

**APPROVED WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE  
LITERATURE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
August 28, 29, & 30, 1992**

The World Service Conference Literature Committee met the weekend of August 28-30, 1992 in Van Nuys, California. Present from the WSCLC were Mary Jensen, Alden Irish, Omer Gillham, Jorge Blanco, Mike McDermott, Daniel Keirns, Ceven McGuire, Mike Cooley, Andree Lafontaine, Gretchen Deckard and Jane Nickels. Mitchell Soodak, administrative liaison, joined the meeting Friday afternoon, and India Weber on Saturday morning. WSO Staff included Literature Department staff Julie Kirkpatrick and Nancy Good, with Steve Lantos and Cindy Sarnecky attending sessions on Friday and part of Saturday.

**Friday, August 28, 1992**

The meeting opened at 9:25 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer, a reading from the daily book and the literature prayer from the Basic Text.

**Minutes - The committee approved the April minutes with a minor correction.**

**Steps Review -** The committee worked from 9:25 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on finalizing the review form of Steps One through Six. Mary Jensen explained that the drafts of Steps One through Six were the result of the small working group and that most of the changes occurred in the first three steps. Both Mary and Alden discussed the trustee's review of the new drafts of Steps One through Six. The trustee's input on Steps Seven Twelve will be reviewed at the October small working group meeting. The committee read several drafts aloud and then decided not to read the other drafts due to time constraints. The committee began with a page-by-page review, and the changes they made ranged from specific word changes to paragraph rearrangement. Small working group members answered questions about fellowship input on specific items. All revisions were noted by Steve Lantos and Cindy Sarnecky.

Concerns were raised about the need for the next small working group meeting in October to factor in fellowship input on Steps Seven through Twelve. Several committee members mentioned that there has not been as much input on Steps Seven through Twelve and that the group would probably finish their work early. It was proposed that if they finish their steps review they could do some work on the Step Writing Guides. A number of members' airline tickets have already been purchased. Further discussion was postponed until Saturday. The meeting recessed at 8:00pm.

**Saturday, August 29, 1992**

The meeting opened in the usual manner at 8:45 a.m. The committee continued work on the step review of Steps One through Six. They also worked on the introduction and the preface.

**Step Writing Guides** - At 4:00 p.m., after a recess, work commenced on the Step Writing Guides. Mary began the meeting on the subject of copyrights. She explained that we did not have copyright releases on the prototypes and that attempts were made to get them by tracking the area ad hoc literature committee and by looking for the original authors. A few weeks ago, the attorney for the WSO, Theresa Middlebrook, was commissioned to assist on the project. Mary explained that Theresa found out that there is not a problem regarding copyrights on this project, since the authorship was from a group and not one person.

Julie gave an explanation of the copyright meeting with Theresa Middlebrook. She said that now we have a release form for all original material submitted and another copyright form for literature committees that are working on works-in-progress. At this point, we can continue our work with the Step Writing Guides project. She explained how the Step Writing Guides draft that we currently have is not similar to either of the original prototypes.

Registered and general members used input from area and regional literature committees to pull out common themes and questions from various drafts of step writing guides. Mary and Alden reviewed the working groups' input and compiled common concepts under each step and the ideas that would be important to include in various narrative sections. The new material generated in this manner is significantly different from the original prototypes. The WSCLC will implement using these various copyright releases from now on. Mary added that we will report to regional and area literature committees in the minutes and various reports regarding changes in copyright procedures.

**Small Working Group meeting** - Discussion continued in detail regarding the need for a small working group meeting in October. Andree suggested that with the small amount of input on Steps Seven through Twelve, the meeting could possibly be conducted by phone. The committee discussed the need for the meeting, whether or not to add other projects to the meeting, and whether or not the airline tickets are refundable. They also shared about the importance of the responsibility to the conference, whether or not to have a conference call, and other financial concerns. Mitchell said he didn't think there was a problem if the small working group finished their review early and wanted to use any left over time to work on the Step Writing Guides. He also mentioned that the issue is about if the steps project warrants that meeting. Multiple concerns were raised about changing the process at this point, and it was pointed out that there is some additional work to be done on the introduction, preface, and index. The deadline for input on Steps Seven through Twelve has not passed, so the bulk of the input has yet to arrive. Mary stated that input will be monitored in the next few days and then a decision will be made about the meeting.

**Step Writing Guides** - Alden started discussing the Step Writing Guides. He said we need to develop a format, break into working groups and then continue the work at the quarterly. His suggestions regarding format were: 1) existing sheet with questions, 2) workbook, paperback style like the blue draft of *It Works* with extra pages in back, 3) booklet style. He suggested that a decision be made on format.

The committee discussed the different format styles. They shared on whether or not space would be needed for writing, the fact that IP #10 is already in booklet format and whether or not to rewrite it. A suggestion was made to have a "basic box" that all of the booklets would fit into and another suggestion was made to use a 3-ring binder with either 3-hole punched booklets or sections where extra paper could be added. The booklets could also be in a composition book style.

There was further discussion about whether the booklets could be purchased in a set versus "a la carte", in which you could buy one step at a time. There was concern about what type of message we are conveying if you can buy one step at a time. Ceven mentioned that it might be possible to offer the Step Writing Guides in two different styles, but that the WSO Board of Directors would need to make that decision. The committee agreed that the Step Writing Guides should be an inexpensive piece of literature. If the format is kept simple, then maybe it wouldn't be so expensive for translations to be done. Mary will write a letter to WSO Board of Directors and ask for some guidance on format options and pricing concerns.

Mary reminded the committee that there will be no staff support for this project at this time. Part of the fellowship input was in favor of the narrative style. Mike C. suggested that the committee send out a survey form to the fellowship to ask what they want. Title suggestions: "Working the Steps in NA", "Writing the Steps in NA" (not good for illiterates.)

At 7:00 p.m. the committee broke into two Step Writing Guide working groups: Steps One through Six, chaired by Mary, and Steps Seven through Twelve, chaired by Alden. Using the work done by the review panels, the working groups factored the concepts that are in each step and ideas that were important points to be developed in different narrative sections. The meeting recessed at 9:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, August 30, 1992**

The meeting opened in the usual manner at 8:10 a.m. Mary established that we would have a quorum until 11:00 a.m. IP revisions, handbooks and committed motions were postponed until the quarterly.

**Steps Small Working Group (Plan A and B)** - Two plans were brought up for the October meeting of the small working group. Plan A - There will be a meeting if substantial new input/changes are received on Steps Seven through Twelve. If time allows, they could begin writing questions and outlining narrative for the Step Writing Guides. Plan B - Don't have a meeting and send back changes to the small working group. There was agreement that a conference call is not a good idea but that people could call each other with questions and comments. **The consensus of the committee was that they would support Mary and Alden's decision about whether or not to have the small working groups' meeting.**

**Edwin Cane's letter** - The committee then discussed the letter from the Washington/Northern Idaho Region. Mary gave a historical synopsis of the situation. She stated that J.W. was given the opportunity to fill out a service resume at the March

WSCLC meeting, but he declined. Later, Mary VanEvery called him to tell him the deadline was coming up. A service resume was still never received from him. It was assumed that he was not interested in running for the WSCLC. At the conference, his RSR wondered why he was not running, but she did not bring a resume for him. Mary J. sent him a letter after the conference, but he did not respond. Then a letter was received from his region suggesting that we reappoint him. Mary responded to that letter explaining the situation and that they would be contacted if any changes were made. **The committee made a final decision not to fill the position on the committee at this time.**

**NA History** - Mary updated the committee on the *History of NA* project. She shared that she was approached by various members to distribute material. Three weeks ago she received a call from a general member who is involved with the current service structure and is also with the *History of NA* group. He was going to send a copy of the draft and tapes that they have, but she has not received them to date. Concern was raised that people are asking us to participate when this project is happening outside the service structure. It is unfortunate that we haven't been able to work together or that they haven't surrendered the material to the WSCLC.

Jorge said he did a workshop in New Jersey and saw the motion for the New Jersey Region to formally take part in the *History of NA* project. He also mentioned that it would be difficult for a member to write the history of NA without some amount of bias. Mitchell said that the intention of the project was to turn it over to world literature when they finish with the work, but they intend on publishing and copyrighting it beforehand. Mary said that she can understand their interest but that it is unfortunate that we haven't been able to work together. Jane was approached to participate at a multi-regional workshop where they would be working on this item along with workshopping IP revisions. Michael was concerned that the *History of NA* that is currently being sold has "fellowship approved" stamped on it and that gives a mixed message. The committee discussed interest in the project from their view and fellowship's view. There was lengthy discussion about developing the history book.

Mary has sent a letter to two regions who requested it to document that the book is not conference-approved material. She suggested that we need to communicate with them and invite them into the process with us in a spirit of cooperation. We will reassert that this project is on our worklist. Mary mentioned that we can use time at the quarterly to begin discussing this project. We need a disclaimer letter for the product already being sold to go to RLC's and ALC's and conference participants. We will also send a letter to the history of NA group care of the general member that contacted Mary Jensen.

**It Works** - The next item of discussion was about the indexing of *It Works*. During the October meeting, the staff will present a draft of the index. We will have the introduction, preface, and index intact when this piece goes out for review. Ceven explained that the index will not be a computer listing of every place where a concept appears, but it will note the pages where a certain concept is developed. The concepts listed in the index will not be limited to spiritual principles but will include concepts like denial, relapse, meetings, and reservations.

**RLC and ALC Assignments** - Mary then opened discussion on the possible need to find more work for regional and area literature committees. She has received several letters from committees wanting assignments. She clarified that the committee's role is not to assign work, but to develop work. Mary also stated the need for source material. She said *Living Clean* is in disrepair and the history project is open to reinvestigation. Direction should come from World Service Conference and not just from the WSCLC.

Andree mentioned that she feels we are not a World Literature Committee any more since we don't take into account other world areas. The committee discussed the need to have the world literature involvement. Direction may need to come from the conference. The need was brought up to work closer with the WS Translation Committee. Andree and Mitchell will be reporting information and it was also suggested that Mary VanEvery participate with the WSCLC at the quarterly.

Suggestions were made to have committees write us about what they want the WSCLC to do. **The committee decided to mail a questionnaire to survey the fellowship asking what kind of literature they would like to see developed and what they see their role as in the literature development process.** Ceven expressed concern that literature committees are forgetting about other areas in which they could serve, such as writing articles for the NA Way Magazine, developing a local newsletter, or writing for the Meeting by Mail. Michael mentioned that registered and general members need to get the information that conference participants get. Mitchell mentioned that the survey that NAS recently did might begin to answer questions such as: "What do we see the World Literature Committee doing in the future?"

Mary shared that at the quarterly the committee would be working alone on Thursday and Friday reviewing the final drafts of Step Seven through Step Twelve and that we will be working with general members on Saturday.

**Tom Minihan letter** - The committee discussed the letter from Tom Minihan regarding removing the "Newly" from "Newly Revised" in the *White Booklet*. A decision was made in April to remove "Newly" and have "revised 1986" on the inside cover. There was some discussion about adding our meaning of the word "clean" to dictionaries. Mary mentioned that we had decided at the conference it really wasn't our place to tell people what to put in their dictionaries. Ceven was encouraged not to do a full fledged search, at this time.

The meeting adjourned in the usual manner at 11:15 a.m.

## Addendum

### WSCLC's Motions List

M/S/C Michael M./Jorge to approve the minutes as corrected (unanimous).