PROPOSED LITERATURE

DEVELOPMENT PLAN — MOTION 21

PROJECT

FOR 2000 *CAR*

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INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

The 1999 World Service Conference (WSC) approved a project plan to deal with all the literature issues and motions committed from 1998 and 1999. The "Motion 21" project plan directed the World Board "to prepare for the 2000 *Conference Agenda Report* a comprehensive report for the creation and revision of fellowship–approved literature over the course of the next five to ten years." The purpose of this report is to facilitate an informed group conscience about future literature priorities at WSC 2000. This report represents our first effort to develop a vision of what needs to be done in the short term, as well as how the literature development process might be changed and made to work better in the future.

We hope this report will inform fellowship discussions about the literature motions committed to the board in 1998 and 1999, and offer tools to help all of us make choices about fellowship priorities. What would actually need to be adopted in any given year to initiate the plan's goals would be any detailed project plans required to achieve specific plan objectives. This report is designed to provide information that fosters open discussion. Hopefully, through such discussion, NA as a whole can reach the best possible consensus about literature development priorities. And we want to acknowledge certain realities right up front, first about Motion 21/24 from WSC 1998, and then about this literature development plan.

Before proceeding further into a discussion of this literature development plan, the next section first discusses and recaps Motions 21, 24, and 77 from WSC 1998. If you are not familiar with the background and history regarding these motions and this project, roughly one–half of this report is devoted to providing this information. This background also supports the last two major sections of this report: "Literature Development Plan Overview" beginning on page 20 and the final section ("Specific Discussion Issues—For Future Consideration") starting on page 23.

This report was developed for the 2000 *Conference Agenda Report* and a separate nine–page report containing four motions from the World Board. These reports are meant to be read in tandem. In anticipation that this report may be distributed separately from the *CAR*, Appendix 1 shall contain the report on the literature motions from the 2000 *CAR*. If you have not already read that material, this report may make more sense if you read that first.

If our recommendations are accepted, no new literature will be approved, nor will any existing literature be revised, until 2004 at the earliest. The majority of our recommendations are to conduct further evaluations of potential literature projects, because we just don't know for sure what the fellowship as a whole wants and needs and feels about many of these possible projects. And while it may seem strange to some that so many literature proposals have been in limbo for 10–15+ years, it's always been the reality in NA literature development that the number of projects to choose from exceeds the available financial and human resources.

It's been difficult to craft a meaningful literature development plan of priorities for literature when we haven't yet identified the overall priorities for world services during even the next two years, let alone the next ten years. We are very much in the middle of the most important reorganization of our service structure since the fellowship's first service manual, *The NA Tree*, was adopted 25 years ago, creating the World Service Conference itself in 1976. Our recommendations are conservative because of the ongoing transition and the need to balance recovery literature projects against other fellowship needs from world services. While this comprehensive report discusses potential literature priorities, the entire fellowship will have to consider possible literature projects alongside all of the other potential non–literature projects.

We believe considering what is most needed in literature development is just one aspect of reaching an informed group conscience about what is best for NA as a whole and what will best further the effort to carry the NA message worldwide.

The conference gave us the leeway to propose a literature development plan covering the next five to ten years. However, in reality, it is very hard in the middle of a transition today to establish literature priorities beyond five years. In fact, most of the details in this plan only cover work for the next two years. Building a consensus about what work we recommend for the next conference cycle (and beyond) depends on understanding these issues and this context. (We discussed these issues at length in the *November Conference Report*, available online at www.na.org.)

We realize this may not live up to the expectations of some members. But we believe past discussions have in many ways been inconclusive, and that it is not prudent to make the first literature project of the World Board a book–length project (particularly if that means changing NA's most important book, the Basic Text). Our report discusses where consensus is lacking and some of what we think should be addressed before it would be responsible to start work on concrete literature writing projects.

We also believe there may be certain expectations regarding the proposed literature development plan, which we also want to tackle head–on. Under a two–year conference cycle, the conference and the fellowship can change their minds at each WSC and alter any previously established priorities, no matter what the circumstances. Given the nature of the WSC, any literature development plan is just a road map, and the WSC would have the opportunity every two years to change direction. Another crucial aspect of the WSC's authority is its control over the entire world services budget. Every two years the WSC will be faced under the Unified Budget with considering all project proposals involving variable discretionary spending—literature and non–literature projects together—and will make the ultimate decision to fund or not fund any project proposal. The conference's ultimate authority to approve the proposed goals of any plan is absolute under the Unified Budget system.

Nonetheless, we believe long–range planning is in the best interest of NA as a whole. If the groundwork we propose for the next conference cycle is supported, then NA will hopefully be in a better position by WSC 2002 to identify priorities for the next ten years. We see this literature development plan as a rolling target that is updated every two years. And while we want to acknowledge that this year's literature development plan is short on detail beyond two years, we believe it is a simple reality that there will usually be more detail and clarity about the first two years of any literature development plan. As tasks are projected further into the future, there'll usually be less detail and more uncertainty about the more distant goals.

Historically, issues related to NA recovery literature have been emotionally charged, arousing strong passions among many members. The development of recovery literature has been one of the most important catalysts for NA's growth worldwide and has become one of the many ties that bind us together. At other times, disagreements about our recovery literature have loomed so large that the continuation of Narcotics Anonymous as a single united fellowship sometimes appeared uncertain when battles over literature threatened to become a force that might tear us apart. We have tried to make this report factual in a way that acknowledges the importance of recovery literature issues and that allows all of us to consider these matters in a way that encourages dispassionate consideration of what is best for NA as a whole, putting principles before personalities.

HOW THE MOTION 21 PROJECT CAME ABOUT

At the 1998 WSC, the Board of Trustees (WSB) proposed Motion 21 to deal with motions relating to the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet. The trustees felt this was needed because a ten–year moratorium on changing the Basic Text was due to end at the 1998 WSC. The trustees anticipated a large number of motions on this and other aspects of literature development would be coming forward, which turned out to be an accurate assumption. These motions proposed various options, from extending the Basic Text moratorium to creating a new moratorium on all new literature development, to various competing proposals for new literature, to specific proposals to make different revisions and/or additions to the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet in various ways.

Prior to WSC 1998, there was also significant uncertainty about the outcome of the Transition Group's proposals to reorganize the world service structure and consolidate the separate boards and standing committees into a single World Board (which, as it turned out, regional delegates did approve by an overwhelming vote). The trustees had foreseen that *if* this happened, the transition would have a significant impact on literature development in the short term. Therefore, the trustees proposed Motion 21, which stated (as adopted by WSC 1998):

> "That all motions, amendments, and any other input regarding revisions or additions to the Basic Text or the booklet *Narcotics Anonymous* (The Little White Book), be committed to the World Board who will compile and forward to the conference, in two years, a detailed proposal including options, budgets, and timelines for those options. (*Note: Before the vote, the chairperson stated that this will include Motion #24.)*" [Emphasis added.]

If this sounds complicated, it's because it was. The 1998 WSC struggled with how to deal with Motion 21 versus all of the other related motions. The trustees had intended that Motion 21 be a substitute for conference consideration and debate of all the competing Basic Text motions. Although there was great support for the Motion 21 process, after lengthy discussions and some confusing parliamentary gymnastics, the conference purposefully decided it wanted to postpone voting on Motion 21 until it could first vote up or down on certain Basic Text–related motions which had been in the *CAR*. With no debate on the merit of each of the following individual motions, the conference then proceeded. First came Motion 24, the proposed WSCLC "A" list:

> "To approve the following as WSCLC's 'A' worklist for the 1998-99 conference year:
>
> A new chapter on Sponsorship to be included in the Basic Text;
>
> A new chapter on Service to be included in the Basic Text;
>
> The addition/substitution of personal stories compiled from our worldwide fellowship in the Basic Text."

A motion to commit this to the World Board failed. And in spite of objections that the motion should have been ruled out of order because the WSCLC standing committee had at this point

been voted out of existence, the conference deliberately decided to vote up or down on this motion. Without debating its merits, the conference then adopted this motion by voice vote.

Next, the conference rejected without debate *CAR* Motion 36 (to impose a moratorium until 2004 on changes to the first ten chapters in Book One of the Basic Text). (This proposed moratorium would have allowed changes to Book Two (personal stories) or the addition of new chapters.) Then, the conference rejected by voice vote without discussion *CAR* Motion 14: "That the WSC direct the WSCLC to begin development of a Sixth Edition of the Basic Text as soon as the moratorium expires. The Sixth Edition should include a chapter on Sponsorship, a chapter on Service, and new stories of an international fellowship." Finally, *CAR* Motion 40 died for lack of a second (to add a third book to the Basic Text containing four new chapters titled God, Self, Service, and Society).

It was at this point that the conference then again took up consideration of Motion 21, which it had postponed to consider the above motions. Then, without further debate, the WSC adopted Motion 21, while at the same time (as noted above) specifically committing Motion 24 (the "A" list), which it had adopted moments before.

The conference has never in its history adopted a motion, then subsequently committed it. Ordinarily, adopting a motion and committing a motion are mutually exclusive conference actions. At the time, certain conference participants objected to this procedurally, but the conference parliamentarian stated that this could be done. Within moments of this unprecedented action, the conference did this again with a second motion.

By two–thirds majority voice vote, the conference adopted *CAR* Motion 77:

> "To continue with the development of a sponsorship booklet as a
> new piece of literature. Said booklet should be given to the World
> Board Publications Committee, with a final draft included in the
> *CAR* 2000."

Then, after objections and discussion, the conference committed this motion (#77) to the World Board and the Motion 21 process. In doing this, the conference also included *CAR* Motion 49 (to place the proposed IP "Am I Too Young to Be an Addict?" on the WSCLC "A" list), which it actually had already committed to the World Board without debate moments before.

While these actions to adopt but then commit these two motions are unprecedented and unorthodox, we want to clearly acknowledge that this is what the 1998 WSC did. And while we could also argue with what this means or the way in which the 1998 WSC made these decisions, the bottom line is that we are making recommendations today which essentially ask the fellowship and the conference to reconsider the priorities which were adopted in principle in 1998. We are asking that these issues be revisited because we believe there is inadequate consensus to move forward now. This position does not preclude the fellowship and the conference from reaffirming these priorities or different ones. Further discussion about our rationale and our position on each of the motions appears below.

> ## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS: THE WSC 1998 LITERATURE MOTIONS

From the 1998 *CAR*/WSC, Motion 21: Basic Text/Little White Booklet (Adopted Motion)

From the 1998 *CAR*/WSC, Motion 24: WSCLC "A" List (Adopted Motion, Subsequently Committed)

1998 WSC Motion 77: Sponsorship Booklet (Adopted Motion, Subsequently Committed)

The WSC's first purposeful act after creating the WB in 1998 was to give Motions 21, 24 and 77 to the board. We recognize and acknowledge this fact. Our response to all three of these motions is the same. Our response is to offer Motions 1, 2, 3, and 4, for fellowship consideration. In the 2000 *CAR*, the discussion of these motions is in the body of the *CAR* (see page two**)** with the other World Board motions, or in Appendix 1 of this report (for reference). This effort to create a long–range literature development plan (as directed by the 1999 WSC) places revisions to the Basic Text and/or the Little White Booklet (and the development of new material on sponsorship) in the context of determining all literature priorities for the next five to ten years. The general priority–setting literature survey (and/or focus groups and/or fellowship workshops, among other things) which we have identified as a task for the next conference cycle may also help to clarify which literature projects (if any) may be recommended first during the 2002–2012 time frame.

A fourth motion committed to the board by the 1998 WSC concerned the proposed pamphlet which appeared in the 1998 *CAR*, "Am I Too Young to Be an Addict?"

From the 1998 *CAR*/WSC, Motion 49: "Am I Too Young to Be an Addict?" (Committed Motion)

> "To commit to the World Board Motion #49 (To recommend that the WSC place Addendum K, 'Am I Too Young to Be an Addict?' on the WSCLC's A–list.)"

We are recommending further evaluation of the need for material of this type and fellowship discussion to resolve the philosophical conflicts surrounding literature targeted to specific groups. This type of material has been controversial in the past. For a discussion of why this material has been controversial, see page twenty-five of this report, "Future Discussion Issue #2—Recovery Literature Targeted for Specific Needs."

If needed, then how and when such material should be developed would also have to be determined. The general priority–setting literature survey (and/or focus groups and/or fellowship workshops, among other things) may also help to clarify which projects (if any) may be recommended first during the 2002–2012 time frame.

Further evaluation is needed to achieve consensus on the scope of the future *Youth and Recovery* project and related issues. (Does the fellowship want to combine *Youth and Recovery* with "Seniors in Recovery" to create a "Recovery Is for Everyone"/"So You Think You're Different" IP, or should we develop individual IPs to carry the message to specific population segments—on one, two, or all three of these topics?) There have been philosophical conflicts about whether all recovery literature must be for everyone, or if some literature can be tailored to meet particular needs of specific segments of the fellowship. The board has not yet had the opportunity to discuss this issue in depth and make any specific recommendation. This issue is explored at length below in the "Specific Discussion Issues—For Future Consideration" section of this report on page 25 ("Discussion Issue #2: Recovery Literature Targeted for Specific Needs").

OTHER SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:
THE WSC 1999 LITERATURE MOTIONS

Motion 21 and This Literature Development Plan

At WSC 1999, the World Board proposed a more comprehensive approach than the 1998 Motion 21 proposal. The board recommended that the conference expand the original task—beyond just the Basic Text and Little White Booklet—to developing a plan for the creation and revision of *all* fellowship–approved literature over the next five to ten years. The expanded scope of this project grew out of the Fellowship Development Plan (FDP) and its ten long–term strategic goals (first formulated in the mid–1990s). This Motion 21 project is specifically designed to further FDP Goal 9: "Identify new recovery material(s) needed by the fellowship and develop a plan for their creation by 1999." The creation of a new, single World Board has been motivated largely by the desire to make world services more effective and efficient, better using scarce fellowship resources and improving the quality of services delivered through better long–range planning. The creation of this literature development plan for recovery literature is an important part of this effort.

At the 1999 WSC the conference accepted the World Board's proposed project plan which expanded the scope of the Motion 21 project. The conference adopted the scope and funding as part of the approval of the first Unified Budget, which included 14 projects altogether. The board's intent was that all 14 projects approved by the 1999 WSC further the larger goals of the Fellowship Development Plan. (The World Board also presented an updated version of the FDP to the 1999 WSC showing the relationship between the 14 proposed projects and the FDP.) *The 1999 conference then also committed three more literature motions to the World Board.*

1999 WSC Motion 30: Traditions Workbook (Committed Motion)

"To direct the World Board to develop a project plan for a guide book for working our Twelve Traditions. (Intent: to create a book–length piece on this subject.)   M/S/C <u>to commit to the World Board.</u>

We recommend future evaluation of the need for material of this type. If needed, then how and when such material should be developed would also have to be determined (and whether an information pamphlet, booklet, or a book–length piece would best meet that need).

The timeline for any possible development of such a piece would depend on the outcome of the general need/priority–setting evaluation of all potential projects (we are calling this a "type 2" evaluation; see below, page 21). Of course, significant consequences accompany the development of any book–length project. The *November Conference Report* discussed in depth the challenges world services can expect to face over the next two to four years, and this workload makes any book–length project almost inconceivable in the short term. Moreover, every project has an opportunity cost. If we take on one project, we must delay others. We must plan comprehensively for the long term and make sure that we invest our resources in the areas of greatest need or that offer the maximum potential return on our effort to carry the message to the addict who still suffers everywhere.

From the 1999 *CAR*/WSC, Motion 5: Little White Booklet (Committed Motion)

> "To change in the *Narcotics Anonymous* White Booklet under the
> section "What Is the NA Program?" on page 2, second to last
> sentence, the language 'and are under no surveillance at any time'
> to 'and participate in no surveillance at any time'."

We believe there is an important philosophical issue underlying this suggested change. We plan to discuss this motion at a future board meeting. Input is welcome; the board has made no decision so far.

The board plans to develop a paper for fellowship discussion. The board solicited input in August and in the *November Conference Report* on this issue to help the board develop this paper. The underlying issue of surveillance is a serious and important one that transcends the actual change of language in the Little White Booklet itself. However, if the fellowship ultimately wants to make this or any other change in the Little White Booklet, the mechanism for this is linked to the conference's approval of Motions 1 and 2 and that timeline, with that evaluation starting sometime after 2002.

1999 WSC Motion 34: Internet and Anonymity (Committed Motion)

> "To provide direction to the World Board for the Motion 21
> Project Plan as follows: To include, under the description of the
> Eleventh Tradition in the Basic Text and *It Works: How and Why*,
> language regarding the application of this tradition to television
> and the Internet."

This motion proposed revising the essays on the Eleventh Tradition in the Basic Text and *It Works: How and Why*. We are against revising the Basic Text or *It Works* for this purpose at this time. Instead, the board believes that developing a bulletin on this topic is the best way to begin to address this issue. On topical issues, a bulletin should be the first step. After the board develops a bulletin, the fellowship could then consider further evaluation of the need for an information pamphlet. Only after these steps and the demonstration of continuing need should

the revision of book–length items be considered. The board solicited input on this issue in the *November Conference Report* and continues to welcome any input to help the board develop this discussion paper at a future date.

SOME KEY ISSUES AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wants Versus Needs—Reaching Agreement Together

At our first meeting we saw the enormity of our task and how little time we had to accomplish this work. Because of the proposal adopted by the 1999 WSC, this expanded project now included two major tasks. First, we had to deal with all of the specific literature motions committed to the Motion 21 process from the 1998 and 1999 World Service Conferences. Second, we had to come up with a literature development plan which would allow the fellowship to set the initial priorities for the creation and revision of fellowship–approved literature from 2000 through 2010. The plan also has to take into account the new two–year conference cycle and how various literature projects will be impacted. As we received the results from the literature survey, we saw that the fellowship appeared to be divided about the 1998 proposals to revise the Basic Text, and that other literature proposals seemed to have greater support. This comprehensive report is the result of our efforts and your input.

We talked quite a bit as we prepared this report about new ways of determining fellowship "needs" versus "wants" when it comes to future literature development. Telling the difference between wants and needs is a big issue for us as addicts. Our first reaction often is that we need more, and we want it yesterday. Setting priorities, accepting that resources are limited, pacing ourselves—these are issues we tend to struggle with in both recovery and service. Asked to choose, we'll sometimes look for every way possible to avoid making choices and try to have it all now. Reaching agreements we can all live with can also be difficult.

Framing this issue historically, the literature needs of Narcotics Anonymous are certainly different today in the year 2000 than our needs were only 20 years ago in 1980. Back then, we had just five short information pamphlets and the Little White Booklet. No Basic Text, no other books or booklets. Every new piece of recovery literature was almost certain to fill a genuine unmet need, given the extremely limited expression of the NA message in written form. Today, for our English–speaking members, we have four major books, one workbook, six booklets, and twenty–two information pamphlets. Identifying what is truly needed is much more complex today than in past years, given this abundance of existing recovery literature in English. And we have talked at length about the impact of decisions about English–language literature vis–a–vis the needs of non–English–speaking members and fellowship translation efforts.

Statement of the Problem

A problem well–defined is a problem half–solved. Thus, it's worth highlighting exactly what we are trying to solve with this literature development plan. *One problem has been a lack of long–range planning.* The introduction to the Fellowship Development Plan states:

> "Over the past years, the world services inventory/resolution process has confirmed a number of important things about service provision at the world

level that trusted servants have known for a long time. Perhaps one of the most important things that our experience has demonstrated—and that the inventory has borne out—is that world services has lacked long–term strategies and goals. As a consequence, we have for many years often operated in a rather haphazard way in terms of acquiring and allocating resources, as well as developing any long–term strategies regarding fellowship growth and development. . . ."

Another literature development problem has been a difficulty with achieving consensus. We have had great success achieving consensus with some literature projects—while other literature projects have generated some very unpleasant disagreements about the form, content, and process by which we carry the message of NA in written form. And we have had troubles setting priorities. Briefly, what have these problems meant for recovery literature development?

Haphazard is a fair word to describe NA literature development in the 1980s. One example of the kind of problem the Fellowship Development Plan describes involves the Basic Text. From the beginning of the World Service Conference in 1976 until the approval of the Basic Text in April 1982, there was only one real priority for the World Literature Committee—the Basic Text. The WSCLC set its own priorities (with fellowship input) during these early years. After the Basic Text was approved in 1982, in one year twelve new IPs were developed and approved by the 1983 WSC. The World Literature Committee developed these twelve new pamphlets in less than nine months, and the conference gave its approval by simple majority vote after only a three–month approval period. There had been limited time and opportunity for fellowship review and input. And of those twelve information pamphlets approved at the 1983 WSC, the conference decided to withdraw three and begin revision of a total of four within the next two years. An effort to revise the Little White Booklet failed in 1983 due to lack of consensus; a second attempt succeeded in 1986, but with significant fellowship conflict and tension. And of course, during all of the above, accompanying the effort to create *It Works: How and Why* (described below), there were five editions of the Basic Text in just five years between 1983 and 1988.

Work started on *It Works* right after the 1982 WSC approved the Basic Text, and *It Works* was to become the number one priority for the next eleven years. It was not until 1985 that the WSC approved the first list of priorities for the WSCLC, a list of ten items in no particular order (not including *It Works*). This first list in 1985 included six proposed revision items that had been recently approved (within two to five years). This adoption of a single unprioritized list continued until 1988 when the WSCLC proposed new guidelines, which included the new process known as the "A–B–C–D Priority Worklists." This change resulted from a crisis with the *It Works* effort when, in 1987 (just short of the halfway point along what would be a rocky, eleven–year path), the fellowship rejected the first approval form version of the steps portion of that book. This happened because of disagreements about both the literature process itself and about what the NA fellowship really wanted to say about our most basic principles, the Twelve Steps. Work had been underway for five (5) years on a book–length project without having achieved fellowship consensus on either the content of the book or the need to change the literature development process.

These difficulties with *It Works* led to a literature inventory process in the late 1980s, which resulted in new guidelines in 1988 that created the A–B–C–D planning process. Further difficulties led to changes to the guidelines in 1989, which resolved the issue about using

addicts who were professional writers in NA's literature process. This led to the approval of *It Works* in 1993, a success evidenced by fellowship acceptance of this book for seven years now without any demands for revision, in contrast to our experience with the Basic Text.

After the reforms of 1988 and 1989, work proceeded rapidly and smoothly on the book, *Just for Today, Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts*. The fellowship had started work on *Just for Today* in the early 1980s also. But the work languished over disagreements about the book's content. The literature process was also a problem. Relying on limited human and financial resources in regional workshop settings was not very successful in creating a draft or developing source material. Once again, fellowship efforts had been underway for years—without agreement on what this book should say or how and when it should be created. A fellowshipwide survey in 1988 established consensus on the specific content and form of the *Just for Today* book. Further consensus was achieved in 1989 about using the WSO staff–team approach in the literature process. This combination of consensus and planning—achieved through fellowshipwide dialogue—smoothed the way for this book to be rapidly completed in 1992 (essentially a three–year effort).

A different pattern can be seen in the most recent new recovery book project—the creation of *The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides*. The WSCLC proposed a detailed plan for this work at the 1993 WSC. And in just five years, this major work was brought to a successful conclusion with its adoption by the 1998 WSC. The consensus about the content of this book grew out of earlier disagreements about the content of *It Works*, disagreements between those who wanted *It Works* to be a step writing guide and those who didn't. Once consensus was achieved to produce a step writing guide separate from *It Works*, this established a foundation for the subsequent development of the *Step Working Guides*, built on the fellowship accepted process which had brought *It Works* and *Just for Today* to conclusion.

Now, we recognize that members individually may still hold different opinions about the relative quality and value of the different book–length pieces that NA has created. And some care passionately about the method and process through which NA literature is developed, while others are indifferent to how literature is produced and care only about the quality of the final product. But we believe most all can agree that, given our history, when we have had fellowship consensus and good planning, the fellowship has benefited. Conversely, the absence of consensus has sometimes been associated with serious conflict and disunity. Poor planning which drains scarce fellowship resources should also be avoided at all costs.

Because this literature development plan is primarily an effort to substantially improve the old A–B–C–D priority–planning process, we discuss the background about this further below.

History of the Old A–B–C–D Priority Lists

Between 1989 and 1998, the fellowship set literature priorities annually by approving the WSCLC's "A" worklist (published in the *CAR* each year). So one of our goals was to create a new long–term planning mechanism for literature development that would replace and improve this process. The objective is to allow the entire fellowship to develop an informed group conscience and reach the best possible consensus about literature priorities. We were confronted with the task of having to balance today's reality with the fact that we are in a transition period. This means balancing the need to build elements of a new literature process while at the same time meeting directives of the fellowship to revise existing recovery literature or to create new literature.

Under conference policy between 1988 and 1998, the world literature committee prepared and published A–B–C–D worklists each year in the *CAR* based upon annual evaluations. Each year the WSCLC would make a motion to have the WSC adopt the "A" priority worklist only. The literature committee published the B–C–D portion of the list for information only in the annual *CAR*. (The conference never voted on these parts of the list.) By definition, "C" list items (for regional development) required substantial work to bring these to a stage where work by the WSCLC could be productive. Moreover, "D" list items were in an even earlier stage of development, sometimes consisting of little more than an idea or an outline.

The WSCLC guidelines provided for an evaluation workgroup. This group was to evaluate all proposals for new literature and assess the stage of development a given proposal was in, as well as the need for literature on that subject. The evaluation workgroup made annual recommendations internally to the WSCLC to place each proposal on the appropriate worklist (or return it to the original contributor). Likewise, the guidelines provided for a revision workgroup of the WSCLC that would assess existing literature and then recommend the placement of items in need of revision in the appropriate A–B–C–D worklist category. However, this evaluation process was carried out differently from year to year, and essentially stopped once the WSC inventory process began in 1993.

The history of both literature development in NA and the A–B–C–D process supports the conclusion that there has been gradual, incremental progress in how NA has planned and prioritized the creation and revision of fellowship–approved literature. But the goal of a ten–year plan should be not only to build on what has worked well in the past, but also to solve two recurring problems: (1) effectively prioritizing and executing specific literature projects in the context of a longer–range plan, and (2) achieving consensus. Our hope is that this report will facilitate an informed group conscience at WSC 2000 and, through the "strategic plan process," every two years thereafter. The fellowship can discuss and reconsider then–current needs in this way—whether it's translating or revising existing literature, creating new literature, or devoting resources to other, non–literature projects. If we learn from the successes and failures in our past, we can further improve both long–range project planning and the effort to gather the entire fellowship's group conscience assessment of the greatest needs and priorities for carrying the NA message in written form. We view this comprehensive report as a tool which gives the fellowship a way at WSC 2000 to answer the question: *Where do we go from here?*

Brief Recap of Existing Literature Policy: No Change

This literature development plan does **not** *change existing literature policy. Moreover, we have heard some confusion about the relationship between the literature development plan and the Process for Projects Procedure in TWGWSS.* Any work at any point in the future to create new literature or revise existing literature will require the express authorization of the fellowship through the World Service Conference. This would happen through the Unified Budget approval process (both routine/basic services and variable project spending).

Nothing in this report changes the existing literature development policy in *TWGWSS* (included as Addendum B in the *CAR* 2000). Specifically:

♦ Review and input and approval periods remain the same;

♦ A two-thirds (2/3s) vote to approve or withdraw any material from category of fellowship–approved literature is still required;

♦ NA members who are addicts may be hired for literature development;

♦ FIPT imposes additional requirements/obligations; and

♦ Group tally process would govern any changes to the Twelve Steps, Traditions, or Concepts.

An Analogy: A Shopping List, a Supermarket, and a Checkout Counter

This analogy is intended to clarify where we're at now and what we hope to accomplish. We have developed a big–picture illustration using a three–part analogy of (1) a Shopping List, (2) a Communal Supermarket, and (3) a Checkout Counter, where the task of *deciding to purchase* items from the Shopping List happens.

Warning: Some of the language in this analogy is deliberately colorful to encourage everyone to think in a fresh and creative way about the issues involved and to help keep you awake. The logic of any analogy, if carried to extremes, can become nonsense, so we suggest that you not take this too seriously, especially if it confuses or distracts you.

1. The Literature Development Plan Is a New, Redesigned Shopping List.

The Shopping List consists of a description of both routine/basic services *AND* potential future projects. The Shopping List is a description of what every member of our very big family has ever asked us to get (what's good and various specials). We have a very big Shopping List with many different options. Some Shopping List items can be used to prepare many different meals in different ways, and the sauces, side items and other elements of the meal can vary.

The old Shopping List was called the "A–B–C–D Priority Worklists." The old Shopping List was organized by four (4) functional categories:

• Priorities for current work by the WLC (the "A" list);

• Items which were ready for WLC work, but are currently in limbo due to lack of resources right now (the "B" list);

• Items that needed preparatory work and input from regional literature committees before the WLC could develop further (the "C" list);

• Bottom–of–the–barrel raw ingredients that were assigned on a case–by–case basis only to area and regional literature committees who had the resources to begin to make sense out of material that was difficult and/or incomplete (the "D" list).

The new Shopping List is organized by time frames for development (i.e., items are staggered over a ten–year period of time, and divided into five conference cycles). Another difference is that everything on the new shopping list fits into one of two functional categories: (1) routine/basic services; or (2) special projects. Both of these are Unified Budget categories. But this year, we may not be able to identify which category items are in until we arrive at the conference in April 2000 and make decisions about what to purchase as we consider the Unified Budget proposal. The literature development plan is still a Shopping List; it has the same purpose and function, but a different organization and structure.

One huge advantage that the literature development plan has is that it provides much more detailed information for the fellowship to consider and evaluate than the old A–B–C–D list process. Under that old system, the B–C–D lists appeared in the *CAR*—with little or no detailed

information about the history or substance of potential future projects; most often there was only a list with a series of titles or topics. The new Shopping List is a work–in–progress.

2. The Communal Supermarket.

The literature development plan is a Shopping List, *not* the Communal Supermarket. The Communal Supermarket is the entire literature creation and development process. The Motion 21 Project this year is not about changing the Communal Supermarket. The 1998 WSC made certain changes in the Communal Supermarket. The 1998 WSC put the old Communal Supermarket under new management and gave it a new name. The Old Communal Supermarket was called the "World Lit. Committee/Board of Trustees." The 1998 WSC put the Communal Supermarket under the management of the single World Board. But the New Management is accountable to the WSC and the fellowship just as before, except now there's nobody to blame and point fingers at—there's a single point of accountability. The Communal Supermarket has been closed since 1998 and cannot reopen until the WSC dispenses with Motion 21 and gives the New Management (the World Board) a license to operate.

The Communal Supermarket, as of today, is in the same location, the same Neighborhood. It has not moved. It has not been redecorated or remodeled, inside or out. There is just that hopeful sign out front that says: "Under New Management!" (and in small print: "Renovation in Progress"). But the Neighborhood has changed dramatically—redevelopment efforts and construction are going on all around the Communal Supermarket everywhere you look. Until the Neighborhood settles down, it's going to be hard to open this Communal Supermarket for full–scale operations.

The Communal Supermarket's operating policies and procedures have not changed. The New Management has really focused only on this project of creating a new Shopping List (and that only started after WSC 1999). The Old Communal Supermarket had been offering many "leftover" items that had been sitting around the store for ten to fifteen years. Nobody ever purchased them in the entire history of the Communal Supermarket's operation, and only one or two people even know what's in them. Changing the Shopping List is a big and important job, but it's going to take a lot more than that to get this Supermarket open again and ready for business. Unfortunately, some customers and Delegated Shoppers are frustrated and impatient, but this is the reality of where we are now.

Making purchase decisions to commission new work can only be done once every two years by a bunch of delegates who order collectively for everyone. Anyone—and we mean anyone— can phone in an order at any time or suggest changes or additions to items on the Shopping List by letter, fax, or email. Our phone is ringing all the time. ("Dad, I want some new stories!" "Mom, get me some material on sponsorship!" "Honey, we need something to help the old folks recover.") We consider every request. However, we answer to a group of Delegated Shoppers who not only speak for all our current members, but who also are each forever concerned with how we can best reach the addict who still suffers who has not yet found the way to NA.

3. The Unified Budget Is the Checkout Counter

The process for deciding what to purchase is not the same as reading the Shopping List. The vehicle for making purchasing decisions is the Unified Budget. If the customers want to order something that is on the Shopping List, the WSC has to give that order to the World Board by approving funding for routine/basic services in the Unified Budget, or adopting and prioritizing detailed project plans at the WSC. *The Shopping List is not a detailed project plan.* The

opportunity to see everything that's "on the shelves" happens at the WSC meeting. The Delegated Shoppers are able at the WSC to examine more detailed information about items on the Shopping List and inspect the different options.

The Shopping List does say that revising the Basic Text is the most expensive item on the Shopping List. We guess that means we can order this item if we really want to, but it requires long–term financing. Some of the items scribbled on the Shopping List are hard to read. Other items say: "Must be ordered two years in advance." Improving the purchasing system and making the Shopping List work with the order–taking/decision–making process is going to take some time to figure out.

Getting the Delegated Shoppers to agree on what to order is not easy or simple. A big group requires a lot of discussion. The Delegated Shoppers aren't sure whether they must order items that everyone will like, or whether the vegetarians and diabetics should be able to have items purchased and made for their special needs. Some customers want organic produce only. Quite a diverse bunch! The Delegated Shoppers have a lot to discuss to resolve this. Additionally, the Delegated Shoppers have to consider how much they can spend at the Communal Supermarket given the need to set aside resources for other necessities.

Implementation Issues

This literature development plan will not and can not implement itself. The Internal Guidelines Project this year is developing internal guidelines for the board as a whole and the protocols between the board, its executive committee, and its other workgroups and committees. The task of developing internal guidelines for each board committee has been left for the board and each committee to develop in the future based upon actual experience of what works and what doesn't. We anticipate this will be a significant task to accomplish from 2000 to 2002. Thus, we have been conservative in recommending difficult projects, particularly book–length projects, during this transition cycle. The board has not yet had time to discuss and identify other implementation issues, including future tasks needed to implement the plan successfully. We outlined in the *November Conference Report* a picture of the entire scope of work facing NA world services in the next conference cycle and beyond. We refer you to that report for further information (available on our website, www.na.org).

SUMMARY OF FELLOWSHIP INPUT

This section summarizes the fellowship input we considered over the course of preparing this report for this project. We reported on our activities to the fellowship as a whole and sought input via our regular reports this year in *NAWS News*. We expanded the distribution of *NAWS News* to include the 450+ area and regional literature committees and local translation committees. We circulated a draft of this comprehensive report to all conference delegates and to area and regional literature committees in September, for discussion with conference delegates at the 25–27 September World Services Meeting in Hollywood, Florida. We considered all the written input this generated, including all of the input from the many conference participants who did not attend the World Services Meeting. Additionally, we considered three other major sources of fellowship input: (1) the 1999 fellowship literature survey; (2) all of the input ever received at the WSO suggesting changes to existing fellowship–approved literature; and (3) all of the input ever received at the WSO proposing new items of recovery literature.

The 1999 Fellowship Literature Survey

Part of the fellowship input we used to prepare this report came from the March 1999 literature survey. Because of Motion 21 from the 1998 WSC, in February of 1999 the board designed a literature survey to get an initial sense of what the fellowship wanted to see happen with recovery literature. We did this before we developed the proposal for the expanded Motion 21 project plan, and before the 1999 WSC approved the expanded project in April 1999. For this reason, the February survey did not attempt to rank literature development priorities for the next five to ten years. The 1999 survey was not a ballot.

As we have reported previously this year, the survey does represent a very preliminary investigation that tentatively suggests certain trends and avenues requiring further evaluation. *We received more* than *2,300 responses from members, groups, and various service boards and committees all over the world!* We thank all of you who filled out and returned the literature survey. The summary of the results is still available on request (or online at www.na.org).

Fellowship Input to Revise Existing Literature

Other fellowship input was also of critical value in formulating this plan and our recommendations. We reviewed lengthy and comprehensive summaries of all of the input on file at the WSO that has been received from the fellowship since the 1980's. This section summarizes some of this critical input relating to revising existing recovery literature. The following section then describes the input we have received over the years proposing new literature.

1.   The Little White Booklet, *Narcotics Anonymous* **(LWB)**

As our oldest piece of recovery literature, the Little White Booklet was approved sometime before the creation of the World Service Conference itself in 1976. A number of revisions also occurred before 1976. One proposed revision from the WSCLC was rejected by the 1983 WSC. This led to the WSCLC unsuccessfully attempting to make minor changes to the 1983 proposal before abandoning this approach and turning the project over to the Board of Trustees, who later proposed a revision which was adopted at the 1986 WSC. Conceptual changes were made in the first part of the booklet, and the text was edited, including the personal stories. Punctuation was also changed in the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions themselves. There was some controversy over both the process and content. The 1986 WSC accepted the proposed revision after extensive debate.

From 1986 to 1988, following the LWB revision of 1986, the relevancy of the personal stories in the LWB continued to be discussed, and other changes were considered. In 1986–87, the WSCLC solicited new stories for the LWB. The 1987 conference rejected motions to remove the LWB stories edited in 1986 from all approved literature and to move a certain story from the Basic Text into the LWB. The 1987 conference overwhelmingly also rejected a motion to classify the 1976 version of the LWB as a "historical document" to be kept in print and made available to the fellowship, which (if approved) would have put the LWB in a "historical category" different from other recovery literature. The 1988 conference rejected a regional motion committed from WSC 1987 to change the phrase "Easy Does It" to "Take It Easy" in all publications and also decided to leave the LWB stories alone. At the 1989 WSC, the following motion was ruled out of order because of the Basic Text moratorium: "That in the NA Basic Text and other NA literature, the words 'physical challenge' be added to the list at the end of the second paragraph of 'What Is the NA Program?'" By WSC action on a 1998 *CAR* motion,

the LWB stories are now subject to the same World Services Translations Committee policy as Book Two of the Basic Text. Also, as discussed above (see p. 7), the 1998 WSC committed to the World Board a motion to change one sentence in the LWB that states "we . . . are under no surveillance at any time" to "we . . . participate in no surveillance at any time."

The input on file includes the stories received in 1987 (ten are now on file). A small folder of other input relating to the LWB is also on file. Most suggest certain word or sentence changes, sometimes with a conceptual rationale for the proposed change(s). Other specific LWB input is mixed in with the input relating to the Basic Text, described below.

The related items which could be impacted by changes in the LWB include: *Who, What, How, and Why* (IP #1), *Recovery and Relapse* (IP #6), *An Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous*, the Basic Text, and *Just for Today, Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts* (which has some direct LWB quotes that are identified by reference to the page numbers in the Basic Text, Fifth Edition). *It Works: How and Why* (*It Works*) contains (at least) three quotes from the LWB (each of which is so fundamental that each is unlikely to be revised: see p. 17, p. 181, p. 189). *Behind the Walls* contains an excerpt from the LWB on p. 18. *For the Newcomer* closes with an unattributed LWB quote. Finally, the *Just for Today* statement is part of the LWB and is reprinted in a number of additional publications; if any part of the *Just for Today* statement was revised, all of these additional publications would have to be identified and compared for consistency.

2.   The Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*

Although we have had five editions of the Basic Text up to the present, no intentional conceptual revisions have been made since the approval of the Basic Text at WSC 1982, with certain exceptions. The exceptions are: (i) certain changes in the essays on the Fourth and Ninth Traditions; (ii) the addition and deletion of various personal stories at different times from 1983 to 1986; (iii) specific conceptual changes relating to the 1986 revision of the Little White Booklet; and (iv) five additional changes in Book One of the Basic Text authorized by the 1987 WSC which were designed to make five sentences consistent with the 1986 LWB conceptual revision. The editing of the Third Edition, Revised, resulted in certain unintentional conceptual changes in the Fourth Edition of the Basic Text, which were corrected by action of the 1988 WSC, resulting in the edited Fifth Edition.

In October of 1987, the WSCLC surveyed area and regional literature committees about revising the Basic Text (and several reports to the fellowship dealt with this subject). The WSCLC invited input about the Basic Text in connection with this survey. This survey was undertaken before any controversy erupted when the Fourth Edition was published in November of 1987, but the controversy then caused confusion that affected the survey. The WSCLC subsequently decided to include the survey question in the 1988 *CAR* with additional background information. The 1988 WSC subsequently adopted a plan that corrected editing and production errors in the Fourth Edition in a new Fifth Edition and simultaneously imposed a five–year moratorium on further revision of the Basic Text. Because of this, the survey results were never used. However, the record and the survey input on file indicate several things. The overwhelming majority of survey respondents (and, more importantly, the WSC) felt that (i) annual, year–by–year revisions of the Basic Text should stop; (ii) although Book One and Book Two might need to be revised at some point, that (iii) completion of *It Works* was a much higher priority, among others; and (iv) consequently, the Basic Text should be left alone for five years (or more). The lack of stability with the different editions of the Basic Text had caused

problems with efforts to translate the book from English into other languages. The moratorium was intended to bring stability to translations efforts. All of these were part of the rationale for the initial five–year moratorium adopted in 1988.

The WSCLC initially favored lifting the moratorium on Book Two at the 1993 WSC. The committee floated the idea of changing the existing stories and/or creating a separate book of international stories. However, ultimately the WSCLC unanimously supported the full moratorium for another five years—with the proviso that "during this moratorium the committee would solicit stories worldwide for Book Two." The 1993 WSC extended the moratorium another five years for both Book One and Book Two based on a *CAR* motion. Following WSC 1994, the WSCLC formed a workgroup to develop a plan for personal stories for Book Two of the Basic Text. In or about September of 1994 the WSCLC agreed to put an issue discussion paper in the 1995 *CAR* on this subject. (The 1995 WSC was organized as the first issue–discussion WSC. The 1995 *CAR* contained discussion papers on several subjects, giving the 1995 WSC a discussion–oriented, rather than motion–oriented agenda.) At the 1996 WSC the following motion was referred to the WSCLC: "It was M/S/R … RSR–A, South Florida Region/RSR–A, Wisconsin Region 'That the WSCLC solicit new stories for inclusion in Book 2 of the Basic Text.'"

In the year leading up to the expiration of the moratorium in 1998, the WSC again advanced the idea of changing Book Two, as well as adding two new chapters to Book One—a new chapter on sponsorship and one about service. The WSCLC also took the strong position that no other changes should be made to Book One. This proposal was formalized in Motion 24, the "A" list of priorities, discussed above and below. The 1998 WSC (in its handling of Motions 21/24) first adopted the WSCLC proposal (Motion 24) but then committed it to the World Board, asking that the board report back various options, timelines, and budgets for possible revisions to the Basic Text and LWB in the 2000 *CAR*. This action thereby delayed further conference consideration until WSC 2000.

To avoid any confusion, we want to note that we use the terms "Book One" and "Book Two" to refer to the two parts of the Basic Text, because the actual book itself uses these titles. However, we want to make clear that the Basic Text is one book with two parts. Under the WSC translations policy, any language editions of the Basic Text where only Book One has been translated are incomplete. Until each language community elects to translate the existing English–language stories or develops new original stories as permitted under the translations policy, these translated versions of the Basic Text are incomplete, approved works–in–progress. Many communities have not had the local resources to translate or develop stories for Book Two of the Basic Text so far, so those editions await additional development efforts by those local NA communities that have incomplete books.

The input on file relating to the Basic Text can be summarized as follows:

i) Five (5) stories have been received since the August 1997 WSCLC request for stories; additional story resources include a collection of stories in the French edition of Book Two which were recently approved. A set of stories from addicts in the United Kingdom has been assembled for the proposed U.K. edition of the LWB. A set of Swedish–language stories developed for the Swedish LWB also exists as resource material. Finally, as noted above, there are also ten stories that were solicited and received during 1987–88 for the LWB.

ii) Regarding changes to Chapters 1–10 (Book One), source material includes three (3) small folders containing input received from 1982 to the present, amounting all together to a stack of

paper less than one (1) inch thick. Most of this suggests certain word or sentence changes, sometimes with a conceptual rationale for the proposed change(s).

iii) Regarding a new chapter on sponsorship, the only source material includes: one 13-page rough draft rewrite of the existing IP prepared by an area literature committee; and one five page chapter from the work–in–progress book proposal, "Living Clean."

iv) Regarding a new chapter on service, there are two very short and rough drafts about service. These were submitted in 1991–92 as proposals for an NA service IP. These could become source material for a Basic Text chapter on service, if not used to create an IP (see further description of the service IP proposal below). In both cases, currently available material is extremely limited.

v) Certain input and comments associated with the 26 October 1987 Basic Text survey are on file (another one–inch folder of material of limited relevance).

vi) Various motions relating to the Basic Text have been rejected by the WSC or committed to the WSCLC over the years, and these committed motions were part of the input the WSCLC considered in formulating the 1998 "A" list (Motion 24).[1]

The related items which could be impacted by changes in the Basic Text include *Who, What, How and Why* (IP #1), *Recovery and Relapse* (IP #6), the LWB, *An Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous* and *Just for Today, Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts*. (Of the 366 daily entries in *Just for Today*, 333 — over 90% — contain quotes from the Basic Text which are expanded upon in the *Just for Today* book.) *It Works: How & Why* contains (at least) one quote from the Basic Text (p. 51). *H&I Service and the NA Member* contains one fundamental quote from the Basic Text (p. 65). The *NA Step Working Guides* has several quotes from the Basic Text.

3.   *Sponsorship* (IP #11)

The fellowship approved this information pamphlet in 1983, and there have been no changes since its original approval seventeen years ago. The WSCLC first evaluated this IP and recommended revision, as an expanded booklet, by placing it on it's "A" worklist in 1996. A motion at WSC 1993 from a region had sought revision of this IP. It essentially moved to the "A" worklist as a new chapter in the Basic Text in 1998 with the conference's adoption of Motions 24 and 77. However, the conference did not make clear whether the existing IP would be replaced entirely by a new sponsorship chapter per Motion 24 or whether this IP would continue to exist as is without change alongside a new chapter. Furthermore, the conference also did not make clear what it intended by also passing Motion 77 calling for a new sponsorship booklet. Was the conference asking for a booklet in addition to a sponsorship

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[1] At the 1991 WSC, the following motion was committed: "That the next edition of the Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous,* reflect the following footnote on the cover page of Book Two, Personal Stories: 'The language used in some of these stories is not always consistent with what we understand to be the language and terminology of NA recovery today.'"

At the 1995 WSC the following motion was referred to WSCLC: "That the next edition of our Basic Text include a chapter on sponsorship." (Connecticut/Australia)

At the 1997 WSC the following motion was committed to appear in the 1998 *CAR*: Motion #102 RSR, Northern California/RSR, Central California, "That the WSC direct the WSCLC to begin development of a Sixth Edition of the Basic Text as soon as the moratorium expires. The Sixth Edition should include a chapter on Sponsorship, a chapter on Service and new stories of an international fellowship." This became Motion 14 in the 1998 *CAR*, which was defeated by voice vote, as noted above (see p. 4).

chapter in the Basic Text? Was the content of the sponsorship booklet intended to be the same as the proposed sponsorship chapter and approved and published in both formats? Was the proposed sponsorship booklet intended to replace the existing IP #10, *Sponsorship*? Or did the conference want to leave that IP as is as a separate IP? Yet another possibility also would be a separate, revised IP with minor changes, different from the full–scale major new work contemplated by either a new sponsorship booklet and/or a new sponsorship chapter in the Basic Text. Answering these questions is a task that would be accomplished depending on the action the 2000 WSC takes on Motion 3 and this report.

As noted above, the only source material on file includes: one 13-page rough draft rewrite of the existing IP prepared by an area literature committee; and one five-page chapter from the work–in–progress book proposal, "Living Clean." There have also been a few pieces of input received over the years objecting to certain statements in the existing IP. For example, members of the fellowship have sent input objecting to the statement that only men sponsor men and women sponsor women, whereas a majority of the fellowship has historically supported this position in NA literature despite a lack of agreement on this point.

4.   *Youth and Recovery* (IP #13)

There are four proposals that have become connected with a revision of the existing *Youth and Recovery* IP. These are: "Am I Too Young to Be an Addict?"; "Seniors in Recovery;" "So You Think You're Different;" and "Recovery Is for Everyone." Input and issues relating to these can be found on page 25: "Discussion Issue #2: Recovery Literature Targeted for Specific Needs."

5.   *Another Look* (IP #5)

Further evaluation at some point is needed to achieve consensus on the possible revision of *Another Look* (IP #5). There has been reluctance to revise this IP because it was originally authored by one of NA's earliest members. Past minor revisions of this IP created some controversy. (The last revision was in 1985.) Nonetheless, the WSCLC identified this item as needing revision back in 1992 when it placed this item on its "B" worklist, and it remained there awaiting revision through 1998. The 1999 Literature Survey did not ask about this item. No input has been found in our files suggesting specific changes to this IP. The scope of any possible future revision needs evaluation.

Fellowship Input Proposing New Literature

Proposals for new literature on various other topics have been on the table as potential future projects since the late 1980s.   These include: (1) "What is Spirituality?;" (2) "Relationships;" (3) "Racial and Cultural Diversity;" (4) "Practicing the Principles of the Traditions;" (5) a service and recovery IP; and (6) "Recovery in Day-to-Day Life." The source material available for each of these items consists of very short and limited drafts. Each of these proposals was asked about in general terms in the 1999 fellowship literature survey. Further evaluation of the need for each of these proposals will be required if any of these items are to go forward. If need is agreed upon, then how and when any item should be developed would also have to be determined.

Regarding the service and recovery IP proposal, because it relates to a new chapter in the Basic Text, further evaluation is especially needed to achieve consensus on the scope of that proposal and related issues (IP, booklet, Basic Text chapter, or nothing). The background is that the WSCLC placed the proposal for an IP on NA service on the "C" worklist (items for regional

development) published in the 1993 *CAR*. It remained there throughout the WSC inventory years, up to and including the "C" list published in the 1998 *CAR*. However, the WSCLC also added a new "A" list recommendation for a new chapter on service for the Basic Text at that time. The source material for this potential IP consists of two short drafts. The first is a one and one-half–page draft submitted by a regional literature committee in August of 1991. The second is a four–page draft received in September of 1992, originally published in a regional newsletter. Presumably, these could be used as source material, depending upon how these two proposals were handled (i.e., a new service IP versus a new chapter in the Basic Text).

Two book–length proposals have been on hold indefinitely. One is a book geared toward members in early recovery titled "Living Clean," which has been a potential project since 1983. Another is an anthology book of favorite *NA Way* articles (from the magazine's beginning in 1982 up to the present). There is significant source material for both of these potential projects, but the draft material on file for "Living Clean" would require very extensive work because of serious problems with the content, style, and tone of the material.

LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERVIEW

This plan is intended to be flexible and modular (having multiple options presented for a given project or choice between projects), including costs and timelines depending on the scope option selected, as appropriate. In future years, detailed project plans to authorize specific work on specific literature items would have to be approved by the WSC to implement any plan goals.

Plans can have different levels of detail. The Fellowship Development Plan, for example, is a statement of goals. The FDP specifies what needs to be done. But the FDP does not prioritize one goal over another and generally does not say when something should be done, with some exceptions. (Some goals are tied to a time frame; some are not.) The FDP also answers the "what" question without specifying who will implement the plan and doesn't answer questions about how goals should be accomplished (process and policy issues are not addressed).

This plan in its current form, like the FDP, offers limited detail about exactly how and when goals will be accomplished. We believe this may be contrary to the expectations of some. However, we believe this is the best approach at this uncertain time. In many cases, we just don't know how certain tasks will be accomplished, nor do we know when it will be practical or possible to undertake many tasks. Our best thinking today is that we may do certain things one way, but we're really not sure how we will do many things, because we've never done this before. Once we get into the details, we may proceed in another way. So please continue to direct us on what you want us to accomplish while allowing us the freedom to work out the details of how we deliver the products and services you need in the best possible way. The *November Conference Report* supplied some detail about the implementation of the committees during the next conference cycle (i.e., what this will mean).

The literature process itself is divided into (1) creation of new literature and (2) the revision of existing literature—each with its own aspect of fellowship involvement and its own activities and tasks in each conference cycle.

We see fellowship involvement and communication/reporting as overarching priorities that transcend all of the plan components described below. Our intention is that fellowship involvement be an integral part of all processes. Fellowship involvement would come through

all of the needs assessment tools described below, and by review and input methods. Although we see the continued English-language bias potential in this part of the process, we would expect our review and input methods to be better planned and organized, more "user–friendly," and hopefully more effective in gathering useful fellowship input on draft recovery literature. We see fellowship involvement as part of all communication and reporting, and this finally culminates in the ultimate fellowship decision to approve (or disapprove) material. Communication and reporting are equally critical. We noted this happening via *NAWS News*, the *CAR*, the *NA Way*, special reports, the WSO website and regional/zonal events (workshops, learning days, and the proposed interactive workshop system).

We identified three major components relevant to the future creation and revision of fellowship–approved literature. These three components were: (1) identification of need; (2) development process; and (3) approval. A brief description of our initial ideas follows.

1) Identification of Need

The idea behind this plan is to begin to come up with a variety of options and methods that the fellowship could use to identify its needs. We looked at ways in which we could separate "needs" from "wants" when it comes to literature development for the whole worldwide fellowship. We would like to create open dialogue. What follows are just our preliminary ideas of possible options for improving the needs assessment process. We see surveys as just one part of the needs identification process. We discussed the possibility of having surveys with open–ended questions, not just yes/no questions. The intent of this plan is to use general surveys to gather information to help set priorities, with specific followup surveys which would focus on the form or content of a given piece, the scope of a revision, the length and type of material desired about a given topic, etc. Focus groups, small group discussions at fellowship workshops, zonal forums, the proposed interactive worldwide workshop system, and other new methods would also be part of the needs identification process. *Whatever tools are used, the main idea is to achieve a solid fellowship consensus at the start of the process.*

The exact process or nature of all of these evaluation tools would still have to be developed by the board, with fellowship input, in the next conference cycle (and we have talked about combinations of surveys, focus groups, workshops, etc.). But, regardless, we want to repeat that evaluation is separate from development; development cannot start without a conference–approved detailed project plan; and the literature process in *TWGWSS* remains the same.

Four Types of Evaluation

1. Form and content of specific pieces, either new or revised. Sponsorship is an example of this type of evaluation. What form does the fellowship want: book chapter, booklet, pamphlet, or some combination thereof? What content does the fellowship need: how to sponsor, the "rules" of sponsorship, motivational piece to encourage or inspire members to get and/or to be a sponsor, general philosophical discussion of the importance of the principles of sponsorship, personal experiences (stories) re sponsorship, etc.?

2. General need/priority-setting evaluation. This is the planned type of comprehensive evaluation of all potential major topics (new and existing). This would allow potential projects to be ranked in terms of greatest need or eliminated if no need was determined.

3. Periodic evaluation of the need to revise existing literature. (See discussion below re continuing to suspend the old practice of evaluating each item on a five-year schedule;

fellowship input would be able to guide the board's consideration of a new policy to be proposed for consideration at WSC 2002.

4.   A fourth type of evaluation would be cases where there was a need to engage the fellowship as a whole in considerable discussion or debate about the merits or need for a whole category or type of literature. An example of this would be the issue of literature targeted to specific segments of the fellowship. There are philosophical conflicts within the fellowship about the pros and cons of this category of literature. (See further discussion of this below.) The need for broad–based fellowship discussion of a philosophical issue of principle is what distinguishes this type of evaluation from the others. Issues of evaluating how the literature process might need to change to ensure that NA carries its written message to addicts regardless of language or culture to fulfill better this aspect of the WSC Vision Statement might be another example of an evaluation/review where philosophical principles are involved.

By using the above tools, priority recommendations could be formulated. To come up with these recommendations, we brainstormed about some specific criteria. These include: fellowship input; estimated costs (financial and human resources); length of piece; stage of development; source material; local need (language/culture); number of literature projects pending; length of time since last revision, etc. We think the bulk of the literature work occurring during the next conference cycle (2000–2002) should consist of these kinds of tasks, plus anything else needed for the World Board to get the new literature process up and running. These tasks rather than actual work on a concrete literature project should come first, particularly before any book–length piece.

2) Development Process

This is a major task we will need to accomplish together during the transition of the 2000–2002 conference cycle. Issues identified this year include, without limitation, board internal development processes, fellowship review and input processes/review–form literature issues, and the need to improve the process of evaluating potential new literature projects. We also cover three development–related issues below in the section "Specific Discussion Issues—For Future Consideration." These are: (1) the need to improve or change the process of evaluating existing literature for revision; (2) future development of literature targeted to specific groups and (3) the issue of how to make the literature development process more equitable (or more inclusive) for all language and cultural groups. The goal here is to consider how the literature development process might be improved to better live up to WSC Vision Statement's ideal: "that every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life."

3) Approval

The previous approval policy (still in effect until 2002) requires that the *CAR* include for fellowship consideration any approval-form recovery literature *in English only*. Further, current policy requires the distribution of the *CAR* a minimum of 90 days before each annual WSC meeting. However, the 1999 WSC passed a motion that lengthened the period of review of the *Conference Agenda Report* from 90 to 180 days, effective with the implementation of the new two–year conference cycle (which would mean the 2002 *CAR*). That same motion also required the translation of all *CAR* material (including all recovery and service material), and this change in

policy would take effect with the 2002 *CAR*. *The World Board is asking the fellowship to reconsider this motion. We do not believe it is possible to provide translated approval forms, even with a longer two–year work cycle.* Translating literature can take several years of collaborative efforts with local translation committees to accomplish. This is neither possible nor practical to do, even with the upcoming change from a one–year to a two–year conference cycle. (See our CAR 2000 report regarding the Two–Year Conference Project for details about this.)

4) Chart Illustrating Potential Tasks in a Normal Conference Cycle

Attached as Appendix 2 is a chart illustrating potential tasks in a normal conference cycle. With fellowship input, involvement, and communication as overarching priorities as noted above, tasks would include identification of needs through the evaluation of both new literature proposals and any items for revision.

The board would then formulate recommendations and prepare detailed project plans (with timelines, budgets, specific goals and objectives, etc.) for any specific items identified as prospective projects. The result of all of the above could be factored into an updated version of this literature development plan which would cover the next five conference cycles, from 2002 to 2012. This process of updating this literature development plan would become a routine task each conference cycle.

In years where the conference approved detailed project plans for specific projects, the board would implement those plans. Tasks could possibly include, without limitation, preparing review-form literature and/or approval-form literature for different projects in different stages of development, as the case might be, with the fellowship ultimately approving or disapproving any approval-form literature.

5) List of Major Identified Tasks

For each major task, Appendix 3 indicates if it is a project, a routine/basic service, or "uncertain" (where we have not yet determined this definitively). Those tasks that are presently categorized as "uncertain" will be clarified between now and WSC 2000 and incorporated into the Unified Budget proposal as appropriate. These tasks are the same as the ones listed in Motion 4 regarding affirming the general direction of this literature development plan.

THREE SPECIFIC DISCUSSION ISSUES— FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

We welcome fellowship input on the following three specific issues for future discussion (during the next conference cycle).

Discussion Issue #1: Process of Reviewing Fellowship–Approved Literature for Revision

The chart below shows the revision history of all existing recovery literature. For each item the chart shows the original approval date, the last revision date (if any), and the date last evaluated (never, not yet due, or unknown, as the case may be).

Summary of Existing Fellowship–Approved Literature				
Title	**Approved**	**Revised**	**Last Evaluation**	**Status/Comment**
Little White Booklet, *Narcotics Anonymous*	Pre–1976	1986	1999	Motion 5 Issue Pending
Who, What, How, and Why (IP #1)	Pre–1976	1986	1999	Motion 5 Issue Pending
Another Look (IP#5)	Pre–1976	1985	1992	To be revised since 1992
Sponsorship (IP #11)	1983	Never	1997	To be revised since 1997
Youth and Recovery (IP#13)	1983	Never	1992	To be revised since 1992
Just for Today (IP#8)	1983	Never	New title 1986	Evaluation was due 1991
Recovery and Relapse (IP#6)	Pre–1976	1986	1986	Evaluation was due 1991
Self–Acceptance (IP #19)	1986	Never	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1991
For the Newcomer (IP #16)	1983	Never	1987	Evaluation was due 1992
The Loner (IP #21)	1987	Never	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1992
Welcome to NA (IP #22)	1987	Never	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1992
Living the Program (IP #9)	1983	Never	1988	Evaluation was due 1993
The Triangle of Self–Obsession (IP #12)	1983	Never	1988	Evaluation was due 1993
One Addict's Experience (IP #14)	1983	Never	1988	Evaluation was due 1993
The Group (IP #2)	Pre–1976	1988	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1993
Am I an Addict? (IP#7)	1983	1988	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1993
Staying Clean on the Outside (IP #23)	1988	Never	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1993
Working Step Four in NA	1983	1988	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1993
Behind the Walls	1990	Never	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1995
PI and the NA Member (IP #15)	1991	Never	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1996
For Those in Treatment (IP #17)	1991	Never	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1996
An Introductory Guide to NA	1991	1992	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1997
In Times of Illness	1992	Never	Unknown	Evaluation was due 1997
H&I Service and the NA Member (IP #20)	1986	1996	Not yet due	
Hey! What's the Basket For? (IP #24)	1988	Never	1998	
Self–Support: Principle and Practice (IP #25)	1998	Never	Not yet due	
Accessibility/Additional Needs (IP #26)	1998	Never	Not yet due	
Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*	1982	1988	Ongoing	Ongoing evaluation
Just for Today (book)	1992	Never	Never	Evaluation was due 1997
It Works: How & Why (book)	1993	Never	Never	Evaluation was due 1998
NA Step Working Guides (book)	1998	Never	Not yet due	

From 1988 through 1998, it was the practice of the WSCLC to evaluate for possible revision each item of fellowship–approved literature every five (5) years (after each item's approval or last revision). Because of the WSC inventory process from 1993 through 1998, evaluations did not occur. Since WSC 1998, the only evaluations have been informal efforts to construct this plan. Consequently, if we resumed the five (5) year standard at WSC 2000, the overdue backlog

scheduled for evaluation in the 2000–2002 conference cycle would be more than *three–quarters of the entire existing inventory* of fellowship–approved literature. This is an absolutely unmanageable workload of evaluations of revision items between 2000 and 2004 (and possibly beyond).

We are drawing attention to this practice because we want to openly acknowledge that it is our intention to ignore it during the next conference cycle. The conference's approval of Motion 4, affirming the general direction of the report, would be the vehicle for authorizing this suspension of procedure. We believe that a change to this process should be considered in the future. The board will come back with a recommendation at WSC 2002. The board welcomes input on this issue between now and then. (The board presented certain options in the draft version of this report distributed at the World Services Meeting in Hollywood, Florida, USA.)

Discussion Issue #2: Recovery Literature Targeted for Specific Needs

As noted above in the discussion of Motion 49, the World Board believes the issues surrounding "Am I Too Young to Be an Addict?" need further evaluation and that there are unresolved philosophical issues relating to literature targeted to specific groups of addicts. For lack of a better term, and without prejudice for or against this type of material, we discuss such material here under the heading "Recovery Literature for Specific Needs." NA currently has several IPs directed to specific groups of addicts (newcomers, loners, youth, addicts in treatment, institutionalized addicts, etc.). Conflicting proposals have been on the table for many years to revise one of these IPs (*Youth and Recovery*) as well as other proposals to develop new material for particular audiences ("Seniors in Recovery," for example). The board has not yet had a complete discussion of this issue and has come to no conclusions yet. We present the discussion of some of these issues here to facilitate fellowship discussion and also to illustrate what is meant when we say there is a need for future evaluation. Stated another way, there does not yet appear to be fellowship consensus to develop such material one way versus another. We welcome fellowship input on this subject.

Why has this material aroused controversy? Without taking sides one way or the other, here are the two main points of view that we believe the fellowship will have to discuss to resolve the conflicting approaches.

Some members believe that the disease of addiction makes all members the same, and that NA has one message that need not, and should not, be targeted to specific groups. From this point of view, targeted literature is seen as unnecessary, and possibly even divisive. Concerns include not only the impact on fellowship unity, but also that such literature might divert NA from its primary purpose or create public controversy by drawing attention to segments of our fellowship that are stigmatized on the basis of age, race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, or other factors. There is also a concern that if NA opens the door for certain targeted audiences, it will then be difficult or problematic to respond fairly to every other group that wants to have NA literature targeted to a specific focus or issue.

On the other hand, other members believe that concern for our common welfare means we must take into account the needs of all of our members. The diversity of our membership requires that we consider the needs of all addicts, which may encompass significant differences that require different approaches in carrying our written message effectively. "Effective" means providing enough identification for specific groups of addicts "where empathy becomes a

healing therapy for all addicted people." So long as NA literature is not in conflict with our core philosophy and principles, this perspective believes it is in the interest of all of NA to target literature to some specific groups so that we can better carry our message to the addict who still suffers and so that every addict has the opportunity to hear the NA message in his or her own language and culture.

The board itself has not yet had time to discuss the underlying philosophical issues and believes that fellowshipwide discussion and input will be necessary to move forward with specific literature proposals. In the largest sense, resolving the question about whether NA develops additional literature targeted to specific groups will involve considering the meaning and importance of all NA recovery literature. **What is the purpose and function of NA recovery literature? Who are the most important audiences for NA recovery literature today? What communities have the greatest need for recovery literature today?** In a consensus–based world service system, if the needs of any minority are greater than the needs of a given majority, how do we go about achieving consensus to meet those areas of greatest need and urgency, whatever those needs might be determined to be?

The board is also aware, in its role as overall administrator of the World Service Office, that requests have been received continually since the 1980s for literature that addresses certain topics and/or the needs of certain members. These requests have not only come from members who are young, old, gay/lesbian, and/or other racial or cultural minorities within the context of specific societies, but also have included requests for literature which addresses the needs of addicts who are incarcerated and/or those with certain specific physical or mental conditions and challenges. The WSO also routinely receives requests from professionals for literature targeted to certain communities. The former World Literature Committee turned over the following proposals to the board in 1998 when the conference created the new world service system.

The proposals for pamphlets on the topics racial and cultural diversity, "Am I Too Young to Be an Addict?", *Youth and Recovery*, "So You Think You're Different," "Seniors in Recovery," and "Recovery Is for Everyone" are not necessarily mutually exclusive. The fellowship could choose to develop any combination of these options, or none of them, in the future. The 1999 literature survey asked about the fellowship's views about the need for several of these items, but our simple survey did not and could not evaluate the underlying philosophical issue or prioritize the development of one of these items over another. However, support for developing material on each of these topics at some point in the future exceeded a simple majority of survey respondents in all cases. Support as measured by the 1999 literature survey ranged from a low of 58% for something on the topic of racial and cultural diversity, up to a high of 78% for material on the topic of youth and recovery. We present the background about these related items below to foster further fellowship discussion.

At WSC 1996 the following motion was referred to the WSCLC: it was M/S/R (Motion #61) "That the WSCLC take the issue discussion papers titled *Racial and Cultural Diversity and Our First Tradition* as input and create an IP on this subject." The WSCLC placed this IP proposal on its 1997 and 1998 "D" worklists as published in the *CAR*, but there is no record of any assignments or work on this proposal. At some point this item was also considered by the WSB, who were generally supportive of discussion of this issue and the development of material on this topic. However, the WSB took no official action.

"So You Think You're Different" was a proposed revision of *Youth and Recovery* (IP #13) which was intended to change the targeted focus to one of general interest applicable to all

members who feel different for any reason. The WSCLC received this proposed rewrite in June of 1991 from a regional literature committee that reviewed the IP and came up with this direction on their own. It was not until the 1993 *Conference Agenda Report* that the WSCLC identified *Youth and Recovery* as a revision project, when the WSCLC placed it on the "B" worklist (items awaiting final development). It was not until 1997 that the WSCLC proposed (still as a "B" worklist item in the 1997 *CAR*) combining the revision of *Youth and Recovery* with "So You Think You're Different" and two other work–in–progress proposals: "Seniors in Recovery" and "Recovery Is for Everyone." The WSCLC repeated this plan to combine these four drafts into a new revised IP on the "B" worklist in the 1998 *CAR*.

Regarding "Seniors in Recovery," in 1992 the WSC committed the following motion to the WSCLC: "That the WSCLC produce an information pamphlet entitled 'Seniors in Recovery, in large print.' [sic]" The WSCLC subsequently received a two-page draft with this title on 14 July 1992. As noted above, the WSCLC proposed on both its 1997 and 1998 "B" worklists the combination of this proposal with the revision of *Youth and Recovery* (IP #13).

The "Recovery Is for Everyone" IP proposal focuses on recognizing our similarities instead of concentrating on our differences. A one–half–page draft was received on 1 November 1992. As noted above, the WSCLC proposed on both its 1997 and 1998 "B" worklists the combination of this proposal with the revision of *Youth and Recovery* (IP #13).

As noted above, there was a further development at the 1998 WSC. The proposed draft from the Southern California Region, "Am I Too Young to Be an Addict?", appeared in the 1998 *CAR*. The 1998 WSC committed this to the World Board and to the Motion 21/24 process. The fellowship could choose to combine this draft with the one or all four of the other related items, or develop it separately. It is up to the fellowship to discuss and decide whether to keep *Youth and Recovery* with its special focus, to change to a general focus, or to create new IPs targeted to specific groups (for example, seniors). Any combination of these options is possible and reasonable.

Discussion Issue #3: Making Literature Development More Equitable—Translations Issues

The workgroup reported preliminary discussions earlier this year in *NAWS News* about possible ways in which this literature development plan and the future literature development process relate to the ideals of the WSC Vision Statement. The basic problem is that the fellowship and the conference are confused about how translations are actually accomplished. At the same time, there is a strong desire to make recovery literature available and accessible to all language and cultural groups in the most equitable way possible. These are two separate issues.

There is a need for dialogue about translations in two areas: (a) the overall process and (b) between English- and non–English-speaking communities to resolve differing perspectives based on a difference in both language and culture (this would include cultural differences among English–speaking groups).

As a first principle, the board favors increasing participation in the literature development process where possible and practical for all who want to be included.

We favor soliciting voluntary input with need assessment/evaluation activities to assist all who have a desire to participate in the process. The words "voluntary" and "desire" are key.
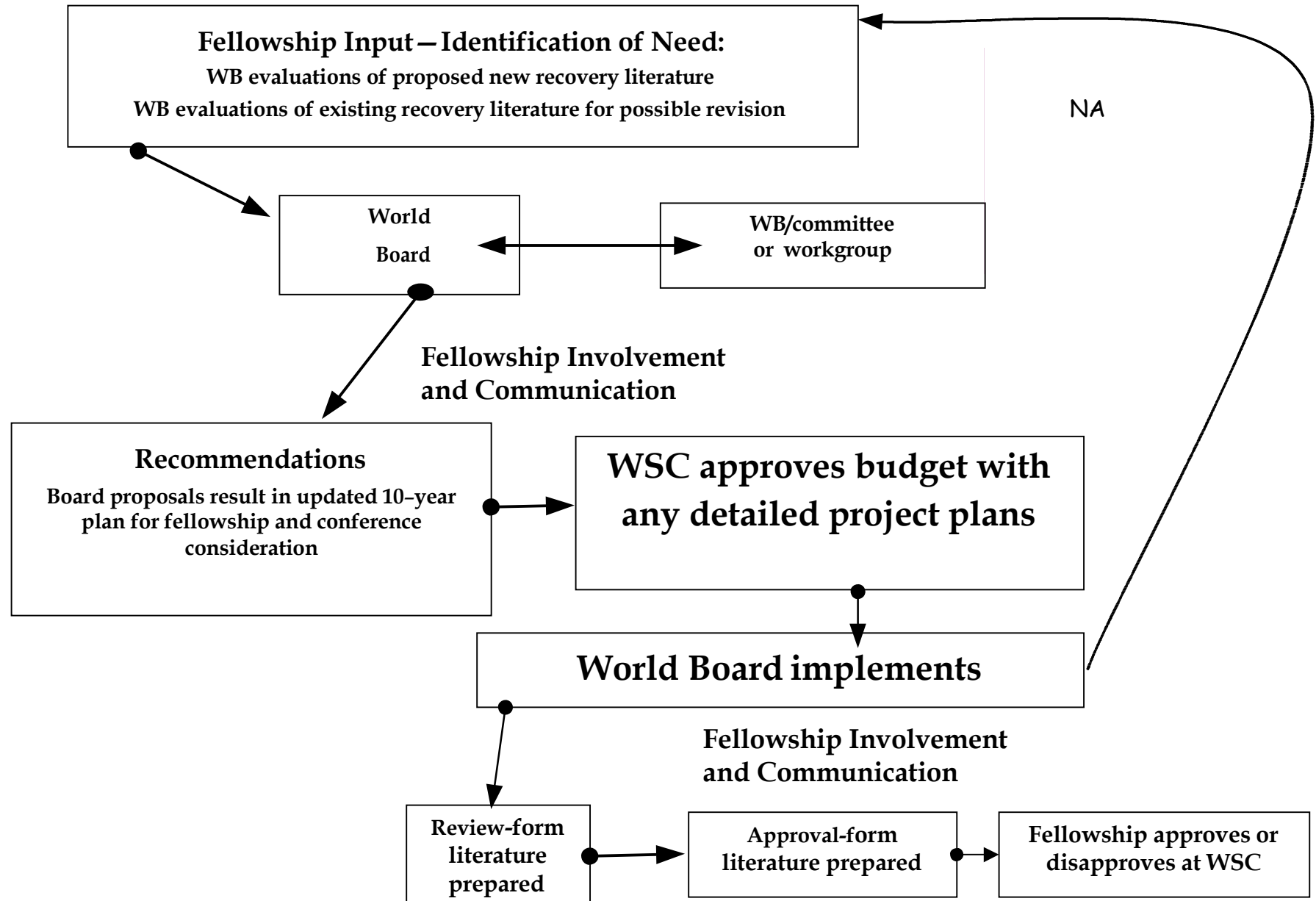
This is because we want to acknowledge that priorities and interest in literature development vary based upon both culture and the stage of development any given NA community is in.

The board has committed itself to discuss this important and complex matter further in the future, but has not yet had the opportunity to have a full discussion of these issues. We welcome fellowship input on this topic in the meantime. Please see our June *NAWS News* report on this subject if you want more background information (available at www.na.org or upon request). We plan to prepare a discussion paper on this topic at some point in the future.

Appendix 1—From The 2000 *CAR*, Four Board Motions re the Motion 21 Project

In the 2000 *CAR*, this section of the report containing a discussion of four board motions for conference action may be found beginning on page one of the *CAR*. When distributed separately, this Appendix 1 shall constitute a reprint of that section of the *CAR* in full.

Appendix 2—Potential Tasks in a Normal Conference Cycle

Fellowship Input—Identification of Need:
WB evaluations of proposed new recovery literature
WB evaluations of existing recovery literature for possible revision

NA

World Board

WB/committee or workgroup

Fellowship Involvement and Communication

Recommendations
Board proposals result in updated 10–year plan for fellowship and conference consideration

WSC approves budget with any detailed project plans

World Board implements

Fellowship Involvement and Communication

Review-form literature prepared

Approval-form literature prepared

Fellowship approves or disapproves at WSC

Appendix 3—List of Major Identified Work Tasks in This Report/Plan

Major Tasks	Routine/Project/Uncertain
A. Implement the Publications Committee; This Includes Developing Evaluation Tools to Identify Fellowship Needs for the Creation and Revision of Recovery Literature and to Achieve Consensus About Priorities.	Uncertain
B. Depending on the Outcome on Motions 1 and 2 (see above), Prepare a Detailed Project Plan to Evaluate Revisions and/or Additions to the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet.	Project
C. *Depending on the Outcome on Motions 1, 2, and 3* (see above), Begin Evaluation of New Sponsorship Material & Report to WSC 2002.	Project
D. Develop a Bulletin on the Internet and the Eleventh Tradition.	Routine
E..Develop a Discussion Paper re Surveillance and the Little White Booklet.	Routine
F. Gather Fellowship Input on Future Discussion Issue #1, "Process of Reviewing Fellowship–Approved Literature for Revision," and Give Update to WSC 2002.	Routine
G. Gather Fellowship Input on Future Discussion Issue #2, "Recovery Literature Targeted for Specific Needs," and Give Update to WSC 2002.	Routine
H. Gather Fellowship Input on Future Discussion Issue #3, and Develop a Discussion Paper About Translations.	Routine
I. Prepare an Updated 5–10–Year Literature Development Plan for WSC 2002.	Routine