw poll at WSC 1999 showed approximately ninety percent of the conference in support of each region having two seats at the World Service Conference. In other words, no matter how many delegates, alternate delegates, or mentors a region may choose to have, one delegate and one alternate would be seated on the floor of the WSC.

We discussed a range of possibilities for delegate and alternate seating and participation on the floor of the conference. The options we discussed were:

1. To make seating at the conference limited to one delegate and one alternate per region.
2. Everything that is stated above with the addition of a voice and interaction in all non-business conference sessions for the alternate delegate.
3. Everything that is stated above with the addition of a voice and interaction in all conference sessions for the alternate delegate.
4. Everything that is stated above with the addition of full participation, including voting for the alternate delegate.

We unanimously support option one—to make seating at the conference limited to one delegate and one alternate per region. This option would allow us to better plan conference activities and help to limit the ever-growing number of conference participants. We recognize that some regions have chosen to address their individual service needs by electing more than two people to represent their region. We do not believe that the overall needs of the conference and local service needs should be considered as the same thing. Local communities may create whatever best serves their needs, but the conference must also be able to address what serves its best overall needs. Additional people sent by a region to the conference are always welcome to observe the process and learn about the conference by sitting in the observer's section of seating provided at every World Service Conference.

We also realize that participation by alternates at the conference is an emotional issue. We do not have a co-delegate conference system and the role of the alternate at the conference is primarily to learn what the functions of a delegate are, regardless of what their role may be in their local community. We see the training needs at the conference diminishing as we move to more of a discussion-based conference and one that is less focused on parliamentary gymnastics. Having an alternate at the conference is also a luxury that not all regions can afford.

We had several board members who were also in support of option two—to provide voice and interaction privileges to the alternates in all non-business sessions. We do not

believe that this should become conference policy, but is something we should strive for as we reduce the time spent in business sessions at the WSC. We expect the role of the alternate to evolve in a discussion-based system that meets every two years. We do not believe that we could possibly know, at this point, what all that might entail until we experience it.

Recommendation:

We recommend limiting seating at the conference to one delegate and one alternate per recognized region.

Funding Conference Participants

Two ideas have been discussed for many years to address the inequity of the financial burden for attendance to the WSC and to ensure worldwide access to the fellowship's decision making body. The ideas offered as possible solutions are cost equalization and full funding. In the 1998 CAR, the Transition Group addressed the issue of funding in the introduction of its motion on the two-year conference. The TG said, "We believe that moving to a two-year cycle may reduce the overall expense associated with the World Service Conference, thus making it possible for the first time, to consider funding all board members, as well as all regional delegates, to the conference, either through cost equalization, full funding, or a combination of the two. This advantage of a two-year cycle could also make the playing field far more level for international participants, as well as all members who might not otherwise have the personal resources to serve at this level." While we do not expect the overall reduction to the extent referred to in that report, we do believe that it is time to come to some resolution on this issue.

While sentiment at WSC'99 was mixed on the issue of funding, the conference seemed to only have the opportunity to discuss keeping the status quo and adopting better criteria for funding assistance to the WSC. The conference discussed this without the benefit of the background material and historical information needed to have a full discussion of the issue. This could be accomplished by establishing criteria for recognition as a conference participant, if this is the direction that we want to pursue.

We believe that some sort of funding plan seems to be the most logical way for us to collectively take responsibility for attendance to the conference. We will always need to provide some level of financial assistance for an event that is held in the US due to the costs of international travel and the available financial resources for many of those regions that end up burdened with the highest costs. We are certainly not looking for ways for regions or world services to spend more money, but if we want to try to equalize access to the conference, and participation by a worldwide fellowship is a top priority, then investing in and standardizing this priority makes sense. We believe the ideal situation would be if some funding mechanism could be implemented that would guarantee the attendance of every recognized conference participant.

In order to consider all options, we first identified the cost of funding delegate participation at the WSC. For purposes of this discussion, we compiled figures for funding the RD only. At the current number of regions, the total cost for transportation, lodging, and meals for ninety-five (95) RD's to attend a World Service Conference that is

held in Southern California is about \$140,000. This total was determined by using our standard budget figures for projecting the cost for domestic and international travel. These figures represent conservative expense estimates that have worked well for us in the past.

Then we considered the current cost for an individual RD to attend the conference. A shared hotel room for eight days is \$400 and a meal allowance of \$40 per day is an additional \$320. If airfare is only \$100, and there is no transportation expense to and from the Los Angeles airport, the minimum expense still totals \$820. If the delegate lives within driving distance of the conference, their expenses (for hotel, meals, parking) reduced to only seven days, would still total \$675, plus gasoline or mileage expenses.

We took these figures and applied them to the following options for funding attendance to the WSC. We unanimously concluded that to effectively accomplish any of these options, they would need to be accompanied by clear criteria for recognition as a conference participant.

1. Cost Averaging

Each region pays a fixed amount for their participation by dividing the total cost of delegate funding by the number of seated regions. Currently, this option would mean that each region would pay approximately \$1400 for their regional delegate to attend each WSC, or approximately \$700 per year.

2. Cost averaging with continued assistance

Each region pays the same \$1400 as specified above in option one but we continue to subsidize those regions that cannot pay the averaged cost based on specified criteria. The costs remain the same as in option one for regions with some additional portion paid for by world services. At our current funding level, world services spends around \$40,000 to provide DF assistance for RD attendance at the conference.

3. Partial flat rate funding

Partially fund each RD by requiring each region to pay \$600 with the balance of expenses to be paid by world services. If partial funding is offered to all, there would still be regions that would need further assistance. Based on the current average number of regions requiring assistance, this option would result in regions paying about \$50,000 towards the total cost with world services paying approximately \$90,000.

4. Funding for Regional Delegates

The approximate total cost of \$140,000 for funding RD attendance to the WSC would be borne by world services at no cost to regions.

5. Funding for Regional Delegates and Alternates

The approximate total cost of \$280,000 for funding RD and RDA attendance at the WSC would be borne by world services at no cost to regions.

6. Developmental assistance only

If we are to proceed with simply a more defined process for what we now call Development Forum funding, we recommend a dollar amount approved by the conference and simple criteria. The region should be isolated by geography, language, or customs and have a clear need for funding. We have only received one piece of input on this issue from a zonal forum and it suggests taking US regions out of consideration and establishing some sort of a limit.

In order to effectively have the discussion about funding assistance, we would like to discuss the original intent of providing assistance. The DF was created because of a belief that the conference was beginning to make decisions that affected a worldwide fellowship without worldwide participation in the decision-making process. There are many regions around the world that would effectively be eliminated from attendance at the WSC if it meant funding travel to an event held only in the United States. The decision to hold the conference in the US has occurred due to the majority of delegates coming from the US and the cost of moving staff and equipment.

We believe our original premise that it is the responsibility of the conference to assure access to the conference, while acknowledging that there will always be regions requiring assistance. Conference participants at the World Service Conference are all delegates and World Board members. Currently, we fund World Board members and approximately twenty delegates.

We propose that world services fund each regional delegate to attend the conference every two years. Our recommendation is contingent on adopting criteria for recognition of new conference participants. Once a region is recognized as a conference participant, their delegate would automatically be funded to attend the conference. This proposal, with current costs and number of regions, would cost us approximately \$140,000 per conference, or \$70,000 per year. This recommendation guarantees that all regions will have one delegate representing them at every conference. The result of this recommendation is that every conference participant—world board members and delegates—would be funded to attend the single event where decisions are made on behalf of NA as a whole.

The primary reason we heard as to why the conference would not want to take this direction is fear of funds being withheld. We recognize that many regions may not take the funds they currently spend on delegate attendance to the WSC and forward them to world services. We do not believe that fear of what might happen is sufficient reason to *not* adopt this idea. If we all believe that participation at the WSC is a top priority, then the fellowship will respond and take responsibility for this decision. The fellowship has continued to respond to the needs of world services by increasing donations each conference year.

Alternates would continue to be funded by their respective regions. We understand that this means that some regions will be able to fund the participation of an alternate, while other regions will not have the available funds. We recognize that this recommendation does not totally resolve the disparity in representation since some regions will continue to attend the WSC without the benefit of the RDA participation enjoyed by certain regions. Funding attendance to the conference for delegates and alternates does not seem prudent at this time.

Recommendation:

To fund all conference participants—World Board members and one delegate from each recognized region—to the World Service Conference every two years.

Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants

This is another issue that the conference has wrestled with for many, many years. What is the purpose of participation on the conference floor? The conference is intended to

represent the voice of the fellowship and all of its diversity. We strive to have a spiritually based process rather than a democratic or political system. We say that we support the idea of downsizing the World Service Conference, but at the same time have been unwilling to create any criteria for being recognized as a conference participant. Straw polls at WSC 1999 indicated that approximately eighty percent of the conference supported some type of admissions panel and sixty-five to seventy percent supported the establishment of some criteria for conference recognition.

When the Regional Assistance Panel (RAP) was created in 1992, all of its ability to proceed with anything that might not result in recognizing a new region as a conference participant was removed. As a result, the Regional Assistance Panel has largely been limited to simply an information gathering process without the benefit to regions or world services that was originally intended. The RAP guidelines adopted by the conference never gave it the ability to consider the separation of local service needs as a reason to create a new region from recognizing the newly formed region as a conference participant. As a result, we continue to have an emotionally charged process for both the conference and the delegate requesting conference recognition for their region.

We do not see any productive purpose in creating a new RAP panel, without clear criteria. Our current practice puts every conference participant in the position of feeling like we are denying membership to a region by not seating them. Without a structured, objective process for considering the issue of recognizing a new region, we will, by default, simply perpetuate a process that will undermine any attempt to adopt meaningful criteria for recognition that can move us forward.

We believe that there must be criteria for conference recognition. Criteria would allow the conference to base its decision on established parameters, which are clear to both the conference and to the delegate requesting conference recognition. If criteria are established by the conference, we also believe that it should provide the World Board with the ability to have discussions with those regions requesting conference recognition, in a productive manner before any request comes to the conference.

One of the realities for all of the various bodies that have tried to develop criteria for conference recognition is that the criteria ends up being aimed at controlling the proliferation of United States regions. This may not be a popular issue to raise, but one that we feel must be discussed. With all of the currently seated US regions is it really possible that the sense and voice of our US members are not already represented at the conference? If a local community chooses to split from an already seated region because of local service needs, is there any reason why they could not continue to attend existing assemblies or participate in existing processes of the seated region for the purpose of voting on the CAR? We do not think so.

While it may be true that establishing criteria will more immediately impact regions in the US, this will not always be the case, as our fellowship grows worldwide. Addressing the issue of criteria will always be uncomfortable for us because it will always seem to immediately impact some NA community more than another. As we focus on our vision and mission we will keep being confronted with this issue until we address it.

If the conference is to represent a worldwide fellowship, become more discussion-oriented, and at the same time strive for consensus building in our decision-making, the growth of the conference has to be slowed. With over 850 area committees around the world, the conference will never be able to handle regional representation from regions created to address or improve every local service need that arises. Local service structures should always have the ability to take whatever steps they deem necessary to

meet the needs of their NA communities. However, addressing local needs should not result in actions that arbitrarily alter the size and the ability to function at the WSC.

The local service need for division of an already seated region may exist but to translate that to conference participation does not seem to make sense, unless the region is truly isolated in some way. We must acknowledge that local service delivery needs may arise that necessitate dividing existing regions. However, these local service needs must also be separated from the issue of recognition as a conference participant. Our concepts state that NA creates a service structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole. In order to do this, the conference must represent the voice of NA as a whole and remain at a size that can function effectively. The conference has stated that it supports the idea of downsizing without a clear idea of what that might mean in the future. What we are proposing is that we must minimally control the unrestrained growth of the conference population. To accomplish this responsibility to NA as a whole, we must separate local service issues from conference participation and fulfill our global mission to NA as a growing, worldwide fellowship.

Conference participation must seek to reflect the voice and diversity of a worldwide fellowship. In the US, regions are within driving distance of each other and the members speak the same language. While it may seem like we are focusing on the US regions, we would say the same thing as it relates to any part of the world where similar circumstances existed. For many other countries around the world, geographic isolation and/or language typically make it impossible for these NA communities to have their voice represented at the conference in any way other than conference participation.

We believe that this issue will continue to challenge the conference's ability to handle both requests for conference recognition and deal with its own size and purpose until we resolve it. The continued growth of conference participants will complicate, and possibly even undermine, our efforts at becoming more focused on discussion and consensus. Consensus and issues discussions are processes that require extended and/or small group interactions that cannot be successful in overpopulated conference sessions.

The issue of the formation, division, and conference recognition of regions has been passionately discussed and debated in world services for the past fifteen years. In 1987, the Select Committee stated the following in their draft of *A Guide to NA Service*:

"Each region should conform to established boundaries, equivalent to state, territorial, provincial, or national boundaries, unless there are extraordinary circumstances to the contrary.

Extraordinary conditions under which divisions shall be considered to establish multiple regions within the existing boundaries are restricted to large NA populations, great geographic distances, specific legal concerns, or such diversity of language or custom so as to impede effective, direct communication. Regional boundaries may be re-formed after the petition for reformation has been given substantial consideration and approval.

As the Narcotics Anonymous population of a region grows to the point where the RSR and other trusted servants can no longer provide adequate service and communication, it may become necessary to form new regions. When considering this action, every effort should be made to determine if the existing problems warrant the creation of a new region

or if they could be resolved by improving the existing structure or by adding new local services.”

We generally agree with their statement and believe that this statement lays the foundation for what needs to be addressed by criteria for conference recognition. We offer the following as our recommendation for recognition of new conference participants.

1. A new region is eligible to apply for recognition as a conference participant after having functioned as a service body for at least three years. For regions forming out of an already existing region, the newly formed region has to have functioned as a separate body for at least three years.
2. New regions should conform to established geographical boundaries, equivalent to state, territorial, provincial, or national boundaries, unless there are certain conditions to the contrary. A region forming out of an already existing region may be seated at the conference by demonstrating that it meets the specific conditions that necessitate separation. From time to time, local service delivery needs arise in existing regions that result in the establishment of multiple regions. These circumstances should be reserved for situations caused as a result of large NA populations, great geographic distances, or such diversity of language or custom so as to impede effective, direct communication between the service committee and the fellowship.
3. A region that meets these criteria may then initiate their request to be recognized as a conference participant by submitting a letter of intent to the World Board not less than one year before a World Service Conference.
4. Upon receiving notification from the region, the World Board will request that the region provide information on the current and past history of the service delivery within the region. The board will provide the region with the type of information that should be provided.
5. If the region is forming out of an already existing region, the new region should also provide information as to the nature of the extraordinary circumstances that precipitated the formation of their region, and summarize the consideration and decision-making processes used to create the new region. This statement should also address what special circumstances exist that would preclude the new region from continuing to have its voice heard at the conference by simply participating in some form of shared services (regional assemblies, workshops, or any form of participation in collecting group conscience) with the old region.
6. All regions will also be asked to answer questions such as:
 - Why do you want to become a conference participant?
 - Do you believe that the voice of your NA community is not currently being heard at the WSC? If so, why?
 - Do you believe your community has enough NA service and recovery experience to be a positive contributor to the global decision-making process for the fellowship? If so, explain how.
 - Will participation at the conference affect your local NA community? If so, how.
 - Do you believe that your region adds a voice or a value to the conference that does not exist in the current conference body?

7. The World Board reviews the information provided using a group of conference participants—world board members and regional delegates—who are involved in the process, while working directly with the region to obtain any further information. Interactions between the board and the region may continue until the board is satisfied it has collected all the information needed. The board and the delegates involved will then produce a final report with recommendations for the conference. The requesting region will see the report before it is distributed to conference participants and may include any additional information they believe is relevant. A report of the information will then be distributed to conference participants prior to the WSC. Due to the complex nature of regional development, each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, rather than through some arbitrary criteria that establishes minimum sizes and structure of regions in order to address local service issues.
8. Upon the presentation of information to the WSC, the conference will consider the request. Formal recognition as a conference participant requires a two-thirds vote of approval by the conference. There is no need or funding provided for the requesting region to be present at the conference that their request is being considered.
9. The addition of the new region will take effect upon the close of the World Service Conference at which its application is approved. Upon approval, the newly recognized region's delegate is automatically funded to the next WSC.

We believe that this criteria will help to stabilize the conference body and provide equity in access to the World Service Conference. This proposal goes along with our recommendation to fund all recognized delegates to the World Service Conference.

Recommendation:

To adopt the proposed criteria for recognition of a new conference participant as described in items one through nine above.

Zonal Forums

Zonal forums and their role in the service structure is another issue that the conference and the fellowship have wrestled with for some time. We seem to have no truly new issues to address in this project, but seek to clarify our position regarding zonal forum participation at the conference.

At WSC 1992, after small group discussions on a Development Forum topic on networking, the conference adopted the following resolution as their statement regarding zonal forums. That resolution states, "The World Service Conference affirms that zonal forums, as service-oriented sharing sessions that provide the means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another, are valuable components of NA. We support the continued work of the zonal forums that exist today worldwide and encourage any further efforts NA communities may take to support one another." This was a first step to legitimize what was occurring in the fellowship but was not described in any of our service material.

In 1997, the conference amended the 1992 resolution by adding the following language: "When requested by the conference, the designated representative of any zonal forum will be allowed to address the conference, make reports, and answer questions pertaining to specific information. Any zonal forum with a registered address with the

WSO will receive the same WSC mailings as conference participants." In 1998, the conference adopted a motion to allow zonal forum reports at WSC 1999 for the first time. The response to these reports was such that a motion was adopted at this year's conference that states, "To have a space on the agenda for zonal forum report sessions at all future WSCs."

So where do zonal forums fit into our current service structure? Currently, the conference and zonal forums interact through reporting at the conference. Also included are, zonal contacts in conference participant mailings, sometimes using zones as a clearinghouse for coordinating service efforts, such as professional events and fellowship development trips, world service attendance at zonal forum meetings, and by world service providing funding for some participants attendance to zonal forums. This interaction is in its infancy in many ways and we acknowledge that we have much to learn in improving communication in both directions and in the development of partnerships between world services and zones.

We do not see the evolving and emerging role of zones and the role of world services as being in conflict or competition. As stated, we do believe that there is much we can do to improve the interaction. Besides improving what we currently do, we discussed possible changes to this interaction that ranged from mild to extreme change. While we recognize that the following options are not all of the possibilities, they represent what we saw as the significant options of interaction between the conference and zones which is all we had time to explore. The options we discussed at length are:

1. The existing practices as stated above with the addition of formalizing zonal forums by including them on our organizational chart for the world service structure (as attached in Addendum C) without making them a part of the representative system, making zones an integral part of the worldwide workshop system, and making the improvement of communication between world services and zones a priority.
2. Everything that was stated above with the addition of a voice and interaction at WSC for a representative from each zone in all non-business sessions.
3. Everything that was stated above with the addition of a voice and interaction in all conference sessions by a representative from each zone. This would make them a non-voting conference participant.
4. Everything that was stated above with the addition of voting rights for a representative from each zone. This would make them full conference participants.

It should come as no surprise that this was a difficult discussion for both the workgroup and the World Board. We are all in support of moving to option one. We had no consensus in support of any of the other options, although we had some members in support of options two and four. The board seems to reflect the same diversity that has been present at the conference when discussing this issue.

The difficulty in supporting any of the options beyond option one is centered around our current representative system and our desire to not implement zonal representation as the solution to Resolution A, without a clear decision by the conference to do so. We believe that the communication that is lost in a two-year conference cycle would be further compounded if only zonal representatives attended the WSC. It would take local communities even farther away from decisions at the conference and much of the current diversity and international flavor of the conference would be lost. We believe that the voice of the NA communities who are attending zonal forums, but who are not regions or funded DF participants, is carried by all the other conference participants who

attend that zonal forum and would not be carried differently in a significant way by a zonal representative.

We did have several members who believe that you can include zones as a part of the conference voice without getting into the issue of representation. This is covered by what we call option two above. Their belief is that inclusion of this voice at the conference will better allow the conference to assess the value of this participation and make a decision about Resolution A in the future.

It is not our purpose in this project to implement Resolution A. Given the history of this issue and discussions that have occurred at the past four conferences, this is not an issue that should be decided lightly or as a piece of a multiple part project like this one. We do believe that we should let you know what the options are that we explored. We believe that with the change offered in option one, that this issue will evolve over the years and be decided at a later date by a future conference.

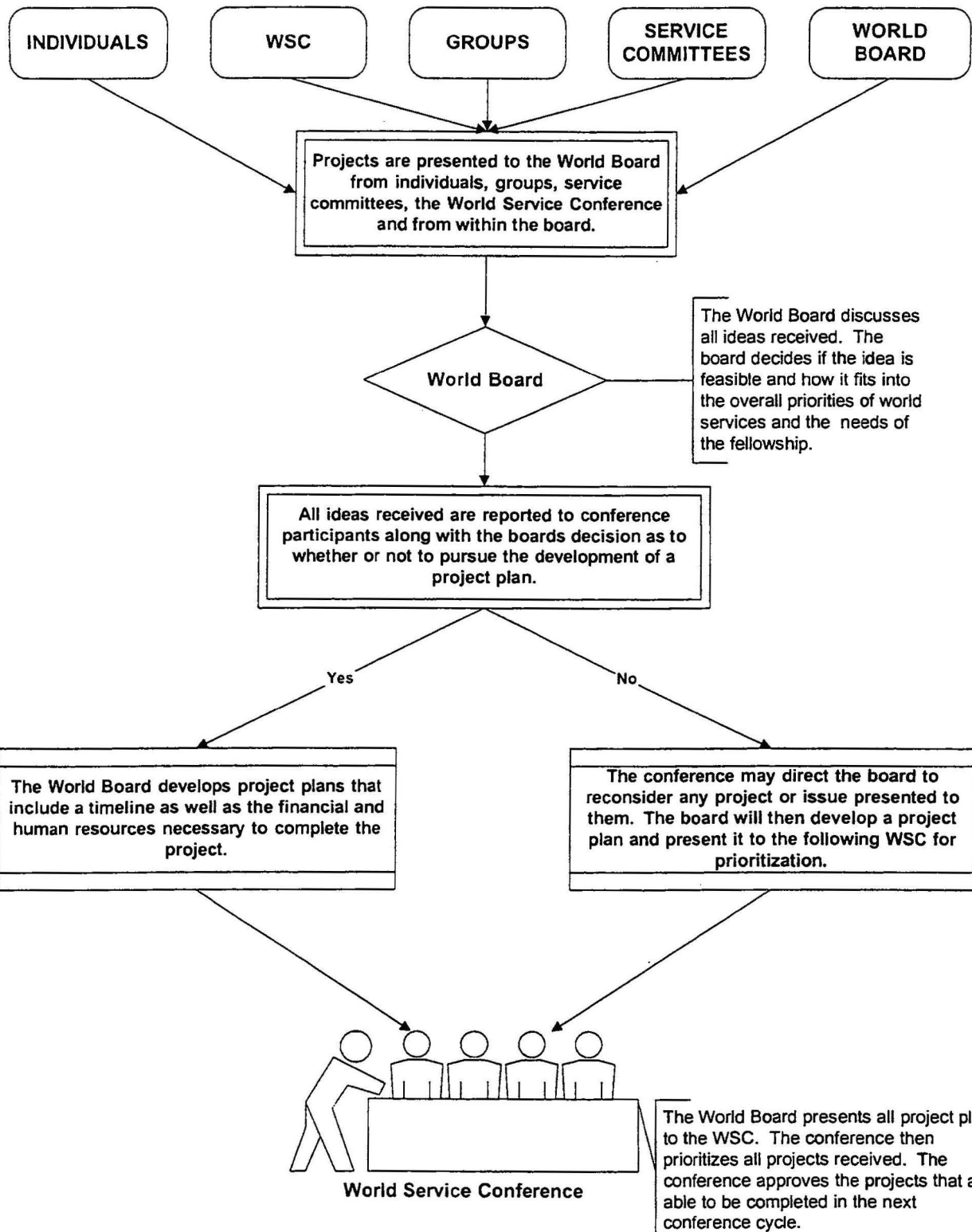
Recommendation:

To include in TWGWSS a description of zonal forums and add them to the chart of the "Narcotics Anonymous World Service System" contained in the TWGWSS.

The statement in TWGWSS would read:

"Zonal forums, as service-oriented sharing sessions that provide the means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another, are valuable components of NA. Although not a part of NA's formal decision making system, the world services and zonal forums interact in many ways. Zonal forums provide reports on the floor of the World Service Conference and are provided with conference participant mailings. World Services typically attends zonal forum meetings, and may provide funding for some participants' attendance to zonal forums. Maintaining effective communication between the zonal forums and world services is a high priority. In order to more effectively serve the fellowship, world services and zones should develop a partnership for the planning and conducting of the worldwide workshop system, and by assisting each other in the coordination of a variety of service efforts such as professional events and fellowship development activities."

**Addendum A
Process for New Projects**



Addendum B

Proposed Conference Work Cycle

W S C	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	W S C			
		Projects approved at WSC are worked on																									
	Issues adopted at WSC are discussed fellowship wide																										
															WCNA												
		Workshops are held around the world																									
									WSM(s) may be held																		
																	← Regional Deadline										
																	← CAR Deadline										
																			CAR Released								
																				Translated CAR Released							
																				CAR Workshops							

Conference Work Cycle as Adopted by WSC

W S C	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	W S C			
		Projects approved at WSC are worked on																									
	Issues adopted at WSC are discussed fellowship wide																										
															WCNA												
		Workshops are held around the world																									
									WSM(s)																		
															← Regional Deadline												
															← CAR Deadline												
																		CAR Released									
																		Translated CAR Released									
																		CAR Workshops									

Addendum C
Narcotics Anonymous World Service System

