

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE
LITERATURE COMMITTEE
MAY 1979

* ORIENTATION SHEET *

Thank you for your interest. We have begun work on a basic text for the program of Narcotics Anonymous. We are members who recognize the need and the opportunity to serve. We realize that our work will be incomplete without the input of every NA member with something to offer. In the Spirit of the Fellowship, we hope to attract and to involve members of Narcotics Anonymous from all areas with concern and talent who are willing to set aside personal differences in love and service to the addict who still suffers. It is necessarily their place to let us know of their desire to be of service and our place to welcome their interest and participation.

We are asking that members within each area of the fellowship form a literature committee and/or contact us immediately. To secure this material without giving offense to those we serve, we should practice the principles and develop our own humility, tolerance and patience. Practicing these principles may help us to remember that the book is a giant Twelfth Step for us all. Committees or individuals can work on articles and pamphlet material, tape and transcribe NA speaker meetings and special topic discussion meetings, or just note down thoughts and feelings as they occur. Through correspondence, phone calls and personal visits between different areas, we can keep in touch and feed back to one another. Get into action and send in material now!

For the book, we need complete and accurate material relating directly to NA recovery. Real, personal experiences and the spoken tradition should form the basis for our text. The personal experiences of learning to live clean and sober will provide examples of how it works that should be useful to others in recovery. The spoken tradition is comprised of those things we say to help others achieve NA recovery. Many members have written down things that might be of use to others. This material should be sent in now.

To get results we are trying to set achievable goals and break the work down into steps or stages. The first stage we see is developing and collecting material. The second stage will be composition and arrangement of the material into a useful and natural order. The third stage will involve review of a working manuscript by literature committees and individual members. There are four main ways to contribute that have worked so far. They are also things that almost any NA member can do at some point in their recovery.

The following four ways allow any willing NA member to contribute or participate:

I. Articles and pamphlets will support and illuminate the process of NA recovery. Inspired members and groups will contribute their insights and viewpoints in this way. Work on the pamphlets will reveal some amazing people and groups who want to serve but just don't think they have a way to get involved right now. God willing, we can change that.

II. One liners and paragraphs can be worked into the text during the composition stage. We need to start accumulating them now. Many of us are writing down things as they occur to us at meetings or in fellowship. We have many pages of notes of this sort; we need more.

III. Material transcribed from tapes of NA speakers and topic discussions will allow many thoughts and feelings to be included that don't often occur to us in writing. Special care and consideration is called for in this area if we are to avoid breaking someone's anonymity. We need material on member's experience of NA recovery, not war stories and details of a personal nature.

IV. Stories of Na recovery telling what it was like, what happened and what it's like now will serve as resource material for the basic text. Many of these stories will likely appear in the first edition. It may be helpful to emphasize those things which gave us early help in recovery, experience with the principles and the Twelve Steps or would help a newcomer identify with our program.

It is important to pass on your material as soon as it is completed or when you stop working on it. This way it will be available to other literature committees. Communications between literature should include minutes of meetings, tapes and transcripts, and unfinished material. This raw material is exciting. Only by honestly applying ourselves to the footwork do we provide our Higher Power with the opportunity to guide us towards completion of a book incorporating the best we know of recovery from addiction in the program of Narcotics Anonymous. We combine in this effort for our own recovery, for our newcomers today, and those sure to come.

In Loving Service,


Bo Sewell, Chairman

Please direct correspondence to:

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