

# WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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**To:** RSRs and RSR alternates, Board of Trustees, Board of Directors,  
JAC, and regional literature committees

**From:** Bryce Sullivan, Chairperson  
Steps Ad Hoc Committee

**Date:** September 16, 1991

**Re:** August Ad Hoc Committee Report

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The Steps Ad Hoc Committee met on August 9, 10, and 11. The members attending the meeting were Alden Irish, Tom Catton, Bobbie Schmaus, Jeri Saracino, Michael McDermott, Omer Gillham, and Andree Lafontaine. Dave Tynes, WSC vice-chair, also participated in part of the meeting. Cindy Sarnecky and Steve Lantos, members of the World Service Office staff team, were also present.

## FRIDAY

The meeting began in the usual way with members of the committee making general comments about the committee's work and work-plans. Since the June meeting was the first meeting working with Cindy as our new staff writer, we were each anxious to hear how other committee members liked the drafts of Steps Five and Six. Generally, the committee liked the drafts that the newly reorganized staff team produced. They were well organized and clear. The drafts were perhaps a little short, but the committee believed that adding material to the areas that needed further development would take care of that problem.

Our agenda for the weekend called for us to have five separate working sessions. Friday morning was set aside for first draft development of Step Seven, and Friday afternoon was to be spent developing the first draft of Step Eight. Saturday morning was scheduled for work on the first draft of Step Five, and Saturday afternoon we planned to work on the first draft of Step Six. Saturday evening we were trying a new meeting plan by breaking early for dinner and meeting 3 hours Saturday evening to work on Step Four. Sunday morning was set aside as a planning session and to finish any remaining agenda items.

We began work on Step Seven after taking care of the brief introductory matters. As we had discussed at the June meeting, the basic structure of each chapter would include a transition from the previous chapter, an identification section, a spiritual principles section, a section on application, and a conclusion.

These sections will not have headings, nor will they necessarily be noticeable to the reader. We spent the Friday morning going over the outline of Step Seven discussing each point in the outline and expanding the discussion where necessary.

In the transition section we discussed how the action of the previous steps leads to Step Seven. We also discussed how working the steps is a process, and yet, our task in writing this book is to write about one step at a time. In the identification section we discussed the role of humility in this step. Members had reviewed the Chicago draft before the meeting and some of us had portions to read to the committee that covered humility. We decided to incorporate some of the material from the Chicago draft along with the committee's discussion to develop the first draft of Step Seven. The spiritual principles of the step were discussed next. These included a deeper level of surrender, self-acceptance with courage, humility, patience with hope, and freedom. The application of the Seventh Step will cover such things as the nature of this process, and how its application isn't an intellectual endeavor. Sponsorship was also discussed in relation to Step Seven. The discussion stressed the ongoing relationship with God that is an important part of this step. The action of asking our Higher Power to remove our defects of character deepens this relationship. The conclusion of Step Seven included a discussion on how defects of character are removed. It was stressed that this occurs in God's time. Sometimes they are removed immediately, but this shouldn't be automatically expected as a result of working the Seventh Step.

Friday afternoon we developed material for the Step Eight draft. The transition discussion revolved around the natural progression that occurs from the willingness to make peace with ourselves and God in Step Six and Seven to the willingness to make peace with others in Step Eight. The discussion on the identification section centered in the fear and anxiety that sometimes blocks Eighth Step work, on to the courage that it takes to put someone's name on the list. Spiritual principles discussed included the beginning of forgiveness, courage, honesty, and willingness. For the application we talked about how the Fourth Step provides a basis for who we need to make amends to and how the Fifth Step with our sponsor clarifies this. As is a common experience in Twelve Step discussion meetings, we found it a struggle at times to stay on topic with the Eighth Step and not get over into the Ninth. As we review each of the step drafts we re-evaluate what each contains to make sure that we are staying on topic.

## SATURDAY

On Saturday morning we reviewed the first draft of Step Five. The committee was very pleased with the draft. The structure of the draft was seen as being more straight-forward than previous drafts and, as a result, it was easier to follow. We went through the draft paragraph-by-paragraph, making changes and developing concepts more thoroughly as we went. We didn't find it necessary to make major structural changes to the draft and, therefore, we were able to work fairly quickly through Step Five. We worked on Step Six in a similar manner on

Saturday afternoon and were able to finish our work on schedule before our dinner break.

At six o'clock Saturday evening we met to work on the third draft of Step Four. Due to the changes in the staff team following the WSC this draft was not completed early enough to allow time to solicit input from the WSC Literature Committee or the Board of Trustees before this meeting. The draft will be sent to the Board of Trustees and the WSC Literature Committee after this meeting and the WSCLC will utilize the input at their meeting in November. We were able to do our final modifications to the Fourth Step draft by nine o'clock that evening, in time for us to rest up for an early start on Sunday morning.

#### SUNDAY

Sunday morning we met at eight o'clock so that we could get in a few good hours before members had to catch their flights home. On the agenda for Sunday was the matter of consistency between Steps 1-3 and Steps 4-6, and future plans. Since Steps 1-3 were drafted by a different staff team member than Steps 4-6, we talked about ways to overcome any style inconsistencies. I had presented a plan to the committee whereby three groups of ad hoc committee members would work on modifying the first three steps to improve them. Basically, the plan was for three committee members to use input from the committee in making modifications to the three step drafts. Following the changes the committee would then review the drafts at home and phone in suggestions of further changes to the committee members in charge of making the change to the drafts. At the September meeting the ad hoc committee would then spend a very short amount of time reviewing the drafts. Following the September meeting the staff-team would copy-edit the drafts and then they would be submitted to the WSC Literature Committee. We all agreed that we would rather have the staff-team do any redrafting, but unfortunately, they have other responsibilities that preclude them devoting the time this would require.

The next item we discussed was the committee's work-schedule. The WSCLC will be meeting in November to review the first six step drafts. The production schedule then called for the ad hoc committee to incorporate the WSCLC's input into the drafts prior to the release of the drafts for review and input. There was some confusion over this matter at the ad hoc committee meeting that was straightened out by the WSCLC at the Tulsa WSC workshop. The process the first six steps will follow is that they will be reviewed by the WSCLC and approved for release at their November meeting. The staff team will attend the literature committee's meeting and make any changes to the drafts that the literature committee decides to make. This frees up some time for the ad hoc committee to move other steps forward in the process.

The final item on the agenda was the overwhelming number of responses that we have received from the pre-review drafts of the first three steps. We received over 100 responses on the first step and close to this number on Steps Two and Three. We really appreciate the time that you took to let us know what

you think about these drafts. There was a wide variety of responses that were elicited by the questions included on the survey forms. Over two-thirds of the responses indicating that the drafts are ready for review-and-input. The WSC Literature Committee will be utilizing the input that has come in to make changes to the review-form draft in November. Steps One through Six will be ready for a six month review and input period in January.

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