

WSC 2014 Conference Report from ARD Tony L.

SUNDAY

We start the conference with an orientation and a review of terms and a get together to get to know each other and meet the World Board Members. Kind of a meet and greet. This day basically gets us to know the logistics and tells us what to expect during the week. Not a lot of information for you today but it has been very helpful for me to get familiar with what to expect. Said the serenity prayer 25 different languages to open it up. Really sparked my awareness what a worldwide fellowship this is!

MONDAY

Total present 130, voting 112

Today we start old business, decisions on proposals will be taken by "Straw polls". Decisions on motions will be by vote.

Motion 7 is to allow us to change the way we do business during conference loosening the rules so we can have more discussion and try to be more conscience's based in the spirit of what happened at the last conference. This is basically an exception to the rules vote just for this conference. 77 yes 33 no this motion received strong support in the straw poll.

We did some housekeeping proposals Z & P next. Sorry, I can't keep up typing but these were about binding world board to the proposals YES and splitting the question NO

Motion #8

Approval of the minutes from last conference. Unanimous approval.

Motion # 2

Seating only one delegate at the conference

Strong opposition.

Motion #3

Remove automatic funding of delegates, move to request funding policy

At this time the fun really started, we got tied up in several proposals and a ton of procedural questions from the people that it was not going their way. We final adjourned for the night at 11:34 pm

Tonight was basically discussion on all these issues and straw polls to get a feeling of where the body is. It was a pretty grueling day and night since we will do our actual voting anyway in

Formal Old Business Tomorrow. For me it was very interesting but not very spiritual as it seemed some people were saying the same thing over and over and not following the facilitators' instruction. I did hear a lot of different views from the RD's that spoke. It was a real long day and I am absolutely exhausted.

TUESDAY 4/29/14

Only RD's vote/ no world board votes today

Votes starting at 10:45 AM on Formal old Business

Motion #7 to suspend/change the rules for this conference

94 in favor 16 opposed simple majority

Motion # 8 to approve last conference minutes

Motion passes with unanimous support 11:30

(Things seem much better today, we are doing business appropriately)

Motion # 1 Draft approval IP #29

Motion passes 74 yea 56 opposed

Motion #2 Reduce seating to one delegate

Motion fails

Motion # 3 Funding of delegates

Motion passes yes 64 opposed 44

Motion # 4 to continue towards CBDM adding GSF to be included in the guide to local service to establish further direction

Motion passes 78 yes 28 opposed

Motion #5 about the LSC adding it to the LSG

Motion passes 76 yes 33 opposed

Motion # 6 continue in this direction with the service material

Motion passes 75 yes 33 no

At the time that the motion language of 4, 5, & 6 was changed to be amended to be included in the guide to local services as an alternative and did not take out the old language changing the

guide, the body seemed to become willing to adopt these motions. This was accomplished by motion #7 allowing flexibility in the rules. Even though only a simple majority was need they all passed by a 2/3 majority.

Couple of side notes:

Philly convention newcomer policy was abused at the World Convention. Lots of dishonesty that resulted in people that actually needed it not getting it. The Board will try to make sure this doesn't happen again!

I asked Shannon to update our regional online schedule to World so we can make sure the information is current. It seems that requests for meetings online are way up. He so graciously agreed to take care of that. Thank you Shannon!

Next was the HRP report Page #22 in guide to world services

They did a presentation about how the selection process works; if you have five years clean you can enter the "Service Pool" on line at NAWS. If anyone needs a little coaching as how to do this with the best results please feel free to ask me. The instructions can be found in the handbook and online where you fill out the application at NAWS.

Naws is really two companies in one. A publishing company and a service company. We really spend more on the service side than the publishing side. The sales of literature are the way we generate most of our income. We are always looking for ways to ask if we are doing this to further the Vision of Na. how are we going to fulfill our mission in the future in this changing world and growing fellowship? We are having some issues now about people printing our literature unauthorized and are in flux as to what we are doing about it besides letters asking them to stop. We have given out about \$600,000.00 in literature as of 2013.

Bottom line here is that no changes to our lit or the guide to local services have been approved. No changes have even been proposed. The passing of motions 4, 5, and 6 means that the work will continue to draft language to propose. More will be revealed on where this is going.

The conference has spoken, therefore the fellowship has spoken it will to continue on with the SSP, The over 2/3 support on every motion means this is a clear desire of the fellowship as a whole. The support of the amendments making this a clear choice instead of a mandate should begin a unifying process for a fellowship that has been torn and divided over this project.

WEDNESDAY

This day was pretty boring. We went over the financial report and as of March 31, 2014 NAWS seems to be healthy. We still have a lot of challenges with a growing fellowship and literature sales at a plateau. They have actually slowed down a little this last year. Remember Lit is our

main source of income. The financial report is complicated and available at NAWA website if anyone wants to review it. It was hard even for me to understand reading of it. Any particular questions you might have, I can get you your answers. The afternoon was taken off and a field trip to the Ranch was arranged. I choose to not spend the money and went to my room for about a 3 hour nap. Frankly I was whipped from the previous few days.

THURSDAY

This morning we start out on the other side of the rooms in the round tables. The WB Chair is discussing changes in the guide to World Services and the process of decision making and guidance between business sessions of the conference. How can we gather your ideas and input between conferences?

It is at this point I propose to Doug that we make a motion to expand the role of our zones to workshop some of these issues between conferences. We go ahead and submit my motion during afternoon business. Turns out 46 other motions have submitted for new business so Friday should be another busy day. Now we break for elections and a new World Board member and co-facilitator have been elected.

Turns out we are in small table discussions the rest of the afternoon until 7:30. It seems that there is a lot of interest in moving toward some sort of Zonal representation so again, I am not inventing a new wheel here. I submitted my motion before we even started talking about zonal representation. We were asked for examples of what a new structure for our fellowship might look like? There is an abundance of knowledgeable participants here and we had three WB members in our roundtables working with us, it amazes me the amount of talent that goes into the work we do. We broke out into several small rooms with maybe 40 people in each room and small tabled this question. It absolutely amazes me that all rooms (four different groups in each one) came up with some form of a zonal body. We finished our contribution around 7:30PM. As a result of doing service at this level I am continually amazed at what we are capable of doing, There is an abundance of leadership skills and it is very empowering to be around this to further my understanding of NA as a whole. I want to again thank our fellowship for the honor to represent Alaska at this level of service.

This is the Motion we had submitted earlier in the day:

Motion Proposal BK from Alaska Region:

For world Board to consider zonal body formed geographically with a vote based on addict population of that zone meeting every two years before the conference. This body will work on such things as "NA NEEDS" that we round tabled day before yesterday having extensive discussion groups that can come to a conscience that can be voted on at the meeting. This vote would be used at the beginning of the conference to get a feel for the body. The zonal reps could

then roundtable and have discussion to get a conscience before the body. This would or should shorten discussion during the conference as a group conscience would already be known.

FRIDAY

Opening in the rounds today around 9:00 AM

We start by going over what we came up with yesterday in our round table sessions which were all about moving to some sort of Zonal representation. We looked at all the different models that we came up with. There is lots of enthusiasm in the room. We look at first model:

- 1) Conference moves around the fellowship more.
- 2) Zonal representation but this needs to be defined better (probably not today's zones).
- 3) Change to a three year cycle (some discussion about the possibility of following and combining conference and the World Convention). No conscientious on this, Have meetings virtually between conferences, may not have to be face to face
- 4) Participants would be members from each zone. Maybe elect board members from each zone?
- 5) As we grow some of our development could be initiated in the zone and eventual come up through conference. Service Lit could be generated/ and or adapted locally. More zonal autonomy in this respect. Strategy, plan projects based on need. No standing committees but have project based workgroups based on need. PR: More empowerment for the zone to do PR within it own zone. Some power would remain with world such as WHO? Some component of sharing best practices within and between zones.

The second model that we came up with would be similar but at the continental level. This would allow for a component much like the current region/local service and involvement at a continental level, but world body would be selected at the continental level.

The next group came with basically the same options with variations within that. Virtually we all came up with some type of Zonal representation models. One discussed a regional representation for transition. Predetermined zones by ad hoc committee, A nomadic conference. Attendees would range from two to five per zone or 50 to 100 delegates at the conference. Function would be; Projects, administration, strategic planning. We talked a lot about fear within the fellowship. When asked if we were surprised about the outcome of this experiment we said NO. When asked if this would surprise your region most said YES.

Third group was the Latin American delegate's Spanish speaking group. They were concerned about language and communications. Language can be difficult to translate. Lit distribution, mentoring and training also surfaced as issues with this group. Envisioned Zonal bodies with

kept regions intact. A world body elected from Zones. Multicultural committees formed by forums. Trusted service rotation every three years and planning around a global vision.

{There is lots of creative energy happening in the room}

Next Group: Main focus was called geographic district.

This was avoiding calling it a zone so not to be confused with what we already have.

Still included representation and service delivery meeting every 3 to 5 years. This would be focused on some global issues but most of the work is focused on the zonal level. Consistence in design across zones, but given a lot of Autonomy. Local needs addressed, Zonal or regional Conscience. Some discussion on mirroring EDM in following convention in conjunction to the business meeting of the zone. Zone a place to share best practices, Share successes and benifet from each others experience. Discussion on separating the business side of the work and the spiritual side or principle side.

How do we get there/

Develop a project plan? Maybe 5years with lots of conversation both ways at the group level?

NO SURPRISES!

Seat all regions for a time in the interim so All voices are heard?

Have a well framed discussion with the Board involved?

Maintain current processes while working on the transition?

RDs the main participants in this?

Next group:

Some thought the zones are not ready/

Strengthen this understructure before putting this much on them?

Get the need for a new service model for world service communicated in a clear and convincing way. Need to get the fellowship to the table on these issues.

Next group; do this over a long period 4 to 6 years. Get the zones up to speed maybe working with the strong ones first

Higher power would be a good start followed by fellowship support. The groups are ultimately responsible. They may empower us to do the work but they need to be on board with what we are doing!

Most zone are not currently ready to function at this level. Need to define new boundaries for zones and work with them as to their purpose. Multicultural focus is important. Maybe a ten year plan or whatever an empowered work group comes up with.

Whatever we do each of us needs to be an example of open-mindedness and unity when a conscience is reached weather we agree or not. Fellowships buy in and involvement is a must if this has a chance to work from the very beginning! Maybe have locally held workshops to establish local level involvement to start with?

Saturday morning

This is the last day of the WSC. This is a session run by the World Board in which they go down a list of things that happened this week and state what they believe these things mean in terms of actions to come, or next steps, or just state their current understanding of the conference's position on certain issues that were addressed and/or straw polled. Where there's any ambiguity, they straw poll the body. They use the results of this session heavily throughout the cycle as a temperature of the conference's will when formulating decisions and actions. The second involves recognition and goodbye and all of that, particularly geared toward participants for whom this is their last conference (JFT).

We went to bed last night with New Business motions still on our plate. We decided we were just too exhausted and it was getting too late to have productive discussions and decisions. So this morning, starting at 9 AM, we will be going through the last several new business motions.

*Please see Doug's report for the rest of the motions, I am super busy at work and this is what I able to come up with. I think I should not delay submitting my report.

Thanks for allowing me to do service at this level.

Tony L. Alternate Delegate