

WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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

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

DATE: October 15, 1990

RE: September meeting of the BOT Traditions Ad Hoc Committee

The committee met during the weekend of September 21 - 23, 1990. Present were Danette B., Jack B., Donna M., Greg P., Ceven McG., Nancy S., Mitchell S., and Bob McK., committee members, and Ann Rider, Nancy Germond, and Steve Lantos, WSO staff.

Friday, September 21, 1990

The first item on the committee's agenda was a discussion regarding the decision of the chair to slow down the production schedule, at this point. It was explained that this slow down occurred to ensure that the decisions made by the committee regarding the style guide, etc., are still valid, and to refine the process of working together with the staff team.

There was considerable and valuable discussion about various matters of style such as; tone, mood, voice, flow, cadence, diction, etc., as they related to the material. After some discussion, it became apparent that the style guide adopted by the committee has been reflected in the draft material. The committee further reinforced their wish to continue utilizing that style guide.

Through some of these discussions, it became apparent that the staff team needed to ask more questions about various items, to ensure that there indeed was a consensus reached by the committee. The committee realized that they needed to refine their process of communication with the staff team further. However, by the end of the morning session, it was apparent that having this in-depth discussion resulted in better communication with the staff team, and will help the team to translate the committee's discussions into the drafts.

The next item was a discussion about the introduction and the preamble to the Traditions. The committee had some discussions about the contents of the introductory chapter, and decided to have a separate chapter on the Preamble. The final item of discussion during the morning session was regarding committee membership. There was some dialogue about adding and/or involving some additional members of the BOT, to ensure adequate representation during committee meetings. There was no resolution on this item, but it will be discussed at the next BOT meeting. The committee agreed however, to send second drafts of Traditions One and Two to past committee members, to obtain feedback regarding the direction taken by the committee in their work.

The committee broke for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 1:40 p.m. At this point, the committee started to review a draft of Tradition One. This review took up the balance of the afternoon, and included conceptual, structural, and stylistic discussions. At 5:45 p.m., the committee agreed to continue the review of this draft the following morning.

Saturday, September 22, 1990

The committee met at 9:00 a.m., and resumed discussions regarding the Tradition One draft. After completing this task, the committee read aloud the draft on Tradition Two, and gave general comments about the contents and style of the material. The consensus of the committee was that they liked the drafts, but felt that the drafts needed some minor revisions prior to being sent out to the BOT and the WSCLC for individual review. The committee further agreed not to include line numbers on the drafts being sent out, in an effort to encourage a conceptual, rather than line-by-line review. Finally, the committee talked about some of the questions they would pose in a cover letter mailed with the drafts, to aid in the review of the material. A list of those questions was developed, and will be utilized in the upcoming mailing to the WSCLC and the BOT. The committee also decided to use the same format for obtaining input from the fellowship, when the material reaches the stage that it is ready for fellowship review and input.

The committee broke for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:35 p.m. The next item on the committee's agenda was a specific, paragraph-by-paragraph, conceptual and stylistic review of the draft on Tradition Two. This task consumed most of the afternoon session. Upon completion of this item, the committee decided to review "C" input on Traditions Seven and Eight. The afternoon session ended at 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, September 23, 1990

The committee resumed their meeting at 9:00 a.m. The major item for discussion during this final session was a revision of their production schedule. Because of the newness of this process, and not knowing what will or will not work, it has been difficult to set definite production/development schedules. Maybe after the October meeting, the committee will have more information and experience on which to base such a schedule. During lengthy discussions on this topic, the committee talked about proposing specific periods of time for fellowship review and input on their work. Since this topic will be a priority item on the BOT's

October meeting agenda, there was some additional discussion about the review process and how the input will be handled. After this discussion, the committee continued to review "C" input on Tradition Nine.

Due to the committee's desire to release the first six traditions to the fellowship for review and input by WSC '91, the committee decided to add one more meeting at the beginning of April 1991. The committee will have two more meetings this year, at the end of October, and the weekend of December 14 - 16. Next year, prior to WSC '91, the committee will meet twice, once at the end of February and at the beginning of April.

The committee adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 26 -28, 1990, and will begin at 9:00 a.m., Friday.