

**Draft  
Trustee Literature Review Meeting  
Friday Feb. 2nd**

**Attendance:**

Danette Banyai  
Donna Marcus  
Jack Berstein

**WSO Staff:**

Steve Sigman  
Bob Stone  
Mary VanEvery

**4:00pm - 5:45pm**

1. Danette opened the meeting with any concerns regarding budget - none stated since this topic was discussed earlier in the full board meeting.

**2. Discussion on additional members**

The Traditions Ad Hoc Committee - several individuals for consideration, one definitely added, one probably won't be able to attend, one has some journalistic qualifications but lives in England, could be a problem with monthly meetings, no decisions made and will consider some other members

**3. Discussion on translation issues and concerns**

Danette asked Bob Stone for the items that need immediate attention.

Bob - spoke about the Miami workshop and the decision by the participants to make changes based on their collective experience. They changed their minds in the course of their work and started to improve how the sentences were written along with translating the language. This points out the need to establish some type of policy and then to abide by it. The French translation issues were not addressed by world services and so we don't know how they approached these types of problems.

Jack - thinks that as much as possible a literal translation is the best method but while this is not possible, how can we determine who can say what. For example, if we Americans took the basic text would we agree on what the meaning was for each sentence? He thinks not. In the Spanish translations it appears that a U.S. member and Spanish member think that the writing is not simply improving the text but actually changing the concepts in a significant manner.

Danette - it seems obvious that the Americans cannot approve of anyone's translations nor determine the problems with it.

Jack - our review and input stage points out the dilemma of how we all think something should be said - so language translations deal with that issue as well as the actual translation itself.

Donna - feels that fellowship maturity of the participants plays an important role as well, in grasping the concepts within the writing and also how to reflect that in the written language.

Bob Stone - this is the very problem he foresaw and that whomever makes these kinds of decisions will vacillate between one or the other perspective - also there will be revisions in other languages like we have had to reflect the growth and maturity of our own fellowship. Both the U.S. and Spanish member who have read the Basic Text in English have had similar conclusions about the translations - and there has been some question about the perspective of members who learned English as a primary language with Spanish as a second versus members who have learned Spanish as a primary language - that could pose some differences about word choices too.

Bob Stone - handed out a copy of the existing practice of the WSO regarding their policy on printing the steps and traditions.

Danette - asked whether or not this policy would take care of translation problems as well.

Bob Stone - it could if a translation committee understood the plan and action for translations. Two years ago at the WSC, Jim W. read this plan and asked for concurrence on this plan but did not get actual WSC approval, it was a matter of no negative response to his request.

Discussion continued on the viability of this Translation Advisory Committee, when to activate it, clarification needed that this is an advisory committee to the WSO and not a WSC or WSCLC committee. Some mention made about Garth's proposal to form a trustee international committee - everyone seemed to think that the advisory committee could be effective in handling problems, and would broaden the perspective of the members of that committee.

Bob Stone - relayed information about the slower pace of the Spaniards and how they are unable to work as fast and that their work will essentially be geared toward the Spaniards. After they complete the I.P.s, they will begin work on the Basic Text. He also discussed how different language and culture populations will determine or warrant separate publications (some I.P.s and the Basic Text). The economic feasibilities of multiple dialect translations is unsound, although the WSO may have to take a loss for some languages - for others it won't be feasible. In some countries where there are two or three main languages (like Belgium with its versions of French, German, and Flemish), they will have to use the closest major translation. The Miami workshop has pointed out the need for compromise on language usage.

#### **4. International Discussion**

Bob Stone - spoke about what has happened in other countries when the groups in that country have been put in contact with each other. Usually, these groups have little or no knowledge of one another and their contact is with the WSO. However, when they have enough stable groups, they need information about each other. When that happens, they will want service materials, and all the other things that go along with those items. Mexico has reached the point of growth where that is going to happen. Two years ago in India, the WSO sent all the existing groups notification of each other. This coincided with Father Egan's work with Mother Teresa and his work at opening a center for drug addicts. The church inaccurately printed some N.A. literature which prompted immediate action on the part of the WSO.

Letter from Russia - response draft from the office can be sent which would allow more time to study the complex issues and questions presented and to allow all the

trustees time to submit any input or suggestions toward a more lengthy, informed response.

Additional discussion about methods of collecting information about other countries. Many social, political, and economic factors need to be considered when planning foreign trips or responding to queries. Many universities, libraries, or governmental agencies have useful information that can be valuable for our needs.

#### **5. Discussion about written review of the literature development process**

Danette - brought up suggestion from Mitchell S., and Bob McK. regarding the trustees developing some drafts or letters about the literature process.

Jack - spoke about the underlying competition that seems to be expressed between the traditions and steps group. It appears that a faction of the WSCLC thinks that any literature guidelines should be applicable across the board to all committees and that the different motions regarding guidelines are antagonistic to each other. So, he doesn't feel it would be advisable to write anything on the literature process at this time.

Donna - agreed and thinks this would be more appropriate coming from the full trustee board rather than the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee.

Meeting closed usual manner

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