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VOLUME 1 WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC., (818) 780-3951
NUMBER 11 16155 WYANDOTTE STREET, VAN NUYS, CA., 91406

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE REPORT

Our supply of the Second Edition of the Text is completely exhausted. We are waiting for arrival of the Third Edition. The printer has been very good about keeping their word on previous commitments so we expect them about the time you will be reading this. They were scheduled to ship the books to us on November 19. We are allowing a two week trucking time from the plant in Pennsylvania to our office. We have also initiated a back order system for current orders for the Book, to be shipped on the day following the arrival of the Books.

The Board of Directors has been working on a proposal to include in the inventory of the Office, commemorative medallions that celebrate anniversary clean dates. Over the last three meetings, the Board has taken action to solicite and review numerous suggestions for layout of a medallion. There was a large number of options suggested. The conclusion of the Board was to pass on to the Fellowship the most promising suggestions and ask the Fellowship to make the final choice. Accordingly, the WSO will be inserting into the material distributed to the Fellowship for action at the next World Service Conference the best suggestions, and ask the Fellowship to make the decision. This action is in compliance with an action adopted by the Conference last spring.

There will be a two part decision requested. The first question posed will be whether or not to adopt any of the suggestions and include in the WSO inventory commemorative medallions. The second part will be to select one of the options recommended. The medallions will be made of metal and have a stamp commemorating yearly anniversary dates. The Board has directed that the office continue to offer key tags and to add chips for commemorating shorter time anniversaries (30 day, 60 day, 90 day, etc.).

If action is taken at the 1985 WSC to adopt one of the suggestions, they should be available in the inventory by mid summer of 1985. As part of the approval process, an attempt will be made at estimating how many of each commemorative year medallions will be ordered during the first year; so look for this in the January Conference Report.

The cut off date for submission of information for the last quarterly update, for the current year World Directory, will be December 15, 1984.

Information received after that date will be included in the next World Directory. The current plan calls for a completely new printing of the World Directory of meetings, to be available in March 1985 and will be printed in three parts. International meetings will be printed in one publication, and separate publications will be made for meetings on each side of a boundry line that approximately follows the Mississippi River. The format and size of the new directory will remain the same. Letters will be sent during December to each state or region seeking to verify telephone hotline numbers to correct some of the information contained in the current directory which proved to be incorrect.

During the past four months, two separate telephone lines were operated at the office of the Board of Trustees and one for the World Service Conference. This was begun as part of an effort to provide better service to the Fellowship by providing permanent numbers for communication purposes. Previously when a group or area officer needed assistance from a Trustee or to contact a WSC Committee, they had to make a number of phone calls just to find the name and number of the correct party. Then they had to make direct contact, frequently not knowing what kind of a work schedule the individual followed in order to find them at home or at work. Unfortunately the experiement has not lived up to our hopes for the system. Those who did call, were generally more quickly served than in the past, but the number of calls that were received on those two lines for the purposes they were installed for were very small. Over 90 percent of the calls received on these two lines were actually business calls intended for the World Service Office and usually related to orders of literature. Accordingly the numbers have been disconected and all calls will again be handled directly through the World Service Office. We will continue to provide the information and assistance each caller needs, but it will reduce the confusion faced when callers reach the telephone company information operator to get a number for help. Pass this information on to those who may have recorded the two separate numbers in phone books and directories - the numbers have been disconnected and they should call the WSO directly and will be helped by the same people with the same courtesy and promptness.

TO THE FELLOWSHIP FROM THE CHEAPEAKE/POTOMAC REGION

The Cheapeake/Potomac Region is proud to announce the WSCN-XV will be held in Washington DC in September of 1985. We also have the 6th East Coast Convention in Baltimore on June 21-23. They are being held three months apart from each other. We feel that these conventions will help unify our fellowship and enhance the growth of NA in our Region. We also have the 3rd Annual Virginia Convention in January 1985, in Richmond Virginia which is an annual convention that needs support from the Fellowship.

In October the Cheapeake/Potomac Region sponsored a World H&I Literature workshop in Capen Bridge, West Virginia. We feel it was successful, we acomplished alot of what we set out to do. We had good support from around the USA.

We started a convention support Sub-committee to help co-ordinate events concerning all three conventions, so as not to have events conflict with each other.

Our fellowship is still growing at a fast rate. At this time we have approximately 200 meetings and 40 H&I meetings and now have nine Areas. Our Region covers Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC.

As a region we are doing our best to keep up with the needs of our fellowship. As a means of this, the Peninsula area of Virginia is planing a tradition weekend in March. We could use input and help from anyone around the world.

We are a young and growing Region who is proud to be apart of the NA fellowship.

Randy Q. Jones, RSR

TO THE FELLOWSHIP FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

The Mid-Atlantic Region is again experiencing new growth. A new region has formed from several areas in the New England states. They are called the New England Region which includes Maine, New Hampshire, Mass., Vermont, and Rhode Island. We wish them all the luck. New Jersey is also in the process of forming their own Region.

The 1-800 Hotline number in Philadelphia is working very well, some changes have been made financing the service. If there are any questions about this Hotline please feel free to call.

Our Sub-committees have been working very hard over the last six months, holding workshops and conferences with much progress seen.

We would like to thank all the members of our Fellowship who worked so unselfishly to serve and unite NA.

Dennis Sampson, RSR

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CONFERENCE DATE AND LOCATION ESTABLISHED

The home for the Conference for the past three years is no longer available for our week long meeting, so a new location has been selected. The hotel that was recently constructed near the World Service Office has agreed to accommodate our conference and provide individual meeting rooms that were not available at the Santa Monica location. The new hotel is a member of a national chain of hotels with moderate prices and a good reputation. Details for registration at the hotel will be sent to all Conference participants in January. The date for the Conference will be April 27 to May 1, 1985. Information on the agenda will be distributed, as usual, in January with the Conference report.

REPORT FROM THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON

As our Fellowship has begun in recent years to, "get our act together" we have started to come to grips with problems that were always with us, but were pushed aside because of critical difficulties we faced each day. In this report, I will touch on several separate difficulties that have been smoldering, which in the near future we must face more clearly.

For example, our literature for years consisted of five pamphlets and the little white book. Then almost over night we had the book and more than a dozen pamphlets. All of this work was generated at workshops composed of our members. The message and writing reflect our own brand of understanding and language. In a recent N.A. Way magazine article, a member took to task our writing skills by suggesting that the Basic Text needs some re-writing to clean up some of the grammar and syntax.

While I may or may not agree with that members view point, I am glad he gave his opinion and that the magazine printed the letter. It provides me the opportunity to share a related problem. While we may be satisified with how our literature reads, the language, grammar, syntax, etc., others with a more formal education in English may not. We can say, that is okay, that is their problem and ignore it. But the fact is, we cannot ignore the issue or the problem because there are non-fellowship enterprises that are also involved in recovery, and some of them write their own material. The largest nationwide producer of recovery literature has recently written their own pamphlet, entitled, "What is Narcotics Anonymous". This will probably not be the only pamphlet they produce explaining the Narcotics Anonymous program, and unfortunately, we have only one way to stop them.

In the real, old days, before recovery houses and hospitals seriously took up the business of detoxification and drug treatment, our Fellowship was almost a word of mouth membership. No one was interested in what we wrote about ourselves or how we explained our principles and traditions, but, this is no longer the case. Using the example of another twelve step program, there is an enormous volume of books and literature explaining their program that has been written outside their fellowship.

We should endeavor to do our utmost to maintain an accurate and authorized description of our Fellowship, our Steps, our Traditions and how we work. The best way we can do this is to have our message in the best possible format and language. This is the only way we can prevent others from writing pamphlets instead of us. If we produce our literature with clarity, simplicity, accuracy and in good English, there will be no need for outside enterprises to make their own, rather than use ours.

A perfect example of this difficulty is our pamphlet on the 4th Step Inventory. Few members would suggest we do not need a pamphlet that explains how to take a 4th Step inventory. There were, from the issuance of the draft of this pamphlet, complaints about how it was written. In less than a year from the approval date, sufficient concern was raised that some RSRs came to the Conference this past spring to force reconsideration and removal of the pamphlet until it was rewritten.

The letters and phone calls that have been generated as a result of the action to withdraw the pamphlet from the inventory have been very clear on the point of needing a pamphlet for the 4th Step. Whatever language is

changed, added or deleted, must be accomplished and this important tool returned for general use. The issue highlights the importance of producing our own literature with clarity and appropriate language, so outside enterprises do not try to tell the world how to work an NA 4th Step inventory.

The letters and phone calls about the 4th Step have also clearly centered on the issue of whether or not the Conference had the authority to take action to withdraw it from circulation. As the Chairperson of the Conference, I have been asked to explain it, defend it, appologize for it and delcare the action void. Obviously, I cannot do all of those, except to explain the relationship of the Chairperson to the decision making process of the Conference.

First of all, the Conference is not an authority unto itself and unrelated to the fellowship conscience. The Conference is primarily composed of regional service representatives whose individual fellowships either provide specific instructions to their RSR or allow that person to use their judgment as a trusted servant. Of the 55 voting participants of the Conference, 37 are regional service representatives. In this way the Fellowship has direct control over what the Conference approves or disapproves.

Secondly, there can be no doubt that the Fellowship has reason and need to continue to expect that the Conference participants will perform the important tasks associated with expressing the will of the Fellowship, through the actions taken at the Conference. If the actions of the Conference cannot be accepted as the will of the Fellowship, then we must re-organize our fellowship by deleting the Conference as an assembly of the fellowships trusted servants.

It is not realistic or practical for the fellowship as a whole to be involved in every decision made for the fellowship. That form of direct participation is not practical even if done by written ballots rather than through selected representatives like RSR's. The proposal advanced last February from the Policy Committee is an excellent example. It contained sixty pages of text on a wide range of change affecting various parts of the service structure. It was so complex and lengthy that many groups and area committees practically gave up in despair in trying to evaluate and give positive input.

At the same time the fellowship was presented with another 50 pages of reports from other committees; literature, Trustees, NA Way magazine and WSO. Even if every group had a full 90 days in which to digest, evaluate and make recommendations, the whole package took a lot of time away from the primary purpose - of carrying the message of recovery. And the situation is not going to get easier. There is going to be more than ever before, for each of the next several years.

If the fellowship had developed over the past 32 years all the tools and resources that we are now in need of and are currently developing, this situation might not have occured. Hindsight dosen't help the situation nor does wishing make it disappear. The problem more than ever before is allowing trusted servants to be trusted and allowing them to serve.

If we take special care in the selection of our trusted servants, we might be more at ease with the decisions they make. If we choose our

trusted servants with the same close scrutiny we choose our sponsors and take into consideration their character, qualities and attitudes about the task they are being considered for, we might have more confidence in them and be better served.

Frequently our trusted servants are the individuals that have the most contact with the "non NA" world, or are the most active or the most vocal. Sometimes our trusted servants are selected because no one else wants the job or they may be the most popular member. The selection of our trusted servants, it is often said, is a direct reflection of our indiviual success in working our program. If we are strong and our recovery has true depth, we will show that in the selection of trusted servants. If however, our trusted servants always seem to fail or cannot be trusted, there is real doubt about the strength of our own individual recovery. In a spiritual fellowship we must develop a relationship of trust, of acceptance and good faith in the members we select to represent us. If we do not have that kind of spiritual trust, faith and support in those individuals, then they should not be selected as trusted servants.

If we do not resolve ourselves to having faith and trust in trusted servants and allow them the authority for much of the detail work, we will begin to overburden the groups with the business of the fellowship rather than the business of recovery.

On the subject of business of the Conference, you will note in another section of this NEWSLINE that the date and location has been set for the 1985 meeting of the Conference. Please take note that all input and information that is to be presented to the Fellowship for consideration and possible adoption at the conference must be received at the WSO, addressed to the WSC Administrative Committee no later than December 29, 1984. All of this information and proposals will be sent to the Fellowship, in accordance with action taken at the last meeting of the Conference by January 29, 1985. If you have any questions, please let us know.

In the last NEWSLINE the WSO announced that a tape policy has been developed that would lead to the return of speaker tapes to the inventory. WSO requested that interim appointments be made by the Administrative Committee Chairperson so that the tape policy can be started. This action has been completed. The individuals who have been appointed to the Advisory Committee are: Tom G. (Ohio), Melinda S. (Maryland), Steve S. (Colorado), and K. Bea (Minnesota). Those appointed to the Review Committee are: James D. (British Columbia), Charles K. (Florida), Susie S. (Oregon) and Willie L. (North Dakota). All of these appointments will expire at the Conference in April 1985, then the Conference will elect members to serve on a regular basis. An effort was made to provide the widest possible geographical distribution of these appointees. None were appointed from states or regions that have members of the two committees by virture of automatic appointment or selected by the Board of Trustees.

George H.
WSC Chairperson

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REPORT FROM THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE VICE CHAIRPERSON

I'm grateful to report we had a very productive workshop in West Virginia in October. The H&I sub-committee did get down to some serious work and completed the final draft of the revised service manual and an IP entitled "Hospitals, Institutions and You," which will be submitted for approval. We went over the survey results and that information will be circulated. We also began some rough drafts for guidelines for Methadone programs and are contemplating another workshop.

The Literature committee met in San Diego in November and they had plenty of work with our Steps and Tradition book and revision of several IP's.

Policy is working on the group conscience and trusted servants definition. We had a workshop in Chicago at WCNA-14 and realized that there is more work involved on these topics than we initially thought there would be.

The International committee chair and Vice-chairperson went to the Conference in Ireland and had an informative workshop. The fellowship was open, willing and involved in finding better ways to carry the message to the still suffering addict.

The Convention committee had a workshop in Chicago after the convention to put together some guidelines. Those are not completed yet and another workshop will be scheduled some time after the first of the year.

Public Information is having a workshop in West Virginia recently and the results of that will be reported upon at a later date.

There is one other issue I feel needs to be addressed at this time. At the last WSC, RSR's and their Alternates were asked to choose which sub-committee they would like to work on for the coming year. The response has not been good. It is vital that WSC sub-committees have the support and participation of those RSR's who have chosen to serve on their respective committees. Each region should impress upon their delegates that this is a year round responsibility of their RSR's. It appears that we get caught up in the heat of the conference and the committment doesn't get fulfilled. I suggest that we take measures to re-committ to this participation and remember our primary purpose.

So far, the directives from our last WSC have been covered in agendas and so forth and were doing well. With gratitude, I'm here to report that most of our sub-committees are working with enthusiasm and energy to better fulfill our primary purpose.

Leah Goodrich
WSC Vice Chairperson

REPORT FROM THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE:

During the week of November 7th, the Literature Committee held a workshop in San Diego, California which was a tremendous success. We would like to express our gratitude to the Fellowship for the input articles sent to us for review: Self Acceptance, Revised-Physician's Viewpoint and

Newsletter Handbook. At the Workshop we reviewed the input and included many great ideas into these items. Approval Forms of these items of proposed literature will be distributed in early 1985 and brought to the floor of the 1986 Conference for possible adoption. This process will permit evaluation for about a full year.

The Committee has finished evaluating the first and second drafts of IT WORKS: HOW AND WHY, which has also generated a large amount of new input. At our workshop we revised the drafts, using much of the input and have produced a Third Draft. This draft will be our proposed Review Form, which will be evaluated by the Literature Committee one more time before it is distributed to the Fellowship, for review and input, in the spring of 1985. We wish to thank everyone for their input, support and prayers.

We also want to remind you that the revised pamphlet Another Look has been distributed for approval. If you haven't received copies, please contact the WSO. This pamphlet will be brought to the Conference floor for approval in 1985.

We feel that carrying the message of recovery in written form is a valuable and important way of practicing Step Twelve. Please feel free to send in any comments or suggestions on new pieces of literature you would like to see. Now that the November workshop is over, the Committee will begin to work on new projects, including a revised Fourth Step Guide. We welcome your interest and support, and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

REPORT FROM THE HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

In October the Committee held a workshop in Capon Bridge, West Virginia, which was very successful and resulted in a revised draft of the H&I Handbook. The revision now includes Do's and Don'ts and will be circulated within the Fellowship for consideration and approval at the World Service Conference in 1985.

The H&I information survey that was distributed in July was given a preliminary review at the workshop. There were a great number of responses and full tablulation will take a long time. The survey did reveal that there is an active H & I effort in most areas of the Fellowship however, there are areas where little is being done in H&I or there was an inadequate response to the survey. IF YOUR H&I COMMITTEE (AREAS AND/OR REGIONS) HAS NOT SENT IN YOUR SURVEY RESPONSE, PLEASE DO SO AT YOUR EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. The Committee will be checking with each region individually to gather additional information. This information is important as the World H&I Committee has begun an effort to stregthen our H&I efforts by assisting local fellowships to resolve meeting problems through increased communications and greater support from institutions. Additional staff time at the WSO to assist us and work under the direction of the Committee has recently been arranged.

The H&I Committees in Kansas and Nebraska are working on draft pamphlets to be used by H&I. They will provide additional information on the transition to the Fellowship from institutions and separate pamphlets on, "Women in Recovery in Institutions," and a pamphlet directed to "Adolecents in Institutions." If you have some ideas about these subjects

send them to the H&I Committee in care of the WSO.

The Committee regretfully announces that the Vice Chairperson submitted her resignation, citing health reasons. We hope she recovers quickly and fully. Although the existing service structure does not make specific provision for replacement of committee Chair or Vice Chairpersons, Randy J. of the Chesapeake-Potomac Region has been named by the Committee, as interim replacement Vice Chairperson.

A concern has recently arisen that affects H&I efforts around the Fellowship. Some H&I efforts are well organized, successful, and frequently have enough funds to meet the needs of their separate programs; unfortunately other H&I efforts are not so well organized, or successful, or have enough funds. This has led to some H&I efforts seeking to borrow funds from other H&I programs in other areas of the Fellowship. While such short term loans may help tide a committee over a temporary problem it should be repaid and not become a pattern of operation. Our Steps and Traditions require us to make our projects self-sustaining, so if a committee is unable to make it on their own for more than a short time and want help, that is when the World H&I Committee should be called for assistance. If your region needs help and all internal resources have been exhausted, let us know at the World level H&I and we will coordinate appropriate assistance.

An important element in the success of H&I committees at the area and regional level is the enlistment of financial support from the entire Fellowship from which the committee emenates. A motion at the 1980 World Service Conference was adopted specifically to encourage this. That motion called attention to the propriety of passing the H&I can for a separate donation aside from the donation that supports each group meeting. Strong H&I Committees at the area level have built a commitment to H&I in each of the groups of their area, to pass the can at each meeting. There are several regions using this process that have strong area committees with monthly budgets that reach nearly a thousand dollars. Because such a large percentage of our Fellowship arrives here from hospitals, institutions and treatment centers, it should be a relatively easy task to spark interest in passing the H&I can at each meeting.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE SERVICE STRUCTURE:

This committee was created by the World Service Conference to develop a comprehensive revision to the existing service manual. This task has consumed a tremendous amount of Fellowship energy, and been the center of controversy for several years. The Select Committee was created as an alternative to an endless stream of changes to the existing service structure. The Select Committee has had several lengthy meetings and reviewed a considerably large amount of input.

The task of writing a comprehensive manual on service which includes a revision to the service structure is a much larger and more difficult project than was first envisioned. The World Service Conference, in their action to create the committee, gave instructions to have a draft available for circulation by this November in order to allow about six months review

for comment prior to the next meeting of the Conference in 1985. The committee has made a diligent effort to accomplish their assignment within the schedule established. Unfortunately the work is not complete enough for a draft to be ready for circulation. The committee does expect the draft will be ready for circulation to submit to the Conference for preliminary review within the Fellowship in early January. In order to capatalize on the effort already invested and allow for adequate review, the committee would then seek input on the draft for about 60 more days. A meeting of the committee will be held in March 1985 to review input from the fellowship and make changes to the draft.

The result of this March meeting will be presented to the World Service Conference when it meets in April 1985. An additional review period would then begin, with final comments and suggestions to be received by August 1985. The Committee would meet in September and make the final changes in the publication. The final proposed manual on service would then be prepared and distributed for consideration by the Fellowship starting in November 1985. Final approval of the manual could then be accomplished at the World Service Conference in April 1986.

This manual on service will be one of the major publications of our fellowship. It should receive the same lengthy review that the Basic Text received. Your ideas and suggestions for the manual are still solicited, along with your prayers.

REPORT FROM WSC PUBLIC INFORMATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The WSC PI Sub-Committee workship was held in West Virginia October 19 thru 21, 1984.

At that workshop participants put together a preliminary draft for a hotline guide, reworked the Public Information Do's and Don'ts, approved the narrative outline for the proposed revision of the PI Handbook and drafted a format for community meetings.

The Census-----

Many individuals and groups have already returned census forms. We realized, with the clarity of hindsite, that our deadline was unrealistic. If you or your group have not completed the census but would like to co-operate with our Sub-committee in this undertaking, please do so now. Because of the controversy about Question #4, (Drug of Choice), the participants at the workshop voted to delete this question from the analysis and tally of the census. The WSC PI Sub-committee requests that NA members who didn't participate in the census becuase of their objection to that, or any other question, please fill out a census form deleting the question(s) they find objectionable and return the forms to the WSO.

The Survey-----

At the time of this printing, only twenty one surveys have been returned to the Public Information Sub-committee. We encourage the Fellowship to continue sending these surveys c/o WSO. Even though PI in your area or region may be handled by only a few individuals, completed surveys will still aid in developing a network of resources. This is

vitally important in establishing credibility within the communities and agancies, dealing with the practicing addict, requesting information about the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

REPORT FROM WSC FINANCE COMMITTEE

The WSC Finance Committee met during the Knoxville Convention over Thanksgiving weekend. The members present at that time worked on completing a draft of the treasurers handbook and a questionaire to the Fellowship which will be mailed in mid December.

The input recieved so far has been very helpful in compiling our handbook. Your co-operation in completing and returning the upcoming questionaire will also aid our committee in determining the wants and needs of the Fellowship in the area of Treasurer/financial matters.

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For example, a proposal was made by one region at the Conference in 1982 that a fellowship magazine be created by the conference. This proposal had not been sent to the fellowship for consideration. The Conference approved it, appointed a committee and within a few months began selling subscriptions and then published issues. It was not until two years after the original action by the Conference that the Fellowship was afforded the opportunity to consider the issue, and then only on the matter of conflicting operational policies proposed by different service committees. One of the proposals was adopted, but it was amended prior to its adoption. Here again is the question of whether or not the conference adopted version, as amended, should then have been sent out to the fellowship for a vote at the conference the following year.

There was opposition to the original proposal, in fact it was nearly defeated. But even many of those in opposition to the original approval felt that approval of the magazine would represent a proper exercise of the authorities of trusted servants at the world level. In the action to amend and then adopt the amended policy two years later it was also the consensus of the conference participants that such action was within the scope of their responsibilities and authorities.

The world service trusted servants (WSC, WSB and WSO) have not received any <u>written</u> complaints concerning these major decisions on the magazine.

In a matter affecting the voting right of the WSO office manager as a Conference participant (the manager had been a voting participant of the conference since 1979) it was proposed at the 1984 Conference to remove the managers vote and transfer it to the President of the Board of Directors of the WSO. No advance notice was given to the fellowship that this issue would be presented. It was adopted by a unanimous vote of all Conference participants and again the world level trusted servants (WSC, WSB and WSO) have not received a written complaint.

On the most persistently discussed issue at the Conference, the voting rights of non-RSR's, it has been sent to the Fellowship in advance of the Conference in two separate years. Additionally the matter was raised at two other conference meetings without advance notice. In all four instances, the vote of the conference was to keep all voting participants as they are currently detailed in the service structure.

Following each of the four conferences that this issue was voted on, the Board of Trustees received letters from a few individuals, a few area committees and one or two regions declaring either that the action was a violation of Tradition or that all of the acts of the Conference are void because more than just the RSR's voted.

The Conference Administrative Committee in recent years has properly complied with the requirements to send to the Fellowship all of the material proposed by the Committees for adoption at the Conference. However, as these items are reviewed around the fellowship, some regions approve instructions that their RSR is expected to carry to the Conference and fulfill. There are other items that come up at the Conference and are voted on that did not go out for a fellowship wide group conscience. There seems to be three ways that the fellowship is currently handling this circumstance:

1. The RSR attends the conference with instructions to vote as they have been instructed, based on the group conscience of the region and only on those things that have gone out to their members for review and for which a group conscience has been taken.
2. The RSR attends the conference with instructions to vote as they have been instructed, based on group conscience of the region for those items that were given advance notice of and they are authorized to use their best judgment on other issues that may arise for which the region could not have obtained a group conscience on.
3. Other regions look at the enormous amount of material sent out for their consideration and decide that spending time discussing and then voting on every item by each group is not only a waste of time, but this is what the RSR was elected as a trusted servant to handle.
4. An interesting variation of the first two options arises when the region instructs the RSR to introduce a certain item originated within their region for the Conference to adopt.

Different RSR's have responded to these situations with varying degrees of consternation. At one Conference an RSR who had been specifically instructed, insisted on taking the time of the conference to voice his objection to issues his region had not been advised of and insisted his vote be recorded as abstaining. Others with greater latitude were able to act on the variety of items as they were proposed or amended. The RSR with strict instructions was, in reality, unable to fully represent the fellowship that sent him because of the instructions limiting his participation. It has frequently been observed that regions using this approach could save the money of sending the RSR and simply send in their votes by mail.

The conflict between action by trusted servants, and group conscience desires, is not limited to actions when the Conference is meeting each year.

Last year, for example, the WSC recieved a directive from one region regarding how WSC should utilize the paper for the reports being distributed. The region had elected to inform the WSC that the group conscience of the region felt that WSC should comply with their instructions. However, the officers of the conference while exercising their duties as trusted servants should have been relied upon to use their prudent judgment in this matter. Furthermore, if the WSC trusted servants had blatently disregarded commonsense on this matter, the RSR of the region should simply have, on his own, sent a letter bring the matter to the attention of the Conference officers. The region should not have been bothered with such a trivial matter on which to develop a regional group conscience.

Another example of this conflict will be helpful in understanding how confusing the issue can get. One regional service committee, acting within what they thought was their authority as trusted servants, decided the region needed an office to serve the needs of their growing fellowship. A sub-committee was selected and after some consideration they rented a place and began operation of that office. There were some loud and angry opinions voiced that the committee did not have authority to open the

office and had violated tradition by not asking permission from the fellowship. In subsequent weeks the desired region group conscience was obtained supporting the decision. Some months later financial difficulties arose and the rent payments could not be met. The region service committee met and concluded that they had been wrong for not having asked the fellowship if they could open an office and reasoned that the fellowship should be polled to get authority to close the office. This was eventually done, but not before additional months of rent had been accured.

The region service committee, having been called on the carpet for the first decision to open the office, was understandably uncertain about their authority to close the office after the region group conscience had authorized having one. It appears their reasoning was that the lost rent money was less important than avoiding another fight over group conscience versus trusted servant authority.

On an issue that is currently evolving, errors in grammar, use of tense, a suspected tradition violation and offensive language was discovered in three stories while proofreading was being done for publication of the Third Edition of The Book. The Literature Committee requested a determination and recommendation from the Board of Trustees on each problem. The Board by unanimous vote recommended the Literature Committee make the appropriate grammer and punctuation changes and that the suspected tradition violation was not in fact a violation. The phrase "I urinated on Stalin's tomb", in the opinion of the WSB, was offensive and it was our recommendation that the phrase be removed. The phrase is a slang expression and is commonly used in the country the story originated in to denote contempt for everyone and everything. Its removal did not alter the meaning or message of the sentence of which it was part.

Many in the Fellowship will see this recommendation as the Board of Trustees simply performing their duties as trusted servants, others may see this as a violation of group conscience. At all levels of service, trusted servants have the same concerns with decisions they make because sometimes controversy errupts and calls go out for a group conscience. In other areas of the fellowship the membership often does not want to be involved and feel the trusted servants should in fact make many of these decisions and not bother them with every little thing that comes up. A commonly expressed feeling of those in service is simply,"dammed if I do and dammed if I don't."

The Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure allows for all the approaches we use. However, as long as one approach is held as superior and all others are held as violating the traditions the situation thus becomes one of right and wrong, inferior and superior. "My way, my groups way, or my region's way is the only way and everyone else must adhere to our intrepretation of group conscience or else be held in violation of Tradition II" is devisive and an incorrect approach to a loving fellowship.

There are times when individuals or groups of individuals on the losing side of the vote on an issue, strive to keep the issue on the front burner in the fellowship by claiming violation of group conscience. The WSB, WSC and WSO each year receive a few letters accusing one, two or all three branches of world level service of violating Tradition Two, on one issue or another. This occurs, despite the fact no group conscience was

taken, on the issues of their concern, and the person writing the letter is assuming what the group conscience of the Fellowship would be if in fact it were taken.

A reasonable solution to the controversy revolving around Tradition Two, lay in understanding and applying all the Traditions and guidance from our service structure. All levels of service need to operate within the Traditions and all trusted servants and service committees need to operate within guidelines approved by their membership. It is neither feasible nor diserable that every decision made by trusted servants or committees be referred for group conscience, at the area, region or world level. If that was the desired course of action, groups would be spending all of their time making decisions, there would be little need for trusted servants and little time to work on recovery or carrying the message of recovery to others.

As addicts most of us enter the program of Narcotics Anonymous with distrust and paranoia. As we progress in our recovery we should begin to develop trust in each other and ourselves and less and less feel that the world is out to get us. Some of that distrust and paranoia is evident when we find ourselves insisting that Tradition Two demands that everyone participate in every single decision made by every committee from all levels of service. If we still have the viewpoint that we must tell WSC how to use paper, or we must be there to approve or disapprove the removal of inconsequential but offensive slang from a story, or that an office should not be closed until a group conscience is obtained, even though it is losing money, then we have not progressed in our recovery over the paranoia and distrust we came in with.

If we have the attitude that NA will go down the tubes if the entire fellowship is not involved in one decision or another or if wrong decisions will be made unless we are involved in it, we are missing some important elements of our recovery. This attitude also reflects a lack of faith and confidence in our acceptance of a higher power. Narcotics Anonymous exists as much, if not more, because of a higher power, higher than the collective efforts of <u>all</u> the most enlightened trusted servants combined. We are going to make mistakes, of that there is no doubt. But as long as we are willing to admit mistakes, forgive them, be forgiven for them and do so with a loving heart, our fellowship will survive a lot of mistakes by trusted servants. Of course there will arise some situations when a trusted servant is not being responsible to the fellowship that selected them. If this situation does occur then that fellowship can direct the trusted servant to change whatever was done and if that fails, they have the final option of removing that person. There should be no Service Board or Committee that does not have provisions for removal of a trusted servant that is not responsible to the fellowship. However, removal must be sparingly used and only as a last resort.

We must, as members of the fellowship always communicate with our trusted servants, asking them for reports and information and sharing our opinions. But we should give them trust and support to do their jobs. We need not constantly peer over their shoulder on every issue or they will not serve us well. If our paranoia and distrust overtakes our judgement we frequently find ourselves concluding that mistakes will be made which we

could prevent. But without the experience that trusted servants gain from doing their work, they will not grow in recovery and our fellowship will be hurt and so will the addict who is still out on the streets using.

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There seems to have been more work completed in our office in recent months than during the previous year. We are obvsiously growing and even though during the last year we have added a few new staff members, there seems to be more work that we are not getting done, or done on schedule. This edition of the NEWSLINE is a perfect example. This issue was supposed to be sent in the first week of November and here it is at the end of the month. We have improved on many things; production schedule on the magazine, response on orders, accuracy on the orders, our communications with WSC committees and officers, but this issue of the NEWSLINE is still late. We will make this the target of ernest efforts for improvement.

Yours in service

Bob S.