

WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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TO: Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, JAC, RSRs and RSR
alternates, WSCLC, regional literature committees

FROM: Bob McKendrick, Chairperson, BOT Literature Review
Committee/Traditions Ad Hoc Committee

DATE: July 29, 1991

RE: Update on Traditions project

This is our first report on the Traditions project for this new conference year. While the BOT Traditions Ad Hoc Committee has not met as yet, there are a number of items we felt were important to report on. These include changes in committee membership and revisions to our meeting and development schedules.

Committee membership

The committee is composed this year of six members of the World Service Board of Trustees and three non-trustee members. The trustees serving on the committee are Jack B., Donna M., Steve B., Danette B., Greg P., and Bob Mck. The non-trustee members are Nancy S., Ceven McG., and Mitchell S. The committee is now being chaired by Bob Mck.

During last year there were some discussions about expanding the size of the committee from eight to twelve. This expansion was to facilitate the workload the committee undertook, while allowing the individual members to be able fulfill various other personal and N.A.-related responsibilities. During discussions at the BOT Literature Review Committee, it became apparent that, while it was possible to expand the trustee portion of the committee from four to six, it would not be prudent to expand the non-trustee membership. This was due primarily to the reduced amount of time available to complete the review and input version of the traditions book. Members felt that bringing new committee members on board may slow down the process while new members were adjusting. While the committee felt it important to bring in additional people, the fiscal reality of world services this year, coupled with a very tight development schedule made it imprudent to do so this calendar year.

The committee felt, however, that once the review and input version of the book was completed, the question of expanding the membership of the committee will need to be re-examined.

Meeting and Development Schedules

Due to the dismal financial picture of world services, no funds were available for the committee to meet in May as planned. As a result, the schedules for both, the meetings themselves and the tasks to be accomplished during those meetings, needed to be looked at carefully.

A proposal for revising these schedules was presented to the BOT Literature Review Committee at its June meeting. During the ensuing discussions, various members questioned the need for a combined meeting between the full board and the Traditions working group to review and approve the material on Traditions Six through Twelve to be sent out to the fellowship. The members of the BOT will have the opportunity to review the material at various stages, and it was felt that following that process it may be unnecessary to have a combined meeting. Members also stated that since this material is review and input material, the fellowship would let the ad hoc committee and the BOT know what changes they would like to see in the drafts. There was, however, unanimous consensus that once the material moves into approval state, it will have to be carefully reviewed by the full board.

Based upon these discussions, the committee adopted the proposed revisions to the schedule. Later in the meeting, the BOT Literature Review Committee was apprised of the staffing problems faced by the WSO in their attempts to meet the needs of the major writing projects: the Steps and Traditions portions of It Works: How and Why, and the daily meditation book. The WSO cited employee attrition, and the lack of sufficient time and funds to hire additional skilled staff. One staff person had been assigned major writing/editing responsibility for both the daily book and the traditions projects. The committee expressed its desire to see that the commitments made by the BOT to the conference, specifically, to complete the second half of the review version in time to insure the possibility of having the approval version of the traditions portion of the book ready for action by WSC '93, be fulfilled.

Following the meeting, further communication took place between members of the BOT Lit. Review Committee, the WSO, and the WSC Literature Committee about finding ways to achieve the various tasks assigned to these bodies. It was tentatively accepted, depending upon discussion by and acceptance of the plan by the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee and the BOT, to reduce the number of Traditions meetings to four during this calendar year. It is hoped that such a move would be seen as a compromise to facilitate the accomplishment of the projects of both the BOT and the WSCLC, within the general time-frame given to conference participants at WSC '91. This will be discussed at our upcoming meeting at the end of this month.

Well, that is all we have to report on for now. All of our members are eager to get started on the project again, as the time between our last and our next meeting has seemed like a long hiatus. We will continue to publish our reports following each of our meetings. Thank you for allowing us to be of service to the fellowship.