

## ***Regional Delegate Report: The South Florida Region's FIPT Request to the World Board***

“Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communication.”

Due to the unbelievable success in the growth of the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship we ironically have a huge problem with effect communication to the fellowship. When I came into recovery in 1983 there was one meeting and handful of members. Today, the Greater New York Region, represents 12 Areas and approximately 700 groups.

This leads to my report, concerning the South Florida Region's, Fellowship Intellectual Property motion to the World Board. Some members have asked me (Bob W / Regional Delegate) : “What's going on?”. Every single person, some in support and others in opposition, not one member, that I've spoken to, has all the facts. Not one single member, that I have spoken to, has read any of the primary documents related to South Florida's motion. So, I don't need to say where everyone is going for their information, but I'll say it anyway: Facebook. As some of you may know: just because it's posted on FB, it doesn't necessarily mean its true. Please keep that in mind, I've included a file with the primary documents “related to” the FIPT request in my report, the FIPT file itself, is on the [NA.ORG](http://NA.ORG) site, and I strongly suggest you read these documents.

1) April 17th, 2017, South Florida Region (SFR) presents a “ten bullet point” FIPT inspection request to the World Board.

2) August 29th 2017, the World Board (WB) responds to the SFR, requesting a clarification on the motion. Simultaneously, the WB mails of all pertinent documents to World Service Conference (WSC) participants, stating that they will seek direction on how to proceed.

3)The response by the the SFR, to the WB, via the SF Regional Delegate ( RD):

“There will be no official response from my region until (at least) after our December RSC, when the motion referred to our ASC's has been voted upon. The decision was reached at our October RSC that the concerns as outlined in our initial inspection request letter of April 17, will be unaltered except for the possible removal of the eight concern (world convention expenses). Of course, like any decision reached at an RSC meeting, they can be changed, modified, etc. at subsequent RSC's upon a 2/3 vote to do so.”

4) This means, the SFR's response ,to the WB request for “clarification”, has not yet been “officially” agreed upon by the local groups, so its not yet an actionable motion.

There are some facts, which I would like all the RCMs to convey to their Areas:

The motion from the SFR to the WB, is not your typical, everyday, NA Service Body motion: **it's a legal request**, which involves an interpretation of the FIPT by the the SFR. Part of this process, if it does not get resolved, will include a fellowship wide discussion about the SFR's interpretation of the FIPT. Its worth noting that this is an unprecedented request, so both parties are headed into uncharted territory. At this time, there is no definitive estimate of cost related to inspection.

The NA fellowship can, if they see fit, challenge decisions and/or give direction to the WB. With the SF FIPT request, the WB has already communicated, that they will seek direction at the 2018 WSC. To date, the actions taken by the World Board, conform to the NA service guidelines. The World Board is disputing the SFR's interpretation of the FIPT. All this falls under the scope of the WB's fiduciary responsibilities connected to the duties of their service positions. The WB is communicating with the Regions and has stated that, at the 2018 WSC, it will seek direction, as it pertains to the request and the actions of the WB.

There are other concerns pertaining to the SFR's FIPT motion, which the WB has not mentioned, which the RCMs should hear and discuss with those they serve: The SF Regional FIPT motion has flaws, which brings its meaning / intent, into conflict with the 12 Traditions: the SF FIPT request contains unsupported accusations which promotes an atmosphere of "us and them". The divisive language used in the FIPT request is fermenting disunity. This reading of the SF FIPT request, its accusatory character, has been noted by other Regional Delegates and also local members. Disunity caused by unsupported accusations, may not have been the SFR's intent, but their motion, is a concrete document and contains those defects in its development.

Furthermore, the SF FIPT request also seeks to overturn, a fellowship wide WSC conference decision: WSC 2016 CAR motion related to line item accounting for the World Convention.

"Motion 5: That all Financial Reporting for the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous be provided in a detailed line item format and not in a summary as is currently available.

Failed 34-76-1-0

The SFR FIPT request, if unchallenged, would establish a precedent, that FIPT could be used, to circumvent WSC decisions: A single region could dictate to all the other 114 seated regions.

Part of the subtext, to the SFR's motion, is WB accountability and transparency. Members that support the SF motion, do have both rights and legitimate concerns. We almost all agree, including the World Board trusted servants, that there is room for improvement. However, in NA, we do not live by the adage: "The ends justifies the means!". Part of the World Board's dispute concerning the SF's interpretation of the FIPT , is that it goes beyond the scope and / or intent of the FIPT. This WB's opinion, is based upon FIPT legal consultation to the WB. The World Board's asking the SFR for "clarification", giving SF time to fully appreciate the ramifications of what they are requesting, is an appropriate WB action. It is done for the protection of NA as a whole. The FIPT request, as currently written by the SFR, does not leave the WB with an option to just comply; It must be challenged. These positions are both stated, in the WB's response to the South Florida Region. I concur with these positions and arrived at them, prior to and independent to the WB's response.

In conclusion, at this time, because the South Florida groups have not formally approved the SFR's FIPT request, it is not yet an actionable motion. This means, that there isn't anything specific for the Greater New York Region to do, at least until the SFR's motion becomes actionable. The WB is in communication with both the South Florida Region and also the Regional Delegate Teams. If there are any questions and/ or, if any Areas wish to express a position based on current information, please bring your concerns to the November Regional meeting.

Bob W / GNYRSC /Regional Delegate