

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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To: The Fellowship

From: Reuben Farris, Chairperson
Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service

Re: The Guide to Service

Date: July 31, 1989

As many of you will have noticed, the committee was not able to meet its original publication date of July 1, 1989. This memo is meant to bring you up to date on the committee's progress and our anticipated reporting date.

The committee met with members of the Joint Administrative Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the WSO Board of Directors. This meeting took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, over the weekend of July 14-16. The purpose of the meeting was to review drafts of the Guide to Service and the 12 Principles of Service, to gather input on the drafts, and to discuss the release of the work.

The meeting in Albuquerque proved to be very valuable. The observations of the assembled members broadened the perspective of the committee. There were a number of suggestions for revising the drafts. The committee believes that these revisions will clarify and strengthen the drafts and, in the long run, make the Guide more useful to the fellowship. The drafts are being revised at this time.

Many of you are familiar with the draft of the 12 Principles of Service that was released prior to the Conference last April. Following discussions in Albuquerque, the committee will most likely be proposing a new name. While the underlying principles themselves were supported in Albuquerque, the essays will reflect some changes and the order of the principles may be different. The committee believes that these changes will clarify the application of the principles to our service structure.

The committee plans to meet again in August and September to discuss the rewritten drafts and new drafts covering national and world services. There may be another larger meeting in October; or the

committee may present its work to the Board of Trustees, the WSO Board of Directors, and the JAC when each board or committee meets at its regularly scheduled time in October and early November. At any rate, the work will be reviewed once again by those members before it is released.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of releasing the drafts a piece at a time. Following discussions in Albuquerque, it became clear that the work would be easier to understand if it was released all at once.

The members of the committee were disappointed that the work could not be finalized before the July deadline. However, the members believe that the quality of the work should take precedence over a production schedule. We're anxious to present the best Guide to Service we can. Although we expect and welcome input on the drafts when they are released, we feel responsible to prepare clear and thorough drafts for your discussion.

In the meantime, our plans to conduct regional workshops are unfinished. We are reluctant to take this work "on the road" before it is completed. At our next meeting in August, we will discuss the possibility of conducting workshops on the 12 Principles of Service alone.

We beg your continuing patience and support, and we are grateful for your trust.