

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
(818) 780-3951



To: 1990 World Service Conference
From: Bryce Sullivan, Chairperson
WSC Literature Committee
Date: April 1990

The 1989-1990 conference year was a productive, although frustrating year for the WSC Literature Committee. The committee started the year facing very real problems regarding the structure of the 1988-1989 Steps Ad Hoc Committee, as well as problems in our literature development process. These seemingly insurmountable problems encouraged the committee to examine some basic structural issues of the steps book while awaiting guidance from the World Service Conference.

There are many issues which directly affect the literature committee's ability to effectively serve that will be discussed in this report. In many ways this has been another transition year for literature and I hope to clarify this transition in a way that will be easily understood.

IT WORKS: HOW AND WHY--THE STEPS:

This year started out with some tough decisions that were made concerning the work of the Steps Ad Hoc Committee. These decisions and a historical review of our progress on *It Works: How and Why* was included in a comprehensive report distributed in October of 1989. We hoped that the report would give conference participants the information that would allow them to make knowledgeable decisions regarding this project. I will not reiterate the information from that report; instead I will review what took place this year and where it has led us.

Following WSC 1989, the process begun in the previous year that had developed the three L.A. step drafts was scheduled to continue. However, before our first meeting a number of concerns came up about the use of the volunteer professional writer in this project. There were three main problems, which led to a fourth and even larger problem. The first three problems were: 1) concerns that ad hoc committee input was not being properly integrated into the drafts; 2) misgivings that one member's voice was being reflected too strongly; and 3) concerns about the perceived negative tone and style in the L.A. drafts. When these problems, and the possibility of bringing in additional writers to rewrite or modify the drafts, were discussed with the volunteer writer a fourth dilemma was encountered. This was the unwillingness of the writer to work in either a group writing process or with additional writers.

In the development of Narcotics Anonymous literature, any individual writer must be willing to release their work unconditionally. This has always been and will always be true. Although we should be mindful of the feelings and needs of volunteers who

give of their talents, our responsibilities are to Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. Because of the writer's staunch position, there seemed no alternative but to offer our thanks to the volunteer, and to continue along other avenues in developing the steps portion of *It Works: How and Why*.

In June, I recommended to the committee that we use WSO staff, on a trial basis, to assist us in writing the steps book. I submitted a comprehensive proposal which included a three tier structure with the following components: 1) The WSC Literature Committee to provide broad direction, review, consultation, and decision-making for the book's development; 2) A WSC Literature Steps Ad Hoc Committee to provide additional guidance and specific direction for the book; and 3) A WSO staff team to provide primary writer(s), along with staff editing and review of the work.

Underlying this recommendation was an emphasis on committee responsibility and authority for the project. This was not a proposal for the WSO to write our step book. Rather, it was one where the ideas, concepts, and deeper meanings contained in our Twelve Steps could be communicated to a skilled writer under direct committee supervision. After two committee meetings, the WSCLC ultimately decided against using a staff team approach until the WSC could assemble and give us direction.

Because of the halt in draft production, the WSCLC was able to turn its attention to vitally important aspects of the steps book previously ignored. These aspects included the purpose, audience, style, format, and readability needs of the steps book, as well as a variety of other issues. All of these issues should be determined before writing actually begins. In the past, these issues have been determined by happenstance rather than by committee planning.

The committee used an ad hoc committee to develop this groundwork. The Steps Ad Hoc Committee is structured to be accountable to the WSCLC and consists of the following members. The chairperson and the vice chairperson of the WSCLC have been regular members of the committee. Six members have made up what has been considered a primary group. They are: Michael Lee (Northern California); Vince Daley (Chesapeake/Potomac); Cathy Rhyne (Lone Star); and Tom Catton (Hawaii); with two members appointed from the WSCLC, Mary Jensen and Terry Ott. Additionally, Tom Boscarelli (Arizona), Jim Nichols (Iowa), and members of the WSCLC have rotated through the committee. I would like to thank each of these members for their participation. Particularly helpful to our work has been the participation of the past two chairpersons of the WSCLC. Their knowledge and understanding of the fellowship's input on our steps book, as well as their individual skills, have been most helpful to the committee.

The Steps Ad Hoc Committee met five times this past year. In October, the issues of style, tone, purpose, etc. were evaluated. In December, the committee began outlining the Twelve Steps, with preliminary outlines completed in January. In February, the committee began fleshing out the outlines, which continued to the April meeting. (These outlines will be distributed to conference participants for their information.)

Comprehensive reports were presented to the WSCLC following each ad hoc meeting so the committee could stay informed of and responsible for the work. These reports have also been distributed to conference participants and regional literature chairpersons. Information about the work of the steps ad hoc group has been generated and distributed to conference participants unlike any other literature project. *Fellowship Reports*, special reports, *Newsline* articles, it seems like there has been no

end to the reports distributed about *It Works* this year. Although the work load in developing and distributing these reports has at times been exhausting, the result has been a thorough and complete accounting. Any conference participant or regional literature chairperson who has wanted information about our progress has merely needed to read these reports.

An important aspect of the Steps Ad Hoc Committee which must be reported to the WSC is that of committee continuity. The steps ad hoc group and the WSCLC both agree that continuity is essential, and have discussed it a number of times. Rather than take formal action on this issue, I have encouraged the literature committee to be responsible for this matter. I believe the chairperson should retain the ability to change the make-up of the ad hoc group, but any changes should be made after consultation with the WSCLC. Currently, we have six primary members of the ad hoc group. I believe an additional member should be added to this group following this conference. This would bring the primary group to seven, along with the chairperson and vice chairperson of the WSCLC and additional members as needed.

The WSCLC and the steps ad hoc group have finished the preliminary work and are now ready to begin the drafting process. We need assistance to do this. Speaking for myself, I would be at a loss to know how to continue developing a step book without the assistance of skilled writers.

There is one last item concerning *It Works*. That is the matter of the book's completion. Certainly, there are sound reasons for setting goals for ourselves, both as individuals and as committees. Perhaps in the coming year when the committee begins the writing process and can gauge their progress, the matter of a work and time schedule can be made. At this time, predictions, estimates, or "guesstimates" would be premature and irresponsible.

FOR THOSE IN TREATMENT and IN TIMES OF ILLNESS

For Those in Treatment and *In Times of Illness* are I.P. length pieces which have been literature priorities for a number of years. The input deadline for these pieces was May 31, 1989. This past year both pieces began as review-form drafts and are now nearing a final draft stage.

Input from 13 regional committees, 59 area committees and 9 individuals was submitted on *For Those in Treatment*, a total of 81 input responses. The responses for *In Times of Illness* were about the same, 17 regional committees, 40 area committees and 32 individuals, a total of 89 in all. This input was laboriously catalogued by WSO staff into files we call "master lists of input." A master list is a word processing file with all of the fellowship input categorized by page and line number. The master lists makes the use of this input much more manageable. The alternative to using a master list would be to sift through hundreds and hundreds of pages of input searching for all of the comments on each particular paragraph or passage as it is worked on. Even using the organized master list the committee had over 100 pages of material on each I.P. to consider. It is a tremendous job, and without the master list it would be virtually impossible to give any input due consideration.

The WSCLC began working on the final development of both I.P.s at their September meeting. At that meeting, working groups were assigned to each I.P. to develop a final draft. At the November committee meeting in St. Louis, working groups consisting of members of the WSCLC and area and regional literature members began the hands-on job of integrating the fellowship input into the drafts.

Integrating fellowship input is a painstaking task. This is particularly true of input in the form of rewrites rather than conceptual. Imagine the task of taking a rewritten paragraph, or an entire I.P., and deciphering the changes made to it. Often these rewrites give little explanation to the changes being suggested. It is up to the WSCLC to determine what the originating committee was thinking! Sometimes this is clear, but all too often it is not. To alleviate this dilemma, the committee is presenting Motion #12 in the *Conference Agenda Report*. Instead of asking for line by line input, we anticipate requesting more specific ideas, comments and suggestions.

During our February meeting, the committee continued to work on the I.P.'s. Both of these items may be released in approval form in the coming year.

N.A. GROUP STARTER KIT and THE GROUP BOOKLET:

In 1989 the WSCLC presented a revised *Group Starter Kit* which was rejected by the conference. Concern was expressed that the proposed *Group Starter Kit* was not as comprehensive as it could be.

With new direction, the literature committee quite naturally looked longer and harder at the content of the starter kit. While considering a starter kit that would meet the needs of N.A. groups and expectations of the WSC, our attention was drawn to the chapter on the group from the work-in-progress, *A Guide To Service*. We were interested in seeing how their work might assist us in improving and expanding our work.

The draft on the group so closely paralleled our work on the starter kit that we sought and received permission from the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service to use the material. Modifications were made to the draft to reflect our current structure and terminology. We also examined other I.P.s for any additional information that we could use.

As noted in the *Conference Agenda Report*, the *Group Booklet* is an integral part of a starter kit proposal we are presenting to the WSC. The second part of this proposal is the creation of a starter kit that will include the basic material a new group will need to conduct a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. We have not included the contents of the starter kit in the motion itself. This way, it can be changed and modified to meet the changing needs of N.A. groups. The kit would include items similar to what is currently sent out in starter packets by the WSO. These items include various I.P.s, White Booklets, a *Group Treasurer Workbook*, registration and order forms and a catalogue.

Our goal was to develop a starter kit and *Group Booklet* which would benefit newly forming N.A. groups. We believe we have accomplished this goal. If the conference adopts our proposal, then the approximately eight thousand starter kits distributed yearly will be more helpful to fledgling N.A. groups.

DAILY MEDITATION BOOK:

A Narcotics Anonymous daily meditation book has been a dream of many members for years. This desire is second only to a book on our steps and traditions. Accordingly, we have renewed our work towards this project this past year.

At the first WSCLC meeting of the 1989-1990 year, the committee approved a development plan which we had hoped would begin a review-form draft. The plan was designed to use the extensive fellowship input on file, along with the participation of general literature members. General members were asked to use the raw fellowship input to develop new or revised daily pieces. These pieces were then to be evaluated by

a review panel consisting of three WSCLC members, two regional literature chairpersons and one trustee.

Of our eighty general members, thirty-three requested participation on the project. We received a total of 89 daily entries from these members. Fifteen members actually turned in material. Out of the fifteen who submitted work only five contributed 8 or more pieces. Five others contributed between 4 and 6 pieces and four sent in 1 entry each on this project. Out of that number, a mere five members accounted for 69% of the work. We also had three resignations.

In November of last year, the review panel went to work evaluating the submitted entries. Three basic flaws were discovered by the review panel. First was the lack of conceptual focus. However, no specific direction had been given to the general members about the tone, content, and purpose of the daily book. Second, the review panel found that the material was poorly composed. Sixty percent of the entries were rejected based on these concerns. The remaining pieces would have required extensive editing. The third problem was our inability to use any WSO staff assistance for rewriting of the daily pieces. Because of these issues, we suspended our work on this portion of the project.

The full WSCLC discussed this project at our February meeting. We created a working group to evaluate the problems voiced by the review panel. This group worked on matters of conceptual focus, purpose, tone, voice, and audience in the weeks before the conference. Their goal was to present a report to the committee this week for further evaluation and planning.

The subject of composition quality is more difficult to resolve. Some committee members feel that better directions to the general members will produce improved daily pieces. Other members, including myself, believe that no matter how good the instructions, skilled writing will continue to be limited. To expect volunteers to consistently produce satisfactory work is irresponsible on our part and grossly unfair to our volunteer members. I want to emphasize that even though a daily book is far from being a reality, we have begun the initial work necessary to bring this project closer to A-list status. I expect that we will continue to make this our highest non-A-list priority.

LITERATURE GUIDELINES

As most everyone knows, the literature committee spent several meetings this past year discussing and preparing amendments to our guidelines. I would like to address the points that I believe are pertinent to this issue.

Although the committee was divided in their opinions about the interpretation of our guidelines, they did not believe that they had the authority to define for themselves what those parameters are. Our work was interrupted while the committee grappled with real or imagined reasoning for these particular guidelines. Without any clear cut authority to make the decisions necessary to proceed with our projects, we were compelled to refer any action and decisions to the next World Service Conference.

Whenever guidelines are used as a protective mechanism to be enforced like rules or laws we can expect a paralyzing effect on a committee's ability to accomplish their tasks. This is exactly what happened to this year's committee. We can expect a chronic repetition of this situation if we do not confront the real issues, one of which is the dilemma of conference-approved guidelines. The particular dilemma of the literature guidelines is that they were written in an atmosphere of caution, distrust and fear. The circumstances that led to this have been reported and continue to be debated.

Over the past few years, the WSCLC has expended great effort to maintain their integrity through increased reports, open forums, and solicitation of input from the fellowship. The Joint Administration Committee has also played a stronger role in the accountability of world service committees and board. However, the fact remains that our process is stymied by our past and the need is clear for guidelines that can change without a protracted fellowship-wide discussion. In my opinion, guidelines should provide general direction and guidance for a committee's work and decisions. We ought to trust our committees to use prudent and reasonable judgment in carrying out their assignments, ever mindful of their responsibility to maintain the integrity of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

I must bring out a few points about the motion to amend section 6-G, and the drafting and editing of N.A. literature. It isn't surprising that there is confusion about these tasks, given their highly technical nature. Our motion to amend section 6-G clearly states, "Special workers used by the WSC Literature Committee for drafting and editing must be N.A. members."

Drafting and editing are terms that describe a variety of tasks with varying levels of skill and expertise needed to carry them out. Essentially, drafting is writing, and ranges from original work to a synthesis of someone else's ideas.

Editing is a generic term that actually covers a multitude of functions. There are any number of manuals and books that give definitions and descriptions to all the ways in which editing is used. Even publishing companies have definitions that differ.

It would serve a committee such as ours much better to have the flexibility to apply the guidelines as they relate to individual projects. In this way the role of any editor(s), writing team(s), or review and approval periods could be tailored to meet the needs and expectations of each specific project.

The committee feels strongly that special workers used for drafting and editing should be members of Narcotics Anonymous. The committee thinks that a non-member, even if guided by the committee, could not adequately handle the subtle differences in the way we express our message from that of standard literature. The nuances of our program and terminology alone would prove difficult for a non-member to master. Editing is a very skilled task which in most cases includes much more than a review for spelling and punctuation. The current committee would not feel comfortable nor use a non-member for editing and drafting. We feel strongly about this subject. We prefer to send a clear message to our fellowship that we will only use N.A. members to assist us in drafting and editing rather than to somehow infer that we might use non-members in this capacity.

TRUSTEES AND THE LITERATURE PROCESS:

Last year the Conference assigned the traditions portion of *It Works: How and Why* to the Board of Trustees. Although this change was made to enhance the development of literature for Narcotics Anonymous, it has not been without problems. Perhaps the most obvious problem that has occurred with the start-up of the trustee committee system is the lack of a defined division of responsibility between the Trustee Literature Review Committee and the WSCLC. It became necessary for the trustees to coordinate literature creation and development, support area and regional literature committees, and to work on literature based on fellowship input. Traditionally, these tasks have been the responsibility of the WSC Literature Committee.

This conference action was meant to improve the opportunity for the development of this book. However, it also created some concerns, misunderstanding and confusion regarding the role of literature committees in this project. The trustees solicited input in a way that appeared to be dramatically different from what everyone was accustomed to. The WSCLC has used the same review and input format for several years and had already sent a lengthy memo about input development on the traditions to literature committees. It was only natural that these committees became upset over what was viewed as a deviation from the literature process.

There have also been some differences between the two committees about communication with the fellowship on their respective projects. However, both committees have sought to resolve these differences by increased inter-committee communication and attendance at one another's meetings. Nevertheless, I suspect that the overlapping functions of both committees will continue to contribute to the fellowship's frustration over this project. I will discuss this point later on in my report.

AREA AND REGIONAL LITERATURE COMMITTEES:

We have continued to see growth in the number of area and regional literature committees fellowship-wide. In 1987 the WSCLC chairperson reported to the WSC that there were 225 registered committees, in 1988 the number reported was 350, and at this time we have 433 registered literature committees. Communication to and from literature committees to the WSCLC has been extensive. It has become such a large responsibility that I have a separate section in this report on it.

Registered committees have two functions. The first and most important is literature distribution. The second is to provide support to the WSC Literature Committee in their development of literature. Other than the information provided in the *Handbook for N.A. Literature Committees*, we are unable to give much direct assistance to those committees involved in distribution. We have been more involved with committees involved in the review and development of literature.

The traditions portion of *It Works* was the only item available for input by literature committees this past year. Before the January deadline for input, registered committees began requesting other work. In response, we have given additional work assignments to any committee that has requested one.

At this time, we have sent assignments to over thirty literature committees. These assignments have come from our C and D lists (listed in addendum 4 of the *Conference Agenda Report*). A standard letter goes out with each assignment giving general guidance and a time-table for reporting and submitting work to the WSCLC. Given our recent experience with the daily book we are guardedly hopeful that these assignments will further the development of each piece of literature.

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION:

One of the most important and the most time consuming responsibility of the WSCLC is that of communication. I have broken this subject into three areas: 1) internal committee communication; 2) communication with world service committees and boards; and 3) communication with conference participants and registered literature committees.

Developing, writing, and distributing the reports and correspondence within the WSCLC is an immense daily task. To keep the committee informed and updated has

meant an ever increasing mountain of paperwork mailed to committee members. That correspondence has more than tripled from last year to this year. Correspondingly, this has given the literature committee the opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of the many issues we face. During the 1989-1990 conference year, the WSCLC received in excess of 1000 pages of material for review, evaluation and action. This included over 35 memos with attachments ranging from 1 page to 165 pages. The committee has received all the material possible to assist them in their duties. This has included all fellowship input and correspondence to the WSCLC, as well as my responses to any correspondence. It isn't difficult to imagine the amount of time it takes for literature members to review and evaluate all of that material.

Because of our priority on the steps portion of *It Works*, communication with the Joint Administrative Committee, Board of Trustees, and WSO Board of Directors has been particularly important. Correspondence with these boards and committees about our progress, problems, and possible solutions to particular dilemmas has proven most helpful. Thoughtful, careful attention has been the typical consideration given these issues by other world service committees and boards.

The third area of communication is with conference participants and local literature committees. This became an irksome area for the committee. Without a doubt, the catch-phrase for this conference year became "communication with the fellowship." Communication became a no-win situation with some portions of the fellowship. Regardless of the manner of communication, it was never enough for some registered literature committees or their chairpersons. During the past year, the WSCLC mailed over 150 pages of reports and correspondence to conference participants and regional literature committees. This material included all *Fellowship Reports*, special reports, committee minutes, steps ad hoc reports, and a variety of other correspondence. Area literature committees received about half that amount. We believe our reports accomplished their primary purpose, that of accurately describing committee decisions, and delivered in a timely fashion.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

We have had a very mature and responsible literature committee this year. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with these members. This isn't to say we haven't had disagreements. However, whenever we have disagreed we have been able to do so with an attitude of mutual respect.

First of all, I hope it is very clear that the job of a registered member is time consuming and demanding. This will continue to be the case because of the complex responsibilities of the WSC Literature Committee. As noted earlier, the committee had approximately 1000 pages of material to study, review, and evaluate over the past year. Administering a committee with this much material is, at times, mind boggling. As chairperson, I spent an average of three hours a day managing the committee. In addition to this, I have spent 23 weekends out of town on committee business. Even with this amount of time devoted to the task, there always seems room for improvement. Typically, the committee has received memos and reports about every two weeks throughout the year. Often, before a committee meeting, members would have up to 75 pages of material to study in preparation for the meeting. As the year has progressed, I, along with the WSO Literature Department, have made vast improvements in mailing this material to the committee in a timely manner.

Effectively utilizing committee members and their talents has been even more difficult than administering all of the other needs of the committee. The challenge has been to encourage, motivate, or cajole members to work at their peak. Throughout the year, I have continually sought committee input on matters great and small. Most of the time these requests for input were met with perhaps two or three committee member responses. Some of my requests went completely unanswered. Needless to say, this annoyed me greatly, and I discussed this a number of times with the committee.

There seems to be a fairly long learning curve that new members experience in understanding their responsibilities, and fitting these responsibilities into their life. However, even this does not adequately explain the lack of response about committee homework. Certainly the demands on the literature committee membership will not diminish next year. Hopefully, newly elected members along with those already on the committee will be able to use their talents to increase the productivity of the WSC Literature Committee.

We maintained a full fourteen member committee for most of this past year. I made four appointments to the committee due to vacancies, which were ratified by the committee. The following is our committee roster, broken down by term ending date:

Bryce Sullivan, Chairperson (Georgia)
Randy Farnell, Vice Chairperson (Central California)

Jim Buerer (Illinois)	April 1990
Mark Peters (Chesapeake/Potomac)	April 1990
Doug Wheaton (Florida)	April 1990
J.W. Hayes (Washington/N.Idaho)	April 1990 *
Laurie Miller (Georgia)	April 1990 *
Jane Nickels (Connecticut)	April 1990 *
Jeri Sarracino (Carolina)	April 1990 *
Eve Folkenflik (New Jersey)	April 1991
Mary Jensen (Iowa)	April 1991
Terry Ott (Virginia)	April 1991
Karen Lemoine (Southern California)	April 1991
Larry Steinhart (Michigan)	April 1991

(* appointed during the 1989-1990 year)

The committee has discussed making recommendations to the WSC for chairperson, vice chairperson, and committee members. We will address these at our Monday meeting at the WSC. Conference participants will be informed of the committee recommendations at that time.

COMMITTEE BUDGET AND FUNDING:

Adequate funding for meetings of the WSCLC has always been vital to the committee's ability to responsibly serve. In the early 80's, WSC funds were not available and the literature committee raised money on its own. At that time, the committee was a group with loose ties to the WSC. In the middle 80's funds were available for supporting the travel of the leadership of the committee, as well as to support ad hoc committee meetings for the *It Works* project. In the late 80's we reached a point where meetings of the WSCLC could be fully financed. Funding is imperative if the committee is to maintain appropriate responsibility over its duties.

The full committee met five times over the past year. Four of those meetings were funded. The funded meetings cost approximately \$5,900 per meeting. Steps Ad Hoc Committee meetings were held five times last year costing approximately \$3,500 per meeting. There was one consultation meeting on *It Works* costing approximately \$2,100. An additional administrative consultation meeting was held for about \$1,400. There was one meeting of an ad hoc guidelines group for about \$2,600. Funding for the chairperson and vice chairperson to attend all other functions related to their duties cost approximately \$7,000. Additionally, about \$6,500 was spent on administrative needs, copying, mailing, etc. This totals up to expenditures of about \$60,700 for the 1989-1990 year. This is \$10,600 below our budgeted amount. (Please see the WSC Treasurer's report for the exact amounts.)

Our proposed budget for the 1990-1991 year includes two fully funded literature committee meetings. Two other non-funded meetings will be scheduled for the two conference workshops. Additionally, seven Steps Ad Hoc Committee meetings are planned. Adding the expenses of the chairperson, vice chairperson and administrative expenses, the total baseline budgeted amount is \$60,600. The original budget developed for the upcoming year included a number of items which were removed to reduce our expenses. Removed from the budget was one literature committee meeting, three step ad hoc meetings, a reduction of ad hoc committee members by one, as well as all funding for regional workshops.

The work we do has a price tag. The WSCLC has the largest budget of any conference committee, and has always had more meetings than any other conference committee. In order to stay responsible to the fellowship, the entire committee must continue to take part in making major decisions regarding our projects. It should be noted that when the final draft of the approval-form *It Works* went before the WSCLC in 1985, only two registered members were present. Therefore, no objective review of the draft took place prior to fellowship distribution. The committee was virtually unrepresented because of a lack of funding. We cannot afford to let this happen again. Funding of committee meetings has improved continuity of membership and enabled many talented members to serve on the committee who might not have been able to attend otherwise. We are grateful to all of the service committees, groups, and members who have made funded literature committee meetings possible through their generous contributions to the WSC.

CONCLUSION:

I wanted a section in my report to the WSC as an outlook on where we might be going in the course of literature development. This question has been asked of me many times over the past year. Of course, this depends on the expression of a Higher Power at the WSC this year and in future years. Nonetheless, some points can and should be made.

There seem to be three basic areas to note where change seems likely. Those are: 1) The use of paid writers to assist world service committees in writing; 2) The role of area and regional literature committees in developing literature; and 3) The structure of world service literature committees.

I'll not belabor the point of using paid writers to assist committees in developing literature. I believe that there is a clear need to give committees the authority they need to get the job done. Volunteers have not been an effective means of developing

literature. If we continue with volunteers as our only resource, we can expect the same results as we have had in the past.

The role of area and regional literature committees in the literature process is ripe for change. There has been a dream that local literature committees can write literature for Narcotics Anonymous. However, this dream hasn't worked. The current system of literature review is wasteful and inefficient. To have over 400 committees receiving the same piece of literature to review just doesn't make good sense. A procedure must be found that will simplify the review process.

The primary purpose of area and regional literature committees is, and always has been, the distribution of literature. This a time when our service committees are desperate for members to support our phonelines, to help spread our message in the community, and support meetings in hospitals and institutions. We need to take a realistic look at the benefits of maintaining the people heavy, bureaucratic literature machine we now have, or alternative systems.

One additional item concerns the structure of world level literature development. As mentioned in an earlier section of this report, there is a lack of any clearly defined lines of responsibilities between the WSCLC and the Trustee Literature Review Committee. Clearly, there are extensive overlaps between the two committees. Each committee must use essentially the same process. Each committee must draw from the same resources. It would make more sense to have one literature committee with broad decision and oversight capacities that could administer a number of ad hoc committees that would do the actual work. Substantial authority would also need to be given to correspond with the responsibilities that such a committee would hold.

Finally, I would like to thank the WSC Literature Committee for their work. Mary VanEvery, the WSO Literature Coordinator, has done an exceptional job, thank you. Thanks also to Julie Kirkpatrick and the remainder of the WSO staff. Probably no one other than past literature committee chairpersons can understand the indebtedness I feel toward WSO staff assistance.

Thank you all very much for giving me the opportunity to serve Narcotics Anonymous as your literature chairperson. It has been a momentous year for me personally and I owe much of this to you.