

CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT WORKSHOP

Bill L., RD Arkansas Region

Greetings Family,

Knowing that we are in competition with the Super Bowl and Super Bowl functions, I would like to express my gratitude to those of you who decided to be here and to Foothills Unity Area for hosting this Fine event. Having just returned from the Southern Zonal Forum in Shreveport, Louisiana last weekend, it has been a fun week compiling this report for you, to further our progress in our efforts to expand our communication links. At the Southern Zonal Forum this past weekend, we discussed Fellowship Concerns, information contained in the Conference Agenda Report, information in the recent mailing from Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Southern Zonal Forum reports, and Southern Zonal Forum business. This working weekend, like most, turned out to be very productive and helpful.

During Fellowship Concerns, several topics of interest were discussed. I will attempt to keep the information in Fellowship Concerns cohesive, but it might be difficult because of varying topics. On 18 May, Tyler, Texas will be celebrating their 10 year anniversary, and are inviting everyone to attend. An Area is having problems with misappropriated Narcotics Anonymous funds. These funds were from a convention. This Area does not have any guidelines in place with how to deal with this situation. They were advised to see the bulletin section on the Narcotics Anonymous World Services Web Site by a member of the World Board, Bob J. Several others of us present, got with them over breaks, explaining and/or showing them, our policies and procedures on how we work with situations of misappropriated Narcotics Anonymous funds.

Kentuckiana Region (comprised of Areas in Kentucky and Indiana) shared that they had a lack of communications with the eastern half of Kentucky. They attempted several methods of contacting them with no avail. At their last Regional

Service Committee meeting, representatives from that side of the state showed up informing the Kentuckiana Region, that they were forming a new Region, called the Eastern Kentucky Region. The individuals that arrived were warned to expect opposition and problems about the upcoming Regional split. They were very surprised to find out they were met with loving, open arms. They were also surprised to find out, if things did not work out, they were still welcome in the Kentuckiana region. The Volunteer Region was looking for input on a Regional 800# and the feasibility of it. They were also looking for information about a Regional Literature Review Committee. Again, during breaks, several of us were able to discuss with them (and each other) our experience, strength, and hope in the areas where we had information that could be of assistance to them. It also came up in discussions, that they were having problems getting people interested and qualified, to be volunteers on phone lists. I was able to share with them about how our Phonenumber Chair, in the past, conducted Phonenumber Workshops. Mississippi Region reported that things are growing in Mississippi and that they are doing better with their communications. Show-Me Region reported that one of their Areas was concerned about the resources used for Southern Zonal Forum, both human and financial. Several of those of us in attendance, discussed this at great length in between sessions. The conclusion that we reached was so simple, yet too many people have been blind to it. Service work, just like recovery, is based on the “therapeutic value of one addict helping another.” This principle is valid at all levels of the service structure, formal and informal. A lot of us shared that we have heard people say that all we need to do is send for the tapes and/or the minutes. If everyone did that, there would not be tapes or minutes, there would not be a meeting. Issues that came up in Fellowship concerns would not be addressed or voiced, no solutions would be forthcoming (even if the solutions come at break). We discussed if this level of apathy continued to other levels of service, we could all stay home and live in addiction, (if we call that living) because there would be no place to meet. There would be no way to carry the message through H&I or PI. In other words, we discussed the importance of regular attendance at our meetings and sharing sessions. The situation that was occurring, with two Areas in San Antonio, that I reported on previously, is showing a *little* bit of daylight. They put

on a Unity Day function that had a good turnout. There was a chance for several people to get together and talk. The RD reported that the probable solution to this would be time. The Lone Star Region has been working on implementing consensus based decision-making procedures. I have included a handout of this in this report. I believe we should take a close look at this, and work on implementing it, since we did approve, for our guidelines, that we work on consensus based decision-making.

After Fellowship Concerns, we discussed the information contained in the Conference Agenda Report, so we could have a possible better understanding of what is contained in it. This information, that we discussed, will help us better understand the Conference Agenda Report, so we will be able to put on Conference Agenda Report workshops, and be better prepared for the World Service Conference at the end of April and early May. Here is the information gathered from the discussion section of the weekend.

Motion 1: To replace the existing Group Treasurer's Workbook with the revised draft contained in Addendum A.

Intent: To replace the existing workbook with a more current version.

Financial Impact: The financial impact would be a minimal cost to typeset the new version as well as to dispose of a small quantity of old copies. Less than \$200.00 total.

Policy Affected: This motion would replace the existing Group Treasurer's Workbook as seen in Addendum B.

This revised draft is being offered to straighten up some misinformation that is in the current workbook. In addition, there has been a major copy edit of the old workbook. If this document passes, then the conference will have the opportunity to approve a new *Treasurer's Handbook*. You will need to make a note of two changes in the proposed handbook in the Conference Agenda Report, especially if you have already seen the Conference Agenda Report. On page 54, of the Conference Agenda Report, on the Fund Flow Chart, a down arrow has been added, connecting Region to World. On page 60 of the Conference Agenda Report, is the

Group Treasurer's Record Form. The word "Weekly," in "Weekly Reports," has been changed to "Meeting," to read "Meeting Reports." This document is in no way, the do all/be all for a Treasurer's Handbook. At this time, it is a great deal better than what we currently use. It is being offered now to assist us better. In order for the World Service Conference to approve a new *Treasurer's Workbook*, the fellowship needs to approve the new *Group Treasurer's Handbook* contained in this motion.

Motion 2: To remove the selection of issue discussion topics from future Conference Agenda Reports.

Intent: To change the current process of selection of Issue Discussion Topics.

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

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

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure, May 2000 edition The following language would be deleted.

Page 12, paragraph 3, "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."

If you agree with Motion 2, the World Board will ask the conference to not act on Motion 3. We are offering this motion only because current policy requires that we do so. The rationale behind this motion is that over the last three World Service Conference s, seven delegates submitted only 15 of the topics. This year, again, the World Board had to come up with several of the questions. This motion strictly deals with the process of selection, not the issues of discussion themselves. Currently there is no replacement process for future use in place or planned.

Motion 3: To select two issue-discussion topics from the following list for discussion at the 2004 World Service Conference:

- 1. WSC Issue Discussion topics, procedures and who picks topics.**
- 2. How do we learn to lead a meeting, service committee and how is leadership**

important in Narcotics Anonymous.

3. Can we provide basic information on how to do service to NA members that are consistent with our traditions and concepts.

4. How do we increase our awareness in how to do a 12th step call?

5. To fulfill our vision that "no addict seeking recovery ever need die" how do we handle the growth of our fellowship on the group level to ensure we can follow through with this vision?

6. What can I do as a trusted servant to not become apathetic when I don't get the support from my area or region?

7. In a region that is small with few trusted servants how can we prevent burnout and still get the message to the addict in and out of our rooms?

8. Although it is true that the newcomer is the most important person in our meetings, how do we treat those who have relapsed, our oldtimers and trusted servants?

9. What is our understanding of an appropriate atmosphere of recovery, and how do we treat those members in our groups that, for different reasons, alter the appropriate atmosphere of recovery?

Intent: To allow the fellowship to choose the issue discussion topics for the 2002-2004 conference cycle.

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

Policy Affected: This motion does not directly amend any WSC policies.

In case Motion #2 fails, we have been asked to choose two topics as usual.

Motion 4: That the World Board investigates and researches some possible ways to gather and publish service experience from the NA fellowship for the purpose of helping NA members learn more about the functions of GSRs. The World Board will report the results of its investigation to conference

participants.

Intent: For the World Board to consider possible ways to make information about the functions of GSRs available to the fellowship, and report to conference participants.

Maker: Colombia Region

Financial Impact: The impact of this motion is not possible to predict since the method of accomplishing the motion is unknown at this time.

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

Rationale by Region: Publishing information about the function of GSRs would be helpful to our members in many ways. It could help them to be trained and motivated by emphasizing the function of the GSR through the exchange and sharing of experience and written input. It will help our members to facilitate building "A bridge towards Service" for the regular members of our groups and will strengthen the members participation during the decision and discussion making process in regards to World Service matters. There are many possible ways to publish this kind of information: in The NA Way, in a publication sent to NA groups, in a handbook for GSRs, etc. We should investigate these possibilities.

World Board Recommendation: We do not see this as a higher priority than the items we are working on or have proposed. The conference has established priorities for the development of both recovery and service material that will take us many years to complete. We are supportive of the idea of gathering and providing to the fellowship a wide variety of group experience, including that of the GSR, but do not believe we are able to do so at this time. We also believe that the idea should be discussed at the conference rather than being dealt with in a motion.

In actuality, this is a project proposal without an actual finished product. The World Board suggests that this is not a current priority issue. The Columbia Region directed this to the Conference Agenda Report, instead of using the system in place for Project Proposals, laid out in *TWGWSS*. If this motion were to pass, the World

Board would have to bring a potential Project Plan to the World Service Conference in 2004. This plan would have to be able to show financial and human resources necessary to complete the work. Then the potential plan would need to be prioritized. It's importance would need to be compared to projects like *The Basic Text Review* and *The Little White Book, Sponsorship Book*, etc.

Motion 5: To direct the World Board and World Service Office to allow recognized NA groups, service boards and service committees to electronically provide additions and changes of their meeting information in the NAWS Database by supplying the latest, accurate, and whole meeting list. The list would have to include all data required by the technology of the NAWS Database software application typically known as "required fields."

Intent: To enable NA groups, boards, and committees that already maintain a softcopy of their meeting list the ability to provide that copy to world services to update the NAWS Database in an automated fashion.

Maker: Southern California Region

Financial Impact: When we received the motion we made an inquiry with our software vendor but since our system is a customized version of their software to meet our specific needs, they had no simple way of giving us a cost estimate. They informed us that we would have to pay them, at \$110.00 per hour, to develop a software specification for this change. We did not think it responsible to incur the rather sizable expense for this additional work to be done, to provide a specific financial estimate here.

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

Rationale by Region: Creating an accurate meeting directory is a daunting task. Recently, NAWS has decided to publish meeting information on the web. As a result, we face anew challenge to maintain the accuracy of meeting information on the NAWS website. NAWS is attempting to address this challenge by creating a web based data entry solution to solve this problem. We believe it is essential to also provide a method for service boards to send their meeting data to NAWS en

masse, using a standardized data interchange format. This will eliminate the need to key data into systems currently used by areas and regions, then re-key into the NAWWS system, thereby conserving human resources, and eliminating the errors such re-keying will create. We believe the biggest disservice we can do in Public Information is to publish inaccurate meeting listings. We hope the creation of this new feature will minimize that possibility worldwide.

To summarize the World Board Recommendation, they recommend not adopting this proposal. The database update procedures, currently being developed for the web site, are a step in the direction this motion proposes. The large drawback to this proposal is the amount of money it would cost to develop the program needed to do what is being requested, to put together software that would recognize all the languages currently being used in the fellowship, to recognize given fields to be moved directly into the database. We have recently been working on updates to the database structure and it is not cost effective or feasible to start from scratch.

Motion 6: NA World Services shall organize, host, and facilitate the first meeting of a new Assembly of United States Regions in 2005. This assembly shall be a three day event conducted in the most cost efficient, centrally located city available in the United States so as to encourage as many regions within the United States as possible to attend and participate. This assembly shall be a one-time responsibility of NA World Services. Each region will be responsible for the cost of room nights and food for their respective participants as well as transportation to and from the assembly. Included in the agenda for the assembly shall be the following topics:

1. Assembly Guidelines Discussion

2. Financial Responsibility for future assemblies

3. Mission/Vision discussion

Intent: To provide the United States Regions as a whole with a scheduled forum where they may come together in the spirit of unity to further our fellowship's primary purpose and deal with local issues that are not appropriate at the World

Service Conference.

Maker: South Florida Region

Financial Impact: There is no practical way to estimate the specific costs for this motion. *Policy Affected:* This motion would not directly amend any WSC policies.

Rationale by Region: While the zonal forums within the US fill a much-needed void in unifying our fellowship, there remains no forum for the US regions to come together to address US specific concerns. National forums have been evolving for many years. One group of geographically linked regions, which have not joined together to form a national forum, are the US regions.

"...a majority (about 70%, in fact) of the WSC participants want significant change some time in the future... the one thing that is clear is that, whatever is to occur regarding Resolution A and any changes to representation and participation at a new World Service Conference must arise from the regional delegates and their respective regions... if maintaining our global unity remains one of world services' priorities, then such a process will be essential to the future effectiveness of the World Service Conference" Resolution A, March 1998

World Board Recommendation: Rather than even entering into the discussion of this issue and its history, our belief is that this should not be a responsibility of world services or a decision of the WSC. The purpose of the World Service Conference is clearly stated: "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."

Other forums are zonal assemblies, none of which was created by the WSC. If the US regions wish this to happen, they should make that decision and decide how best to achieve it. This motion refers to a US" assembly, while the rationale refers to Resolution A and participation at the conference. Our recommendation only addresses the motion and does not address what is contained in the rationale.

We last discussed that if the individual Regions wanted this type of thing to happen, a gathering of US Regions, that space and limited time would be made

available at the World Service Conference in April.

Motion 7: To have a six-year moratorium of seating new United States regions.

Intent: To stop the seating of new United States regions until 2008.

Maker: Show Me Region

Financial Impact: As a result of freezing the number of US delegates, there would be no increase in funded travel expense for US delegates for six years.

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

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (May2000 edition) The following sections would be revised:

Page 24, 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.

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.

Rationale by Region: When the resolutions were presented by the Resolution Group in response to problems identified by the Composite Group, it was pointed out that the resolutions to: form a world board, create a unified budget and move to a two-year conference cycle, should all be passed together. Their reasoning was that the resolutions that were proposed” only worked when they all were part of the same world service structure. Yet the conference has not made any significant steps to move towards implementing Resolution A and we feel if we continue to ignore it, the changes we have made will not have any lasting effect. It is our belief that this motion addresses the primary objectives of Resolution A. By slowing the growth of the total number of representatives and providing for more equitable representation

from all geographic entities, we hope to move closer to encourage a consensus-based decision making process.

World Board Recommendation: At WSC 2000, the conference adopted many policies to create the new biennial World Service Conference. One of these is the Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants. The criteria adopted were focused at controlling the growth of the conference, particularly focused at US regions, according to the language in the CAR that accompanied this policy.

The conference will see answers to questions such as, Do you believe that your region adds a voice or a value to the conference that does not exist in the current conference body? , as well as other questions. As stated in the 2000 CAR, much of this language is directed to new US regions that wish to become conference participants. The conference will receive a report and recommendation from the World Board, working with the workgroup assigned to this process at WSC 2002. At that time, the conference will have a discussion about the process, as well as the specific regions involved. The conference has the ability to recognize or not recognize a region as a new conference participant after receiving a report and information. We strongly recommend that we try this new policy to see if it meets our needs before we start to change it.

Needless to say, there were mixed viewpoints about this at the Southern Zonal Forum in Shreveport this weekend, considering the maker of this motion is part of the Southern Zonal Forum. The majority of the individuals present agreed with the World Board proposal, to give the procedure, we just passed at the last World Service Conference, a chance to see if it works.

Motion 8: That the Narcotics Anonymous World Services Literature Sales Policy for the United States and Canada be amended to reflect an increase of seven percent to the discount policy for all customers that engage in annual contracts with the World Service Office.

Intent: To change the discount structure in the NAWS Literature Sales Policy for the US and Canada.

Maker: Greater Philadelphia Region

Financial Impact: If you take the exact wording of the motion that refers to a uniform 7% rollback, then you would take the sales to this customer group from last year, \$2,949,835, and calculate an additional 7% in discounts which would be \$206,488 per year as the least possible reduction to NAWs income. Discount levels are based upon dollar level of purchase so we would have to roll back all discount levels to reflect the 7% rollback for all customers in this category by increasing their respective discount levels. The maximum effect of that change could be as much as adding 7% to the maximum discount allowed today which is 24%, totaling 31%. This would potentially mean that actually 10% of the \$2,949,835 or \$294,984 yearly income reduction is possible.

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

Rationale by Region: Slashing discounts to service offices 11-16% has dramatically affected the way NA communities deliver services. The seventh tradition has not increased while the cost of carrying the message has. The discount from the WSO is used to maintain not only the service offices but also contributes to the overall welfare of the local NA service structure, whether it be Helplines or H&I literature. It's unreasonable to keep asking the fellowship to accept price increases and also not fair that a newcomer can't afford the cost of a basic text. NA isn't made of people with deep pockets, but grateful people trying to find their way back to society. Literature sales are stagnant, while rent increases. The current sales policy has created an us vs. them atmosphere at both the world/local level. The WSO can no longer say tighten your belt and continue to eliminate the means in which we survive.

World Board Recommendation: The need to develop a business plan for the WSO was something that became the focus of the then WSO Board of Directors (BOD) in late 1994. However, during the period of plan creation and after experiencing the worst bottom-line financial year in WSO history (1996), the WSO BOD implemented a 5-year business plan. By the time this plan was created, and then implemented in January 1998 the WSO had severely depleted its inventory, and had experienced the only layoffs in its history. The board at that time, and the

conference, was faced with a decision to change the nature of the World Service Office and the services it provides or change some of its business practices. Part of that discussion identified that we need to look at how we fund our services, at a local level and at world services.

A component of the business plan addressed the literature sales policies, which included a re-structuring of the WSO discount policy. These changes were discussed at length with the conference and service offices. In an effort to allow WSO customers the best chance to adapt to a gradual reduction in their income, these changes were finalized in early 1997 and implemented in three gradual stages from January 1998 through January 2001. During all of these years, the WSO has tried to work with local service centers to assist them with adjusting to the changes in policy through the period of transition. That assistance continues for some, including the region presenting this motion, today. The overall discount level in 1997 was 25% or \$1,418,925. For the year July 2000 -June 2001, the overall Discount level was 17% or \$936,419. Of that total discount amount, 85% or \$795,920 went to contract customers.

In 1997 the WSO had less than one operating days expenses in reserve. As of June 2001, NAWS has 39.8 operating days of reserve, primarily due to the consolidation of our financial system and the changes to the literature sales policies. The conference has repeatedly stated that pricing and sales policies are the purview of world services because of the complexity of the issues, although all ideas and proposed changes have had extensive discussion with the conference. The final results of the discussions in 1997 and 1998 resulted in a compromise that would allow the fellowships' primary service center to survive and place some of the responsibility for funding local services and local service centers back on the local communities who choose to create offices. There are currently only 13 contract customers, 11 of them local service offices. Because this motion seeks to undo one of the most significant changes that the WSO has made to help stabilize its financial operations, we do not support it.

The World Service Conference has never been included with sales and/or pricing. It was also discussed that most productive service offices rely on other merchandise, besides the discount policy, to keep their offices operational.

Motion 9: That Narcotics Anonymous World Services place those customers engaged in annual contracts under the Narcotics Anonymous World Services literature Sales Policy for the United States and Canada on a net sixty day instead of a net thirty-day payment terms.

Intent: To change the credit terms for NAWS contract customers. Maker: Greater Philadelphia Region

Financial Impact: Motion would have some general impact on NAWS cash flow, but the specific amount is not possible to predict.

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

Rationale by Region: None furnished.

World Board Recommendation: The US and Canada Sales Policy used to offer net sixty days terms to credit customers. In 1998, when the sales policies were amended, the credit of this policy was changed to allow net thirty (30) day terms. This was done because the WSO had to pay its bills and suppliers in thirty days or less and could not pay its bills with customers who paid in sixty (60) days. The change reflected standard business practices in the US.

Actually, even with net thirty (30) day terms the average numbers of days to collect an invoice is closer to forty-five (45) days. This is because NAWS does not invoice a customer until several days after the order is processed. There are several customers that from time to time do not meet the current terms. NAWS has not stopped shipping literature when the current terms are not being met. Although we try to work with those customers who cannot meet the credit terms, this is by exception rather than the rule. Adoption of this motion would extend that average period to collect invoices by another thirty (30) days. We do not believe a motion in the CAR should be used to handle this issue or that these changes are practical.

Needless to say, the World Board's recommendation is very realistic; when we owe creditors money, they want theirs within usually 30 days net. The office's bills are on a 30-day cycle, so they need their funds within the same 30 days, it only makes sense.

Motion 10: To allow the WB to delay the Basic Text evaluations project until 2006 so that we can spend more time on development and review within the Sponsorship project.

Intent: To delay the Basic Text evaluation project and expand the Sponsorship project timeline by two years.

Maker: Mountaineer Region

Financial impact: No immediate direct financial impact.

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

A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (May 2000 edition)

The following approved action would be revised:

Page 42, Date Carried 05/01/00: That the fellowship proceed with a comprehensive evaluation of revisions and additions to the entire Basic Text and The Little White Booklet with the World Board to offer a detailed project plan to begin this evaluation in 2004.

Rationale by Region: We believe that as new information comes to light it is important to be flexible. When we passed motion 2 (b) of the 2000 CAR we did not realize the time restraints that the decision would place on the Sponsorship project. We believe the Sponsorship project would benefit greatly from more time both in development and review; we further believe that by doing this we could produce the best possible material on Sponsorship. Since we lack the resources to do both projects concurrently we wish to give the World Board some flexibility in starting the Basic Text evaluation.

World Board Recommendation: Our reasons for proposing that the Sponsorship project be presented in the 2004 CAR are many. The specifics of what we are proposing for both the Basic Text evaluation and the Sponsorship projects are stated earlier in our report. Our proposal is not for a lengthy book, only approximately one hundred pages. We do not believe that standard review and input captures the voice of a worldwide fellowship effectively, and so we tried

something new with a yearlong input gathering period to create the foundation. The typical review and input process also does not lend itself to the type of book we are proposing, a collection of the range of experiences with sponsorship throughout our fellowship. We do not believe that we need additional development time. To take six years to develop a book does not seem to be responsive to the long list of ideas for recovery literature that we have received nor reflect what we learned about literature development in the 1990's. In the interest of brevity, we will not go into our reasons for the Basic Text project here, but encourage you to read our report earlier in this CAR.

In addition, the review and input process does not need to be longer. It is experience, strength, and hope, it is not viable to edit, considering you cannot edit someone's personal experiences.

After discussing the motions we went on to discussing upcoming literature development plans. The first thing we talked about was the sponsorship book. At the World Service Conference this year, there will be a detailed project plan prepared for us to adopt. There are some changes to what was originally reported, as far as the review and input of this project. At the World Service Conference we will be told when and how to sign up for the review and input process. Once that is completed, the Introduction, and Chapter 1 will be sent out for review and input. These sections will be written in the "We Voice" as opposed to individual experience, strength, and hope. After this is completed, we will receive a detailed outline for the rest of the book. This outline will contain headings, sub-headings, and principles. We will review, in theory, to check to see what belongs, what doesn't belong, and/or things that might have been overlooked. After this, we can expect to see the finished product in the 2004 Conference Agenda Report. The finished product will contain individual's personal experience, strength, and hope, that fits in with the principles, headings, and/or sub-headings, that we approved in the second part of the review and input process.

Next, we discussed the *Basic Text/Little White Book* evaluation project. Currently we are still in the plan-to-plan stage. Since survey tools in the past have not been easy to get clear and decisive results, a new survey tool is in the works. It has been designed by a professional surveyor/statistician. The new tool,

hopefully, will have questions that will result in clear, simple, and direct results.

The information gathered would be able to give a clearer direction to the World Board on how they might be able to proceed. The survey consists of three pages, with the last page being a needs assessment for literature in general. We will be asked to pick the top 5 of interest to us. We will not need to put them in any kind of ranking. This will help to establish priorities, similar to the old "ABCD" lists. From this survey will come proposals for the World Service Conference in 2004. This survey has already been tried on a "test" group in southern California, with varying amounts of clean time and backgrounds. The next step will be to try the survey out on the conference participants. After this, it will be made available online, in Atlanta, and other functions. As time progresses, this will be sent out in mailers, to all the groups. We want this survey to be as inclusive as possible, in regards to all members of the fellowship.

We also discussed, limitedly, some of the items included in the recent mailer to conference participants. We will be asked at the World Service Conference to allow a reprinting of *Miracles Happen*. This will include a disclaimer, in the front, as well as some copy edits. Other things in the mailer include a copy of the *TWGWSS* to be approved, with some changes to reflect things already happening, as well as some other minor changes.

At the Sunday business meeting of the Southern Zonal Forum in Shreveport, we went through reports and business. Since Billy had a much shorter drive than I had, I asked him to cover the afternoon business session, as well as any reports that were held over from the morning. During the past, several individuals have asked questions about what the Southern Zonal Forum is and what is done there. The Secretary put together a pamphlet entitled *Solutions*. His report was in this form. I will be enclosing a copy of this (I hope) for you to see. It is not the do all/be all but is a start. The adhoc committee for operating guides/position papers are open to some more input. Until they get more they are at a temporary standstill. It also came up that a few individuals were formulating ideas for a project for educational/instructional guides, similar to "Training the Trainer." An outline draft was made available to us. The next meeting of the Southern Zonal Forum will be at the World Service Conference, after that in Dallas in August. We

are scheduled to host the Southern Zonal Forum in January 2003. I know it is a year away, but we need to start giving it some considerations. We need to come up with a location and topics to be discussed, by August, and the T-Shirt design and flyer by November. It seems like a long time away, but when the ARSCNA meets every 2 months and the Southern Zonal Forum meets quarterly, time flies by. I know we didn't have time for a detailed Conference Agenda Report Workshop since our time was in conflict with the Super Bowl and a function planned around that, but hopefully you have enough information to allow you to get started working on the CAR. If enough individuals would like, we can schedule a CAR workshop for the RSC weekend in March. I believe the information I have provided in my report, as well as the written documentation in the CAR, should be sufficient for you to workshop the CAR on your own. If you would like, Billy and/or myself, will make ourselves available for CAR workshops in your Areas, or to your loner groups. Remember, we need to start working on this as early as possible. If you wait until after the March RSC weekend, you will have to do a lot of running to get area/group consciences completed by middle to late April, before we leave for the World Service Conference. This is why I gave you as much information as possible, to give you a chance to get started on the Conference Agenda Report. I have copies of the CAR I will hand out now, to all voting participants, as well as copies of my report. If you have any questions about the Southern Zonal Forum weekend or about anything specific in the CAR, please ask, I will be happy to answer. Thanks for allowing me to be of service.

In Loving Service,

Bill L.