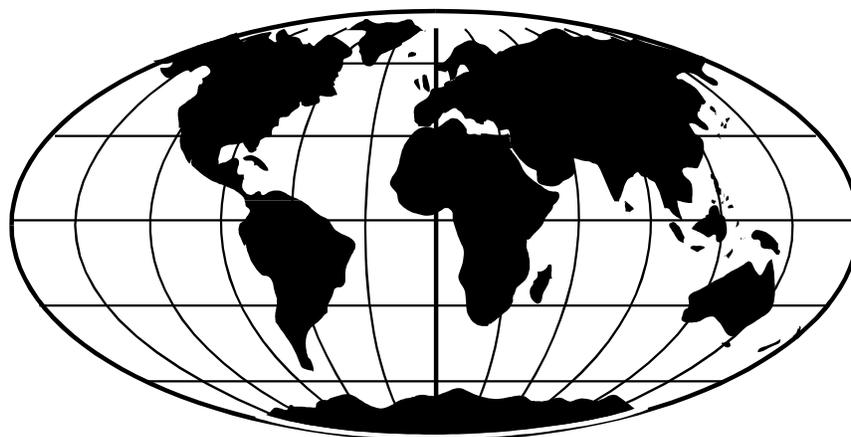


CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT 2000



**World Service Conference
of Narcotics Anonymous**

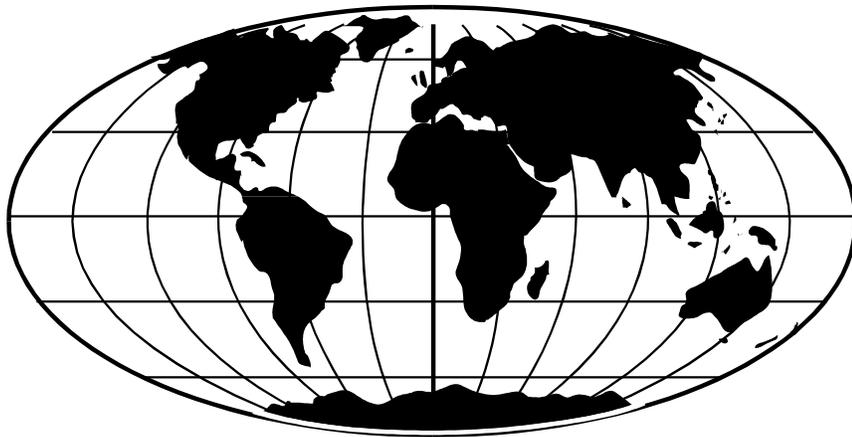
**Approval materials
for annual meeting
30 April – 6 May 2000
Woodland Hills, California, USA**



THE TWELVE STEPS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

1. We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT 2000



**World Service Conference
of Narcotics Anonymous**

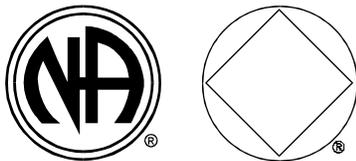
**Approval materials
for annual meeting
30 April – 6 May 2000
Woodland Hills, California, USA**

2000 Conference Agenda Report

World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous adapted by permission of AA World Services, Inc.

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	iii
ABBREVIATED MOTION LIST.....	vii
SESSIONS FOR WSC 2000	ix
WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 2000 AGENDA OVERVIEW	1
MOTION 21 PROJECT	2
APPROVAL PROCESS FOR SERVICE MATERIAL.....	12
TWO-YEAR CONFERENCE CYCLE.....	15
ISSUE DISCUSSIONS	33
HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL.....	34
REGIONAL MOTIONS	38
ADDENDUM A — Proposed Literature Development Plan — Motion 21 Project	
ADDENDUM B — Policies Affected as a Result of the Two-Year Conference Cycle Motions	
ADDENDUM C — Proposed 2000 Temporary Working Guide to our World Service Structure	
ADDENDUM D — Issue Discussion Papers	
NOMINATION FORM	
WORLD POOL RESUME	
GLOSSARY	

INTRODUCTION

This report contains the proposals to be offered at the 25th meeting of NA's World Service Conference, to be held 30 April through 6 May 2000 in Woodland Hills, California, USA. This year's conference holds out the promise of being one of the most important for the NA Fellowship in many years.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to read and study the proposals in this report. We realize it is quite lengthy. Many of the subjects are also quite complex. Some may seem far removed from the concerns of your home group or NA community. We have tried our best to simplify complex material where it was possible to do so. Additional background material about all of these proposals exists in the 35–page November issue of the *Conference Report* and in the 1999 issues of *NAWS News* (all available on our website, www.na.org, or by contacting the World Service Office).

It is immensely fitting that this historic 25th meeting of the WSC comes upon us now, because this is truly an exciting time in Narcotics Anonymous. We are very much in the middle of the most important and far-reaching reorganization of our service structure since the fellowship's first service manual, *The NA Tree*, was adopted by our World Service Board of Trustees nearly 25 years ago, making that first WSC meeting possible. The challenges facing us at this time are significant. While we can begin to see many of the benefits of our collective labor, we have not yet arrived at our destination.

We have come quite a distance from that jumping-off point at WSC '98 when we began the current phase of the reorganization. When we summon our collective memory, we see that the efforts to improve and reorganize our world service structure have actually been continuous. As we reflect on what has taken place in Narcotics Anonymous since several of our earliest members came together at the first WSC meeting on the 13th day of November, 1976, in Ventura, California, we are profoundly grateful. We are forever thankful for the legacy we have inherited and which we see all around us—an immense number of accomplishments that have been passed down to us all. We summon the spirit and the energy and the goodwill and the dreams and the vision of all those who have participated in past conferences to pass this legacy on to us. We hope, as our predecessors hoped, that our attempts to come together and help each other by sharing experience, strength, and hope will further our collective effort to carry the NA message to the still-suffering addict and strengthen our worldwide unity.

Your willingness to participate does make a difference. The evidence is all around us. You are part of a process that, although imperfect and sometimes frustrating, has helped Narcotics Anonymous to grow from one meeting in 1953 in Southern California to over 27,149 meetings in 104 countries today.

The service foundation our predecessors created in the mid-1970s and 1980s was successful in helping our fellowship reach the stage of growth and development we have achieved today at the threshold of a new century. And throughout this time, the most primary world services, now called routine/basic services in the Unified Budget, have expanded and grown much more complex. The balance has shifted from a project-oriented world service system. The accumulated conversion of two decades of past projects into today's routine services has resulted in a remarkable expansion and transformation of world service operations. With these basic services we have continued to serve the needs of the fellowship *without interruption throughout these years of inventory and transition.*

A copy of this report is being distributed at conference expense to every World Service Conference participant and every registered regional service committee. This fulfills the responsibility to notify the fellowship of items for consideration at the 2000 World Service Conference meeting. This year we are translating more portions of the *Conference Agenda Report* than ever before. The body of the *CAR*, meaning everything up to and including regional motions, Addendum A and the Issue Discussion Section are being translated into five languages: French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, and Swedish. Any NA member, group, service board, or committee may purchase (at a cost of \$10.00) additional copies from the World Service Office (or download this report from our website.)

Following the WSC 2000 Abbreviated Motions List, we have included a list of the routine conference business sessions (not in any specific order). A pre-conference mailing will provide a more specific outline for the agenda.

After the list of agenda sessions is an overview of the sessions from the World Board, followed by all of the board proposals for conference action, which have a separate introduction. The next section of the *CAR* contains a motion to select two issues at WSC 2000 for fellowship discussion during the next conference cycle. The proposals for conference action from the Human Resource Panel follow. The next section contains regional motions published at the request of regional service committees. Each motion contains a rationale from the region making the motion, limited to 150 words by conference policy. After each motion is a recommendation for action along with an explanation from the World Board. (The board usually gives these recommendations on the floor of the WSC as the conference considers each motion. We are again providing these here to give you this same information for your discussions.)

Each motion also includes a financial impact statement we have prepared. All financial impact statements factor in: staff time, production and storage costs, and trusted servant expenses, as appropriate, annualized for consistency. All figures are in US dollars. The costs do *not* include expenses for the annual revision of *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (TWGWSS)*. We exclude the administrative expense incurred every year updating *TWGWSS* because this update happens regardless of conference action on any specific motion. Also, the financial impact statements *exclude* costs for any changes in inventory for service materials or literature items. Effective inventory management will minimize the cost of destruction of obsolete items.

These financial impact statements represent our best estimates at this time; there is some greater measure of uncertainty this year because of the number of brand new variables associated with the ongoing transition. The planned startup of the board's committees, the first two-year conference cycle and two-year budget process, and the multiple inter-related scenarios that are part of certain specific proposals all affect our ability to estimate the financial impact of various motions. A pre-conference mailing will provide more detailed financial information, including the 2000-2002 Unified Budget proposal, which will incorporate any detailed project plans the conference may select.

Addendum A contains the Proposed Literature Development Plan that pertains to motions one through four under the Motion 21 section. Addendum B contains a version of the 1999 *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* that reflects the changes to policy resulting from motions six through twelve under the Two-Year Conference. Addendum C contains the proposed 2000 *TWGWSS* called out in motion thirteen. The next section contains the issue discussion papers on two topics determined at WSC'99: "What is Abstinence?" and

“Retaining Experienced Members with Substantial Clean Time.” Finally, we have also again included a letter regarding nominations for positions open for election at WSC 2000, a copy of the resume form, and a glossary of service terms often used in discussing world service issues, including those appearing in the 2000 *CAR*.

The March 2000 issue of the *Conference Report* will contain annual reports from regional service committees and letters of intent from regions planning to request seating at WSC 2000. The deadline for the *March Conference Report* is 15 February 2000. Final orientation materials for this year’s conference will be mailed to conference participants approximately 30 days before the conference begins.

There is one more way that you can help us. The fact that you have obtained a copy of this report and/or have shown up at a *CAR* workshop is evidence of your commitment to, and love for, Narcotics Anonymous. If you also have five (5) years clean, you are eligible to submit a service resume to become a part of the world pool administered by the Human Resource Panel. That form is included in this report. We hope every member of NA with five years clean will become willing to make themselves available to Narcotics Anonymous World Services by completing this form so that the world pool can become the largest and most diverse resource in our history for fellowship participation in world services. We hope every participant at every *CAR* workshop will take a moment to look at the resume form and consider this opportunity for service.

The legacy we have inherited is a sacred trust. We are temporary custodians for future generations, and we ask that you join with us in serving not only the interests of those you represent directly today, but also NA as a whole and all those still-suffering addicts who haven’t yet heard that there is another way to live. We believe we have followed through on the direction provided by the 1998 and 1999 conferences. While we believe our proposals are recommending the next right things to do, it is now up to the fellowship and WSC 2000 to discuss and debate these proposals. We hope that you will help us navigate the suggested course we have laid out, but we look forward eagerly to the direction we receive from you at WSC 2000, whatever that may be.

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WSC 2000 ABBREVIATED MOTIONS LIST

For reference only

Motion 1: Shall the fellowship proceed with a comprehensive evaluation of revisions and additions to the entire Basic Text and the Little White Booklet?

Maker: World Board, page 6

Motion 2: When shall the World Board offer a detailed project plan to begin this evaluation: (a) WSC 2002; (b) WSC 2004; or (c) WSC 2006?

Maker: World Board, page 8

Motion 3: That the World Board encourage area and regional literature committees to develop source material about sponsorship in 2000, with the board starting a preliminary evaluation of the issues relating to the sponsorship material in 2001.

Maker: World Board, page 9

Motion 4: To affirm the general direction of the proposed literature development plan as summarized below...

Maker: World Board, page 10

Motion 5: To approve the following process for the approval of service material to be included in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (2000 edition)...

Maker: World Board, page 13

Motion 6: To adopt the following section titled "The Work Cycle between Conferences" for inclusion in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*...

Maker: World Board, page 17

Motion 7: To adopt the following section titled "World Service Conference Publications" for inclusion in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*...

Maker: World Board, page 20

Motion 8: To adopt the following description of zonal forums for inclusion in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*. In addition, the chart of the "Narcotics Anonymous World Service System" in *TWGWSS* will be changed to reflect this relationship with the WSC.

Maker: World Board, page 22

Motion 9: To approve the following section, "Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants," as conference policy for inclusion in *TWGWSS*...

Maker: World Board, page 24

Motion 10: To approve the following as conference policy: "The World Service Conference funds the attendance of delegates from each seated region to the meeting of the WSC held every two years. This funding includes travel, lodging, and meal expenses only. This policy would cover all previously seated regions that have attended one of the past three conferences."

Maker: World Board, page 27

Motion 11: To limit seating on the conference floor to one delegate and one alternate per region.

Maker: World Board, page 28

Motion 12: To adopt the following section, titled "The World Service Conference," for inclusion in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*...

Maker: World Board, page 28

Motion 13: To adopt the revised version of *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* contained in Addendum C...

Maker: World Board, page 31

Motion 14: To make housekeeping changes to the Operational Rules of the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* that reflect a two-year conference cycle and the Unified Budget process already adopted.

Maker: World Board, page 31

Motion 15: To select two issue-discussion topics from the following list for discussion at the 2002 World Service Conference...

Presented according to conference policy, page 33

Motion 16: To add to *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition) on page 15, under EXTERNAL GUIDELINES FOR THE WORLD POOL AND HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL, section "Guidelines for General Eligibility and Implementation," the following language...

Presented on behalf of the HRP, page 34

Motion 17: To add to the duties of the Human Resource Panel the ability to provide the World Service Conference with a list of individuals best qualified for election to the position of the Human Resource Panel. This would be accomplished by amending *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition) as follows...

Presented on behalf of the HRP, page 36

Motion 18: To amend the term of office for the Human Resource Panel to two (2) conference cycles. This change in term of office will begin with the HRP members elected at WSC 2000. This would be accomplished by amending *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition) as follows...

Presented on behalf of the HRP, page 36

Motion 19: To include in *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous* between the General Table of Contents, page iii and the chart "NA Service Structure," page iv, the following description of the different units of our service structure in NA...

Maker: Alsask Region, page 38

Motion 20: To capitalize the first letter of the words: Step, Steps, Tradition, and Traditions when used in reference to the Twelve Steps and/or Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous in all newly developed and/or revisions to our service and recovery literature.

Maker: Pacific-Cascade Region, page 39

Motion 21: That the World Board provides only new information, not recommendations, on regional motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Maker: Wisconsin Region, page 40

Motion 22: To create a nonvoting conference participant status at the World Service Conference for World Board members. The board may continue to give reports, recommendations and make motions, but not have a vote in any WSC business sessions, including elections. This would be accomplished by amending *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition), as follows...

Makers: Arizona Region and Ontario Region, page 41

Motion 23: That voting during the election of World Board members be restricted to regional delegates or in their absence a duly elected regional delegate alternate. This would be accomplished by amending *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition), as follows...

Maker: North East Atlantic Region, page 43

Sessions for WSC 2000
Woodland Hills, California, USA
Sunday, 30 April–Saturday, 6 May 2000

Please note that these sessions are not listed in any particular order.

- **Narcotics Anonymous recovery meeting(s)**
- **Agenda overview, general orientation**
- **Introductions**
- **Approval of WSC '99 minutes**
- **Seating of new regions**
- **Adoption of procedures**
- **World Board report**
- **Human Resource Panel report**
- **1999–2000 issue–discussion topics: “Retaining Experienced Members,” and “NA’s Definition of Abstinence”**
- **Zonal forum reports**
- **Elections**
- **Report on Unified Budget process and 2000–2002 budget presentation and adoption**
- **Discussion of issues related to fellowship development**
- **Zonal forum meetings, as requested**
- **New business**
- **Old business**
- **World Board meetings**

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<p style="text-align: center;">WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 2000 AGENDA OVERVIEW</p>

The 2000 WSC will present definite challenges for all conference participants. The length of this year's *CAR* foreshadows the volume of business for conference consideration. In this sense, the business before 2000 WSC bears a resemblance to the 1998 WSC when the conference confronted major decisions about its own structure. For some years now there has been talk of a different kind of *Conference Agenda Report* and a different kind of World Service Conference. In putting together this year's *CAR*, a frustrating undertaking in many respects, the familiar face of the past has become quite evident. Yet as we are starting to look at the agenda structure for this year's conference, we remain deeply committed to the effort to lead the conference into fully living up to what it could be, not just what it has been, creating new models to improve our abilities to work together and achieve our primary purpose.

The old business on the agenda for this year's conference is truly "old" in every sense. Many of the issues presented by the two-year conference project have haunted NA world services without resolution for at least fifteen years. Issues about the Basic Text now stretch back twenty years into the past. Concern about the development of guidelines and other service material is older still. The agenda for this year's conference represents not only "old business," but also great opportunities for resolution and accomplishment around these issues of major importance.

The week's events will be structured to help the conference to make all of the necessary decisions that are pivotal to the next stage of the transition to a two-year conference cycle. Many of the issues revolve around questions of conference policy. We know that from the perspective of most members, "TWGWSS" is not the first concern of an addict trying to stay clean another day or an isolated NA group's efforts to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. At the same time, a fellowship issue of paramount importance will be a central subject of discussion at this year's conference. What changes, if any, shall we consider making in our Basic Text and Little White Booklet, and what are the priorities for NA as a whole for recovery literature development? All members, regardless of background in service or length of clean time, have experience relevant to discussing these questions.

While there will be more opportunities than ever to become lost in policy details and parliamentary maneuvering, we hope that all of the dialogue and debate about the proposals on this year's agenda will bring participants and the fellowship together. We hope the spirit of discussion and dialogue, in small groups and in the general sessions, in a mature atmosphere of mutual trust and respect, will be a hallmark of this conference's decision-making processes. Although the agenda and business of the 25th World Service Conference are old, the chance to approach everything in a new way dares us to move forward.

MOTION 21 PROJECT

Introduction

The 1999 World Service Conference (WSC) approved a project plan to deal with all the literature issues and motions committed from 1998 and 1999. The “Motion 21” project plan directed the World Board “to prepare for the 2000 *Conference Agenda Report* a comprehensive report for the creation and revision of fellowship-approved literature over the course of the next five to ten years.” That report is included in this *CAR* as Addendum 1. This part of the *CAR* proposes four motions from the World Board that resulted from work on the Motion 21 project this past year. We have tried to simplify the issues and background most essential to just these four motions, but for a full understanding we encourage all interested members to read the full report.

The four literature-related motions the board is proposing are closely interrelated. Therefore, because of the complexities with these multiple scenarios, we want to list these four motions upfront, before discussing each motion.

Motion 1: Shall the fellowship proceed with a comprehensive evaluation of revisions and additions to the entire Basic Text and the Little White Booklet? Yes or No?

Motion 2: When shall the World Board offer a detailed project plan to begin this evaluation (per Motion 1 above): (a) WSC 2002; (b) WSC 2004; or (c) WSC 2006? Choose one of these options: (a), (b), or (c). (*Motion 2 will only be offered if Motion 1 passes.*)

Motion 3: That the World Board encourage area and regional literature committees to develop source material about sponsorship in 2000, with the board starting a preliminary evaluation of the issues relating to the sponsorship material in 2001. (*Motion 3 will not be offered if Motion 2 passes with option (a) chosen;*)

Motion 4: To affirm the general direction of the proposed literature development plan as summarized below. (*The form of Motion 4 will depend on the outcome of Motions 1, 2, and 3.*)

We are offering these four motions as a way of stimulating discussion about recovery literature development. We hope this will lead to fellowship consensus and decisions about what future literature development should occur relative to other priorities. Because there are many reasonable options, presenting those options fairly and simply has not been easy. We can not and do not want to make these choices for the fellowship: *The choice is yours.* Every member and every NA group has a stake and a voice in these matters. Our intent is to offer reasonable and practical options. We have heard enough conflicting input to suggest that there is a significant difference of opinion about what NA should do next. This assumption underlies the way we have structured these motions. If we are wrong, and there is an overwhelming consensus to do something entirely different, we have no doubt that consensus would prevail. We would welcome any clear consensus. Because there is a diversity of views and the issues are complex and interrelated, we expect lively discussion at WSC 2000 to reach agreement on a practical course of action which all can support wholeheartedly. Communication that leads to such unity about our service effort is what we believe the *Conference Agenda Report* is really all about. We hope these motions will be discussed and considered in this spirit.

Motions 1, 2, and 3 are a direct response to three motions committed to the board at the 1998 conference—Motions 21, 24, and 77 from WSC 1998. Although it is somewhat unusual to offer a motion in the form of a question, we have done so here for the sake of clarity with Motions 1 and 2. Conference action on these questions will have the same effect as any other conference motion. Our last motion (Motion 4) asks the fellowship to affirm the general direction of the comprehensive report/literature development plan. Again, we prepared this report/plan per the “Motion 21” project adopted by WSC 1999.

From the 1998 CAR/WSC, Motion 21: Basic Text/Little White Booklet (Adopted Motion)

From the 1998 CAR/WSC, Motion 24: WSCLC “A” List (Adopted Motion, Subsequently Committed)

1998 WSC Motion 77: Sponsorship Booklet (Adopted Motion, Subsequently Committed)

If you are not familiar with the background and history regarding the 1998 WSC motions and this project, we devote roughly one-third of our comprehensive report (see Addendum A) to providing this information. Beginning on page eight with the section titled “Some Key Issues and Background Information” and continuing through pages fourteen in the section “Summary of Fellowship Input,” we have summarized all of the critical background material which supports our presentation of Motions 1, 2, 3, and 4. This background also supports the last two major sections of the report: “Literature Development Plan Overview” beginning on page 20 and the final section (“Specific Discussion Issues—For Future Consideration”) from page 23 to 28. The entire report is meant to be read in its totality, and this is particularly necessary concerning Motion 4, which is a motion to affirm the general direction of the work plan outlined in the proposed literature development plan.

The WSC’s first purposeful act after creating the World Board in 1998 was to give Motions 21, 24, and 77 to the board. We recognize and acknowledge this fact. Our response to all three of these motions is the same. Our response is to offer Motions 1, 2, and 3 for fellowship consideration. Motions 1, 2 and 3 have resulted from an effort to put the issues surrounding the Basic Text, the Little White Booklet, and the development of new material on sponsorship in context. By this we mean the overall plan for all recovery literature development for the next five to ten years. This context also includes the short- and long-term priorities for the board and NA World Services at this stage of the transition to a new world service system.

Do We Really Want to Revise the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet?

Given our history and the importance of the Basic Text, substantial unanimity should be our goal before we initiate a project relating to the Basic Text or the Little White Booklet. The board is not offering any detailed project plans to revise the Basic Text or the Little White Booklet during the next conference cycle (2000–2002). Instead, the board is offering Motions 1, 2, 3, and 4 in combination, which we believe satisfies the spirit of the original Motion 21 from 1998, as well as the Motion 21 project plan adopted by WSC 1999, which amended and broadened the scope of this project.

There are several reasons why we have taken this approach. These include: the 1999 literature survey results (in spite of that survey's flaws), the input on file that we have reviewed, and our own judgment and experience.

We are very much aware that the 1998 WSC adopted Motion 24 and Motion 77 (see Addendum A, page three), but then subsequently committed these motions to the Motion 21 process, an unprecedented action. Revision of either the Basic Text or the Little White Booklet would extensively impact numerous other items of fellowship-approved literature that contains quotes or excerpts from these publications. There is insufficient consensus that either of these are the next, immediate priorities for literature development. The board believes that going through this process is necessary and valuable—even if the end result of all this reaffirms the literature priorities suggested by the actions of the 1998 WSC (with some much-needed clarification).

A reasonable delay is well worth the effort involved in carefully considering what NA should do with the Basic Text and Little White Booklet, if anything. We believe this is consistent with the spirit of Motion 21 as passed in 1998. At the same time, we recognize that some are disappointed that the board has not accomplished this comprehensive evaluation this year within the scope of the current project. We believe the delay has been necessary and unavoidable given where NA World Services is now in terms of the ongoing reorganization of the world service structure. We outlined this at length in the *November Conference Report*. **As a practical matter, the board believes that the demands of the transition during the next conference cycle are so great that it would be unreasonable to begin a book-length literature project.**

We discussed this workload at length in the *November Conference Report*. The major tasks include integrating possibly as many as twelve new members onto the twenty-four member World Board, implementing the board's committee system, adjusting to the two-year conference cycle, and making the proposed worldwide workshop system effective. Establishing the world pool as an effective, reliable resource will be a crucial part of the success of all of these tasks. Improving both fellowship communications and the working relationships among and between NA World Services and the fellowship is another overarching priority that is a part of the process of settling in with the changes begun at WSC 1998. All of these tasks are part of the ongoing effort to make the foundations of the new NA world service system stable and secure. We must finish the work already started as a consequence of the decisions of the 1998 WSC to create this new world service system, along with the other new work that is a result of the 14 projects approved by the 1999 WSC.

The Basic Text (all editions, all languages) is by far the largest single source of income for NA World Services, representing approximately 58% of all recovery books sold and 34% of 1999 gross income. The Little White Booklet is NA's oldest piece of recovery literature. It is still our best-selling booklet ever, both in terms of current annual sales volume and for all time. Although the Little White Booklet is historically important to NA, it is in the same category as all other recovery literature.

The board believes our common welfare and fellowship unity—the practical foundation of our Twelve Traditions—far surpass any financial considerations. It is hard to imagine any world service project that would ever generate greater concern or interest for NA groups worldwide and most members. Consequently, if the fellowship decides to go forward, such a project (even if limited to a comprehensive evaluation) will require all elements of our entire service structure to communicate with the fellowship. Moreover, the board and conference delegates would have to work together closely to ensure the effectiveness of this

communication and also ensure together the most careful management and oversight of this project.

The board believes that it would be unwise to propose any project to change either the Basic Text or the Little White Booklet without first having further measured deliberations. At this time we see significant opposition in the fellowship to revising the existing material in Chapters 1–10, and the WSC Literature Committee had previously recommended that these existing chapters remain unchanged. On the other hand, there have been some members who have been waiting patiently since 1988 for the end of the moratoriums. Some input has been on hold since 1983 that supports changes to these chapters.

The fellowship appears divided about adding additional chapters on sponsorship or service. While it is clear that the demand for new material about sponsorship is strong, it is not clear that the fellowship feels that the best option is for this material to take the form of a new chapter in the Basic Text. The support for a chapter about service appears to be weaker than for a chapter about sponsorship.

The fellowship also appears divided about revising the personal story section in the immediate future. Evaluating the issue about changing the Book Two stories section in conjunction with a possible project to create a new international story book will also help to resolve what the fellowship needs in this area. We acknowledge that the 1998 WSC defeated a motion, without debate, which proposed to create a new book-length anthology of personal stories from recovering addicts throughout the world. But we believe this idea warrants further consideration and should be evaluated in the context of making other changes in the personal story section of the Basic Text.

This motion intends to facilitate a comprehensive approach to decision making. This means a careful and thorough consideration of all factors and all issues involving changes to our first and most important recovery book, the Basic Text, and the historic booklet that begins each of its first eight chapters, the Little White Booklet. (The subsequent evaluation, if the conference adopts that motion, would also intentionally foster this same sort of comprehensive approach to planning major projects.)

We believe the situation is analogous to a freight train; once set in motion, this could influence substantially everything in the NAWS Neighborhood and in the fellowship. In some sense, the 1998 WSC already began this process by asking the World Board to load all of the Basic Text cargo onto the train. The train is now still sitting in the station pending fellowship approval to depart. Further, although any future conference could stop the freight train at any time—as a practical matter, our experience has shown that once any NA train gets going, its own momentum and other factors would make it very difficult to stop. Therefore, the question is: Do we really want to start this train going (what are we trying to accomplish?) and if so, what is this train's destination and schedule? Are the Basic Text and Little White Booklet in some way deficient? Does either publication contain outdated or wrong material which compels an effort to make corrections or revisions? Does either publication need to be improved at this time by the addition of new material, either new text or stories or both? Alternatively, should one or both of these publications be left alone as is? Any new material to meet current needs could be channeled instead into other recovery literature. The board believes there are many members with strong feelings on both sides of this issue, and that all elements of our fellowship must engage in dialogue before any project to change NA's first book and first booklet can or should go forward. Our full report (see Addendum A) includes background information about the history of these publications and the moratorium which was

in place from 1988 to 1998, including a brief summary of all input received to date and past conference actions relating to this subject.

Motion 1: Shall the fellowship proceed with a comprehensive evaluation of revisions and additions to the entire Basic Text and the Little White Booklet? Yes or No?

Intent: This motion intends to communicate the issues involved in further evaluation of changes to the Little White Booklet and the Basic Text. This motion encourages the fellowship at the 2000 WSC to show their support—or lack of support—for changes to this material with their vote on this motion. (Revision means any substantial deletions and/or changes in the existing text and/or stories section of either publication. Addition means the creation of any new text, new chapters, and/or stories for either publication.)

Financial Impact: This is a decision to make a major commitment of world service resources but the true impact would fall under the decision of when and how to initiate this work. This motion does not, in itself, have a direct financial impact.

Policy Affected: This motion would not amend any WSC policies.

What If the Fellowship's Answer Is No?

If the fellowship's answer to Motion 1 is no, there are two important implications.

First, the board would obviously not offer Motion 2. The issue of changing the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet would be settled for the near future. There would be no moratorium in place, however. The fellowship would remain free to reconsider the issues at a future date.

Second, Motion 3 would still be relevant, however. Although saying "No" to Motion 1 would narrow the scope of any sponsorship project, this would leave open the question of that material going somewhere else. A "No" answer on Motion 1 would indicate that the fellowship does not want new material on sponsorship to take the form of a new chapter in the Basic Text. But it would still be possible to have literature committees begin to develop source material in 2000, with the board beginning its evaluation in 2001 regarding the ultimate content and format (e.g., a new and/or existing pamphlet or booklet). Saying no to Motion 1 would only rule out the placement of a new chapter on sponsorship in the Basic Text, at least for the next conference cycle.

If the Answer Is Yes, the Follow-up Question (Motion 2) Asks When That Evaluation Should Start

If the fellowship's answer to Motion 1 is yes, then fellowship discussion of Motion 2 will enable the conference to decide when evaluation of the Basic Text and/or the Little White Booklet should begin. The board's motion offers three options for a start date: WSC 2002, WSC 2004, or WSC 2006. The board does not believe it can start such an evaluation during the next conference cycle, between WSC 2000 and WSC 2002, because of the demands of the ongoing transition; therefore, the board is not offering this option because it would not be practical or reasonable.

If Motion 1 passes, here's what the evaluation would involve, regardless of when it starts. If adopted, the intent of the evaluation would be twofold. Phase one would focus on

substantive issues relating to determining a fellowshipwide consensus about what to change, edit, and/or add. These substantive issues also include style, tone, and continuity. By continuity we mean the extent to which new material would need to match the existing style and tone and/or the degree of difference that would be acceptable. Phase two would address the complex development process issues, including how any specific evaluation recommendations would be implemented by any subsequent project. For example, this careful consideration would include: development methods, budget, timelines, the processes for review and input, and the approval process (within the framework of options to choose from *within the existing literature process*).

The way the evaluation is done, if authorized, should facilitate a comprehensive approach to decision making. This principle is something that underlies the entire service structure change, but is also a new dynamic for the conference and for the fellowship. Between the book's publication in 1983 and 1988, we had five editions in these five years. The board's intent is to engage the fellowship in a comprehensive evaluation so that any and all changes are considered now at the same time. The intent of this evaluation would be to discourage piecemeal revisions to the Basic Text and thus avoid multiple new editions within a short period of time.

Finally, there is one important consequence of option (a) of Motion 2. This option provides for a timeline beginning this next conference cycle. If the conference decides this year that it wants the evaluation to start upon adoption of a detailed project plan at WSC 2002, the board would have to develop that detailed project plan for the evaluation during the next 18 months. Given the board's expected workload during the next conference cycle implementing its committees, the worldwide workshop system, and other aspects of the transition to a two-year conference cycle, everything else contemplated in the literature development plan would have to be put on hold. This work is spelled out in the next two motions, Motion 3 and Motion 4.

We believe this workload limitation is only partially a result of the board's finite ability to administer effectively the overall work of the NA world service system. The reality of resource limitations also fully takes into account what the board believes is practical and reasonable for the fellowship, the world pool, and the WSO staff to accomplish together in this time frame, given the individual and combined human and financial resource limitations of all components of NA world services. We believe there is an important balance between the quantity and pace of the work we try to accomplish and the quality of the results.

Specifically, if the conference adopts Motion 2 with a 2002 timeline, the board will not offer Motion 3. This would represent two major projects during the same conference cycle, which is already burdened by the extraordinary aspects of the transition. Motion 3, the sponsorship project, could go forward if the conference adopts Motion 2 with a timetable starting at WSC 2004 or WSC 2006. In either case, the preliminary work developing source material on sponsorship and evaluating the issues could go forward during the next conference cycle if the conference adopts Motion 3. This preliminary work would dovetail into a Basic Text evaluation project that would begin in either 2004 or 2006. But trying to do both at the same time, which is what would be involved with Motion 2's adoption with a WSC 2002 start date, would be the equivalent of two freight trains on a collision course headed for the same crossing.

Moreover, as you can see by examining Motion 4 below, the board has identified six other tasks in addition to starting the sponsorship project. These tasks are described in bullet points D, E, F, G, H, and I of Motion 4. All of this work would also have to be put on hold

indefinitely. Therefore, if Motion 2 is adopted with the WSC 2002 timeline, the board would modify Motion 4 so that it would consist of just bullet points A and B. This means implementing the Publications Committee and preparing the Basic Text/Little White Booklet evaluation plan, and nothing else. Bullet points C through I would be shelved indefinitely.

Every project has an opportunity cost. Doing one thing means postponing the opportunity to do something else. Additionally, it is the board's estimate that choosing to begin a project to change the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet would make this the one and only fellowship project for at least six years. No other projects involving literature or anything else would be practical or feasible. Choosing to undertake revisions and/or additions to the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet would mean consuming the resources that would otherwise be available for everything else for six years' time, minimum. With a timeline starting at WSC 2002, this would mean reserving all variable resources for the Basic Text project through WSC 2008. Similarly, a start date of WSC 2004 would mean reserving resources from WSC 2004 to WSC 2010 for the Basic Text project, or from WSC 2006–2012 with a 2006 start date.

Motion 2: When shall the World Board offer a detailed project plan to begin this evaluation (per Motion 1 above): (a) WSC 2002; (b) WSC 2004; or, (c) WSC 2006? Choose one of these options: (a), (b) or (c).

Intent: The intent of this motion is to give the entire fellowship the opportunity to discuss and decide when a comprehensive evaluation of the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet should start.

Financial Impact: The creation of a detailed plan would depend on the specifics called for in the project plan that initiates it. Minimally, three meetings of a workgroup of the Publications Committee would cost \$30,000 for three meetings and administrative costs. Until a project plan is developed, we are unable to estimate staff costs.

Policy Affected: This motion would not amend any WSC policies.

Sponsorship

Our recommendation here is to support the beginning of the development of material on sponsorship by area and regional literature committees during the next conference cycle. We believe there is consensus that the fellowship needs and wants more material on this topic. The WSCLC first identified the existing IP as needing revision back in 1992, and competing proposals to revise the IP, create a new booklet, or add a chapter to the Basic Text have been discussed ever since. And, as noted below, the 1998 WSC adopted Motion 77, but then subsequently committed it to the Motion 21 project. The activities in 2000–2002 would be principally further evaluation to achieve consensus on the form and content of this project, clarifying whether the new material should be created in addition to the existing Sponsorship IP, or as a replacement and revision of that IP. The general priority setting literature survey (and/or focus groups and/or fellowship workshops, among other things) will also help to clarify which projects (if any) may be recommended first during the 2002–2012 time frame.

We want to dispel the rumor that there is a finished draft of sponsorship sitting in our files. No world service board or committee has ever done any work to create a new draft of material on sponsorship. There are not hundreds and hundreds of pages of source material on

file, only a few pages of very rough material that have been received from one area literature committee and one member.

Passage of this motion would give free rein and encouragement to area and regional literature committees to begin development of sponsorship material starting in 2000 (much like “C-list” regional literature projects were worked on in the past). We would accomplish this by beginning to ask for fellowship input if Motion 3 is approved, and sending out existing source material to area and regional literature committees that wanted to work on this piece. We believe we could manage this with a minimum use of staff resources. Subsequently, around 2001, the board would become actively involved in the evaluation process, using unspecified evaluation tools such as a survey or focus groups or workshops to gather broad-based fellowship input on the form and content of a potential sponsorship piece.

What does the fellowship want the content and form of new sponsorship material to be? Specifically, what does the fellowship want and need to say about sponsorship that we haven’t already said in some other existing literature? Furthermore, where do we want this new material to go—the Basic Text, an Intro Guide, a new booklet, the existing IP, a new IP, or some combination of these places?

The board will report to WSC 2002 about the results of this evaluation and allow the 2002 conference to decide how work should proceed. The board would report on the preliminary results of its evaluation and the development efforts in the updated literature development plan proposed in the 2002 *CAR* along with any specific findings or recommendations. However, under our recommendation, the conference could not approve and publish the material before WSC 2004. Even this date is only possible if the 2002 WSC decides that the material will go somewhere other than the Basic Text. This is because we believe that if an evaluation of the Basic Text begins after WSC 2002, it will take at least six years or until WSC 2008, at the earliest, before it would be possible and prudent for the fellowship to approve a Sixth Edition of the Basic Text. The timeline here is driven by the link to Motion 2. Motion 2 makes clear that this Basic Text evaluation would not start until WSC 2002, at the earliest.

The *November Conference Report* outlined an important part of the rationale for the timeline for Motions 2 and 3. Motion 2 and Motion 3, if the fellowship adopts either at WSC 2000, would create a major project. If the conference adopts Motion 2 with the timeline beginning at WSC 2002, the board will NOT offer Motion 3.

Motion 3: That the board encourage area and regional literature committees to develop source material about sponsorship in 2000, with the board starting a preliminary evaluation of the issues relating to the sponsorship material in 2001.

Intent: The intent is to respond affirmatively to the significant fellowship desire for some material about sponsorship sooner rather than later, while postponing until WSC 2002 a final determination of the proposed content and structure of this material pending the results of the initial development work.

Financial Impact: Again, the cost would depend on the details of the project plan that initiates this work. The coordination and development would have much the same costs as those named in Motion 2.

Policy Affected: This motion would not amend any WSC policies.

Affirming the Literature Development Plan

The board is asking for a vote of confidence on the overall plan of work spelled out in the comprehensive literature development report we have offered. The board is asking for a yes/no decision about the issues in *general terms*. The authorization of specific work happens at the conference with the approval of the Unified Budget proposal. The conference would authorize all literature work through a discussion of a motion to approve the detailed Unified Budget proposal. This includes a reaffirmation of the idea that this report and plan is a working document that the board would update and present to the fellowship every two years in each *Conference Agenda Report*.

We view this approval process as an ongoing replacement for the old process of setting recovery literature priorities through the A-B-C-D Priority Worklist process. Our comprehensive report in this *CAR* (Addendum A) is a working document that the board would update every two years and present to the conference in the *CAR*. As this working document evolved through literature needs assessment/evaluation and direction from the conference, what is now essentially a two-year plan would evolve into an effective longer-range plan.

Again, the conference will still have to approve all specific major work at the conference. The decision-making vehicle is a resolution and discussion at the conference to approve the detailed Unified Budget proposal. As Appendix 3 of the comprehensive report indicates, some of the proposed work falls under the routine services portion of the Unified Budget (i.e., fixed expenses). An example of this would be implementing the board's Publications Committee. Conversely, other tasks will require detailed project plans and fall under the variable portion of the budget. An example of this would be the sponsorship project described above, if the conference adopts Motion 3.

Motion 4: To affirm the general direction of the proposed literature development plan as summarized below:

- A. Implement the Publications Committee; this includes developing evaluation tools to identify fellowship needs for the creation and revision of recovery literature and to achieve consensus about priorities.**
- B. *Depending on the outcome on motions 1 and 2* (see above), prepare a detailed project plan to evaluate revisions and/or additions to the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet.**
- C. *Depending on the outcome on Motions 1, 2, and 3* (see above), begin evaluation of new sponsorship material and report to WSC 2002.**
- D. Develop a bulletin on the Internet and the Eleventh Tradition.**
- E. Develop a discussion paper re surveillance and the Little White Booklet.**
- F. Gather fellowship input on Future Discussion Issue #1, "Process of Reviewing Fellowship-Approved Literature for Revision" and give update to WSC 2002.**
- G. Gather fellowship input on Future Discussion Issue #2, "Recovery Literature Targeted for Specific Needs" and give update to WSC 2002.**
- H. Gather fellowship input on Future Discussion Issue #3, and develop a discussion paper about translations.**

I. Prepare an updated five- to ten-year literature development plan for WSC 2002.

Intent: The board is proposing this motion to affirm the general direction of the comprehensive literature development report that we have included in the CAR as mandated by the WSC-approved 1999 project plan. The intention of Motion 4 is to show explicitly a clear vehicle by which the conference exercises its authority over recovery literature development and shows the accountability of the board to the conference.

Financial Impact: We are unable to determine the financial impact of this motion at this time.

Policy Affected: This motion would not amend any WSC policies.

Again, if the conference adopts Motion 2 to evaluate the Basic Text with a timeline starting with adoption of a project plan at WSC 2002, the board will not offer Motion 3 and would eliminate bullet points C through I of Motion 4.

APPROVAL PROCESS FOR SERVICE MATERIAL

At WSC '98, one of the projects approved by the conference was “to prepare for the 2000 *Conference Agenda Report* a detailed proposal for the creation and approval of service material.” The project plan noted that, with the changes to *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* when the world service structure changed, a process for approval of service material no longer exists. Also, the boards and committees involved in the old processes no longer exist, and a process based on our new structure is now needed to address the changing needs of a worldwide fellowship.

Originally, the scope of the project was to include the development of service material along with the approval process, and to consider the possibility of including a process for the development and approval of historical material. A fair amount of time was spent attempting to work out a process for the development of service materials. We realized this was not needed because all projects will go through the already-established Process for New Projects, included within the Guidelines for the Unified Budget, and any development process will be included in the project plan submitted for those items. Because of this, the scope for this project was changed midstream to be just a process for the approval of service materials. Our discussions about historical material focused on the “development and approval” controversy surrounding *Miracles Happen*, and we also recognized that history-related projects would always be project-specific under our new process. A project plan containing details of development and approval will be presented to the World Service Conference before any work begins. Conference participants will then approve or modify it as appropriate. The process used for any history-related project will always be approved by the World Service Conference in advance.

The *Fellowship Development Plan* says in Goal Two: “Increase and improve world services’ available Fellowship Development Tools—such as service handbooks, bulletins, manuals, and training materials—that address recovery-and-service-related questions and concerns.” A process that will help to achieve this goal must take into consideration the changes planned for the World Service Conference, e.g., the two-year conference cycle and the progression to a conference meeting that is more issue-oriented.

Beginning in 2000, the World Service Conference will meet every other year rather than every year. With a process loosely modeled on previous approaches and tailored to our new structure, if a project plan is developed for a given piece of service material during one conference cycle, and it is then presented at the upcoming conference for prioritization, then is produced and put up for approval at the *following* conference, the process could take years. This will be appropriate for many projects and could serve some of the fellowship’s needs, but it is evident that a process with more diverse capability is needed to serve more of NA’s needs. Therefore, we are proposing mechanisms that the conference can use to instruct us to move more quickly when that is appropriate.

Another factor influencing this proposal is that the World Service Conference is moving toward a “consensus-based” and “issues-oriented” conference meeting. While this change is not fully realized yet, the need is evident for a *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)* that contains issues highly relevant to members and groups. The fellowship will be best served if only service material that is directly related to the group and member is in the *CAR*. If this proposal is adopted, material intended for service committees and boards will not go in the *CAR* but will be distributed to conference participants. Then regional delegates have the option to workshop the material in committees, in workshops, or in assemblies, or to prepare themselves for voting

on it in whatever way is appropriate in their region. This frees up our members and groups to devote their attention to holding meetings and carrying the message of recovery, without having to ratify every decision made on their behalf at every level of service.

We believe the following motion will establish a process that allows for service material to be approved in ways that are responsive to the fellowship, timely, and efficient, and have built-in accountability.

Motion 5: To approve the following process for the approval of service material to be included in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (2000 edition):

Approval Process for Service Material

Material produced by Narcotics Anonymous World Services that is intended to assist members, groups, service boards, or committees of NA in performing NA service will be categorized as follows for purposes of approval:

- A. Fellowship-approved materials are those items approved by the World Service Conference that are intended primarily for use by groups and members. This type of service material will be distributed to conference participants in the *Conference Agenda Report*, to be considered at the World Service Conference meeting during an old business session.**
- B. Conference-approved materials are those items approved by the World Service Conference that are intended primarily for use by service boards or committees. This type of material will be sent to conference participants at least ninety days prior to the World Service Conference meeting, to be considered during a new business session.**
- C. Service material to be conference-approved can be released for distribution to the fellowship prior to approval by the conference if conditions 1 and 2, along with either 3 or 4, below are satisfied:

 - 1. The item is clearly distinguished as “Pending Conference-Approval” and identified with a unique header and color; and**
 - 2. Work is completed and the draft item is approved by the World Board; and**
 - 3. The service material is authorized for such early release by conference participants when the project plan for that item is approved; or**
 - 4. The service material is identified by the World Board as resource material to be a relevant insert or update for an existing service material item, and meets a need expressed by the fellowship. This type of service material could also possibly stand on its own if later approved by the conference.****
- D. Once approved, early-release items will be repackaged accordingly. If not approved by the World Service Conference, distribution will cease.**
- E. Board-approved materials are those items that the World Board is authorized to approve and publish. This category includes articles/bulletins concerning service work, NA-related philosophical issues, NA’s Twelve Traditions, and NA’s Twelve Concepts for Service. Papers for presentation at professional events, when they are published for broad distribution to the fellowship or**

the general public, are included in this category. A two-thirds majority of the board is required to publish any type of board-approved service material.

Intent: To establish a World Service Conference process for approval of service material.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact as a result of this motion.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend the following WSC policies:

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (1999 edition)

The following Significant Action would be deleted:

Page 20, "Date Carried 4/30/87, That unless the World Board can agree by at least a two-thirds majority, articles be brought to WSC before publication."

TWO-YEAR CONFERENCE CYCLE

The following series of motions present our recommendations to the conference system that will allow us to begin the transition into a two-year cycle. We looked at the entire conference system, rather than simply trying to modify timelines to move from an annual to a biennial conference. Discussions at the World Service Meeting last September and the written input that we have received seem to support this direction. What follows are interdependent components that create a conference system, focus on communication, and attempt to help the conference become more effective at achieving its own mission statement, which states:

World Service Conference Mission Statement¹

The World Service Conference brings all elements of NA world services together to further the common welfare of NA. The WSC's mission is to unify NA worldwide by providing an event at which:

- Participants propose and gain fellowship consensus on initiatives that further the NA world services vision;
- The fellowship, through an exchange of experience, strength, and hope, collectively expresses itself on matters affecting Narcotics Anonymous as a whole;
- NA groups have a mechanism to guide and direct the activities of NA world services;
- Participants ensure that the various elements of NA world services are ultimately responsible to the groups they serve;
- Participants are inspired with the joy of selfless service, and the knowledge that our efforts make a difference.

We offer the following as separate motions only because we believe that it will assist the fellowship in their consideration of the ideas. Since these ideas are interdependent, they are not easy to isolate as separate ideas in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (TWGWSS)*. Because of this, we have included a copy of the 1999 *TWGWSS* that shows all areas that the motions for a two-year conference cycle affect. This is in place of listing all of the policies under each motion. We hope that this approach makes your consideration and review easier. We are offering an updated version of *TWGWSS* that incorporates all of the ideas presented by us this year. The final motion in this section is a housekeeping motion for the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* to move to a biennial conference cycle. Additional background information is available in our September 1999 report and is available upon request from the WSO.

¹Adopted 28 May 1996, subject to review and/or revision through the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Background

The conference adopted the following motion in 1998 (which has been the reason for our work):

To implement a two-year conference cycle beginning at the end of WSC 2000. Prior to implementation, all changes to conference policy will be presented to the World Service Conference by the World Board.

***Intent:* To change from an annual conference cycle to a two-year conference cycle beginning after WSC 2000.**

Our fellowship has experienced tremendous growth over the last fifteen years. This growth is definitely reflected at the World Service Conference. In 1984, the conference had 47 participants present, representing 34 regions, one being from outside of the United States. At WSC 1999 there were 110 participants, representing 93 regions, 27 of which were from outside of the United States. We truly have become a global NA community. With this growth has come many diverse and complex fellowship issues that affect NA as a whole. The following is offered to assist the conference in making the necessary changes to move into a two-year cycle and to more effectively serve the fellowship.

The Conference Work Cycle

We looked at information that has been generated over the years on how to improve the conference, including the conference's own inventory. Much of the information centered around two themes: communication and how the event known as the conference actually functions. We believe that many of the problems with the conference week are actually a result of what occurs or does not occur between conferences.

Since its inception, the *Fellowship Development Plan (FDP)* has called for the establishment of a fellowshipwide interactive workshop system by 1999–2000 that is developed by world services and uses all available fellowship experience. This objective is called out in Goal 8 of the *FDP*: "To improve world services' written and face-to-face communication with the fellowship." The rationale for this goal states, "Communication is a factor in everything we do. It was identified as a critical issue throughout the inventory process but has not been directly addressed by the resolutions. In addition to improving our written communications, world services also needs to increase communication with the fellowship in face-to-face workshops hosted by local NA communities...."

Our vision is that these workshops will help world services to be more responsive to the fellowship we serve and create an opportunity for dialogue, training, and an exchange of experience, strength, and hope. We believe that they can become the hub that allows this new system to be effective and help delegates, World Board members, and WSO staff to become more effective in their world service roles.

Because the needs and circumstances are so different in different parts of the world, we are asking for the ability to experiment with these workshops during the next two years. We want to be able to create workshops that are planned by world services, zonal forums, regions, and delegates. We would like to be able to involve group, area, regional, zonal, and world-level experience in choosing workshop topics and participating in panel-type presentations. We would also hope to attract a broad range of experience—recovery and service experience—in the members who attend.

We would partner with members from the zones, regions, and/or delegates involved in order to identify the goals, objectives, and issues that are to be addressed at each workshop. If we are to create effective partnerships, the needs of each specific part of the world will need to be discussed together and plans developed accordingly. Some zones may be better served by having these workshops planned as a separate event, while some may prefer coordination with an existing event. The planning, participation, and implementation of these workshops will require all of us to work together to best address local fellowship needs. World services will provide overall coordination in planning these workshops, acting as the clearinghouse for communications, and may or may not be required to obtain the facility and coordinate the overall logistics.

We believe that all that we can responsibly plan is up to six workshops over the next conference cycle. Being experimental in nature, the specifics will vary depending on the conversations that occur with the local communities. We expect that these workshops will evolve over time and should be allowed the freedom to be worked out between world services and the local zones and delegates. At the same time, world services will continue to attend multi-regional and regional workshops, fellowship development activities, World Service Meetings, if they are called for, and zonal forum meetings.

The language that this motion asks you to consider for adoption describes the entire conference work cycle. This section has been written to better describe what occurs between conferences. The only new idea that this section contains is the worldwide workshops.

Motion 6: To adopt the following section titled “The Work Cycle between Conferences” for inclusion in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*.

The Work Cycle between Conferences

The foundation of the conference work cycle is communication, in order to create an effective dialogue between world services components, including delegates, and the fellowship. Communications that encourage new ideas, open participation, and the opportunity for dialogue help to build consensus and promote unity. To be successful, information must move smoothly and openly, back and forth. The responsibility for good communication falls on everyone.

Communication in-between meetings of the conference prepares conference participants to act as fully informed conference members at the next meeting. It becomes as important, if not more so, than the time spent at each conference meeting. The cycle between conferences is when most of the work, approved at the previous conference meeting, is being accomplished by world services. Communication during the cycle takes three basic forms—reports, input into the process for new projects, and participation in the worldwide workshop system and other events.

The *Conference Report*, *NAWS News*, the *Conference Agenda Report*, the *NA World Services, Inc. Annual Report*, and the *Quarterly Financial Report*, are all periodic service publications published by world services. These are designed to provide information about ongoing activities of world services, updates on projects approved by the WSC, financial accountability, and upcoming issues and concerns of interest to conference participants and the fellowship. (The specifics of these publications are described at the end of this section. NA World Services also publishes numerous

periodicals that are more fellowship-focused such as the *NA Way Magazine*, *Reaching Out*, and *Meeting by Mail*.)

What makes these publications successful is not only the information they convey, but also the feedback received from delegates and other members of the fellowship about the information. Ideas and suggestions, both positive and negative, are strongly encouraged and welcomed.

The World Board discusses, evaluates, and refines ideas suggested to it between conference meetings. The *Process for New Projects*, described later in this manual, depends on ideas from individuals, groups, service committees, and the World Board throughout the two-year cycle. The World Board considers all submitted ideas, proposals, and suggestions and reports its recommendations to conference participants as soon as possible. Many ideas that are received that fall under routine services or don't require conference action may be acted on without developing a conference project; others may require the board to submit a proposal to the WSC before proceeding.

Delegates should not delay submitting their ideas until the deadline for the *Conference Agenda Report*. This most likely will postpone full consideration of their idea as a project for at least two years.

In addition to the above-described written communication and process for projects, world services also plans and coordinates a worldwide workshop system in conjunction with delegates and zonal forums (up to six workshops between WSC 2000 and WSC 2002). These workshops will be rotated throughout the fellowship and are intended to help world services learn first-hand about fellowship issues and concerns and to create an opportunity for dialogue, service training and workshops, and exchanging experience with our principles. Members and trusted servants from all service levels are encouraged to participate. The actual agendas for the workshops will be developed with the delegates and zones involved to identify the goals, objectives, and issues to be addressed at each workshop.

World services also participates in other events around the fellowship during the two-year cycle. World Service Meetings are scheduled for conference participants as necessary to provide progress reports and invite input on current projects and activities. World service also attends a number of zonal forum meetings, *CAR* workshops, and other fellowship events.

(Note: WSC 2000: This description of the conference cycle outlines many new ideas. They should be implemented on a trial basis, and, if ineffective, they should be changed based on the experience over the next several years.)

Intent: To adopt the concept of the worldwide workshop system and to revise the description of the conference work cycle in TWGWSS to more accurately reflect what will occur in a two-year cycle.

Financial Impact: Specific projections for this motion are not possible to provide at this time. The board will make preliminary plans for the implementation of the worldwide workshop system by WSC 2000 but discussions with the local communities will have an impact on these plans.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend WSC policies as listed in Addendum B.

The Conference Agenda Report

WSC 1999 adopted a motion stating: "That NA World Services publish the *Conference Agenda Report* a minimum of 180 days prior to the World Service Conference. Further, that translations as currently done to German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Swedish be completed prior to the release on that date. This policy to take effect in conjunction with the two-year conference cycle."

We are asking that the motion adopted at WSC '99 be replaced and are forwarding an alternative proposal for several reasons. The motion as written does not state what portions of the *Conference Agenda Report* would be translated. The standard has been to translate the front portion of the *CAR* only, excluding any appendices or addenda. For the 1999 *CAR*, we experimented with translating the issue discussion papers, which had never been done before. If we are to be held to the standard of translating the entire *CAR*, we would not always be able to accomplish it, regardless of the time allowed. Book-length pieces of recovery literature are included in the *CAR* as addenda. Local NA communities do most translations of recovery material, with only a few of the major language groups using a translator hired by world services. The editing and review are done in the local communities. Either way, it is a long and involved process that entails much more than just a literal word-for-word translation.

With all of the unknowns in this new cycle, we believe it is much more realistic to establish 150 days before the conference as the minimum for the release of the *CAR* in English, with translations being scheduled for release a minimum of 120 days prior to the conference. For translated versions, that represents doubling the time that the *CAR* is currently available for review and fellowship approval. We also recommend that only the front portion of the *CAR* be mandated by policy to be translated. This would allow the board to translate more than is mandated if it is possible. This will be dependent on the information contained in the rest of the *CAR* and the timing involved. This proposed timeline concurs with one of our primary goals of maximizing the time allotted for fellowship discussion of issues in a two-year conference cycle.

We also recommend that the languages not be made policy. The five languages specified in the motion are only the current languages that we are able to reliably translate. This may change in the near or distant future. Last year, the World Board created *NAWS News* and distributed it in five languages, in addition to translating more of the 1999 *CAR* than policy required, without any mandate to do so. We are asking that you grant us latitude in carrying out this function and would like to point out that very specific policies often serve to restrict our ability to respond to the requests that we receive. This will be even more of a challenge when the conference only meets every two years.

The new system, with a worldwide workshop system and the process for projects, allows for greater discussion of all the work of world services and the needs of the fellowship. The *CAR* should be much less a "surprise" than it currently is and contain work that is more of a culmination of a two-year discussion. This system is designed to change the way we currently utilize the *Conference Agenda Report*.

The motion as adopted at WSC 1999 would make a minimum of 270 days prior to the conference for the *CAR* deadline to allow for translations and the uncertainty involved with contracted translators. With the deadline for regional motions being a minimum of thirty days prior to the *CAR* deadline, this makes at least a 300-day deadline prior to the conference for regional access to the *CAR*. This timeline eliminates any time-sensitive information from being contained in the *CAR* from world services or regions, while we are moving to a two-year

conference cycle. Our suggestion is to not make both time frames so restrictive at the same time. Allow us to experiment with the first *Conference Agenda Report* for the two-year cycle with the timeline that we have outlined. If it is not adequate, it can be changed once the transition to the two-year cycle has begun.

Motion 7: To adopt the following section titled “World Service Conference Publications” for inclusion in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*.

World Service Conference Publications

NA World Services produces several different publications in an effort to provide frequent and regular written communications. While each of these publications has a specific distribution list, copies are always available to any member by contacting the World Service Office and often also on the website, www.na.org.

NAWS News

NAWS News is a short, easily translatable report that is published several times each year. It was created to allow the World Board to regularly report, particularly after its meetings. It is distributed to areas, regions, and conference participants in multiple languages.

NA World Services, Inc. Annual Report

The *NA World Services, Inc. Annual Report* provides a summary of the activity of world services for the prior fiscal year and is released by the end of September. It is distributed to regions and conference participants.

Quarterly Report

This report is distributed to conference participants and contains financial and travel information.

The Conference Report

The *Conference Report* is a periodic publication of the World Service Conference that has evolved as a means of providing continuing information to conference participants about the activities of world services. These reports contain information on the status of major projects, suggestions for new work, and problems that have been encountered. Through the periodic publication of the *Conference Report*, the World Board may keep conference participants informed of the progress on items that may eventually be contained in the *Conference Agenda Report*. Regional delegates may also provide reports to be included, subject to editorial review by the World Board. The frequency of publication may change from year to year. The schedule for each year is provided to conference participants ahead of time. The report is distributed to all conference participants. Single and bulk subscriptions to the *Conference Report* may be purchased from the World Service Office by any NA member, group, service board, or committee.

The Conference Agenda Report

The *Conference Agenda Report* is distributed a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) days prior to the opening day of the conference, with translated versions released a minimum of one hundred and twenty (120) days prior. The amount of

material translated can vary, but minimally the front portion of the *CAR* (which contains the reports, proposals, and motions before the conference) is translated into the languages possible. The report contains the proposals and motions that the fellowship is being asked to consider and form a fellowshipwide group conscience on. One copy of the report is mailed to each voting participant of the conference, each RD alternate, and the mailing address of each region. NA members may purchase additional copies from the WSO. The price established for the report may vary depending on the cost of production. The *Conference Agenda Report* also includes an easy-to-read glossary of terms.

The *Conference Agenda Report* includes reports, proposals, and motions from the World Board and may include proposals or motions from regions. (Regional motions will be included in their own section and have the same number when presented on the conference floor.) Regional motions must be submitted two hundred and forty (240) days prior to the opening of the conference. All motions will include a written intent. Regions are allowed up to 150 words to describe the reasoning behind, and consequences of, their regional motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*. The World Board also includes a recommendation in order to provide the fellowship with as much information as possible when considering the idea.

Statements of the financial impact of each motion appearing in the *CAR* will be included from the World Board. Reports may include a summary of events leading to the presentation of the proposals that are included. Material presented to the fellowship for approval will be written in a form that lends itself to a yes/no vote and specifies the conceptual changes involved to affirm and support this process. Only material approved by the World Board is sent out to the fellowship in "approval-form."

The World Service Conference will place issue discussion topics into the *Conference Agenda Report* and the final two topics will be selected by the fellowship.

All motions submitted to be placed in the *Conference Agenda Report* that attempt to change, amend, or delete WSC policies shall include those policies, or sections of those policies, which each motion attempts to amend. Further, it shall be the responsibility of the maker of the motion to provide this information along with the motion.

Intent: To adopt a new time frame for the Conference Agenda Report and include in TWGWSS a brief description of all World Service Conference publications.

Financial Impact: There would be no change in the allocation of these activities, which are already included in the fixed operations budget each year.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend WSC policies as listed in Addendum B.

Zonal Forums

Zonal forums and their role in the service structure is another issue that the conference and the fellowship have wrestled with for some time. We seem to have no truly new issues to address in this project, but seek to clarify our position regarding zonal forum participation at the conference.

At WSC 1992, after small group discussions on a Development Forum topic on networking, the conference adopted the following resolution as their statement regarding zonal

forums. That resolution states: “The World Service Conference affirms that zonal forums, as service-oriented sharing sessions that provide the means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another, are valuable components of NA. We support the continued work of the zonal forums that exist today worldwide and encourage any further efforts NA communities may take to support one another.” This was a first step to legitimize what was occurring in the fellowship, but was not described in any of our service material.

In 1997, the conference amended the 1992 resolution by adding the following language: “When requested by the conference, the designated representative of any zonal forum will be allowed to address the conference, make reports, and answer questions pertaining to specific information. Any zonal forum with a registered address with the WSO will receive the same WSC mailings as conference participants.” In 1998, the conference adopted a motion to allow zonal forum reports at WSC 1999 for the first time. The response to these reports was such that a motion was adopted at the 1999 conference that states: “To have a space on the agenda for zonal forum report sessions at all future WSCs.”

So where do zonal forums fit into our current service structure? Currently, the conference and zonal forums interact through reporting at the conference. Interaction also includes: zonal contacts in conference participant mailings; the use sometimes of zones as a clearinghouse for coordinating service efforts, such as professional events and fellowship development trips, world service attendance at zonal forum meetings; and by world service providing funding for some participants’ attendance at zonal forums. This interaction is in its infancy in many ways, and we acknowledge that we have much to learn in improving communication in both directions and in the development of partnerships between world services and zones.

We do not see the evolving and emerging role of zones and the role of world services as being in conflict or competition. We believe existing zonal forums will play a key role in the new worldwide workshop system. Since the role and function of zones vary so greatly throughout the world, we are proposing that language be added to *TWGWSS* that reflects their role with world services. We did not attempt, nor did we believe it was our charge, to attempt to define the role of zonal forums with their local NA communities.

Motion 8: To adopt the following description of zonal forums for inclusion in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*. In addition, the chart of the “Narcotics Anonymous World Service System” in *TWGWSS* will be changed to reflect this relationship with the WSC.

Zonal Forums

Zonal forums are service-oriented sharing sessions that provide the means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another. Although not a part of NA’s formal decision-making system, world services and zonal forums interact in many ways. Zonal forums are invited to provide reports on the floor of the World Service Conference and, when requested by the conference, may also answer specific questions or address the body. In order to improve communications, they are provided with conference participant mailings and are requested to send their minutes to world services. World services typically attends zonal forum meetings, and may provide funding for some participants’ attendance at zonal forums. Maintaining effective communication between the zonal forums and world services

is a high priority. In order to more effectively serve the fellowship, world services and zones should develop a partnership for the planning and conducting of the worldwide workshop system, and by assisting each other in the coordination of a variety of service efforts such as professional events and fellowship development activities.

Intent: To include in TWGWSS a description of zonal forums that reflects their relationship to world services.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact as a result of this motion.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend WSC policies as listed in Addendum B.

The World Service Conference

What is the purpose of participation on the conference floor? The conference is intended to represent the voice of the fellowship and all of its diversity. We strive to have a spiritually based process rather than a democratic or political system. We say that we support the idea of downsizing the World Service Conference, but at the same time have been unwilling to create any criteria for being recognized as a conference participant. Straw polls at WSC 1999 indicated that approximately 80 percent of the conference supported some type of admissions panel and 65 to 70 percent supported the establishment of some criteria for conference recognition.

When the Regional Assistance Panel (RAP) was created in 1992, all of its ability to proceed with anything that might not result in recognizing a new region as a conference participant was removed. As a result, the Regional Assistance Panel has largely been limited to simply an information-gathering process, without the benefit to regions or world services that was originally intended. The RAP guidelines adopted by the conference never gave it the ability to consider the separation of local service needs as a reason to create a new region from recognizing the newly formed region as a conference participant. As a result, we continue to have an emotionally charged process for both the conference and the delegate requesting conference recognition for his or her region.

We believe that there must be criteria for conference recognition. Criteria would allow the conference to base its decision on established parameters which are clear to both the conference and to the delegate requesting conference recognition. If criteria are established by the conference, we also believe that it should provide the World Board with the ability to have discussions with those regions requesting conference recognition, in a productive manner before any request comes to the conference.

One of the realities for all of the various bodies that have tried to develop criteria for conference recognition is that the criteria end up being aimed at controlling the proliferation of United States regions. This may not be a popular issue to raise, but it is one that we feel must be discussed. With all of the currently seated US regions, is it really possible that the sense and voice of our US members are not already represented at the conference? If a local community chooses to split from an already seated region because of local service needs, is there any reason why they could not continue to attend existing assemblies or participate in existing processes of the seated region for the purpose of voting on the *CAR*? We do not think so.

While it may be true that establishing criteria will more immediately impact regions in the US, this will not always be the case, as our fellowship grows worldwide. Addressing the issue of criteria will always be uncomfortable for us because it will always seem to immediately

impact some NA community more than another. As we focus on our vision and mission, we will keep being confronted with this issue until we address it.

If the conference is to represent a worldwide fellowship, become more discussion-oriented, and at the same time strive for consensus building in our decision making, the growth of the conference has to be slowed. With over 850 area committees around the world, the conference will never be able to handle regional representation from regions created to address or improve every local service need that arises. Local service structures should always have the ability to take whatever steps they deem necessary to meet the needs of their NA communities. However, addressing local needs should not result in actions that arbitrarily alter the size and the ability to function at the WSC.

The local service need for division of an already seated region may exist—but to translate that to conference participation does not seem to make sense, unless the region is truly isolated in some way. We must acknowledge that local service delivery needs may arise that necessitate dividing existing regions. However, these local service needs must also be separated from the issue of recognition as a conference participant. Our concepts state that NA creates a service structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole. In order to do this, the conference must represent the voice of NA as a whole and remain at a size that can function effectively. The conference has stated that it supports the idea of downsizing without a clear idea of what that might mean in the future. What we are proposing is that we must minimally control the unrestrained growth of the conference population. To accomplish this responsibility to NA as a whole, we must separate local service issues from conference participation and fulfill our global mission to NA as a growing, worldwide fellowship.

Conference participation must seek to reflect the voice and diversity of a worldwide fellowship. In the United States, regions are within driving distance of each other and the members speak the same language. While it may seem like we are focusing on the US regions, we would say the same thing as it relates to any part of the world where similar circumstances exist. For many other countries around the world, geographic isolation and/or language typically make it impossible for these NA communities to have their voice represented at the conference in any way other than conference participation.

We believe that this issue will continue to challenge the conference's ability both to handle requests for conference recognition and to deal with its own size and purpose until we resolve it. The continued growth of conference participants will complicate, and possibly even undermine, our efforts at becoming more focused on discussion and consensus. Consensus and issues discussions are processes that require extended and/or small group interactions that cannot be successful in overpopulated conference sessions.

Motion 9: To approve the following section, "Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants," as conference policy for inclusion in *TWGWSS*.

Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants

- 1. A new region is eligible to apply for recognition as a conference participant after having functioned as a service body for at least three years. For regions forming out of an already existing region, the newly formed region has to have functioned as a separate body for at least three years.**

2. **New regions should conform to established geographic boundaries, equivalent to state, territorial, provincial, or national boundaries, unless there are certain conditions to the contrary. A region forming out of an already existing region may be seated at the conference by demonstrating that it meets the specific conditions that necessitate separation. From time to time, local service delivery needs arise in existing regions that result in the establishment of multiple regions. These circumstances should be reserved for situations caused as a result of large NA populations, great geographic distances, or such diversity of language or custom so as to impede effective, direct communication between the service committee and the fellowship.**
3. **A region that meets these criteria may then initiate its request to be recognized as a conference participant by submitting a letter of intent to the World Board not less than one year before a World Service Conference.**
4. **Upon receiving notification from the region, the World Board will request that the region provide information on the current and past history of the service delivery within the region. The board will inform the region of the type of information that should be submitted.**
5. **If the region is forming out of an already existing region, the new region should also provide information as to the nature of the extraordinary circumstances that precipitated the formation of the new region, and summarize the consideration and decision-making processes used to create the new region. This statement should also address what special circumstances exist that would preclude the new region from continuing to have its voice heard at the conference by simply participating in some form of shared services (regional assemblies, workshops, or any form of participation in collecting group conscience) with the old region.**
6. **All regions will also be asked to answer questions such as:**
 - ◆ **Why do you want to become a conference participant?**
 - ◆ **Do you believe that the voice of your NA community is not currently being heard at the WSC? If so, why?**
 - ◆ **Do you believe your community has enough NA service and recovery experience to be a positive contributor to the global decision-making process for the fellowship? If so, explain how.**
 - ◆ **Will participation at the conference affect your local NA community? If so, how?**
 - ◆ **Do you believe that your region adds a voice or a value to the conference that does not exist in the current conference body?**
7. **The World Board reviews the information provided using a group of conference participants—World Board members and regional delegates—as a workgroup, who are involved throughout this process, while working directly with the region to obtain any further information. Interactions between the board, its workgroup, and the region may continue until the board is satisfied that it has collected all the information needed. The board, with the assistance of the workgroup involved, will produce a final report with recommendations for the upcoming conference. The requesting region will see the report before it is distributed to conference participants and may include any additional information it believes is relevant for the conference to consider. A report of the information will then be**

- distributed to conference participants prior to the WSC. Due to the complex nature of regional development, each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, rather than through some arbitrary criteria that establish minimum sizes and structure of regions in order to address local service issues.**
- 8. Upon the presentation of information to the WSC, the conference will consider the request. Formal recognition as a conference participant requires a two-thirds vote of approval by the conference. There is no need for the region to be present at the conference at which their request is being considered, and funding for attendance will not be provided.**
 - 9. The addition of the new region will take effect upon the close of the World Service Conference at which its application is approved. Upon approval, the newly recognized region's delegate is automatically funded to the next WSC.**

Intent: To adopt a policy that establishes criteria for world services to consider a request for conference recognition and seating.

Financial Impact: We are unable to determine the financial impact of this motion at this time.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend WSC policies as listed in Addendum B.

Funding to Attend the WSC

We believe that some sort of funding plan seems to be the most logical way for us to take collective responsibility for attendance at the conference. We will always need to provide some level of financial assistance for an event that is held in the United States due to the costs of international travel and the available financial resources for many of those regions that end up burdened with the highest costs. We are certainly not looking for ways for regions or world services to spend more money, but if we want to try to equalize access to the conference, and if participation by a worldwide fellowship is a top priority, then investing in and standardizing this priority makes sense. We believe the ideal situation would be if some funding mechanism could be implemented that would guarantee the attendance of every recognized conference participant.

In order to effectively have the discussion about funding assistance, we would like to discuss the original intent of providing assistance. The Development Forum was created because of a belief that the conference was beginning to make decisions that affected a worldwide fellowship without worldwide participation in the decision-making process. There are many regions around the world that would effectively be eliminated from attendance at the WSC if it meant funding travel to an event held only in the United States. The decision to hold the conference in the United States has occurred due to the majority of delegates coming from the United States and the cost of moving staff and equipment.

We believe in our original premise—that it is the responsibility of the conference to assure access to the conference, while acknowledging that there will always be regions requiring assistance. Conference participants at the World Service Conference are all delegates and World Board members. Currently, we fund members of the World Board and the Human Resource Panel, the WSC co-facilitators, and approximately twenty delegates.

We propose that world services fund each regional delegate to attend the conference every two years. Our recommendation is contingent on adopting criteria for recognition of new conference participants. Once a region is recognized as a conference participant, its delegate

would automatically be funded to attend the conference. This proposal, with current costs and number of regions, would cost us approximately \$140,000 per conference, or \$70,000 per year. This recommendation guarantees that all regions will have one delegate representing them at every conference. The result of this recommendation is that every conference participant—World Board members and delegates—would be funded to attend the single event where decisions are made on behalf of NA as a whole.

The primary objection that we have heard is fear of funds being withheld. We recognize that many regions may not take the funds they currently spend on delegate attendance to the WSC and forward them to world services. We do not believe that fear of what might happen should keep us from deciding what we believe is best for the conference. If participation at the WSC is a top priority, then the fellowship will respond and take responsibility for this decision. The fellowship has continued to respond to the needs of world services by increasing donations each conference year.

Alternates would continue to be funded by their respective regions. We understand that this means that some regions will be able to fund the participation of an alternate, while other regions will not have the available funds. We recognize that this recommendation does not totally resolve the disparity in representation, since some regions will continue to attend the WSC without the benefit of the alternate regional delegate participation enjoyed by certain regions. Funding attendance to the conference for delegates and alternates does not seem prudent at this time.

As we discussed with delegates at the World Service Meeting, we do not believe that it is practical for the conference to adopt full funding if it has no criteria for recognition of new conference participants. The following motion will only be offered if the criteria for recognition motion is adopted.

Motion 10: To approve the following as conference policy: “The World Service Conference funds the attendance of delegates from each seated region to the meeting of the WSC held every two years. This funding includes travel, lodging, and meal expenses only. This policy would cover all previously seated regions that have attended one of the past three conferences.”

Intent: To establish attendance at the WSC meeting as a top priority by providing funding for regional delegates’ attendance at the meeting.

Financial Impact: We estimate the cost as \$150,000 every conference cycle which is \$75,000 per year.

Policy Affected: This motion would add this new WSC policy to A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure.

Conference Seating

As we have previously reported, the following motion is being offered to allow for consistency of seating on the conference floor. This would allow for better planning and control of the size of the conference meeting. This is also necessary for logistical reasons because of the limited physical space in currently available hotel facilities that can accommodate the WSC meetings comfortably."

Motion 11: To limit seating on the conference floor to one delegate and one alternate per region.

Intent: To establish a policy for how many members per region will be seated on the conference floor.

Financial Impact: There may be minimal savings but we expect no significant financial impact as a result of this motion.

Policy Affected: This motion would add this new WSC policy to A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure.

The World Service Conference

The current description of the conference meeting in *TWGWSS* is outdated and no longer reflects what actually occurs during the week. The description that we are offering reflects current practice as well as some of the information that we have heard from delegates that they would like to see occur at the conference. We expect that this section will evolve as the conference adapts to the realities of a two-year cycle.

Motion 12: To adopt the following section, titled “The World Service Conference,” for inclusion in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*.

The World Service Conference

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.” Nowhere in our service structure is this tradition more evident than at the meeting of the World Service Conference. Guided by our Twelve Traditions and Concepts, it is the one point in our structure where the voice of NA as a whole is brought to view and expressed on issues and concerns affecting our worldwide fellowship. The World Service Conference is not just a collection of regions; its concerns are greater than just the sum of its parts. The conference is a vehicle for fellowship communication and unity, a forum where our common welfare is itself the business of the meeting.

Conference deliberations serve the needs of a diverse membership of different languages and cultures and address the challenge of how to provide effective services to NA groups around the world. The conference works for the good of all NA, taking into account both present and future needs.

Narcotics Anonymous is a life-saving program. Our founders envisioned a worldwide fellowship of addicts when there was only one group and one meeting in the world. Our founders established a world service structure to help to carry the message to addicts everywhere, at a time when Narcotics Anonymous existed in only one country unified by a single language and culture. With an unshakable faith and belief in Narcotics Anonymous, born out of personal experiences of recovery, the creation of the World Service Conference followed in 1976. Those members—dreaming of a better day for addicts everywhere—embarked on a mission to bring together those few NA groups which existed at that time into a unified fellowship. Knowing from personal experience that the old lie, “once an addict, always an addict,” was dead, that *we do recover*, our predecessors labored to ensure the continuation and growth of NA everywhere.

That vision continues. In each biennial meeting of the World Service Conference, our fellowship comes together in one place at one time to share experience, strength, and hope with each other. The purpose remains to solve common problems among those already here and fortunate enough to have discovered this new way of life, and—more importantly—to redouble our efforts to carry the NA message to the addict who still suffers.

The Meeting of the World Service Conference

The World Service Conference meeting is held every two years. It typically takes place the last week in April within seventy-five miles of the World Service Office. Regional delegates, together with members of the World Board and the executive director(s) of the World Service Office, meet to discuss questions of significance to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. In addition, the conference meeting includes members of the Human Resource Panel and the two WSC co-facilitators. All are fully funded to attend the week-long meeting.

For the purposes of decision making, conference participants are defined as regional delegates and World Board members. Regional delegates vote and make motions in all business sessions at the conference. World Board members vote only in election and new business sessions, but may make motions in all sessions. The executive director(s) of the World Service Office do not have a vote or the ability to make motions at the conference meeting.

The key to the effectiveness of each conference meeting depends on the preparation of all conference participants. The amount of information that must be read and understood is quite daunting as the meeting is the culmination of a two-year process that begins at the prior conference. Months in advance the *Conference Agenda Report* is published and distributed, containing issues and proposals to be considered at the meeting. Other essential information is also provided in advance. It is the responsibility of all conference participants to arrive at the World Service Conference familiar with the provided information.

The conference week begins with an orientation. One purpose of this orientation is to familiarize participants with the goals and objectives of each session scheduled for the week and the procedures utilized by the conference. This session is purposely informal to allow participants to become comfortable with what to expect throughout the upcoming week and to identify resources available to assist them. The second purpose of this session is to help establish a sense of community among the members gathered from around the worldwide fellowship.

The opening session begins with the adoption of procedures and the minutes from the previous meeting. Regions newly seated at the prior conference are welcomed and afforded the opportunity to address the meeting about their activities and growth. Brief reports are then heard from the different entities of world services, providing information to assist participants in their discussions during the week.

Much of the time spent at the conference is focused on building consensus on important agenda issues from the fellowship and world services. Consensus-building requires hearing all points of view, mutual respect, and finding the common ground that every participant can support, even when the eventual decision is not exactly as every participant may desire. Adequate discussion takes time and may

occur in the conference meeting as a whole, in panels, or in small groups. Regardless of how these discussions occur, they require commitment from each participant to focus on the issues at hand. Only after adequate discussion and consensus-building has occurred, does the conference enter a business session in order to formalize its decisions.

The old business session of the meeting is to consider the issues and proposals contained in the *Conference Agenda Report*. Each item is first reviewed by the conference to assess how much, if any, discussion needs to take place before the body is prepared to make a decision. If it appears that there is not a need for much discussion, only brief discussion will take place in the conference as a whole. If the conference needs more discussion prior to making a decision, then these discussions may take place by dividing the conference into smaller groups. When the discussions are finished, the conference is brought back together as a whole.

Although the actual agenda may vary from conference to conference, there are certain sessions that occur at every conference. Presentation and discussion sessions about fellowship issues and new project ideas precede the new business session. In this section of the week, the conference approves the budget for the next two years, provides ideas and direction to world services, approves service material that was not contained in the *CAR*, and considers the seating of new regions. Elections, zonal forum reports, and World Board meetings are also scheduled during the week.

During all business sessions, the World Service Conference utilizes an adapted form of *Robert's Rules of Order*. These rules are provided to conference participants prior to the WSC and may also be obtained by contacting the WSO.

The closing day of the conference is an opportunity for the conference to review its decisions of the week and their impact over the upcoming conference cycle. This session allows the conference participants to leave with a common understanding of the work ahead, the challenges of the next two years, and what may be expected at the next WSC meeting.

(Note: WSC 2000: This description of the conference meeting outlines many new ideas. They should be implemented on a trial basis and if ineffective they should be changed based on the experience over the next several years.)

Intent: To provide a more accurate description in TWGWSS of what occurs during the conference week.

Financial Impact: Expense for approximately 30 hours of staff time for pre-production work.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend WSC policies as listed in Addendum B.

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure

As stated previously, we offer a revised version of *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*, contained in Addendum C for your consideration. It incorporates the ideas proposed in our previous motions, lays out the information in a way that we believe is easier to use, and includes a diagram and description of all elements of the service structure. We have included the description and diagram from *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*, since this is something that the conference has previously adopted. We believe that

it would be helpful, particularly for new delegates and NA communities, to have this basic description of our service structure precede the description of world services in *TWGWSS*.

In our efforts to write new language for our previous motions, we often had to refer to multiple places that referred to one activity in *TWGWSS*. This is essentially a housekeeping motion covering our minor editorial changes, the changed language from Motions 6-12, and the addition of the already-approved language from the *Guide to Local Services*. We believe that this approach can help to make *TWGWSS* and conference policy easier to understand.

Motion 13: To adopt the revised version of *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* contained in Addendum C.

Intent: To provide an easy-to-understand revised version of *TWGWSS* that contains all the changes brought about by the approval of the two-year conference cycle motions and a description of the service units in Narcotics Anonymous from *A Guide to Local Services* in Narcotics Anonymous.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact as a result of this motion.

Policy Affected: This would replace the existing version of *TWGWSS*.

Motion 14: To make housekeeping changes to the Operational Rules of the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* that reflect a two-year conference cycle and the Unified Budget process already adopted.

Intent: To accurately reflect in the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust the impact of the motions already adopted by the WSC.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact as a result of this motion.

Policy Affected: Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust – Operational Rules

Article III: Rights and Responsibilities of the Trustor;

Section 2: WSC boards and committees (page 15)

The conference regulates its ad hoc committees through motions passed at its ~~annual~~ meeting, recorded in its minutes.

Section 3: Addition, revision, or deletion of properties from the Trust by the Trustor (page 15)

1. Proposals must be distributed to the NA groups via their regional delegates no less than ~~ninety~~ *one hundred fifty days* prior to the ~~annual~~ meeting of the World Service Conference at which the proposals will be considered.

Article IV: Rights and Responsibilities of the Trustee

Section 8: Trustee obligation for notice and approval (page 18)

The Trustee must notify the Trustor at least ninety days prior to any given ~~annual~~ World Service Conference meeting of the Trustee's intent to publish or otherwise manufacture a product based on an alteration of any Trust Property. The Trustee may not publish or manufacture such a product prior to receiving the Trustor's approval at that ~~annual~~ meeting. For such a proposal to be approved, two-thirds of the regional delegates recorded as present in the WSC roll call immediately prior to the vote must vote "yes" to the proposal.

Section 12: Trustee reporting obligation (page 20)

Each year, the Trustee shall give a full written report of its activities to the Trustor. This report shall be delivered to all participants of the World Service Conference ~~at or before its annual meeting~~ *at least 90 days after the close of the fiscal year*, and shall be available at cost or less to any Narcotics Anonymous member. This report shall include:

1. A year-end financial report of the previous ~~calendar~~ *fiscal* year.
2. A description of all Trustee activities funded from proceeds generated by the Trust in the previous *fiscal* year.
3. A budget and project description for Trustee activities planned for the coming *fiscal* year.

An audit of the Trust for the previous *fiscal* year will be provided, upon completion, to all participants of the World Service Conference as Trustor. This audit shall be performed by a certified public accountant. Additionally, the Trustor may elect to instruct the Trustee to perform a review of operational practices and policies, above and beyond the review of internal controls and procedures which is conducted annually.

Article VI: Revocation and reassignment of the Trustee's rights and responsibilities

Section 1: Consideration of revocation

The Trustee's rights and responsibilities may be revoked and reassigned to another party by the Trustor, provided the following conditions are met:

1. A written petition to revoke the rights and responsibilities of the Trustee must be submitted to the World Service Conference. To be considered, the petition must meet one of the following conditions:

Either the petition must be signed by a third of the regional service committees recognized as voting participants in the most recent ~~annual~~ meeting of the World Service Conference,

Or the petition must be signed by the World Board, the motion to submit such a petition having been approved by no less than two-thirds of the members of the World Board.
2. In order to be considered at any given ~~annual~~ meeting of the World Service Conference, such a petition must be received between June 1 and December 31 of the previous year, allowing time for the petition to be distributed to Conference participants.
3. If the above criteria are met, the petition will be placed on the agenda of the next ~~annual~~ meeting of the World Service Conference. Statements of the petitioners will be published with the petition itself in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Readers' notes: page 41

It sounds like the Basic Text and other pieces of NA literature may be revised with only ~~ninety~~ one hundred fifty days notice. Is this true?

ISSUE DISCUSSIONS

At WSC '98, Motion 91, "That selection by the groups of issue-discussion topics in the *Conference Agenda Report* become an ongoing procedure of the World Service Conference", passed. So, in all future editions of the *Conference Agenda Report* the following motion will appear. This motion is the policy of the conference, and any conference participant may rise to the microphone and present it for the conference to consider. Various conference participants presented each of these topics since WSC 1999.

Motion 15: To select two issue-discussion topics from the following list for discussion at the 2002 World Service Conference:

- A. What is the legal liability placed on ASRs (RCMs) at the regional service committee and/or the GSRs at the area level AND how can we protect ourselves legally?**
- B. As long as there is no endorsement by the group, what is our experience when individual members share their spiritual beliefs at recovery meetings?**
- C. How would recovery literature focused at specific audiences be useful to our members and newcomers and still foster unity?**
- D. How can we continue to provide services to our fellowship and at the same time decrease our reliance on funds from events and conventions?**
- E. What do we mean by "trust" and "service" in the phrase "trusted servant?"**
- F. How do we, or how could we, adequately address the range of local service needs within a worldwide fellowship?**
- G. How do we educate and inform our members about the availability of electronic media: its use, parameters and ethical principles associated with use?**
- H. How can we create a bridge that builds and maintains a connection to service for home group members?**

Intent: To allow the fellowship to choose the issue discussion topics for the 2000–2002 conference cycle.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact as a result of this motion.

Policy Affected: This motion would not amend any WSC policies.

HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

When the HRP and the World Pool were created at WSC 1998, we had basic structures and high-level guidelines to describe how the HRP could accomplish our assigned tasks. Both the Resolution Group and the Transition Group provided some background in their reports describing in more practical terms the way that the HRP should function. Wisely, neither group provided detailed guidelines. Instead, they suggested that the HRP should write its own guidelines through a process of “learning by doing” and documenting the process along the way. That is what we have done.

In 1998–1999, the HRP created a process for elections by nominating qualified candidates from the World Pool for WSC co-facilitator. This year we refined the process as we are nominating candidates for World Board member as well. We have documented our education in our internal guidelines and in the following motion. It contains the experience, strength, and hope of what we have learned over the last two years. We describe the values that we used to nominate candidates. We also describe the practical guidelines that are required to administer the World Pool.

In 1998 the WSC left the guidelines for general eligibility and implementation of the World Pool blank, and assigned the HRP the responsibility of completing them for presentation to the 2000 WSC. The following motion fulfills that responsibility.

Motion 16: To add to *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition) on page 15, under EXTERNAL GUIDELINES FOR THE WORLD POOL AND HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL, section “Guidelines for General Eligibility and Implementation,” the following language:

Guidelines for General Eligibility and Implementation

- I. World Pool Eligibility Requirements**
 - A. World Pool members must have a minimum of five years clean.**
- II. Criteria for selection of nominees: HRP members will note the requirements and needs for the elected position, and then evaluate the individuals being considered. Discussion will be based only on the information gathered and not on personal experience with the individual. The following circumstances and qualities will be considered in the discussion:**
 - A. The need for balance between rotation (new people and fresh experience) and continuity (service experience) in NA World Service efforts.**
 - B. Recovery experience.**
 - C. Service interests.**
 - D. Skills and talents applicable to the task/position.**
 - E. Maturity level, character, integrity, stability.**
 - F. History of commitment.**
 - G. Geographical diversity will be an important factor only if all other considerations are equal.**
- III. Administrative Policy for the World Pool**
 - A. The HRP administers the World Pool.**

- B. All information in the World Pool is kept in strictest confidence.**
- C. Increasing the membership of the World Pool is a high priority.**
- D. In order to maintain accurate information, each member of the World Pool whose information is three years old will be sent a request to renew their interest and update their resume.**
- E. Any World Pool member who does not respond to the renewal request within 60 days will be deemed inactive.**
- F. The HRP is responsible for creating and maintaining the World Pool resume.**
- G. The HRP provides a current list of all pool members and current region of residence to the World Board on a quarterly basis.**

Intent: To complete the Human Resource Panel External Guidelines section in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*.

Financial Impact: Minimal staff expense for re-typesetting the TWGWSS.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend the following WSC policies:

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (1999 edition)

The following language in brackets would be replaced:

Page 15, Guidelines for General Eligibility and Implementation

[Additional eligibility requirements for the World Pool, criteria for selection of nominees, and administrative policy for the World Pool will be developed by the Human Resource Panel for presentation to the 2000 World Service Conference.]

In 1998, Motion 59 amended *TWGWSS*, taking the nomination of HRP members from the Human Resource Panel, and instead only allowing conference participants to nominate candidates for election to the HRP. Clearly, the will of the conference was to remove nominations to the HRP from the panel itself since there appeared to be an implicit conflict of interest with the possibility that HRP members might have to nominate themselves.

We have discussed this issue at length, and we believe it is wrong for the conference to lay groundwork for a process with integrity, then not require nominees to the HRP to go through that process. The HRP has the responsibility for interviewing and checking references on nominees for other positions. It is only right for nominees to the HRP to go through the same process.

We discussed an option at the 1999 conference to alleviate this dilemma. Our suggestion is to pass a motion to increase the term to two conference cycles and to not allow HRP members to run for a second term. We believe, in addition, that by staggering the terms so that two members roll off every conference cycle, the necessary continuity will be provided. Our proposed Internal Guidelines do not allow the HRP to nominate current HRP members to any other position. We will ask the conference to elect four members to the HRP at the WSC 2000 meeting. The HRP members themselves would then choose length of terms internally, so that two members serve one conference cycle and two members serve for two conference cycles. This effectively removes the conflict of interest, creates staggered terms to accomplish the desired rotation and continuity, and allows HRP nominees to go through the same process as nominees for the other world service elected positions.

Motion 17 returns HRP nominations to the Human Resource Panel, and Motion 18 changes the term as described above.

Motion 17: To add to the duties of the Human Resource Panel the ability to provide the World Service Conference with a list of individuals best qualified for election to the position of the Human Resource Panel. This would be accomplished by amending *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition) as follows:

Page 15, Purpose of the World Pool, by adding, “the Human Resource Panel” to the first sentence after “the WSC co-facilitator positions.”

Page 16, Duties of the HRP, #6, by adding “and the Human Resource Panel” to the first sentence after “the WSC Co-Facilitator positions.”

Page 17, Nominations, by adding “and the Human Resource Panel” to the second paragraph, first sentence after “Conference co-facilitator.”

Page 17, Nominations, by deleting the last sentence of the second paragraph, “Nominations for the Human Resource Panel will come from conference participants.”

Intent: To provide the opportunity for all world service trusted servants to experience the same nomination process.

Financial Impact: Minimal staff expense for re-typesetting the TWGWSS.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend the following WSC policies:

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (1999 edition):

The following sections would be revised:

Page 15, Purpose of the World Pool: The purpose of the World Pool is to constitute a pool of trusted servants willing and qualified to serve on the World Board, the WSC co-facilitator and the World Board’s committee projects.

Page 16, Duties of the HRP, #6: Providing the World Service Conference with a list of individual nominees best qualified for election to the World Board and the WSC co-facilitator positions.

Page 17, Nominations, second paragraph: The Human Resource Panel will make nominations to the World Service Conference for election to the positions of World Board member, and conference co-facilitator. Nominations may also be made for each of these positions by conference participants, but it is recommended that all prospective candidates go through the World Pool/Human Resources process. Nominations for the Human Resource Panel will come from conference participants.

Motion 18: To amend the term of office for the Human Resource Panel to two (2) conference cycles. This change in term of office will begin with the HRP members elected at WSC 2000. This would be accomplished by amending *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition) as follows:

Page 17, Term, by deleting the first and second sentences and replacing them with the following: “The term of office for the Human Resource Panel member will be two (2) conference cycles. Panel members cannot serve two consecutive terms.”

Intent: To provide rotation and continuity in the HRP, and to eliminate problems of self-nomination.

Financial Impact: Since the HRP would exist either comprised of new members or returning existing members there would be no change in funding as a result of this motion. For reference purposes the '99-2000 Budget allocation for HRP was \$25,320.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend the following WSC policies:

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (1999 edition):

The following section would be revised:

Page 17, Term: The term of office for the Human Resource Panel will be one (1) conference cycle. All members of the panel are eligible for election for two (2) consecutive terms.

REGIONAL MOTIONS

Motion 19: To include in *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous* between the General Table of Contents, page iii and the chart "NA Service Structure," page iv, the following description of the different units of our service structure in NA.

The Purpose and Function of the Service Units of Narcotics Anonymous

1. The primary purpose of an NA MEMBER is to stay clean just for today and carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers by working with others.
2. The primary purpose of an NA GROUP is to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers by providing a setting for identification, and a healthy atmosphere for recovery, where addicts can come for help if they have the desire to stop using.
3. The primary purpose of an AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE is to be supportive of its areas and groups and their primary purpose, by associating a group with other groups locally, and by helping a group deal with its day-to-day situations and needs.
4. The primary purpose of a REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE is to be supportive to its areas and groups and their primary purpose, by linking together the areas and groups within a region, by helping areas and groups deal with their basic situations and needs, and by encouraging the growth of the fellowship.
5. The purpose of the WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE is to be supportive of the fellowship as a whole, and to define and take action according to the group conscience of Narcotics Anonymous.
6. The purpose of the WORLD BOARD, acting as the service board of the World Service Conference, is to: (1) oversee all activities of NA world services, including the fellowship's primary service center, the World Service Office; (2) contribute to the continuation and growth of Narcotics Anonymous by providing service and support to the fellowship as a whole and assist the public in understanding addiction and the Narcotics Anonymous program of recovery from addiction; and (3) hold, control, and manage, in trust for the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, the income produced by any world service activities, the rights to the exclusive control, use, printing, duplicating, sales, production, manufacturing, or reproduction of all the intellectual properties, logos, trademarks, copyrighted materials, emblems, and/or other intellectual and physical properties of the WSC in a manner that is within the spirit of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service of Narcotics Anonymous.
7. The purpose of the WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, our main service center, is to carry out the directives of the World Service Conference in matters that relate

to communications and information for the Fellowship of NA, its services, groups, and members.

Maker: Alsask Region

Intent: To bring forth in *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous* an extremely condensed version of what the purposes and functions of our service structure are, thus offering a simplified explanation to and for the newer members of our fellowship.

Financial Impact: Presuming that these changes would be placed into the affected items upon their reprinting, the financial impact would be the expense for minimal staff time for the pre-production work.

Policy Affected: This motion would not amend any WSC policies.

Rationale by region: Just like our recovery program, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions both have their shorter versions that are read at every NA meeting. Once we have grasped a very small part of this program we may seek to explore further in depth the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions by seeking out those with experience or by reading in greater detail about them in our Basic Text or *It Works: How and Why*. As addicts we tend to complicate things in our recovery, and this motion is only seeking to find a small way to help simplify a view of the service structure of NA. These descriptions have been adapted from previous copies of *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* of the 1980s and 1990s, and are just as valid today as they were in their original place in our service literature. (Financial impact as stated by region: Presuming that these changes would be placed into the affected items upon their reprinting, the financial impact would be the expense of staff time for pre-production work.)

World Board Recommendation: To Commit.

We believe the idea behind this proposal may have value, but we are concerned about its actual implementation as written. We agree with the premise that our main service manuals, *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* and *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*, should contain a brief description of all elements of our service structure. To that end, we have offered in this CAR additional language to TWGWSS that contains the description of service units from the general table of contents of *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*. The language as offered in this motion is not the currently conference-approved description, in many instances. Many approaches could accomplish the stated intent of this motion, and we would strongly encourage that the language used be consistent in all of our manuals.

Motion 20: To capitalize the first letter of the words: Step, Steps, Tradition, and Traditions when used in reference to the Twelve Steps and/or Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous in all newly developed and/or revisions to our service and recovery literature.

Maker: Pacific-Cascade Region

Intent: To begin to provide consistency and place emphasis on references to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

Financial Impact: This motion would involve a tremendous amount of staff time to implement the intent of the motion. Specific projections are not possible at this time.

Policy Affected: This motion would not amend any WSC policies.

Rationale by region: If the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous are the principles that made our recovery possible, and the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous are the ties that bind us together, then there should be no argument that together they comprise the very foundation of our program. The English language capitalizes the first letter of names and nicknames of persons or things, trademarks, geographical names, peoples and their languages, organizations, government agencies, historical documents, as well as any religion, holy book, or holy days. The capitalization of these words helps to emphasize them as well as denoting them as worthy of honor and respect. Passage of this motion would help emphasize the foundation of Narcotics Anonymous and provide consistency regarding this matter in all future literature printing.

World Board Recommendation: To Not Adopt.

This motion would in fact create an inconsistency with previously approved literature and literature to be approved in the future. Capitalization on its own does not necessarily emphasize the meaning of a word or words. We believe the importance of the terms *steps* and *traditions* is very clear, and the inference of their meaning to the reader is clear throughout our literature wherever they appear. In matters of literary style and grammar, there is often no absolute right or wrong approach. In gray areas, consistent usage is the most important practice. The board understands the intent of the maker of the motion to be that changes are made only as individual items are created or revised. This would create further inconsistency between new and existing inventory items. We do not believe that this is the best approach, despite the good intentions of the maker.

Motion 21: That the World Board provides only new information, not recommendations, on regional motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Maker: Wisconsin Region

Intent: To keep recommendations on regional motions, by the World Board, out of the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact as a result of this motion

Policy Affected: This motion would not amend any WSC policies.

Rationale by region: When discussing a motion, we try to have a clear picture of the pertinent information related to that motion. We try to consider such things as the motion's intent, financial impact, and policies affected. Facts that are germane to the motion—not opinions—support this process. For example, if a motion-maker estimates a financial impact of \$X, but the WB determines it to be closer to \$XX, this would be new information helpful in understanding that motion. The fellowship can then make the decision of whether or not to support the motion based on all the relevant information. This decision should not be based on the opinions or recommendations of any particular service body. When the WB publishes their recommendations, in addition to new information, on Regional motions in the *Conference Agenda Report*, they may inadvertently influence the decision-making process. This motion seeks to avoid that. (Financial impact as stated by region: The financial impact would be the reduced amount of typesetting, production, and translations costs because of the lower number of pages in the *CAR* that this motion would create.)

World Board Recommendation: To Not Adopt.

The board believes that the fellowship finds this information useful and therefore benefits from having as much information as possible when considering these actions. This practice resulted from discussions with delegates who were frustrated by arriving at the World Service Conference only to hear new information about the impact of a motion that their local communities did not have the benefit of considering. The board believes that more information, not less, is the goal in improving our communications. To that end, the board supported the written explanations from regions as well as the board.

Regional motions do not go through the same conference process as a typical world service motion. This year, for example, the World Board motions in the *CAR* resulted from project plans that were approved at WSC 1999, reported on throughout the year and with the additional opportunity for input at the World Service Meeting. Regional motions are essentially a new idea without previous discussion or forewarning.

Motion 22: To create a nonvoting conference participant status at the World Service Conference for World Board members. The board may continue to give reports, recommendations and make motions, but not have a vote in any WSC business sessions, including elections. This would be accomplished by amending *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition), as follows:

Page 4, Membership, by deleting the words 'World Service Conference' in the first sentence and replacing it with the words 'Regional Delegates,' and by deleting the second and third sentences and replacing them with the following: 'These delegate-elected members will have equal participation rights during board meetings. During the World Service Conference they may make reports, recommendations, motions, and participate in-group discussions. However, they may not vote in any elections or business sessions at the World Service Conference.'

Page 13, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, section 1, F., The participants of the World Service Conference consist of: by adding '(Nonvoting)' at the end of 'Members of the World Board' in Item 2.

Page 13, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, section 1, by deleting the first sentence in Section G., and replacing it with the following: 'Only Regional Delegates are allowed to vote. All conference participants may make motions, or address the conference.'

Page 14, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, section II, A.1., by deleting the words 'conference participant' and replacing it with the words 'Regional Delegate.'

Page 14, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, section II, by deleting Item A. 6. "Only RDs shall vote in old business sessions."

Maker: Arizona Region and Ontario Region

Intent (Arizona Region): To limit voting at the World Service Conference to elected regional delegates.

Intent (Ontario Region): To eliminate the voting privileges of the World Board.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact as a result of this motion

Policy Affected: This motion would amend the following WSC policies:

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (1999 edition)

The following sections would be revised:

Page 4, Membership: The World Board will consist of twenty-four members elected by at least 60% of the World Service Conference. These conference-elected members will have equal participation rights, including voting on the board and at the World Service Conference. Board members may not, however, vote on items that have been submitted to the groups in the *Conference Agenda Report*, or on any other items of Old Business at the World Service Conference.

Page 13, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, Section 1, F. The participants of the World Service Conference consist of: 1. Duly elected Regional Delegates (RDs), 2. Members of the World Board, 3. In the absence of a duly elected Regional Delegate, the conference will recognize a qualified replacement from that region.

Page 13, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, Section 1, Item G. Only conference participants are allowed to vote, make motions, or address the conference. When RDs are not on the floor of the conference, duly elected alternates may vote, make motions, or address the conference. The World Service Office Executive Director(s) will be allowed to address the conference, to make reports, answer questions, and discuss matters of their responsibility when requested by the conference.

Page 14, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, Section II, A.1. Each conference participant shall have one and only one vote.

Page 14, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, Section II, A. 6. Only RDs shall vote in old business sessions.

Rationale by region (Arizona Region): By creating a nonvoting conference participant status for World Board members, the World Service Conference will be able to retain the vast experience, strength, and hope of these delegate elected members. The final responsibility for decisions, however, needs to remain with regionally elected delegates who carry the voice of the Regions they serve and who have been given a vote of confidence to act in the best interest of those regions. We are grateful for the guidance that the World Board has given the conference, but we believe that this guidance will be better given and received, if expressed, by partaking in group discussions, offering suggestions, and writing motions rather than controlling such a large voting block. By eliminating the vote of the World Board, we will achieve a more equal representation for our entire fellowship.

World Board Recommendation: To Not Adopt.

The adoption of this motion would go against the Twelve Traditions and Concepts, the very principles our fellowship is guided by and supports. The WSC adopted the Twelve Concepts in 1992. The board reaffirmed these as its guiding principles as well and believes strongly that "all" members of a body should "fully" participate in a service body's decision-making processes. (Concept Seven states: "All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and *should* be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.") Clearly, board members are currently participants and members of the WSC body. Distinguishing classes of trusted

servants at the WSC diminishes the WSC's application of anonymity (equality) and unity, the foundational spiritual principles of our traditions.

The WSC has debated the voting issue almost from its beginning. Until WSC '95, all participants could vote on all WSC business. That year, the WSC decided only RSRs/delegates should vote on *old* business. Without arguing the merits, we see that decision as a compromise between those with varying understandings of the traditions and concepts. Since then, NA and the WSC rejected regional *CAR* motions to change voting policy in 1997, 1998, and 1999. At the same time, non-delegates are an ever-shrinking percentage of the WSC. The 1985 WSC Minutes showed 61 participants, of whom 42 represented regions or 68% (a 2 to 1 ratio). WSC '99 had 110 participants—93 represented regions or 84% (a 5+ to 1 ratio), making the board the smallest proportion (16%) of non-delegates in history.

Who votes at the WSC has been one part of the “us versus them” dynamic which has often plagued the WSC. The nature of world services, its responsibilities and group delegated authority, seems to heighten fears. Everything in NA is designed to ensure that the WSC can never be a government that wields authority over the NA groups. Still, the reappearance of the voting issue suggests that fear is part of this conflict. Board members, as administrators of world services, bring a unique perspective to the process of reaching an informed group conscience about matters affecting NA as a whole. Participation without voting would be empty—the equivalent of responsibility without authority. Voting adds weight to experience which is shared in conference discussions, and the lack of a vote would undermine the full participant status board members currently are privileged to hold, making board members more akin to non-participant observers.

Motion 23: That voting during the election of World Board members be restricted to regional delegates or in their absence a duly elected regional delegate alternate. This would be accomplished by amending *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition), as follows:

Page 4, Membership: by deleting the words “World Service Conference” in the first sentence and replacing it with the words “regional delegates.” By deleting the words “conference-elected” in the second sentence and replacing it with the words “delegate-elected” and by adding the words “during World Board elections or” in the third sentence between the words “vote” and “on”

Page 14, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, section II, A.6., by adding the words “and World Board elections” at the end of the sentence.

Maker: North East Atlantic Region

Intent: To eliminate the World Board members from voting during election of World Board members.

Financial Impact: There is no direct financial impact as a result of this motion

Policy Affected: This motion would revise the following WSC policies:

***A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (1999 edition)**

Page 4, Membership: The World Board will consist of twenty-four members elected by at least 60% of the World Service Conference. These conference-elected members will have equal participant rights, including voting on the board and at the World Service Conference. Board members may not, however vote on items that have been submitted to the groups in the *Conference Agenda Report* or any other items of Old Business at the World Service Conference.

Page 14, Guidelines of the World Service Conference, Section II. A.6. Only RDs shall vote in old business sessions.

Rationale by region: None furnished.

World Board Recommendation: To Not Adopt.

See our recommendation and rationale on Motion 22, above. Additionally, it appears that since the board's creation in 1998, there is a new twist compounding the old fears about WSC voting that is specific to the elections process. Since the board is operating by consensus, there seems to be a greater fear that the board will somehow act as a block at the WSC. There is a new fear that a unified board could be a greater threat or danger to the interests of the NA groups as represented by the delegates. This fear was certainly voiced openly in the controversy at WSC '99 over the election of new board members.

We realize that there are other reasons besides fear that lead people to support this change in voting policy. Different areas and regions have different practices for voting and participation by non-representatives. Some participants merely want conference practices to mirror the way voting is handled in their area or region. What "group conscience" means is not uniform throughout the fellowship.

Members of the World Board are elected by a significant majority (60%) of conference participants, are conference participants, and are delegated the responsibility to act on behalf of the conference as a whole when it is not in session. The board's primary responsibility, as stated in our external guidelines, is "to contribute to the continuation and growth of Narcotics Anonymous." In fulfilling our mission, we often, individually and collectively as a board, speak for and represent those NA communities that are not represented at the WSC, as well as those addicts who have not yet found our rooms. In keeping with our focus on unity rather than separation and segregation, equality rather than a trusted servant class system, our consensus recommendation is to not adopt this motion.