

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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To: WSC Policy Committee
From: Mitch Soodak, Shannon Lynagh, Chris Chambliss, Bob Feneran
RE: Rotation/Continuity
Date: June 26, 1990

Our work group met June 23-24 in Wayne, NJ at the East Coast Convention. One assigned member, Sonny Tasillo, informed the chair he would be unable to attend. Jon Thompson (NJ RSR, Member Ad Hoc on NA Service) also attended and participated in some of the discussions.

Initial discussions raised several related questions: What is the intent of our work on this topic? What is our work's relationship to that of the Ad Hoc on NA Service? Will the trustees' Ad Hoc on the Traditions be addressing this topic? Will Policy have access to their preliminary drafts/discussions/input on this? With BOT's and BOD's unilateral decisions not to participate on WSC Policy, will we get input on any of our work from these boards? How does this affect our committee structure, with its designed balance of rotation and continuity?

If the Policy Committee is to produce a workable acceptable proposal on rotation and continuity by conference position, including terms of service and eligibility for re-election, we will need cooperation and communication with other boards and committees affected by our work. We should request input from them, and note that request in the next Fellowship Report. Our work group believes that the following proposals may stimulate some response.

RSR/RSR ALTERNATE

These positions make up the large majority of the conference, and we believe this is where we need to start to address the issues of rotation and continuity. Despite the recovery and service experience that usually precedes election to one of these positions, one's first WSC can be a rather overwhelming experience. Second-term RSR's are often more effective at their second conference. Some regions have re-elected RSR's and Alternates, while others have added a second alternate position. We recommend a two-year term for RSR Alternate and a two-year term for RSR. For purposes of rotation, we suggest a limit of one term for each position.

WSC CHAIRPERSON/VICE CHAIRPERSON/SECOND VICE CHAIRPERSON

From 1982 to 1988 the chair and vice chair served two consecutive one-year terms. With the addition of the second vice chair position in 1988, our last two chairs have service on full term, and our current chair has expressed a desire to serve only one term in that position. Since the conference currently has no shortage of qualified nominees for these positions the enhanced rotation seems to be a good idea. Continuity is strengthened when outgoing chairs serve somewhere else in world services.

We are in agreement that nominees for second vice chair should consider this a three-year commitment, ideally rotating to vice chair the second year, and chair the next. Circumstances may arise that disrupt this process: in that case we suggest a limit of two consecutive one-year terms in any of these positions.

WSC TREASURER

This is an extremely responsible and important position. Two consecutive one-year terms is probably best. The second term would bring a perspective unavailable in the first. The conference might occasionally be well-served by a third term, but this should occur only rarely, and be considered an absolute limit for the sake of rotation.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON/VICE CHAIRPERSON

A succession from vice chair to chair is obviously desirable. We recommend serving one year in each position, as in the Administrative Committee positions, with the option open for a second term, and with a limit of two consecutive terms for each position.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Considering that the BOD is responsible for the management of over 90% of the funds available for world services, we believe that continuity in these positions is extremely important. We also believe that rotation is important; accordingly, we recommend a limit of three consecutive three-year terms. For the one-year terms, we recommend that new members be elected each year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We recommend a limit of two consecutive five-year terms. However, we do not believe a second term as trustee is the only way to maintain continuity. There are other positions where a member completing a term as trustee may utilize that experience, such as the BOD, committee chair of vice chair, committee member, or galactic service representative.

POLICY, LITERATURE, H&I AND PI COMMITTEE MEMBER

We recommend a limit of four consecutive years' service for the Policy Committee members elected by the conference. WLC registered voting members are limited by their guidelines to two consecutive two-year terms. We believe we should seek input from WSC H&I and WSC PI about membership in those committees. These limitations are not meant to affect internal elections or appointments, or to include the chair and vice chair of these committees.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Our work group was divided on this. We concluded that rotation and continuity in ad hoc committees should be addressed by the full Policy Committee.