

March 1, 1983

To The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

Re: Changes/Deletions/Corrections in the Basic Text  
of Narcotics Anonymous

In November 1982 inaccuracies were noted by the World Service Office of NA, in the basic text "Narcotics Anonymous" which was then scheduled for publication. At that time a special meeting of the Chairpersons of the three Service Branches of Narcotics Anonymous, WSC, WSB, and WSO was called. At that meeting the inaccuracies in chapter 6, involving traditions four (4) and nine (9) were corrected.

On February 12, 1983 due to difficulties with the printer involving misuse of monies paid in the amount of approx. \$15,000.00 the art work, type sets & negatives were removed from the printer by the WSO Board of Directors. During the course of a meeting by the WSO Board on February 17, 1983 called to discuss the selection of another printer for the book, the Chairman of WSC demanded that the corrected/deleted/changed material be returned to its original form as approved by the 1982 World Service Conference. The WSO Board complied with the WSC Chairman's demand. At this point the Chairman of the Board of Trustees protested that decision, and the WSO Board then voted to turn the material over to the WSB for their consideration and recommendation. During the course of the week that followed the WSB reviewed the material and requested that WSO print the book as it was changed/corrected/deleted in November. The WSO Board went along with that recommendation.

The changes/corrections/deletions are attached and revolve around the fact that the book as approved by the 1982 World Service Conference contain the following inaccuracies: In tradition four the book states that SERVICE COMMITTEES ARE NOT NA and later in the same paragraph states "ALL ELSE IS NOT NA" clearly indicating that they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous. The book further states "whether to utilize these services is up to the group". This would allow any group to do whatever the group chose to do and continue to call themselves an NA Group, leaving the fellowship no recourse but to allow them to do so. Any group could use any literature they choose to use in meetings. The use of literature other than NA literature in meetings has been a problem in the past. This is but one of many problems that could surface in the future should the book be printed as approved.

In tradition nine it states that NO SERVICE COMMITTEE OR CONFERENCE has the power to decide anything. It is our belief that this statement would negate the entire service structure of NA, and hence have the potential for creating anarchy within the fellowship. Finally the line stating that SERVICE COMMITTEES ARE NOT A PART OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS places the service structure outside of Narcotics Anonymous, outside of the traditions and hence not subject to the will of the fellowship. We believe that the inclusion of this material in the book would create immediate and long range problems for the fellowship, seriously threatening the unity of NA and therefore recommended to the WSO Board that this material not be included in the book.

We believe it was not the intention of those members of the Literature Committee who selflessly devoted 100's of hours and \$1,000's of dollars to provide the fellowship with our book, nor those members of the Board of Trustees who personally worked on and reviewed the material, nor the fellowship who approved the book, to place the Service Structure outside the Traditions or the dictates of the fellowship.

We deeply regret the oversight and the controversy that has evolved around this material. We are, however thankful that WSO discovered these inaccuracies. To the best of our knowledge no other changes/deletions/corrections were made in the book.

In Loving Service,  
Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sally Evans", written over a horizontal line.

Sally Evans  
Chairperson, WSB