

World Service



# Conference Report

## World Service Conference Policy Committee

Greetings from the WSC Policy Committee. As this is the first report to the conference since WSC 1996, we would like to begin by updating you on our committee membership. Two members rotated off of the WSC Policy Committee at the close of the conference, Shannon Lynaugh and Jeff Hildebrandt; we thank them for their many contributions to our work. Vandi Andersen and Denver Whisman are on the WSC Policy Committee through committee chairperson appointment, and the WSC Policy Committee's representatives on the Regional Assistance Panel are Sandi Stauffer and John Halverson.

As directed by the conference in adopting Motion #12 at the 1996 WSC, our committee released for approval, *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*, this summer. We want you to be aware that in addition to the *Guide*, the history paper on the *Guide's* review and input process, a list of conference proceedings on the *Guide* from 1982 through 1995, and a complete list of all changes made to the *Guide* are available through the World Service Office, should you want additional information. These materials were originally distributed to conference participants with the *Guide to Local Services* in the fall of 1995.

As reported on at the 1996 World Service Conference, approval of *A Guide to Local Services* will affect two service items already in publication. First, while the current text of *The Group Booklet* was adapted from an earlier draft of what has become the "Group" chapter of *A Guide to Local Services*, the current chapter on "The NA Group" is a little different from *The Group Booklet*. At this point, we plan to recommend that, if the *Guide to Local Services* is approved, "The NA Group" chapter be made into *The Group Booklet, Revised*.

Secondly, you are all aware that the first portion of *A Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure* deals in a very limited way with local services. To keep things simple and reduce the potential for confusion, should *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous* be approved, we plan to recommend the removal of material on local services in the *TWGSS*, and to rename the remainder of the publication, *The NA World Services Handbook*. We also plan to offer minor housekeeping motions to provide consistency in terminology between the two publications, again, pending approval of the *Guide to Local Services*.

Following this year's conference, we realized that there were still items concerning conference procedure that needed clarification. In general, we are very pleased with the

**improvements to elections, nominations, and general protocol; however, we are also aware that after this "test run," a couple of items need fine tuning. We will not be offering items that will take us in a different direction, but instead are looking at minor adjustments which will better fulfill the direction begun over the last three years, such as producing a more manageable resume packet for voting participants.**

**The WSC Policy Committee will also be addressing conference orientation material, to further the efforts put forth at last year's conference by the Administrative Committee and those who contributed to the more in-depth orientation. Through both our personal experience as conference participants and in talking with others, we realize much confusion remains as to how to be prepared to participate at the conference. Additionally, much of what is needed to be prepared comes through the footwork in the year preceding the event, and cannot be resolved at the opening orientation.**

**We are working with the Administrative Committee and hope to offer participants resources and material that will address both components, pre-conference and event preparation/support. One such resource we are planning is an assistance table at the conference for participants who have questions regarding procedure, motions, etc.**

**Lastly, we are working with the WSC Literature Committee on a portion of its internal guidelines. We have also followed up on previous contacts with the World Services Translations Committee regarding assistance requests with its internal guidelines, and have offered help should the need still exist.**

**As always, should you have any questions or input on any of our work, we invite you to please contact the WSC Policy Committee, c/o Jeff Gershoff at the World Service Office. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.**

***Mary Chant-Valentine, chairperson***  
***Lib Edmonds, vice chairperson***