

WSC'97 Report

A comprehensive overview of the 1997 World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous

“... to achieve our common goal.”

WSC '97 meets in Woodland Hills, California

Regional representatives and world-level trusted servants met from 26 April to 3 May 1997 at the Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills, California for NA's 21st World Service Conference. The theme of this year's conference was “... to achieve our common goal”—a phrase selected from the writings of Jimmy K., one of our fellowship's founding members.

The Interim Committee began the 1997 World Service Conference by reporting the recent acquisition of historical and archival material. The committee reported that the cost of the archives was negotiated with Jimmy K's family, and the material was purchased for \$50,000.

Each morning, to reinforce the conference's theme, participants read excerpts from Jimmy K's writings. A number of members were quite moved by the historical and spiritual significance of one of our earliest member's thoughtfully written words—so much so that the World Service Office received a number of requests for photocopies of this recently acquired archival material. Participants therefore will be receiving copies of all of the excerpts that were read at WSC '97.

Following the opening of the WSC on Sunday morning, participants also had the opportunity to tour the WSO and see some of the archival material on display at the office. Buses were provided for participants' transportation, and modest refreshments were served during the WSO Open House. Many participants expressed their pride in our new facility, and were also very pleased with the acquisition of the early office archives that were displayed.

Issue Discussion: Fund-flow— Back-to-basics

The Issue Discussion scheduled for Thursday of the conference week was postponed due to an exceptionally lengthy Old Business session that lasted well into Thursday's activities.

However that postponement, in the final analysis, ended up providing the opportunity for conference participants to demonstrate the growing maturity of our international fellowship, and of the trusted servants who represented that fellowship during 1997.

Throughout the week, trusted servants heard the facts regarding world service funding and our service efforts' expected limitations for 1997 due to a lack of human and financial resources. In reaction, conference participants rose to the occasion in support of fellowship-wide service provision by seeking to cancel the re-scheduled discussion on Saturday morning. Instead, participants insisted upon holding an open and frank discussion about our fellowship's fund-flow system, and how it can be improved for the good of the entire fellowship.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Regional motions to be in next year's CAR

15 October 1997

Issue discussion papers for next year's WSC

1 December 1997

Regional Service Representatives were forthcoming with many suggestions as to how world services, and the fellowship at large, might improve our ability to fund services at all levels within our fellowship. Among those suggestions were to develop better group-level

product information; allow for direct donations through the literature order form; ask groups to send \$1 a week or \$5 a month to world services; improve services so that groups can see what they're paying for; hold conventions as world service fund-raisers; educate our membership about 7th tradition fund-flow while relying less upon conventions and literature sales; and other sincere suggestions for a back-to-basics approach to paying for our fellowship's services.

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WSC'97 The week at a glance

Saturday, 26 April

- ❖ Development Forum session
- ❖ PI, H&I workshops
- ❖ Orientation

Sunday, 27 April

- ❖ Conference opening
- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Approval of rules of order, minutes
- ❖ New regions recognized
- ❖ Approval of WSC procedures
- ❖ WSO Open House
- ❖ Board and Committee meetings

Monday, 28 April

- ❖ World Services Development Plan Presentation
- ❖ Transition Group Presentation

Tuesday, 29 April

- ❖ Board and Committee Reports

Wednesday, 30 April

- ❖ Transition Group Small Groups
- ❖ Reports concluded
- ❖ Old business begun
- ❖ Zonal Forum meetings

Thursday, 1 May

- ❖ Conference elections
- ❖ Budget presentation, discussion
- ❖ Old business concluded
- ❖ Board and Committee meetings

Friday, 2 May

- ❖ New Business

Saturday, 3 May

- ❖ Fund-Flow Discussion
- ❖ Transition Group Wrap-up
- ❖ Development Forum Wrap-up

