

**World Board Open Forum Meeting
April 29, 2002, 9am—12-noon
Warner Center Marriott**

World Board Present: Jane Nickels, Cary Seltzer, Bob Jordan, Tony Walters, Lib Edmonds, Ron Hofius, Giovanna Ghisays, Larry Roche, Michael McDermott, Susan Chess, Tom McCall, Daniel Schuessler, Jon Thompson, Bella Blake, Claudio Lemionet, and Craig Robertson.

Saul Alvarado and David James arrive later in the day.

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Eileen Perez-Evans, and Becky Meyer

Closed Portion of the World Board Meeting

Jane N. chairperson opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer. Giovanna G. read today's passage from the *Just for Today* daily meditation book.

Announcements: 1) the body informed that today's meeting would begin with a closed meeting in which the board will discuss recommendations for old business motions. Upon completion of the motions, the meeting will be opened for conference participant's participation. 2) There will be two additional World Board meetings with open forum later in the week.

Old Business Motions

Motion 12: It was M/S Lynn S (RD, Northern New York Region)/Bill L (RD, Arkansas Region)

“To amend the WSC Election procedures 2002 by replacing the language on page 2, Elections #5b with the following: “The World Board nominees receiving the most votes above the required 60% majority will be elected to the available positions on the World Board.”

Intent: To attempt to fill the World Board

Recommendation: to adopt.

Motion 13: It was M/S Don S (RD, San Diego/Imperial Region)/Greg I (RD, Pacific Cascades Region)

“To amend the Rules of Order for WSC 2002. The WSC will recognize multiple regional delegates alternates at WSC 2002. Seating on the floor will be limited to two delegates from each region for formal and informal session. It will be the region's decision which 2 delegates occupy the two seats on the conference floor at any given time.”

Intent: To respect regional interpretation of existing conference policy that includes the ability of any elected delegate to sit on the conference floor so long as no region has more than two delegates seated at any one time,

Discussion: A similar motion was brought up at the previous conference and the motion was not approved. Recommend that the process be given an opportunity. If passed this motion would change the process without having given the process a chance to work.

Recommendation: to not adopt.

Motion 17: It was M/ World Board

“To amend the *Group Treasurers Workbook* presented in the 2002 Conference Agenda Report by adding the bulletins *Direct Contributions*, *Theft of NA Funds*, and *The Generation of Funds (Fundraising)* and the *Seventh Tradition In Narcotics Anonymous*, an arrow from the region to world services in the fund flow diagram found on page 54, changes to the Group Treasurers Record as shown in the *Treasurers Handbook*.”

Intent: To establish consistency between the Treasurers Handbook and the Group Treasurers Workbook.

Discussion: The Executive Committee spoke with the Rocky Mountain and Colorado region(s) regarding an amendment i.e. to create a 3-hole punch and/or tear off sheet for the purpose of copying, as well as creating 3 master records: Daily, Weekly, Additional meeting records. The Rocky Mountain and Colorado agreed with this amendment. It was also decided to make this an inventory item as well as create a way to copy the worksheet from the workbook.

The bulletins (*Direct Contribution*, *Theft of Funds*, *Fund Raising* and the *Seventh Tradition*) are also going into the Treasurers Workbook. The intent is to establish consistency between the workbook and the handbook. The board would need to further discuss motion wording that would include prudent reserved with motion makers.

Recommendation: to adopt.

Motion 18: It was M/S Khalilah S (RD, Northern New Jersey Region)/Pam H (RD, Mid Atlantic Region)

“To add a line item for the prudent reserve within the groups weekly financial report.”

Intent: To maintain the concept of the groups financial prudent reserves as a means of accountability.

Discussion: the motion makers agreed with the board to not present motion based on reaching an agreement between the two bodies to just make the changes as requested in the motion.

Recommendation: there was an agreement between the board and motion maker to make the changes, i.e. to add a line item for the prudent reserve within the groups weekly financial report.

Motion 36: It was M/S Paulo R (RD, Portugal Region)/Jim D (RD, UK Region)

“We propose that the revised *Treasurers Handbook*, regarding fellowship fund flow, should include an extra square for zonal forums are recognized as sharing and business meetings. Funds should be shown to also flow from regions, areas, and groups to square.”

Intent: to officially include zonal forums in the fellowship fund flow and so hopefully avoid problems of recognition.

Discussion: Anthony E. WSO Executive Director, stated that the way the motion is written may cause confusion as to where it falls in business—old or new. This proposed change crosses into a philosophical section that the board has not had time to discuss.

Jon T. World Board member is suggesting that for old business the recommendation stands as in presented in the CAR. No objections voiced to the presented suggestion by Jon T.

The board concluded reviewing and discussing recommendations for old business motions.

Anthony E. announced that the donations report handed out to the World Board provides information on regional donations to the World Service Office. The board is being asked to review list and advising Anthony if they would like to also list regions that have not donated. The board will give Anthony a decision later regarding how to print the report.

Michael M. World Board member pointed out in book 3 *Conference Approval Track* wording for *A Guide to World Services...* is incorrect. Correction noted.

Announcements: 1) All conference participants reminded that the seats in the formal business session section cannot be reserved and that an opportunity will be given later for everyone to get seats at one time. 2) Donations can be given to Cary S, Treasurer of the World Board.

World Board Open Forum

Bob L., RDA Connecticut Region asked if the entire book for the sponsorship project were reviewed would the project take longer.

Response: Yes.

Don S., RD San Diego Region: Noted that extensive research was done at the WSM in Vienna, VA regarding motion 13. Envision that conference will end up with one delegate and one alternate that have only 1 or no conference experience, which will not allow for experience to be had on the conference floor. Four years of training would only benefit the conference as a whole.

Response: David J., World Board member asked Don S., RD San Diego how many non-US conference participants were included in the extensive research performed at the WSM?

Don S. RD San Diego responded that only 1 was asked, however since arriving for this year's conference 3 or 4 non-US conference participants have been asked.

Greg I., RD Pacific Cascades: stated that the merits of motion 13 could be argued and he did 2nd the motion. Did not understand motion to be that the RD and Alternate could not give Alternates in training an opportunity to sit on the conference floor. Does supports the *intent* of motion, however does agree with World Board regarding giving the process a chance to work. Greg asked if the body could be given a straw poll—and that if there was no support for motion 13 it would not presented.

Straw Poll: All in favor of motion 13-15. All not if favor of motion 13-20

Don F., RD Tri State Region: stated that last night's special report session presented difficulties for utilizing the round table room for reporting. Difficulties were: no ability to see the speaker and not enough room to take notes. Asks if other conference participants if they felt the same and would rather hear reports in the formal business setting?

Straw poll: Majority of the conference participants felt they would prefer to have reporting done in the formal business setting section.

Response: Susan C. World Board member responded that we are trying new things and everyone is encouraged to provide the World Board with feedback. Let us know if there are a large percentage of people that are uncomfortable.

Louis C., RD Free State Region: stated that the Free State Region is in favor of the two-year conference cycle and understands that we are trying to get continuity...however would like to see more discussion on Motion 13.

Response: Bella B. World Board member stated that the ideal is that first timers are really prepared for the conference by their region and previous delegates and that they can get the support they need without having to be at the conference a number of times... Wonders if a special orientation, buddy system, or something to that effect would help? Encourages ideas for how to accomplish this to be sent to the World Board.

Michael M. World Board member supports delegate training. Does believe it is the responsibility of WS to provide tools for the Regional Delegate to train the Alternates. However doesn't believe that the conference floor is the place for this training. Would hope that 2nd Alternates were really involved in regional delivery of services before coming to the WSC.

Jon T. World Board member recapped his experience as a 2nd alternate and really learning much of the going-on's in the gallery with other 2nd alternates. Does think that his group did get a lot out of the walk through of the week and is wondering if for the future 2nd Alternates can possibly be included in that orientation.

Craig R. World Board member stated that he does not believe that he cannot tell regions how many people to bring to the WSC. However did share that his thoughts are that it is not necessary to have more than one Delegate and Alternate, not one for a lot of bureaucracy. Hopes that training for WS will be how to better facilitate and carry the message. Really hopes that we focus on learning from each other and go back to our regions and help carry that message.

Bryan W., RDA CA Mid State: Thanked Jon T. and Bella B. for participating on the bulletin board regarding Sponsorship project. Further stated that this is his first time as a conference participant and stated that he feels prepared for the WSC due to the training from his regional delegate Kim.

Amanda K., RD Ontario: stated that the Ontario region has been hit with a media blitz concerning local police coming into meetings. Apparently there was someone who was a suspect that was a NA member; police went undercover as a NA member to gain confidence of other NA members to capture and gather more information on the suspect. Region is now experiencing a fair amount of distrust from newcomers because we say; "we are under no surveillance..." but now have had this experience. Wonders the priority of developing a discussion paper on this topic.

Response: Susan C. World Board member responded that this paper would be for the Guardians to create although it is currently not a priority at the moment. The board will however be discussing this within the next 2-year conference cycle. Anthony E WSO Executive Director also added that a staff member has been interfacing with Amanda and helping to provide information to the region on the issue.

Michael M. World Board member stated that we don't have an instant fix for this. There is no guarantee or safe sanctuary—this is just not reality. We should also inform our members that we are here to help everyone recover not keep them safe from the law and help them beat a case. We have a responsibility to use Public Information, we should visit our local police departments informing them of who we are informing them of what we do and ask that certain things not occur in meetings and explain why. However, what the police do is up to them.

Amanda K., RD Ontario understands all the information given by the World Board however her point is the phrase "*we are under no surveillance at any time*" and that because we cannot guarantee this, this is therefore not true. The issue is that the statement contradicts conference-approved literature. The Ontario Region is asking that this issue be raised to a higher level of priority for the board. Also asks that if any changes, etc. happen with the Basic Text that at least that phrase be examined.

Bob RD Colorado: thanked the World Board for considering the 3 additional points for the *Treasurers Workbook*. Motion 36 however has another issue for him. Stated that he asked his delegate if zonal forums were going to be used to downsize the WSC—going to Resolution A. His Delegate informed him that it was not and that forums were not a part of the service structure. Stated that it would be disconcerting to him if zonal forums were recognized.

Ricky K. RD Lone Star Region: spoke on Motion 13 and referred to page 24, line 5 of Group Treasurer Handbook.... Making a reference to when groups have more money than it needs, point is needs vs. wants. Ricky stated that there are many regions that would love to have an alternate that can't. Further stated yes maybe the Lone Star Region would like to have many alternates at the World Service Conference but is it really a need.

SaBine, RD German Speaking Region: this is her first conference and after this conference her term will be done and she will not be able to give her experience to another. SaBine is thankful that the topic was brought up. She's not sure where she wants to go with this, but does feel that it would be of great benefit and value if people with WSC experience were present for the inexperienced members. Found it really hard to do homework; reading the conference minutes which she found to be boring, and other material. SaBine also shared that while she is asks questions, the conference keeps moving on, therefore feels that she is not able to keep up with what is going on with the rest of the conference.

Emmanuel K., RD France Region: a few points: 1) did not feel at ease with the straw polls being used during an open forum 2) worked with alternate to give feedback on the new format for the conference--really like the opening sessions; 3) Cell phones-please turn them off. 4) Didn't see anything about Fellowship Development, and Resolution A scheduled during the conference week, and questions the status of the Fellowship Development Plan.

Emmanuel further stated that at the last EDM there was a debate regarding 7th tradition and discovered that there are different interpretations on the 7th tradition. He has sent the Guardians information on what took place at the EDM and wonders if something will be written on the 7th Tradition and when.

Response: Susan C. World Board member responded that if motion 2 passes the board would present something for the 7th Tradition.

Liz P., RD Utah Region: Two comments/questions: Commends the board for the new informal setting, she feels that the setting allows for better interaction. History data: questions how and who is doing the data collection and if the data will be presented in an unbiased fashion.

Response: Anthony E. WSO Executive Director responded that in some form this has continued to be presented in the budget. Currently we are working on preserving the Jimmy K. archive reels. A sample of one of the reels was played during the opening *Coming Together* session and is factual, not anyone's opinion. Other things are being done at the office to help preserve the archives, i.e. restructuring the archive room, temperature controls, etc. Later in the week the board will talk more about those archival material expenditures. Also many regions are now working on keeping their community history working on identifying their long-standing members, etc.

Michael M. World Board member stated that there are a lot of things done that he has taken pride in. This is one of them. Feels that it is immensely important to preserve our heritage. Also asks that everyone make individual concerted efforts to help in this endeavor, and if people know of things to write the information down or call the WSO and give names of any local old timers.

Luc C., RD Quebec Region: appreciates that the World Board does not use language like US and non-US, feels that we are all members. Asks if it is possible to find a way identify the longest WSC participant at round tables every morning, as well as identify who the board members are.

Johnny S., RDA Mid-America: agreed that Ricky from the Lone Star Region made a good point, he was funded here and wondered at the same time how many Basic Text's could he have bought for the amount he was funded for. Further stated that it is his personal responsibility as an Alternate to know what goes on and what he needs to be prepared for the conference.

Demetrius P., RD Georgia Region: thinks that we are growing to such an extent that we try to take in all that's going on, so if someone wants to pick an alternate they should pick an English speaker to help get the information across. Also note to Amanda K., RD Ontario Region that we have always been watched...

John G., RDA Hawaii Region: thanked the World Board for yesterday opening session, it gave him the opportunity to talk to a number of delegates and alternates. Several comments: 1) personally enjoyed the formal part of the session and thought of a number of ideas, feels we are helping to grow. 2) Would love to see our board elevated more and see faces. 3) Historical Archives: he is about to receive archives to store from the Hawaii Region, and will pass on to the next RD as well. 4) Has watched fellow conference participant Walter, RD Italy Region and thinks we are doing a beautiful thing. 5) This is his first time here and feels it would be helpful if at the beginning of the conference there were an orientation for all the first timers for about an hour.

Response: Bob explained that the World Board is an equal opportunity "pisser offers" and in the past has sat on bar stools as well as been on tiered seating (elevated) to allow conference participants to see their faces and vice a versa. At those times conference participants felt that the World Board was trying to be superior by elevating themselves, therefore a decision was made for this

conference to sit at a level position with everyone else. Regrettably everyone will not always be happy.

All participants thanked for their participation and encouraged to send any input and/or comments to the attention of the World Board. The World Board Open Forum session ended at 12noon.