



## WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BULLETIN

Bulletin 004

### WSC Legal Review Request on Screen Sharing

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The attorney was asked if the current language in the GWS prohibits screen-sharing. The response we received was that it does unless specific permission from NFGH, Inc. is granted. (Letter on page 2)

Screen-sharing was not considered when the GWS was written, and the Board of Trustees (BOT) cannot give this permission without specific authority being given it by the Nar-Anon Family Groups. That said, in-depth research must be undertaken by the Nar-Anon Family Groups to consider the implications of screen-sharing permission on copyright protection and the financial health of the World Service Office (WSO) before such authority can be given to the BOT.

The major portion of financial support to our WSO comes through the sale of our literature. It does not come from member donations. The staff at WSO are paid employees. Very few members have volunteered their time to working in the office. It has been hard to maintain staff because the wages we can afford are far below the prevailing wages for the needed skills.

New literature materials approved at the World Service Conference amounts to an average of 3 – 4 items per cycle (every 2 years). Due to covid-19, the last cycle was extended to 3 years without any new literature becoming available for sale. At the same time, both donations and literature sales fell precipitously. As fiduciaries, the BOT must consider the effect of making substantial portions of our Blue Booklet available for free.

The only requirement for membership in Nar-Anon is a problem of addiction in a family member or friend. Some members come once and never again. Others stay for a short time. Few come back year after year. It will become very difficult to maintain copyright protection if many individuals were to be given free access to one of our main publications.

The fellowship voted to allow no more than 25% of conference approved recovery literature to appear on websites. This was in order to protect our copyrights and maintain our financial health. The BOT cannot override this policy. We ask the fellowship to carefully consider all the implications above before proposing any changes to this policy.



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Cathy Khaledi  
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Dear Cathy:

As requested, I have reviewed the pertinent part of the Guide to World Services (“Guide”) provided to me in order to answer a specific question; specifically, “does the Guide prohibit screen sharing?”

From my interpretation of the relevant sections of the current Guide found on pages 26-27, screen-sharing of the copyrighted work would be characterized as a “retransmission,” and thus prohibited absent written permission of NFGH, Inc.

Warmest Regards,

  
 May L. Harris, Esq., M.A.  
 Founding Partner | CEO