



GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

AREA 30
DELEGATE

December 23, 1994

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To: Betty James & Bruce Bates
Chairperson & Alternate, 1995 Report & Charter Committee
Jim Estelle, General Service Board Chairperson
Michael McPherson, AAWS, Inc. Chairperson

Re: Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Conference Charter,
1995 Report & Charter Agenda Request

Dear Betty, Bruce, Jim & Mike,

At the recent Southeast Regional Forum in Biloxi, Mississippi, December 2-4, I shared my concerns with this issue with Southeast Regional Trustee (and AAWS, Inc. member) Gay Garner. Gay's comment was that the issue would be addressed if a current Conference member requested that it be placed on the 1995 Agenda.

Therefore, after several weeks of research, prayer and consultation, as a still current Conference member, I would request that:

The 1995 Report and Charter Committee review Article 2 of The Conference Charter, paragraph 4, page S31, (1994-1995) A.A. Service Manual for consideration of a conflict with Tradition Four (Long Form) and Warranties Three, Four, and Five.

Rationale:

While the advisory Actions (#53) of 1987 and (#60) of 1988 *appeared* to be in the best interests of AA in the US/Canada and Worldwide, is this a case of seeming good being the enemy of the best? The actions, in effect policy changes, did negatively affect A.A. in Mexico. Did we have the spiritual authority to do this?

I would add to this Rationale the last paragraph and six questions raised by the current General Service Office General Manager in the "Timeline" on Mexico that he compiled and mailed to all Conference members as part of the September 23, 1994 AAWS, Inc. "Highlights": (I quote)

"the Mexican situation may be unique in that there are two A.A. entities purporting to be general service structures. This raises the question as to whether we should consider amending our present policy, i.e. should we license both Mexican entities?"

If we were decide to do so, we would have to consider the following:



1. How would it affect the Mexican AA situation if we reversed our position regarding Mexico after 7 or 8 years? (in fact, 25 years after the initial agreement?)
2. How would it affect AA structures in other countries which until now, have been exclusive licensers?
3. Would we have to change our licensing policy regarding translations (as distinguished from distribution)?
4. In general, would a policy of licensing any AA entity which called itself a General Service Board foster unity in a foreign country or encourage disunity?
5. Would such an action encourage actual or self-described AA entities in the US/Canada to demand licenses or to infringe?
6. Would such a change in policy require a further modification of the Conference Charter?

To continue the Rationale, the situation in Mexico is not an "outside issue". Almost nine years after their formation, the "new" General Service structure (Seccion) still exists and is growing. As we step into 1995, the legal and spiritual entanglements in Mexico are the direct consequences of actions taken by the US/Canada Conferences, and our (US/Canada) involvement is not over yet. There is more to come.

Please believe me when I say that requesting this to be added to your already full Agenda did not come easily. The softer easier thing to do would have been to just walk away and use the cop out, "well I'm rotating out. Not my problem any more!"

I can't do that. I was invited to spend Thanksgiving Weekend with the General Service Board of Seccion Mexico and 7,000 sober GSRs, DCMs and AA group members representing 2,400 groups. They are as much "AA" as we are. I don't pretend to have the perfect solution for a very complicated issue, but I would sincerely ask that all of you consider this Agenda request carefully. Perhaps a look at the principles in Steps 10 & 11 can guide us all.

To be of help (I hope), knowing how long it took me to track down and research all the information, I've added a brief "Background" summary for you.

I would appreciate hearing from you.

With love in Service

Bob McElroy
Panel 43 Eastern Massachusetts



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cc: Report & Charter Committee, Panels 43, 44, 45
Agenda Committee, Panels 43, 44, 45
Valerie O'Neill, 1995 Conference Coordinator
Ann Bruning & Don Weaver, Trustees Committee on Conference
Jake Ham, Northeast Regional Trustee
Gay Garner, Southeast Regional Trustee
Southeast Regional Delegates, Panels 43, 44, 45
Statement of Censure Signees, Panels 43, 44, 45
General Service Board, Seccion Mexico
General Service Board, Central Mexico
Members 1994 13th World Service Meeting, Cartagena, Columbia
Pat Rosenstiel, General Service Office Staff
George Dorsey, General Service Office General Manager
Michael Alexander & Gordon Patrick, Trustees Emeriti
JoAnne Frey, Panel 45 Eastern Massachusetts
John Egan, Panel 45 Alternate Delegate, Eastern Mass.