

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
October 13-15, 1989

Friday, October 13, 1989

9:40 A.M. Meeting opened by Jack Bernstein with a moment of silence.

Attendance

Jack Bernstein, Chair
Beck Meyer, Vice Chair
Tom McCall
Greg Pierce
Stretch Gars
Mario Tesoriero
Donna Markus
Danette Creel
Kim Johnson
Chuck Lehman

WSC

Bob Hunter

WSO

Stu Tooredman
Bob McDonough

Visitors

Steve Ringer
Pete Cole
Barbara Jorgensen
Carrie Rossip

Absent

Garth Popple

WSO Staff: Steve L., Vandy A., Hollie A., Jane M., Mary V., Ann R., Bob S., George H.

M/S/C (Donna M./Stretch G.) "To accept the minutes of the June '89 meeting." A correction was made in the explanation of the agenda review from that meeting, concerning the WSO and WSC reports being postponed until Saturday. The June minutes were approved, as corrected, by voice vote.

The board then proceeded to review the agenda for the weekend. One member asked that the entire board be able to discuss responses to letters received by the Board, with a suggestion made to allow time on the agenda at the next meeting to discuss draft responses. Kim explained that the I&E committee agenda is tentative and all items may not be addressed. Several members had questions regarding the agenda item for the audience of *It Works: The Traditions*. A request was made by the Trustee Lit. Review subcommittee that all BOT members provide input to the Traditions Ad Hoc committee.

Discussion then turned to the role of the Trustees within the Board. Jack expressed concern that inaccurate information from the BOT meetings is being released to members outside the BOT. This includes both written material and verbal information from the meetings. He is mainly anxious that this information is being distorted, which is counter productive to the fellowship. Several members related that they are apprehensive about sharing their thoughts with the Board as they are unsure of the trust factor within the Board. Greg related that he receives

lots of phone calls from members regarding the Board meetings, to which he responds in general terms. Several members related that they do not see that the BOT needs to censor itself, but do feel that Board members need to be cautious about any information that is given out as it needs to be accurate and consistent. Danette voiced her understanding that individual trustees have a responsibility in accepting a position on the Board to not impart information (written or verbal) that could harm any individual member. A suggestion was made by Greg to develop a list of the issues discussed during the meeting prior to the end of this meeting. Tom questioned whether information shared is board consensus or individual beliefs? He related that he feels responsible when sharing his thoughts as these are often seen as Board opinions, instead of his own thoughts. Each member was reminded by Jack that they have a responsibility to report all sides of an issue, and that individual personalities need to be kept out of reporting on any issue as it is necessary to present the "whole picture" not personal opinion.

The discussion then turned to how the BOT is perceived in the general N.A. community and how much participation individual Trustees have in their area/region. Several Board members related that they only represent their personal conscience, not the conscience of the area/region where they reside. Some of the Trustees were uneasy as they are not sure how individual members feel about issues within the fellowship unless they attend ASC's or RSC's. Other members see that non-participation in the committees allows them to focus on their work within the Board, as they do not have the right to express personal opinions. The general consensus was that it is impossible not to express your personal opinion when questioned, and that while it irresponsible not to respond, each member needs to be aware of their responsibility to clarify whether their response is personal or the opinion of the Board.

The next area of discussion was World Services and the *Guide to Service*. Mario related that he doesn't see the Concepts as solving problems in either the long or short term. He feels that the Concepts should be related mainly to world level service, with the option for areas/regions to utilize them as needed. He indicated that he doesn't see the WSC as using it's resources in the most prudent manner, as it needs to separate itself from being a large RSC for the world fellowship. His main focus was that there is a need for a truly representative conference for the world. Danette related her feelings that the Guide shouldn't be adopted soon. All were reminded by Jack that there was a recommendation made by the BOT at their June meeting not to approve the Guide or Concepts at the WSC '90. Tom requested that the entire Board be given the opportunity to review/input on drafts for the *Guide to Service* as it is being developed. Bob H. questioned the desire by some of the Trustees to see rough drafts before they are seen by the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service, as he feels it would not be fair to the Ad Hoc committee in their development of the material for review. Jack questioned the ability of the Board to be involved with a quality review/input due to the short amount of time available for these reviews. Kim related that she sees a need to give other Boards/Committees the respect needed while they are developing drafts and keeping those drafts in committee until they are ready to present for review. She also questioned the perceived rush to complete the *Guide to Service* project with a

recommendation that the process be slowed down. Several members were uncertain regarding how much involvement the BOT has with input to the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service and how best to present input since two Trustees are also members of that committee. Jack related that he feels the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service has lost control of their project as he sees them as being directed by the WSO, instead of being self-directed. He requested that a plan for implementation of the *Guide to Service* be presented to the fellowship by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Bob H. explained that the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service has requested another expanded meeting of their committee to discuss the national/international portions of the *Guide to Service*. This is preparatory to having the draft *Guide to Service* ready for discussion at the 1990 WSC. He reminded the Board that there is no rush for approval/implementation but sees this project as a 3-4 year process.

Greg related that he would like the Board of Trustee guidelines removed from the TWGSS as Boards/Committees should be able to set their own internal guidelines without having them be approved by the WSC. Jack stated that he feels most WSC committees have shackled themselves by having their committee guidelines become WSC policy.

Mario requested that the chair and v-chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service be present at the next Trustee meeting to formalize communication with the Board of Trustees.

A request was made by Kim to develop a proposal regarding the BOT involvement in the *Guide to Service*. No action was taken on this request.

Greg related that he would like to hear discussion on the routine involvement of WSC committee chairs and v-chairs as he feels this involvement changes the structure of the BOT. No action was taken on this request.

Danette advised the members of the Board that she is concerned with releasing input/reports from the Traditions Ad Hoc committee to the fellowship as being approved by the entire board. She explained that these reports are reviewed by the individual Board members with any input factored into the final report, but they are not approved by the entire Board. There was no response given by any member to her concern. Jack advised the Board that he has been concerned with whether input to other Boards/Committees from the Trustee Lit. Review committee needs to be approved by the entire Board. There was not any feedback from the other members of the Board concerning this issue.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:55 P.M. with the subcommittees to hold their meetings this evening and tomorrow morning.

Saturday, October 14, 1989

The full board meeting was convened at 2:20 p.m. by the chairperson with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. All the Trustees from yesterday were present with the addition of Chuck Lehman who arrived last night.

Bob Hunter presented the Joint Administrative Report including a review of the WSC agenda for each committee.

1. The Ad Hoc on N.A. Service has recommended another special meeting in December to discuss the *Guide to Service*.
2. He foresees only 10-12 items being included as agenda items from WSC committees in the Conference Agenda Report. He is not sure about the number of regional motions which will be included in the CAR.
3. He reiterated his desire to keep the WSC clear of motions as much as possible and to leave the conference open for discussion.
4. The Treasurers Handbook is presently being revised by Bob H. and Shari B. They expect a draft to be ready in January.
5. Bob asked the Board whether it wants to be involved in the *Guide to Service* proposed meeting?

Discussion followed on how to treat service committee literature, such as the Treasurers Handbook, P.I. pamphlets, etc. Do these materials need to go to the WSC? Bob H. indicated that a decision needs to be reached by January'90.

The proposed meeting of the expanded Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service to review the *Guide to Service* was the next item of discussion. Jack requested that a financial status report for the Trustees be given to determine their present status. He was informed that, at present, there is not an up-to-date treasurer's report but it is being developed. A straw poll was taken to determine whether the BOT members support the proposed meeting with 6 members very supportive, with only one negative vote. The remaining members felt that the July meeting in Alb. NM was very helpful, but questioned whether the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service can have drafts of the material out in time to give a minimum of two weeks for review. Bob H. related that he trusts the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service to be ready when they say they will. Discussion then turned to whether the *Guide to Service* needs to be sent out to the fellowship for review 60 days or 90 days prior to the WSC. Jack felt that sending it out 90 days prior may be confusing as the fellowship may see it as out for approval. The members were reminded by Becky that her feeling from WSC '89 was that the *Guide to Service* would be the priority item for WSC '90 and if this is so, then it needs to be in the hands of the Conference participants ASAP. George related that he sees the *Guide to Service* as the final report of the Ad Hoc on N.A. Service. He related that he sees the need to present questions to the Conference participants about the *GTS*, such as the time frame necessary for implementation, legal issues, is this the direction we want to proceed in?, etc. Bob H. also sees a need to have the points George made included in the Conference Agenda Report.

Stu Tooredman presented the WSO Report.

1. The French Basic Text is at the printer. It will be 45 days until the printing and 5000 copies have been ordered.
2. The Spanish Basic Text meeting to review/input any changes and to determine the final version will be held in Miami, FL on Dec. 2-3. There is a possibility that there will be two versions of the text, as European Spanish and Mexican Spanish are different. The BOD has requested that a member of the BOT attend.
3. A translation of the Basic Text was received at the WSO from the fellowship in Columbia, South America. A meeting has been scheduled with members of the Columbian fellowship in Puerto Rico on October 28-29, which will also include members of the fellowship in Puerto Rico to discuss the Service Office they plan to open.
4. Discussions are continuing on problems with translating certain terms, i.e.; God, addiction, etc. into other languages.
5. The BOD is trying a new plan to familiarize members of the fellowship with BOD actions by bringing two RSRs and one regional chair to each BOD meeting. These members are picked randomly from throughout the fellowship.
6. The BOD is continuing to study shipping costs and the possibility of opening a shipping/distributing center east of the Mississippi River. This could possibly save lots of money.
7. The European Service Office is open and running well. The staff member has been doing quite well and her duties have been expanded as a result of this.
8. Discussions are continuing about the legal liability of the WSO for area/regional problems, with no final decision reached as yet.
9. The lengthy report of tax issues in the fellowship has been completed, and will be presented to the BOD at their meeting this next weekend.
10. WCCNA 19 was very successful with 6800 registered and approximately 8000 in total attendance. It was financially successful also.
11. The jewelry issue continues to create problems. Some of the vendors have discontinued production of jewelry since being contacted by the WSO, but other vendors are continuing to stall while still producing jewelry.
12. The licensing agreements with several of the foreign fellowships expire this fall. Ireland has decided not to renegotiate, but will be buying from the ESO. The UK will be negotiating a new agreement with the WSO. The Germans have not yet been contacted. The Australians will have a sales agreement to be signed in Feb. '90.

Some of the BOT members had questions regarding the date for the World Convention in Australia as it will be winter in the southern hemisphere. It was explained that this had been taken into consideration, but that due to the high cost for space, hotels, etc., during the Australian summer it will be more convenient to hold it during the regularly scheduled time period.

Bob Stone told the BOT that the issue of registering N.A. with the federal government at all levels is currently facing the fellowship, and will need to be acted on very soon. The WSO is also working on getting information on insurance policies for the fellowship, to assist in the liability issue for the WSO.

The meeting continued with the presentation of the subcommittee reports.

Internal/External Report: see minutes attached.

There were questions regarding the recommended appointments for the Additional Needs Advisory Panel. There was considerable discussion on the criteria used in determining these recommendations. Jack told the Board that he will make a final determination of the appointments to this panel and will advise the Board of his decision tomorrow.

Policy & Structure/Training & Education: see minutes attached.

The primary focus for discussion was the issue of isolated groups/meetings. A need was determined to define "what is a group" with suggestion made to use the group section from the *Guide to Service* as a basis for this determination. Becky M. related that the Ad Hoc on Isolated Groups/Meetings is looking for input from the entire BOT, not individual input. She requested that discussion on this item continues tomorrow.

Items to be carried over to the agenda for the next meeting are the internal policy for the BOT and workshops for the BOT.

The minutes for the Lit. Review committee were passed out for review tonight. A decision was made to begin at 8:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Recessed for the evening at 6:10 p.m.

Sunday, October 15, 1989

The meeting was convened at 8:50 a.m. by the chairperson with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Trustees present for this meeting were Jack B. (Chair), Becky M.(V-Chair), Mario T., Greg P., Tom M., Kim J., Donna M., Danette C., Stretch G., and Chuck L.. Also present were Hollie Arnold, George Hollahan, Bob Stone, Steve Lantos (WSO Staff), Bob Hunter (WSC Chair), Bob McDonough (WSO BOD V-Chair), Steve Ringer (WSC P.I. Chair), and Pete Cole (WSC H&I V-Chair).

Literature Review Committee: see minutes attached.

Discussion ensued regarding the 10/90 deadline and whether this is feasible. Discussed a proposed change to the motion adopted last year which would delete the time restraints. No proposal made at this time.

Regarding the review process itself, there was much discussion on expansion of the process to include more people. The Traditions Ad Hoc is recommending that any N.A. member be provided with the opportunity for review/input on the Traditions, not just literature committees. There was general agreement that the BOT supports this proposal to expand the process.

Greg expressed concern with having the drafts out for review per chapter, due to the inter-relation of each tradition and the underlying principles. All the members were informed by Jack that the Ad Hoc is trying this new process as they feel the fellowship is dissatisfied with the present review/input/approval process. Tom expressed strong feelings that the full Board needs to be able to review/input the drafts prior to releasing them to the fellowship. He was assured that the Board members will be able to review/input prior to fellowship-wide release.

The option of using a professional consultant in the Ad Hoc committee was the next item of business. The board was advised by Danette that the professional consultant would not be a member of the committee, but an employee to be used for technical and creative consultation. Several members of the Board also see a definite need for more involvement of additional members of the Board in the Ad Hoc Traditions committee. A decision was reached to hold a combined meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee and the full Board of Trustees. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 9-11, 1990.

The involvement of the trustees in translation issues was the next item of discussion. The Literature Review subcommittee doesn't feel that translation matters belong in their committee and don't plan on continuing to discuss those issues in their meetings. The general feeling was that the trustees need to be involved with conceptual philosophical discussions regarding translations, with a follow-up recommendation to the translations advisory committee.

Discussion then turned to the international needs of the fellowship. All of the trustees requested that they be kept more closely advised of international growth through being sent copies of the International Communication Register on a regular basis. Several members expressed concern that the WSO is the only body involved in working with the international community. They feel that the WSO reacts/responds to questions and issues on an individual basis, and they do not see that there is any agreed upon policy or philosophy for international development. Questions were raised regarding their being no policy which includes the BOT in the decision making loop for the international fellowship. Tom explained that the International Advisory Committee was set up to be a liaison between the international fellowship and the WSO to deal with crisis situations, not conceptual

or philosophical problems. It was decided that time needs to be set aside on the agenda of the next BOT meeting to discuss this issue in detail, so as to increase the awareness and involvement of the Trustees.

The Additional Needs Advisory Members were appointed by Jack based on the recommendations of the I/E committee and discussions of yesterday. These members are Gordon P (S. CA) and Darwyn L. (MS) with Jay V. (GA) for alternate.

Election procedures for the Trustee need to be finalized by Jan 1, 1990 for discussion at the JAC. These procedures need to be reviewed by all BOT members prior to sending to Bob H. for JAC review. An urgent need was felt to make a recommendation to the WSC participants that no non-addicts be elected until the BOT has a better understanding of how best to utilize non-addicts within the Board.

Each of the Trustees was asked to answer the three question included in the report from the Ad Hoc on Isolated Groups/Meetings and to send their responses to Steve L. for compilation prior to the WSC Workshop in St. Louis, MO.

The date for the next BOT meeting is Feb. 2-4, 1990 in Van Nuys, CA.

M/S/C (Donna M./Mario T.) "To adjourn at this time."

The meeting closed at 11:45 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

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