

External Committee
Board of Trustees
November 1992 Meeting

The External Committee met during the regular BOT meeting, November 20, 1992. The first two hours of the session were spent talking with Dr. Alfred Katz from UCLA's School of Public Health. Dr. Katz is very involved on an international level with promoting self help and 12 step groups within the professional community. The following are some suggestions and ideas which came out of the meeting:

1. Continue attendance at non NA events, adding more as possible, being very selective in those we attend--specifically the International Conference on Self Help and Mutual Aid which impacts 20 different countries (the next one is scheduled for 1995 in the United Kingdom). The best conferences are those where a presentation is already being made about NA--we need to develop relationships with the people in the organizations in order for this to happen.
2. Encourage PI subcommittees to use and contact the closest Self Help Clearing House as a resource for conferences.
3. Use a directory of national health organizations to pull out those subheadings and names related to addiction.
4. Specify sub groups within each national professional organization and develop a list from that for contact.
5. Develop something short, concise and attractive (press release type article) to send with a letter to each of the organizations and professional associations with an offer to provide material and speaker.
6. Produce a newsletter for professionals using 1 or 2 professionals as consultants in preparation. Important topics to include would be--myths about NA, ways in which H&I is using NA, minorities in NA.
7. Professional journals are not the most realistic way to go because they use a peer review system and submitted articles must meet certain criteria such methodology and literature review. We would need to use an academician to word our information in a manner acceptable to them. There is 12-18 months between submission and publication.
8. Begin a cooperative network with other 12 step fellowships to be ready to present a united front to the health care professionals. These types of coalitions are important for short term gains in the professional community.
9. Organize conferences for professionals to present NA so that they can incorporate it in their training of students.

The bottom line was that we need to be pro-active in getting our message out rather than reactive, simply responding to crises or requests. Dr. Katz provided us with several names on national and international levels that we hopefully can utilize down the road as we become able to implement some of the above ideas.

The remainder of our session was spent on the following items:

1. H&I correctional facility phone questionnaire - Nothing was known about the status of this project. It was agreed to try to recreate some energy for it and touch base in a couple of months. (Note: I spoke with Ivan on January 25 at which time contact had been made with 3 of the 5 states, with good results. He will prepare a report and we will discuss further the possibility of mailing out a survey (previously developed within External) or continuing with phone contact.
2. WSC PI survey - there was a great deal of discussion on how best to try to present a dollar figure. (Note - This is now a moot point in light of how the final motion was presented in the CAR.)
3. Business Cards - this was a discussion about the printing and use of business cards by NA members attending non-NA events, including pros and cons of having members' names on cards versus with only WSO information and no names. It was agreed that this needs more discussion, but for the moment WSO would be asked not to print any more cards with additional member's names.
4. Additional needs - we spent the remainder of our time discussing several items relating to this:
 - a. Translations - there are frequent changes in signing for the hearing impaired as well as individual preferences among signers. It was decided that we would devote time to developing two glossaries, one will be a universal glossary for NA related language, the other will be a brief glossary for individual videos denoting which signs a particular signer is using for which words in the particular video.
 - b. The resource book - work is continuing but very slowly.
 - c. Large print literature - awaiting interaction with the Board of Directors.
 - d. NYC additional needs workshop request - agreed to ask BOT to request funding from Interim for attendance of Betsy and Darwyn, with a trustee if possible. (Note: We have since received notification from NYC that they need to hold off on scheduling the workshop.)
 - e. Committee Motions - we finalized work for both of the motions which were committed to the board regarding additional needs.

We were extremely blessed to have with us this weekend, several hearing impaired members who traveled from Texas to share with us the plight of many of our members with additional needs. It was an incredibly moving experience for many of us, further highlighting the tremendous need that exists for increased awareness throughout our entire fellowship. In light of that, we discussed possible ways of becoming more pro-active in this area such as developing a trustee bulletin about the following issues:

1. More active dialogue with regions

2. To include information gathering about additional needs as a part of our World Services inventory process
3. Identify the hearing impaired members and involve them when making decisions about language
4. H&I panels with signers
5. PI targeting deaf schools and day programs for the deaf

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