

FROM: Steve Lantos
DATE: February 2, 1989
RE: Trustee Participation with H&I

There are a number of situations in which members of the WSB assigned to the H&I Committee, as well as the members of the WSB Internal/External Committee may be of assistance and support to world level H&I efforts. Some of these situations present themselves currently, and some are for future consideration.

One of the areas of concern for H&I is the improvement of outreach efforts, specifically to federal and state correctional facilities. However, while this issue is of paramount importance, it cannot be effectively addressed until local--area and regional--H&I committees are able to follow through on their existing commitments. The WSB could be of great assistance in this area by helping to generate material increasing the fellowship's awareness of the needs of the suffering addicts who are unable to attend regular meetings. This material could take the form of articles, letters etc., covering such topics as: the appropriateness of pre-release/temporary sponsorship, or the difficulties experienced by groups of institutionalized addicts attempting to practice the rights and privileges of membership in our fellowship, that they feel they are entitled to, but are unable to due to their environment, etc. Additionally, the WSB may be able to address the issue of the incarcerated addicts, who due to their environment or the lack of willing members to carry meetings are unable to learn about recovery in our fellowship. By generating such material, the WSB would help to start fellowship-wide discussion, raise awareness, thereby possibly generating more interest in carrying the message in H&I.

Another area involves the perception of what H&I work will entail in the future. If the fellowship is to effectively carry the message to the institutionalized addict, the present system will need to be changed. It is apparent that in the near future the present H&I committee will need to divide into two parts, treatment and correctional, as the issues faced are not uniform. Examples of these issues include clearance requirements, residents' accessibility to regular meetings, methods of approaching facility administrators to start meetings, effective types of meeting/presentation formats, etc. Once again, the WSB could assist by supporting, in fact, taking a leadership role in raising the awareness of the World H&I Committee, and assisting WSC H&I to educate the fellowship in regards to this issue. Additionally, we as a fellowship will need to address the issue of establishing a committee to interface with the professional community.

Third is the relationship of the Conference committee to the WSB Internal/External committee. It is my hope that in the future it will be

possible for the WSB committee to interface with the Conference committee to enhance unity and improve awareness of their individual roles. It is my further hope that there will be Trustee committees in the future, which will parallel the Conference committees. This would work well if the Conference committee membership was comprised solely of RSR's, chosen randomly at each Conference, with the exception of the chair and vice-chair of the committee. If such a system could be implemented, it would begin to answer the problems of our committees, which include Conference committees generating recovery literature, inbred memberships who have a narrow--tunnel--vision, etc., and obtain a wider, more visionary perspective. Additionally in such a system, the Trustee committees could be comprised of one to three members of the WSB, one or two members of the WSO staff and perhaps former Conference committee chairs, or other such well informed members of our fellowship.

More to follow. . .