

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

16155 Wyandotte Street

Van Nuys, CA 91406

WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE



Fellowship Report January, 1985

The most important priority of the World Literature Committee this year has been the compilation of the step/tradition book entitled IT WORKS: How and Why. The Committee has held two different workshops for this purpose over the past year.

The first draft of this book was completed shortly before WSC '83. At a June '84 workshop, held in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Committee completed the second draft of the manuscript. The draft was then evaluated by the members of the World Literature Committee and Literature Review Committee throughout the months of July, August, September, and October. Comments, suggestions, changes and other input from the Committee members were compiled and worked at the Literature Conference held in San Diego, California, in November. At this conference, the third draft of the material was completed.

The third draft was sent to the Literature Committee members for a final evaluation before being sent out to the general Fellowship for review. This measure was in keeping with our goal to send out only the very best quality of literature. The World Literature Committee looked over the manuscript one more time and recommended that it be sent out to the general Fellowship at this time for review and input.

We want to emphasize to the Fellowship that we do not view the manuscript It Works as a completed project. We are distributing it to the Fellowship for the purpose of encouraging review and additional input. This work-in-progress will be available for review for a period of nine months, during which time we strongly suggest that N.A. members read it carefully and send input to the Literature Committee as to how it can be improved.

It is also the concensus of the Committee that a professional writer should be employed at this stage of the process. This writer will use the existing manuscript, together with additional input from the Fellowship, to prepare the approval form. The final form will be evaluated at the annual meeting of the Literature Committee in November, 1985, before it is sent out to the Fellowship for approval. We are committed to providing the Fellowship with top-quality literature and, as trusted servants, we believe this is the best way to accomplish the task set before us. Again, we reiterate, this manuscript is a work-in-progress. Please do not prepare to vote on it at this time, instead send us your comments on how to make it better.

We intend to actively solicit input, especially from some of N.A.'s long-term members who have valuable experience in applying the principles of the steps and traditions. Because it is often difficult for members to send written input, we plan to utilize other means, such as taped interviews as well as all written input. In this past year, we have actively sought out and utilized the guidance of long-term N.A. members through the World Service Board of Trustees and Literature Review Committee.

There are two other new pieces of literature available for review and input by the Fellowship. They are: Welcome to N.A., and The Loner: Staying Clean in Isolation. These two new pamphlets are enclosed for your use. Please look them over in the next few months, and send in your input to the World Literature Committee. We are particularly interested in comments regarding how to improve these new pieces: Specifically, what needs to be added, deleted, changed, expanded or clarified. The World Literature Committee will collect the input and implement it at the regular November meeting in the fall of 1985.

We want to thank the Fellowship for the time and effort you put into reviewing the previous three pieces of review-form literature. We received a substantial amount of input on Self Acceptance, Handbook for N.A. Newsletters, and Revised-Physician's Viewpoint on the N.A. Program. This input was utilized in the compilation of the approval forms of these three pieces of literature. The approval forms have been prepared and are available from the World Service Office. Please read them over the next year, as they will be brought to the floor of WSC-86. An addendum order form is enclosed for use in ordering approval-form and review-form literature.

There have been quite a few new literature committees formed in the past six months. Approximately 60 percent of all the regions now have regional literature subcommittees, and many have active area literature subcommittees as well. Most of these committees work primarily in the areas of stockpiling and distributing N.A.-approved literature, compiling local meeting directories and producing local newsletters. Most of them also conduct open meetings for N.A. members to review and contribute input on the approval-form and review-form literature. They receive regular reports from the World Literature Committee, and pass along this information to the members in their respective areas and regions. They also keep the World Literature Committee informed of their activities, and this helps to coordinate communication and promote unity.

The World Literature Committee is continuing its efforts in maintaining and expanding its resource files. Most of the material in these files is extracted from various newsletters

which are sent to the World Literature Committee. The resource files contain materials on many different topics pertinent to recovery, such as abstinence, addiction, acceptance, anonymity, change, denial, easy does it, fellowship, groups, growth, honesty, etc. These source materials are used in developing new pieces of literature. In addition, a file is maintained for each newsletter. Depending on the issues received, we maintain complete sets of all N.A. newsletters. Very soon, we will begin microfiching these files for archival purposes.

We are sorry to report that our Vice-Chair, Bud K., has resigned. His resignation was necessitated by personal matters, and we wish him the best of luck in attending to his priorities. A Vice-Chair Pro-Tem has been elected to serve the Committee until WSC-85. She is Susie S., from the Pacific Northwest Region. Welcome aboard!

We have received some comments from members regarding the Basic Text. A certain amount of controversy is apparent; some members complain that the book is poorly written, hard to read and amateurish, while others state that the book was divinely inspired and is perfectly adequate. The World Literature Committee has no opinion on any of these comments. We do, however, offer a simple answer. We have begun a process wherein all literature produced by the World Literature Committee will be professionally edited prior to typesetting. This will ensure consistent and correct use of grammatical structures such as punctuation, spelling, capitalization, gender and number usage, etc. This process will begin with the Basic Text. This process will not, however, include rewriting the text. Major content changes such as revising, inserting or deleting concepts or ideas is a more complicated process. The Procedural Guidelines for the Creation and Development of New Literature, which were approved at WSC-84, allow for the revision of approved literature at least every five years. Any comments or suggestions for the revision of the Basic Text should be directed, in writing, to the World Literature Committee. These comments will be collected and utilized in a future workshop for this purpose.

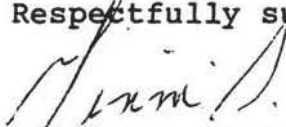
Some of the projects we are considering for the upcoming year include the revision of several previously-approved pamphlets: Am I An Addict?; The Group; A Guide to the Fourth Step Inventory; The Use of Medication in Recovery; Recovery and Relapse; and The Literature Committee Handbook. In addition, several new pieces have been proposed, including a daily meditation guide entitled Just For Today; two booklets tentatively entitled A Resource Guide for the Trusted Servant, and The First Three Steps, as well as a pamphlet entitled To The Medical Profession. The World Literature Committee receives many different suggestions and proposals from various members and committees in the Fellowship.

Other projects suggested include special interest pamphlets directed to female addicts, gay addicts, addicts in the helping professions, parents of addicts and addicts in the armed services. Each of these proposals, as well as all others received, has been considered by the World Literature Committee. However, we must limit ourselves to a manageable number of projects that we honestly feel can be completed in the next year. For this reason, a list of ten has been compiled, and will be submitted to the World Service Conference for approval at the annual meeting in April, 1985. We feel that submitting a list of priorities to the Conference will ensure that our work is directed in accordance with the conscience of the Fellowship. We will also continue to evaluate and accept input for the other nonpriority items which will be utilized at a later date.

This report has summarized the work done by the Literature Committee this year. Following this section is a list of the motions which will be introduced by the World Literature Committee at the World Service Conference. Please discuss them in your areas and regions, and bring your group conscience to the Conference.

We would like to thank the Fellowship of N.A. for your ongoing support and encouragement. The World Literature Committee has always been a focal point for the interest and attention of N.A. members, and we receive a great deal of comments, both critical and congratulatory. We try to take all of these comments in stride, keeping you informed of our activities, soliciting your input, and doing our very best to respond to the wishes of the Fellowship. We wish you all another year of continued recovery through the Program of Narcotics Anonymous.

Respectfully submitted,



Ginhi S., Chair
WSC Literature Committee

Enclosures:

- 1) Addendum order Form
- 2) Welcome to N.A.
- 3) The Loner