
To: The Fellowship

From: Bryce Sullivan, Chairperson
WSC Literature Committee

Introduction. The WSC Literature Committee (WSCLC) has continued to be very active this conference year. The WSCLC has met two times since the last *Fellowship Report* in August. The Steps Ad Hoc Committee has also met once during that same period of time. This report will briefly cover the WSCLC meeting in September and the Steps Ad Hoc Committee meeting in October. The remainder of this report is a detailed reporting of the committee's work in St. Louis and our preparation of material to be included in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

September WSCLC Meeting. As I reported in August, at the close of our August 4th and 5th meeting the committee was virtually deadlocked on how to proceed with the development of the Steps portion of *It Works*. While part of the committee felt we should continue last year's step ad hoc process, the other part wanted to change the process itself,

to include special workers. The committee felt that the literature guidelines could be interpreted in a way that limited our ability to include the involvement of WSO staff in our drafting efforts. Without a clear consensus, the committee felt that the use of staff in these circumstances was questionable.

An ad hoc group was then created to evaluate our guidelines and develop recommendations to the full committee for possible changes. They were also directed to make recommendations for work on the steps portion of *It Works*. This ad hoc committee met in late August and developed recommendations for changes to the section of the guidelines regarding the committee's use of special workers. They also developed an outline for a WSCLC ad hoc committee to continue with the work on N.A.'s step book.

At the September meeting of the WSCLC, each of these recommendations was accepted with some modification. Other projects the literature committee worked on were: *For Those in Treatment, In Times of Illness*, and the *N.A. Group Starter Kit*.

1982-1989 It Works Report. The WSCLC decided in September to release a comprehensive report to the fellowship covering the development of *It Works* from 1982 to 1989. I wrote this report with assistance and review from three past WSCLC chairpersons. The intent of this report was to inform the literature committee about many of the events which have occurred in the long developmental history of our step book. Most of the committee members were unaware of much of this history simply because of the yearly change in membership. There hasn't been any way for new committee members to learn about the WSCLC's past work and decisions. That is what I attempted to do with this report: present past events, as best I could, for a historical overview.

The *It Works* report brought up many issues with which the committee has grappled. These issues need to be resolved with the assistance of the World Service Conference. Rather than discuss these issues again, I encourage you to study the *It Works* report and to engage in local discussions on it. If, for some reason, you have not received the *It Works* report dated October 13, please contact the Literature Department of the World Service Office (WSO) and they will mail you one.

The WSC must take responsibility for the literature development process it created. The reports developed by our boards and committees must be followed by decisive action at the 1990 World Service Conference. As part of my responsibilities to the WSC, I will continue to report my concerns as well as the concerns of the WSC Literature Committee.

I strongly encourage all of you to foster discussions of the problems we have continually encountered in the development of literature for Narcotics Anonymous. Besides the WSCLC, each of our service arms has been discussing these problems as well. These are the kinds of discussions that must take place at the 1990 World Service Conference. I believe a comprehensive and unified approach is needed.

October Steps Ad Hoc Committee. The WSCLC Steps Ad Hoc Committee met in October and accomplished a number of tasks. The agenda included: determination of purpose, audience, readability, style, and format for the book. The ad hoc group also established the remainder of this year's work schedule, in addition to development process recommendations. It should be noted that the Steps Ad Hoc Committee reports directly to the WSC Literature Committee through the WSCLC chairperson. The WSCLC holds the final responsibility for the work of the ad hoc group. The committee feels that maintaining this responsibility is extremely important, and we firmly agree that maintaining creative control is vital to assure the integrity of the steps book. The ad hoc group makes reports and recommendations, which the full literature committee uses to make decisions and/or recommendations.

At the November WSCLC meeting in St. Louis, the literature committee reviewed the work of the ad hoc group and generally concurred with their recommendations. The ad hoc group will meet four more times before the 1990 WSC. The first two meetings will cover broad discussions of content, including outline development. The last two meetings will cover specific review of the draft developed at the 1988 Chicago Literature Conference.

The next logical question is: How will the writing be accomplished? The ad hoc committee proposed to the literature committee that following the 1990 WSC, WSO staff be used for writing assistance. This will, of course, depend on the outcome of the motions that the WSCLC presents to the conference on the use of special workers. The ad hoc committee felt strongly enough about this assistance that they recommended and received approval from the WSCLC to use WSO staff for the remaining steps ad hoc meetings this conference year. However, WSO staff *will not* have any writing responsibilities. Instead, their role will be to assist the committee in preliminary decisions about the technical aspects of writing. They will then also be present for the critical discussions on the outlines and content. Using WSO staff now, in this capacity, will prepare the WSCLC, the Steps Ad Hoc Committee and the WSO staff for a more involved and cooperative relationship following the 1990 WSC. I will be making a formal request to the World Service Office Board of Directors for additional staff for this assistance. Let me again stress that the literature committee is not authorizing any staff writing prior to the 1990 WSC. The committee thinks it is important to begin the groundwork for these plans now to minimize any delays that would occur if we waited until after the 1990 WSC.

The literature committee is *always* receptive to input we receive on this and any other issues. As chairperson, I have made it a policy to mail to the entire committee all of the input we receive. To encourage open dialogue with regional literature committees and conference participants, the minutes of the Steps Ad Hoc Committee will be distributed after their review by the ad hoc committee and the WSCLC.

Literature Committee Guidelines. Modifications to the guidelines approved at our September meeting were reviewed in St. Louis. Concerns voiced by the Joint Administrative Committee were also discussed in detail. Changes to our guidelines are critical to our ability to effectively serve the WSC. The literature committee feels that changes are essential, if we are to have the resources we need to create literature for Narcotics Anonymous. All of the problems we have encountered cannot be blamed on the guidelines. Nevertheless, we have been forced to spend valuable time and resources trying to work within guidelines which we find too restrictive.

The committee approved changes to three sections of our guidelines for inclusion in the *Conference Agenda Report*. A revised section 6-G will be proposed which will allow more flexibility in the writing resources we can use. This section covers special workers and their use by the committee. This motion, if approved by the WSC, will allow us to use WSO staff as well as contracted N.A. members for writing assistance.

Revisions to sections 9 and 10 will also be included in the *Conference Agenda Report*. Section 9 covers the literature review process. Revisions made to this section remove the mandatory 6 and 12-month review period and allow the literature committee to determine a specific review time period according to the needs of each particular piece. Section 10 covers the literature approval process. Revisions made to this section will remove the mandatory one-year approval period and allow the literature committee to determine an appropriate approval time period of not less than 90 days.

All of these guideline changes will give the literature committee more appropriate responsibilities than currently outlined in the guidelines. The committee did not go so far as to propose a motion that the literature committee approve its own guidelines; however, this may be the best solution. It is unfortunate that we are unable to move forward while awaiting WSC guidance. Yet it is the reality of our current system, which has the conference approve guidelines rather than committees approving their own.

Starter Kit. The revised *Group Starter Kit* presented by the WSCLC at the 1989 conference was not approved. Instead, it was referred back to the committee for further work. After the April WSC, the work by the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service on the group chapter of *A Guide To Service* came to our attention. I asked the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service for permission to evaluate its work for possible use by the WSCLC on the *Group Starter Kit*. There were a number of reasons for reviewing this material. First, to assure that our work on the starter kit did not conflict with the work on *A Guide to Service*.

Second, we were interested in examining the possibility of using some of the material already developed.

The literature ad hoc committee responsible for revising the *Group Starter Kit* was favorably impressed with the work the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service had accomplished. Their draft on the N.A. group so closely paralleled our work on a starter kit that the WSCLC decided to use substantial portions of that draft. Some modifications were necessary to bring the draft in line with our current structure and terminology. Additionally, all references to the Twelve Concepts were removed. Because of the substantial use of their work, I formally asked the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service for either their concurrence with our changes, or advice against using the material. Although individual members of the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service voiced opinions both for and against our use of the material, the committee as a whole did not formally advise the literature committee either way.

The WSCLC decided in St. Louis that modifications to the starter kit should not wait another year. The starter kit plays an important role in the formation of new N.A. groups, so it should be updated as often as necessary to keep it current. Our present starter kit is obsolete in its content and format. Therefore, the committee has decided to present the WSC with the following recommendation. First, we are going to move for approval a new document, entitled *The Group Booklet*. This *Group Booklet* will include material from the *Group Starter Kit* (I.P. 18), along with the modified group chapter draft. The *Group Booklet* will not replace *The Group* (I.P. R-2); instead, it will complement and expand upon I.P. R-2. Second, we are going to request the WSC to direct the WSO to create an actual starter kit as an inventory item available for sale to members and service committees. This new Group Starter Kit will be a comprehensive alternative to the current I.P. 18. It would include items such as *The Group Booklet*, conference-approved I.P.s, the *Little White Booklet*, a group registration form, and a *Treasurer's Workbook*. The creation of an actual Group Starter Kit as an inventory item will eliminate some of the confusion created by the current starter kit. Our current starter kit is merely an LP., it only becomes a starter kit when other LP.s and forms are added to it. At this time many area service committees put together their own starter kit for new groups, similar to the material the WSO distributes on request. Having these items available through the WSO as a complete item would be an improvement over our current practice.

Area and Regional Literature Assignments. The WSCLC discussed a number of projects available as assignments to area and regional literature committees. Among these projects are items on our C and D work lists. The committee also discussed assigning the evaluation of our conference-approved I.P.s to local literature committees. We seldom receive input on approved literature and therefore lack guidance on when to propose revisions to our literature. A report will be mailed to all RSRs and registered literature committees in January regarding assignments. We are currently encouraging literature committees to continue working on the Traditions portion of *It Works* until the January 31 deadline.

The Daily Book. In April of this year the WSCLC devised a process which allowed us to proceed in the development of a daily book for Narcotics Anonymous. This process has general members of the WSCLC developing daily readings by using the input already in our files. These revised pieces are then reviewed by a review panel made up of WSCLC members, regional literature chairpersons, and a member of the Board of Trustees. The review panel, in a conference call, gives direction to WSO staff on further revisions or edits of the pieces.

The review panel for the daily book has had two conference calls in the past month. During the first call, the panel discussed a few of the basic issues concerning the audience, purpose, voice, and usage standards for the book. The panel also reviewed ten daily readings turned in by general members. Of the ten pieces reviewed, six were rejected and four were given to WSO staff for further editing.

During the second review panel conference call, a number of issues were discussed by the review panel. First, the edited pieces retained from the first call, unfortunately, fall short of what they considered acceptable as review-form literature. Second, the high rejection rate of pieces by the review panel is a concern. Third, the expenditure of conference funds and WSO staff time in this project with these results is a highly questionable use of resources. For these reasons, I proposed to the review panel that we discontinue our work, and present a full report to the WSCLC for their review and action. A report will be given to the WSCLC, including detailed input from each panel member. The committee will evaluate and possibly decide, at our next meeting, how to proceed with this project.

For Those In Treatment; In Times Of Illness. Working groups made up of members of the WSCLC, as well as area and regional literature members, worked on *For Those in Treatment* and *In Times of Illness* at the St. Louis workshop. These groups worked from the master lists of fellowship input on these two informational pamphlets. Using this fellowship input, the groups began work which will culminate in approval-form versions of both of these pamphlets. These approval forms will not be ready for release at the 1990 WSC, but hopefully will be completed during the 1990-91 conference year.

Spanish Basic Text Workshop. A review workshop to evaluate the Spanish translation of the Basic Text was held in Miami on December 1-3. I attended this meeting and came away with a better grasp of the issues relating to the translation of our literature. In some ways, this workshop was very similar to literature workshops with which I am more familiar. Translating our literature and creating new literature are both slow processes.

The current process, as used in the publication of the French Basic Text and now in the Spanish, appears to be working well. Review copies of the Spanish text were released in September to service committees, who fostered reviews by N.A. members literate in Spanish. Spanish-literate members who participated in this review came to the workshop with marked copies of the review draft from their local committees and N.A. communities. At the workshop, the committee went through the text line by line. Following this workshop, the completed work will be mailed out again for another review, with a second workshop tentatively scheduled for February. These meetings will continue until the Spanish text meets with the approval of the members who participate in this translation process.

This painstaking translation process points out the crucial need for the WSCLC, as well as the WSC, to encourage the development of quality recovery literature. Situations have already occurred where translation committees have translated editions of our literature which were, in a relatively short time, changed by WSC action. These changed or new editions, unfortunately, in some cases have the effect of making the translations unusable. We need to keep in mind, when writing or revising literature, the complex issues faced by our non-English speaking fellowship in their translation efforts.

Fellowship Communication. During the literature committee's open forum in St. Louis, communication was one topic brought up by area and regional literature members in attendance. A number of members voiced concerns that local literature committees are not being informed on a basis consistent with their needs.

The literature committee discussed our communication with local literature committees. The committee reviewed those items routinely mailed to regional literature committees. These include: the literature portion of the *Fellowship Report*, the *Newsline*, WSCLC approved minutes, as well as other correspondence from the WSCLC chairperson. The committee decided to add the minutes from the Steps Ad Hoc Committee to the material regularly sent to regional literature committees. One idea proposed at St. Louis was the creation of a WSCLC newsletter. If you have any input on this idea, please send any input to the Literature Department at the WSO. The Literature Committee will be examining this proposal at their next meeting.

Input from the fellowship is always highly regarded by the WSC Literature Committee, and all input received is reviewed by the committee. Each letter is responded

to, often with a personal letter from the chairperson. The responsibilities of the WSCLC are such that consultation with area and regional literature committees before decisions are made on many issues is not possible. However, we always remain open and receptive to the input you provide. Anything that occurs in the course of the committee's service to the fellowship is open to input by the fellowship.

To: The Fellowship
From: Dave Tynes, Chairperson
Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated N.A. Groups/Meetings

Greetings from the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated Groups. The committee met face to face for the first time at the WSC workshop in St. Louis, November 3, 1989.

The committee's meeting time was spent reviewing the second draft of the report to the World Service Conference. The report will include the following items: the general discussions the committee had regarding the existence, status, and needs of these isolated groups and meetings in institutions; background information obtained from the survey mailed to all RSCs and ASCs in May, along with information from the WSO H&I files; and our conclusions regarding this issue. The final part of the report includes a list of questions that arose in our discussions, that we did not feel were within our scope to address, but felt strongly that the conference needed to discuss.

The report will hopefully be finalized through a conference call in December in time for inclusion in the '90 *Conference Agenda Report*. The committee will not be forwarding any motions to be voted on by the conference. It is our hope that the report will generate wide discussion throughout the fellowship, and will be discussed extensively by the conference in April. However, being aware that motions may come from the floor of the conference regarding our report, we are including it in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

While the committee feels that we have barely begun to deal with this issue, it is our hope that we have at least begun to pave the way for these members of our fellowship to feel more "a part of" the N.A. worldwide fellowship.

To: The Fellowship
From: Reuben Farris, Chairperson
Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service

Another report from your Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service, and another deadline come and gone without a completed *Guide to Service*. The committee, at times, feels like we'll never complete this project. I'm sure the fellowship feels the same way. Don't be discouraged.

I have several items to discuss regarding the work of the committee, regarding both the Twelve Concepts and the yet-to-be-released *Guide to Service*.

Twelve Concepts for N.A. Service. We are beginning to receive input, both from regional workshops and from individuals, regarding the Twelve Concepts. Most of the input has been of a conceptual nature, and not line-by-line editing. Such conceptual input