



WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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TO: Members of WSB, WSO BOD, WSC Admin. Committee, and
WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service

FROM: Steve Lantos, WSO Staff

DATE: September 10, 1992

RE: Rough outline of national and world services chapter of *Guide*

Attached is a sketchy outline of the proposed national/world services chapter of *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. This material is a result of a small group meeting that occurred in mid-August.

The small group agreed that this would serve as a starting point for discussion only, and is not to be taken as the final direction the committee is heading in. The small group is also aware that there are a lot of specific details that will need to be filled in at a later date. They hope that this outline will generate input from world services to the NAS committee about a chapter on world services.

Diagrams, based on this outline detailing how such a structure would look, are being worked on and will be ready prior to the September and October board and committee meetings. If you have any questions about the attached material, please contact Dave Tynes, or any other member of the small group who worked on this outline.

WORLD SERVICES MODEL

On Sunday, August 16, 1992, a working group composed of Dave Tynes (WSC chair, NAS chair), Becky Meyer (WSB chair, NAS member), Stu Tooredman (WSB IAC chair, NAS member), Joe Gossett (WSO executive), Anthony Edmondson (WSO administrative staff), Steve Lantos (WSO NAS coordinator), and Lee Manchester (WSO NAS editorial staff) met to develop a model to be used in completing the chapters on national and world services for *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*.

The members of this group were in unanimous agreement with the points presented below. Rather than continue in the vein of earlier *Guide to Service* drafts, the group decided that a unified model should be pursued, one that does *not* provide for a separate American structure. The group proposes adapting the current structure to consolidate the currently diffuse administration of world services.

**CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICE ADMINISTRATION:
WSC PRIMARY SERVICE BOARD****I. WSC Primary Service Board (PSB) purpose**

To serve as the World Service Conference's main agency for the fulfillment of world services.

We have used the name *WSC Primary Service Board* as a functional label.

Because it doesn't include either the words "director" or "trustee," it may be easier to think of it as something very different from anything we have in the current structure.

II. PSB responsibility, delegated authority, accountability

The WSC assigns all world service tasks and delegates the necessary authority to fulfill those tasks to the PSB, holding the PSB accountable for those responsibilities. *The WSC reserves authority in certain matters to itself alone. Such matters include the approval of new NA literature and changes in the service structure.*

The PSB, in turn, delegates substantial authority to its committees and the WSO corporation board for the fulfillment of all tasks within their defined scope. The committees and WSO board remain accountable to the PSB.

The WSO board and each PSB committee have delegate review panels attached to them. *See the Guide, pp. 89-91, for a description of the composition and function of these panels.* Also see the organizational diagrams at the end of this outline.

III. PSB composition

A. Initial composition. Basically, *everyone* in the current leadership would become a PSB member:

1. WSC chair, vice chair, second vice chair, perhaps as leaders or members of a committee on conferences and forums such as is described in the *Guide*
2. WSC treasurer to chair a budget committee
3. WSC standing committee chairs, vice chairs, to serve as leaders or members of corresponding PSB committees
4. WSO board executive committee, to represent the corporation
5. All current trustees, to serve on PSB committees corresponding to their current WSB committees

B. Ultimate composition

Note that the working group did not discuss how these members would be elected or what their terms of service would be.

1. PSB officers
2. PSB committee chairs (*and vice chairs?*)
3. WSO board executive committee

IV. Corporate relations in transition--staff, intellectual property administration

Note that no time frames are given for any of these phases; they can happen as quickly or as slowly as necessary. Note also that the working group saw no need to change the relationship between WSO, Inc., and its subsidiary, World Convention Corporation.

A. Phase One

1. WSO, Inc., serves as world service intellectual property trustee, supervises WSO facility and business affairs, and publishes and distributes literature.
2. Staff remain employees of WSO, Inc. on the books, but are supervised by PSB through authority granted in new policy documents.

B. Phase Two

1. PSB incorporates, takes over direct employment of staff, but does *not* take over intellectual property trusteeship.
2. WSO, Inc. serves as publisher and business manager for the PSB and world service intellectual property trustee.

C. Phase Three

1. PSB, Inc. takes over trusteeship of intellectual property--however, delegates responsibility for routine intellectual property management to the publisher, WSO.
2. WSO, Inc. serves as publisher, business manager, and intellectual property *manager* (not trustee) for the PSB.

V. PSB committees

- A. One way to look at the PSB committees is as consolidated versions of the current trustee and conference committees. Closer to the truth, however, would be the dissolution of both conference *and* trustee committees, and the creation of a new, single set of world service committees under the PSB, each with new guidelines appropriate to their new functions.
- B. The PSB committees would *not* be composed exclusively of PSB members; in fact, in the long run, the only committee members who would be on the PSB would be the committee chair (*and vice chair?*). Committee members would be drawn, as needed, from throughout the fellowship.
- C. As noted earlier, each committee would have a delegate review panel assigned to it from the body of WSC regional representatives. Panelists would receive all the correspondence their corresponding committee members received, and panel chairs would regularly report independently on the activities of the committee to which they were attached.

WSC TWO-YEAR MEETING CYCLE

The World Service Conference would conduct combined PSB committee/panel meetings and general discussion forums one year, a business meeting the next. This would allow for:

- * a longer timeframe for world service projects assigned to the PSB, and
- * a realistic opportunity for delegate review panels to examine and, if necessary, impact the work of the board or committees to which they were assigned.

UNIFIED WORLDWIDE SERVICE STRUCTURE

No distinct USA structure or conference

The working group decided to recommend that no American conference be created, and that world services continue to serve NA in every country as they do now. The group acknowledged that, right now, there is no coherent program for delivering services affecting NA in the USA nationwide. However, the group believed that the fragmentation of our world services into independent arms (WSO, trustees, conference committees), *not* the lack of national focus in the USA, is responsible for poor USA service coordination. The working group is convinced that consolidation of world service administration--that is, the establishment of a single effective point of decision and accountability for world services when the WSC is not in session--is the most important step we can take to ensure creation and effective delivery of NA services in the USA and elsewhere worldwide.

The working group, in good conscience, could not encourage the creation of a USA conference. Creation of such a conference now is *feasible* but *not desirable*. NA in the USA is the principal participant in and supporter of NA's world services; without the Americans, there would *be* no worldwide NA, at least as we know it today, and no world services. To institutionally segregate the Americans by creating a USA conference would put them farther and farther away from exposure to world development issues, making them less and less able to include worldwide NA unity-and-common-welfare issues among their top priorities.

The working group did not wish to see the possibility of an American conference precluded forever. Under current circumstances, a USA conference would undercut our worldwide fellowship's efforts to fulfill our primary purpose. If circumstances change significantly in the future, we can change our service structure--but only when the circumstances have actually changed.

PSB committees, local services

The most important role of WSC Primary Service Board committees would be to develop basic resources and establish a philosophical direction for each field of service. PSB committees would coordinate, facilitate, and sometimes even deliver NA services, when necessary, worldwide. In many states, provinces, and nations, those services would actually be *delivered* by an area or regional committee; the role of the PSB committees in such cases would be to *coordinate* service delivery

among the local committees and *develop resources* useful to the areas and regions. In some states, provinces, and nations, however, the PSB committees would themselves deliver services directly, generally in cases where local resources were insufficient for an essential task.

WSC representation

The working group recommends that we continue with regional representation at the World Service Conference. However, we should develop specific admissions criteria ASAP so that regional participation *means* something.

"Zonal forums"

The working group agreed that local cooperation is as important as world service support to NA's success. To that end, the group encourages development of a short additional chapter for the *Guide* on multiregional cooperation, whether those regions serve state, provincial, or national NA communities.

The working group's support for multiregional cooperation via zonal forums should not be confused with an endorsement of zonal *conferences*. Nor should it be interpreted as a disavowal of the idea described in the *Guide to Service* of PSB-sponsored multiregional forums that gather local members and trusted servants together with world-level personnel at different locations around the world several times a year for sharing and training.

Locally developed literature

The working group agreed that local *development* of new NA literature should not be discouraged; once a piece is completed at the local level, it can be processed by whatever PSB committee handles the development of literature for NA as a whole prior to being submitted for WSC approval. However, the group agreed that local *approval* of NA literature should be vigorously discouraged. Narcotics Anonymous, as a united worldwide fellowship, should have only one body of approved literature.

Working group members who had attended the 1992 European Convention and Conference said that when NA members there spoke of "indigenous literature," they either meant local newsletters with articles of some substance or Basic Text stories relevant to their own NA community. Policies already exist to accommodate both, and this should be stated loudly and clearly.

While NA worldwide should have only one body of literature, the working group recognized one particular circumstance in which a local NA community might be encouraged to develop recovery material for its own use: *adapting the NA message to unique cultural backgrounds*. For instance, in a predominantly Buddhist country, it may be essential to the fulfillment of our primary purpose for the NA community to develop a pamphlet for local use that elucidates NA's approach to spirituality against the local cultural background. Such literature would be developed and approved locally, *reviewed by world services for fidelity to NA philosophy*, and then distributed by the NA community that had developed it.

This process for developing culture-specific material would *not* allow an NA region in the USA, for example, to adapt existing NA recovery literature--say, the Basic Text--to its own unique philosophical perspective or distribute a new book of its own on, say, prayer and meditation that had not been approved as NA worldwide literature.