

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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July 27, 1989

Dear Area and Regional H&I Subcommittees,

I hope, as this package reaches you, that you are enjoying your recovery and are having success carrying the message of recovery to those addicts who have restricted access to our regular meetings. Once again we ask you to get involved in a much needed project. Attached you will find the review and input version of the booklet, *Behind The Walls*.

The purpose of this booklet is to help addicts find and maintain their recovery while incarcerated. If approved through the process accepted at last year's Conference, this piece would be for service committee use only, and would not be used during N.A. meetings. This booklet has been in the works within the WSC H&I Committee for over four years. It originally started out as a regional project, but with the unanimous approval of the Conference of the *Hospitals & Institutions Handbook*, it became our top priority this year.

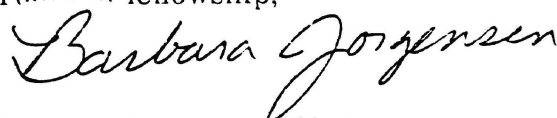
The approval process for this piece is as follows: Once it has passed through the review and input process, it will be put into an approval version by the WSC H&I Committee and presented to the Joint Administrative Committee for consideration. The JAC, after reviewing the approval version, will either send it out to Conference participants ninety days before the Conference, notifying the participants that it will be up for approval at WSC '90, or they will return it to the originating committee or another committee or board for further work. We ask you to participate in the review and input section of the approval process. This period, due to time constraints, is only until September 30, 1989.

We are not requesting line-by-line review of the booklet. Instead, we ask that you provide general and specific input regarding the concepts contained in the booklet. General input would entail your input regarding the booklet as a whole, while specific input would be regarding the individual sections of the booklet. We would like to know whether or not your committee feels that this booklet is needed. Do the individual sections convey the commonly understood concepts of our program, or do they need to be changed? There is an input sheet provided to help you in this task.

The sections in **bold** throughout the booklet are personal experiences of members of our fellowship. The vast majority of these excerpts were written by recovering addicts, either while incarcerated or about their experiences in correctional facilities. Due to the fact that these are personal stories, we are not requesting input regarding these excerpts. Finally, the booklet will be edited for grammar, syntax and spelling before being presented to the JAC, therefore we are not requesting input of this type. However, any and all input you may wish to provide will be most welcome.

We would like to thank you for your participation in this important task. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the WSO H&I Coordinator at (818) 780-3951.

Yours in fellowship,



Barbara Jorgensen, Chairperson
WSC H&I Committee

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To: The Fellowship

From: Barbara J., Chairperson
WSC H&I Committee

*conference
summary*

In case you haven't heard, the revised Handbook for H&I is Conference-approved as of April 25, 1989. It was approved by a unanimous vote, as were all the H&I motions. Thanks to all regional & area H&I sub-committees for their review and input, as well as for all the H&I work which gave us the experience to write the Handbook.

The WSO expects the *Hospitals & Institutions Handbook* to be available by July. Please do not order it until they have it on hand. As yet, there is no price information and the office hopes to avoid dealing with back orders. The next issue of the *Newsline* will have up to date information regarding the cost and availability of the Handbook.

The Handbook will be shipped with a letter to the Fellowship included. The RSR from London expressed concern about utilizing the Handbook in the U.K. Although it is stated in several places to "modify according to local needs and customs," the letter states the willingness of the WSC H&I Committee to assist local committees in adapting the Handbook to local needs, if they wish.

We welcomed new Committee & Pool members. We have a full committee of 21 voting members. When reviewing the nomination forms of new Pool members, we became aware that there is no representation from the middle of the United States and only 2 members from outside the United States (Australia and Canada.) The following states are not represented in the pool: Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska, New Jersey, Utah, Nevada and Arizona. We want a geographically balanced

pool. We value the broader base of experience and the increased efficiency in responding to regional requests for participation that this would give us. There is no limit to the number of Pool members, although only two from a region at a time are allowed. Nominee forms are available from Steve L., the H&I Project Coordinator at WSO, who can also answer any questions about Pool membership.

We divided into several ad hoc committees in order to complete the work at hand. Our agenda includes an audio tape of a mock panel presentation, which in not necessarily a one year project, and the booklet *Behind The Walls*, which we hope to have in final form this year. The Conference passed a new process for creation and approval of service committee literature, which is very similar to the process used for the Handbook and will be used for *Behind The Walls*. Our hope is to produce a draft by the end of July. This draft will be sent out to Regional & Area H&I subcommittees for review and input. During this somewhat short period, we will be seeking input about concepts rather than line-by-line. This booklet is intended to address addicts beginning or maintaining their recovery while incarcerated.

Some members continue to work on articles for *Reaching Out*. They will also be soliciting input from regions for the newsletter. Please be sure we have a good address for your regional H&I subcommittees and the areas in it so you can stay informed. Also, requests and inquiries from individual addicts, usually incarcerated or about to be released, are often referred to the area closest to them. If the address and/or phone number the WSO Project Coordinator has listed is for a member's home you may wish to notify us of a service office address, P.O. Box or other alternative to be used for referrals.

The WSC Chairperson appointed a Conference Ad hoc Committee to address the issue of isolated meetings. This includes meetings in correctional and treatment facilities which are not H&I meetings. That is, not connected to our structure through the local H&I subcommittee and perhaps not connected to our structure at all. The ad hoc seeks to find or create a way for these addicts and meetings to be served by our structure. A letter from this ad hoc was recently mailed to all ASC's and RSC's asking for information about any such known meetings. We will also use *Reaching Out* to get information and have an ad hoc of WSC H&I working on appropriate start-up information for such meetings. It will serve as a resource to the Conference ad hoc.

Obviously, we're off to another busy year. However, the Committee's intention to complete its works-in-progress as soon as possible without compromising on quality, remains firm. We see this as a transition year. We hope to spend more time and effort responding to regional requests for committee participation in events focused on an exchange of information. If you wish to have a WSC H&I member attend an information/education event, write a letter specifying the date and place to the WSO H&I Project Coordinator. We allocate funds first to attending multi-regional events and then regional events. You will be asked what you can provide in terms of lodging or transportation. While there are limited WSC H&I funds available for such transportation and lodging, we ask regions to share the expense whenever possible. Unless there is a specific request for the Chair or Vice-chair, the member closest to the event will be sent.

This year the Conference re-elected me as Chairperson of WSC H&I and Pete Cole as Vice-Chairperson. We, and the entire Committee are grateful for the privilege of being allowed to serve. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns, c/o the H&I Project Coordinator at the WSO.

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