

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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To: The Fellowship
From: Ed Duquette, Policy Chairman
WSC Policy Committee
Re: Annual Report to the Conference
Date: April 27, 1987

Greetings to the Conference from the dynamic, innovative and relentless WSC Policy Committee. This past year the Committee has been graced with an exceptionally gifted membership. We have been collectively receptive to one another's philosophies, experiences and concerns. This has proven lengthy in discussions from time to time, but most importantly, this receptiveness has proven comprehensive in completing the tasks assigned to this Committee.

There has evolved a sense of responsibility to the common welfare of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole in our efforts. Being in tune to our common welfare is not always as simple as it may seem. Quite often during discussions the Committee has felt overwhelmed. Concepts became misconstrued. Personalities became torrid. The masterpiece, that is our common welfare, always prevailed in the end. This is the dynamics I often speak of when referring to this year's WSC Policy Committee.

We have defended our personal beliefs and felt one another's spiritual fabric. This process has revealed something precious to us individually; a common understanding, a conscience. There is merit to this process. One of the agenda items we will present today received one opposing vote from the fourteen active members, the remaining three received complete unanimity. There has certainly been a Power greater than ourselves at work. We needed only to allow it to occur, this is our relentlessness.

The innovation characteristic to the Committee is about to unfold here today. Our agenda items to be presented for consideration incorporate resolutions to diverse situations facing the Conference and N.A. as a whole. These agenda items may hit you hard and spark some defensive emotion. Innovation is the essence of progress and we must move with precision to meet the needs of our ever growing fellowship. Although change can be a bitter pill to swallow, our principles of recovery grant us the serenity, courage and wisdom to achieve the contrary.

Before we present our items for consideration it is important to inform the Conference about the other tasks this Committee is responsible for.

Discuss and formulate a process for the nomination and election procedures at the World Service Conference:

There was brief discussion on the concept of a nomination committee that exists in "A Guide to Service" during the Minneapolis workshop. The Committee felt that any work on this subject should go to the Select Committee as input. It was then decided to lay this subject aside until items of more importance to the fellowship were completed. Unfortunately, the Committee did not have sufficient time to produce any input on this item. I would recommend to next year's Committee to review the concept of a nominating committee as well as procedures for elections at the WSC.

Discuss and propose clean-time requirements for all positions of the World Service Conference:

During the Minneapolis workshop the Committee discussed, at length, this item. It was decided that this too should be presented to the Select Committee in the form of input. The Committee felt that it was important to cooperate with the Select Committee wherever possible. Rather than have more than one committee produce completed works on similar concepts, for Conference consideration, it has been the Committee's understanding that all the conference committees and boards should cooperate with each other for the good of N.A. as a whole.

After considerable discussion the Committee produced recommendations for clean-time requirements of all Conference participants, excluding the positions of RSR and Alternate. These recommendations were submitted to the Select Committee as input.

Discuss and formulate a plan of action to finalize the I.P. "Hev, What's the Basket For?"

During the Joint-Administrative Committee meetings, prior to the Minneapolis workshop there was lengthy discussion as to the problems with the I.P. as it presently existed. The Literature Chairperson offered the services of the WSC Literature Committee to rewrite the pamphlet correcting the concerns that members of the Joint-Administrative Committee had discussed. It was agreed to remove this item from the Policy Agenda and give it to the Literature Committee for rewrite.

During the Policy Committee's deliberations later that weekend. Some members of the Policy Committee felt I had overstepped my authority by removing this item without committee approval. There was a motion passed within the Committee stating: Any business, input or recommendations being sent to other committees or the Fellowship as a whole must receive a simple majority vote of the present Policy Committee.

The concept of allowing the Literature Committee to rewrite was agreed appropriate by the Committee. It was the procedure they were concerned with. I apologize to the Conference for this situation. I'm sure that better planning on my part would have yielded the same results without the conflict. This is all a learning experience for me.

Discuss and develop a set of rules of order for recommendation to the WSC:

An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed during the Minneapolis workshop to compile a draft of this item and present it to the Committee prior to the Charlotte workshop for review. This draft was scheduled to be discussed at that workshop.

Unfortunately, the chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee was overwhelmed with situations in his personal life and unable to have a draft completed. Communication between the chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee and myself were infrequent and 'rather unproductive.

After discussing this situation with the Administrative Committee it was pointed out to me that what the Conference presently requires is a set of operating procedures for the WSC, not simply a set of rules of order. The Select Committee is working on a set of operating procedures for the WSC. I would recommend to next year's Committee to submit input on these procedures to the Select Committee.

The first of our action items for consideration today concerns the WSC Policy Committee Guidelines.

MOTION:

"To approve the following as the guidelines of the WSC Policy Committee and to include this language as an addendum in the Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure."

WSC POLICY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Policy Committee is twofold, the first of which is to evaluate suggestions in Conference policy or procedure and proposed changes or modifications to the service structure. The second purpose of this committee is to compile information on requests for the addition of new regions within a state, province or country, according to the need for improvement of services and/or communication within the local structure. This information is to be included in the Conference Agenda Report.

II. Voting Membership

The term of membership on this committee is one Conference year.

- A. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected by the WSC. Other committee members are elected as follows:
- B. One member of the WSO Board of Directors (appointed by that Board)
- C. One member of the World Service Board of Trustees (appointed by that Board)

- D. Two past World level trusted servants appointed by the newly elected Policy Committee Chairperson, three previous WSC Policy Committee members to be elected by the outgoing WSC Policy Committee**
- E. Four RSR's elected by the WSC.**

III. Vacancies in Committee

Any member may resign voluntarily or involuntarily by relapse or failure to fulfill assigned duties. Involuntary resignations must be approved by a majority of the committee. Vacancies in the committee will be filled by nomination by the Chairperson upon majority agreement of the committee members.

IV. Participation

At the WSC quarterly meetings, the committee will receive written input, presentations, and/or discussion regarding its work from any interested member of the Fellowship. This session will be limited to two hours, after which participation by anyone other than voting members of the committee and the WSO Project Coordinator will be at the Chairperson's discretion.

Intent: As far as the purposes of this committee are concerned we need to look at two separate areas. The first is the area of Conference policies and procedures. The Committee will be a resource to the Conference to clarify existing Conference policies and procedures, as well as make recommendations to the Conference on proposed changes or modifications to either the policies or procedures of the Conference or our service structure. In addition, the Policy Committee may assist and support other Conference Committees develop or revise their own internal procedures and/or guidelines.

The second area of purpose of the Policy Committee is a new concept, one that the Conference has rarely been able to deal with effectively. This is the area of the formation of new regions. There exists a growing concern within the Policy Committee that the Conference needs to look more closely at the formation of new regions. If we focus on the growth of our Fellowship in the past few years we see some pretty awesome statistics. The Policy Committee is concerned with what this might do to the effectiveness of the Conference.

The Conference needs to begin the process of evaluating the unique situation that results in the formation of a new region. This evaluation will help the Conference develop criteria for the formation of new regions, as well as provide alternatives to support the Fellowship in situations that have previously been resolved by forming a new region.

This second purpose of the Policy Committee will be to compile as much information as possible surrounding the formation of a new region. When a new region would like to be recognized by the Conference, the information gathered by the Policy Committee will be included in the Conference Agenda Report. This would allow all the Conference participants the opportunity to become familiar with each individual regional formation as the unique situation it is. In this way the Policy Committee advises the WSC of its evaluation and leaves the final decision of recognizing new regional service committees to the participants of the WSC.

This information gathered will also help the Policy Committee develop a process for new regions to be recognized by the Conference, as well as develop criteria for the formation of new regions, and recommend these concepts to the Conference for adoption at some later date.

In the past the Policy Committee has been composed of Conference participants and other members of the Fellowship who have shown the desire to participate on the Committee. This practice has had its problems. The continuity of members from meeting to meeting has been poor. The Committee has in the past spent a great deal of time bringing members, who have missed previous meetings, up to date on works in progress. This has resulted, many times, in redoing completed or partially completed works because the members at the present meeting were not happy with the work done at the previous meeting.

Another important consideration of these new guidelines is the number of members engaging in Committee discussions. In the past the Committee has been so large that it has been impossible to finish the Committee's agenda items given the available time for Committee deliberations. As mentioned earlier in this report, the importance of discussions in committee is precious to achieving a common understanding. These guidelines call for a committee of thirteen members. This is essentially the same complement that has existed this year. The committee agrees that discussions involving more individuals than were active participants this past year would require extensively longer time. For this reason we support a thirteen member committee.

Probably the most important aspect of the composition of the Policy Committee is their experience with the functioning of the WSC. In some WSC Committees, such as the WSC Literature Committee, it is necessary to have a fair cross section of the N.A. Fellowship. That Committee deals with materials that will have a profound affect on all of Narcotics Anonymous. The WSC Policy Committee, in contrast, deals with policies and procedures of the World Service Conference and proposed changes and/or modifications to our service structure. Therefore, the most important criteria for membership on this Committee should be the members' knowledge of the intricacies of the WSC and our service structure. By limiting the number of members of the Policy Committee to thirteen, and seeking members with experience in these ares, we feel that the Committee will be able to produce more comprehensive works in a better time frame.

It is always important to have a vehicle to allow other committees, boards and the rest of the N.A. Fellowship to provide valuable input on works in progress. This was the motivation to incorporate an open forum session into the Committees' guidelines. This session will take place at least at each WSC quarterly workshop. We feel this is paramount given the other limitations in the Committee guidelines.

This second motion is a house keeping motion.

MOTION:

"To delete paragraph 4 on p. 37 of the Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure, (the purpose of the WSC Policy Committee) and replace it with the following, as the purpose of the WSC Policy Committee."

The purpose of the World Service Conference POLICY Committee is twofold, the first of which is to evaluate suggestions in Conference policy or

procedure and proposed changes or modifications to the service structure. The second purpose of this committee is to compile information on requests for the addition of new regions within a state, province or country, according to the need for improvement of services and/or communication within the local structure. This information is to be included in the Conference Agenda Report.

The final three action items for consideration today concern the approval of service tools. Our original agenda item sought for a procedure for the development of a process to approve literature created outside the WSC Literature Committee intended for use by service committees.

After some extensive discussions within committee, and with input from the Admin. Committee and WSO, it was clear that these materials included more than just literature. This process should include audio and visual tools as well. The committee decided to pursue three separate procedures. The first two are essentially the same while the third is an innovative approach to meet unforeseen situations yet to occur. This is our first of the three.

MOTION:

"To accept the following guidelines as the approval process for original written materials specifically intended for use by service committees, (handbooks for Fellowship service committees, guidelines for WSC Committees, informational service pamphlets, etc.)."

A rough final draft of the work will be distributed to all members of all the Conference Committees and Boards at the annual Conference to review for input.

This input will be mailed to the originating committee, via that committee's WSO project coordinator, thirty (30) days prior to the July quarterly workshop.

The originating committee will then use this input to complete the work as they see fit.

The work will be included in the Conference Agenda Report for the Fellowship to review ninety (90) days prior to the annual Conference.

Intent: It is the feeling of the Policy Committee that many of the problems of the past, pertaining to the approval of these types of materials, have resolved themselves simply by the maturing of the members of the Conference Committees, and the participants of the World Service Conference themselves. What has evolved has been each Committee of the Conference having its own approval process for these service tools. Some of these processes rely on other committees or boards to approve these works before they are put on the Conference Agenda and sent out to the Fellowship for consideration.

Perhaps this was necessary in the past, but it is the feeling of the Policy Committee that we should rely on the maturity of all of our Conference Committees and Boards to cooperate with each other. This process would allow the committee where the work originates the latitude to pursue whatever it feels is the most appropriate avenue to complete work within these simple guidelines. It is important to note that this process pertains only to original materials. Materials

that have been previously approved by the WSC need not necessarily follow this process.

These works won't require another committee or board to approve them before they go on to the next process for approval. This mentality has put a burden on another committee or board that is working on its own agenda. It has also created frustration in the committee of origin when another committee or board is unable to give the work immediate attention.

Another important aspect of this process is that the review and input vehicle stays out of committee. It is up to the individual trusted servants of the WSC to produce their input without committee deliberations. This has, in the past, met the same obstacles mentioned in the above paragraph.

Probably the most dynamic aspect of this process is that the originating committee can develop its own process, within these guidelines, to finish each individual project. If a project is a rather large one that requires further review and input, it is quite appropriate for the committee to schedule a series of open forums, or any other vehicle it sees fit, to receive the needed input. In this way each unique project can fit into this one simple process for approval and receive whatever specific attention is needed to be completed.

MOTION:

"To accept the following guidelines as the approval process for audio-visual tools intended for use by service committees."

A rough draft of the work will be presented to all members of all the Conference Committees and Boards at the Annual Conference to review for input. (This will be the first opportunity to review the work). The input will be mailed to the originating committee via that committee's WSO project coordinator, thirty (30) days prior to the July quarterly workshop.

At the July quarterly workshop the work will be presented to the same trusted servants to review for the second time and present further input. All input must be presented to the originating committee prior to the close of the July workshop.

The originating committee will then have until the close of the October quarterly workshop to complete any changes to the work.

The World Service Office will then produce the material.

A copy of the material will be distributed to all WSC participants ninety (90) days prior to the annual Conference as official notice to regions that the material is to be considered for adoption at the annual Conference.

Intent: This approval process is concerned with a relatively new media for the presentation of service tools: audio and visual tools. All the concerns addressed in the approval process for written service tools is incorporated in this process as well. The review and input process is kept out of committee. There are no committees or boards who must approve the work before it continues on through the process. And, the originating committee has the latitude to pursue the work as it sees fit within these guidelines.

The Policy Committee was concerned with one major aspect of these tools, that is utilizing these materials before they are approved by the Conference. This is why only Conference participants will receive copies of these materials to review prior to the Conference.

MOTION:

"To accept the following guidelines as the approval process for public information tools with an immediate time constraint."

This process is for the development and consequent approval of materials when time is of the essence. These materials must be of public information nature and adhere to the following provisions:

- 1. The proposing committee must request approval of the project by both the Joint Administrative Committee and the Board of Trustees;**
- 2. The Joint Administrative Committee and the Board of Trustees must concur that the project warrants this special process for development;**
- 3. The project must be developed under the guidance of a special committee composed of:**
 - a. The Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of the P.I. Committee and the requesting committee**
 - b. Two members of the Board of Trustees**
 - c. The Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of the WSC**
 - d. Executive Director of the World Service Office**
 - e. Chairperson of the WSO Board of Directors;**
- 4. The Fellowship will be notified of the nature of the project that is being developed;**
- 5. The material will be displayed at the next annual session of the WSC for review and consequent Conference approval for continued use.**

Intent: This process is concerned with some situations that have arisen in the past where the WSO and the WSC have been ineffective in responding due to the time frame required. If a situation comes up where an immediate response is needed, the WSO or the WSC must rely on what is presently available. If there is nothing available that is Conference-approved, the lengthy process of development and approval must take place. This could take years.

This time problem could have strong repercussions. Some situations require immediate response. This process gives the Conference the latitude to address these situations compassionately and timely.

The Policy Committee feels the restraints built into this process are realistic. This is a touchy subject, but one that needs attention. We need to be more flexible in dealing with problems that face our Fellowship and require immediate attention.

In closing I would just like to sincerely thank the members of this years WSC Policy Committee for their fortitude, insight and maturity. This has been an

emotional and tremendously rewarding experience. To the Conference and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole my gratitude speaks by my growth and continued willingness to serve you. This has been the most rewarding year of my life. Service to this international Fellowship is truly service to ourselves.

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