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To: WSC Policy Committee (voting members and interested parties)

From: Ann Rider, WSO Staff

Date: December 4, 1989

Re: Minutes

Enclosed are minutes from our meeting in St. Louis. Please review them and let me know if you find any errors. Also enclosed is the elections packet reflecting your decisions made in St. Louis. Bob Hunter asked me to send out a letter to you all, which is also enclosed.

Let me know if there's anything else I can do for you. Hope your holidays are joyful!

WSC POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
ST. LOUIS WORKSHOP
November 3-5, 1989

The meeting was opened by Tim B., chairperson, at 9:08 a.m. on Friday morning, November 3, 1989, with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Present at the meeting were Tim B., Debbie O. (vice chairperson), John B., Linda C., Mitchell S., Bud K., Mariasha P-W., Karen P., Michael P., Gene R., Tom R., Sonny T., Mike V., and David W. (Keith S. was attending an ad hoc committee meeting and joined the Policy Committee later in the day.) Also present were George H. and Ann R. (WSO Staff). Members in the room introduced themselves, as did non-committee members present. The minutes of the committee's two meetings last April were reviewed, and were accepted as written.

Debbie O. made a formal apology to the committee and her work group for her inability to participate fully over the past months, due to emergency surgery.

The first topic on the agenda was rotation and continuity. The committee agreed that the report would be presented clearly as a topic for discussion, not as rules or guidelines. The report will mention that all of the input received is available from the World Service Office.

STRAW VOTE: Members in favor of accepting the report of the second working group as the committee's work, to be mailed out 90 days before the Conference, for use as members see fit. 11 in favor.

The next topic on the agenda was elections at the conference. Debbie presented a draft from her work group, and outlined two ideas for further discussion: 1) The work group believed that each candidate should accept a nomination to one position only. 2) They added language to allow committee chairs to make nominations for their committee only. There was further discussion about the nominations form asking specifically who nominates a candidate.

The committee expressed consensus for removing the language about committee chairs nominating only for their committee.

STRAW VOTE: All in favor of including the names of the nominator and the second on the service resumes passed out to conference participants? 12 in favor.

STRAW VOTE: All in favor of directing candidates to make a choice in advance and stand for only one position: 1 in favor.

The committee discussed holding trustee elections separate from the rest of the positions. Trustees require 2/3 majority for election, and serve for a 5-year term of office.

STRAW VOTE: All in favor of holding trustee elections first and/or separate: 6/1/2

STRAW VOTE: All in favor of holding trustee elections separately: 10/1/1

The committee discussed the time at which nominations should be closed, seeking a balance between allowing participants enough time to choose candidates, and having service resume packets available for participants to review well in advance of elections.

STRAW VOTE for time to close nominations:

Close of business Monday	5
9:00 a.m. Tuesday	3
Noon Tuesday	4

The committee chose to compromise with close of nominations at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday. The election procedure document will show "and service resumes" between "Nominations" and "will be accepted" in the second paragraph of the Nominations section. The committee also decided to recommend that a service resume form be included in the *Conference Agenda Report* for early completion and mailing to the WSO.

A member asked why this year's work groups didn't discuss a nominating committee, since it was part of last year's task. A STRAW VOTE indicated that the committee did not wish to discuss a nominating committee at this time. The Policy Committee will include as part of next year's action item list the topic of a nominating committee.

At noon the committee broke for lunch and resumed at 1:30 with discussions on the Qualifying paragraph. Discussion covered the need to get gossip and innuendo out of the halls, without encouraging character assassination from the floor.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of removing the last three sentences of the Qualifying section, beginning with "There are times" and ending at "12th Tradition." 8/4/1

Another option suggested was to change the fourth sentence to read "There are times when this may mean asking difficult questions." Then delete the next sentence and leave the sixth sentence intact.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of deleting the last three sentences: 4. In favor of the proposed amendment: 9.

There was prolonged discussion regarding the method of determining majority and the meaning of quorum.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of majority being a percentage of all votes cast: 3. In favor of majority being a percentage of ballots handed out: 10.

Tim assigned a work group consisting of Mike V., John and Bud to bring back on Saturday afternoon a proposal for determining majority.

In discussing the elections draft on the second page, the committee agreed that trustee elections should be listed as #1, since they will be held first. Gene, Debbie and Linda were given the task of developing a sentence or paragraph describing that procedure. The committee agreed to insert the following sentence as the third sentence of the paragraph: "If more candidates receive a 2/3 majority vote than there are positions open, those candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected."

Tim moved on to the Board of Directors paragraph. He offered to prepare a "cheat sheet" listing qualifications for all elected positions.

There was no paragraph describing election procedures for the WCC or the N.A. Way Editorial Board. The elections work group will meet with Ann to adapt the language in the TWGSS (pages 29 and 47) into new paragraphs.

The committee moved on to the Nomination Form, and discussed a method for distinguishing between RSR and regional nominations. Strike the lines that begin with "Region", "WSC Committee," "WSC Officer" and "Moved By". Leave one line reading "NOMINATED BY: (print) _____." This will allow each nominating party to list the nomination as he sees fit. The compromise was opposed by only one member, and therefore was adopted.

There was consensus to modify the form as follows:

1. Change the next-to-last question to read: "Have you read the attached letter and are you willing to make the necessary commitment?"
2. Change the last question to read: "Do you have the time, resources, and skills necessary to complete a service position? Please explain."

STRAW VOTE: In favor of reinserting the question about failure to complete a service commitment? 2/3

The committee discussed the letter to candidates and expressed concern about listing specific length of time spent on commitments. Debbie and Ann were asked to revise the letter and bring it back Saturday.

There was consensus for eliminating the write-in slot on the ballot, and adding the N.A. Way Editorial Board (in even years).

The committee recessed for dinner at 5:30 and returned at 7:00 for general forum. The general topics of discussion are shown here.

1. Expressed frustration about working on documents that may be made obsolete by the *Guide to Service*.
2. Expressed concern about lack of communication at all levels of service.
3. Where are members of BOD and BOT assigned to this committee? Why aren't they here?
4. Three workshops was too many last year; one workshop this year is not enough.
5. Don't see how you can possibly separate seating and formation of new regions.
6. Protest against membership guidelines. This committee is overwhelmingly exclusive. RSRs elected to this committee have a conflict of interest: they're taught to carry a group conscience, but in here they're asked to be responsible to N.A. as a whole.
7. Suggestion to hold a committee inventory in April, and perhaps even dissolve until the *Guide to Service* is finished (made by a voting member).
8. Suggestion to use RSR alternates instead of WSO staff to count ballots.
9. Suggestion that Policy Committee send work to regional policy committees and ask for input.

The open forum recessed at 9:30 p.m. The committee met again at 9:10 a.m. Saturday morning with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Members present included Tim B., Debbie O., John B., Linda C., Mitchell S., Bud K., Mariasha P-W., Karen P., Michael P., Gene R., Tom R., Keith S., Sonny T., Mike V., and David W. Also present were George H. and Ann R. (WSO Staff).

John announced that his work group assigned yesterday would not propose specific language about counting votes, because to do so would require amendments to TWGSS and the standing rules. He then presented the work of the first work group on seating of new regions. Keith presented the work of the second group, including a 4-point plan.

There was prolonged discussion regarding the needs of non-U.S. regions; the type of information that should be included in the region's report for the CAR; the mandate to set requirements for seating a new region; the different needs of different regions, and the difficulty in trying to set criteria for seating.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of having a standardized inventory questionnaire: 11/1/1

STRAW VOTE: In favor of changing the title of the document to "Requirements for Seating New Regions at the Conference." 15 in favor.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of the conceptual content of the 4-point plan: 13 in favor.

There was further discussion about using a letter of intent in the CAR, instead of a full report.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of including a full report in the CAR? 13

Tim assigned Mike, Keith, Tom and Debbie to a work group on new language. The committee took a lunch break from 12:10 to 1:30. At that time Gene presented an amendment to the TWGSS (1989 edition), page 19, 1.C.(5). Tim proposed also changing "subcommittees" to "committees." The motion should read: "To delete from page 19 of the *Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure* (1989 edition), the language contained in 1.C.(5), and replace it with 'Committee chairpersons.'"

VOTE TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE AS MOTION IN THE CAR: 12/0/3 This motion will appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

The committee turned its attention to revisions in the elections procedure, developed by the work groups.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of accepting the Election Information Sheet as part of the elections packet: 13.

A paragraph explaining that trustee elections come first was presented to the committee. Jack B. (BOT chairperson) was in the room. The board will review trustee elections before the January JAC, and will give input to the Administrative Committee. This paragraph will be sent to them for their consideration.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of the trustee paragraph: 13.

A work group presented three new sentences to replace the "We" language in the Qualifying section. After discussion, the committee agreed (11 in favor) to use the following language: "It is important to consider all pertinent information in order to choose trusted servants. There are times when this may mean asking difficult

questions. Conference participants are asked to accept ALL of the information that is provided in a loving, caring manner--maintaining the spirit of our 12th Tradition."

A work group presented two paragraphs describing the method of election to WCC and the N.A. Way Editorial Board. The committee agreed (13 in favor) to add these two paragraphs as 4 and 5.

A work group presented a revised letter to candidates. The committee agreed (13 in favor) to accept the letter as presented.

A work group presented a cover letter for the report on rotation and continuity. The letter was modified by changing "concepts" in the third line to "practices." "World Service Policy Committee" was changed to "WSC Policy Committee." In the third paragraph, "working document" was changed to "report." The committee was offered and voted on several options for presenting the work. The options and the vote count were as follows:

- Include in CAR: 1
- Present as report to Conference: 2
- Include in December *Fellowship Report*: 8
- Send in separate mailing: 3

Tim agreed to include the report on rotation and continuity in the December issue of the *Fellowship Report*, and also to include it in his report to the Conference.

A work group presented a paragraph on group conscience that was meant to have been included in the rotation and continuity report. The committee decided to add the paragraph to the report as it was originally submitted to the committee.

The work group on seating of new regions gave a report on its work. The original four points survived with modification and the addition of a fifth point. The procedure recommended by the work group was:

1. The WSO and the Policy Committee Chair will be notified of the intent to form a new region by those considering forming the region.
2. New regions will submit a report to the Administrative Committee 120 days prior to the World Service Conference for inclusion in the *Conference Agenda Report*.
3. The new region's representative will be introduced at the conference by the WSC chair.
4. There will be a question and answer period so that the new region's representative may answer questions from the floor.
5. Finally, a vote will be taken to accept or reject the seating of the new region. A simple majority will be required for either a motion to accept or reject.

[Note: wording taken from notes and may not be exact]

Discussions continued until 5:45, and another work group was assigned to bring back language in the morning.

The committee reconvened at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday. Members present included Tim B., Debbie O., John B., Linda C., Mitchell S., Bud K., Mariasha P-W., Karen P., Michael P., Gene R., Tom R., Keith S., Mike V., and David W. Also present were

George H. and Ann R. (WSO Staff). The work group passed out a draft, which read:

"A region seeking to become a WSC participant is required to follow this 5-step process:

1. A region seeking to become a WSC participant will notify the WSC Policy Chairperson, through the WSO, no later than 180 days prior to the WSC. An information packet will be made available.
2. A region seeking to become a WSC participant shall submit a written report to the WSC Chairperson no later than 120 days prior to the WSC for inclusion in the CAR.
3. A region seeking to become a WSC participant will be introduced at the Conference by the WSC Chairperson.
4. A region seeking to become a WSC participant will send a representative to the WSC so that a question and answer period can take place.
5. A vote will be taken by written ballot. Seating requires a simple majority."

It was M/S/C to carry this item over until next year, as a priority item on the Policy Committee's action item list.

Tim took straw votes to guide next year's work.

STRAW VOTE: In favor of presenting some work on this topic in the CAR: 5/6.

STRAW VOTE: Is this the right direction for the work? 12 agree.

The committee will meet again at the 1990 meeting of the WSC. Tim asked members to bring in writing what they wish to discuss, OR send written input in advance to Ann at WSO so it can be mailed to all members on the mailing list.

Tim reviewed the work done this weekend:

1. An amendment to the TWGSS will appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*.
2. The election procedure will be forwarded to the WSC Administrative Committee for implementation. Next year's committee will discuss a nominations committee.
3. The report on rotation and continuity will appear in the December *Fellowship Report*, and also in the Policy Committee's report to the conference.
4. Seating of new regions will be the priority item for next year's work.

The meeting recessed at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday, November 5, 1989.