

# WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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

FROM: Danette Banyai, Chairperson, BOT Literature Review  
Subcommittee/Traditions Ad Hoc Committee

Date: August 31, 1990

RE: August meeting of the BOT Traditions Ad Hoc Committee

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The committee met during the weekend of August 24 - 26, 1990. Present were Danette B., Jack B., Donna M., Ceven McG., Nancy S., Mitchell S., and Bob McK., committee members, and Ann Rider and Steve Lantos, WSO staff.

## Friday, August 24, 1990

The first item on the committee's agenda was an overview of the weekend. The staff team had presented first drafts of Traditions One and Two for committee review, and it was decided to address those drafts first. Additional topics to be dealt with during the weekend included: some review of material on Traditions Three and Four; reviewing "C" input on Traditions Six through Ten; and, some in-depth discussion regarding the review of various drafts by the committee and the Board of Trustees, and the method of releasing of the completed draft material to the fellowship for review and input, either chapter by chapter or some other fashion.

There was some brief discussion regarding the pre-review of the second drafts by members of the BOT and the WSCLC. The second drafts will be mailed out to these two bodies as soon as completed, asking the individual members to comment on the material in terms of content, tone, style, flow, readability, and presentation. The committee will ask for responses to the drafts prior to their next meeting. During the next meeting, the input received will be factored into the drafts, which will then become the committee's third drafts.

The group then started to review the first draft of Tradition One, by offering general comments regarding the tone, style, readability and content of the material. While there was a general consensus that the draft adhered to the stylistic guidelines set down by the committee, some of the conceptual content needed to be discussed further. There was some additional general discussion about the perceived need to have subheadings in the chapters, and it was

decided to have such subheadings as necessary. The discussion then switched to various suggestions about including questions about each tradition to help groups and individuals in their study of the material. The suggestions varied from having either a separate section at the end of the book, or possibly including the questions at the end of each chapter, with some blank pages following the questions. While the committee was generally leaning towards the option of having an entirely separate section, it was decided to consider this idea at a later date. **If you have any input regarding the idea of having study notes in the book, please let the committee know as soon as possible.**

The group then proceeded on to a specific, paragraph by paragraph, review of the Tradition One draft.

The committee broke for lunch at 12:35 and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. The specific review of the first draft took up the majority of the afternoon session. After completing this task, the committee decided to review the "C" input of Tradition Six. The second session was concluded at 5:45 p.m.

#### Saturday, August 25, 1990

The group reconvened at 8:30 a.m. The first item of business was the specific, paragraph by paragraph, review of the first draft of Tradition Two. Due to time constraints, the committee decide to order food in, and work through lunch. One of the interesting discussions on this tradition involved the various ways of addressing the role of trusted servants. The committee decided that instead of presenting a particular point of view regarding the trusted servant's role, that it would be more important to discuss the spiritual rewards of being a trusted servant, and what it means to be of service. It was the unanimous consensus of the group, that the book should not present right or wrong ways of doing things, as that was a matter of perception, but to elevate the discussions to a spiritual level, focusing on the principles involved. The review of the Tradition Two draft concluded at 12:45 p.m.

The next item was discussion about some of the principles contained in Traditions Three and Four, to provide direction to the staff team in their development of draft material on those traditions. After this discussion, the committee reviewed "C" input on Tradition Six. Following that review, the committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

#### Sunday, August 26, 1990

The committee reconvened at 8:30 a.m. It was decided that the primary item for discussion on this day was to be the release of the material to the fellowship, and the process to be utilized to achieve this. There was considerable discussion on whether or not to release the completed drafts chapter by chapter, in larger, more comprehensive sections, or in its entirety upon completion.

The proponents of releasing the material in smaller sections, pointed out that through this type of release, it would be possible to obtain fellowship input faster, letting the committee know sooner whether or not the material's content, style, tone, etc., were acceptable to the fellowship. Those committee members in favor of releasing the book when completed, pointed out that due to the interdependence of the traditions, sending the material chapter by chapter may not provide adequate information to the fellowship about the material as a whole, and therefore may be taken out of context.

Despite these different views, there was a general consensus that there was tremendous value to releasing the first two or three chapters, when completed, asking the fellowship to respond quickly to some general questions about the material. Some of those general questions would involve the style, tone, and presentation of the traditions, as well as a request to let the committee know as soon as possible if the direction taken was acceptable to, and in accord with the fellowship's understandings of the concepts and principles contained in those chapters.

After lengthy discussion, the group decided to recommend to the Board of Trustees the following:

- a. To release the first two or three traditions, when completed, to the fellowship, asking for the type of timely, general review mentioned above;
- b. To endeavor to complete chapters on the first six traditions prior to WSC '91, and release that material for general fellowship review and input;
- c. To endeavor to complete the balance of the book within four to six months after WSC '91, and send it out for fellowship review and input immediately upon completion; and,
- d. To take the steps necessary to release an approval version of the traditions portion of *It Works, How and Why*, in a timely manner to ensure having a vote on its approval no later than WSC '93.

**If you have any comment or input on this plan, please let the committee know as soon as possible.**

The committee adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 22 and 23, 1990 in Van Nuys.