

Jim

D.A.S.C.N.A.
LITERATURE SUB COMMITTEE
SEPT. 30, 1987

Attendance: Denis J. Chairman Lisa T. Secretary/Librarian
 Steve Grant
 Mike G. Richard
 Lynda

Denis J. opened the meeting at 6:30 with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Twelve Traditions were read.

Item #1: IT WORKS: HOW AND WHY. Denis J. read letter sent from It Works: How and Why Ad-hoc Committee. See attached copy of letter. All blue and white copies of the book were pulled.

Item #2: Denis J. read yet another letter from the Chair of the WLC. See attached copy of letter. Some clear definitions of the difference between approval, review and approved literature.

Motion: Lisa moved, Mike second that 20 copies of each approval literature with the exception of Literature Committee's Handbook be purchased for distribution to the fellowship.

PASSED

Motion: Lynda moved, Lisa second that the next meeting of the Dayton Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous Literature Sub-committee be held on Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30 pm at the Queen of Martyr's Church on N. Dixie at Keenan.

PASSED

Motion: Lisa moved, Lynda second that we adjourn.

PASSED

In Loving Service,

Lisa T.

P.S. They're dead, Jim!!!

Date: September, 1987

To: The Fellowship

From: Vince Daley, Chairperson
It Works: How and Why Ad-hoc Committee

BLUE AND WHITE BOOK INCORRECT: We have just found out that an error was made in the printing of the blue and white version of *It Works*. The second section, which contains the white approval form of *It Works* is not the final, correct version. In short, if you have purchased a blue and white draft, it is not the one that the Conference intended for use in this process and you should discontinue its use immediately. This is some very bad news indeed but it does not have to be a major setback for this project. It will slow us down a bit as we review and organize the input at the workshops but we'll just have to be a little more patient and work harder.

As you will see in the WSO report, sales have been stopped and will not resume until the corrected copies are available. Please, read that report for all the details on this. For those of you who have upcoming workshops and have an immediate need for the correct version, please contact the World Service Office Literature Coordinator for replacements. The corrected manuscript should be ready within three weeks of this report. It will be printed with a black and white cover this time to help distinguish between the different sets of input we'll be receiving.

It looks like we're going from the blue and white book to the black and white book and with all the hurdles this project is going through, the final version, I guess, should appropriately be black and blue!

GENERAL DISCUSSION: I'd like to share a few thoughts I have had from ~~the~~ many phone conversations I've had with those of you who are interested in this project. It seems some of you are having few problems following the directions and guidance for this project while others are confused. Perhaps this is because so much is happening in such a short period of time and to have a successful workshop requires quite a few individuals performing their separate tasks and roles in harmony. As with most things, we can really complicate this or we can keep it simple. If you have questions, comments, or criticisms, please call either Danette at the World Service Office or myself at 301/747-5464 after 5:00 pm.

I have spent most of my evenings on the phone with many of you and I'll bet I've only scratched the surface. That's why we have prepared written material on what to do which has been mailed to all registered area and regional literature committees. If you feel you should be getting something you aren't, you need to check your P.O. boxes and find out who is getting the mail. This seems to be a problem with some literature committees that's just come to my attention.

I do want you to know that I've loved talking to everyone and want to assist you in any way I can. So far I've gotten nothing but a positive response despite the questions and details that need to be ironed out.

If I've heard one criticism it would be about the geographics of the selected cities. I could give a three page report on how and why, pro's and con's to the site selection. There is only so much money to hold a certain number of workshops. No one should feel that they can't contribute to the writing of this book. Even if your area or region is not going to be hosting one of the world workshops you can participate in local workshops. Any

member can participate in reviewing and inputting on this book through your local literature committee. Write your input, participate with your local committee and send it to the World Service Office and we'll get it to one of the world workshops.

One of the points we'll be needing your guidance on in the next few months is whether or not enough workshops were held and if the job is complete. We'll report to the Fellowship on what we have, and make recommendations based on what we hear from you as to whether we should continue this process for another year. One point should be made clear. The deadline date for generating input for this Conference year will be February first. As a WSC Committee we will need February, March and April to compile all the input and perhaps have one final workshop during that period to factor in the last minute input that's sure to come in.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL REGIONAL LITERATURE COMMITTEES: Many regional service committees are holding workshops monthly or bi-monthly. What we need to do together is to get each area or region's master list of changes to the nearest world workshop. If, for example, the nearest world workshop to you is being held in November, keep generating your material until November and then take it to the workshop or send it to the World Service Office with instructions and we'll make sure it gets there. If you want to continue workshoping the book past November, send your input to the World Service Office as you generate it and we will get it to the workshops in December and January.

WORLD WORKSHOP SCHEDULE: We are doing our best to let you know as we find out the dates and locations of scheduled workshops. Information about the world workshop sites must be compiled by the regions hosting the workshop and submitted, in a flyer form, to WSO so that we can mail copies of it to neighboring regions. PLEASE, stay in touch with us and send a flyer as soon as possible. Here is what we're aware of so far:

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| September 26 - 27 | Baltimore (neighboring areas and regions will receive flyers and directions soon.) |
| October 10 - 11 | Sydney, Australia |
| November 6 - 8 | Seattle |
| November 13 - 15 | Kansas City |
| November (1st or 2nd weekend) | Dallas/Fort Worth |
| December (1st or 2nd weekend) | Miami |
| January | San Francisco |

STEPS OUTLINE: The outline that is being created on the Twelve Steps is going to play a major role throughout the development of our book. Currently the ad-hoc committee is writing a draft outline which is to be mailed to all area and regional literature committees in September for more refinement, review and input. Your comments about this approach and direction are very important to us. We will be meeting and discussing this at the WSC quarterly meeting in Denver on Friday, October 16th. If your RSR or someone else from your region is coming, have them pass your information on to us.

Date: September, 1987
To: The Fellowship
From: Michael Lee, Chairperson
World Literature Committee

INTRODUCTION: A spirit of open communication continues to be the driving force behind the the World Literature Committee's steady progress this year. This report is dedicated to the spirit of the N.A. Fellowship which makes this possible.

SUCCESS IN NEWARK: The World Literature Committee (WLC) had a very successful meeting July 17-19 at the World Service Conference (WSC) meetings held in Newark, New Jersey. Nineteen out of twenty-one World Literature Committee members were in attendance, along with eighteen regional literature chairpersons! Progress was made toward developing review-form drafts of three proposed pamphlets on the WLC Priority Worklist: *In Times of Illness*; *For Those in Treatment*; and *Questions and Answers about Narcotics Anonymous*. It is hoped that review-form versions will be ready for a nine-month review and input period by registered literature committees in January of 1988 (just 3 months away).

Work was also done on the Twelve Traditions (*It Works: How and Why*, Part Two) and on an outline for the proposed pamphlet *Unity*. It has become increasingly clear that a substantial amount of work is necessary on this book before a review-form manuscript will be ready. It is hoped that the outline for *Unity* will be approved by the WLC at our next meeting in October in Denver. The project will then be assigned to a couple of regional literature committees who will be asked to assist the World Literature Committee in the development of a review-form draft for future distribution to all literature committees once it progresses to that stage.

STATUS REPORT ON PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES: The Newark open forum on the WLC Procedural Guidelines was also very successful thanks to all those members and committees who came with prepared written input which was gathered on short notice. Thank you very much. Written input of this kind is the lifeblood of world services. An appointed ad-hoc guidelines committee met in Baltimore, Maryland on August 29-30 and used all input received to begin their work on revising the Procedural Guidelines. The ad-hoc committee agreed, based on Fellowship input, that some important conceptual changes are necessary. These changes require more work than was originally planned and, therefore, may take more time than was first allotted for the work. The guidelines ad-hoc group will meet again during the Denver workshop, continue their work on changes and make recommendations to the WLC. The original plan was to have a revised set of procedural guidelines ready for Fellowship action proposed in the 1988 Conference Agenda Report. However, based on the Baltimore discussions, it was agreed that work was required on various parts of the *Handbook for N.A. Literature Committees*. Although our goal is to complete a proposal that addresses everything we believe needs to be changed, the work may continue into next year. A contingency plan was discussed which would allow for replacement of certain sections of the Handbook this year, addressing the most pressing needs of the Committee, including the Procedural Guidelines.

PARTICIPATION BY REGIONAL CHAIRPERSONS: The Committee's decision to open up direct participation of regional literature chairpersons in ad-hoc working groups appointed by the WLC Chairperson (consistent with the WLC guidelines) was clearly a successful experiment that made much of the above work possible. The Committee will repeat this process at the October meeting in Denver. Also, literature chairpersons have been asked to bring a very brief report on literature activities or problems in their region to further the exchange of information in the customary open sessions held during the Conference workshop meetings.

Complete WLC minutes of the Newark meeting will be available after approval at the October meeting in Denver.

STATUS REPORT ON IN LOVING SERVICE: The only other item on the WLC Priority List for 1987-88 is the proposed book, *In Loving Service*, which is meant to share experience on the how's and why's of service in a way that does not conflict with the current or proposed service manual. This work currently contains ten chapters: The Nature of Service; The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous; Historical Perspective; Our Service Structure; Service Procedures; The Service Effort; Trusted Servants; Ongoing Service; Strength and Guidance; and The Joy of Giving. The WLC discussed this project during a June meeting and initially decided to instruct the Chairperson to assign the material to a number of regions without the chapter on the Twelve Traditions. However, the Committee reconsidered this decision later in the same meeting. The WLC then decided to postpone action until the October meeting in Denver.

LITERATURE COMMITTEES ASK "HOW CAN WE HELP?": I can't begin to share with you how personally painful the problems surrounding the lack of review-form information pamphlets has been this past year. I know many literature committees have gone through a time of struggle, confusion, and loss of purpose. So many letters and sincere requests of help and support come to my attention as WSC Literature Chairperson, and so many of them say the same thing: "How can we help?"; "What can we work on?"; or "Please assign us a project."

The good news is that in a few short months, based upon the work done this Conference year, in January (God willing) there will be several new review-form pamphlets available to all literature committees. Also, several projects will be in a condition where they can be assigned to various regional literature committees for further work.

However, although there are no review-form pamphlets right now, there are two review-form books which are in the review and input stage of development. Both of the projects, described below, are separate from the WSC Literature Committee.

WSC SELECT COMMITTEE--A GUIDE TO SERVICE: The WSC Select Committee on the Service Structure, in cooperation with the WSC Policy Committee, has made available to all members through WSO a revised review-form draft of the proposed book, *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. Many literature committees have been workshopping this book even though it is NOT a World Literature Committee project. This is great as long as the separation is understood, as well as the fact that the Select Committee is actively seeking conceptual input on the direction of the piece rather than detailed input on grammar, punctuation, etc. The Select Committee work does not fall under the WSC Literature Committee Procedural Guidelines which restrict distribution of "review-form" manuscripts to area and regional literature committees for a

nine-month review and input period. This appears to have added to the confusion about the literature process and the terminology used to describe drafts in various stages of development.

WSC AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON IT WORKS (TWELVE STEPS):

The other equally important priority for the Fellowship as a whole concerns the review-form draft of the proposed book *It Works: How and Why, Part One* on the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous. Area and regional literature committees are being coordinated in this task by the temporary WSC Ad-hoc Committee on *It Works* whose complete report is included with this Fellowship Report. This project is separate from the WSC Literature Committee this year. However, by action of the 1987 Conference, in order to strengthen area and regional literature committees, this review-form draft is following the customary World Literature Committee procedures for review-form drafts in that the book is only available for sale through registered area and regional literature committees at the present time. This is one of the most important projects you can become involved with this year.

BUT HOW CAN WE HELP?

DIRECTION FOR LITERATURE COMMITTEES: There are over 260 registered literature committees. Many of you, and the members you serve, keep writing and asking: How can we help the World Literature Committee? It is clear that we have a long way to go in improving communications and informing the Fellowship about the literature process as it exists today and changes that may need to be made. In her March 1986 Fellowship Report, the 1985-86 World Literature Chairperson wrote much about the responsibilities of literature committees that is still relevant today:

"...You should always keep in mind that your highest priority as a committee is to ensure that N.A. Conference-approved literature is readily available to all N.A. groups and members in your area so that every addict can have access to the N.A. message in printed form... In all our service work no other project or goal ought ever to overshadow our primary purpose of carrying the N.A. message of recovery to the addict who needs it.

"The second priority of any literature committee should be to serve as a communication link between the World Literature Committee and your local N.A. community about matters concerning N.A. literature. This is very important because a great deal of information is generated from the WSO and the WSC but it is not always accessible to all groups or service committees in the Fellowship. The World Literature Committee puts out a Fellowship Report such as this one every other month. These Fellowship Reports contain current information about what is going on in the area of literature and other information that might be helpful in understanding our literature process. As a committee, you should keep groups and service committees in your area or region informed of the information contained in these reports. You should also make regular reports to your area or regional service committee on your activities as a literature subcommittee.

"One very important thing that you as a committee should help to communicate to your local N.A. members is how to properly use literature that is not yet N.A. Conference-approved. We must always be careful not to use unapproved literature at N.A. meetings and not to distribute unapproved literature to individuals or organizations outside the N.A. Fellowship. If we do not follow these guidelines we may lead N.A. members and others to unknowingly hear what may be a distorted or erroneous

message. Although we believe that our review and approval-stage literature contains some very excellent recovery material, we cannot assume that it is error-free and acceptable to the entire Fellowship. Only the elected representatives of the N.A. Fellowship voicing the worldwide group conscience at the annual World Service Conference [by two-thirds majority vote] can decide whether or not a piece of literature is truly representative of the experience of the N.A. Fellowship as a whole.

"The third priority of an N.A. literature committee should be to review the literature which is currently in the review stage or the approval stage.

"After a literature committee has addressed all the above priorities, any remaining time should be spent preparing input for those literature projects which have been set as priorities for the World Literature Committee by the World Service Conference of N.A. Like all other service committees in N.A., the World Literature Committee works within the service structure to meet the needs of the Fellowship as a whole. We accept and adhere to the priorities set for us by the World Service Conference. We cannot devote time to other projects until our priorities have been fulfilled. If area and regional literature committees have time after their main responsibilities have been met, they should concentrate on writing input for those projects set as priorities for the World Literature Committee."

When you are doing these things, to the best of your present ability, you **are helping** the World Literature Committee and serving the best interests of the N.A. Fellowship as a whole.

FIVE APPROVAL-FORM ITEMS AVAILABLE: As I reported last month, five (5) approval-form items are available this year. Please help ensure that this material is widely available. Because confusion persists, I want to emphasize the differences between Conference-approved, approval-form and review-form literature.

Although both Conference-approved and approval-form literature can be distributed or sold at meetings, only Conference-approved literature can be read or used in meetings. Literature committees may wish to sponsor special workshops or allow time in committee meetings to read, discuss and evaluate approval form items so that interested members do have a forum in which the material can be studied in a group setting.

It is also important to emphasize the difference between review-form and approval-form literature. Approval-form literature is NOT review-form literature. Although the World Literature Committee accepts input on approval-form items, approval-form drafts are not published to solicit input. Approval-form material is published to give the Fellowship one entire year to evaluate a specific, proposed final format of a given item and express the group conscience of the Fellowship on that item. Approval form literature is definitely one of the items included in the Conference Agenda Report which directly affects our groups' primary purpose. It is imperative that every group make this literature available to our members. Each member can then participate through the established service structure to assure that the vote carried by our RSR's clearly expresses the desire of our Fellowship regarding this vital tool of N.A. recovery.

At this stage, the expressed group conscience should be in the form of a yes or no vote only. The World Service Conference is supposed to either accept or reject a piece of literature in "approval-form." There have been exceptions where the Conference has accepted specific amendments in the adoption or revision of material, but this in itself has raised serious questions about the whole approval-form policy and procedure that are

being discussed and considered. For years there has been talk about getting out of the business of revising literature on the floor of the World Service Conference. Hopefully this will be the year we learn from past experience.

No item of literature is perfect, nor will it ever be perfect, in the sense that every addict will be able to agree on everything. The lengthy process of Conference approval involves compromise and consensus. When evaluating approval-form items, and specific problems or objections are found, it is worthwhile to ask: How important is this? Do the positive aspects of the piece outweigh certain shortcomings? Overall, is the item acceptable or unacceptable? If unacceptable, does it just need more years of work? Or is the whole concept/topic unworkable? Many minor objections may indicate that a pamphlet does need more work.

STATUS REPORT--JUST FOR TODAY: As reported in the July Fellowship Report, a survey on the content and format of the proposed daily book, *Just for Today*, is under development. This work is being undertaken even though this project is NOT on the WLC Priority Worklist. The survey is planned to be completed in time for approval by the WLC at the October meeting. The Fellowship may or may not decide to add this project to next year's WLC Priority Worklist in whatever form the Conference decides to set WLC priorities next year. Until then we all have a responsibility in the interest of unity to surrender to the collective group conscience expressed at WSC 1987.

POSSIBLE SURVEY--PROPOSED LONG RANGE PLANNING: This seems like a good place to mention that the World Literature Committee is aware of a wide range of problem areas in need of improvement in the literature process ranging from the whole WLC Priority Worklist Procedure to the effective use of Fellowship resources through assignments to--and communications with--area and regional literature committees. These and many other issues are being addressed through the focus on the whole literature process that is involved in the revision of the WLC Procedural Guidelines and the *Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committees*. Another item under consideration and development is the use of a survey to gather input and develop a long-range, multi-year plan for the creation and revision of N.A. literature. As the Committee reaches consensus on using a survey, or reaches agreement on other solutions or recommendations to known problems, more specific details will be provided.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET POLICY PROBLEMS: Hopefully by the time of the 1988 WSC, some long-range solutions will have emerged for Conference action on the many budget-related problems which have become apparent in the last few months. But for now, money is needed just to ease the pressure. Much of the work planned for completion this year by the World Literature Committee remains in jeopardy because of the uncertainty and crisis atmosphere that remains. In the present situation it has been very difficult to plan the remainder of this year's work, and past plans have been continually shelved or adjusted due to the lack of funds. Sacrifices and compromises have already been made. A September 25-27 ad-hoc meeting on the Twelve Traditions was canceled, and an alternative early October World Literature Conference was also not able to be held, partially because of logistics and partially because of financial uncertainty. To finalize this year's work and to advance the Twelve Traditions material, funds will need to flow into the Conference Treasury soon.

The discussion of Tradition Seven in Chapter Six of our Basic Text almost seems like a prayer right now: "N.A. services remain in need of

money, and even though it is sometimes frustrating, we really would not have it any other way; we know the price would be too high. We all have to pull together, and in pulling together we learn that we really are part of 'something greater than ourselves.' It is my hope that all members, groups, areas and regions take advantage of the opportunity to experience pulling together in a spirit of worldwide Fellowship unity this year that will carry us through this period of growth and change.