

CONFERENCE SUMMARY REPORT

The 1992 World Service Conference should go down in the NA annals as one of our best. I would like to commend last year's Administrative Committee for providing a structure that allowed for both freedom of expression and for getting down to business. By presenting information in a written form, then addressing issues and questions from the floor during the panels, an atmosphere of more open and complete communication emerged.

LITERATURE BUSINESS

All three literature committee motions were passed by the conference. We now have the booklet *In Times of Illness* and the book *Just for Today: Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts* as approved Narcotics Anonymous literature. Our "A" work list, which establishes the priority projects for the WSCLC next year, was also approved. We plan to complete the approval form of the steps portion of *It Works: How and Why* and work on the review form of the Step Writing Guides.

Other literature-related motions that the conference passed follow:

- 1) The addition of "Recovery and Relapse" (IP #6) in the next printing of the *Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous*
- 2) The motion that "The conference shall not vote on any proposals to change already-approved NA recovery literature unless those proposals have appeared in the *Conference Agenda Report*"
- 3) The confirmation that contract writers who are NA members and who work within our literature development process may draft and edit NA literature

The following motions were committed to us:

- 1) Consideration of an IP proposal "Seniors in Recovery" in large print
- 2) Consideration of inserting a definition of group conscience into *The Group Booklet* when the Guide to Service has been completed, or when this booklet comes up for revision
- 3) Consideration of an IP proposal "What is a GSR?" after *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* is completed

- 4) Consideration of a motion to extend the moratorium on changes to the Basic Text by an additional five years with instructions that this motion appear in the 1993 CAR

LITERATURE PANELS

Our "A" panel dealt with the content of literature motions in the CAR. The issue that elicited the greatest interest concerned a motion to change the subtitle of *Just for Today* from "Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts" to "Daily Reflections for Recovering Addicts." Some participants felt that the use of the word "meditations" would be a misnomer and possibly confuse the newcomer. Others believed that the same word has been generally applied to works of this sort and, since it was described as a daily meditation book all along, the fellowship would have objected if it were an issue. A working group was formed to come to some consensus on this and to report back to the conference when the amendment was on the floor. The full report of this group will be in the minutes of the conference. Their recommendation was that the word "Reflections" in the amendment be changed to "Readings." The conference decided to support the original subtitle, but the use of RSR working groups in this way greatly facilitated conference business.

Our "B" panel gave an overview of the steps development process. Panel members shared their experience when asked about the development of regional literature committees. The development of original source material by regional and area literature committees was discussed and encouraged. The status of the History of NA project was questioned. We reiterated that we have no plans at the present time for developing this project. It will take a major effort to fill in the gaps and to discern a true and objective rendition of what our history has been.

FRIDAY LITERATURE COMMITTEE MEETING

We were asked by the Translations Committee to make some recommendations that could be used by local translation committees for writing personal stories for the Basic Text. Working from the outline used during the writing of the English version of the text, we suggested some alterations but, on the whole, felt that the original outline was still valid.

Next, we revisited our recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding the application of consistent publication standards to all NA literature. While we proofed the bluelines for the Introductory Guide, both office staff and I noticed inconsistencies in features such as capitalization, italics, initials, and punctuation. It seemed important to the WSCLC and the BOD that standards do not vary from IP to IP, but rather that these features be consistent. In September of 1991, we

recommended to the board that inaccuracies be corrected in subsequent printings of conference-approved literature. New material is already being written to conform with publication standards. As some IP's will soon be reprinted, we reaffirmed our recommendation that mechanical features be corrected. We wanted the fellowship to know that if you receive IPs that have capitalization or punctuation changes, it's because those pamphlets have been proofread for errors and now conform to publication standards.

We agreed on the following project statement for the Step Writing Guides:

"The Step Writing Guides will offer another way for sponsors and sponsees to work together on recovery through the steps. The guides will promote understanding of the spiritual principles inherent in our steps to encourage spiritual growth. Included will be invitational open-ended questions that might elicit thought-provoking discussion between a sponsor and a sponsee, and hopefully provide a more in-depth examination of the recovery process. The concept of the Step Writing Guides is based on fellowship source material. The development of this project was initiated after numerous requests from the fellowship, many of whom already have and are using these drafts."

With the participation of our dedicated general members, we discussed the format of the pamphlet/pamphlet series/sheets of questions/notebook/workbook. Our main focus was on getting a vision of what the piece will look like; we realize that the BOD will have the dubious honor of settling on a format, but that our recommendation will be important to them. We came to no consensus, but we have a variety of interesting styles to consider. General and registered members assigned to this project will receive instructions soon. We hope to have a good start on this effort by the first quarterly workshop.

At that first quarterly, we will also form working groups to consider IP revisions and revisions to our literature handbook. This work will be shared with our general members and in case of the IP *H&I* and the *NA* member, with participants from the H&I committee.

Our major event for this year will be drafting the approval form of *It Works*. We will be working with the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee to write an introduction or preface to the book and to pull it together into one piece. The review form of the steps has been completed. Input on Steps One through Six is due June 30, 1992, and on Steps Seven through Twelve on August 30th. It is important that those of you reviewing these drafts adhere to the deadlines. Around September 15, you will be sent the approval form of Steps One through Six. The approval form of Steps Seven through Twelve will be mailed by November 24th. The 1993 conference will be

presented with a motion to adopt *It Works: How and Why* as conference-approved literature. This is incredibly exciting.

Friday evening, several of us attended the Translations Committee meeting as observers. Over the last several years, we have discussed how we can help address the needs of a multilingual fellowship. There are two bilingual members of the WSCLC, and they are very helpful in reviewing our works-in-progress for translatability and cultural ethnocentricity. The newly-formed Translations Committee may offer an even broader perspective on these parameters.

I am hopeful that we can interface with the Translations Committee in mutually supportive ways. It is very spiritually uplifting to hear the list of translation projects commencing in all corners of the world. It is also encouraging that the conference decided to support this committee's efforts for another year; they are facilitating carrying the message in a greater variety of words than we can imagine.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I'd liked to welcome India Weber (Upper Midwest Region), Michael McDermott (Northern California) and Daniel Kerns (Southern Idaho) to the literature committee. Jane Nickels, Jeri Sarracino, Omer Gillham, Mike Cooley, Gretchen Deckard and our Vice Chairperson Alden Irish were re-elected to the committee. Jim Buerer and J.W. Hayes rotated off the committee. Thanks for all the hard work, Jim and J.W. And a special thank you to Bryce Sullivan for chairing the Steps Ad Hoc last year and for joining us in Dallas to participate in our panel. We will not be using the ad hoc process to complete the approval form of the steps, but we are grateful to the ad hoc committee for the review form of the work.

We look forward to working with you this year. Keep the input flowing and we'll do our part in keeping you informed about our progress. Thank you for allowing me to serve one more year as your literature chairperson.

Mary Jensen, Chairperson
WSC Literature Committee