

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

November, 1990

To: The Fellowship

From: Ed Duquette, Chairperson
World Service Conference

I hope this report finds you all in good health and spirits. I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your contributions during these past few months. Although the contributions are still less than the 1990-91 budget requires, we appear to be setting a record for contributions received in a single year. Given that many regions have not contributed thus far, I would like to express a special thanks to those who have given their attention to the financial needs of the conference. I will allow the WSC Treasurer to further address our specific situation in his report. I want to focus this report on the changes to the format planned for the annual meeting of the conference.

The mainstays of these changes are the use of parliamentary procedure and the utilization of motion-making as the prime decision-making vehicle. Parliamentary procedure is designed to protect the minority voice. There is, though, an associated unfairness between those participants with a superior knowledge of procedures and the average participant. It makes little sense to base our service decisions on a vehicle that truly only serves those of us who have an above average knowledge of these procedures. In effect, the procedures designed to protect the minority voice at the conference create a minority. Parliamentary procedure hinders our ability to address the complexity of serving a worldwide fellowship today. The conference procedures allow for only minimal debate, unless we entertain motions to extend debate, which often encourages us to become more deeply entrenched in procedure. It is the goal of the WSC Administrative Committee this year to offer alternatives that will lessen the time spent in parliamentary procedure, while making better use of that time.

Conference procedures direct discussions to be geared toward the motion at hand, rather than the broad ramifications of underlying issues. I believe that the conference's inability to adequately address complex issues stems from the fact that we have come to rely on motions as the solution. Unfortunately, we do not live in a two-dimensional world with black and white answers. Complex issues require broad discussion, time to think, and cooperative resolution. We have in the past focused our time and energies on Band-Aid solutions in the form of specific motions, rather than discussing our problems and our needs.

For instance, for many years we have seen motions regarding whether RSRs should be the only voting participants at the annual meeting. Numerous times we have attempted to deal with this issue by offering motions that are specific to that resolve. This issue has to do with philosophical interpretations of our traditions that cannot be resolved simply by reorganizing the voting entities. The issue is a complex one that requires broad discussion, with members on all sides willing to understand the validity of each other's viewpoints. It's not about being wrong or right, it's about being sensitive and responsive to all perspectives in a cooperative manner. All sides have value. However, utilizing our current system of making motions at problems, we have not had that opportunity for thorough discussion.

To: The Fellowship

From: Jack Bernstein, Chairperson
World Service Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has met only once since the last *Fellowship Report*. We have, however, had a busy couple of months. A great deal of our time and energy has been spent in discussing the issue of the illicit Basic Text. This included a combined meeting with the WSO Board of Directors at our October meeting. During this meeting we also met with one of the principal members involved in the production of this text. We held this meeting in the hope of avoiding legal proceedings by resolving the issue of that person's involvement. An offer was made to the individual, that he has yet to agree to, in order to avoid the legal process. Based on the letters that we have received, there appears to be a misunderstanding of the motivation for the board's support of taking legal action against the individuals involved in the illicit printing and distribution process. First, this is not a financial concern and the issue is not that this text is going to decrease the WSO's income. While this may or may not affect the WSO financially, the BOT's sole concern is the ability of WSO to maintain legal rights to N.A.'s literature. The board is equally concerned with the separation that this issue is causing, as members are feeling compelled to choose sides. The issue of the text is also providing an opportunity to evaluate other issues that need to be considered and discussed by the fellowship. These issues, however, should not be confused with the text, as they are not justification for violating laws. Some of these issues are: Do we want to be a worldwide fellowship? Does the WSC serve as the place where our group conscience is voiced? How much trust should we, as trusted servants, have and how much trust do we actually place in our trusted servants? These issues need to be discussed and agreed upon in order to determine what the fellowship wants from its boards and committees.

We have also been more involved in the hands-on operation of the WSO through an increase in communication with the Board of Directors. There have been several conference calls including members from both boards and the WSC Administrative Committee regarding the proposals on travel, translations, and budget review and utilization. These proposals are almost ready to go to the fellowship for consideration at the WSC.

During our meeting in October, elections were held with the decision being the re-election of myself, Jack Bernstein, and Becky Meyer, as chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. We also agreed to support the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee's production schedule and plans for fellowship review and input.

In keeping with our plans to interact with the fellowship, and with the positive feedback we received on the open trustee meeting held in Arlington, VA, our next meeting is scheduled for February 7 - 10, 1991 in Philadelphia, PA. The agenda hasn't been set but the plan is to have open dialogue with the members present, at least during Saturday and Sunday. The meeting Thursday and Friday will also be open for members to attend, with the agenda being geared towards our regular order of business. Any suggestions for items to be discussed will be considered and appreciated.

The following is a short report on the work of the trustee committees during the October meeting.

A combined meeting of the *External Committee* and the *Internal Committee* was held to meet with the two Additional Needs Panel members, Darwyn L. and Gordon P., to discuss the needed communication between world services and the panel members. Much support was given for participation by panel members in regional and multi-regional additional needs workshops. A resolution was also adopted that *recommends the recognition of American Sign Language (ASL) as a language distinct from English; that the White Booklet, with stories, be translated into ASL for distribution on video tape; that, as funds become available, N.A. audio speaker tapes in the current WSO inventory be translated into ASL; and that a priority list for further translation of N.A. literature into ASL be developed as soon as possible. This resolution will be given to the translations committee for action.* There are also plans to create an "Additional Needs Awareness Month" to focus attention on additional needs issues; requesting local convention committees to include additional

officers do not take their seat until after the current convention ends. Additional clarification as to when the approaching convention chairs come onto the board will be discussed.

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To: The Fellowship
From: Stu Tooredman, Chairperson
World Service Office Board of Directors

In the last several months, the office has been going through some difficult times. As a result of the change in executive director and adjusting to the changes which were necessary, the office has been experiencing adjustment difficulties (mailing, response time, committee and board coordination, etc.). This, combined with being forced to deal with an illegal production of our Basic Text, has made it difficult for the staff to adjust to the new policies and procedures which are being implemented. The staff members will continue to do their best to fulfill their responsibilities.

We have been involved for several months with the development of new policies to cover several areas of World Service Office operations, including travel, translations, budgeting, and personnel. In the development of these policies and procedures, the Board of Directors worked with the Board of Trustees and the WSC Administrative Committee. The proposed plans for travel, translations, and budgeting will place responsibility for decision making in the hands of a unified, task-oriented committee, rather than having each service board or committee make decisions independent of each other. These plans have reached final review stages and will soon be distributed to the fellowship. We would like to thank all those who participated in developing those plans, as well as the members outside the committees who provided input and review at our request. Following are brief descriptions of the proposed travel plan, the proposed translations plan, and the proposed unified budget and budget review plan.

The office frequently receives questions from participants of the conference and other members of the fellowship regarding travel for world services, how decisions about are made and implemented. A well-defined travel policy is currently under development. All travel undertaken by world services will be covered within the scope of the policy, if and when it is adopted. In that way we can be confident that all travel decisions are handled using the same criteria. This will provide a uniform policy to guide the new executive director, as well as providing to the fellowship an accurate reporting of travel activities. There has always been an administrative policy for travel. It did not, however, necessarily apply to other branches of world services. The proposed policy will be applicable to all of world services.

Another major concern has been the development of translations. The WSC committees and boards have been working on a translation policy that provides for a specific translation committee. That committee would include a variety of members, both from world service boards and committees, and from within and outside of the local fellowship communities for which N.A. literature is being translated. This committee, combined with set criteria for the translation process and what literature is to be translated, would make for an overall productive plan for translations. While the World Service Office has had a translation policy, it addressed the needs of the WSO Board and did not include interaction with other service boards or committees. The plan under development will also include a decision-making committee that is comprised of all world service entities.

The boards and committees also have been working on a plan for a unified budget, and a budget review and utilization committee. This process would combine all the resources of Narcotics Anonymous world services, place them into a collective pool, and then allocate resources according to projects and specific operations. This should allow for a more effective management of our resources. Included in this process would be a report thoroughly explaining

expenditures, to be published prior to the conference each year. In connection with the unified budget, a specific committee would review and allocate funds according to specific plans developed by the committees or boards. This committee would then develop the yearly budget and present it to each service entity for approval.

On another note, the search for a new executive director is well on the way. The professional search agency contracted by the WSO Board is currently taking applications. We hope that the agency soon will be making recommendations to the Search Committee and eventually to the Board of Directors. This activity is being handled by an appointed Search Committee outside of the World Service Office. If you desire information about the search, you may contact the search agency or Donna Markus, the chairperson of the Search Committee.

Currently the office is doing well. Our sales volume is down, primarily due to the general downturn in the economy. We do not expect to exceed last year's income level, based upon the projections for the remainder of the year. In conjunction, we have been spending at a reduced rate, which seems to have kept us in a good position, making our overall fiscal condition stable.

The lawsuit with the company in northern California is near settlement, and we expect to provide a report on this specific case to the conference in April.

We are currently in the process of preparing for a meeting with local service offices, to be held in Chicago on the weekend of December 6-9, 1990. We have sent letters to the offices and the regions, informing them of this meeting and its agenda. We plan to discuss regional literature distribution, service office operations, the possibility of creating World Service Office branches within the United States, the discount structure, and other general items.

As most of you are aware, we have been dealing with the illegal Basic Text. During the recent World Service Conference workshop in Van Nuys, we gave a report to the participants who were present. During this report, we also raised some questions which we believe need to be addressed. For the convenience of the participants who were not present, we have included a copy of the written version of that report. We will continue to provide current status reports regarding the events and decisions connected to this problem as they occur, as we have in the past.

**RESPONDING TO ILLEGAL PUBLICATION
A REPORT FROM THE WSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
OCTOBER 20, 1990**

In the last eight years, Narcotics Anonymous has established a system for approving, publishing, and distributing N.A. literature that is legally, practically, and spiritually sound. This year, some individual N.A. members have taken it upon themselves to print and distribute a version of N.A.'s Basic Text which they have altered to suit their own tastes. Their actions are legally, practically, and spiritually unsound. This report looks at the process our fellowship has developed for approving, publishing, and distributing its literature, contrasting that process with the extraordinary actions of the individuals who have pirated our Basic Text. Finally, this report asks for your direction. How should we respond to those who have illegally altered and published your literature? What responsibility does the WSO Board of Directors have to protect the integrity of the fellowship's printed message?

Legally sound?

According to the general understanding of our members, new literary items, or revised versions of existing pieces of literature, must be approved by N.A.'s representative assembly, the World Service Conference, in order to be considered "N.A. literature." New literature not yet approved by the conference, or literature revised in contradiction to the directions of the conference, is not considered "N.A. literature." Once approved by the conference, N.A. literature is copyrighted, published, and distributed by the World Service Office. The copyright gives Narcotics Anonymous the ability to protect its literature from alteration or publication by parties other than those designated by the World Service Conference.

The copyrights to our literature, and the responsibility to publish and distribute that literature, is given to the World Service Office in trust as the *fiduciary* of the World Service Conference--that is, the World Service Office is legally bound to publish N.A. literature, for the benefit of the N.A. Fellowship, in accordance with the directions of the World Service Conference. In addition to the WSO's responsibility to publish N.A. literature, the World Service Office is also legally responsible to protect N.A. literature from abuse, on behalf of the entire fellowship. These responsibilities are spelled out both in World Service Office corporate by-laws and in U.S. legal codes.

Those who have altered our Basic Text, calling it "N.A. literature" and publishing it without the fellowship's permission, are thieves. They have stolen our name, Narcotics Anonymous, and have used it for their own purposes, not the fellowship's. They have stolen our literature, our printed message, without our permission. What they stole has been mutilated, altered to suit their own tastes, without any authorization from the fellowship. These are crimes, and the law protects us from those who are abusing the fellowship's rights to its literature.

The N.A. Fellowship has given its literature in trust to the World Service Office corporation, to be published in accordance with the direction of the fellowship's World Service Conference. The individuals who have taken it upon themselves to change N.A. literature to suit their own ideas, and to publish that altered material, have broken trust with the N.A. Fellowship, both ethically and legally. And, according to American trust law, the World Service Office is bound, one way or another, to protect the literature given it in trust from those who have chosen to abuse the trust's "property."

Practically sound?

The system Narcotics Anonymous has established for publishing its literature is both reliable and accountable. Literature publishing is a complex affair, requiring attention to a great many details, and a considerable degree of expertise, even for relatively simple publishing projects. Even though every group, area, and region needs N.A. literature, it's not necessary for every group, area, and region to set up its own publishing operation. That job is already done by the World Service Office, on behalf of the entire fellowship.

Those individuals illegally publishing the Basic Text have provided inconsistent, unreliable, irresponsible service to the groups they have contacted. Each individual do-it-yourself "publisher" has to either typeset the book himself, make printing plates from second-hand layouts of already-published copies of the Basic Text, or simply photocopy an existing book. Then, they have to buy their own paper, choose a local printer, and find a bindery, all with little or no background in these matters. The methods used to illegally publish the book to date have produced copies of consistently low quality, with fuzzy, hard-to-read type, cheap paper, and poor binding.

Within the N.A. Fellowship, the Basic Text is sold through the established service structure. The World Service Office sells the book to regional service offices, who sell it to area committees, who sell it to groups, who make it available on literature tables at N.A. meetings. When N.A. members want a book, they know where to find it, and they know they *will* find it.

The service structure has established a pattern of consistent, reliable service in the area of literature distribution. If it does not distribute literature in a reliable fashion, it can be held accountable by the fellowship. If the World Service Office does not deliver reliable service, the World Service Conference will call it to account. And if a regional or area committee cannot consistently supply N.A. literature to the groups it serves, it will be held accountable by those groups.

Supplies of the illegal book have been spotty, and suppliers have been difficult to find. Because distribution of the book is illegal, sales have been conducted secretly. Limited funds have meant limited publishing runs, meaning limited supplies. All in all, illegal publishing has meant anything *but* a reliable supply of N.A. literature to those who have chosen to use the illegal text. And, because the illegal text is published by individuals outside the service structure, they cannot be held accountable for the quality of the service they render.

The Basic Text is produced by the World Service Office for about \$2.00 U.S., and is sold by the office to its customers at an overall average price of \$6.00. The American retail price of the book is \$8.00. Book sales produce extra income both at the world and local levels of service, income which is used to support other services. At the world level, that income is spent according to the directions of the World Service Conference; at the local level, according to the wishes of the region, the area, or the group. At the world level, literature sales pay for support services to World Service Conference boards and committees, information and starter kits to new N.A. groups, fellowship communications, services to new N.A. communities in many countries, translation of N.A. literature, and a number of other services.

Sales of the Basic Text through the normal service structure lends to ready accountability for all funds involved. Each year, the World Service Office presents a complete financial report to the World Service Conference, covering both the costs for producing the Basic Text and other literature, and what was done with proceeds from N.A. literature sales. Receipts are provided to regions, areas, and groups who buy N.A. literature, so that their treasurers can fully account for literature purchases to those they serve, as required by our traditions.

The individuals who have illegally altered and published your Basic Text pay about 60 American cents to print their version, then turn around and sell it to groups for about \$1.25. They are not responsible, through N.A.'s service structure, to spend the proceeds from sales of their book on other authorized N.A. services. In fact, because they have consistently refused to make a financial accounting of their activity, no one knows exactly *what* they used the proceeds for. They make their sales on a cash basis only, so as not to leave any kind of incriminating paper trail, and offer no receipts to group treasurers, who are subsequently unable to account for their literature purchases.

Spiritually sound?

The established N.A. literature approval, publication, and distribution system is spiritually sound, especially for a fellowship like ours. Narcotics Anonymous is a very loosely organized fellowship, placing a high premium on the independence of its individual groups: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole." Each group is free to believe and act as it wishes, so long as its actions do not impact nearby groups or the worldwide fellowship.

The identity of our fellowship as a fellowship is based on the common message of its groups, as represented in N.A. literature. If each group had a slightly different message, and slightly different literature, the variations would quickly compound themselves to the point where we would cease to be a recognizable fellowship at all. For this reason, Narcotics Anonymous has established that N.A. literature can only be approved or altered by an assembly that is representative of the entire fellowship: the World Service Conference. Each group is free to carry out its own activities as it sees fit; but in matters affecting all the groups, they use the established service structure to come to a common decision, effective fellowshipwide. Thus, the needs and rights of *each* groups, and the needs and rights of *all* the groups, are equally respected.

Those engaged in the unauthorized alteration, publication, and distribution of N.A.'s Basic Text have gone far, far down the road of self-will, and far, far away from the principles of recovery. They have taken upon themselves the authority the N.A. Fellowship has given its World Service Conference: the authority to determine the nature of N.A.'s printed message. They've said to us all, in effect, "Dissolve the World Service Conference, and give our gang its authority. *Trust us.*"

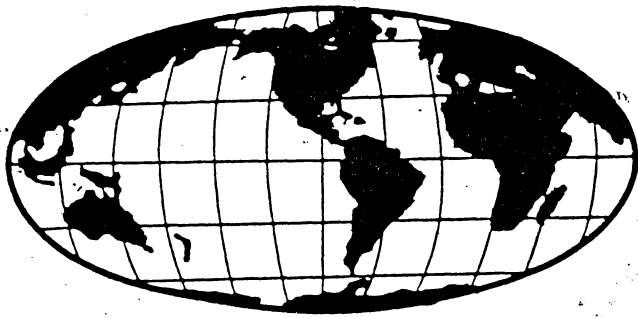
To justify their actions, they have deliberately misled other N.A. members concerning the facts of the nature and history of N.A. service, and have slandered the trusted servants and special workers of our world services. When their lies are countered with documentary and eyewitness evidence, they shift their attacks to other subjects and individuals. They have politicized N.A. groups, distracting those groups from their primary purpose of carrying the message to still-suffering addicts. They have pitted N.A. member against N.A. member, severely undermining the unity upon which the personal recovery of us all depends. By fragmenting the N.A. message to suit their own personal ideas, they are threatening to fragment our fellowship itself. Their activities run against everything Narcotics Anonymous stands for--and we should not stand for their activities any further.

How should we respond?

The WSO Board of Directors, with the support of the World Service Board of Trustees and the officers of the World Service Conference, has already taken the necessary preliminary steps to legally protect the Basic Text from further unauthorized alteration and publication. We have retained a law firm to deal with the infringers, and are preparing a complaint which, when filed, will set the legal process in motion. From that point, we will go through a series of discovery motions and injunctions, followed by an eventual decision. In this process, we are confident that we will be successful, but it will take time.

Do you want us to continue along this path to protect the fellowship's printed message from bootlegging and mutilation? Do you want U.S. federal courts to settle our problems, or do you want us to seek an internal solution? The WSO board feels that both are appropriate. We believe strongly that the rights of Narcotics Anonymous have been violated, from a legal standpoint, a practical standpoint, and a spiritual standpoint. The individuals who have violated the fellowship's trust need to be held accountable for their actions. The question is, how can we effectively call them to account? This decision will be placed before the world service leadership in the upcoming weeks, prior to actually entering the legal arena.

As trusted servants, it is imperative that you consider these points very carefully, that you present them to the members you serve, and that you communicate your wishes in this matter to us as clearly as possible. You, as the membership, will tell us what you believe Narcotics Anonymous is, and what it stands for.



WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

January, 1991

To: The Fellowship
From: Ed Duquette, Chairperson
World Service Conference

Greetings! I hope this report finds you all in good spirits and health. I would like to take this opportunity to explain some significant changes in the customary proceedings planned for this April's annual meeting of the World Service Conference. First and foremost, the format of events has changed, which should be no news to anyone. We have included five addenda: WSC 1991 Tentative Agenda, Conference Format Summary, Topics for Panel Presentations, Regional Motions, and Issues Received from Regions. Please spend some time familiarizing yourselves with these, particularly if you are a conference participant.

As you read through the conference format summary (see Addendum 2 of this report), you will notice that a great deal of time is devoted to discussion panels. If you are a conference participant, please be prepared to discuss the issues identified for these panels. If you are not a conference participant, talk with those close to you about these topics and share your feelings with your RSR and Alternate RSR. The success of a discussion-based conference will depend on the conference participants' ability to express their support and/or concerns.

We of the WSC Administrative Committee believe that the primary responsibility of the World Service Conference is to conduct an annual meeting by which we can set goals for our fellowship. In setting these goals, we must find a method that is fair and effective. Parliamentary process has not been fair or effective in helping us address the complex underlying issues facing our service efforts. By our human nature we need to set definition in clear terms where we can base opinion (we agree or not agree), thus we present motions in hopes of yielding finite decisions. Unfortunately, simply agreeing or not agreeing will always leave some people unhappy with the decision, and still others determined to rectify what they perceive to be an injustice. Most importantly though, presenting motions without first conducting thorough discussion of the underlying issue(s) falls short of any comprehensive resolution.

There is one thing we all seem to be able to do well, and that is share our opinions. If we could all agree that each person's perception is equally valid and important, we may be able to find some common ground from which we can develop a common direction. I believe this common understanding will only come about through a dialogue process in which it is equally important to listen as it is to share. It is for this reason that we have arranged the annual meeting to revolve around presentation panels which encourage the participants to interact in a fashion most comfortable to us all. That is, once we have overcome the microphone fright.

To: The Fellowship

From: Stu Tooredman, Chairperson
World Service Office Board of Directors

In past months, one of our foremost concerns has been the independent printing and distribution of the Basic Text. I am very pleased to report that we have reached an agreement that secures the fellowship's copyrights, and brings the issues connected to the Basic Text to the fellowship. This has been a long and stressful road for the WSO Board of Directors. We appreciate the time and effort members have taken to write, ask questions, and share their thoughts with us. While the WSO board continues to be firm about the protection of N.A. intellectual properties placed in its care, the board also believes strongly that the issues related to the Basic Text need fellowship resolution and should not be settled only by the WSO Board of Directors. Keeping that in mind, we urge you to participate in the resolution of these long-standing issues. We are grateful that the matter at hand has been settled, and that we can again focus our combined efforts on the fulfillment of our fellowship's primary purpose--carrying our message to the addict who still suffers.

By now, each conference participant should have received a copy of the agreement and the attached order. The motions coming from the agreement are included in the *Conference Agenda Report*, and a joint statement is included as the final attachment to this *Fellowship Report*. I believe they are self-explanatory, so I will not go into any further discussion here about the agreement. However, if more information is needed, please contact the World Service Office.

Over the next few weeks, regions and areas will begin to receive additional information called for in the agreement, including: a description of the changes made in each edition of the Basic Text, a complete copy of the Third Edition, Revised, information about the projected impact of a reduced price book, and information on possible options in producing a reduced price text. We will also, at the same time, be in the midst of a concerted effort to update our contact information on all regional and area service committees and N.A. groups. Your cooperation will be most appreciated.

In the course of reading the many letters we've received concerning the Basic Text, it has come to the board's attention that there is a misunderstanding about whether the WSO Board of Directors supports the work of the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service. The board has not adopted any motion stating its support; in fact, the board gave its chairperson a vote of confidence last year to oppose the continuation of the work. Whether or not the work is eventually accepted is a decision to be made by the fellowship. We just want to set the record straight.

The board approved the 1991 World Service Office operating budget at our January meeting. In contrast to previous years, our growth forecast for income during the next year reflects little or no growth. This can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the recession in the general economy, a declining market for our products, and some uncertainty about how the fellowship will resolve the literature pricing issues during the year. Considering those factors, and a net loss of approximately \$230,000 from 1990, the board approved the budget only after making further cuts in general administrative expenses and projected income from the basic text. The approved 1991 budget shows only an \$11,000 cushion for income over expenses. The board will monitor the budget closely, and may make additional adjustments at its March meeting. All of the information regarding the WSO budget will be included in our annual report.

This year, the World Service Office Annual Report will be divided into four sections: Report from the Directors, Administration and Support Services Division, the Fellowship Services

Division, and Year End Financial Report. It will be mailed out around the middle of March. This should allow enough time for the participants to familiarize themselves with all the information in the report and prepare questions they may have about WSO operations.

There are several matters, to be discussed in the annual report in detail, that are important to mention here. First, the board has recommended that a full, certified audit of all World Service Office operations be conducted this summer. The results of the audit will then be reported to the fellowship.

The second matter concerns a complete review of our current sales policy, and subsequent recommendations for changes in the policy. There are number of things in the current policy that bear closer scrutiny, especially the discount structure for both fellowship and non-fellowship purchasers. In the time preceding our next meeting in March, we will be discussing this matter with fellowship service offices and our non-fellowship customers, so that our policy may better the serve the needs of our groups and members.

Given the possibility that the fellowship may direct the office to produce a lower-priced Basic Text in some form, we will be preparing information on the subject for your consideration. This information will be published in our annual report, and will also be presented at the conference. We encourage all members to discuss this issue openly and objectively.

Those of you who ordered the *International Meeting Directory* will be receiving a refund shortly. After reviewing the final form from the printer we found it be unsatisfactory and stopped production. A new format is now being developed and we should have it in the inventory sometime in March.

Report from the Executive Director Search Committee

The Search Committee has held preliminary interviews with several potential candidates, and is still accepting applications. The committee has been surprised that, of the applications received so far, only a very small number have come from members of Narcotics Anonymous. As the search process nears a close we are hoping that more candidates, especially members of the fellowship, will apply. We would like to again ask all members of the fellowship to assist us by encouraging qualified acquaintances to inquire about the job. A one-page insert, giving more details about the application process, is included with this *Fellowship Report*. Please feel free to distribute the insert widely. Be assured that all applications are held in the strictest of confidence.

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OUR COMMITMENT TO UNITY

Over the years, members of our fellowship have struggled to resolve a variety of questions: How should our world services, and particularly our World Service Office, be administered? What is the proper relationship between world services and the rest of the fellowship? What are the appropriate means for developing, approving, and producing N.A. literature? How do we apply N.A.'s Twelve Traditions?

Recently, those issues came to a head when World Service Office, Inc., filed a federal suit in a controversy over the alleged infringement of N.A. literature copyrights. On one hand, there were members who felt the fellowship needed an easily affordable recovery text. Those members decided to print the Basic Text themselves. While recognizing the importance of the related internal issues, the WSO Board of Directors felt a responsibility to take action it believed would protect the fellowship's legal rights to its own literature.

Both parties came to court on January 2, 1991. The result of their confrontation was far different from what either party expected, and far more beneficial for the N.A. Fellowship. In the course of the hearing, both parties became increasingly aware of the importance of N.A.'s primary purpose and the wisdom of our Twelve Traditions. The parties involved in the dispute were encouraged to seek an agreement among themselves, rather than place the court in the position of having to settle it for them. Their intensive negotiations and consultations, guided by the spirit of our traditions, were successful.

On January 4, the parties appeared again in federal court, agreement in hand. Their settlement not only resolved the lawsuit, but also described a procedure whereby the N.A. Fellowship could settle the longstanding internal issues which had led to the controversy and resulting lawsuit. The parties involved in the suit left court in unity, prepared to give their full energies to fulfilling the agreement they had made.

The status of our fellowship's trademarks and literary copyrights has not changed. There were no "losers" in the agreement. The January 4 settlement will, we hope, benefit the entire N.A. Fellowship.

Narcotics Anonymous has the chance to resolve some long-standing issues, issues which have repeatedly caused controversy and grief in our services and in our fellowship. The agreement reached gives the N.A. groups the choice to vote directly on these matters.

Three motions appear in the WSO Board of Directors section of the 1991 *Conference Agenda Report*: Which edition of the Basic Text, or parts thereof, is the one most preferred by the N.A. Fellowship? After considering all factors, do the N.A. groups want the WSO to produce a low-cost version of the Basic Text? Do the N.A. groups themselves wish to vote directly on these questions? If we are thorough in considering the issues surrounding these questions, diligent in producing answers to them, patient in discussing them with one another, and willing to abide by whatever decisions the fellowship as a whole finally arrives at, Narcotics Anonymous will have peace and unity.

It is our belief that the time has come to put aside all hostility arising from whatever disagreements we may have over issues of fellowship policy. We know that many of our members have much to share about the issues surrounding the motions that appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*. Let us all place our cards on the table and confront the issues squarely and honestly.

By entering into this agreement in good faith, we have put aside any further intention to settle this particular controversy by means of litigation. While the fellowship attends to the issues being put before it, we encourage everyone to cease attacking one another.

We are all deeply saddened that N.A. members and groups on both sides of the table have felt the pain of rejection for their roles in this affair. N.A. members and groups on both sides of the table have been threatened and punished for their roles in this affair. Meetings have been removed from N.A. directories. Group and area representatives have been excluded from their ASC and RSC meetings. Individual trusted servants have been forced to resign. We ask the entire N.A. Fellowship--our members, groups, service boards, and committees--to cease such behavior. Those engaged in activities that could be considered controversial are asked to reflect on how their actions might affect their fellow members. We must find a way to talk about the issues before our fellowship without declaring war on one another.

Our fellowship has arrived at a point where it must resolve the controversies that are plaguing it. A solution may not appear overnight. We must commit ourselves to the process of forging that solution through prayer, study, discussion, and debate. The decisions our fellowship will make in this matter affect us all, and we are all responsible to take part in making them. If we do so with trust in a loving God, mindful of our fellowship's primary purpose, for our own good and for the good of the addict we have yet to reach with our message, all will be well.

Our commitment to unity, page 3

With high hopes,

Stuart Tooredman

1-16-91

Stuart Tooredman

date

Dave Moorhead

1/16/91

Dave Moorhead

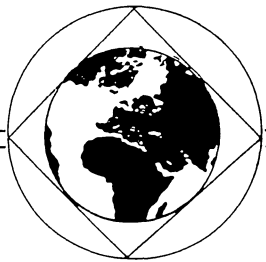
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George Hollahan

1-16-91

George Hollahan

date



World Service Conference Report

Volume 1 • Number 1

June 1991

1991 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE SUMMARY REPORT

To: The Fellowship

From: Barbara Jorgensen, Chairperson
World Service Conference

I have so much to report from the recent WSC that I am going to break this report down into sections to do so. Overall, the schedule was exhausting, but I wasn't as exhausted as I have been in past years. I believe that was due to the fact that the conference was not as emotionally wearing, hostile, or combative as past WSCs have been. Everyone seemed to do a better job of working together and tolerating different opinions than in the past. I believe the new format, which allowed for more discussion, contributed greatly to this.

We welcomed the following new regions this year: Freestate, formerly part of Chesapeake Potomac; Arkansas, formerly part of several adjoining regions; Mountain Valley, formerly part of New England; Southern Idaho, formerly part of Together We Can; and Bahamas, formerly part of South Florida/Bahamas.

RSR Panels

RSR panels presented issues and information on the topics of interregional communications, the need to establish an N.A. identity, and group conscience. RSRs were also asked to volunteer for continuing involvement throughout the coming year, working in small groups on issues of concern and interest to the fellowship. The RSRs who volunteered have been divided into seven small groups based on geography, and given topics to address that include interregional communications, conference format, and N.A. funding. These topics were also submitted by RSRs at the conference.

There is abundant opportunity for additional RSRs or RSR-alternates to become involved in this informal process. If there were more volunteers, more topics could be addressed.

At one point in the conference, an ad hoc of RSRs and others was formed to recommend action to the conference regarding the issue of support for the Fifth Edition as the currently approved edition of the Basic Text, and for the Board of Director's future actions. As a result of this ad hoc's discussions, the following issues were also reported back to the conference:

1. Do we hold our members accountable for their actions in the same manner that we hold nonmembers accountable?

WSO. This provision is created to allow bidding regions, on a case by case basis, the opportunity to receive letters of support after the July 1 deadline. Additional information may be requested from qualified bid committees.

The assigned liaison and the staff are busy planning WCNA-21 in Sydney, Australia, as well as WCNA-22 in Toronto, Canada and WCNA-23 in Chicago, Illinois.

On behalf of the WCC Board, I want to thank the fellowship for the opportunity to serve.

* * * * *

To: The Fellowship

From: Stuart Tooredman, Outgoing Chairperson
WSO Board of Directors

The World Service Office presented eight motions to the 1991 WSC participants. Each one of them represented a number of significant issues of past, present, and future concern. We appreciate the fellowship's attention to these matters, and look forward to the coming year.

The WSO panel presentation consisted of reviewing the information provided in our annual report. Questions from WSC participants followed, and several commented that they liked the report's new format and the new information about WSO operations.

Our first items of action for the conference concerned the role of the WSO as a trust and as the sole publisher and distributor of fellowship literature and other properties. During the discussion, the participants asked many questions and requested additional information from the WSO's intellectual properties attorney. The conference then voted to reaffirm those entrusted responsibilities by a two-thirds majority vote.

Looking toward the future, the WSO offered three new proposals regarding world service operations. These were proposals creating a Translation Committee, a world service Travel Committee, and creating a Budget Review and Utilization Committee, whose first task is to prepare a unified budget plan for all world service operations. The WSC participants ratified the implementation of all three, and will review their progress again at next year's conference.

Motions 13, 14, and 15 were provided to obtain a clear understanding and determination from the fellowship concerning the Fifth Edition of the Basic Text, the production of a low-cost version of the text, and if those decisions should be made by a group-by-group tally. None of the motions received enough support to pass. However, after the motions were decided, the WSC went into a committee of the whole to discuss the issues underlying our motions. From these discussions, an ad hoc committee was appointed and asked to prepare a motion concerning the issues discussed in the committee of the whole. Their motion and report can be found in another section of this *Conference Summary Report*.

The WSO also requested that the WSC approve the production of an introductory guide for the newcomer, consisting of already approved literature items, as a low-cost inventory item. The conference approved the concept, and the table of contents is now being considered by regional literature committees. In August, the World Literature Committee will review the input and recommend which items should be included. We believe this item will be in production in early September.

The WSO is preparing all items approved by this year's WSC for inclusion in our inventory. As is our practice each year, we are working first on the new approved items (*For Those in Treatment, N.A.-- A Resource in Your Community, P.I. and the N.A. Member*, etc.), then we will produce the changes made to the handbooks.

One other production note concerns a new inventory item discussed at the conference, the Basic Journal. This new item is for our members who want to keep track of their daily progress through recovery. It is now being readied and will be available soon.

On the last day of the conference, a motion was referred to the WSO Board calling for a report to be given at the next WSC workshop. This report involves seeking a special ruling from the IRS in regards N.A.'s tax status. As you may recall, a report was given at the 1990 WSC on the options N.A. has in order to fit the existing IRS rules on nonprofit tax exempt status. We have already begun work on that report, and will be fully prepared to provide information to the fellowship on the costs, time, and requirements associated with seeking a special ruling. Since this type of decision will affect our U.S. groups most directly, the information will be widely distributed so that the issues may be informatively discussed by all concerned.

As we have previously mentioned in past reports, work continues on the Literature Trust Document. What we hope to eventually present to the fellowship is a document that clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of the fellowship, the WSC, and the WSO, in relationship to N.A.'s properties (literature, logos, etc.). Currently, the document is being reviewed by a committee of current trusted servants of the WSC and other interested members who have previously served at the world level. The review group is headed up by me, and includes Becky M., George H., Bob M., Bo S., Dave M., Bill A., Jim M., and we have recently included Roy D. and Billy E. Both boards will discuss the document during their joint meeting in June. We will update you regularly on our progress.

The new executive director of the WSO, Joe Gossett, was introduced to the WSC participants on Tuesday. Joe began working on April 1st and immediately became involved with a review of current WSO policies and procedures. We hope that you will all give him a warm N.A. welcome.

As a result of my election to the World Service Board of Trustees this will be my last report as the WSO Board Chairperson. Bill Winterfeld will assume the duties as the Board Chairperson until the elections in June. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support as a director, and the privilege of being of service.

N.A. NEWSLINE

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ILLEGAL BASIC TEXT UPDATE

Following months of discussion and several failed attempts to reach an agreement, a unanimous decision was made by all three arms of world services to proceed with litigation to stop the illegal printing and distribution of the Basic Text. Accordingly, a lawsuit was filed on November 30, 1990, in Federal District Court in Philadelphia, to protect the fellowship's rights to the exclusive use of its properties.

The decision to move forward was prompted primarily by two key factors. The first factor is the responsibility of world services, legally and philosophically, to insure the integrity of N.A.'s message. The other deciding factor was the volume of letters of support from the fellowship.

The suit itself is very straightforward and seeks preliminary injunctive relief on behalf of the fellowship, to stop any further production and/or distribution by one individual. Once this first suit is resolved, others will be pursued, should the activity continue. The fellowship will be kept informed each step of the way.

TRUSTEE INTERACTION WITH THE FELLOWSHIP

As was announced in the November *Fellowship Report*, the Board of Trustees made plans to hold its meeting of February 7-10, 1991, in Philadelphia. Since that time, we have been informed that the annual Learning Conference, including review of the *Conference Agenda Report*, will take place that same weekend in Harrisburg, PA. An invitation to move the trustees' meeting place to Harrisburg was extended, and accepted. Accordingly, the business portion of

the trustee meeting, which will be open for observation, will be held in Harrisburg on Thursday and Friday, February 7-8, 1991. The open forum portion of the trustee meeting will take place all day Saturday and Sunday morning. The meeting will be held at the:

**Holiday Inn East
4751 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111**

Room rates are \$50.00 per night, beginning on Wednesday. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at (717) 939-7841. When making your reservations, please refer to MARLCNA VII. The positive feedback received after the open forum held in Arlington, VA, in July suggested that another open forum opportunity might be beneficial, to both the trustees and the fellowship. We hope to see you there!

CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT

The *Conference Agenda Report* will be available from the World Service Office beginning January 22, 1991. Each copy will cost \$7.50 (including shipping and handling). If you are ordering in California, be sure to add 6.75% sales tax to the total cost. An order form is attached at the back of this *Newsline*.

UPDATE FROM THE TRANSLATION DEPARTMENT

The Translation Department at the WSO involves three staff members. As administrator, George Hollahan oversees the work of the department and communicates with the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, and the Translation Advisory Committee

N.A. NEWSLINE

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VOLUME 6

JULY 1990

NUMBER 7

BASIC TEXT CONTROVERSY SUBSIDES

Early this year, a few individual N.A. members in the eastern U.S. began illegally printing and selling their own paperback version of the Basic Text. Some of the language of the conference-approved Basic Text was changed in the unauthorized book. On June 29th, the World Service Board of Trustees wrote an open letter to the fellowship about the problem. "We want to suggest one simple thing N.A. members can do when confronted with the book itself: *don't take it*," the letter said. "Those behind the illegal book will get the message: N.A. wants them to stop."

The trustees gave two reasons why N.A. wants the unauthorized text stopped. What happens if N.A. allows a few people to change the Basic Text to suit their personal ideas? N.A. as a whole will lose its ability to decide what its own literature will say. And what happens if N.A. allows a few individuals to sell an unauthorized text? Our worldwide services are partially supported by sales of the *authorized* Basic Text. Sales of the unauthorized book mean fewer N.A. services.

World services have tried hard to put a stop to the unauthorized book by asking those personally responsible for the book to stop. Those members refused. This left world services with no choice but to take strong action to protect N.A.'s copyright and the first step has already been taken. The WSO Board of Directors is responsible to protect N.A.'s legal rights concerning the Basic Text. On July 2nd, their attorneys mailed a "cease and desist" letter to trusted servants in the regions where the illegal text had been seen. A July 10th letter explained that the previous letter applied only "if the shoe fits."

The World Service Conference held a workshop the following weekend in Arlington, Virginia. Talk of the unauthorized book was present everywhere. Some

hoped for a meeting between the trustees, the WSO directors, and the members responsible for the illegal Basic Text. They could settle the problem in the open. Those behind the illicit book however did not attend the workshop.

Meanwhile, N.A. members have taken to heart the trustees' request not to buy or sell the illegal Basic Text. As a result, support for the illegal text is waning. Only the three or four individuals directly responsible, and their immediate circle of friends, continue to distribute the unauthorized book, while their own areas and regions have refused. Hopes are high that, soon, further printing and sales of the illegal book will stop completely. The fellowship itself deserves a pat on the back for settling a serious problem simply by assuming its responsibility.

CONFERENCE FUNDS DRAWING LOW

In April the World Service Conference approved an annual budget of \$424,900. This represents a \$118,500 increase over last year's budget of \$306,400. To meet this budget fellowship donations have to average about \$35,400 each month.

Unfortunately, fellowship donations have not kept pace with the adopted budget. In fact, they've not even kept up with last year's donations. Donations for May, June, and July last year totalled \$38,801.65. Fellowship contributions for the same period *this* year total \$22,212.95. That's 43% less than what the conference received last year, and 79% less than what's needed to keep up with the WSC budget.

At this rate, the WSC Administrative Committee expects the World Service Conference to be penniless by September. Fellowship donations to the conference are needed in order to keep conference services from being curtailed.