

**APPROVED WSC LITERATURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
VAN NUYS, CA
March 20 - 22 1992**

Friday, March 20-22, 1992

The World Service Conference Literature Committee met the weekend of March 20-22, 1992 in Van Nuys, California. Present were: Mary Jensen, chairperson, Alden Irish, vice-chairperson, Andree Lafontaine, Jane Nickels, Mike Cooley, Omer Gillham, Jeri Sarracino, Jorge Blanco, Jim Buerer, J.W. Hayes, Ceven McGuire, and Gretchen Deckard. Michael McDermott, a member from the Steps Ad Hoc Committee attended the meeting on Friday. WSO Staff included Literature Department staff Mary VanEvery and Julie Kirkpatrick, with Steve Lantos and Cindy Sarnecky attending the Friday session.

Friday

The meeting was opened in the usual manner at 9:00am.

Minutes - The committee approved the minutes with minor corrections from their November 1991 meeting. A short discussion took place regarding the format of the minutes and the committee agreed to a summary style format of future minutes. If a committee member has any questions about the summary they can ask for a copy of the transcript from the meeting.

Steps Review - The committee worked from 9:45am to 10:30pm on finalizing the review form of Steps 7 through 12. Michael McDermott participated in this session to answer any questions the WSCLC had regarding the ad hoc committee's decisions or the work itself. Each draft was read aloud, general comments were heard, and a page by page review was made by the committee. All revisions were noted by WSO staff Steve Lantos and Cindy Sarnecky. Overall, the committee's changes ranged from rearrangement of paragraphs to specific word choices. The committee directed that the edits as noted be made, and copies of the review form sent to all conference participants and regional literature committees. They also made a motion to formally thank the Steps Ad Hoc Committee along with the staff team for their efforts and work on this project. The meeting recessed at 11:00pm.

Saturday

The meeting was opened in the usual manner at 9:25am.

Workshops - Mary J. asked for verbal reports from each committee member who had attended any conference workshops. 8 committee members including the chair and vice chair attended a variety of sessions concerning conference business which included regional, multi-regional and learning day formats. Overall, the comments received about literature were positive along with questions about the worklist, assignment of worklist items, and new or original projects. Participants from at least two workshops wondered if the committee's motivation was due to the financial constraints suffered by the WSC and WSO this past year. The committee

discussed a concern expressed by several workshop attendees regarding the integration of input from a review form draft into an approval form. It was clear to the committee that this process isn't understood by the fellowship. Suggestions were made to clarify this matter, and Mary J. said that she would address this issue at the April conference. Mary V. also noted that she and Julie K. have spent a great deal of time talking with local literature committee chairpersons about how to conduct a review and input meeting more effectively. The WSCLC's format is commonly used as an example that invites participation. Most of the callers say that the handbook is confusing and difficult to use. Both Mary and Julie thought the committee could use the information in future discussions about the handbook.

In Times of Illness - The committee discussed input sent in that suggested adding a reference to Chapter 10, "More Will Be Revealed," from the Basic Text to the list of other NA literature at the end of the booklet. A motion was made and carried to that effect. Although the committee received other input regarding this IP, the input suggestions would have changed the content of the IP and the committee decided against making any internal changes to the document.

Introduction to It Works - Mary J. updated the committee on the ad hoc committee's suggestions about the introduction. They thought that some identification of the material for the newcomer would be useful. Perhaps some mention about what NA is, what the title means, and acknowledgement of all those who have contributed to the creation of the book. Sponsorship, God, and historical references were no longer seen as topics that needed to be included.

After some discussion about the preface, index and approval form of It Works the committee directed Mary J. and Alden to consult with the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee regarding their ideas on these matters. It was the WSCLC's consensus however, that the final approval form in the 1993 CAR should contain both the steps and traditions sections.

Copyright Discussion for JFT - Mary J updated the committee on the title search for the daily book and the attorney's suggestion that something would have to go on the cover to indicate that it was unique from the Al-Anon book of the same name. Staff informed the committee about the mock up size, color and the use of the NA logo on the cover. The committee preferred the symbol versus the logo, and staff said that they would give their suggestion to Anthony Edmonson for consideration. It was noted that the BOD would be making some decisions about the daily book this weekend and their suggestion could be considered. *{Anthony E. visited the committee later in the day and said that the WSCLC's suggestion to use the symbol on the cover was a good idea and it would be used instead of the NA logo.}*

Regional Motions - The committee then addressed the regional motions from the *Conference Agenda Report*. Alden said that although he called the maker of the Buckeye motions it didn't really clarify the issues. Apparently, the trustees have received a letter indicating that these were made by an individual and not by the region. The committee decided to reject motions #1 and #2 since these matters are already addressed in the literature handbook. The Alsask motion regarding a

proposed IP for "Seniors in Recovery" prompted a discussion about targeting special interest groups. The IP, *Youth in Recovery* was mentioned and someone noted that we all get old and die and it didn't seem to be a special interest issue. It was also noted that this region has a number of older folks in recovery. Members were not in agreement about whether this should be handled as a request or referred back to the region for further development. One member pointed out that the AA conference handles title proposals at that level. The committee finally decided to **reject motion #3**. The motion from G. Illinois was discussed and it was noted that a similar motion was rejected last year and that the committee prefers that literature not be revised on the conference floor. One member pointed out that the original wording used the word "will" which was changed to the word "can" based on the master list of input. Mary J. noted that in all the input received on this piece of literature that this concern was never presented. Mary J. agreed that a brief letter from the WSCLC to the region would be sent. The committee decided to **reject motion #4**. The committee next considered the motion from New Jersey. Although the committee generally felt that something regarding group conscience should be mentioned in the booklet they didn't think it was appropriate for them to do so at this time since this concept was a work in progress in the Ad Hoc NAS Committee. The committee didn't want to take the position of defining group conscience. It was decided to **postpone consideration of motion #5 to a definite time pending approval of *The Guide to Service* book**. Mary J. said that she spoke to the maker of the motion from Chicagoland and their motion refers to changes made on the conference floor. Although the committee agreed with the intent of the motion they thought it was poorly worded. The committee felt a substitute motion was in order and Mary J. said that she would communicate with them. It was decided to **submit a substitute motion for motion #6** stating: The conference shall not vote on any proposals to change existing Conference approved NA literature unless such changes have appeared in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Step Writing Guides - Mary J. reviewed the draft production schedule for this project. She noted that it would be advisable to inform the conference that the WSCLC has a review and input schedule for this piece. The committee briefly examined how general members could participate in this project. It was agreed that working groups at the WSC would provide an opportunity to invite general members to participate.

Many members stated that these guides were in use in their regions and Garth P, trustee, had even informed Mary J. that they were available in Australia. There was discussion about the need, purpose, format and style and it was agreed that Jane N. would draft a general outline taking into account the committee's discussion. (gives sponsors & sponsees another tool in working the steps, generates ideas or ways of thinking to better understand one's direction, don't want it perceived as instructional, invitational, thought provoking, motivational, response to fellowship demand) One member wondered if the current Fourth Step booklet would pose a problem or would the guides be seen as contradictory? The committee seemed to think that a variety of styles and ways of working the steps would be positive additions to a member's recovery; they could complement or supplement the steps book itself.

Funding for WSC - Mary J. updated the committee about her communication with the Interim Committee regarding funding and their response. The Interim Committee denied funding based on several factors: funding constraints, fairness to all WSC committees, and their concern about how much work could really be accomplished at the conference. Two members, J.W. & Ceven, were unable to give definite information about their ability to attend without any funding--both would contact the staff when they did.

WSC Panels - Mary J. went over assignments for the WSC panel discussions and noted that the Sunday meeting could be used to revamp the panels if necessary. Panel A topics: *In Times of Illness, Just for Today*, "A" Worklist, and participants: Mary J., Jorge, Mike C., Ceven, J.W. and Jane; Panel B topics: Steps project, "C" and "D" Worklists, Basic Text revisions, and participants: Alden, Jeri, Jim, Omer, Gretchen, Andree, and Bryce, Mike McD, and Bob McK for the steps and traditions portion. She also stated that she would contact the makers of regional motions and invite them to attend the B panel to respond, if needed, to any questions about their motions.

Nominations - Both Mary J. and Alden were unanimously nominated by the committee as chairperson and vice chairperson respectively. The committee also nominated Jane and J.W. for the WSCLC. Jeri, Omer, Gretchen, Mike C. and Michael McD were all recommended as committee choices as well. Mary J. asked the members to call by April 10th with their recommendations for two other nominations from the resumes received. The meeting recessed at 6:30pm.

Sunday

The meeting was opened in the usual manner at 8:30am.

Basic Text - Mary J. opened discussion about the Basic Text and the motions that have been collected regarding it. She noted that there are very few motions and that perhaps the fellowship would decide to leave the Basic Text as it stands. Andree gave some information about the British anglicization. Apparently, Alan Levy has resigned as the RLC and with the reformation of the two British regions into one the UK members are focused on their immediate needs. It is probably still an issue for them, but since the region never formally submitted their suggestions it is a moot point.

IP Revisions - The committee reviewed Alden's September report on the revision of selected IPs. Alden noted that he had spoken with Ivan F., H&I chair, to arrange for cooperative effort between H&I and the WSCLC on the IP *H&I and the NA Member*. There was some concern expressed about the lack of consistent focus by local literature committees during their review of the IPs. The committee discussed this concern in depth and came to the consensus that the 3 IPs as noted for revision work were merely the ones that had the most input and felt that they should remain their target IPs particularly since the fellowship has been notified as such. The committee also looked at whether or not these IPs should be sent out again for additional input, but they decided that the best way to begin work would be to have working groups at the WSC and at the first conference workshop. Any

conceptual review could take place at those times. **Members were asked to reread all the IPs to familiarize themselves with them.**

Literature Handbook - Mary J. said that a working group would be the best way to manage a revision of the handbook, especially since there are so many areas to examine. A lively discussion ensued about inaccurate information, readability, format, and autonomy of local literature committees. The members also talked about dividing the handbook into several sections such as literature distribution, newsletters, and review and input of literature. Some reference to translations might also need to be included.

There was also a discussion about the misconception that occurs with the number of responses that are received from assignments and review and input pieces. It has always been assumed that the small percentage of responses in relationship to the total number of registered committees signaled a level of apathy, frustration or discontent. However, there has never been a mechanism in place to determine exactly how many committees actually review literature--many probably simply distribute literature. The point was that if a more realistic number of committees reviewing literature could be determined and then the number of responses compared to that number then a more accurate statement could be made regarding responses to the WSCLC's work. No decisions were made regarding this matter; however, staff said that they would gather some information about literature distribution, newsletters and a possible survey form to registered committees to request information about their status as review and literature distribution functions.

Daily Book - The committee discussed the introduction and whether or not they wanted to leave their sign-off and the date. After a brief discussion concerning anonymity the committee decided to leave it as it is. They then talked about adding a dedication page to the fellowship if the final page count allows it, and asked for staff to provide some samples. The meeting closed in the usual manner at 10:30am.

MOTIONS LIST

- M/S/C Jorge/Jane to approve the minutes as corrected. Unanimous by voice vote.
- M/S/C Jorge/Ceven to thank the steps ad hoc and staff for their work. Unanimous by voice vote.
- M/S/C Jorge/Ceven add to the supplemental material at the end of *In Times of Illness* "More Will Be Revealed." 7-2-2.
- M/S/C ?/? to reject regional motion #1. Unanimous voice vote.
- M/S/F Mike/Gretchen no recommendation on regional motion #3. 4/6/0.
- M/S/C Alden/Jorge to reject regional motion #3. 7/3/0.
- M/S/C Omer/Gretchen to reject regional motion #4. 9/0/1.
- M/S/C Mike/Jeri to postpone to definite time regional motion #5 pending approval of *The Guide to Service*. Unanimous voice vote.
- M/S/C Jeri/Mike that we substitute Chicagolands' regional motion #6 with Lee's motion. Unanimous voice vote.
- "the conference shall not vote on any proposals to change already approved NA literature unless those proposals have appeared in the CAR."
- M/S/C Jorge/Jeri to nominate Mary J. and Alden for chair and vice-chair respectively. Unanimous voice vote.
- M/S/C Jeri/Andre to nominate Jane for WSCLC. Unanimous voice vote.
- M/S/C Ceven/Jane to nominate JW for WSCLC. Unanimous voice vote.
- M/S/C ?/? to nominate Michael McDermott, Omer Gillham, Jane Nickels, Gretchen Deckard, Mike Cooley, JW Hayes, Jeri Sarracino. Unanimous by voice vote.