

World Service



Conference Report

World Service Board of Trustees

The WSB has had an active and productive year thus far. The trustees have met twice this year at the WSO in Chatsworth, Los Angeles, California, and we will have our third meeting there in March. Our January meeting was an expanded meeting, which means that the WSC standing committee chairs and vice chairs, members of the Administrative Committee, and members of the WSO Executive Committee were in attendance. I've included here a brief overview, followed by the trustee committee reports.

The work teams discussed in our last conference report have worked well. These work teams focused on the outreach handbook project, the Development Forum, various aspects of the Public Relations Work Plan (e.g., the research conference and the NA census survey), and the additional needs handbook. At our March meeting, we expect a full board review of our projects: the draft outreach booklet, an additional needs booklet and pamphlet, the Fellowship Development Plan, and the Public Relations Work Plan and its various components. We began and will continue discussion about an approval process for service-based materials, bulletins, and pamphlets as well.

We have participated in a number of events, and we believe this interface with the fellowship is essential given our ongoing tasks. At this time, trustees have attended and participated in a variety of sessions at the world convention, the Western States Forum, the Asia Pacific Forum, an office/convention workshop held in Denver, and *CAR* workshops in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Southern California. Should any other requests come in, we hope to be able to accommodate them.

The board received two committed motions at WSC'96. The first one recommended that information about area conferences be included in the Guide to Local Services in NA. Although we had scheduled discussion for this item at our January meeting, we were unable to consider the subject and have rescheduled the discussion for our March meeting.

The second set of motions are those concerning the WSO sales policy. Trustees assigned to the WSO Board of Directors have kept our full board informed about WSO activities at each of our meetings, especially in their reports about the WSO Business Plan Committee and its discussions of the sales policy. We will continue our cooperation with the board of directors in the development of its business plan goals, and we will continue our own ongoing discussions of the sales policy at our next meeting.

We have placed a high priority on responding quickly to communications, and we continue to set aside time in our meetings to discuss topics related to fellowship communications and our bulletin projects. We feel this will allow us to provide a more informed response to the fellowship in our ongoing communications.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Fellowship Development Plan

This work team met in December and developed a set of goals that were presented to the board in January. The board reviewed the proposed goals and gave the go-ahead for the work team to proceed with drafting narrative for the goals in time for our March meeting. We hope to add them to our outline for presentation at WSC'97.

Outreach

Two trustees and two members of the former WSC Outreach Ad Hoc Committee formed a work team to review and revise the outreach handbook. Their first task was to determine the focus of outreach and then edit the material in the handbook. Since outreach activities differ greatly depending upon local needs, the material was edited to give general guidelines and suggestions rather than trying to define all the activities that an outreach committee might take on. A resource directory page has been added to help the reader find additional outreach materials, which we think will encourage outreach committees to assess their local fellowship needs instead of following an arbitrary list of approved functions.

The result of this team's work will be a condensed version of the outreach handbook that is tentatively titled *The Outreach Booklet*. We intend to present it at this conference, then mail it out for a review-and-input period, and finally place it in the *CAR* for approval at WSC'98.

World service information materials

At our January meeting, we talked about the need for an acceptable approval process for service-based information materials. By this we mean those items that are used by committees and boards to address specific issues, such as trustee bulletins, public information bulletins, and the new technology being used by our fellowship. Currently there are several processes used. We believe that if a simple standard can be developed for everyone to use, this would greatly enhance world services' ability to respond to our fellowship in a timely and productive manner. Along with the WSC Public Information Committee, we have asked the WSC Policy Committee to review a draft protocol and give us recommendations for future use. We would expect to have a year-long trial run to work out any kinks in the system before presenting it to the conference, perhaps at WSC'98, for approval.

Development Forum

As we have reported, the list of invitees for the Development Forum has been opened up for WSC'97. As you may recall, the list of funded communities has remained the same for the past several years. Opening the list this year has meant that we were able to extend invitations to two communities who have never been able to attend the WSC: Costa Rica and Norway. Unfortunately, opening the list up also meant that we had to say no to an equal number of communities that previously had been funded: France and New Zealand. We would also like to note that several communities were happy to notify us that they no longer required DF assistance: Portugal, Brazil, and Sweden. Additionally, after a long absence, we are pleased to report that a delegate from Japan will be attending this year's conference. Plans for this year's DF session at the conference have not been finalized but will be discussed at our March meeting.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Additional needs handbook

The full board will have discussions about this handbook based on its review as well as on recommendations from the External Affairs Committee at its March meeting. We will look at the variety of publication formats available for such material: a handbook, a booklet, topic-related pamphlets, or possibly a chapter for inclusion in existing handbooks or in *A Guide to Local Services in NA*. We want to have a final review draft ready for this conference.

Public Relations Work Plan

The EAC recently revised the Public Relations Work Plan at its January meeting in light of two factors: the loss of staff resources with the resignation of Lee Manchester, primary staff member for this project; and the change from what was previously called a "research conference" to a "research roundtable discussion," which has been placed on hold until further discussions and decisions can be made. The revised PR Work Plan was later ratified by the expanded meeting. The status of the various elements of the plan to date is as follows:

Census, demographic survey

As stated in our last conference report, a pilot survey was conducted at the WCNA in St. Louis. Over a thousand survey responses were collected, and the board is currently in the process of examining the raw data. We were encouraged by the positive response of members to this survey, and we are optimistic that obtaining this kind of information about our members' involvement with NA will be a positive tool for future public relations efforts. This pilot survey will provide the basis for the development of a more extensive fellowship-wide survey. After reviewing the data, the board decided to restructure the coding instrument that presents the outcome of the data. We are consulting with other researchers on the structure of the coding instrument. After this has taken place, we will be

in a better position to collate the data into a useful outcome report. We will present a report on the WCNA-26 survey to the conference during the trustee report at WSC'97.

Research roundtable discussions

As mentioned in the previous *Conference Report*, a research conference had been scheduled for October 1996. However, at the August board meeting, we decided that more thorough discussions about the relation between the project and our traditions were needed before we could embark on such an endeavor. After having broader discussions at our expanded meeting, we explored in greater detail issues surrounding the focus of what we are now calling a "research roundtable discussion." Discussions about this roundtable are continuing, and we hope to schedule it for late 1997 or 1998. We will provide the WSC with a report on this matter during the trustee report at WSC'97.

Professional events

Since the last *Conference Report*, we have attended the two remaining professional events targeted in the 1996 PR Work Plan. They were the annual American Correctional Association congress in Nashville in August, and the sixteenth conference of the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations in Jakarta, Indonesia, in December. Detailed reports of our participation in both these events are available from the WSO. A high point of the IFNGO conference came when the Governor of Jakarta presented a medal to Narcotics Anonymous World Services at an opening ceremony in front of some six hundred guests. Other organizations that received recognition for sending international delegations to this event were the World Health Organization, the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, and the United Nations International Drug Control Program. This was indeed an honor for NA, and an obvious benefit of our past efforts and continuity of participation. At our March meeting we will review past, current, and new events for possible inclusion in the 1997 Public Relations Work Plan. We have recently submitted an abstract for a presentation to be made at the ICAA conference in Cairo, Egypt, soon after WSC'97. The ICAA has placed us on their program in a special ninety-minute session. This conference has an Islamic theme, which we accommodate in our presentation paper. Just of interest, we are listed on the ICAA home page as an international non-governmental organization, with a link to the WSO home page.

NA Update

The two issues of this newsletter called for in the 1996 PR Work Plan were completed. *NA Update* is targeted at addictions professionals worldwide.

Informational tools for professionals

The EAC is currently developing a curriculum outline for educating primary health care workers in assisting the initiation of NA meetings in various communities where NA does not exist yet. This outline will be the basis of commencing discussions at our March meeting to further this project.

Multiregional/zonal training events, and "Train the Trainer" tools

WSC PI, in liaison with the EAC, has been developing "Train the Trainer" documented tools. These tools (or guides) are to assist trusted servants with their presentation skills on how to convey information from our various service booklets and manuals to other trusted servants in a useful and consistent manner. Once passed on to the trainee trusted servants, they would be able to pass their skills on to other trusted servants. Once we have a standard tool format, we will be able to measure our effectiveness in years to come through an evaluation exercise.

LITERATURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Step writing guides

Currently, two members of the WSB Literature Review Committee are actively working with the WSC Literature Committee on the step writing guides project. One is a member of the core work group, and another is part of the review group. We hope our participation will be an added resource for the WSCLC.

Trustee bulletin on abstinence

Since accepting our commitment to participate on the step writing guides project, we have postponed work on our bulletins. We hope to begin work on the trustee bulletin on abstinence after WSC'97.

On behalf of the board of trustees, thank you for allowing us to serve.

Stu Tooredman, Chairperson