

World Service



Conference Report

World Service Board of Trustees

The WSB is having an active and productive year thus far. Our first meeting of the year was held in August at the WSO in Chatsworth, and our second meeting in January also will be held at the WSO. This next meeting is scheduled as our expanded meeting which, as many of you know, includes world services leadership. We also hope to have a third meeting before the April WSC. So far this year, the board has participated in several forums, and we believe this interface with the fellowship is essential given our ongoing tasks. We participated in several workshops at the WCNA and attended the Western States Zonal Forum and the Denver office/convention workshop. We hope to participate in more events as we are requested. Continuing with our efforts from last year, we have maintained quick responses to our correspondence as a high priority. Additionally, our meeting agendas regularly have a topic discussion so that we can remain current with fellowship issues and concerns.

After reviewing our annual workplan and projects, the board decided to use small work teams in addition to its normal trustee committees as a way to focus and expedite some of our tasks. The work teams are formed around the following projects: outreach handbook project, the Development Forum, and various aspects of the "Public Relations Plan" (for example the research conference, demographic survey). Trustee committee conference calls have been used for the smaller work teams under their purview. Following are brief summaries of our various tasks and projects.

Committed Motions

Two committed motions were referred to us at WSC '96. One is about including a section on an area conference into A Guide to Local Services, which we will discuss more fully in January. The second set of motions all related to the "WSO Sales Policy." The board will continue participating in the discussion and development of the WSO sales policy through our BOD liaison, and will entertain full board discussion at our next meeting.

Fellowship Development Plan

After an initial review of the plan outline, the work team decided it needed to gather and assess additional information about the growth of NA before it could develop the plan any further. Discussing the project with WSO management, they agreed that the additional information could be gathered by searching through various regional and world level

reports, minutes, and correspondence from the past ten years. Categories of information then could be evaluated for trends or impacts on the developmental growth of NA, particularly where world services is involved.

This process could be likened to an inventory--taking stock of where we've been, looking at what has worked and what hasn't, and then making a plan for short and long- term goals. The final result should be a repository of resources for our future fellowship development efforts. Presently, staff are engaged in the research phase, and we will use this information to prepare for our December meeting. At that point we expect to evaluate the results, revise our plan as needed, and target immediate tasks. It appears to be an exciting project, and we'll be giving you more detailed reports as progress permits.

The Development Forum

As most of you are aware, the participant list for the DF has been frozen for the past three years due to our involvement with the inventory. At our August board meeting, we decided it was time to offer the opportunity for other communities to be included in the DF. As a result, we decided to unfreeze the list and return to our original funding criteria. Several of the communities that have participated over the years have been able to fully or partially fund themselves, and we applaud them for their growth. Several will fund themselves, opening up our limited budget to other communities. Several others have been encouraged to explore funding possibilities so they can carry more of the financial burden as well as allow new communities to participate. We will be focusing attention between now and our next meeting on ideas for the DF program at this next conference. If we have not communicated to your community, and you are interested in participating, please contact us c/o the WSO. Any input regarding the DF program is welcome.

The Outreach Handbook Project

The work team began the project by discussing the overall content of the handbook and using an editing process that will streamline the content of the draft material. Two members of the former ad hoc outreach committee were asked and have been included in the work team, which gives some continuity in the overall project. Currently the work team is consolidating their input and plans to provide a first draft at our January meeting. The team is optimistic that they will have a final review draft for the conference participants at WSC '97.

Additional Needs Handbook

Presently the WSB External Affairs Committee is reviewing drafts of the handbook and will provide recommendations to the board. They expect to present ideas about presentation formats for the material, such as: handbook or booklet style, topic-related pamphlets, and possible chapter sections that could be added to other handbooks or A Guide to Local Services. They also hope to have a final review draft for conference participants at WSC '97.

Census, Demographic Survey

A pilot survey was conducted at the WCNA in St. Louis. Over a thousand surveys were collected, and the board is examining the raw data and will decide if they want any specific reports generated from the data. We were encouraged by the positive response of members to this survey and are optimistic that obtaining this kind of information about our members' involvement with NA will be a positive tool for future public relations efforts. This pilot survey should provide the basis for the development of a more extensive fellowshipwide survey.

Research Conference

A research conference was scheduled for October; however, at the August board meeting we decided that more thorough discussions were necessary before we embarked on such an endeavor. A work team is preparing the framework for broader discussions at our next expanded meeting, where we will explore in greater detail issues surrounding the focus of what we will now be referring to as a "research roundtable discussion." We would like to be able to schedule this for next year.

Professional Events

We attended the International Council of Alcohol and Addictions Conference, held in Amsterdam July '96, which was a joint effort between World Services and Europa PI. In August '96, we attended the ACA (American Correctional Association) in Nashville, Tennessee. We will look to similar future events to increase and improve our profile with the correctional professionals. The last event of this conference year will be attendance at the IFNGO (International Federation of NGOs) this December in Jakarta, Indonesia. At all of the events, a team of members have been selected based on specific components and trusted servant training opportunities. For example, the H&I chairperson attended the ACA while the PI vice chair will attend the IFNGO.

"Public Relations Plan"

After presenting the "NA World Services 1996 Public Relations Work Plan" to the WSC '96 conference participants, the External Affairs Committee recommended work activities that stem from the plan's three key objectives, namely:

- To secure reliable information about NA for PR purposes.**
- To develop cooperative relationships with addiction professionals.**
- To provide ongoing coordination and training for NA community outreach.**

Following full board discussions at our August meeting, the External Affairs Committee decided to take some time to evaluate the overall plan and basically divide the work into two categories: actual hands-on work (i.e., attendance and participation at events) and administrative/clerical work (staff-intensive). We should have a better sense of how we wish to continue after our January meeting. Briefly, other status updates are:

- **Government Relations:** To date, it has been mainly fact-finding administrative work conducted by the WSO, now on hold.
- **Multi-regional training forum and in-service training for professionals:** These two activities in the "PR Plan" were assigned to WSC H&I and PI with WSO administrative support.
- **WSC H&I, PI tools:** WSO staff will be providing an up-to-date status sheet noting which service materials have been translated for the committees' consideration in their overall plans.

WSC Literature Committee - Step Working Guides

As noted at the conference, the WSB Literature Review Committee postponed its bulletin development plans in order to participate in the Step Working Guides project with the WSCLC. Although they had hoped to renew their bulletin drafting after January, it now appears that with all the tasks at hand and the commitment to the WSCLC's project the delay could be longer. After our January meeting we may have a more realistic time frame.

On behalf of the board, thank you for allowing us to serve, and as always we invite any comments or suggestions you may have for any of our projects.

Stu Tooredman, chairperson
Bob Smith, vice chairperson