

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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To: The Fellowship

From: Mary Jensen, Chairperson
WSC Literature Committee

Date: December 11, 1992

Re: Literature Update

The WSC Literature Committee has met twice this year: at the end of August and at the October Quarterly Workshop. Since it will be awhile until the next *Conference Report* is available, I'd like to summarize the work we've done on our projects so far this year. I regret that some of this information will seem repetitive of the August report I wrote to regional literature committees.

The Steps Portion of It Works: How and Why

The big news is that we have completed our work on the approval form of *It Works: How and Why*. We reviewed and revised Steps One through Six during our August meeting. These drafts were sent to conference participants and regional literature committees in September. At the quarterly workshop in October, we completed our final review of Steps Seven through Twelve, the introduction to the book, the preface for the steps portion, and the index. You should receive these drafts at the end of November or the beginning of December. At that time, the approval form will be sent to you as a complete draft including all Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, introductory and preface material, and the index. We are very pleased with the drafts and would like to thank all of you who participated in the review of the steps. Your work was immensely helpful.

Step Working Guides

During the first part of this conference year, panels were assigned to this project. These panels considered the work done on the guides by regional and area literature committees three years ago. At our August meeting, we consolidated the work done by the panels and eliminated redundant and tangential topics. Although we have not yet come to consensus about the book's format, we agree that introductory narrative is needed at the beginning of each guide. In addition, we

have decided to intersperse narrative throughout each step guide to open the door to the questions which follow. Our goal is to invite the reader to participate in the step writing process, and interspersed narrative seems to set the proper tone.

Following the August meeting, members were assigned to develop preliminary outlines based on the work done by the panels and the WSCLC. These outlines, along with the concepts to be included in each guide, have been submitted to a small working group of four registered members. Each member will draft questions and indicate appropriate source material from the Basic Text and the *It Works* drafts to serve as a springboard for the narrative to be interspersed in each guide. Finances permitting, that group will meet in February with a member of the staff team to formulate the language for a first draft of the guides. These drafts will be submitted to the WSCLC for review at the conference.

We also considered the title of the guides. One of the source material drafts is entitled "Step Writing Guides." We realize that some of our members do not choose to or cannot write about the steps. We have, therefore, chosen to call the working draft of this project the "Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides."

Since our full WSCLC meeting in February will not be held, we do not now believe that we can have the review-form draft of this project completed by the conference. Our revised production schedule calls for our revising the small working group drafts at the conference and releasing the review form after the first quarterly next year.

"Newly Revised"

We received a letter from a member who questioned our continued use of the phrase "Newly Revised" on the cover of the *White Booklet*. We began discussing this at the conference and completed that discussion during our August meeting. Our decision was to ask the Board of Directors to consider deleting the "Newly" and using the phrase "Revised" on the cover and "Revised, 1984" on the copyright page.

Regional Assignments

As the review of *It Works* draws to an end, we have been approached by several regional and area literature committees for additional assignments. We asked these groups to assist us at the present time by completing a survey which was mailed to all registered literature committees and was due at the quarterly.

The first question dealt with the literature process and how regional and area committees viewed themselves in this process. We did not have an opportunity to review this response category at the quarterly, but will use the responses to guide our work on the revision of our handbook.

The second item asked committees to rank literature development proposals

that are currently on our "C" and "D" work lists plus additional pieces they felt needed to be developed. Thirty-one committees participated in this process. The evaluations subcommittee used this information to assist them in recommending our 1993 WSC Literature Committee work list.

Finally, we encouraged committees seeing the need for a particular piece of literature to consider drafting a proposal in the form of an outline, concept, or draft. At the quarterly, we learned that many committees are in the process of working on literature proposals. The bottom line is that we want to know what the fellowship wants in new recovery literature.

We will be sending you a second survey to complete. The purpose of this survey is to see how literature committees are actually functioning and how they rank their priority tasks. Part of the survey deals with our overall literature needs as a fellowship. We will make every effort to translate this portion so that our non-English speaking members may participate in this inventory of Narcotics Anonymous literature priorities.

Committed Motions

The literature committee had two committed motions from the 1992 conference that were appropriate to consider at this time. The other motions committed to us were postponed to a definite time and are dependent on the completion of the *Guide to Service*. Following are the two motions and the committee's recommendation for each:

- 1) "That the WSCLC produce an information pamphlet entitled 'Seniors in Recovery' in large print." This motion was referred to the evaluations subcommittee which recommended that it be placed on our "D" work list. The WSCLC agreed with this recommendation.
- 2) "To extend the moratorium on changes to the Basic Text by an additional five years ending in 1998." This motion was committed to us with specific instructions that it appear in the 1993 CAR. We are in unanimous support of this motion. Since this will be one of our motions to the conference this year, I will discuss it more thoroughly in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Revisions

Members of the revisions subcommittee and the H&I Committee worked together in Cincinnati on the revision of the IP *H&I and the NA Member*. The group prepared a draft which will be reviewed by the WSCLC at the conference.

Youth and Recovery was placed on the 1993 "B" work list pending revision.

Another Look was also placed on our "B" list for next year. After making some

preliminary revisions to the pamphlet, the working group recommended that we postpone additional work on the IP until we have an opportunity to thoroughly discuss changing it or recommending that it be retained in our inventory of conference-approved literature as is.

Handbook Revisions

The handbook working group recommended that we use the survey to be sent out to regional and area literature committees as the basis for revising some sections of the handbook. They also recommended that we work more closely in some way with the group drafting the *Guide to Service*. In this way, we will be working toward the revision of the literature handbook in ways that will not make it immediately obsolete should the Guide be accepted by some future conference. We also felt that it is important for us to send our input to that group. We were able to begin to discuss the proposed literature changes in the Guide with the NAS chairperson.

We are envisioning the handbook in four parts: Literature Development, Literature Distribution, Translations, and Periodicals. A working group composed of general and registered members began identifying resources needed to revise the handbook and a tentative timeline for its completion.

Evaluations

With some adaptation, the recommendation from this subcommittee was accepted by the WSCLC. The 1993 Literature Priority List is as follows:

A List	Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides <i>H&I and the NA Member</i> (revision)
B List	<i>Youth and Recovery</i> (revision) <i>Another Look</i> (revision)
C List	"Living Clean" "Practicing the Principles of Our Traditions" "NA Service"
D List	"So You Think You're Different" "Recovery is for Everyone" "Spirituality" "Seniors in Recovery" "Relationships Then and Now"

We had extensive discussions about the History of NA project. As reported last year, the committee questions whether this is recovery-oriented literature. It is presently beyond this committee's scope to pursue the completion of this book. It seems an unlikely candidate for the current conference-approved literature

development process. We have not seen it as being appropriate, for example, to use our established literature review process on this piece. We see it as a very expensive project, requiring a researcher or a research ad hoc. Although we have a lot of archival materials to draw from, there is not a source draft upon which to build. We question whether the fellowship wants to expend the resources necessary to complete this book. Our survey results suggest that this is not seen as a vital piece to develop at this time. If we are wrong about this, we know that you will tell us. In the meantime, we are submitting the book proposal to the WSB of Trustees, asking them to consider development of it by the Board.

Translations

Accessibility of information to those non-English speaking members interested in participating in the literature development process has been a constant concern of ours. We have tried to facilitate this kind of accessibility by sending out review and approval material early and by priority mailings. We are always hoping to do something more effective, though.

We had scheduled an hour and a half during the quarterly workshop for translations discussions. However, our interface with the translations committee came up several times earlier during this meeting. We decided to translate the last page of the new literature survey, which asks about literature priorities for the fellowship as a whole, through volunteer effort. We were concerned that our support of the Basic Text moratorium extension may be perceived as including the development of personal stories which are cultural and language-specific. We know that the Translations Committee is drafting guidelines which will include such issues, but we would like to make it clear that we do not perceive the moratorium affecting translations in any constraining way.

Becky Meyer, George Hollahan and Mitchell Soodak joined the committee in our discussion on translations. Some of the issues will, we hope, be included in the Development Forum at the conference. We support the development of indigenous literature, but we hope that literature can be made available to the fellowship as a whole through some mechanism. Obviously, this would necessitate an alteration of our current review and approval process. We look forward to communicating with the Translations Committee about this.

We feel a need to begin formulating a worldwide literature development process--one that would allow for participation across languages. Although we are aware that there have been no pieces of original source material submitted in a language other than English to date, we see this occurring in the relatively near future. We discussed the possibility of joint membership of one or two members from the WSCLC and the Translations Committee. Our need to work closely together during this pivotal time is seen as vital to us. These continue to be exciting times to be involved in literature.