

Why the Baby Blue Happened

At the 1983 World Service Conference (WSC) the Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure (TWGSS) was approved. The standard procedures of Roberts Rules of Order were established for use by the WSC. However, the policies detailed in the TWGSS were created to take precedence over the standard operating policies found in Roberts Rules of Order when they conflict. The following paragraph can be found in the TWGSS section titled The World Service Conference:

To facilitate clear understanding of issues being considered by the Conference, motions, other than procedural, must be displayed in writing so that voting delegates can read them before a vote is taken. As a preface to this part of the decision making process, motions to be considered at the Conference that affect the structure of the Fellowship, change the major procedures of the Conference or affect the approved (or to be approved) literature or other publications property of the Fellowship, must be submitted in writing to the Regional Service Representatives not less than 60 days prior to the first day of the Conference.

The TWGSS went on to elaborate how the sub-committee structure of the WSC was to “collect, clarify, define, and articulate the decisions that the Fellowship must make within their specific areas of concern. They shall, through their meetings, collect data from the Fellowship, and prepare recommendations for the Fellowship that can receive final deliberation at the World Service Conference. The Committees are advisory rather than decision making in their nature as trusted servants of the Fellowship.”

In the TWGSS was a portion on the Literature sub-committees and the approval process for literature:

The Literature Committee shall be responsible for the development of literature of every nature that the Fellowship may use. The Committee shall concentrate on the production and, when necessary, revision of literature that will help carry the message of recovery to the still suffering addict. The review process of proposed literature shall be that a proposed item of literature must be reviewed by the Trustees prior to its distribution to the committee. At such time as the Trustees have determined that the draft copy does not in itself contain any violations of Tradition, then the material may be distributed to the committee for its review. The Committee will review the literature and propose it, if the committee feels that the material warrants consideration by the world Service Conference, to the Conference at the next world Service Conference. The Conference will accept the proposed literature for review within the Fellowship or reject the item. If the item is accepted for review, it may then be distributed within the Fellowship for year. During that year the literature committee will receive and consider all input from the fellowship on changes that are suggested. At the world Service Conference the following year, the Committee may present a revised version or the original version at which time it may be finally adopted.

At the 1984 WSC the World Literature Committee (WLC) Chair submitted a letter, some motions and a guide on procedural ideas for the creation and development of New Literature, written by Sydney Rosen-(Rehmar) a member of the World Service Board of Trustees (WSB). One of the motions was to include twelve already approved personal stories in the next printing of our book. Another motion that had been sent out to the Fellowship by the Literature committee was intended to create a policy on the threshold needed to approve Literature. The motion that was passed established "that all literature submitted to this conference for approval require a 2/3 majority vote of participants."

An additional motion was proposed on the floor of the WSC by the President of the World Service Office (WSO) Board of Directors and seconded by Chuck Lehman (Arizona Region) which was passed: "that the next printing of the "Basic Text" also reflect the wording used in the Special Edition and the First Edition for Traditions Four (4) on page 61 and Tradition Nine (9) on page 68 of the current edition." After the

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WSC Chairperson, Bob Rehmar, allowed several more motions to be presented, "Dale A. (Tri-State Region) questioned the Chair's allowance of the introduction of motions that have not been in keeping with the standing rules. The Chair ruled the matter out of order. The Chair's ruling was appealed. The vote, by voice count was to change the standing rules and allow subsequent motions on subjects that have not been sent to the Fellowship for group conscience."

This became the 3rd Edition Basic Text.

One of the new ideas approved with regard to the creation and development of New Literature was the establishment of a Literature Review Committee. This new Literature Review Committee would review and make decisions on every item of literature sent to them from the WLC, within ninety (90) days upon receipt of the item. The committee would then send its decision back to the WLC, and the procedure of compilation and editing would continue. At the point at which the specified literature has been reviewed and approved by the Literature Review Committee, it would then be distributed by the WLC to the Fellowship at large for review, before final approval at the World Service Conference.

Additionally, the 1984 WSC Chair, Bob Rehmar was asked through a motion from his wife, Sydney Rosen-(Rehmar) a member of the World Service Board of Trustees and seconded by, Ginni Swanson (WLC Chair) to appoint four (4) people to an Ad-Hoc committee to combine the [New] Literature Review Committee with the Procedural Guidelines for the creation and Development of new literature, and bring to the Conference for approval.

The 1985 Fellowship Report - prior name for the Conference Agenda Report – was published in January of 1985. Contained in the report from the WSC Literature Chair was the following paragraph:

We have received some comments from members regarding the Basic Text. A certain amount of controversy is apparent; some members complain that the book is poorly written, hard to read and amateurish, while others state that the book was divinely inspired and is perfectly adequate. The World Literature Committee has no opinion on any of these comments. We do, however, offer a simple answer. We have begun a process wherein all literature produced by the World Literature Committee will be professionally edited prior to typesetting. This will ensure consistent and correct use of grammatical structures such as punctuation, spelling, capitalization, gender and number usage, etc. This process will begin with the Basic Text. This process will not, however, include rewriting the text. Major content changes such as revising, inserting or deleting concepts or ideas is a more complicated process. The Procedural Guidelines for the Creation and Development of New Literature, which were approved at WSC-84, allow for the revision of approved literature at least every five years. Any comments or suggestions for the revision of the Basic Text should be directed, in writing, to the World Literature Committee. These comments will be collected and utilized in a future workshop for this purpose.

The 1985 Fellowship Report also contained a report from the WSC Ad-hoc Committee Chairperson Sydney Rosen/Rehmar, "That the Procedural Guidelines for World Literature Committee be approved and replace the Procedural Guidelines for the creation and development of new literature."

However there was not a motion submitted in the Fellowship Report – CAR - seeking the Fellowships conscience on their desire to have our Basic Text "professionally edited." On the floor of the 1985 WSC the following motion was introduced by Ginni Swanson (WLC Chair) and seconded by Maggie O'Connor. (Greater Philadelphia), and passed; "that the WSO be instructed to have the Basic Text professionally edited to ensure consistent and correct use of capitalization, verb tenses, gender, singular/plural

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endings, and other grammatical errors and that the edited text be returned to the literature review committee for acceptance and approval prior to printing and distribution."

The 1986 Conference Agenda Report contained a lengthy report from the new WLC Chair Maggie O'Connor. Many issues were presented and in the middle of her three (3) page report was the following:

The World Literature Committee and the WSO Board of Directors have taken some preliminary action on the motion passed at WSC '85 directing us to do specific editing on the Basic Text. We received many excellent applications for this job and interviewed several people. However, because we were so busy with *It Works: How and Why* and other priorities, we have not yet begun the editing process. We do intend to discuss this again at the Conference, at least in a general way, in order to reaffirm that the wishes of the Fellowship are consistent with our understanding.

The 1986 WSC Minutes demonstrate that the WLC Chair Maggie O'Connor and Sydney Rosen-(Rehmar) a member of the World Service Board of Trustees proposed the following:

"that the Procedural Guidelines for World Literature be amended to reflect that the Vice Chairperson of the World Literature Committee be a member of the Literature Review Committee (for a total of eight (8) members rather than 7). This is to be found on page 20 of the Literature Handbook to be included with C. and on page 52 of the Temporary Working Guide also with C." and it passed by a wide majority.

The same year Jack Bernstein, Chairperson of the WSC Board of Trustees offered some literature for approval in the CAR. He reported that the BOT had created a few Trustee sub-committees, and one of them was invented to make revisions to the White Booklet. This Trustee sub-committee then made a proposal to the full BOT about their recommendations. Those proposed changes – a measly 13 pages - were discussed by the full BOT and adopted. The authority used by the BOT to declare this responsibility originated from a committed motion at WSC 1994:

It was motioned by Ginni Swanson (WLC Chair) and seconded by Maggie O'Conner (RSR Greater Philadelphia) "that the Fellowship study the recommendation to make the following changes in the N.A. White Booklet to be decided at WSC-86: Change "sobriety" to "recovery" (throughout the text). After "lack of religion" p.2 para 1, add "gender or sexual orientation." *Delete* "It would appear that we are people with addictive personalities who are strongly susceptible to alcoholic addiction." on p.5 para 3 delete "to Narcotics and sedation" (foreword).

It was then motioned by Vern Pugh (RSR Show-Me), seconded and committed "to refer the above motion to WSB [Board of Trustees]." The Vote: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The White Booklet, along with the changes the BOT [aka WSB] recommended was included in the 1986 CAR, but it was never sent out for "Review and Input" by the Fellowship, the Literature Committee or the newly established Literature Review Committee. As a reminder this is what the TWGSS proclaims, "The Literature Committee shall be responsible for the development of literature of every nature that the Fellowship may use." At the 1984 WSC the BOT proposed their own section of the TWGSS. In that proposal is "Section IX, item B.; In keeping with our role as an advisory Board, the WSB offers opinions and recommendations rather than directives or mandates. The implementation of WSB recommendations lies with those requesting information or guidance." Records indicate that no proposed changes to our White Booklet were ever requested by the Fellowship, the BOT was offering

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unsolicited advice. As a result of the changes to the White Booklet the WSO reported the following in the August 1986 edition of The N.A. Newline:

Changes adopted by the Conference in the White Booklet are being made in the next printing of the Basic Text. We had hoped that these changes would be made simultaneously with a general edit of the whole text. (The WSO was instructed to do this edit by the World Service Conference in 1985.) However, it is not going to work out that way.

The work performed by the editor has been completed and the manuscript was submitted to the WSC Literature Review Committee. There was some hope that their review would not take a long time. However, the Committee was unable to complete the review in the amount of time remaining before the next printing. Consequently the WSO is not going to delay making the White Booklet changes in the Basic Text.

The typ[e]setting for the revised edition has been completed and will be sent on to the printer in a few days. When the next printing is accomplished those changes will be incorporated...

This became the 3rd Edition (Revised) Basic Text.

In 1987 the CAR was published and from the sound of the report presented by the WSC Chairperson, Leah Goodrich it appeared as if we were recommitting the Conference to the Group Conscience process:

...This report is a demonstration of the Narcotics Anonymous commitment to group conscience. The boards and committees that serve the Fellowship have prepared the various sections of this report in order that every member and group may have the opportunity to exercise their right to participation in the group conscience of N.A.

The boards and committees present in this report the items they feel should be adopted by the Fellowship. It is, however, the decision of the Fellowship as a whole to determine if any or all of these matters are to be adopted...

Every reasonable effort should be exercised to inform all N.A. members about this report and their right to participate in this Fellowship group conscience process. Some members and some groups will not be interested. That is their right, but they must be given the opportunity to participate if they desire to.

In the 1987 CAR a motion was proposed by an unknown Region. Here is that motion: "4.To adopt the following guidelines for the World Literature Committee to replace the procedural guidelines for the World Literature Committee as it appears in the Temporary Working Guide and the Literature Handbook." Another unknown Region proposed, "5.To replace all references to the Procedural Guidelines for the World Literature Committee with the Guidelines for the World Literature Committee as they appear in the Temporary Working Guide." Both of these motions were integrated into a report on *It Works: How and Why*. The list of Trusted Servants that formulated the report included the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the World Service Board of Trustees, WSO Board of Directors, World Service Conference Administrative Committee and World Literature Committee but there was no mention of what mysterious Region(s) were proposing the changes.

Intent: The purpose of having two motions for #4 and #5 is to tie up all the loose ends which occur when new guidelines are created to replace guidelines currently in place. The necessity of the second motion is so that any references in other sections of the *Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure* to the current

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guidelines would, upon adoption of the proposed guidelines, refer to the proposed guidelines.

... There are two major changes in this proposal. First, the elimination of the Literature Review Committee, which will be addressed shortly, and the second, the complexity of the procedural guidelines, which will be shown throughout, as this intent goes section by section over these proposed guidelines.

The reason behind the elimination of the Literature Review Committee (LRC) is that it just has not worked. A need has yet to be shown for having the World Literature Committee (WLC) split into two parts...

At WSC 1987 the following motion was presented by Michael Lee, (WSC Literature Vice-Chair) and John Farrell, (BOT) "to commit Regional motions #4 and #5 (including the attached guidelines) to the World Literature Committee for further study". The motion carried with a voice vote of 2/3rds. Another motion was made by the same two people that passed as well. Here is that motion, "To approve the Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committees, Newly Revised". As a result of these two motions passing the old policy (3 years old) concerning the review and input period for the development of literature, as well as the timeframe of the approval process were eliminated. It appears that another result was the elimination of the following approved procedure from 1984, "that all literature submitted to this conference for approval require a 2/3 majority vote of participants."

The World Literature Committee Chairperson, Suzanne Schifano resigned shortly before the WSC, however she had previously offered several motions in the 1987 CAR. One of those motions was to, "To make the following changes in the Basic Text in order to bring it in line with the Newly Revised White Booklet. These changes will begin with the Fourth Edition and remain in subsequent editions. The motion was divided at the WSC to consider the change in Chapter 36 separately, because that change is from a personal story. It failed, and all the other changes passed. Below are those proposed changes;

"In Chapter 6, the first paragraph after the White Booklet excerpt, (3rd ed. p.56) delete the sentence which contains the phrase "Because we hear about suggested steps and no musts. [Both of these references were taken out of the White Booklet]. In the Conference Agenda. Literature Agenda Item 41.

In Chapter 7, the first paragraph after the *White* Booklet excerpt, (3rd ed. p.72) change "They forgot that it is really the first [fix, pill, drink, snort or toke]" to "the first drug" that starts the deadly cycle all over again."

In Chapter 7, halfway through the chapter (3rd ed. p. 76) paragraph begins, "We are grateful that we were made so welcome at meetings that we felt comfortable." In the last sentence, change [Just one fix, pill, drink, snort, or toke...] to "Any use of drugs will interrupt the process of recovery."

In Chapter 9, the tenth paragraph (3rd ed. p.89) the first sentence reads "Three basic spiritual principles are honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness" delete [to try].

In Chapter 9, the fourth paragraph from the end (3rd ed. bottom of p. 92) "If someone with a drug problem comes to us seeking recovery" [delete and is willing to try,) we gladly share with them how we stay clean.

In Chapter 36, Pothead! seventh paragraph (3rd ed. bottom of p. 228), "Then it said they didn't care what drug I used and the only requirement for membership was the [delete honest] desire to stop using."

[Note: The change above referring to p. 92 - is still in the 6th Edition on Page 99, 2nd Paragraph.](#)

This became the 4th Edition Basic Text.

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The October 1987 N.A. Newline reported that the 4th Edition Basic Texts were now available. Here is how the publication was reported to the fellowship:

Last, but certainly not the least, the Fourth Edition Basic Texts are in stock. Again, based on the direction of the World Service Conference, some changes have been made. The book has been printed in both hardbound and paperback versions. The hardbound books are in stock now, and the softbound books will be available soon. A subject index has been added in the back of the book. A list of other N.A. publications was placed in the front of the book. The entire book has been edited and retypeset. The edit focused primarily on correcting grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors. The work was done by an N.A. member who works full-time as a professional editor. It was then reviewed by the World Service Conference Literature Review Committee. The editing, overall, was to improve readability and make the Basic Text consistent with the Newly Revised White Booklet and other N.A. literature. Each of the changes discussed above was based on a motion passed by the World Service Conference.

Those motions are included here for your reference:

WSC '85 "To have bound into the Basic Text an order blank offering materials available through WSO, including the Basic Text and other materials deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees."

WSC '85 "To change any and all N.A. approved literature where it has 'recovered' to 'recovering' in future printings."

WSC '85 "That the WSO be instructed to have the Basic Text professionally edited to ensure consistent and correct use of capitalization, verb tenses, gender, singular/plural endings, and other grammatical errors and that the edited text be returned to the Literature Review Committee for acceptance and approval prior to printing and distribution."

WSC '86 "That a subject index be included in the next edition of our Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*."

WSC '87 "Recommend WSO to produce a soft cover Basic Text at same price as hard cover text."

WSC '87 To make changes in the Basic Text in order to bring it in line with the Newly Revised White Booklet. These changes will begin with the Fourth Edition and remain in subsequent editions. (This last motion is not included in its entirety, as it referenced every specific change in the White Book - those specifics are available in the Conference minutes.)

To refresh your memory, a motion was approved in 1985 to have the Basic Text professionally edited. At that time the Literature approval process would have insured that the Fellowship approved the professionals editing job prior to printing and distributing a new Basic Text. However, the process had recently been changed. With WSC approval on April 29, 1987 of the Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committees, Newly Revised; the Literature Review Committee (LRC) process had been virtually eliminated. The LRC had been relegated to only reviewing the, "actions related to developing or changing the internal workings or policies of the committee." However, a few lines remained in the guidelines that should have insured the Fellowship got the last word on the editing project. Less than six (6) months after appearing to change the approval process for our Literature a professional editor had been hired and edited the entire book, then it was reviewed by the WSC BOT, and then sent to the eight (8) members of the Literature Review Committee, they then all gave it the thumbs up and the books were produced and ready for distribution.

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A few things were over looked prior to the production of the Fourth Edition: The following is on page 21 & 22 of the Newly Revised Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committees:

The World Literature Committee meets no less than twice a year, and as often as necessary to accomplish its goals and objectives. Although any N.A. member is welcome to attend and observe the meetings of the Literature Committee, participation is limited to the actual members of the committee. The annual meeting held at the World Service Conference is for the purpose of deliberating on any input received from the Fellowship in the form of general suggestions, and for planning the accomplishment of its worklist. Agreements may be reached with certain regional literature committees to write drafts of specific items, special workshops may be planned and arrangements made for the annual November meeting of the Literature Committee.

At the November meeting, generally held in a central location of the continental U.S., the status of each project is discussed. At that time, reassignments of certain projects may be made if necessary, or other provisions made in order to accomplish work on the prioritized items. The meeting is an informal gathering of the Literature Committee for the purpose of working on and/or completing projects on the approved worklist. Items to be brought to the upcoming World Service Conference are also discussed. It's generally not appropriate for registered members of the WLC to introduce actions related to developing or changing the internal workings or policies of the Committee. Any actions of this nature are considered by the Literature Review Committee who then makes recommendations to the Chairperson. In this way, the Literature Committee avoids conflict and controversy often associated with internal "politics," concentrating its efforts entirely on the creation and development of literature for Narcotics Anonymous.

The Literature Committee may recommend that a completed piece of literature be distributed to the N.A. Fellowship for review and additional input. The Fellowship is normally provided a period of nine months in which to review the new literature and generate input for the Literature Committee. The input received may be used in the preparation of an approval form, which may be accomplished at a World Literature Conference, special workshop, by an appointed ad-hoc committee or a professional writer/editor. The new item is then forwarded to the World Service Board of Trustees for evaluation. This evaluation by the WSB ensures that the piece accurately represents the principles of Narcotics Anonymous as outlined in the Twelve Traditions. Any language which is inconsistent with the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous is automatically revised based on the recommendations of the Board of Trustees. Upon completion of this process, the approval form is distributed to the Fellowship one year prior to consideration at the next World Service Conference.

If we follow the process mentioned above, as we should, because it was recently approved at WSC 1987, then the annual meeting in November – 1987 - had not occurred prior to the publication of the Fourth Edition. Additionally, the meeting they held in April at the WSC was “an informal gathering of the Literature Committee for the purpose of working on and/or completing projects on the approved worklist.” However, there was no mention of completing or working on the 1985 motion to have the “Basic Text professionally edited” and it shouldn't have been because it wasn't even on their worklist. Another point of interest might be the fact that they presumably wrote their own guidelines and in those guidelines noted that its, “generally not appropriate for registered members of the WLC to introduce actions related to developing or changing the internal workings or policies of the Committee. Any actions of this nature are considered by the Literature Review Committee who then makes recommendations to the Chairperson.” Why then, did the World Literature Vice-Chair introduce a

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motion to approve the “Newly Revised” handbook? Another interesting question might be why the Fellowship was not, “provided a period of nine months in which to review the new literature and generate input?” And above all else, why was the following step completely ignored with regard to our Basic Text being professionally edited? “Upon completion of this process, the approval form is distributed to the Fellowship one year prior to consideration at the next World Service Conference.”

The following excerpt can be found in the November 1987 WSC Fellowship Report:

Leah Goodrich, Chairperson
World Service Conference

...I am sure by now many of you have been subjected to some discussion about the edits in the fourth edition of our Basic Text. What concerns me more than what my personal feelings are about the actual editing changes, are those members who seek to influence, intimidate, and manipulate the decision-making process of our Fellowship. By using the credibility of their positions to create dissension, disharmony, and controversy, they have shown a lack of respect as well as a lack of faith in our membership. I am deeply saddened by these actions as it is evident that they feel they must take things into their own hands instead of trusting a loving God to guide us.

As a Fellowship, we have a process we all agree upon to bring concerns to the attention of our members. Each year we come together to express ourselves as Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. Every region is given the same opportunity to be heard and voice their opinion on issues affecting N.A. It has always struck me as awesome to observe the many differing points of view coming together to form the collective voice of N.A. It is a spiritual event, which we do not have the right to interfere with, but have the responsibility to insure its freedom from misinformation, haste, and powerful personalities.

Very simply, in 1985, the WSC directed that the Basic Text be edited, and that the edit be approved by the Literature Review Committee prior to printing and distribution by the WSO. That process has been followed. We asked these members to do a job and they have complied with our request. We made the decision as a Conference and we, as a Conference, must take responsibility for it. It is only to be expected that reasonable people will disagree on practically any issue. If we decide as a Fellowship, that the final product is unsatisfactory and does not meet our standards then we will correct it and move on. The Basic Text is our book. It is not the property of any individual or group of individuals. It belongs to all of us here now as well as to those members who will get here in the future...

The claims by the WSC Chairperson that the process had been followed may have also been made in haste or were produced to create some misinformation from a powerful personality. The documentation has shown that the Literature Review Committee served a small part in the production of the Fourth Edition. Prior to approval of the “Newly Revised” handbook for the literature committee at WSC 1987 their roll was clearly defined in the approval process. After the approval of the “Newly Revised” handbook their roll was restricted to, “developing or changing the internal workings or policies of the [Literature] Committee.” The approval process was still contained in the Handbook. Perhaps the WSC Chairperson was focusing on the underlined words only. Here it is again as found in the handbook:

The Fellowship is normally provided a period of nine [9] months in which to review the new literature and generate input for the Literature Committee. The input received may be used in the preparation of an approval form, which may be accomplished at a World Literature Conference, special workshop, by an appointed ad-hoc committee or

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a professional writer/editor. The new item is then forwarded to the World Service Board of Trustees for evaluation. This evaluation by the WSB ensures that the piece accurately represents the principles of Narcotics Anonymous as outlined in the Twelve Traditions. Any language which is inconsistent with the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous is automatically revised based on the recommendations of the Board of Trustees. Upon completion of this process, the approval form is distributed to the Fellowship one [1] year prior to consideration at the next World Service Conference.

In an eight (8) page report the WLC Chairman failed to mention anything about the process in place for the Fellowship to have a review period of nine (9) months, or that in approving literature it was a one (1) year time-period, which was the amount of time between WSC's. The WLC Chair was the WLC vice Chair while this entire boondoggle unfolded. However, his tone was less than humble and he took every opportunity to point a finger at everyone in the Fellowship. He went out of his way to demonstrate two facts; one was the wording of the original motion, and the other piece of information was shocking. "The other key fact is that the edited text was returned to the Literature Review Committee in August of 1986 and was subsequently accepted and approved by the LRC." If the Basic Text edit was finished in August of 1986, why was it not sent out for review and input to the Fellowship? It could have received close to nine months of review and input, and been ready to go out to the Fellowship at WSC 1987, for approval at WSC 1988. The Forth Edition was not destined to be Fellowship material, even though many of the WSC Trusted Servants did everything they could to persuade the Fellowship that somehow it was Gods will that it should simply accept the revisions without comment. Instead the WLC Chairman claims that the delay by them was on account of a few "conceptual problems in the book".

The following is another excerpt from the November 1987 WSC Fellowship Report.

Michael Lee, Chairperson
World Literature Committee

...This motion set in place a Conference-approved process to produce an edited version of our Basic Text, specifically authorizing the Literature Review Committee to act as a trusted servant for the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous by investing this directly responsible service committee with the task of accepting and approving the edited text prior to printing and distribution to the Fellowship...

The 1986 and the 1987 World Service Conferences took no action to change the fundamental process under which the fourth edition was to be edited and published. This process and the progress being made on this project were reported regularly by both the WSO and the WLC through the standard communication tools of the Fellowship: the *Newsline* and the Conference Agenda Report, as well as reports from the 1985, 1986, and 1987 WSC and in other miscellaneous communications. Every member, group, area, region and WSC participant in existence during this period of time bears some share of responsibility for the fourth edition and the action, or lack of action, by the 1985, 1986, and 1987 World Service Conferences...

There were several alternatives discussed, one of which was rewriting the book. However, the Literature Committee already has a Conference-approved list of priority work items. Undertaking such a major task as rewriting the Basic Text would necessitate some major restructuring of the Committee's priorities...

The World Service Conference will have the opportunity to take whatever action it feels is appropriate on this issue at its next meeting. The options are endless. But if a major or minor mistake of any kind has been made, whether it is in the job the Literature Review Committee did or in the process that the Conference itself created, it is up to the Conference, and only the Conference, to take corrective action. In particular,

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the WSO Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, or World Literature Committee, together or separately are simply not authorized under our existing service structure to decide for the Fellowship and the World Service Conference to recall the fourth edition and replace it with the third edition or take any other such drastic action.

That last part was the ironic part of the report, where he claims that the people that circumvented the process are now, “not authorized under our existing service structure to decide for the Fellowship.” Nearing the end of his report he makes mention of some need to update the recently revised Handbook.

In any event, next year is bound to be another transition year for the World Literature Committee, just as this year has been. With new guidelines being implemented, some of the things being proposed may not work in practice and so will need to be changed. The Committee will need flexibility and the trust and confidence of the Fellowship, expressed through the Conference, to move forward. This summary of recent developments and work in progress is provided to prepare the Fellowship for the material that may or may not be presented in the Conference Agenda Report in the manner explained above...

The WLC was the first WSC Committee to develop any written guidelines. The original guidelines were approved by the 1984 World Service Conference. The first major revision of these guidelines occurred the next year, at the 1985 World Service Conference, and the current WLC Procedural Guidelines are basically the same as they were in 1985, except for minor changes made at the 1986 and 1987 World Service Conferences.

The current guidelines provide for a WSC elected Chair and Vice-Chair, eleven registered members (five WSC elected, six drawn); and a Literature Review Committee consisting of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Trustee/Liaison, three WSC elected members, and two members appointed by the Chairperson. Some of the major problems with the current guidelines are: 1) they are written in a narrative style difficult to follow, understand and interpret; 2) closed, defined Committee membership has conflicted with a desire for more open Fellowship participation in the literature process; 3) relationship between registered members and Literature Review Committee has presented conflicts and structural problems; 4) use of a professional writer has been a problem; 5) the evaluation of material submitted and/or on file has not worked effectively 6) the annual "priority list" procedure has not been workable; 7) in conjunction with 5 & 6, good material has not been developed while WLC has focused on major works; 8) continuity has been a problem --budget/funding of members attendance; 9) lack of written policy or procedure in certain areas and/or problems with existing policy.

Again no mention of how the current Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committees, Newly Revised (1987) had a section in it about the Fellowship getting time to review and input and then a year between WSC's to choose to approve it or not.

The Chair of the WSC Board of Trustees, Bob Rehmar reported the following in the same publication:

I have received phone calls from two members of the Board of Trustees informing me, as Chairman, of some concerns about the fourth edition of the Basic Text. In response to these concerns, I have asked each Trustee to study both editions and the original WSC motion which concerned editing the book. Each Trustee has also been asked to convey any communications which they receive about this to me. The World Service

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Boards and Committees are maintaining daily communication in order to keep abreast of this situation.

Sometimes during situations like this, we may have a tendency to listen to people and personalities rather than obtaining the pertinent data and information. I support and encourage all N.A. members to let our Twelfth Tradition continue to guide us; *"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."* I would hope that all N.A. members will study the documentation thoroughly and form their opinions based on correct information. We can then continue to base all of our actions on the spiritual principles of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

At this time, there is not enough input from the Fellowship to form any conclusions. I will continue to report all further developments regarding this matter.

Unbelievably, the WSC BOT Chair just asked us to obtain, "the pertinent data and information" and then provide "enough input" to the WSC BOT Chair, so he can make a conclusion. When the members of Narcotics Anonymous began purchasing their new Fourth Edition copy of the Basic Text, it became obvious they had been betrayed by the process. Additionally, they were very dissatisfied with the book. The outcry was so loud the WSO was nearly forced to take it off the shelves and replace them with the Third Edition, Revised. That would have been a financial nightmare for the WSO and the Fellowship. It was proposed by the WSC Trusted Servants that confidence will be restored, the issue will be resolved and solutions would be found at the '88 WSC.

The following is an excerpt from the January, 1988 – Fellowship Report

Michael Lee, Chairperson
World Literature Committee

BASIC TEXT: The Committee spent more than half a day in Philadelphia [Dec. 6, 1987] discussing the fourth edition of the Basic Text. After considerable discussion, the Committee defeated a motion (6 in favor, 8 against) requesting that WSO immediately cease the printing and distribution of the fourth edition and directing WSO to re-release the third edition revised as soon as possible. The Committee came to the conclusion that it lacked the authority to take such drastic action, that at this point it was a matter to be resolved by the group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole as expressed at the 1988 World Service Conference.

The following are excerpts from the Twelve page report published in the March, 1988 Fellowship Report:

Michael Lee, Chairperson
World Literature Committee

...As I said, the Literature Review Committee (LRC) did not have a "list of changes" when it reviewed the Fourth Edition. The Literature Review Committee did not follow a process of discussing each edit, change by change. The individual Literature Review Committee members, instead, reviewed double spaced manuscript copies of the basic text...

...Two manuscripts were available for review (in August 1986 when this took place). One manuscript was of the Third Edition (unrevised) which had been given to the professional editor to edit. The editor was given the Third Edition, and NOT the Third Edition revised with all of the Little White Book changes, because the edit itself

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happened early in the summer of 1986 before the Third Edition revised had been published. This manuscript contained all of the handwritten edit marks which the editor made. The second available manuscript was a copy of the Fourth Edition with all of the edits incorporated...

... After the individual review process, a series of telephone conference calls were scheduled in which each member's individual concerns with specific edits were discussed. As a result of this process, many edits which had been made by the professional editor were restored to the original form. There was a group conscience process that went on in the Committee that resulted a decision to accept or reject each edit about which there was concern. I missed all but one of these calls, as I remember, because of my trip to the London World Convention and because I was not notified of the times of certain telephone meetings...

... The Committee never divided on any specific edits, or the edit as a whole. However, division did occur on the issue of making the edit consistent with the Little White Book Newly Revised, which had just been approved six months earlier at the 1986 World Service Conference. ...The White Book issue was resolved by last year's 1987 World Service Conference, and was the reason why publication was delayed until November of 1987...

... I felt that I was part of a group that had been given responsibility by the group conscience of the Fellowship [or more truthfully a vote by the '85 WSC members] as a whole to complete a specific task: approve an edited version of the N.A. Basic Text...

... Bob Stone, who still had reservations about the original 1985 motion and about going ahead with publishing a book that the Fellowship as a whole had not seen and reviewed, suggested to me that the issue be re-opened. I told him "No" in September, and again in October when he formalized his concerns in a letter to me dated 9/28/87 that was also copied to some other Conference participants...

...Because of the reaction that came with the publication in November – the disunity and the controversy and significant concern - in hindsight I have regretted certain decisions that I made. ... But I never imagined it would be like this, or that some members would feel that the 1985 Conference motion had been violated...

... Because of how things developed in November 1987, it was not appropriate or possible for much of this information to be provided then. I am still coming across members who believe that the Literature Review Committee and/or the WSO and/or others engaged in a deliberate and willful effort to conceptually change our book against the Fellowships group conscience...

The Conference Agenda Report for WSC 1988 was published on January 26, and the WSC was scheduled to take place April 25-29, 1988. A portion of the nine (9) page WLC report was focused on a survey regarding our Basic Text. The following piece includes the survey and some Fellowship response:

BASIC TEXT SURVEY

In October 1987, a Basic Text survey was mailed to all registered literature committees. ...The World Literature Committee has, since it was first requested to make changes and edit the book (at the direction of the 1985 WSC), indicated to the Fellowship that there are conceptual problems with the book which are important for the Fellowship to consider and give direction on.

We now have (since its first printing in November) an edited fourth edition of our Basic Text and, based on survey responses, phone calls and correspondence, there is an apparent desire to have still further changes made. ...The Committee, during discussions in its December meeting, agreed to present some of the options voiced so far, with the

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following information to help the Fellowship understand what would be required if the Conference does decide to implement a major rewrite or revision of our Basic Text.

The creation and distribution of the Basic Text survey by the WLC was an attempt to get a clearer understanding from the Fellowship. Since then, and with the distribution of the fourth edition, even more input has been received still indicating all of the previously mentioned feelings. The WLC decided in its December meeting to include a portion of that survey here as a question in the Conference Agenda Report.

This will, we hope, emphasize the importance of this question about revisions to our Basic Text and will confirm and formalize the response of the Fellowship regarding this. The inclusion of the survey question in the Conference Agenda Report, along with the Fellowship's consideration of the following information, will better indicate the desires of the entire Fellowship. In order that RSR's come to the WSC prepared to vote on possible motions regarding the Basic Text, it is important that your groups discuss and vote on this matter.

Motion: The fourth edition of the Basic Text is in print and has been distributed since November, 1987. From this point forward, what revision schedule, if any, should be followed? Please answer by completing A, below. (survey answers- **included in bold**)

A. Does the Basic Text need to be revised? If yes, please complete the following:

YES **37**

NO _____

A1. Should we continue to have yearly minor revisions?

YES **5**

NO _____

A2. Should there be one major revision at some point in time? If yes, how soon?

1 yr **1**

2 yr **3**

3 yr **4**

4 yr **0**

5 yr **6**

Other **5-10 & 4 or 5 & 10 & immediate**

If the Fellowship wants an immediate revision process to begin, the scope of the revision would have to be determined by the Fellowship through the WSC. The range could vary from:

- a. Combine the third edition revised and fourth edition;
- b. Combine the third edition revised and fourth edition plus make other significant conceptual changes;
- c. Major rewrite including above plus adding new chapters and/ or deleting stories.

Intent: The intent of the WLC in placing this material in the Agenda Report for Conference action in this form was *to* present a neutral, unbiased way for the Fellowship as a whole to express its group conscience on the issues surrounding our Basic Text. It was not meant to prevent accepting the fourth edition Basic Text as is as Conference-approved literature. Likewise, it was not meant to stand in the way of beginning a Fellowship input period, using the third edition revised or fourth edition, some other edition, or a combination of any of the editions, as the base document. Other possibilities exist, of course, such as some combination of the above, or none of the above.

It is important to remember, in considering the above, that a revision of any major work (book length item) would use substantial resources, not only of this Committee but of the Fellowship as a whole. Work of this type would most likely include Fellowship literature conferences and would definitely entail literature committee time for input and review. If

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the Conference directed the World Literature Committee to begin a revision of the Basic Text as part of the 1988-89 work year, adjustments to the proposed work list as presented in this report would have to be made. Keep in mind that the Twelve Steps and Traditions book (another major work item) is on the proposed work list.

NOTE: It became clear to the committee after receiving the first few completed survey's that there was confusion in the members' minds about whether the survey questions related to the Third Edition, Revised or the Fourth Edition. For this reason, we cannot use these as conclusive indicators of the Fellowship's desires regarding the matter of the Fourth Edition edit.

In addition to the preceding survey answers (**included in bold**) the fellowship responded with nearly three (3) pages of input from thirty two (32) different respondents about how unhappy they all were that the 4th Edition was published and that the Group Conscience process was not followed. Probably as a result of the production of the Fourth Edition the following was also included in the '88 CAR:

MOTIONS FROM REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEES

Motion: That upon depletion of the current supply of the fourth edition Basic Texts, as of WSC '88, the printing of the fourth edition Basic Text be halted and that the third edition revised Basic Text be reprinted for distribution by WSO.

Intent: To stop distribution of the fourth edition Basic Text and to reprint the third edition revised Basic Text. This will insure that the supply of Basic Texts will not be interrupted or cause an undue financial hardship on the WSO by not allowing the sale of the existing inventory on hand at the time of WSC '88.

Motion: That the World Service Conference direct the World Service Office to immediately cease the publication and sale of the fourth edition of our Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous, and immediately begin publication and sale of the third edition revised of our Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous.

Intent: To prevent the sale of unapproved literature by the World Service Office. The editing of our Basic Text and subsequent approval by the Literature Review Committee so far exceeded any reasonable interpretation of the authority granted by the motion to edit the Basic Text passed at the 1985 World Service Conference as to require that the fourth edition be treated as new literature, and as such, be subject to the standard review and approval process.

Motion: That any changes in the book Narcotics Anonymous (The Basic Text) be made only by Fellowship-wide group conscience.

Intent: To insure that the Fellowship as a whole has the opportunity to review the proposed changes or revisions, and that a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience may be heard.

The WSO Office Manager, Bob Stone gave a special report about the publication of the 4th Edition:

BOB STONE'S FOURTH EDITION REPORT WSC 1988

This is the transcription of a verbal report given by Bob Stone, manager of the World Service Office to the 1988 WSC on the Fourth Edition of the Basic Text.

The reason Chuck [WSC Chair], that I have asked for this opportunity to give my report to the Conference physically, although there is only one part of the report that I wish to

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address, is that it has a direct and a significant bearing on the issue of the fourth edition. There are two thoughts that I have to say concerning this matter. One relates specifically to the issue of the fourth edition itself and the other relates to something that I addressed in my oral presentation at last year's Conference. There is a relationship between the two and I wish to address the first one initially. Last year I conveyed to you, I hope, my tears and frustrations over the reality that exists of the two sides of N.A. The two sides being them and us, whoever that happens to be in any conversation or any meeting or any region or area with the world level. It's a tragic thing when it occurs and it has occurred with such frequency and severity that it has caused all of us some pain and some suffering and some problems in our areas and our regions and certainly at the World Service Conference. I am here to address that issue now from a perspective of having experienced the ultimate failure in our ability to get along and overcome this "we versus us" issue. What that issue does is blinds us, it makes us impervious to really listening to what somebody else is saying. And when we become impervious to what other people are saying we do a disservice to the Fellowship and we cause additional problems. And that is what has occurred during the last year. It has occurred over the fourth edition of the Basic Text. When the Basic Text was published as the fourth edition last year as would have been expected, a number of people decided that they should, on their own, go through it word for word and compare it with the Third Edition Revised to determine what they thought about this as a different publication. This is an issue completely aside from the issue whether or not a fourth edition should have been printed and published in the way that it was. That issue I don't care to get involved in at this time. I am concerned however, with the trail of events that took place as a result of its immediate publication. Some of those folks who did the word for word comparison were immediately disheartened, dismayed, angered, frustrated, hurt and a number of other adjectives that I could think of in time. It prompted an immediate action on their part to bring to the world's attention the problems they felt were centered in this because of its differences. Unfortunately the we versus them syndrome entered into the discussion immediately. Because of how the alarm was raised and, to some degree, because of who raised the alarm, other people did not as seriously as now seems necessary and appropriate thoroughly study everything they were saying and determine its validity. When the issue hit the streets it became immediately an issue of confrontation between those people who were saying something was wrong with it and disagreeing with its content and those who might have had a different opinion. That blindness in my opinion now has been a contributing factor in an error that originated two years ago that I now have to address. That blindness prevented all the people who got that manuscript from the committee that sent the manuscript out. It blinded them from bringing to the attention of all the rest of us and certain key people in particular what was specifically contained in there that had more validity than they themselves knew or recognized. And here's how that works. What we have discovered is as a result of Michael Lee's insistence that a word for word complete master list be prepared. Those discussions took place in January and February and our staff got assigned that task and began doing that. It was slow work and we did not assign sufficient resources to do that until recently.

So what I am going to tell you in terms of sequence only occurred recently. On Friday, not this last one but the Friday before, it was my tragic and unfortunate experience to learn--that our staff informed me that--there were places in the manuscript that was delivered to the editor for editing and the same manuscript that was used by the Literature Review Committee to review the work where lines of text had not appeared that were in the third edition revised. Those lines of text, in our review of the events

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that took place, are relatively easy to understand what took place. And we have included the twenty-five pages on which those lines appear in the back portion of this report. We have underlined the lines that were omitted from the third edition revised as the manuscript was prepared. I cannot tell you nor find words to express my anguish over this and my fear and just general displeasure. There is no excuse, whatsoever, for this to have occurred. Unfortunately I would only tell you that, if we didn't make mistakes we probably wouldn't be human. On the other hand I can tell you that making mistakes of this type are simply not acceptable and had we become aware of them at an earlier date it might have been possible to do something else and perhaps other decisions may have occurred. Had the alarm that was raised last October and November been raised in a way that the rest of the Fellowship had not been blinded to its content, we might have been following a different course and have entirely different discussion today. So there are two issues here. One and I am taking this one very calmly because in the last 10 days since learning the completed extent of this problem I've had to go through a lot of personal growth and personal changes. Those are very hard for all of us to do and they are hard for me as well as for you. It is important I think for you to understand these changes, excuse my language I am getting nervous. I have attempted to explain on page 48 [below] in a very short number of paragraphs the facts of the event and I've not attempted to induce any language to this discussion other than the facts. If I had been more diligent in supervising the proofreading it is possible that this error might not have occurred. I do not have any personal assurance that would have been a guarantee but it has renewed our understanding of the enormity and the preciseness of our responsibility of production. We have made the corrective actions that we believe are necessary or laid the foundation for those corrective actions so this will not occur again in the future. An example of the corrective action is to go back to how the Second Edition was produced in 1983. The book was re-typeset following the Conference in 1981 and published about four months later. When the book was typeset it was done by a company in Northern California. After the original typesetting was done a proofreading session was held at which members of the Board of Trustees, members of the Literature Committee and WSO Board of Directors participated in a word for word review of the manuscript. It was that manuscript where the majority of the errors were found although even after they finished there were still some that we corrected in the following year. But they found all the big problems, the big problems were corrected and the Second Edition was then printed. Since that time we have not felt it essential to have that kind of a proofreading session. The tragedy of this mistake clearly pinpoints again that we must return to that formal proofreading session to involve other service arms in such major publications as the Basic Text. And that correction system alone I believe will probably be expanded to include sending copies of the draft prior to its publication to other committees or individuals on a fairly limited basis who may be interested in doing a simultaneous proofreading to assist in this process. We believe that by gaining the Fellowship's participation and assistance in this we can avoid the types of errors that this one highlights.

[The WSO Office Manager, Bob Stone included the following in his Annual report to the '88 WSC:](#)

WSO Report, Page 48

PUBLICATION OF THE FOURTH EDITION

Every year there is a controversy concerning literature, usually the Basic Text. This year because the Office was about to publish the Fourth Edition, there was no way controversy was going to be avoided. Immediately upon its publication, the controversy

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began. Several comprehensive reports have already been published on this subject, so at first it may not seem necessary to include much on it in this report. However there has been a recent turn of events that requires some detailed comments.

The most recent report by WSC Literature Chairperson Michael Lee provided an excellent history of the issue. Contained in his report was an announcement that the WSO staff was preparing a detailed item-for-item list of changes between the Third Edition Revised and the Fourth Edition. The staff began this word-for-word comparison at Michael's request in early March. The comparison included reviewing the manuscript that was sent to the Literature Review Committee for their concurrence. The project was completed only on this past Saturday, April 16, 1988.

I was horrified to learn what was found. The staff discovered that there were twenty-five separate places where language in the Third Edition Revised was not present in the manuscript used in the editing. There may have been others, but the editor or Literature Review Committee probably corrected them. There was one that was found by the Literature Review Committee and they decided on how to handle that one.

The consequence of this omission was that the final manuscript did not include those parts, as though they were intentional deletions. The Fourth Edition is therefore missing this language, by default, rather than by editor or committee choice. It may be that the editor or the committee, were they aware of the problem, might have chosen to leave the language out, but such conclusions would be pure speculation.

The problem has a simple origin. The manuscript was not adequately proofread before it was sent to the editor. For this error, there is no justifiable excuse. The truth is sometimes painful but we must always stand by the truth. No amount of explanation

WSO Report, Page 49

of the events or the circumstances, regardless of how comforting they might be to ease understanding of the mistake is going to change the facts.

In 1983 when the WSO began preparing the Second Edition for publication, the Text was sent to a typesetting company to be typeset. After the work was done, a committee including WSO Board members, Trustees and WSC Literature Committee members conducted a proofreading session to identify corrections that were necessary. Most of the errors were found and corrections made. A few minor errors were not found, but identified by members during the year.

In 1984, the WSC decided to change the text again, resulting in the Third Edition. The changes affected only the Fourth and Ninth Tradition language and the other few corrections that had been brought to our attention. [added personal stories]

When the Conference met in 1985, changes were made to the White Booklet and the same portions of the text. These changes were supervised by staff but the work was done by the same typesetting company used previously. [Third Edition, Revised]

At the 1985 meeting the Conference voted to instruct the WSO to have the Text edited. This became the first time the Text was being entered into the WSO computer system as all previous work had been done by the outside company. The typing was done directly from a copy of the Third Edition Revised. As previously reported, there was a delay in selecting the editor, so the project to type the text and proofread it, proceeded at a slow pace. Unfortunately, whatever proofreading that was done at the time did not reveal the errors. So the mistake that we are now discovering actually began two and a half years ago. At the end of this report are copies of each page with the missing language underlined. [the copies of each page not included for brevity]

I am unable to find words that adequately express the remorse I have for my failure to properly manage this project. The Fellowship has a right to expect the Office

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will be accurate in the things that count the most and that corrective action will occur without delay when inaccuracies are found. The accuracy of the text is paramount.

A re-evaluation of the policies and procedures concerning proof reading during pre-production of all publications has been completed. The renewed emphasis on following procedures will provide better assurance of accuracy. This will mean that most publications will take longer to become available. However, since accuracy is essential and if delay is the price for accuracy, delay is a small price to pay.

WSO Report page 55

The second error was reported in the March *Fellowship Report*. This pertains to the two paragraphs that were omitted from the bottom of page eighty-seven of the Fourth Edition, second printing. Effort to correct the problem was initiated immediately upon determination that the paragraphs were missing from the second printing. The Office has continued to inform the Fellowship of this problem and is seeking assistance in getting the insert paragraphs in the hands of every person who has a copy of the second printing.

This error required some printing to correct, labor to insert the corrected language, additional labor to identify those who had received the incorrectly printed books and send them the correction material. The Office kept track of the costs of this effort. Existing staff and some temporary workers were used to correct copies of the Text in our stock. The cost for this effort was approximately \$9,853

The third and most costly error was that described above involving the omission of lines for the Text. The complete consequences of this error are unknown.

[The World Literature Committee again offered a motion pertaining to revising their Guidelines:](#)

Motion: To adopt the New World Literature Committee Guidelines effective immediately. The *Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure* and the *Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committees* will reflect this change as appropriate.

Intent: The new guidelines include internal guides for the Committee and part of a new literature development process. There is always room for improvement in guidelines; these will, as indicated on our proposed 1988-89 work list, continue to be a work list item for the next year, along with the *Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committees*. However, the Committee feels these new guidelines are ready to implement NOW. They include all the input that has been received from all Fellowship sources. The changes address various areas of concern which the Committee and the Fellowship have been discussing over the past year. We believe that the guidelines, as presented here, will solve many of the problems which became apparent from that input and those discussions.

[One of the major changes in the proposed New World Literature Committee Guidelines was a section about Approval-Form Literature. They were ready to implement the changes immediately but the approval process was basically the same:](#)

A. Time:

Approval-form literature is prepared by the WLC and distributed to the Fellowship for one Conference year.

B. Use:

Approval-form literature should not be read during N.A. meetings although it can certainly be sold and made available at N.A. meetings. The appropriateness of displaying

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approval-form literature before, during, or after a recovery meeting of N.A. depends on the method of display and distribution. If, as is the case in many parts of our Fellowship, the literature is set on the table--without a group literature person handling distribution and freely available for a newcomer or non-member to pick up, it is inappropriate. On the other hand, if literature distribution is controlled by a group level trusted servant who can describe what the literature is (review, approval, or Conference-approved) and control distribution to our members only," it would be appropriate. It is never appropriate to bring unapproved literature into a hospital or institution.

Approval-form literature is out for a yes/no vote only. No changes will be considered on the Conference floor.

The motions, reports and guidelines presented throughout this entire process appear to be accurate and beyond doubt. The messy part always appears to come in the interpretation, or selective thinking of the people we have elected to be our World and Regional Trusted Servants. The events at the 1988 WSC will support this perception. The following can be viewed as the conclusion of the 1985 Motion about having our Basic Text edited by a professional:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1988

At 2:30 pm it was M/S/C Michael Lee (WSC Literature Chair) Bean Lefebvre RSR (New England) "To suspend the rules to dissolve into a committee of the whole to discuss the Basic Text for 30 minutes." The Vote: VOICE VOTE CARRIED.

...Chuck Lehman, (WSC Vice-Chairperson) announced to the Conference that he has requested a list of all the proposed options to resolve the Basic Text matter. He stated that this list would be presented to the Conference on an individual basis to compare with the submitted motions concerning this matter.

...The following options were presented at the request of the Chairperson...

1. Continue with the Fourth Edition as is. - Little support was shown for this option and it was ELIMINATED.
2. Re-insert omissions, 25 accidental and 2 intentional and print existing Fourth Edition in the meantime. - STRONG SUPPORT WAS SHOWN FOR THIS CHOICE
3. Re-insert omissions, 25 accidental and 2 intentional and print Third Edition Revised in the meantime. - SUPPORT WAS SHOWN FOR THIS CHOICE
4. Print Third Edition Revised. - ELIMINATED
5. Make more extensive changes, either by ballot or committee. - ELIMINATED
- 5a. Print Fourth Edition as is in the meantime. - ELIMINATED
- 5b. Print Third Edition Revised in meantime. - ELIMINATED
6. Use option 2 but only re-insert accidental 25 omissions. - ELIMINATED
7. Use option 3 but only re-insert accidental 25 omissions. - ELIMINATED

It was M/S/C Mel N., RSR (Utah)/Jim Edgren, RSR (Chicagoland) "Insert the 25 omissions (typos) into the Basic Text, Fourth Edition, on a time and production schedule not to exceed four months. Also, include the following deletions;

1. Page xi, par 4 "Probably the last to be lost to freedom will be the stigma of being an addict."
2. Page 18, par 5 "Most of us are relieved to find out we have a disease instead of a moral deficiency."

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The Fourth Edition, with current errors, will continue to be sold as Conference-approved literature until such time as the corrected Fifth Edition is ready. An error sheet would be available upon request.

While in a committee of the whole it was the consensus of the Conference that the 1987-88 WSC Literature Chairperson be charged with the responsibility to select a small committee to verify the correct insertion of the twenty-five typographical omissions and two intentional deletions into the current Fourth Edition and notify the Conference of the membership of the small committee.

Chuck Lehman, (WSC Vice-Chairperson) announced to the Conference that we were now back in regular session.

It was M/S/C Eric H., RSR (Washington/N. Idaho)/Lori L., RSR (British Columbia) moved to suspend the rules and address the motion just developed by the committee of the whole". The Vote: CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY BY SHOW OF HANDS

It was M/F Greg Pierce, (WSB) "To object to the consideration of the question."
The Vote: FAILED BY A 2/3 VOICE MAJORITY

It was M/ Phillip K., RSR (Mountaineer) "To postpone consideration of this motion until first thing tomorrow morning. Chuck Lehman, (WSC Vice Chairperson) ruled the motion out of order. Phillip K., RSR (Mountaineer) appealed the decision of the Chairperson. THE RULING BY THE CHAIRPERSON WAS SUSTAINED BY VOICE VOTE

Chuck Lehman, (WSC Vice-Chairperson) recessed the Conference for five minutes.

At 4:55 pm Chuck Lehman, WSC Vice-Chairperson) called the Conference to order.

It was M/S/F Greg Pierce, (WSB)/Michael J., RSR (Connecticut) "Postpone consideration of the motion until alter consideration of regional motion»." The Vote: YES-26 NO-39 ABSTENTIONS-4 MOTION FAILED

Amendment to the motion: It was M/S Steve Lantos, RSR Alt. (Northern California)/Bob Grier, RSR (Southern California) "To add "and this motion would be acted upon following a special ballot sent to RSC's regarding this motion. The RSC's would be requested to reply in 30-60 days in the meantime, this Fourth Edition would continue to be distributed with the corrected sheet. **Intent:** To collect a Fellowship-wide group conscience and unify this Fellowship bound WSC decision."

It was M/S/C Richard S., RSR (Greater New York)/Michael Lee, (WSC Literature Chairperson) "To object to consideration of the amendment." The Vote: YES-49 NO-18 ABSTENTIONS-7 MOTION CARRIED WITH 2/3 MAJORITY

Amendment to the motion: It was M/S/C Mario Tesoriero., \ WSB)/ Ford T., RSR (Ontario) "To add the following language "Also that the Basic Text Fifth Edition is not eligible for revision for (5) five years from this Conference.'" The Vote: VOICE VOTE CARRIED

After all discussion was completed a roll call vote was conducted by Bob H., (WSC Treasurer).

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Roll call vote (#) - Alabama/NW Florida-YES; Alaska-YES; Alsask-YES; Arizona-YES; Australasian-YES; Best Little Region-YES; British Columbia YES; Buckeye-NO; Central California-YES; No. California-YES; San Diego/Imperial-YES; So. California-YES; Carolina-YES; Chesapeake/Potomac-ABS.; Chicagoland-YES; Colorado-YES; Connecticut NO; Florida-YES; Georgia-YES; Germany-ABS.; Hawaii-YES; Greater Illinois-NO; Indiana-YES; Iowa-NO; Ireland-YES; Japan-ABS.; Kentuckiana ABS.; London-YES; Lone Star-YES; Louisiana Purchase-YES; Michigan-YES; Mid-America-YES; Mid-Atlantic-ABS.; Mississippi-NO; Mountaineer-YES; Nebraska-YES; Southern Nevada-YES; Sierra Sage-YES; New England-YES; New Jersey-ABS.; New Mexico-YES; Greater New York-YES; Northern New York-NO; Ohio-NO; Oklahoma-YES; Ontario-YES; Oregon/S. Idaho-YES; Greater Philadelphia-ABS.; Quebec-YES; Region of the Virginians-YES; Show-Me-YES; Tri-State-ABS.; Upper Midwest-YES; Upper Rocky Mountain-YES; Utah-YES; Volunteer-YES; Washington/N. Idaho-YES; Wisconsin-YES; Chuck L., (WSC Vice-Chairperson)-YES; Ed D., (WSC Policy Chair)-YES; Randy J., (WSC H&I Chair)-YES; Biff, (WSC P.I. Chair)-YES; Michael L., <WSC Literature Chair)-YES; Jim W., (WSO-BOD Chair)-YES; Bob R., (WSB Chair)-YES; John F., (WSB)-YES; Jack B., (WSB)-YES; Greg P., (WSB)-NO; Tom McC., (WSB)-YES; Dutch H., (WSB)-NO; Bo S., (WSB)-NO; James D., (WSB)-YES; Mario T., (WSB)-YES; Sally E., (WSB)-YES; Sydney R., (WSB)-NO; Bob B., (WSB)-Y.
The results: YES-56 NO-12 ABSTENTIONS-8 MOTION CARRIES AS AMENDED

This became the 5th Edition Basic Text.

Now that the Trusted Servants have made their decision they took up the CAR Motions about our book:

It was M/S/F Steve Bice, RSR (Ohio)/Bean Lefebvre, RSR (New England) "That upon depletion of the current supply of Fourth Edition Basic Text, As of WSC 88, the printing of the Fourth Edition be halted and that the Third Edition Revised Basic Text be reprinted for distribution by WSO." The Vote: YES-4 NO-51 ABSTENTIONS-8 MOTION FAILED

It was M/S/F Phillip K., RSR (Mountaineer)/Allen B., RSR (Mississippi) "That the World Service Conference direct the World Service Office to immediately cease the publication and sale of the fourth edition of our Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous, and immediately begin publication and sale of the third edition revised of our Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous." Intent: To prevent the sale of unapproved literature by the WSO. The editing of our Basic Text and subsequent approval by the LRC so far exceeded any reasonable interpretation of the authority granted by the motion to edit the Basic Text as to require that the fourth edition be treated as new literature, and as such, be subject to the standard review and approval process. The Vote: YES-5 NO-60 ABSTENTIONS-6 MOTION FAILS

... It was M/S/F "Michael F., RSR (Northern California)/Linda C., RSR (Lone Star) "Regarding the motion that any changes in the Basic Text be made by the Fellowship-wide group conscience. Add the word 'conceptual' before changes." The Vote: VOICE VOTE FAILED

It was M/S/C Mark Daley, RSR (Upper Midwest)/Jim Edgren, RSR (Chicagoland) to commit to Literature. The Vote: VOICE VOTE CARRIED

It was M/S/C Jay Venner, RSR (Florida)/Biff Kramer, (WSC P.I. Chairperson) "To reinsert 'Man's entire' in the sentence - 'for the first time in history, a simple ...' after in and before history. We do recover; 3rd paragraph - 6th sentence." Intent: To correct a

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typographical error in the Third Edition Revised and continued in the Fourth Edition from the Third Edition. The Vote: CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Chuck Lehman, (WSC Vice-Chairperson) announced that we would recess until 7:30 pm

In less than three (3) hours the WSC had once again ignored the approval process for our literature. Then on Friday they brought it back to the surface and said it out-loud one more time:

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1988

Chuck Lehman, (WSC Vice-Chairperson) called the Conference back to order at 12:10 pm.

...Michael Lee, (WSC Literature Chairperson) went on to explain how the 25 omissions were found in the Basic Text. Also he explained how the error was found in Chapter 10, about medication.

Michael Lee, (WSC Literature Chairperson) proposed to the Conference a plan of action to correct additional errors in the manuscript for the Basic Text. The Vote: PROPOSAL ADOPTED BY 2/3 MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

Michael Lee, then summarized the Conference action: The two agreements that this body has made is to allow the committee that I will be appointing to correct all other typographical omissions that we are able to discover as a result of a second proofreading of the manuscript and list of changes. The second agreement is to add the word "disease" to the index of the book with appropriate references. And, we made both of these agreements by more than two-thirds voice vote.

Michael Lee, (WSC Literature Chairperson) proposed the question of adding the word "disease" to the back of the index. The Vote: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Michael Lee, (WSC Literature Chairperson) proposed the question "do you want to add additional items to the index." The Vote: FAILED BY VOICE VOTE

At 2:20 Chuck Lehman, (WSC Vice-Chairperson) adjourned the Conference for the day.

This long drawn out route of changing our Basic Text into something that a few members apparently saw as a necessity and others saw as misguided manipulation of the approved process did nothing to increase our Unity. It's probably considered, to this point anyway, the most divisive thing to have ever occurred in the course of Narcotics Anonymous history.

Phase II of this report will delve into the facts surrounding, "what happened next" as a direct result of why the Baby Blue Happened.

Stay Tuned

Anonymous