

WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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TO: Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, JAC, RSRs and RSR
alternates, WSCLC, regional literature committees

FROM: Danette Banyai, Chairperson, BOT Literature Review
Committee/Traditions Ad Hoc Committee

DATE: January 25, 1991

RE: December meeting of the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee

The committee met during the weekend of December 14 - 16, 1990. Present were Danette B., Greg P., Mitchell S., Ceven McG., and Bob McK., committee members, and Ann Rider, Lee Manchester and Steve Lantos, WSO staff.

Friday, December 14, 1990

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. The first item of business was a discussion about the upcoming changes within the staff team assigned to the committee. Ann Rider, who has been serving as the primary writer, had informed the WSO shortly after the last meeting of her intention to relocate at the beginning of 1991. The options considered were reported to the committee, and Lee Manchester was introduced as the staff member who would replace Ann, starting in February, 1991. The committee was also informed that Lee's participation in the project was temporary, and that the WSO has already started to search for a permanent replacement. On a final note, the committee was informed that Ann was trying to complete rough drafts of Traditions Seven through Twelve prior to her departure. The entire committee voiced their regrets at her leaving, as well as their gratitude for her efforts and the quality that her writing had added to the project. Thanks were given her for her participation. In addition, there was some discussion about a shift in Ann's participation, from staff to a regular member. That idea was abandoned for the present, but the idea of having her receive future drafts for input seemed to be very desirable. So, if she is willing, we will hopefully be benefitting from her continued participation.

The next item for discussion was the work load for the weekend. The committee decided to review the first drafts of Traditions Five and Six first, then review and factor in the comments received on Traditions Three and Four. As the last item for this weekend's agenda, the committee would have discussions about Traditions Seven and Eight, and talk about their panel presentation at WSC '91 in April.

The first draft of Tradition Five was read aloud, and committee members gave general comments about the material in terms of content, tone, style, etc. The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:35 p.m.

When the committee reconvened at 2:00 p.m., specific comments were given about the first draft on Tradition Five. To help the staff team in their revision of the draft, the committee gave direction including the inclusion of integrity as a concept into the spiritual principles section of the chapter, and clarifying language regarding the message carried to the still-suffering addict. Additional discussion centered around the "home-group" concept; the need for the draft to reflect a closer tie between this and the Fourth Tradition; group inventories; and the relation between groups and the rest of the service structure. The committee then read the first draft of Tradition Six aloud and gave general comments.

There was a consensus within the committee that this first draft had missed the mark, in that it focused more on the second part of the tradition instead of the first part. The committee decided that once specific directions were given the following day, it would determine whether or not an entirely new first draft would have to be written. The committee adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 15, 1990

The committee's first item of business was the specific discussion about the first draft of Tradition Six. After lengthy and in-depth discussions about the components of this tradition, the committee agreed that the draft did contain a considerable amount of usable material, but that its major focus needed to be shifted. Some of the discussions included the need for more detail about the fellowship's autonomy from other outside agencies or other sources of influence (specifically treatment centers and clubhouses), and the need for an explanation of the importance of maintaining the integrity of our identity and message. The committee also discussed "money, property, and prestige" as not being inherently bad in itself, but as potentially destructive, in terms of diverting groups from our primary purpose. There was additional deliberation about whether or not to include the possibility of diversions within our fellowship as a result of "money, property, and prestige."

Next, the committee reviewed the input received from members of the BOT and the WSCLC on Tradition Three. The input was generally favorable. After reading through the second drafts aloud, the committee gave direction to the staff team to make minor changes within the draft. Two concerns were brought up again. First, there may be a need for examples within the material and, second, the perceived need for a historical perspective on the traditions. There was some discussion about these points, but the committee decided to stay away from presenting a historical perspective due to the variety of different perceptions and recollections that the membership may have, and to not include specific examples, for fear of dating the material. The committee adjourned for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

After reconvening at 1:45 p.m., the committee reviewed the input received on Tradition Four. Once again, after reading the draft aloud, the committee gave specific direction to the staff team to make minor corrections in the draft.

The committee was then given rough first drafts of Traditions Seven and Eight, prepared by the staff team based upon the original coded input. The drafts were read aloud, with the committee giving general comments afterwards. Due to the change in the staff team, the committee will have more in-depth discussions about these drafts at their February meeting.

Afterwards, it was decided that the committee's panel presentation would be the major topic of discussion for the following day. The final topic for the committee's consideration on Saturday was a member's request that the date for the next meeting be changed. After some discussion, the committee agreed to set the next meeting for the first weekend in March. The group adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 16, 1990

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m., with a discussion about the panel presentation at the 1991 conference. The committee decided that in their presentation to WSC '91, they would like to present an overview of their work including a brief history and, if completed, pass out the first six traditions to the conference participants. The composition of the panel, as well as the format of the presentation was also discussed, with the committee agreeing that due to the discussions about the project at the upcoming full BOT meeting, the final decisions would be made at their next meeting. The committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m.