

1995 Report & Charter Committee Agenda Request (12/23/94)

Background:

(The following summary was extracted from the 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988 Final Conference Reports; The Resource files at GSO, the September 23, 1994 AAWS "Highlights" Report and timeline in "the Mexican situation")

1985, Staff report, International/World Service Meeting stated: "To protect AA's copyright, careful consideration is given to granting overseas boards and centers permission to print AA – Conference – approved literature. A request should come from the board: and before any printing begins, GSO first explores the way the material will be financed and distributed. The request for permission to print or reprint is then presented to AAWS" (NO CONFERENCE ACTION)

In February of 1986, General Manager, John Bragg reported to AAWS, Inc. that AAWS's exclusive licenses to the General Service Boards of other countries would be revised so as to grant each the authority to police infringements in its own country. In November of that same year, a new form of license agreement was developed giving licensees authority to sue

(Please note: there are no 1986 Conference Advisory Actions to support these policy changes, nor any reference in the General Service Board's report that it was consulted)

I have been informed that the "Background" for Advisory Action #53 (1987) came from a sub-committee of the General Service Office the primary focus being paragraphs 2 and 3. However a 4th paragraph was added which put into place an important new policy statement:

"In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the US/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure."

(note: Again, the background material is not clear as to whether the General Service Board voted to support this policy change *before* it was referred to Report & Charter.)

In 1988, Report & Charter had 16 Advisory Actions, among them #60.

At the risk of offending a number of people, I would like to take exception to the conclusion reached in the September 23rd (1994) AAWS "Highlights" (page 3 of the "Mexico" timetable):

"there after, from 1987 through 1990, we worked with Central Mexicana to ensure their exclusive license position was properly documented, and would enable them to proceed against Seccion in their own name. *The General Service Conference appeared to agree with this general policy, evidence by the 1987 revision of the Conference Charter (which was affirmed in 1988)*" That's like saying it "appeared" that the 1989 Conference "agreed" with the now infamous Merit Pay footnote, when in fact, most members of that Conference have readily admitted that the issue blew right by them, (rubber stamped) only to resurface over the next three years and create a considerable amount of controversy.

In looking over the 1995 Agenda request and this background summary, I would ask that you also consider Tradition Four, Long Form and Warranties Three, Four, and Five. Also please see the Christmas communication from Seccion Mexico (attached)

Thank you.