

WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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TO: Conference Participants, WSCLC, Steps Ad Hoc Committee,
Regional Literature Committees

FROM: Bob McKendrick, Chairperson, BOT Traditions Ad Hoc Committee

DATE: September 23, 1991

RE: September, 1991 Traditions Ad Hoc Meeting

This report concerns the September, 1991 meeting of the BOT Traditions Ad Hoc Committee. Present were Danette Banyai, Steve Bice, and Bob McKendrick, trustee members, Nancy Schenck, Ceven McGuire, and Mitchell Soodak, non-trustee members, and Lee Manchester and Steve Lantos, WSO staff.

The meeting started with the committee reviewing the agenda for this meeting. Included on that agenda were the reviews of rough, first drafts of Traditions Ten through Twelve, and some brief discussion regarding the October and December meetings.

Tradition Ten

The review of this draft commenced with a read-through of the draft, followed by general comments of the material. The committee generally agreed that the material missed the simplicity of the tradition, and needed to be refocused. During more specific discussion, the staff team was provided the direction necessary for their revision of the material. One of the major points discussed was that the tradition refers to our relations with the public, not a guide to personal to personal sharing, thought, or how to run a meeting. One of the other discussions focused on the fact that while our program and message may be controversial in comparison to other forms of treatment, we, when speaking for N.A., do not have any opinions on any other form of treatment or other issue than recovery in N.A. In brief, the tradition seems to state that the chances of becoming embroiled in public controversy are reduced virtually to nil, if we do not form or publicly express opinions on outside issues. The committee then proceeded on to the draft of Tradition Eleven.

Tradition Eleven

The committee began the review of this draft in the same manner as the previous one. While the members felt that this draft was nearer to the mark, it was generally agreed that major revisions were needed in this material as well. In their

discussions, the committee agreed that they wanted to see the material be more pro-active toward public relations, instead of the material leaning toward those instances where interaction with the public may occasionally occur. There was also considerable discussion about personal anonymity on any level. The committee agreed that while it was up to the individual member whether or not they chose to break their own anonymity, within most any personal setting, in the dealing with any media, personal anonymity needed to be maintained. The committee also agreed that this was not primarily due to protecting the individual's anonymity or reputation, but rather to protect the reputation of the fellowship. To offer an illustration, one member related her experience of writing an article about her personal recovery. In the article, she chose to call herself "Jane Doe" in order to protect the fellowship in case something happened to her which could possibly portray N.A. as being an ineffective means of recovering from the disease of addiction.

Additionally, the committee decided to include in the draft some reference to various service publications which may describe the proper way to interact with the media. The final point of discussion about this tradition concerned the spiritual principles contained within this tradition. These included anonymity, humility, faith, and others.

Tradition Twelve

After reading the draft, the committee discussed at some length the preferred structure of this chapter. It was agreed that, due to the wording of the tradition, mention should be made in the body of the material about how anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all the traditions. After further discussion, it became apparent that, while such a device will be utilized within the draft, some discussion will also need to focus on other parts of this tradition as well. The committee also agreed that there will be no specific subheading in this chapter for the spiritual principles contained within this tradition, as the majority of the draft will serve as such focusing on anonymity.

Bob reminded the committee that he will not be present at the October meeting, and asked Steve Bice to chair that meeting. The committee was also reminded that the October meeting will start at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17th, and will be the only meeting the committee will have to finalize the chapters on Traditions Seven through Nine. The staff team informed the committee that drafts of the Introduction as well as the Preamble will be completed by the next meeting for review.

The schedule for the completion of the second half of the traditions portion of *It Works: How and Why* is as follows. Drafts of Traditions Seven through Nine have been mailed out to members of the BOT, the WSCLC, and the Steps Ad Hoc Committee for their conceptual review. The drafts of the balance of the book will be mailed out prior to the October meeting. The committee will review the input received on Traditions Seven through Nine at their October meeting, and the balance of the book during their December meeting. After the December

meeting, the review and input version will be completed and mailed to the members of the BOT for their approval. Once that approval is obtained, the second of the book will be available to the fellowship for a review and input period of between four to six months. The current plan calls for the release of this portion of the work to be no later than by January 24, 1992.

The deadline for input on the first six traditions is October 1, 1991. The committee asks that all input be forwarded in a timely manner, so that work may begin on the approval version as soon as possible. On behalf of the committee and the World Service Board of Trustees, I would like to thank the fellowship for its support of our work and for allowing us to be of service.