

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

GSR Reports (moderated by Matt B.)

The proceedings began with a mention of the special GSB meeting of August 20, when each GSR briefly answered the questions:

- What's going well with your meeting?
- What's going not so well?
- What can the GSB do about it?

Several common needs emerged from the individual reports, namely

- More clarity about how the Traditions work in practice
- A definition of abstinence
- Difficulty in getting sponsors
- The need for UA specific literature, especially "best practice" literature on
 - Sponsorship
 - Action meetings
 - The "B" job
 - Choice of action partner
- Concerns about the World Service Conference
 - Expense
 - That it shouldn't be on a holiday weekend when air fares are higher
- Better definition of the structure of the Fellowship

World Service Committee Report (moderated by Bella A.)

Bella asked for discussion regarding the following three questions, stated below, with answers given in italics below the question

1. What do you want the World Service Conference to be?
 - *The WSC should address questions about by-laws, etc.*
 - *The WSC should be open to the public*
 - *The WSC should be restricted to GSR's, committee members/officers, and GSB officers*
 - *Don't turn down newcomers; voting is not necessary*
 - *More open to young people*
2. How should we go about making that vision happen?
 - *Get more GSR's involved*
 - *Put descriptions of WSC committee activity, including meeting times and contact information on the web*
 - *Think of "serving from the overflow"*

- *Preparing a service pamphlet*

3. What are you, as an individual, going to do about it?

The Inverted Triangle – Why Service is Vital to Recovery (presentation by John V.)

Originally, John did not understand the importance of service, yet he was willing to be the secretary at a business meeting. This led to his willingness to participate in more business meetings, resulting in a release of the fear of “I don’t know about this.”

At first, he only wanted to receive, which is indeed OK for the newcomer. However, John has since realized the importance of helping others, if only to get out of oneself. Since he wants the hand of other underearners to be there when he is coming back from a dark moment.

John now realizes that he was defiant “right from the beginning”. His grandmother warned him not to hang out with the bad kids on the corner, but he didn’t listen....

John is now faced with moving beyond his “B” job.

Service represents sacrifice, giving back to God for 4 hours/day.

Traditions (presentation by Bob L.)

(reported separately)

Phone Meetings Committee (presentation by Peggy Q.)

(see separate document “The Rapid Growth of Phone Meetings”, prepared by Peggy)

Technology/Website Committee (presentation by Julie B.)

At present, we have the website www.underearnersanonymous.org, to which is linked the WSC website <https://sites.google.com/site/uaworldservicecommittee/home>. A tech-savvy UA member has also created the site www.9thTradition.org (which is also reachable as www.ninthtradition.org). The advantage of 9thTradition.org is that, as a WordPress site, it is easy to update without special website building expertise.

The previous members of this committee have resigned, but others have indicated interest in taking their place.

(See also “The Tech Committee”, a document prepared by Julie B.)

Sponsorship (presentation by John V.)

A sponsor is only to help the sponsee with the Steps. The sponsor is not a therapist, a marital counselor, or a friend (though that could come later). The only guarantee is that the sponsor has had personal experience doing the Steps.

What is the responsibility of a sponsor to a sponsee? Only to carry the message, not to carry out the message. The sponsor also has to be doing maintenance steps.

People should not be “telling on people” to their sponsor.

Thirteenth Stepping (moderated by Bella A.)

A number of members have received unwanted sexual advances from other members, a problem that happens with sufficient frequency that it is sometimes called “Thirteenth stepping”. The degree to which this is a problem was discussed.

(break for dinner)

A Committee of the Whole (moderated by Matt B.)

After dinner, we met in what was effectively “a committee of the whole”. Here, the entire membership of an organization considers matters usually considered by one of the organization’s committees. During this time, certain motions and “sense of the membership” resolutions were passed. These are recorded separately.

Service Structure :

We considered the following questions, and we suggested the answers in italics:

1. What is the GSB? How do we define it? (Nucleus of structure will show also what is NOT the GSB) .
 - *Custodian of the Traditions*
 - *Administrative body to spearhead work brought to UA as a whole*
 - *Provide support for meetings, committees and Intergroup*
 - *Uphold decision making, to be implemented by the GSRs*
 - *Serve as group conscience for higher service*
 - *Consistent message*
 - *Carrying a vision, with a mission statement*
 - *Legal Custodians*
 - *The only purpose of the GSB is to foster individual recovery, both directly and by setting up an infrastructure that supports recovery and outreach. Fostering direct recovery includes all matters pertaining to our current meeting phone bridge, as well as a series of guidelines for best practice in working the program, especially the sponsor/sponsee relationship, best practice for running meetings, and the preparation of UA specific literature. Also included is the availability of speakers, for both live events and for pre-recorded qualifications. Infrastructure includes maintenance of the*

UA website, so that meetings can be listed, literature can be distributed, and service documents can be posted. There also needs to be a robust procedure for dealing with the press, and all relevant legal issues.

- GSB Historian?

2. What is the mission statement for the GSB?

(was not discussed)

3. How does the GSB make decisions?

- GSRs meet and send their decisions to GSB, who then checks it against the Traditions and sends back their response

4. How/ When must a GSB Officer, Committee Chair, or GSR resign from the GSB?

5. How does the GSB remove Officers, Committee Chairs, or GSR's?

Bonus Questions:

1. What are we going to do about an annual meeting next year? (i.e. Phone Meeting)

2. How do we integrate the phone meetings into the World Service Conference?

World Service Conference:

We considered questions pertaining to future World Service Conferences, resulting in motions that are listed elsewhere.

(See motions list)

Respectfully submitted,

Ea W., WSC Secretary