



Approved Minutes

World Board Meeting - 3 - 5 December 1998

Thursday 3 December 1998

World Board members present:

Michael McDermott, Jon Thompson, Cary Seltzer, Bella Anderson, Craig Robertson, Mario Tesoriero, Daniel Schuessler, Floyd Best, Jane Nickels, Tony Walters, Larry Roche, Stephan Lantos, Susan Chess, Bob Jordan, Lib Edmonds, Mary Kay Berger, David James, Claudio Lemionet.

WSO Staff present:

Anthony Edmondson, George Hollahan, Becky Meyer, and Eileen Perez-Evans

Facilitated group session

Susan led the board in a group discussion from 9 to 10:30 am. Each member answered three questions: What is your vision for this meeting?, What are your talents?, and What jobs or volunteer work have you done in your life?

The board meeting was convened in regular session at 11:00 a.m. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Serenity prayer and the days reading from the *Just for Today* meditation book. Michael reviewed the agenda for the weekend.

Report from the Executive Committee

Approval of the October minutes was postponed to Saturday.

There were no questions or comments about the Executive Committee Reports since the last board meeting. Bob requested that dates be indicated in all Executive Committee reports when reporting past activity.

Review of the agenda

Michael briefly recapped the discussions that have occurred about the Communications Task Force. This was discussed at the last board meeting and by the EC prior to this meeting. Board members interested in this project were requested to inform a member of the Executive Committee before the EC meets Thursday evening to formulate their recommendation to the board.

Jeff Baker provided the board with an overview of the responsibilities and projected time lines for the Communications Task Force (CTF). This project is a carry over from the Fellowship Development Plan and does not have a project plan developed yet. When this group is created, they will have to develop a plan, as well as an outline of responsibilities and activities, for review and approval by the board. The current expectation is that the four-member core group would be World Board members. Other members of the fellowship could be brought in for focus groups.

The board members chosen for the core group should be able to question the status quo, be analytical, look at how this work will serve each identified audience, and be willing to follow through in their assigned work. There will be a considerable amount of work to be done at home and up to six face to face meetings in nine months. The intense work for the core group is expected between the third and ninth months. Under the current schedule this would be March through September 1999. The current timeframe has been reduced from eighteen months to twelve due to the work already undertaken by the WSO staff and the review by the board being easier to accomplish than with the past service system.

The WSO internal survey on communications came out of the staff's action groups. The discussions that began on communications needed to become more focused in order to reach a resolution stage. A group of staff volunteered to create a survey from the discussions that occurred in the action groups. The results of this survey have been collated and will be presented back to the staff sometime this month. Issues such as how the board and the staff communicate with the fellowship, surveying the membership, how the World Board receives information from staff, corporate operations, and system analysis will all need to be addressed by the CTF. The implementation stage for the results of this groups work is tentatively scheduled for September/October 1999. This is a minimum one-year commitment. Further discussion will take place tomorrow.

Workgroup Reports

NA Way Editorial Board

Steve passed out a report that was developed after their meeting last night. This was the first face to face meeting of this group. They met from 3:00 to 6:30 pm yesterday prior to the beginning of this meeting. In attendance at the meeting were Cindy Tooredman, Steve Sigman, Jane, Steve, Craig, and Bella. They discussed the absence of long range planning, the support given to the magazine by the fellowship and world services, and the inadequate supply of quality manuscripts for the recovery section of the magazine. They are discussing themes for the magazine and will identify the themes for the next year at their January meeting. This will allow them to solicit manuscripts from the fellowship that relate to the theme for a particular issue. The current deadline for the magazine is three to five months before the distribution date due to translations, sizable circulation, vendors, printing, etc.

They will need to meet one day prior to the January board meeting for the purposes of planning, work on guidelines and internal processes, themes for the magazine, and possible issue topics for inclusion in the CAR to also be included in magazine. The Editorial Board did not have time to discuss the posting of the Internet convention. They realized that this would need full board discussions. Whether or not to post this event in the "Coming Up" section of the magazine should be addressed when the board discusses this issue. Craig was selected to serve as the primary contact for the NA Way Editorial Board through WSC 1999.

There were no objections to the NA Way Editorial board meeting for an extra day prior to the January board meeting.

Issue discussion topics for WSC 1999

Fellowship Communication

Bob reported that this workgroup has only developed an outline and would like to have more time to develop their ideas prior to the board's discussions. This item was moved to Saturday. Craig's paper on Communication was provided simply as input to the board.

Resolution A

David sent out a list of questions to the board. David recapped the process that he and Jane used to create the document before the board for review. Their difficulty comes from the fact that there has not been a discussion of this issue by the board. Their approach in their paper was to facilitate discussions in the fellowship about this issue.

The board discussed reviewing the conference in its entirety, i.e. past conference history, WSC parliamentary procedure, business procedures, behavior, what's causing the problem, creating a system that invites groups to vote, how to have a conference with more discussion and that is user friendly, looking at what we do or do not do with isolated and/or developing communities, creating an atmosphere that encourages principles, the issue of leadership, what a service body is or should be, and the challenge of getting the conference to sit and discuss an issue.

It appears that the RD's are confused and feel like they have been asked to do something they do not know how to do. They have no vehicle to present this issue to their local communities for discussion other than a comparison of the four models presented by the Transition Group. Many of the problems identified for the conference seem to be centered around individual's behavior. We may be interacting with people who are getting tired of dealing with the same issues over and over. The opinion was expressed that the fellowship is having difficulty effectively discussing this issue because they do not know what the problems were or are that this resolution attempts to correct. The board may want to look at a way to help them rethink their approach to this issue.

Bella stated that she believe that it is the responsibility of the board to redesign how the conference is currently operating. The board needs to address how to make it more workable in its current form. Anthony expressed his concern that we are trying to create an unrealistic cultural change that goes beyond the World Board and will effect the conference. The board should be realistic in its expectations of the conference. It certainly appears that the current WSC culture and mindset is to do business rather than to have discussion. Further discussion will take place on this issue tomorrow.

NAWS News

Steve recapped a written report from Bella and himself that was distributed to the board. Their recommendation is that staff begins drafting this report. They took on this assignment due to unknown staff resources and in order to establish a voice, tone and style that differed from typical world service reports. There was a discussion about maintaining the current voice of the report with the conclusion that since this has already been established, a staff member should be able to maintain the current first person active voice on behalf of the board. The conference report that was drafted by staff succeeded in retaining this voice. Bella would be willing to continue to review drafts for voice and style. Staff will begin the responsibility of drafting the NAWS News for the January board meeting.

The second recommendation from Bella and Steve involved looking at the way WB communicates with the fellowship. They would like to see the News become a vehicle for involving the fellowship in a dialogue. This would mean that the News would report issues before the board and present these issues in a way that invited input to the board. The consensus was that this was a good idea but the difficulty comes in the planning. The board would need to identify those issues that they do not plan to discuss for three months or more in order to allow time for fellowship consideration and input. The board would need to not only identify the issues but have discussions that framed the presentation of the information for fellowship consideration. This idea will remain on the back burner until the CTF can begin to address some of these issues.

The board voiced their concern regarding the essence of the meeting being lost if someone who is not at the meeting writes NAWS News. Steve recommended that the staff person assigned to draft NAWS News be assigned to attend World Board meetings.

The current process for the NAWS News was clarified. A draft is created as soon as possible after each board meeting. The draft is then sent to the EC who may input at this stage and then send it to the board or with this last issue immediately sent it to the board for input. The EC then considers the input from the board and forwards the suggested changes to the authors of the report.

Translations evaluations

There have been no new initial language evaluations sent in for consideration so this group has been inactive. They expect to receive some evaluations early next year. Time for language group meetings at the conference needs to be scheduled

Reaching out

Craig reported that their next call is scheduled for December 14th. Until the call occurs, there is nothing new to report.

WSO Management Report

Wish list for staffing levels

An organizational chart showing current positions, positions that are open and are yet to be filled, positions planned for the near future, and those that would be considered on a "wish list" from executive management was reviewed by the board. These charts show the optimal staff level as 51-52 compared to the current 38.

The financial impact of filling the vacant position in translations and the Accounting/Order Entry and Group Services Team Assistant positions indicated on the chart would be approximately \$80,000.00. A question was posed as to the effectiveness of having someone fill two functions such as the customer service/accounting position. The explanation was that normally this could be ineffective but really depends on whether the functions are related. George noted that this chart only indicates current needs and that once the board's work is clearer that some of the desired positions indicated might change. There was no priority given to the positions listed under the "wish list" category.

Current financial report

Anthony noted the difficulty with obtaining current financial information this year. The WSO has spent the time since the last board meeting trying to update as much information as possible. Tom Rush has been absent on medical leave since the last board meeting and is not back in the office. The addition of Rochelle Medina actually gives the office an extra person in the accounting area until Trish Jaramillo leaves in February. The current accounting practices are under review and executive management will be meeting with Tom in the near future to evaluate these practices.

The final WCNA-27 report will be given to the board for their January meeting. The updated charts and financial material provided was explained and discussed. The board discussed how much information that they want or need. Although they do not desire to spend hours on financial details as boards have done in the past, future financial reports to the board will include the detailed support information as well as the graphs. Variances from budget will also be explained in the information that is sent to the board.

1999 Budget

The first draft of the consolidated budget for the first half of 1999 was discussed. The board will need to indicate their acceptance of the direction of this document with specific approval to occur at the January meeting. Anthony explained the process used to create this draft. The board went into a lengthy discussion. Explanation for the changes to budget line items in the 1998 and 1999 budgets, what is actually allocated under each budget line item and a clarification of income and expense for *Miracles Happens* will be provided for the board at their January meeting.

The income and expense for five months of the existing approved conference budget is incorporated into this draft proposal. Jane noted that she did not think that members would understand the percentage of money that directly benefits them and requested that we pursue any and all ways to indicate this. The presentation at the conference of the budget will show what would typically fall under WSC, WSO and WCC. It will also be important to get the conference to focus on what is new in this budget and process. The other items that were mentioned as needing clarification were the headings of variable and fixed under each category. There was a discussion without resolution that the allocation of expenses will need to be

determined. Two items used as an example were the Human Resource Panel and WSO Training. These could be administrative or humans resource allocations.

The meeting closed for the day at 5:20 p.m. and the board went into a sharing session.

Friday 4 December 1998

World Board members present:

Michael McDermott, Jon Thompson, Cary Seltzer, Bella Anderson, Craig Robertson, Mario Tesoriero, Daniel Schuessler, Floyd Best, Jane Nickels, Tony Walters, Larry Roche, Stephan Lantos, Susan Chess, Bob Jordan, Lib Edmonds, Mary Kay Berger, David James, Claudio Lemionet.

WSO Staff present:

Anthony Edmondson, George Hollahan, Becky Meyer, and Eileen Perez-Evans

The meeting was brought to order at 9:00 am with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity prayer and the daily reading from the *Just for Today* meditation book.

Michael gave a brief report on the EC meeting that occurred the night before and requested that the board go into a closed session for personnel related discussions at 5 pm today. The board will break up into three small groups at 11:00 am to discuss possible issues for WSC 1999 and Resolution A.

WSO Management Report

Website Report

A list of all items currently posted on the website was provided to the board. The number of hits to our sight and the requests sent in from this site continues to grow at an almost alarming rate. We are currently contemplating creating our own web server to bring the hosting responsibilities in house. The board will be updated as these conversations continue. Although some adjustments and explanations have been provided, we still face the issue of individual members sending the same email to all the hot buttons on our site.

Staff Update

Danny Weg has been hired and is on staff to assume responsibilities for the Website and computer support. He reports to Lori. Steve Lantos has been working with him in order to transfer his responsibilities. These responsibilities should be handled entirely in house beginning in January. Rochelle Medina has been hired for the Accounting department. The decision about who will actually take on Trish's responsibilities when she leaves will be made in January. The translations team assistant position is still open.

Anthony reviewed the holiday schedule for the office and noted that many vacations occur during the last two weeks of December. A new voice mail system has been leased and installed that is Y2K compliant. Extensions can now be dialed directly without first entering a one.

Written instructions for the new voice mail system and staff extension numbers will be sent to the board.

We sold out of the initial order of 5,500 Step Working Guides in twenty days. An additional 15,000 guides will be in the WSO by December 10. We have used a consultant to make the final modifications to the software program for the World Pool. It is now adapted to the specifications provided by the HRP. It was noted that group orders have leveled off somewhat but the number of area orders has continued to increase.

Craig asked for the proper protocol to file a complaint. An individual he knows has called and not received a call back or he has called on different occasions and been transferred to incorrect extensions. Anthony explained the protocol, and will discuss the specifics with Craig further.

WCNA

Plans for WCNA-28

A written report was provided from Mike Polin with information about WCNA 27 and 28. George gave the board a quick verbal report on the trip to Colombia and Peru in October and early November. The interaction with the region and the meeting with Avianca airlines were all

successful. Initial research was done to locate hotels in the medium and lower price ranges. The large commercial hotels are already contracted. Cary noted that he found the site beautiful and inspiring. He believes that it will be a very different and special site for a world convention and a wonderful experience for our members. Cary provided the board with a description of the city and the convention center. There will be different challenges with this convention than we have faced in San Jose or Paris but he expects that we can deal with them all. This convention will require a different approach from world services and earlier planning than has occurred in the past. Cary noted that he went to Colombia with a cynical outlook and had a large concern about safety but never felt unsafe while he was there.

One of the questions was regarding the state department warning that was issued in March for Colombia. The president of Colombia came to the US recently to meet with the US president for the first time in thirty years. Canada plans to remove the Caribbean portion of Colombia that includes Cartagena from their advisory list and we hope that the US will follow. We can provide information about Colombia to our members but cannot give a guarantee of safety for Cartagena anymore than we could have provided this type of assurance for San Jose.

Negotiations were concluded to move the convention dates for WCNA 28 from July to early September. This conforms with our typical dates and allows for more competitive pricing from the airlines and hotels.

M/S/C

Susan, Lib

Unanimous

"To approve the change of dates for WCNA 28 to August 30 through September 3, 2000."

There is a cruise being offered by Oklahoma and other areas and regions will begin to put together travel packages for this convention. We want to try to stay neutral and neither endorse or oppose these packages.

There was a request to more clearly indicate on travel flyers offered by world services that it is a world services sponsored activity.

Michael reported that he received a letter from Donald Griffin, past WCC chair, with input about the world convention. Donald's letter will be provided to the board when planning discussions about the world convention occur next year.

WCNA -27

As noted earlier, a final report about this event will be provided to the board in January. The only real outstanding issue is the taping vendors lack of timeliness and responsiveness in sending out tapes. The understanding is that people who were waiting for tapes are now receiving them. Other than this issue, the comments from the fellowship about this event have been overwhelmingly positive.

We will report the situation regarding tapes and our belief that all orders have now been filled in the next issue of NAWS News and the Conference Report. The taping vendor has until December 15th to process all orders and surrender the master tapes. Staff will locate the missing tape for the Thirty Something meeting and send copies to the board.

Marketing Plan

Anthony gave a verbal report on the marketing plan. Board members need to familiarize themselves with the marketing reports from this year for a discussion in January. A revised and updated version of the marketing plan will be provided to the board at their January meeting for approval. Bob Stewart submitted a report on his recent attendance at the American Public Health meeting. The recommendation for 1999 will be that we continue with corrections and begin to venture into participating in the public health arena. We are almost one year ahead of the projected sales for the correctional market.

Survey update

We had tried to finalize a contract with a member who was provided with the data from St. Louis and the necessary software to analyze the data we received. Since we have heard nothing back from him, we will now attempt to find someone else to complete both St. Louis and San Jose. The other issue is that the individual has the survey software and we should be prepared to not get this software back. There were no objections to discontinuing the current relationship and pursuing other avenues. Executive Management will do further research on finalizing the survey data and will report back to the Executive Committee.

The board broke into three small groups from 11 to 12:15 and then had their annual board/staff luncheon.

WSC 1999

Ideas for issues to be discussed at the conference were presented from the small groups.

- What do you want Fellowship Development to be?
- Utilize Zonal meetings
- CTF
- Fund flow
- 12 traditions
- 12 concepts
- GTLS – regional assemblies
- The function and purpose of the WSC
- What we came here to do
- Who do they serve
- Orientation
- Old Business (12 motions)
- Issue discussions (2)
- Elections
- New Business (budget & new issues)
- Development Forum
- Zonal Forums (reports & meetings)
- World Board Report

The following issues were also identified as needing to be reported:

- Project Proposals
- Internet
- Public Relations
- Marketing the fellowship rather than products

Resolution A Issue Paper

The board then received the results of the small group's discussions on Resolution A.

Bella presented a list from the discussions in her group. This group questioned what they wanted to say, should the board say anything at all and should the board present a paper. Five members of the group were in favor of presenting a paper and one was opposed.

- That the entire issue needs to be re-opened and not focused on the existing models
- Pose entire issue to determine if we really know what Resolution A is all about
- That a common understanding of the WSC needs to be developed before we start changing the conference
- Is Resolution A really the way to deal with cost equalization?
- Separate the goals contained in Resolution A

- That the WSC is not really focused on Worldwide Issues (is the W really in the WSC?)
- We are not truly ready to proceed?

George presented the results from his group. This group first asked themselves if the board was ready to deal with the issue and decided that at least the members of this group were.

- Frame the discussion rather than lead the discussion
- Come out of the box
- Explore the issue not debate
- The process – inventory, conference processes (behavior 9/90)
- Timing (is this the right time?)
- Funding (Cost Equalization)
- Zones/regions – working parallel
- WSC purpose
- Behavior

Mario presented the topics discussed in his group. Their recommendation is to write a history of what has occurred followed by a layout of the underlying issues.

- Representation - what is equal based on?
- Intent behind cannot be achieved by the wording of the resolution
- Function and performance of WSC (deal with dysfunction)
- What are we trying to achieve
- Zonal forums – current status
- Cost equalization – funding of RD's
- Building consensus
- Communication
- Centralization/decentralization
- Direction – long term vision
- Resolution – wrong answer to the question or the answer does not address the intent behind it
- Specific problems/resolutions

The board was then asked if they wanted to provide something with the issue papers on Resolution A. Seventeen were in favor of reporting and one was against. It was suggested that the wording of the paper be inviting and provides something to delegates and the discussions that will help to elicit where the conference is with these issues. The paper should provide the history of this issue and the resolution itself and clearly identify the underlying issues that still need to be discussed. If the conference can identify its goals with this issue, a step by step process could be developed. The paper will be a discussion rather than a position paper.

Jeff Baker will create a draft of a paper on Resolution A by December 21. This draft will be sent to the full board for review and input. The deadline for World Board input is January 1st. This paper will be finalized during the first week of January by staff and the Executive Committee. We will know then whether it is ready for release or not.

Fellowship Communication Issue Paper

Bob explained the basic outline used for the writing of this paper. After a lengthy discussion the suggestion was to frame this paper as questions that need to be answered about communications. In a sense, this would allow the conference to become a type of focus group for the CTF. The questions should solicit what members believe has worked, what has not and what they wish to receive. The process for development of the Fellowship Communication paper will be the same as the one approved for Resolution A.

The paper that Craig provided on Fellowship Communication will be used as input for the boards paper with Craig's concurrence. Individual board members will not submit discussion papers this year. This is a decision that applies to this circumstance only. The board needs to discuss the issue of individual board members actions at a later date.

Report from the Motion 16 workgroup

Jon explained the process used for this year's regional motions. Workgroups members were Jon, Lib and George. Fourteen motions were originally received with a final eleven being submitted for the *Conference Agenda Report*. The process was much easier this year. There were only six motions that affected conference policy. Although none of the motions were submitted with this information, the workgroup indicated to the makers that the material was missing and made suggestions on how they should proceed but they did not do the work for them. They received a request to consider a motion after the deadline and had agreed to stick with the published deadlines. No follow up or motion was submitted by the maker of the request so this never became an issue.

Board recommendations on regional motions for inclusion in the CAR

Lib requested that the board discuss the potential effect of World Board recommendations on the consideration of regional motions. The history of when and why recommendations from world service boards and committees went into the CAR for regional motions was explained. The board then went into a discussion about whether or not to make recommendations for publication in the CAR.

Most board members were in favor of putting board recommendations in the CAR. Some of the thoughts expressed were that as a board it is our responsibility to inform the fellowship of information they may not have and that this should be done in the form of a recommendation. Members who elected the board will be looking to them for recommendations and this is the only vehicle that can be used to inform the fellowship. It is not the boards intention to stop the groups from making a decision, only to inform them. When world services provided information on the conference floor after a motion had been workshopped without the information, conference participants were upset.

The hope is that regions will submit their ideas to the board and use the CAR only for those items that they have not resolved through that avenue.

Motion 1: That Narcotics Anonymous World Services add the following Identity Statement as part of the Group Readings inventory item offered by the World Service Office.

Board members in favor of this motion noted that the thinking is that this statement would be a way to dissuade our members from jumping all over the newcomer that does not know better. The statement is not meant to alienate, but gives the opportunity for home groups to speak.

Other board members expressed concern about this statement becoming a group reading even if they like the reading. It should be left up to each group to decide. We have a Trustee Bulletin that is useful for this issue. This is a group autonomy issue, and could cause a lot of disunity. This statement seems to tread on Traditions 3 and 12. We know if someone is new, this does not give us the right to open the door for dictation, newcomers do not understand. An individual board member has been asked by the local fellowship if a clarity statement has to be signed in order to be a NA member. There was also concern voiced regarding the precedent this statement will set if adopted. We have no other readings that are not taken directly from approved recovery material and reflect NA philosophy. There are many versions of this type of statement in use by the fellowship; why should we approve this particular statement?

Other board members voiced their individual concern with this motion. They felt the board should not have any recommendation and should do whatever the conference wants.

Straw poll on whether to present a recommendation for Motion 1:

Six in favor of presenting a recommendation, Seven opposed, and Five abstentions

Since the board had no clear consensus, the chair asked for a straw poll on individual board members position on this motion. Five board members were in favor of this motion, Eleven were opposed and Three abstained.

It was suggested that the board let the fellowship know that they had no consensus on making a recommendation to this motion or whether to recommend adoption or rejection.

The board took another straw poll to see if they wanted to make any comment on this motion. There were Seventeen in favor of the board saying something, One opposed and No abstentions.

Since the indication by the board was that they wanted to comment on this motion, the next straw poll was on the content of the recommendation. Eleven wanted to recommend to not adopt, with one board member recommending adoption. The board was unable to achieve consensus as to whether to recommend adopting or rejecting. The only thing that could be said at this point is that a majority of the board is opposed to adoption of this motion. This type of a recommendation would only make people ask "why" and for what reason. The board moved on to Motion 2 and will come back to Motion 1 later.

Motion 2: To publish an illustrative pamphlet about "different types of formats for recovery meetings" through which the groups can be stimulated to establish an important time/space in their regular meetings for sharing and informing about service and other issues that affect NA as a whole.

Seventeen were in favor of recommending to not adopt with one in favor to adopt. This motion is looking for a world service sanction. This is a groups issue. There are already many formats included in the Local Guide. Groups must decide for themselves how to make service and attendance at home group meetings attractive to their members.

Motion 3: To allow the sale of alternate merchandise from registered NA groups, service boards or committees during the World Convention in conjunction with the sale of World Convention Merchandise.

None were opposed to recommending to not adopt. The statements from the WCC board in their 1997 annual report will be cited in drafting this recommendation. It was noted that this region does not allow anyone to sell merchandise at their event.

Motion 4: To change in the Narcotics Anonymous White Booklet under the section What is the Narcotics Anonymous Program? on page 2, second to last sentence, the language "and are under no surveillance at any time" to "and participate in no surveillance at any time."

All were in favor of committing this motion to the Motion 21 process along with the Little White Book. Although many board members may support this, no changes should be made to the LWB while we are considering a major review of the Basic Text. Since the LWB in the foundation for much of the Basic Text, possible changes should be considered at one time by the fellowship.

Motion 5: To revise the NA World Services Vision Statement to: "That no addict seeking recovery need ever die."

There was unanimous support to not adopt. This is an incomplete statement and does not communicate what our current vision statement does.

Motion 6: That the World Board have one vote collectively during new business and elections at the World Service Conference, as expressed by the World Board Chair or Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair. This would be accomplished by amending the Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure, 1998 edition, as follows:

There was unanimous support to not adopt. The recommendations from last year and the fact that this was considered and failed should be referenced. The difficulty with one vote should also be explained.

Motion 7: That NA World Services publish the Conference Agenda Report a minimum of 180 days prior to the World Service Conference. Further that translations as currently done to German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Swedish be completed prior to the release on that date. This policy to take effect in conjunction with the 2 year conference cycle.

There was unanimous support to not adopt. This time frame was included in the TG's report. The TG did not include it in the motion for a two-year conference so that the conference could consider all of the issues involved with a two-year conference at one time. This should be decided when the two-year conference proposal is presented in next years *Conference Agenda Report*.

Motion 8: That the price of literature sold by NAWS to registered groups, areas, or regions outside of the United States be indexed or formulated to ensure a fixed maximum currency exchange rate.

None were opposed to the recommendation to not adopt with an explanation of the current practice. For all sales processed through the Canadian office the exchange rate given is 1.25 rather than the current 1.56. The WSO board researched indexing and found that many communities would actually pay more than the US. This issue is much more complex than just the exchange rate. We try to provide literature at rates that a NA community can afford. This is accomplished through special shipping rates, continental discount differences, subsidized and/or free literature and by fixed exchange rates. The entire literature distribution policy is under revisions but we have stated that we would evaluate the effect of the current changes in January 2000 before recommending where to go next. The conference does not fix this policy because of the complexity.

Motion 9: That regions be allowed up to 150 words to describe the reasoning behind and consequences of their regional motions in the Conference Agenda Report.

The discussion was whether to allow regions to explain the issues they are placing before the conference more fully - Nine were in favor of adoption - Seven were opposed and Two abstained. The board went back and forth with reasons for and against. Recommend that this be included in the consideration for a two-year conference rather than now. 3 were in favor of adoption and 13 were opposed. The rationale for this motion does not seem consistent with moving to a new issue based world service conference.

Motion 10: To create a new bullet, which would be included in the Temporary Working Guide to our World Service Structure, page 18, Guidelines for the Unified Budget for NA World Services between existing bullets 7 & 8. Bullet shall read "All proposed projects pertaining to the creation of new recovery literature & service material as defined in The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT) on page 13, will be presented through the Conference Agenda Report.

The consensus was to recommend to not adopt with the explanation provided by the EC. That explanation states that the real issue in this motion is the built in delay that mandates ideas and projects go into the CAR. There is no experience with project planning or with a 2-year cycle yet. This could delay things for four or five years. The unified budget process is not even scheduled to be fully implemented until after WSC 2000. The conference needs to take responsibility for its own actions and if they are not sure how the fellowship feels, they can ask that it be sent out in the next CAR.

There is not a clear definition of service material or of the approval process. There is a need for the board to look at this issue in the near future. This motion was also presented at last years conference. This motion is premature at best.

Motion 11: That during the 1999 World Service Conference the Human Resource Panel (HRP) will interview the nominees presented by the conference participants for the world board elections, by asking them the following questions listed below. This information will be distributed to conference participants along with the resumes. Any nominee not present will be interviewed by phone if available. The HRP can ask any other questions they feel pertinent.

Difficulty with a motion that changes election procedures for one year and is not an old business item. None were in favor of adoption. The HRP needs to be allowed to develop their own procedures before they are dictated. This should be input to the HRP. The HRP should be asked what they think. They have been given the election procedures and this motion may or may not affect their work. Given this information, the board will not make a recommendation to this motion but will ask the HRP if they wish to respond to Motion 11. The EC will send the draft of the recommendations for regional motions to board members for review and input under the same time frame as previously identified for the issue discussion papers.

The board went into a closed session at 6:20 p.m. to deal with personnel issues. They then went into a sharing session at 6:35.

Saturday 5 December 1998

World Board members present:

Michael McDermott, Jon Thompson, Cary Seltzer, Bella Anderson, Craig Robertson, Mario Tesoriero, Daniel Schuessler, Floyd Best, Jane Nickels, Tony Walters, Larry Roche, Stephan Lantos, Susan Chess, Bob Jordan, Lib Edmonds, Mary Kay Berger, David James, Claudio Lemionet.

WSO Staff present:

Anthony Edmondson, George Hollahan, Becky Meyer, and Eileen Perez-Evans

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am with the Serenity Prayer followed by a reading of the day from *Just for Today*. Michael reported that the EC met at 8 am to revise the agenda since the board can not complete everything outlined in the time allotted.

WSC 1999

Development Forum

The Development Forum Group consists of Larry, Cary, Mary Kay and Claudio. They are recommending that this no longer be called the Development Forum but be put under Fellowship Development. They have met by conference call once and over lunch once during this board meeting. They have only briefly touched on topics for discussion at the conference and anticipate more discussion on this issue. They discussed 3 to 4 hour time blocks for small group discussions sessions at the conference to be spread out throughout the week. One session could be a full conference session with questions and answers. Meetings before and after the conference with participants are important. Topics envisioned for discussion were presented to the board. The placement of sessions would of course depend on other WSC activities. The DF group has also discussed an extended meeting of the board and DF participants.

Follow-ups are being done with the countries and regions that have requested DF financial assistance. The survey forms are being reviewed for eligibility and a report will be made to the board in January. Many countries are working towards self-sufficiency. The only request received from a US or Canadian region is from the North East Atlantic Region. They have twenty-one requests that range from requests for partial to full funding. The deadline for submitting a completed funding request form is December 25, 1998. Any ongoing communications from the DF group to the Executive Committee will be through Mary Kay.

There was concern by a board member that the suggested time blocks at the conference seemed large. The DF group used the TWGWSS statement as a guideline and discussed using two full days. They are trying to do things differently and help to create a new conference. These ideas need to be integrated into the overall conference planning.

The idea of small groups at the conference received support as an effective way to allow people to participate with less intimidation and as a better way to gather broad input. The challenge is to find a way to come out with something usable from small group sessions. It requires thorough planning, effective facilitators who are oriented to the purpose of the session; and accurate recorders. It also requires planning to capture the information once the small groups are finished. Other ways to have more effective discussions at the conference were also discussed. The A and B panels in Dallas were used as an example of other ways to break up the conference.

The board agreed that the DF workgroup will continue to work on the list of invited participants and will present their suggestions to the board in January for a decision. They will also forward a more finalized list of topic discussion recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will work on framing the WSC and the agenda for the week. The DF workgroup or other board members may be used to work on specific sessions once the framework of the week is established.

Issue topics for CY 1999-2000

The board discussed past conference action regarding presenting a list of topics for prioritization in the CAR. The Executive Committee is recommending that the board present a motion for conference action. 17 board members were in favor of presenting a motion in the 1999 CAR.

The board discussed why the board would or would not take on the responsibility of forwarding issues for conference action. This is a conference motion that the past WSC Administrative Committee put in the CAR but did not present it as coming from them. Since the World Board is the body responsible for the conference, they should present the motion regardless of the heading it is placed under in the CAR. The board agreed to have Jon, George, and Lib discuss this further, and come back to the Executive Committee with recommendations on how to present the motion to prioritize issues for CY 99-00 before the end of December. This will be reported back to the full board. This may need to be posed as a question or explained in the introductory language so the WSC knows what they are voting on. The fact that only one topic was submitted from the delegates should also be reported.

The one small group who discussed this issue presented the following ideas:

- ❖ Consensus based decision-making
Re-wording - How do we measure our group conscience? Consensus or voting?
- ❖ Unity and autonomy
Re-wording - Is autonomy more important than unity as describe in our 1st tradition?
- ❖ Common Needs vs. Special Interest
- ❖ Spirituality in Service
- ❖ Decentralized Service Structure
- ❖ NA and the Internet
- ❖ NA and Research
- ❖ Do the Traditions mean what they say? or
- ❖ Can we do what the concepts say?
- ❖ Retention of older members
- ❖ Dealing with disruptive members in meetings
- ❖ Abstinence/use of medication in recovery.
- ❖ The groups role in the world service structure. (Only topic submitted from the fellowship)

After a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of the topics presented the decision was to only use this list as input and to develop a new list that explains the topic more clearly. David, Lib, and Mario will be the primary work group members to finalize this list. Jane will work on the final edits. Board members have until December 14 to submit ideas to this workgroup. The workgroup will then have until December 21 to finalize a list for board review. The report will include discussion of the dilemma the board is placed in by only receiving one topic.

Finalize recommendation for Motion 1

The Executive Committee recommendation on Motion 1 was presented to the board item by item to see if it was possible to reach resolution on this recommendation for the CAR. There were no objections to reporting that the board could reach no consensus on whether to recommend to adopt, not adopt or what recommendation to make. There was also no objection to reporting that all current group readings produced by the office come directly from conference approved recovery literature that has gone through a review and input and approval stage. There was no objection to recommending that if the WSC wants to pursue this idea, that the wording should go through the input and review process used for recovery literature and be developed as a piece of recovery literature. There was also no objection to including the idea that many groups read varying versions of this type of statement and that the board believes

that it is within their autonomy to do so. The EC will finalize the wording for this recommendation and forward it to the board for review.

Board report for the 1999 CAR

The board discussed previous years *Conference Agenda Reports*. Past reports were related to the motions that were presented although they sometimes became more than that and gave a history of the motion or other varied information. The input that the board received was based on the November Conference Report which implied that this would be a report of board activities. The EC recommended that the WB report in the 1999 CAR contain only those items that directly relate to the conference week and help to assist delegates in being prepared for what will occur during the conference week. The board had no objection to this direction for the board report in the 1999 CAR.

Communication Task Force

The EC recommendations for the Communications Task Force were Mario, Jane, Tony, and Steve. The first responsibility of the CTF will be to create a plan that includes a budget timeline and authority of the group. This is the first time that the board must clearly state what this group can do on their own and what must be brought back to the board before it is implemented. The CTF will be placed on every board agenda for an update and report.

The EC reported that they plan to revisit the first quarter travel for 1999 and remove CTF members from all extra travel since this responsibility will involve approximately six extra trips as well as work at home. The CTF will submit all budget items before February 15 and the board will finalize these items in March.

M/S/C

Bob/Jon

Unanimous

"To accept the slate put forward by the Executive Committee for the Communications Task Force; Steve, Mario, Jane, and Tony."

FIPT Session

World Board members present:

Michael McDermott, Jon Thompson, Cary Seltzer, Bella Anderson, Craig Robertson, Mario Tesoriero, Daniel Schuessler, Floyd Best, Jane Nickels, Tony Walters, Larry Roche, Stephan Lantos, Susan Chess, Bob Jordan, Lib Edmonds, Mary Kay Berger, David James, Claudio Lemionet.

WSO Staff present:

Anthony Edmondson, George Hollahan, Becky Meyer, and Eileen Perez-Evans

Cary read the Trustee Duties from Section 1, Article 5

The current status of trademark registrations and the name change will be reported to the board during the January meeting since time is tight for this meeting.

Literature on the Internet

There are several Websites that include copyrighted NA literature. The practice and information given out by the staff was explained and discussed. Intellectual Property Bulletin #1, The Internal Use Policy was not written considering the Internet. IP Bulletin #1 needs to be revised to be more explanatory and helpful by WSC 2000.

It was acknowledged that most sites have no malicious intent but there are several that are trying to make a political statement that the conference has not previously supported. We are taking the appropriate actions to demonstrate due diligence.

There is one website that insists they are a registered group and therefore have the right as any NA group to reproduce and distribute literature. The four points that govern a groups conduct in reproducing literature includes distribution only within the group. This is impossible to know on the web. Our members needed to be educated because they are the one that protects our literature. The baby blue issue was discussed and noted was that fellowship helped us deal with 90% of that matter and were ultimately the only ones to truly resolve it.

The board was advised of the expense and complications of being engaged in a lawsuit and that the conference must be informed of any legal action that is pursued.

The board received a copy of the webcrawler letter that is distributed by the WSO. The board discussed the amount of area and regions using the 25% discussed in Bulletin #1. It was noted that many are exceeding the 25% unintentionally. A list of all websites that are currently posting NA literature that we are aware of and their registered owners will be provided for the board.

The board was reminded of their responsibility as board members and trustees of the FIPT and the perception of what they lend their support to whether intentional or not. A board member noted that many sites that are posting literature have mistakes in what they post and this should be politely pointed out as one of the problems that can occur.

Internet Convention

The request for the announcement of this event in the "Coming Up" section of the NA Way was provided to the board. This event will take place in Las Vegas, and the board has also received a request from the local fellowship to help them resolve the controversy of an event put on in their area that has nothing to do with them. The group requesting that this be posted has stated that they are registered with the WSO as a group. The office will be contacting the party asking them to provide a group code since the record cannot be located. The NA Way has never knowingly posted something that was not a function of an NA entity.

Members of the board voiced concern with this particular issue and discussed what is a group, the rationale for being called a meeting, and registering an Internet group. The board indicated by straw poll that only two board members were in favor of publishing the requested Internet event in the calendar of the NA Way Magazine and on the Website. The staff has been directed to respond to the request to post the Internet Convention event occurring in Las Vegas, advising them that this event will not be posted in the NA Way and on the Webpage with an explanation of why.

The board adjourned the FIPT session and broke for lunch. After lunch the board went into a closed personnel session until 3:20 m.

The EC will have a conference call on Thursday, December 10, to approve travel for the first quarter of 1999.

World Board Functions

Minutes

Jon noted the preliminary discussions regarding the timeliness of the minutes, and described the changes. Amendments were offered for the October minutes. On page 8 under the HRP, the description was changed to indicate that the board would only review correspondence by the HRP that was being sent to conference participants or the fellowship. The section on registration was clarified to indicate trademark registrations. A description of webmaster was changed from "webmaster" to ISPN in the section discussing the steps taken to address the posting of recovery literature on the internet..

M/S/C

Craig/Tony

Unanimous

"To approve the October 1998 World Board minutes as amended".

Ground Rules/Membership Values

There were no objections to accepting the proposed Membership Values to replace the Operational Groundrules. The board will review this item at their next meeting.

Annual Report

This is on the agenda to let the board know ahead of time what the development plan is for the 1998 annual report. In the past staff has interacted with different groups of people to create a summary of information for each department. We are proposing to continue with function based reporting. The 1998 annual report will be a consolidation of what was formerly reported under the WSO and WCC and by Interim. Staff will attempt to pull highlights from the service workshops at WCNA 27 to include in the service delivery section of the annual report. The planned release date for the 1998 annual report is March 1999. In the future, the annual report will be due 120 days after the close of the WSC. The board voiced no objections to the plans for development of the annual report for NA World Services.

Update on Interaction with the WSC Co-Facilitator

Michael spoke with Vinnie last night and so far everything seems to be fine with the WSC Co-Facilitator. They spoke about what has been occurring with the board and WSC. Vinnie was given preliminary dates regarding when he would be integrated into WSC planning. Michael explained to him that once the board created the framework for the conference, he would be brought in. It was suggested to send Vinnie the approved World Board meeting minutes with a cover memo. Board minutes will be sent to the WSC CO-Facilitator once they are approved, as is the practice with the HRP. Vinnie will be sent the June 1998 and October 1998 minutes after this meeting.

CAR Workshops

The board members and staff assigned to attend CAR workshops will be dependent on the event and nature of the request. The EC will attempt to send as many board members as possible with the exception of the members of the CTF. Decisions will be made for the requests that have already been received on Thursday, December 10th. The past practice has been for trusted servants to let the Executive Committee know if they are planning to attend a particular workshop. As always, the EC would like to know of any interests that board members may have. The Southeastern Zonal Forum is actually being held on Saturday and Sunday rather than Friday to Sunday as indicated in the request. Tony Walters will most likely be attending.

Board members who attend CAR workshops this year will most likely be drawn into discussions about Resolution A, Communications, and the status of the board since there are so few motions to consider. Board members will need to use discretion when speaking on behalf of the board about issues that the board as a whole has only had limited discussions about.

Tentative approval of Budget

There were no objections to approving the direction of the budget proposal for the first sixth months of 1999 until the board can formally adopt the completed budget in January.

Action Item List

The standard response for staff regarding *Miracle Happens* was reviewed. This response will be used by the staff for questions from the fellowship regarding using and selling this book at meetings. With board approval, this will become the standard WSO response. The board will be provided with the full history of the purchase of the archive material. The following change was made to the draft; *A history book will be written in the future to say A history book may well be written in the future.* With the noted change, this response was approved by the board for staff to use in response to questions about *Miracles Happen*.

Greater New York Proposal

The proposal is an outline for a plan that proposes that NA World Services take over the New York regional service office for a one-year trial period. The Executive Committee is currently in the process of collecting more information in order to make a decision. The proposal has been distributed to the EC, Mario and Cary. More discussion will occur in the future.

Correspondence

Quebec Region: initially submitted a motion for this years CAR and then withdrew it and submitted their idea to the board. The board accepted this and will pass this project to staff for research, and to present information to the board by the March 1999 World Board meeting. The compiled information will be reported to the conference as well. There were no objections from the board to giving the suggested project from Quebec regarding translated medallions to staff to research and present information to the board by the March 1999 World Board meeting in time for the conference.

Concepts

There will be no small group discussions on the Concepts until the next board meeting. Board members should focus on the application of the concepts to the board. At least the first four Concepts will be discussed in January. Staff was invited to submit their input if they so choose.

There are only about three board members who are currently using the site that Steve set up. Does the board want to continue with this?

The January World Board meeting agenda will provide thirty minutes for an Internet training, i.e. the Internet, browser, icq, etc. The trainers will be Steve and Tony.

ACA

The Executive Committee has decided to send Craig with the two staff members already scheduled to attend the ACA winter event.

NA Way of Life update

The Recovery Literature Movement has decided to remove themselves from the NA Way of Life project, and will continue to work on grass roots literature development. They plan to hold a literature conference in March for three projects and have asked the WSO for help with copyright release forms and any other items necessary to allow them to eventually turn over their material to world services.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. on December 5, 1998 and went into a sharing session.

Addendum 1: Miracles Happens Statement

Approved by the World Board on January 27, 1999.