

**INPUT ON NATIONAL SERVICES
FROM 1990 GTS WORKSHOPS**

PHILADELPHIA

Discussion stemmed around the Conference publishing on its own authority. What can or cannot be published?

Member: By offering the option of this it's assuming that these members see the concerns of the fellowship around the world and this shows more than trust. We're depriving ourselves of the input of our fellowship.

Member: It's about trust period and anonymity that everybody is equal. I will not not trust. I do want to see literature. We need to free up the literature committee to do this. We need a change to get literature.

Member: It's my experience that I'm told we don't want to give this trust and it's not spiritual if we don't. The challenge we have is it makes perfect sense to delegate authority everywhere else in the world but they don't have a disease. We have a responsibility to police ourselves. We have a challenge to set up our own service structure. I would say my challenge to you on the committee is one of your responsibilities is to think positively and think about the worse case scenario. There's a balance that's not the result of fear but considerations.

Member: This is going to be with us for a long time. I've seen motions with the best of intent when the intent doesn't mean a thing when it's passed like the H&I handbook. I can't leave things so wide open. I can't go by what I hear. I have to go by what I read. We've talked about dealing with guidelines later after this has been applied and that scares me.

Member: I'd like to reiterate our responsibility to protect those we serve selflessly. We need to have more in place to do this.

Member: I hear you saying black or white.

Member: It's just a concept that I want to keep at the forefront of everything. I've seen people get burnt out.

Member: I don't think it's fair that you as a committee who have served for years and you tell us, that have been together for a weekend, "What else?" This fellowship didn't teach me to trust you it taught me to trust God. That's the problem that keeps coming up. What's in the middle will take time to input on.

Member: Let me see if I have this straight. blah, blah, blah. This isn't going to fly in the Greater Philadelphia region. I feel confident that I'm speaking for my region. A lot of members feel that world services at the present time is incestuous. This scenario presents something that could make this much worse and perpetuate itself for a long time. Is it appropriate for five members to be the only ones who nominate a board that will be in trust of our world services? All other points of the Guide are negotiable up to this point except this one. This brings back the point of literature. I have a problem with the nomination committee and the makeup. If it was made up of the same proportion of 2/3, 1/3 I'd be able to think about that.

Member: I see this as making it even more personality.

Member: I'd want a lot of rotation on this committee.

Member: Regarding trust, you're asking for something you've already taken and done what you want to with. There's some good points in here but there's too many loose ends.

Member: I still say some things in here I like and then there's some things that are real iffy and some things are no way. There doesn't seem to be any compromise, understanding not everyone will like everything. I don't see my home group doing a lot of these things. Like the nomination board of trustees, we already think it's a personality contest and your talking about a small circle of people.

Member: I think it's incumbent on us to let our people speak their minds. The nomination process is a valid concern. I'd like my region to look at a way to include other groups into this.

Member: I look at this and I'm wondering if it's just my home group that feels this way. Through your travels how many people are for this?

Member: How critical is the one we have now? And it's still in existence? At what level is it non-functional the worse?

Member: (Dave) I've heard people make assertions that some places are already implementing this. What steps has the world service body taken against the unapproved application of this? It seems the world services needs to take some steps against the premature application of this. Can the previous input on this guide be made available to the general fellowship? There is a motion that the WSO maintain an archive file and you call there and you can't get it.

Member: (Dave) If we implement this system and it changes then we'll have everyone going back to relearn.

Member: (Dave) Reuben made a report that this is not to be used but that was buried in a lot of other things. I think the committee should explain this again.

Member: Now I'm depressed. I came to learn about twelve concepts. I thank you people but I still don't know if I should bring this back for review. I can bring it to the region and what happens after the region is not up to me. A lot of us want to get this thing over with and find out what's going on.

Member: I was listening to Becky say that it was more critical at the world, then how much of this changes what they do at the world now? I think it was a good job done in the areas and groups. You took out parts between the world and the regional assembly, but what's to prevent it from happening the same way again?

Member: Yesterday what concept gives the ability to the board or committee.(???) The only change I see is it takes it away from one of the boards and gives it to the board. So what's to prevent it from happening again?

Member: Let's just change that system.

COLUMBUS

National Services in the United States

Member: If we are going to be task oriented then the board should be tasked oriented. (This is discussion about non-addict trustees.) Why limit the non-addict trustees? Whether it is a trustee or board of director--why not look at the way the rest of the world finds there trustees and directors. Are we limiting ourselves? The same question comes up from the generic section.

Member: The literature process, I got some real concerns on how this is presented. What comes back and what doesn't. In the study guide it talks about the development of literature. I think we have problems in the past with just a committee developing literature. How is this going to be developed. Will there be a specific plan for the development of literature that will be included in the guide down the line?.

Member: Could you explain how the delegate review panels will work? I read this but I didn't understand it. Are they responsible to the conference? Is it like a steering committee?

Member: I need clarification. Non addict trusted servants. Do special workers get voting rights because they are special workers or that they are trusted servants? On page 70 under Trusted servants line 28-31. What is the response to this? Does this conflict with our seventh tradition? There seems to be conflict with self-support and the non-addict. In discussion at the world level, in the area of subcommittees, on page 88. Is part of the service board made up of trustees? On subcommittees listed on page 89 are these two subcommittees? Is the BOT PI or the Conference PI? The BOT subcommittee directs the national board? The office should only do what the conference directs it to do. They don't have any say then in what is done?

Member: On three corporations, office, magazine, and convention --do you think that the united states we would keep the services we have now? Would we keep national service office and the world service office--both of these at the same place it is now? Do you for see a lot of little branches of the national offices springing up? Under the national magazine would we own it?

Member: How are all the trustee committees placed? How are the rest of the committees placed? By appointment? How do we staff trustee committees? There is almost certain non-addict trustees will be elected? I foresee the same servants serving is there adequate rotation? How are delegate review panels funded? If they are not funded by the NSB, then you will have those that can not attend. What would be the make-up of the finance committee? Are those people appointed by the NSB? That hasn't really been fleshed out by the committee? The conference advisory actions, p. 84 line 19-21. Too closed ended. Will it be addicts or non-addicts involved in the writing of our literature. There are those times that it is vital to know what process is being used. More qualifying information here.

Member: page 83, line 31-32, Is there any way to come this to what we are doing know?

Member: In Arlington some one talk about creating a position for an auditor that would have access to all of the records as a system of checks and balances? Do we have that?

Member: Page 89-90, as far as a delegate they serve in two capacities, correct? If the conference doesn't feel comfortable with an appointment could they over turn that decision?

Member: The yearly meeting will be funded by the national service conference?

Member: Trustee committees directing the work and staff doing the work sounds better. In the literature process, I am thrilled that major works will go back to the groups. Lets have an I.P. "What's the staff for?"

Member: The international part has a gapping hole. Do you want input on that? Metroservice, special workers, the national magazine, world services could use more input?

Member: Who decides how much assistance we want to get our international fellowship? Perhaps maybe we need to decide what level the national conference is going to function on?

Member: Has there been discussion on how this would work? example 2 U.S., 3 days international. National service conference is talking about being funded as far as transportation, have there been any plans to figure what that would be implemented? National autonomy primarily within the U.S., we are talking financial decision making? It is murky about what autonomy means? Are we a national or U.S. fellowship?

Member: The question I heard in Arlington, should we continue to be involve in international fellowship concerns? By staying involved are we helping them grow to fast before they are ready? Maybe AA has made the right decision by deciding not to get involved. We have a hell of a mark up on our literature. We by literature cheaper from Hazeltine than the WSO.

Member: We spend 288,000 we approve a budget of 400,000--if this would be implemented has anyone decided what a ball park figure would be?

SEATTLE

NATIONAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Member: I'd like to see the portion on national services in the United States added to this chapter.

Member: There is a plan for developing one in the United States?

Member: There's a lot of faith implied in this thing.

AMERICAN NATIONAL SERVICES CONFERENCE AND BOARD

Member: Was this idea before Canada came up with their own national conference? Does anyone want to see a United States conference?

Member: So the board of directors will be swallowed up? So will there be more trustees because isn't the board of directors more of a hands on thing? So the board of trustees will change to compensate these?

Member: It seems like this would take a more regular meeting.

Member: One of the concerns I have is your placing a lot of responsibility on one body. First of all they're not paid and second of all they don't meet regular enough. How many will there be and how many will be non-addicts? Personally I have nothing against non-addict trustees to be used as needed.

Member: Why did you decide to keep the BOT and have them as the governing body over the office while everybody else is away rather than the BOD?

Member: With the BOT having approximately 30 members, how many of those need to be at a particular meeting to conduct business?

Member: Regarding the BOD being members of the BOT, will they still be a separate board?

Member: With the BOD being a subcommittee what will their purpose be? Basically the same thing they do now with also being a member of the BOT who oversees everything.

Member: Under the plan now the BOD elect 2/3 of their members. Will this be the same? All the members of the BOT will be elected by the conference and the BOT amongst themselves will elect the BOD and all of the subcommittees? Will all the subcommittee chairs come out of the BOT? So a chair of a subcommittee first needs to be elected to the BOT? And you don't need to be a conference participant to be elected to the BOT?

Member: We asked a while ago what a non-addict trustee would be able to offer and we were answered they didn't know.

Member: I think ten non-addicts on our BOT would be too much.

NSB INCORPORATED ACCOUNTABLE TO THOSE IT SERVES

Member: What system are you basing this on?

Member: I want to admit that I'm a little bogged and I would like to see some information on what this really means, the delegate review panel.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION

Member: So it's to be assumed that if the national conference wants a book on whatever they would give it to the trustees?

Member: Has there been any talk about incorporating our own printing system?

Member: How would you see that coming back if someone said the trustees screwed up?

Member: We would only see that at the conference level only? That's the only time of the year for redress?

Member: Are there still going to be individual reports from each committee without being washed by the BOT? There just won't be one report from the BOT?

Member: Will the delegates come from the conference?

Member: Where is priority set?

Member: So the trustees can direct staff?

Member: Once again I can see a whole lot being learned after the first year of implementation and probably there will be revisions to this.

APPROVAL OF LITERATURE

Member: Maybe the biggest functions would be the review process. I strongly support that there should be a final look see by the WSC.

Member: In this whole thing there seems to be a certain element of fear that is or isn't justified in this issue and turning some of this stuff over.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD BY THE TRUSTEES

Member: Once you are elected from the body would that region have to replace you? You couldn't be a delegate and serve on the BOT but you don't have to be a delegate first to be on the BOT?

Member: Did you discuss a minimum number of trustees?

Member: Are you going to sit and discuss guidelines for these committees? Will there be more books on how the BOT and subcommittees will redo their guidelines? Hasn't a lot of the WSC committees been tied up writing guidelines?

Member: Is there a set number of members that can be on a subcommittee?

TRUSTEE COMMITTEES

NSB SUBSIDIARY CORPORATIONS

Member: Is the idea that we in the U.S. will absorb the expenses of those nations that can handle their own?

Member: There will be a director for the magazine and convention corporations?

Member: If you're going to set up a corporation to protect N.A. why not just have one. Why would you need to set up all these separate ones?

Member: The executive director is just an employee, not a member of the board of trustees?

DELEGATE REVIEW PANEL

Member: It would meet right along with the committee?

Member: It said the NSB would appoint those delegates to the review panel?

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

CONFERENCE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Member: I see there are two non-addicts elected by the board itself. What was the purpose of that? It's saying the board itself must elect two. You kind of got rigid there. Wouldn't it be better if it said the board can elect up to two. I thought the requirement for clean time was also rigid when you said you wanted to leave it as open as possible previously.

Member: About the nominations panel being formed of prior trustees, they will just be an advisory-type thing? Since you were getting more specific, was there any discussion of how many will be elected to the trustees each year?

Member: When will we see some of the transition plan?

Member: Everytime it mentions NSB you are talking about the BOT?

Member: All of the things regarding number of trustees and when elected, etc. will have to be included in bylaws?

Member: Does that mean if a region nominates someone the rest of the nation might not know because the nominations panel might not nominate them. I'd like them to list everyone that was nominated and then list their recommendations.

Member: It doesn't say the nominations panel is the only place a nomination can come from. Nominations could be put forth and then this nomination panel could review them. Maybe nominations would be possible through the year by mail. Maybe nominations could be made from the floor by the delegates. Does it need to be spelled out that there is a possibility of a vacancy on such a date and this review member is a possibility.

NSB MEETINGS

Member: How soon do the agendas go out?

INPUT TO NATIONAL SERVICES

Member: I like it. I like that they spelled it out.

Member: It means that every year there won't be a conference agenda item list to go through.

ATLANTA

NATIONAL SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION

APPROVAL OF LITERATURE

Member: Can you read that last line again, please. [Only rarely does the NSB decide to publish something on their own authority.] ATTN: AD HOC COMMITTEE!!! What does this mean, I.P.'s, articles, manuals, etc.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD BY THE TRUSTEES

Member: Maybe you could put in here some of the grounds for doing this.

Member: Would trustees be voting on recalling themselves? In light of the still smoldering embers of Motion 11, I just have to bring this up.

SINGLE BOARD MODEL

Member: So we're combining WSC, WSB, & WSO Board into one board, the NSB?

TRUSTEE COMMITTEES

Member: So there's going to be a lot of workshops going on to inform the delegates, the RCM's, etc.

Member: Are these to write literature or adopt policy?

Member: What is sounds like is what happened at the last quarterly, sharing sessions and stuff. Is the same thing going to happen in October in Van Nuys? Will you guys be there?

NSB SUBSIDIARY CORPORATIONS

Member: How many trustees are we electing?

Member: This is a different entity than the world convention? Is there any thought about making the world convention less than an annual event?

DELEGATE REVIEW PANELS

Member: What would be the process for developing and approving literature? I'm really going to have a problem with the Florida Region. They want to input, come up with ideas, and maybe be in control. They feel like they get a better feel of the fellowship if they have some control.

Same Member: I wanted to ask you about that, since I'd heard the Trustees have the traditions project now.

Member: I want to share that I'm involved in lit review committees, and I like this idea presented here. We've been working on "Living Clean" since probably before I was born and we're never going to have it approved if we keep using this process.

Member: I don't think there's a problem with who writes it as long as it's good.

KANSAS CITY

NATIONAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Dave gave a description of World Services as it is now, the three-headed monster, etc.

Member: How would the National Convention Corporation work?

Member: When you refer to the NSB, that's the trustees and stuff. Is there going to be a WSB? I'm having trouble envisioning the trustees as a national board. What is their job description anyway?

Member: So the Board of Trustees would be changed to the NSB and the committees will be trustee committees?

Member: So we won't have conference committees? Are we going to have more trustees? I'm not sure that's the reason we're having trouble electing trustees.

Member: Will we have world trustees, like maybe national trustees from all over serving on this board?

Member: Can you put the groups at the top of that chart?

Member: Can you put the addict who still suffers over the groups?

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Member: I'm not much for math, but that's not the way the first part of that reads.

Member: I have a hard time accepting that these people can be reelected where in everything else we're stressing rotation. One term and they should be out of there. The committee's pretty secure about having the same person for 8 years?

Member: Isn't there a simpler way to say this 1/3-2/3 thing? What happens when... How often are all delegates present at the NSB? Is this available votes or real numbers?

Same Member: The trustees get their way paid for, though!

Same Member: So in practicality, the trustees could have more than 1/3 of the votes? What's the ratio now?

Member: I'm not sure what the WSC policy is, so if you're trying to change to the policy on what these guys do, you'd have to have 100% of the regions voting to pass something by a 2/3 vote.

Member: (Expressed concern about the trustees voting in a block)

Same Member: How can a trustee be removed? If it will take 2/3 to remove a trustee or the whole board, well.....

Member: It's not that big of a deal, but I can see the concern. There's a lot of things that require 2/3 and if 2/3 are delegates.... I just have to believe that if all the delegates voted one way and all the trustees voted the other, that something is really wrong. I don't think that would happen unless we elect thirty assholes to be trustees.

Dave explained that people will need to look at the rest of this material and talk about such issues as trust. Dave thanked everyone for coming and expressed gratitude, love and good will.