Long History

* Source documents are quoted verbatim, often with original typos intact, reproduced digitally, or reduced photo statically. The narrative in this issue was done largely by cutting and pasting lines from existing histories.

The first real publication in Narcotics Anonymous was this little booklet. This was written between '53 and '56, and published in '56. You can read stuff that will sound familiar. You can hear our literature in there, the beginnings. You can hear the roots of what you hear in every meeting in there. This was the first publication "Narcotics Anonymous". (Click Here for an online copy)

NARCOTIC ANONYMOUS
P.O. Box 1043
Studio City, California

This booklet is dedicated to those who suffer from narcotics and sedation addiction. We, in Narcotics Anonymous, offer no cure, but we can honestly, positively, show you a way out, a way to quit using.

DO YOU NEED NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS?

You do if you are an addict.
Are you an addict?
Ask yourself these questions. Answer them as honestly as you can.
1. Do you lose time from work due to "using"?
2. Is "using" making your home life unhappy?
3. Do you "fix" because you are shy with other people?
4. Is "using" affecting your reputation?
5. Have you ever felt remorse after "fixing"?
6. Have you ever gotten into financial difficulties as a result of "using"?
7. Do you turn to lower companions and an inferior environment when "using"?
8. Does your "using" make you careless of your family's welfare?
9. Has your ambition decreased since "using"?
10. Do you crave a "fix" at a definite time daily?
11. Do you want a "fix" the next morning?
12. Does "using" make you have difficulty in sleeping?
13. Has your efficiency decreased since "using"?
14. Is "using" jeopardizing your job or business?
15. Do you "fix" to escape from worries or trouble?
16. Do you "fix" alone?
17. Have you ever had a complete loss of memory as a result of "using"?
18. Has your physician ever treated you for "using"?
19. Do you "fix" to build up your self-confidence?
20. Have you ever been to a hospital or institution on account of "using"?

If you answered YES to any one of these questions, you may be an addict.
If you answered YES to any two of the questions, chances are you are an addict.
If you answered YES to three or more then you are an addict beyond doubt.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Absolutely nothing, unless you are convinced you must do something about it, and sincerely want to do something about it.

If you sincerely want to stop using, we in Narcotics Anonymous, who suffered from the same addiction, and who are now arrested cases and living a new way of life, have a program that will show you the way out. We can't offer you a cure, because neither you nor we will ever be cured of addiction. But like us, you can become an arrested case. You can stop using and start living.

WHAT IS THE NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS PROGRAM?

Narcotics Anonymous is an absolutely non-profit-making fellowship and is connected with no police, political, or religious organization. There are no initiation fees, no dues, no charges of any kind. There are no pledges to sign. Any one may join, regardless of age, race, color or religion. We are not interested in what you used, how much, or who your connections were. All we ask is that you have the sincere, honest desire to stop using.

We of Narcotics Anonymous are exactly like you. We are a group of addicts who meet regularly to help each other obtain and maintain our sobriety and to stay clean.

Before coming on the program, our trouble was we could not manage our own lives. We couldn't live like normal people. We had to have something different and we thought we had found it in drugs and narcotics. We got so we had to have these drugs and narcotics no matter what the cost. We placed their use ahead of the welfare of our families, wives and children. We did them great harm, but most of all, we harmed ourselves. We broke not only the laws or society but the greatest law of all - the law of nature.

We were running away, that was our real problem, for the use of drugs and narcotics is but a symptom of underlying causes. We used in order to escape facing life and its problems. We realized we were slowly committing suicide, but such cunning enemies of life are drugs and narcotics that we had lost the power to do anything about it.

Jail did us no good. Medicine and psychiatry had no answers for us. Everything else having failed, in desperation we sought help from each other, in Narcotics Anonymous.

Here, we have come to realize we are not moral lepers. We are simply sick people. We suffer from a disease, just like alcoholism, diabetes, tuberculosis, heart trouble or cancer. There is no known cure for these diseases and neither is there for drug addiction. But by following a pattern derived from Alcoholics
Anonymous and its teachings, we have become arrested cases. We found out how to live a life free from the uses of narcotics and sedation. We have stopped using. We have learned how to live.

Here is how we did it. These are the steps we took, and they are the steps we suggest for anyone who sincerely wants to stop using.

1. We admitted we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Does this sound like a big order?
We don't expect you to do it overnight. You didn't become addicted in one day. "Easy does it" We suggest you begin a program of recovery by taking Step One. Admit you are powerless over drugs, that your life has become unmanageable. It you are in a jail or hospital, you have gone through complete withdrawal and have stopped using for the time being. Upon release, tell yourself you will not use today. It is most important you get in touch with a member of Narcotics Anonymous or attend a meeting of Narcotics Anonymous at once. If you are not in a jail or hospital, the same thing holds true: Stop using for today.

If the compulsion becomes so great you can't see going through a whole day, then put yourself on a five minute basis of not using.

After five minutes, do it for another five minutes.
Minutes will grow into hours, hours into days. Quitting for one day, then another, will eventually help you break the habit.

Go from Step One to Step Two. Then to Step Three. You do it by stages, first thing first. By constant attendance at Narcotics Anonymous meetings, you will find answers to the questions that may be disturbing you now.

OUR PRAYER
God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can,  
And the wisdom to know the difference.

JUST FOR TODAY

Tell yourself:  
JUST FOR TODAY my thoughts will be on my recovery, living and enjoying life  
without the use of narcotics.

JUST FOR TODAY I will have faith in someone in Narcotics Anonymous who  
believes in me and wants to help me to recovery.

JUST FOR TODAY I will have a program. I will try to follow it to the best of my  
ability.

JUST FOR TODAY, through Narcotics Anonymous, I will try to get a better  
perspective on my life.

JUST FOR TODAY I will be unafraid. My thoughts will be on my new  
associations, people who are not using and who have found a new way of life. So  
long as I follow that way of life, even for today, I have nothing to fear.

For information regarding time and place of Narcotics Anonymous meetings,  
write to:

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS  
P.O. Box 1043  
Studio City, Calif.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS  
P.O. Box 13023  
So. Eastern Station  
San Diego, Calif.

That was followed in the early 60’s by the White Booklet. The readings  
in here are almost identical to what we have today. Basically our  
readings evolved in the mid 60’s in one format until the mid-70’s then  
we went into a different format. The cover is significantly different on  
the current white book. The history of the White Booklet is the  
history of the Basic Text.
The idea of the Basic Text was to involve as many people as possible. We believed that any NA Member has something valid to say and something valid to contribute to the book "Narcotics Anonymous". The book "Narcotics Anonymous" was not written by a small group of individuals. It was really done by many, many, many people.

Every piece of input, every concept that was input was included in the Basic Text. Not always the same wording but the ideas were all there. That was one of the promises we made to ourselves and one of our working rules. We assumed that every piece of input was valid and that every concept needed to be expressed in the book. Every piece of input, every concept that was input was included in the Basic Text.

The first World Literature Conference was held in October of 1979 in Wichita, Kansas. Anyone that wanted to participate was welcome. The purpose of that conference was to put together a plan of action. The results were the World Literature Guidelines. This began formal work on the Basic Text.

In September of 1980 we went to Lincoln, Nebraska for the 2nd World Lit. Conference. One of the things that was decided in Lincoln, Nebraska, was that we would use the white booklet as the outline of the Basic Text. We went to start going through all the material we had collected and we'd find a sentence that fit in with something in the white booklet and we'd cut it out and we'd paste it up. We sorted them out by White Book Chapters. This produced a rough draft.

The 3rd World Lit. Conference was held in Memphis, Tennessee in February 1981. It was a polishing, a revision and an editing of that cut and paste. Some work had been done between Lincoln and Memphis by the 30 or 40 people that attended the Lincoln conference. The result of the Memphis conference was the manuscript known as the Grey Form. There are people who believe that some of the stuff in the Grey Form is the best that's ever been written in Narcotics Anonymous. There are some real neat things that happened in the development of this manuscript in Memphis. The 7th Tradition was dictated in a 9 hour telephone conversation to a typist from across the country.

Work began at once. Even before this was distributed, typed
versions were being worked on. The next World Lit. Conference was held in Santa Monica, California during April 1981. The idea was to try to fix some of the disjointedness. Not to change it but to make it consistent in tone and style, and to fill in some of the holes. The resulting draft disappeared and has never been found.

So we had to go back three months later in Warren, Ohio and start re-creating some of that work. The 4th World Literature Conference, July 1981, resulted in another draft that went to Miami, Florida, site of the 5th World Lit. Conference during September 1981 and it was polished there.

Then In November the Lit. Conference went back to Memphis and a final manuscript was put together and typed up, it was edited by someone in the Fellowship and the result was the Approval Form of the Basic Text of Narcotics Anonymous. Bootleg copies appeared almost immediately and were printed off of these. There were probably 10 or 12 different places in the country that these were produced in mass quantities. Sometimes you heard people talking about "Turkey" books. One of them had a little turkey on the cover. It was printed in Memphis. Some had yellow covers, some had white covers. There were a variety of bootlegs produced. The originals had a shiny cover.

A letter was sent with the Approval Copies explaining the events leading to this point and how to proceed. The Approval Form was circulated through the Fellowship and approved at the World Service Conference (WSC) in 1982 as the Basic Text for Narcotics Anonymous.

November, 1981

Dear Fellow Trusted Servants:

The time has arrived for us to take a look at, evaluate and decide if the Basic Text that has evolved from six W.S.C. Literature Conferences over the past several years represents recovery from addiction through our experiences in Narcotics Anonymous.

There has long been a need for a comprehensive Basic Text on recovery, the Narcotics Anonymous book. Our book is needed to carry the message of recovery
to places where members cannot go or have not yet been or gone. A Basic Text book on recovery from addiction for public libraries and for the shelves of doctors; parole and probations; and judges' offices. A definitive text so millions of people may know that we can and do recover, a day at a time.

The Mid-South R.S.C. accepted the responsibility of printing, packaging, addressing and mailing this Approval Form of our book, our Basic Text on N.A. Recovery. As of this writing, many addicts are arriving in Memphis, Tennessee, to help with this great work and many others continue to send their spiritual, emotional and financial support from around the world.

Now it is on you. The time has come, to be or not to be... to do or not to do! Approval of Our Basic Text should proceed as follows: Narcotics Anonymous members read this Approval Form of Our Book and Groups of N.A. members vote to approve or not. The Group Service Representatives vote the conscience of the Groups at Area Service Committee Meetings and then the Area Service Representatives vote the conscience of their areas at Regional Service Committee Meetings. Regional Service Representatives, State Delegates (in areas that have not yet formed a Regional Service Committee), will then vote at the World Service Conference to be held in Los Angeles, CA, in May of 1982, to approve for Hardback. If your group's locality does not have an organized service structure, you should get together with other N.A. groups in your state and send a state representative who will have the same voting strength as an R.S.R.

In an effort to reduce the cost of printing and mailing, the personal stories have been excluded. Our book in its present Approval Form is Basic Text only. The stories, some of which were in the Review Form, will be considered separately at a later date. We remain your trusted servants.

In Gratitude and Loving Service,

Literature Sub-Committee

World Service Conference

Narcotics Anonymous

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 1982, SATURDAY MAY 7

(Literature Committee Chairperson, Page C.) I would like to make a motion to accept the basic text approval form as the 1st edition of our Narcotics Anonymous Book, Julie W. added amendment that a 2/3 majority vote be required for passage of that. Parliamentarian then stepped in and clarified. Call for a vote. Not clear. **Count of voting participants was taken at this time. Clarification that this does not include stories, only basic text. Call for a vote on the motion. Discussion. Motion passed. WE HAVE A BOOK
January 1983 the Book still had not been printed and the Board of Trustees (BOT) started objecting to several passages in the Traditions chapter. Together with the WSO Board of Directors, they decided to censor the Book. The WSC Chairperson protested to no avail. The WSC Literature Chairperson tried to revoke WSO's rights to the copyright. These censored passages, contained in the discussions of the Fourth and Ninth Traditions, expressed two themes: the service structure is not NA, but something created to serve NA and the Fellowship controls the service structure. World Services refuted these statements in the very act of censorship.

March 1, 1983

To The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

Re: Change/Deletions/Corrections in the Basic Text of Narcotics Anonymous

In November 1982 inaccuracies were noted by the World Service Office of NA, in the basic text "Narcotics Anonymous" which was then scheduled for publication. At that time a special meeting of the Chairpersons of the three Service Branches of Narcotics Anonymous, WSC, WSB, and WSO was called. At that meeting the inaccuracies in chapter 6, involving traditions four (4) and nine (9) were corrected.

On February 12, 1983 due to difficulties with the printer involving misuse of monies paid in the amount of approx. $15,000.00 the art work, type sets & negatives were removed from the printer by the WSO Board of Directors. During the course of a meeting by the WSO Board on February 17, 1983 called to discuss the selection of another printer for the book, the Chairman of WSC demanded that the corrected/deleted/changed material be returned to its original form as approved by the 1982 World Service Conference. The WSO Board complied with the WSC Chairman's demand. At this point the Chairman of the Board of Trustees protested that decision, and the WSO Board then voted to turn the material over to the WSB for their consideration and recommendation. During the course of the week that followed the WSB reviewed the material and requested that WSO print the book as it was changed/corrected/deleted in November. The WSO went along with that recommendation.

The changes/corrections/deletions are attached and revolve around the fact that the book as approved by the 1982 World Service Conference contains the following inaccuracies: In tradition four the book states that SERVICE COMMITTEES ARE NOT NA and later in the same paragraph states “ALL
ELSE IS NOT NA" clearly indicating that they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous. The book further states "whether to utilize these services is up to the group". This would allow any group to do whatever the group chose do and continue to call themselves an NA Group, leaving the fellowship no recourse but to allow them to do so. Any group could use any literature they choose to use in meetings. The use of literature other than NA literature in meetings has been a problem in the past. This is but one of many problems that could surface in the future should the book be printed as approved.

In tradition nine it states that NO SERVICE COMMITTEE OR CONFERENCE has the power to decide anything. It is our belief that this statement would negate the entire service structure of NA, and hence have the potential for creating anarchy within the fellowship. Finally the line stating that SERVICE COMMITTEES ARE NOT A PART OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS places the service structure outside of Narcotics Anonymous, outside of the traditions and hence not subject to the will of the fellowship. We believe that the inclusion of this material in the book would create immediate and long range problems for the fellowship, seriously threatening the unity of NA and therefore recommended to the WSO Board that this material not be included in the book.

We believe it was not the intention of those members of the Literature Committee who selflessly devoted 100's of hours and $1,000's of dollars to provide the fellowship with our book, nor those members of the Board of Trustees who personally worked on and reviewed the material, nor the fellowship who approved the book, to place the Service Structure outside the Traditions or the dictates of the fellowship.

We deeply regret the oversight and the controversy that has evolved around this material. We are, however thankful that WSO discovered these inaccuracies. To the best of our knowledge no other changes/deletions/corrections were made in the book.

In Loving Service,

Board of Trustees

Sally Evans
Chairperson, WSB

At WSC 1983 the WSO delivered the Altered Book. The Fellowship said you cheated us, you took out some of what was in our book, you took out part of what we approved, and we want it put back in. The Second Edition was changing the Basic Text back to its originally approved form.
WSC '83 - MAY 6 1983

MOTION: Page C. (Chair, WSC Lit Comm) moved, seconded by Jim M. (NA Way) "that our book be completely returned to its approved form before any more are printed. CARRIED AS AMENDED BELOW.

Vote: YES 24 No 15 Abs. 5

AMENDMENT: John F. (Greater Philadelphia) moved, seconded by Bob K. (Tennessee) to "add the words "in subsequent printings" to replace "before any more are printed"

Vote: Yes 28 No 6 Abs. 10 CARRIED

Debate resumed on these controversial passages at the 1984 WSC. A letter from a Nebraska Group was used, by the President of the WSO Board of Directors, to justify making a motion to "go to the Fellowship for a vote within 60 days" on the issue. Such a procedure does not exist in our service structure. The vote, the validity of which is disputed by some members, approved removing these passages once again, resulting in the Third Edition. Many were outraged including the Philadelphia Area:

PHILADELPHIA AREA OF N.A.
P.O. Box 14541
Philadelphia, PA 19115

June 13, 1984
To: All World Service Conference Participants
Re: Directive to vote on deletions in Traditions Four and Nine.

Dear W.S.C.:

The Philadelphia Area is outraged for the following reasons:

ITEM 1: The W.S.C. is erroneously utilizing the Twelve Traditions for organizational purposes which they (the Traditions) were never intended for. The sole purpose of the Traditions are as spiritual guidelines that provide protection for each and every Group.
As a result of the vote the motion in question received, it is clear to us that 77% of our trusted servants at the highest level do not understand what the Traditions are about. When the principles of the Twelve Traditions are adopted by a service committee, only the ideals are adopted. This does not change the committee organizationally, nor does it make them a Twelve Tradition Group.

ITEM 2: This issue was improperly attached to an item on the agenda at W.S.C.-84.

ITEM 3: The voting used at W.S.C.-84 is, at least, questionable. We refuse to recognize the disproportionate representation. It does not reflect a fair Group Conscience of the Fellowship of N.A. (i.e. 37 regions=37 votes).

ITEM 4: W.S.C.-84 circumvented the policies and procedures attending these matters.

ITEM 5: The implied ultimatum that if we do not respond to their deadline, the approved Basic Text would either not be printed or would be altered prior to printing.

ITEM 6: Acknowledgement of W.S.C.-84's proposal on this issue will set precedent, allowing the W.S.C. to call for a change without going through previously established procedures meant for such issues. This will divert us from our primary purpose.

We feel that Nebraska's request should not have been used to resurrect this old issue, which we had trusted was put to rest at W.S.C.-83. It appears to us that the Group in Nebraska made a simple request for an explanation and clarification of the apparent contradictions as well as the deletions in the so-called "First Edition".

The W.S.B., as trusted servants, should have simply responded to Nebraska's request straightforwardly and honestly.

We also feel someone under the direction of Chuck Gates, if not Mr. Gates himself, and the W.S.B. owe an apology to the Nebraska Group as well as N.A. as a whole, for omitting the truth - the W.S.O. and W.S.B. never had the authority to delete those lines in question. The issue had been settled by mandate at W.S.C.-83.

Therefore, we the members of the Philadelphia Area protest this issue and will not cast our vote. We refuse to recognize the violation of procedure (it's not a Tradition matter).

In Loving Service,
Phila. Area Service Committee of NA.
It was M/S/C Ginna S. (WSC Lit Chair)/ Maggie O. (RSR Greater Philadelphia), "that the WSO be instructed to have the Basic Text professionally edited to ensure consistent and correct use of capitalization, verb tenses, gender, singular/plural endings, and other grammatical errors and that the edited text be returned to the literature review committee for acceptance and approval prior to printing and distribution."

At WSC 1986 a series of motions were passed to revise the "Little White Book". These revisions were to eliminate references to "Sobriety", eliminate implied endorsements of Alcoholics Anonymous, change "recovered" to "recovering", and eliminate references to specific drug use. Another motion incorporated these revisions into the Basic Text. The Third Edition Revised was printed because of these changes.

The Third Edition Revised stood until the end of 1987 when the WSO introduced the "Professionally Edited" Fourth Edition. Someone was paid to re-write Our Book and it was published without our permission. This was no light editing, but a major rewrite of the Basic Text. Along with 100’s of minor changes there were many conceptual changes and nearly 30 lines missing.

At WSC 1988 the Executive Director, Bob Stone said we could not go back to the 3rd Edition Revised as many Area's wanted because contracts with outside enterprises had been signed and money received. He suggested we "fix" the book by inserting the missing lines. The Fifth Edition was a compromise that missed the point of the Fellowship’s objections to the Fourth Edition. What about the conceptual changes?

According to one of the Trustees, many at World Services wanted a more professionally written book, one that would appeal to the treatment professionals who treated many addicts. The Fellowship preferred a book written by Addicts, for Addicts. The WSO decided, behind closed doors, to change Our Book and then concealed their actions, blaming it all on typesetting errors.

The frustration felt by some NA Members regarding interference by World Services in the literature development process, as well as the excessive cost of our literature, led them to take a controversial step. The publication of a bootleg Basic Text. They published the Third
Edition Revised and included the censored passages from the original, Fellowship approved Traditions chapter. These books were sold for about a dollar or simply given away.

Controversy spread throughout the Fellowship about the "baby Blue" or "little, illegal" Basic Text. Our "world service leadership" initiated a campaign aimed at stopping its distribution.

In the summer of 1990 Wagner and Middlebrook, attorneys for the WSO, sent registered letters to hundreds of trusted servants around the Fellowship. They were warned to avoid any involvement with the "illegal" basic text. Any who were involved were ordered to "cease and desist". All of them were directed to complete enclosed questionnaires. The following day, they all received a letter, sent by overnight express mail, from the Chairperson of the WSO Board purporting to explain why WSO took this action.

Many of these members responded in anger, hurt, and confusion. They felt they were being accused, threatened, their anonymity broken, and thousands of dollars of the Fellowship’s money spent to wage an intimidation campaign.

To: [Trusted Servant's Name]
From: Wagner & Middlebrook, Attorneys
Date: July 10, 1990
Re: FELLOWSHIP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
World Service Office
Our Docket No.: 03-9545-15.XX

This office represents WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC., the service office for the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. My client is the owner of United States Trademark and Service Mark Registration Nos. 1,450,681, and 1,476,774, for the marks NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS and NA logo. My client is also the owner of United States copyright Registration Nos. TX 2 112 598, TX 2 250 589, TX 2 342 402, TX 2 250 588 and TX 2 254 607, covering the First through Fourth editions of the NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Basic Text. The registration for the Fifth Edition is now pending.

It has come to our attention that you may have been printing and/or distributing a version of the copyrighted Basic Text, including unauthorized duplications of the NA Fellowship’s trademark to include the totally false legend that the version being distributed is "Fellowship" approved. These actions violate the NA Fellowship’s rights under both Title 35 and Title 17 of the United States Code, as
well as constitutes consumer fraud on the members of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, and unfair and diluting use of the registered marks.

IF YOU ARE OR HAVE AT ANY TIME ENGAGED IN THESE ACTIVITIES, YOU ARE HEREBY DIRECTED TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND DESIST IN ALL SUCH ACTIVITIES, as well as any other infringements that may have not yet been discovered. Please confirm by return letter that each and every infringement has ceased, and surrender the remaining infringements to this office.

Simply being a member of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous does not give you, or any other member, the right to engage in unauthorized use of the marks or copyrights of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, or to falsely represent that approval has been granted to these materials.

We ask that you accurately complete, sign, date and return the enclosed response in the postage paid envelope provided. If we are in receipt of your immediate agreement in writing that all further infringement and distribution of infringing items has ceased, we will consider this matter closed. If we do not receive your immediate and full cooperation, my client is prepared to institute litigation against you and your company to protect these properties from your misuse, as well as costs and attorneys' fees. May I have your response within ten days of the date of this letter.

Very truly yours,
Theresa Wagner Middlebrook, for
WAGNER & MIDDLEBROOK

Response to cease and desist letter

This response is made by the following person or company:

Name

Address

Please check the correct response:

_______ We have never printed any copies of the Basic Text.

_______ We have never distributed any copies of the Basic Text that consist of the following: a light-blue paperback cover containing the first ten chapters of the Third Edition of N.A.'s Basic Text, replacing the material on Traditions Four and Nine with material from the Second Edition text.
Next the BOT sent an open letter to the Fellowship. Once again they called the book "illegal". They made personal attacks against those involved and accused them of altering the Basic Text. NA Members were told not to take the book.

The WSO sent a letter and a historical review of the Basic Text to registered groups. The publishers of the bootleg text were accused of making a personal profit and of making arbitrary changes in the book. Neither statement is true, but most of the Fellowship did not know that. The historical review omitted a lot of the facts.

There were other communications with the Fellowship, such as the November 1990 Fellowship Report, which continued the vicious attacks against those involved. Finally, World Services decided to sue one of the NA Members involved in the publication of the bootleg text. Announcing their decision they reiterated the disinformation and character assassination.

The lawsuit was filed by WSO, but the entire leadership of World Services voted unanimously to sue. Without seeking guidance from the Fellowship, they committed us to spending tens of thousands of dollars
on legal expenses. The suit was filed in December 1990. They also filed a motion for an immediate injunction against the defendant, claiming an undeniable, self-evident case against him. Their motion was denied, and both parties were directed to settle the dispute.

In their settlement, signed January 4, 1991, they agreed upon several points. "In an effort to heal any wounds" statements were to be published in the Fellowship Report, Newsline, and NA Way calling for peace, a full and adequate discussion of the issues, and an admonishment against any recrimination within the Fellowship. They agreed to publish in the 1991 Conference Agenda Report the closing remarks of the Judge, along with three motions: that the Fellowship choose which edition, or parts thereof, will be the approved Basic Text; that the WSO produce a reduced price version of the Basic Text; and that the WSC obtain a direct, group-by-group tally of the first two motions. WSO Inc. agreed to print these motions "without comment".

A committee known as the "Trust Document Working Group" consisting of several members of the Fellowship, (who had participated over the past 10 plus years in writing the Fellowship Literature, including but not limited to the Basic Text), as well as Grateful Dave and Trusted Servants and other representatives of World Services, was created to work on a trust document for the ownership and management of the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship literary works, trade name and trademarks.

The Trust Document Working Group met in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in February, 1991 and held two extensive conference calls on May 30, 1991 and June 25, 1991. During this time representatives of World Services assured them that their concerns and input about ownership of the Narcotics Anonymous literary work would be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all parties involved. The Court enforced motions failed at WSC '91 amid the continuing hysteria.

The defence charged:

That World Services' representatives were proceeding with undisclosed and ongoing tactical plans of scheming and abhorrent behaviour of controlling and acting as if the Fellowship literary works
were their own property. Among these was the announcement at the 1991 WSC, contrary to representations made to the Trust Document Working Group and without prior publication to the Fellowship as MOTIONS intended for group conscience approval, "Affirmations" to confirm claimed ownership and enforcement rights to the Narcotics Anonymous literary works by World Services;

That an extensive period of Conference time was given to the WSO Lawyer Thersa Middlebrook to give legal analysis and opinions to help grease the vote;

That WSO Inc. had filed registration with the United States Copyright Office on or about May 22, 1991, of certain Amplifications of Copyright Forms in an attempt to correct improper registrations. (If at first you don't succeed...);

That there had been published and distributed to voting participants 30 days prior to WSC 91 a WSO BOD report containing improper and persuasive comments about the claimed copyrights held by World Services and Grateful Dave’s challenge of these copyrights in an attempt to influence negative votes on the agreed Literary Work Motions. World Services representatives had spoken with members of the Fellowship, including voting WSC participants, about the Motions and their effects if passed. Letters had been mailed to members of the Fellowship, including Voting Participants, days after the January 4, 1991 Agreement making unfair comment about copyright infringement of the NA literary work. There had been published in the 1991 WSC Agenda Report comments about NA Fellowship literary works and references to the Baby Blues as "illicit". A 5-page "REPORT CONCERNING THE MOTION FOR A LOW-COST BASIC TEXT" had been printed placing financial fear in voting participants of the effects of a low cost Basic Text.

After WSC '91, World Services continued to lead members of the Trust Document Working Group to believe that the approval of the Literature Trust Document would "supersede" the result of the tainted voting procedure. On June 21, 1991, World Services announced to the Working Group that the next scheduled conference call for June 28, 1991, would not be held because they lacked funds - despite earning over $1.2 million in 1990 by Basic Text sales alone. False
representations of agreement among the Trust Document Working Group were made to the Fellowship.

With their charges contained in a "Motion To Enforce Or Vacate" the defence went back to court.

In the following court transcript Mr. Emmons is the attorney for the defence (Grateful Dave), Mr. Synnestvedt & Mr. Fields are the attorneys for the plaintiff (WSO Inc.), Mr. Wolfe is the court reporter and The Court is Judge Pollak. Note carefully the times.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC. : CIVIL ACTION
vs.
DAVID MOORHEAD : NO. 90-7631

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
April 29, 1992
BEFORE THE HONORABLE LOUIS H. POLLAK, S.J.

(The Court began the telephone conference in chambers at 10:30 a.m.)

THE COURT: Mr. Wolfe is here taking down our conversation, and also my colleague, Mr. Cooper, is here with us. What's the situation, Mr. Emmons? I guess I should hear from you.

MR. EMMONS: Yes, Your Honor. Following our conference on Friday, an attempt was made for a resolution. My client was contacted and a rather lengthy position letter was submitted to the attorney for the WSO on Saturday. Actually, I guess it was faxed up finally on Sunday, setting forth what they requested as the bottom line. On Monday, we were advised that that was not acceptable. That particular proposal concerned my client's request that this matter was vacated, and the ultimate copyright issue would be determined. My client then authorized me to go back with a counterproposal which concerned the immediate issue rather than the long-range issue of using Fellowship literature; the immediate issue concerning the prejudice that could
perhaps happen as a result of this trust document being approved in Dallas this week, and requested that the WSO withdraw the motion for approval and appoint an advocacy committee to continue to work on input review of the trust document to provide for a fair legal document for all parties involved. We have heard no response to that, unless, John, you received a response since we spoke earlier this morning.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: No, I have not had contact again. I should report to the Court that the proceedings are going forward in Dallas this morning, and the motion is going to be reached on the agenda in the normal course of business. There is the expectation by the leadership that there will be various efforts to table the motion, and so that it's uncertain whether those efforts will be successful or not. As we speak, it may be already moot.

MR. EMMONS: It certainly would be important, since this motion was filed, if the conference commenced and they changed their voting procedures by not allowing abstentions to count as votes, which is another difficult thing in the Fellowship for voting purposes. There were many areas that abstained on this trust document because of not understanding the legal ramifications of it. Now, the WSO has changed the voting calculation procedures in Dallas, so that those abstentions do not count as votes in the quorum.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I'm not aware of this element that Mr. Emmons is speaking of, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Synnestvedt, you don't know when this addenda item will be reached, or whether it's already reached?

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I think it has been reached, and, as we speak it already may have been tabled. I'm not sure.

THE COURT: Don't you think it would be desirable if we had some information?

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I think it would be very desirable, Your Honor. I'm waiting to hear. I'll let you know as soon as I can.

THE COURT: I don't think we can sit around and wait for them to decide - I mean if we're going to wait for your clients to finish an agenda item that's now ongoing in discussion, that doesn't seem like a very useful thing.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I just wanted to alert the Court to what the status was in Dallas.
THE COURT: I understand. But when have you last talked to your client?
MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I last talked to my client about 6 o'clock yesterday evening.
THE COURT: You mean --
MR. EMMONS: I thought we could discuss this last evening so we wouldn't have this last minute problem this morning.
THE COURT: Have you been in touch, Mr. Emmons with anybody on the floor?
MR EMMONS: I have heard from people in Dallas that there's considerable effort being made to table this motion for the trust document, but that the vote count appears to be in favor of the trust being approved.
THE COURT: Mr. Emmons, when did you hear, and from whom?
MR. EMMONS: I heard from my client, Mr. Moorhead, this morning. I also heard from one of the declarants on the motion, Mr. Allen yesterday through an RSR representative in Dallas by the name of Zimmerman. That information came yesterday, late.
THE COURT: I think we're spinning our wheels unless somebody can get some immediate information now as to whether the agenda item has been reached or, if, as has been suggested --
MR. EMMONS: I'm certainly caught by surprise, that I've heard from counsel now that they are going forward knowing that we were going to arrange this conference this morning. In fact, I had requested a status conference yesterday, but was waiting for a response back in hopes that we could reach an amicable resolution. So I'm really caught by surprise, their intent to go forward with this despite this pending legal action.
THE COURT: Mr. Synnestvedt, do your clients understand that an application has been made to this court?
MR. SYNNESTVEDT: Yes, they understand, Your Honor.
THE COURT: And they propose to go ahead, anyhow?
MR. SYNNESTVEDT: They feel that the matter is not entirely in their hands. It's in the hands of the World Service Conference. The agenda has been long published and issued and --
THE COURT: I’m not interested when the agenda was published and issued. Your clients are managers --conveners and managers of the conference; is that not right?

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: That’s right, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So to tell me that it’s not in their hands is not really a very helpful response, is it?

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: If the conference decides to go forward, we have to go forward unless there’s a court order not to.

THE COURT: Mr. Synnestvedt let’s not quibble, you and I. We have an application made, the thrust of which is that proceedings are imminent at the conference, which, in the view of Mr. Emmons' client, would be disruptive of undertakings made to him pursuant to a consent order. I asked you and Mr. Emmons to try to work out some modus vivendi.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: That proved to be impossible to accomplish, Your Honor.

THE COURT: That may be, but you surely understood that my request was one which carried with it a concern that this Court be in a position to be advised forthwith if there was not going to be a resolution, so that the Court could, if need be, intervene at least with a view to determining whether there was any basis for a judicial determination that the agenda item be suspended or put in some other form.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: As I understood it, Your Honor, this was last Thursday, and Your Honor wanted to know when the agenda item would be reached. I got that information as soon as I could, and relayed it back to the Court and to Mr. Emmons, that the agenda item would not be reached until Wednesday.

THE COURT: Mr. Synnestvedt, we were under that understanding, and it was based on that understanding that we thought we had some time in which you folks could try and work out some amicable resolution, some standby resolution.

Are you now telling me that you had no awareness that there remained a pending application, and that the failure to resolve this matter in some amicable way might call upon this Court to do something? Are you saying that you were unaware that that was the thrust of our understanding?
MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I'm not aware that that was the thrust of the understanding, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Synnestvedt--

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I was aware that the Court was worried about trying to intervene to stop the start of the conference on the 25th.

THE COURT: Mr. Synnestvedt, I think you better call your client right now--

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I'd like to do that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: - immediately, and report back at once. If this agenda item has been reached, then we will have to consider whether we should direct the conference to suspend consideration of the item pending Mr. Emmons and you coming down here and pursuing this matter somewhat further. I'm really quite concerned, Mr. Synnestvedt, that--

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: Your Honor, I will endeavor to reach them at the convention floor, Your Honor, and call you right back.

THE COURT: At once.

MR. EMMONS: Thank you, Your Honor.

(Recess was held at 10:45 a.m.)

WSC 1992
DAY 5
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

The meeting was called to order by Barbara J. Chairperson of the World Service Conference 1991-1992, at 8:15 a.m. {9:15 a.m. EST}. The meeting was opened with a moment of silence to remember the still suffering addict, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The conference went on with a few announcements, roll call, Trustee nominee’s stating their willingness and answering questions from participants, and the handing out and collecting of ballots. We return to the minutes at about 9:30 a.m. CST [10:30 a.m. EST]Barbara J. (WSC Chairperson) read a statement from Bob McD. (WSO BOD Chairperson) which advised the conference that there was no reason not to proceed with the consideration of motion #8 as originally scheduled. The following is a verbatim transcript of the notice received regarding this issue.
NOTICE

TO: Attendees of the World Service Conference

FROM: Bob McDonough
Chairperson
World Service Office, Inc.

Date: April 28, 1992

On April 22, 1992, papers were filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on behalf of David Moorhead. These papers seek to hold the World Service Office in breach of the Settlement Agreement and in contempt of the Consent Order entered in the litigation in Philadelphia on January 4, 1991, and further seek to reopen that litigation in an effort to prevent a vote by the 1992 World Service Conference on Motion Number #8 which relates to the creation of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust. Our counsel has advised that there is no reason not to consider Motion Number 8 in the normal course of business as it is reached on the agenda.

Our attorneys have reviewed the filed papers and have assured us that the claims against the World Service Office are utterly groundless. As of this date, there has been no hearing set on this matter. We wish to suggest that all times, the World Service Office has complied with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Consent Order entered in that litigation.

Our attorneys will be taking the appropriate actions to defend the World Service Office in this matter. We will keep you appraised of further developments as they arise.

It was M/S/ World Service Board of Trustees #8. To approve Addendum 3, "The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust".

At this time, 9:45 a.m. CST (10:45 a.m. EST) Mr. Edmondson received a phone call on the conference floor from Mr. Synnestvedt, WSO attorney in Philadelphia, Pa.

9:55 a.m. CST (10:55 a.m. EST) It was M/S/C Becky M. (WSB Chairperson)/ Bob McD. (WSO BOD Chairperson) #103. "To commit motion #8 to the World Service Board and a RSR working group to be appointed by the WSC Chairperson to solicit, review, and factor in, where appropriate, additional input on the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust for presentation to the fellowship in the 1993 Conference Agenda Report."
MOTION TO COMMIT CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE (The Court resumed the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.)

THE COURT: What do we know?

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I was able to reach Mr. Edmondson, and I have the following news to report. A few moments ago there was a motion carried to commit this motion, and we have the exact wording of the motion.

THE COURT: You say to commit it?

MR. EMMONS: Meaning to table it.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: It was, in effect, tabled for a year. So you can read the wording of the motion.

THE COURT: If you would.

MR. FIELDS: This motion was passed that motion Number Eight be committed to the World Service Board, and an RSR working group appointed by the World Service Conference chairperson to solicit, review and factor in, where appropriate, additional input on the fellowship intellectual property trust for presentation to the fellowship in the 1993 conference agenda report.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: That motion was carried, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I see. Well, I guess that withdraws immediate problems.

MR. FIELDS: Absolutely, Your Honor. It was certainly very suspenseful for us how this was done, but that is what the immediate requested relief was, and I'm very pleased that that's what was done. It certainly would save a lot of unnecessary work for counsel and Your Honor.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. EMMONS: We have now merely a motion pending for the determination to vacate the existing order, and in the normal course of things between counsel we'll determine whether or not we need a hearing.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: Wait a minute, there are papers filed that charges breach of the settlement agreement and contempt of court.

MR. EMMONS: That's the motion to enforce and/or vacate. There has been no motion for contempt of court. There was a motion filed for preliminary injunction concerning this motion. We'll withdraw that motion for a preliminary injunction.
MR. FIELDS: We have a paper that was served on us called Rule to Show Cause, which charges us with contempt, including an affidavit as a basis for a motion for contempt signed by David Moorhead, and served by your office.

MR. EMMONS: You didn’t read the service instructions. That was served on you for notice only. Read your service instructions.

THE COURT: Well, gentlemen, you can carry on this discussion among yourselves. The motion for preliminary injunction is to be withdrawn. I take it that, in timely fashion, Mr. Fields and Mr. Synnestvedt will respond to the longer term motion that has been filed. Maybe, in the meanwhile, you will be able to effectuate some resolution of the matter. In any event, I am gratified that the immediate problem has been resolved. I remain puzzled, Mr. Synnestvedt -- and I underline puzzled, very puzzled indeed -- how you could have supposed that the only information that I sought was to know when this week the resolution would be presented, and that I had no interest in seeing you folks work out a resolution with a view to avoiding further court action. As it turns out, no court action is called for, and that is gratifying. But I will suggest to you, Mr. Synnestvedt that you might go back and review your notes and memory of our prior conversation, and consider whether your reconstruction of those events really harmonizes with any sensible understanding of what a court would be called upon to do in an emergent situation of that kind.

MR. SYNNESTVEDT: I understood that Your Honor would like us to find a longer term solution, I have no doubt about that, but I was unable to do that with my client, Your Honor.

MR. FIELDS: We were getting no response back, which was frustrating. That was the difficult part from our end.

THE COURT: Certainly, the logic of the situation was that if the parties were unable to resolve this immediate emergent problem, then you would have to report that fact back to the Court with a view to determining whether we would have a hearing, or what other form of court consideration would be required with a view to resolving one way or another Mr. Moorhead’s immediate concerns. As it turned out, the problem is moot, and that is gratifying.

All right, thank you very much, gentlemen.
MR. EMMONS: Your Honor, if I may, the motion to enforce or vacate, is there a date to be set for a response to that?

THE COURT: The rules provide what the times are for response, and I trust that Mr. Fields and Mr. Synnestvedt will have that in mind. I do charge you, once again on both sides, with an obligation to get together to see whether the issues now being proposed to be further litigated can’t be subject to some resolution or at least some narrowing.

All right, thank you very much.

(The Court adjourned the proceedings at 11:10 a.m.)

Grateful Dave died in July 1992 but the case remained active for 7 months more. During WSC '93 a Literature Trust Document was passed enabling WSO Inc. to come one step closer to total control of our Fellowship. WSO Inc. has since issued a series of Intellectual Property Bulletins or decrees that go quite beyond the document passed and has redefined an NA Group as one that accepts their Literature Trust authority. They have, however, shown no inclination to go back to court, for reasons that are now hopefully more apparent to the reader. Profits are up this year as a result of sales of new literature that really were "works for hire".

More Groups than ever are printing, using, and giving away free to the newcomer our approved Basic Text, the 3rd Edition Revised with the restored 4th and 9th Traditions language. Our Traditions are still non-negotiable and our Spiritual Program of recovery from addiction is still available for those who want it.