



Conference Digest

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This issue of the *Conference Digest* focuses on preparations being made for the 1992 annual meeting of our fellowship's World Service Conference, being held April 25 through May 2 in Dallas, Texas, USA. We've summarized material both from the 1992 *Conference Agenda Report*, containing motions and approval-form literature, and from the January 1992 *Conference Report*. Everything related to each area of service (conference administration, literature, WSO, etc.) has been grouped together, including reports from the RSR working groups that have been meeting since WSC'91 and conference motions presented by various regions. Those wishing to purchase either the 1992 *Conference Agenda Report* or the January 1992 *Conference Report* should use the clip-out order form on page 4 of this issue of the *Conference Digest*.

The annual meeting of NA's World Service Conference is always a grueling event for participants. This year's WSC chairperson says, "I think it must be the constant demand for a high level of concentration and the emotional involvement of commitment to the work" that makes the meeting such a strain. Two RSR working groups have examined issues related to the conference format, seeking ways to make it less of a trial for participants. Many of their suggestions have been factored into this year's WSC format, which has five basic elements: the two-day Multinational Development Forum, two days of panel discussions, old business sessions (when nominations and elections for each board and committee will occur) spanning a two-day period, a full day of board and committee meetings, and a final day devoted to new business.

Three regions presented motions related to conference administration in the agenda report. Louisiana suggested that regional motions appear in the *Conference Agenda Report* under the headings of the various world service boards and committee they apply to, rather than being lumped together at the end of the agenda report. Iowa proposed that the WSC annual meeting be moved back a month, allowing thirty more days for NA communities to evaluate the *Conference Agenda Report* with their RSRs. (Southern) New Jersey urged the conference to study the possibility of creating a world services electronic bulletin board, facilitating easier, more rapid communications.

In addition to these motions, the WSC Administrative Committee published a proposal that multiregional forums be conducted next year. These forums, according to the WSC vice chairperson, "would include sessions facilitated by world-level trusted servants on topics like H&I, PI, and literature." World service boards and committees would hold their working meetings apart from the forums. The administrative committee hopes that multiregional forums held in various locations in the United States would allow for direct contacts both between world services and the fellowship and between members in neighboring regions.

Translations Committee

The World Services Translation Committee was created by WSC'91 to assist NA communities worldwide in the translation of our literature. At last year's conference, the committee was given temporary guidelines to try out for a year. This year, the Translation Committee is asking to be allowed to continue working for one more year under those guidelines.

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Committee

Last year's conference discussed the possibility of creating an interregional newsletter. An administrative committee motion this year suggests that the WSC allow regions to publish material in the *Conference Report*, thereby providing for better communication between regions. In a working group report, one RSR offered the opinion that interregional communication was not a serious problem today, requiring nothing more than the willingness to make a phone call, write a letter, or take a drive to visit a neighboring region.

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Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service

This committee is presenting two motions to the fellowship this year. The first asks for approval of *Twelve Concepts for NA Service*, a 38-page booklet under development since early 1988. The booklet is included in this year's *Conference Agenda Report*, which can be ordered using the clip-out form on page 4. The second motion asks the fellowship to give the committee a vote of confidence, allowing it to complete *A Guide to Service in NA* by WSC'93. The committee intends to work closely with the trustees and the conference policy committee to finish the *Guide*, in the works since 1984.

Conference financial condition good

It appears that 1991-92 contributions to the conference will cover the \$262,000 budget approved at WSC'91.

Interim Committee

The Interim Committee was created at last year's conference to manage the conference budget and make other necessary world service decisions until WSC'92. This year, the Interim Committee is presenting a motion that would make the arrangement permanent. Additionally, the Interim Committee has presented a set of priority items in the *Conference Agenda Report*, asking the fellowship to help prioritize world service spending for the coming year.

Joint Administrative Committee

The Joint Administrative Committee, composed of conference officers and the chairs and vice chairs of the four conference committees, the World Service Board, and the WSO Board of Directors, was created by WSC'86 to replace the old WSC Finance Committee. At last year's conference, the WSC temporarily assigned responsibility for its budget to the Interim Committee. The JAC's only job this year has been to oversee the compilation of the 1992 *Conference Agenda Report*. At its January meeting, the JAC voted to present two motions at WSC'92. The first asks that conference committee chairs and vice chairs be funded for travel to two trustee meetings per year, allowing them to continue to coordinate their committees' work with one another and with the World Service Board. The second motion recommends that the JAC be dissolved.

TRUSTEES

The World Service Board of Trustees continues its preparations for the Multinational Development Forum, being held as part of this year's World Service Conference meeting. To assure wide participation in the event, air and lodging expenses for fellowship representatives from eleven countries outside North America are being covered by the WSC. The forum agenda, focussing conference attention on fellowship development worldwide, will be finalized at the trustees' Montreal meeting, February 13-16.

Two regions published motions in the *Conference Agenda Report* concerning the MDF. A recommendation from the Mid-America Region (Kansas), encouraging the development of a regional network program to support young NA communities, has been included in the forum agenda. The Buckeye Region (NE Ohio) recommends "that the WSC stop funding all travel from foreign countries" (sic), believing that conference contributions from the fellowship in the USA should be spent only on NA services in the USA.

Trustee work on the Twelve Traditions portion of *It Works: How and Why* proceeds. You can use the clip-out form on this page to order review material on both the steps and traditions. The deadline for comment on drafts of material on Traditions One through Six has already passed, but input on Traditions Seven through Twelve will be accepted until July 15, 1992. The trustees hope to have the approval form of all twelve traditions ready for WSC'93.

This year, the trustees are presenting the conference with motions concerning two subjects. The first is something called the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust, a set of legal guidelines put together to protect NA's literature and logos. The trust follows up on conference action last year related to the unauthorized publication of NA literature.

The second subject the trustees are asking the conference to act on is a proposed revision of policies and working guidelines for the World Service Board itself. The proposal clarifies the purpose and organization of the board. It also separates WSC policy (which only the conference may change) from the trustees' working guidelines (which the WSB may revise itself).

In addition to its motions, the trustees have prepared four bulletins to spark discussion at WSC'92 on subjects of vital NA interest: prejudice, fundraising and Tradition Seven, direct group contributions to the service structure, and conference voting. These bulletins, published in the January 1992 *Conference Report*, can be ordered separately at no charge by using the clip-out form on page 3 of this issue of the *Conference Digest*.

Funding NA services is a subject that draws much regional attention in both the *Conference Agenda Report* and the *Conference Report*. The South-B RSR Working Group has nearly five pages of material on funding issues in the *Conference Report*, emphasizing communication, responsibility, and faith. A regional motion from Indiana suggests that a questionnaire be sent to ask if NA groups feel adequately represented in world services and are willing

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Steps 1-6, _____ copies @ \$2.50 ea.....	\$ _____
Traditions 1-6, _____ copies @ \$2.50 ea.....	_____
Traditions 7-12, _____ copies @ \$2.50 ea.....	_____
Guide to Service, _____ copies @ \$5 ea.....	_____
Subtotal	\$ _____
CA orders add 8.25% sales tax	_____
Shipping and handling.....	add \$2.50
Total	\$ _____

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PO Box 9999, Van Nuys CA 91409 USA.

to provide the money needed for world service work. The Buckeye Region asks that the WSC treasurer find out how many groups or members there are in each region and how much money is spent providing services to each region.

Conference voting also appears to be of wide interest, with three regions presenting a total of six motions on the subject in addition to one regional paper and one RSR working group report on the subject. Presently, the World Service Conference allows RSRs, conference officers, committee chairs, the chair of the WSO Board of Directors, and all trustees to vote. A number of participants feel that conference voting rights should be limited to RSRs only. One region has even suggested that especially sensitive issues should be settled by a tally of votes directly from the NA groups themselves.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

The WSC Literature Committee is presenting two pieces of new recovery literature for fellowship approval. *Just for Today--Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts*, under development since 1984, includes 366 pieces on a wide array of NA topics. A booklet called *In Times of Illness* was begun a few years ago to replace an earlier, problematic information pamphlet, *Use of Medication in Recovery*. Both *Just for Today* and *In Times of Illness* are included in the 1992 *Conference Agenda Report*, which can be ordered by using the clip-out form at the bottom of page 4 of this issue of the *Conference Digest*.

The steps project has been moving along well, according to the committee's chairperson. Members can order review material on Steps One through Six by using the clip-out form on page 2 of this issue of the *Conference Digest*. The deadline for input on this material is June 30, 1992. In addition to the new literature motions, the literature committee will be asking the conference to approve a work list for 1992-93 authorizing completion of the steps portion of *It Works: How and Why* and the start of work on a series of guides to personal writing on the Twelve Steps. The committee hopes to have the approval form of the stepbook ready for action at WSC'93.

The literature committee's discussion panel at WSC'92 will focus on next year's approval process for *It Works: How and Why*, the committee's "C" and "D" (lower priority) work list items, and future literature development priorities.

A number of regional motions addressed to the literature committee appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*. Chicagoland asks that changes to NA literature not be made on the spur of the moment at WSC meetings, feeling such proposals should be published in advance in the *CAR*. (Southern) New Jersey recommends that the *Recovery and Relapse IP* be added to the recently published *Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous* at its next printing. The same region suggests that some mention of the concept of "group conscience" be added to *The Group Booklet*, approved at WSC'91. The Alask Region (Alberta and Saskatchewan) encourages the literature committee to produce an IP on "seniors in recovery." The Buckeye

Region moves "to eliminate the use of a select committee" and "return to the practice of conducting literature conferences" to provide greater opportunity for participation in NA literature development. The Greater Illinois Region (Southern Illinois) wants to delete the statement that "treatment can help you start to live life drug-free" from the pamphlet, *For Those in Treatment*.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Two new regions have presented requests for conference recognition in the 1992 *Conference Agenda Report*: the North East Atlantic Region in the Canadian Maritimes, and the Northern New England Region in Maine, USA. Conference leaders expect that some of the representatives attending WSC'92 especially to participate in the Multinational Development Forum will also ask for voting recognition, though publishing deadlines prevented them from including their requests in the agenda report.

The policy committee has worked for a number of years on conference recognition procedures. This year, the committee is proposing a policy for the seating of new regions, along with the creation of an admissions panel to assist in the process. A follow-on motion recommends that language in the committee's guidelines that duplicates material in the proposed admissions panel policy be deleted.

Discussions arising from the development of the proposal above led the WSC Policy Committee to recognize several issues that had previously prevented the formulation of a long-term plan for seating of regions. These issues include regional diversity, conference effectiveness, and worldwide representation. Members of the policy committee will participate with members of the WSB Internal Affairs Committee and the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service in a panel discussion of these issues at WSC'92. Two regions have submitted motions relative to these topics. Wisconsin suggests that a plan be developed for the creation of a separate USA conference. The (Southern) New Jersey Region recommends that the Multinational Development Forum be given the World Service Conference name, and that the conference as we know it now be called the US National Assembly.

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These bulletins are free. To order, send this form with your name and address to Trustees, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys CA 91409 USA.	

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

The conference committee on hospitals and institutions has no motions to present this year. The committee's discussion panel at WSC'92 will focus on ideas for revisions to its internal guidelines and handbook—including an audio training tape—and outreach to members and groups in treatment and correctional facilities. A second panel, conducted in conjunction with the conference PI committee, will be held to discuss ways of making contact with treatment units in correctional facilities.

One item on the H&I committee's agenda for 1992-93 is review of the pamphlet, *H&I and the NA Member*. Working along with members of the literature committee, H&I may develop recommendations for revisions to the IP.

WORLD CONVENTION

The World Convention Corporation reports that WCNA-21, held last year in Sydney, broke even, and that preparations for WCNA-22, to be held this September in Toronto, are shifting into high gear. Registration forms for the 1992 convention should be available within the next month from WSO. Plans are also proceeding for WCNA-23 in Chicago, WCNA-24 in Baltimore, and WCNA-25 somewhere in Europe.

The WCC has presented only one motion for consideration at WSC'92: to remove the current prohibition barring special interest meetings at world conventions. The corporation board says it is neither for nor against such meetings, but wants to give the fellowship a chance to offer direction on this sensitive issue. The Chicagoland Region has presented a motion asking WCC to stop providing free coffee at the world convention, believing the expense to be frivolous.

TO ORDER CONFERENCE ITEMS

1992 Conference Agenda Report

_____ copies @ \$11.00 each \$ _____

January 1992 Conference Report

_____ copies @ \$3.50 each \$ _____

Subtotal \$ _____

California residents add 8.25% sales tax

Total \$ _____

Payable by check or money order in USA funds only.

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PO Box 9999, Van Nuys CA 91409 USA.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The public information committee has no motions to present to WSC'92. The committee's panel discussion will look at a fellowship survey being proposed by the New Jersey (USA) State Department of Health. The committee feels such a survey could give us a lot of useful information, but cautions against jumping into the project without careful consideration. The panel will also discuss work planned for 1992-93 on the NA video, and the idea of cultivating a more cooperative relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous so that our fellowship can learn from their PI experience.

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

Last year's WSO costs directly related to NA services were about 1.29-million US dollars; the addition of miscellaneous administrative costs brought that figure up to approximately 1.57-million. However, net sales for 1991 came to only about 1.23-million dollars, leaving the World Service Office with a loss of something like \$342,963 for the year. That loss, added to a similar shortfall from 1990, has led the WSO Board of Directors to approve a 10% price increase, effective February 1, 1992. This will bring WSO's retail price for the English-language Basic Text up to \$8.80, and the price of the French text up to \$5.50. *This decision does not affect the price of the recently published Spanish and Portuguese versions of the Basic Text.* With this price increase and continued belt-tightening measures, the WSO board says the office should be able to turn its finances around by the middle of this year.

The Carolina Region, hearing of the WSO's money troubles, has presented a motion to move the office to another location in the USA where the costs of living and doing business are lower than in Los Angeles. This proposal is under study by the WSO board.

One further area related to WSO income being considered by the office board is the WSO sales and discount policy. Currently, the World Service Office offers big discounts to regional offices that purchase large quantities of NA materials. Some discussion about possibly reducing those discount rates, thereby increasing WSO sales income, has already occurred. The Northern New York Region has presented a motion in the *Conference Agenda Report* recommending that WSO flatten its fellowship discount rate altogether. The WSO panel at WSC'92 will provide an opportunity for discussion of these issues. The panel will also present information on tax issues affecting the NA community in the USA, requested by the WSC at last year's meeting.

The Wisconsin Region has presented an additional motion related to the World Service Office, recommending that a Braille White Booklet be produced. The Indiana Region has moved that the office produce an inexpensive paperback version of Book One of our Basic Text.