

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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TO: WSC H&I Committee
FROM: Stuart Smith, Behind the Walls Ad Hoc Committee
RE: Review and Input Draft

I hope this memo finds you doing well and enjoying your recovery. Attached you will find the draft of the review and input version of *Behind The Walls*. You will notice that there are some substantive changes in this version from the last one, handed out during WSC '89. This is the result of our ad hoc meeting in Baltimore, July 7 - 9. The ad hoc committee members present at this workshop unanimously approved the version attached.

One of the major changes is the absence of personal stories after the main body of the work. After protracted discussion, the ad hoc committee unanimously voted to not include this section. Material from these stories were incorporated as excerpts throughout the draft. The major reason for this decision was primarily that having personal stories in addition to excerpts throughout was extraneous and therefore unnecessary, going so far as to take away from the impact of the excerpts themselves. Additionally, the narrative has been rewritten, giving consideration to the input received, structure, tone and proper use of the narrative style. One of the major criteria was that the narrative needed to be able to stand on its own without the excerpts. The excerpts were utilized to accomplish three objectives. First, to highlight or illustrate the issues raised in the narrative, second to present a medium by which the reader may be able to identify, and third, to allow the expression of personal emotions, which would otherwise have to be left out as per current literary standards.

Pending the concurrence of the Committee, we request that this version be mailed out to area and regional H&I subcommittees, the Board of Trustees and members of the Joint Administrative Committee. The proposed period for review and input of this work would be 60 days, from August 1 until September 30, 1989. If you have individual input on the piece, we would ask that you utilize the review and input period mentioned above. However, if you feel that this piece is not ready and should not be reviewed by the abovementioned committees and boards, please contact the WSO by August 25th. This unusual request is primarily due to our not having the opportunity to meet as a committee in July as originally scheduled, and second, due to the extremely tight deadlines we must meet if this piece is to be considered for approval by WSC '90.

As I write this memo, the ad hoc committee has just completed its work. I must say that it was a powerful moment for all of us. We hope that this booklet moves you all as deeply as it has moved us. I was personally impressed by the work of the members and am proud of the draft we have prepared. I look forward to seeing you all soon.