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WORLD LITERATURE

The September *Fellowship Report* contained a section which described the difference between Conference-approved, approval-form and review-form literature. Because calls are continuously received from members asking about this, we have reprinted that portion of the WLC Chairperson's report.

"As I reported last month, five (5) approval form items are available this year. Please help ensure that this material is widely available. Because confusion persists, I want to emphasize the differences between Conference-approved, approval-form and review-form literature.

Although both Conference-approved and approval-form literature can be distributed or sold at meetings, only Conference-approved literature can be read or used in meetings. Literature committees may wish to sponsor special workshops or allow time in committee meetings to read, discuss and evaluate approval form items so that interested members do have a forum in which the material can be studied in a group setting.

It is also important to emphasize the difference between review-form and approval-form literature. Approval-form literature is NOT review-form literature. Although the World Literature Committee accepts input on approval form items, approval-form drafts are not published to solicit input. Approval-form material is published to give the Fellowship one entire year to evaluate a specific, proposed final format of a given item and express the conscience of the Fellowship's groups on that item.

At this stage, the expression of that group conscience should be in the form of a yes or no vote, only. The World Service Conference is supposed to either accept or reject a piece of literature in "approval-form." There have been exceptions where the Conference has accepted specific amendments in the adoption or revision of material, but this in itself has raised serious questions about the whole approval-form policy and procedure that are being discussed and considered. For years there has been talk about getting out of the business of revising literature on the floor of the World Service Conference. Hopefully this will be the year we learn from past experience.

No item of literature is perfect, or ever will be perfect, in the sense that every addict will be able to agree on everything. The lengthy process of Conference-approval involves compromise and consensus. When evaluating approval-form items, and specific problems or objections are found, it is worthwhile to ask: How important is this? Do the positive aspects of the piece outweigh certain shortcomings? Overall, is the item acceptable or unacceptable? If unacceptable, does it just need more years of work, or is the whole concept/topic unworkable? Many minor objections may indicate that a pamphlet does need more work."

Since September, when this was written, the World Literature Committee had the opportunity to meet and discuss these issues further at the October WSC Workshop meetings in Denver. The World Literature Committee is attempting to address this subject in the revised committee guidelines which are being worked on this year. These revised guidelines will be proposed in the January 1988 *Conference Agenda Report* for approval by the World Service Conference in April, 1988.

The World Literature Committee will be meeting in November and December to complete this (and other) work. The Committee would especially welcome input from those interested on the following unresolved questions about approval-form literature.

Concern was focused in Denver on the issue of the appropriate way(s) that approval-form literature should be made available to the Fellowship for group conscience. Should N.A. groups make approval-form literature available to members at regular meetings? If the material is on display next to Conference-approved literature, is this acceptable or not? If approval-form literature were published in a different format--without the N.A. logo and with a clear statement emphasizing its non-approved status--would this affect your answer about displaying it? If the literature is NOT displayed, but an appropriate group officer announces that approval-form literature is available, would this be more acceptable or less acceptable? Is it an option for groups to make approval-form literature available only at business meetings? What about regular N.A. groups holding open N.A. meetings in hospitals or treatment centers? To what lengths should we go to prevent this non-approved material from reaching the hands of non-addicts attending open meetings of N.A. groups?

Although many of these matters certainly affect our common welfare and N.A. as a whole, what group autonomy is appropriate, if any? Should approval-form literature not be distributed by groups at all, but rather only through area and regional literature committees, like review form literature? If distribution were only through area and regional literature committees, how could participation by all interested members and groups be assured?

An attempt has been made to present these questions in the most open and neutral way possible. Any input which could be sent in the next month or so would be appreciated. Please address it to the World Literature Committee, c/o WSO.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

A recent problem that has been brought to our attention concerns the accessibility of Fellowship service committees. Requests for information about N.A. sometimes go unanswered for long periods of time due to constant changes of addresses for local service committees. It is important to our continuing P.I. efforts that stable contact information is maintained. Area and regional committees are encouraged to secure a P.O. box or other stable address (not a member's home or business) for local N.A. services. Make sure the P.O. box is checked on a regular basis, and letters are answered.

A related problem occurs when professionals and others try to refer addicts to N.A. and only have outdated meeting schedules to use. One good way for P.I. committees to help with this problem is to keep a record of whom they have provided meeting directories to and to send an updated directory every time they print new ones. Follow-up is a very important part of our overall public information effort.

Phoneline volunteers and members of the Fellowship in general should know who the members of the P.I. committee are and how to contact them. When they receive P.I. calls or requests, they should know what to do and whom to call. Many areas which have helplines do not have them listed in their phone books. By getting a phone book listing you will make the message of N.A. more accessible and available to those who may need it.

The World P.I. Committee's new structure and functions have been very successful this year. Each WSC P.I. member is assigned a specific region, or regions, as a resource. These trusted servants share a great deal of experience, and assist with learning days, questions, problems and concerns relating to public information. Use them! If you would like to know the WSC P.I. Committee member assigned to your region, please contact the WSO.

N.A. has recently surpassed the ten thousand mark in total registered meetings! A news release announcing this is planned.

PHONELINE DIRECTORY UPDATE

The first draft of a phoneline directory has been completed. N.A. phoneline numbers have been gathered from all available resources (minutes, meeting lists, committees, trusted servants, etc.) and then processed in an effort to determine the geographical areas served by each one. After two attempts at verification, the phoneline number has either been classified as "N.A. Phoneline," or "Other."

All of the N.A. phonelines have thus been assembled into a list. From this list, each phoneline number has been entered onto outline maps which give a visual presentation of the state and the geographical areas served by N.A. phonelines.

The resulting draft form has been recently distributed to each RSR and RSR-alternate with a request for their comments on this approach and their help in making corrections or providing updated information. As soon as this is received, a final verification process will be undertaken and we can begin publishing this material for Conference consideration.

WORLD DIRECTORY 1986

The World Service Office has taken the suggestion of several concerned N.A. members and ceased the distribution of the 1986 edition of the *World Directory*. All remaining stock has been destroyed and any orders for the *World Directory* are informed that it is out of print.

Requests for meeting information are being handled with the most updated information we can obtain. Sometimes this includes copies of meeting lists, phoneline numbers, and referrals to service committees or trusted servants in the appropriate location.

We appreciate the continuing assistance which all of you are providing by sending dated copies of meeting lists to the World Service Office. Reports so far indicate that people (members and non-members alike) appreciate receiving current meeting information.

GROUP REGISTRATIONS

Registration forms and meeting update forms continue to pour into the World Service Office on a daily basis. The mailing address (or the GSR or contact person) is automatically put on the *Newsline* mailing list, the group is assigned a registration code, and a package of material is mailed to each group. Included are blank forms for reporting changes in meeting information (time, day, location), and mailing addresses. Also,

we send another starter package and a registration acknowledgement with the code number imprinted.

The most recent information indicates that we have approximately 10,400 N.A. meetings (not including H&I). Unfortunately, there is reliable contact information for less than one-fifth of these. It seems that many GSR's or meeting contact people have moved or otherwise changed their relationship with a specific N.A. meeting, and the new information has not been received by the WSO.

It is therefore very important that all N.A. groups register again (unless they have done so within the last six months) and inform us of any recent changes. Please keep in mind that a stable mailing address is necessary (P.O. Box preferred--or use the ASC address or GSR, etc.) for the group to be registered. Revised forms are attached to this *Newsline* or may be requested from WSO.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS TO NAR-ANON AND FAMILIES ANONYMOUS:

This article was generated by the Board of Trustees in August, 1987 in response to the needs of the Fellowship. It represents the views of the Board of Trustees at the time of writing.

The Board of Trustees has received many inquiries during the past few years which have asked specific questions about how to go about cooperating without affiliating when it comes to Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous. The need to address this issue arose from a confusion between the letter of our Twelve Traditions, and the spirit of love, understanding, and caring which we all feel as individuals.

It has become clear to us that the phrase "cooperation not affiliation" is no longer suitable for Narcotics Anonymous. Undoubtedly this attitude and these words have served us over many years, but it appears that the growth and development of our Fellowship demands a revised expression. In consulting the dictionary, "cooperation" means "the act of working together to a common end or the association of a number of people together in an enterprise, the benefits of which are shared." This definition can present a problem in addressing our relationship with any other organization, including Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous. Strictly speaking, the object or goal of our Fellowship is not the same as any other Fellowship. In this respect, it is impossible to cooperate without also endorsing or affiliating.

The Board of Trustees believes that a policy, or attitude, or phrase which serves our purpose best and guides our Fellowship well is "a policy of non-affiliation." This clearly conveys the fact that we do not associate with, connect with, or adopt any other organization or purpose. Traditions Six (*"An N.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the*

N.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose") and Ten (*"N.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy"*) refer to these issues, and there can never be any formal relationship between Narcotics Anonymous and any other Fellowship or organization.

As individuals, we have tremendous respect for these other Fellowships and support the need for them. As grateful recovering addicts, we carry intense and genuine love and understanding in our hearts.

Adherence to our Twelve Traditions does not preclude or negate these feelings. We must remember, however, that Narcotics Anonymous, Nar-Anon, and Families Anonymous are separate Fellowships, each with its own purpose. These organizations are not enmeshed with each other, nor are they interdependent.

We believe that by reflecting back upon our own paths, we can find the way to convey this respect, love, and support, without endorsing or affiliating with other Fellowships. Our family members and loved ones were often instrumental in allowing us to face the consequences of our addiction by not helping us! We now have the opportunity to support them by not interfering and also by simply pursuing our own purpose as guided by the spiritual principles of Narcotics Anonymous. While we all may have our own way of supporting our loved ones, N.A. can only remain true to our primary purpose (Tradition Five: *"Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry the message to the addict who still suffers"*) and the guidance provided in Traditions Six (*"An N.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the N.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose"*) and Ten (*"N.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy"*). Consistent Fellowship action which is guided by these principles is the kindest and most loving path for us to follow, both for ourselves and our family members and loved ones. This helps these other Fellowships to address their own needs in a sensible, appropriate, and non-dependent manner.

Our relationship as a Fellowship with Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous, as with treatment centers, clubhouses or any other organization or enterprise can then be simply and clearly defined as one of providing information. We do, and are willing to, provide information about what we do, where we do it, where our meetings are held, where our conventions are held, etc. We are pleased to provide this information to anyone or everyone who requests it, while at the same time avoiding any type of affiliation or special treatment for any people or organization outside of Narcotics Anonymous.

The Board of Trustees believes that many of the practices which we have engaged in as a Fellowship do not constitute adherence to our Traditions. The intent of these actions was usually sound and it has taken many years of experience and study to evaluate them with respect to our Twelve Traditions. These include listing Families Anonymous and Nar-Anon meetings in N.A. directories, on flyers for N.A. conventions, or in N.A. registration forms, and the practice of obtaining meeting places for these other Fellowship at conventions or other N.A. activities. Additionally, utilizing speakers from the Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous Fellowships is a practice which does not adhere to our Traditions. However, we encourage phonline workers to use common sense and good judgment in making known to family members that N.A. is for the drug addict and that family members may find family oriented recovery fellowships to be beneficial.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The International Department of the WSO continues to receive correspondence from around the world regarding information about N.A. During the past six months some 300 new meetings have been started in the international community, which brings the total number of meetings outside the U.S. to well over 1,000! International P.I. efforts have also expanded to include a number of non-N.A. events this year, with the next one scheduled for the end of November, in Hong Kong. The first edition of the European *Newsline* has just been circulated. It will be used as a communication tool to strengthen the N.A. communities scattered across the many countries of continental Europe. October again seems to be the month to celebrate N.A. recovery, as a number of N.A. conventions were held around the globe including: Quebec, Australia, Ireland, and British Columbia. A cost equalization plan (a plan where all regions would contribute equally to a general fund, therefore sharing the cost equally among all the regions for participation at the annual WSC meeting) will be presented in the Conference Agenda Report. This plan will tend to benefit the most, those regions who have great distances to travel each year....

NEW MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM WSO

Several new items are now available from the World Service Office. First off, the Fall 1987 catalog has been completed. The new catalog is printed in two colors once again with black and white photographs on each page. It contains two order forms in the center which may be cut or torn out. All of the new items which were available at the time of printing have been included. We will begin enclosing a complimentary copy of the

catalog with each order we ship. Additionally, committees who wish to purchase bulk quantities of the catalog for public information presentations, or other purposes, may do so at \$.25 apiece.

The Office has had two different wallet size cards available for some time now. These depict the N.A. logo on one side with space for a local N.A. helpline or a member's personal phone number. The reverse sides contain two different excerpts from N.A. literature. Because the response to these cards has been so favorable, the World Service Conference recommended that the WSO produce more cards. Therefore, we have now added to our inventory Serenity Prayer cards and Third Step Prayer cards. The fronts of these cards are the same as the others, with the N.A. logo and space for a phone number. The reverse sides contain the two prayers. The price for these two new items is the same as the other cards. They are sold in sets of 500 at \$5.00 apiece.

More N.A. speaker tapes have also been added to the inventory of available materials. The Office utilizes a tape review committee which thoroughly evaluates each tape submitted before final approval. The committee has recently approved eleven new tapes to be sold by the Office. However, two of them could not be included because copyright release forms were not obtained from the speakers. If these individuals sign the form at a later date, their tapes will be added at that time. In the meantime, we now have nine new tapes for sale. Additionally, the Fall 1987 catalog contains brief descriptions of all the audio tapes currently sold by the Office. Hopefully this will assist members in selecting which tapes they wish to purchase by providing them with additional information other than the speaker's name.

The audio tape review process currently has twenty-six members who are available to review tapes that are submitted. Currently under consideration are more than forty-five tapes received during the current year. This includes tapes prepared at the World Convention in New Orleans. Members and convention committees are reminded that tapes can be submitted and are encouraged to do so. Please keep in mind, when submitting a tape for consideration, that it is important to include a copyright release form, signed by the individual speaker, the company that recorded the tape, and a letter of acknowledgement from the sponsoring service committee stating that the tape was prepared during their convention, and that it is appropriate for release by that convention to the World Service Office.

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.)

WSC H&I COMMITTEE

The WSC H&I Committee is still in desperate need of updated "Sunshine Letters" for those institutions where we carry the message. These types of letters have been very productive in helping to establish new H&I meetings. The WSC H&I Committee has a stockpile of literature for the purpose of helping those areas or regions that are finding it difficult or impossible to meet their H&I literature needs. All requests for assistance should be addressed to the WSC H&I Committee

and sent to the H&I Project Coordinator at the WSO.

The WSC H&I Committee made significant progress on the draft of the H&I Handbook at the Denver Workshop. The draft should be finished and sent to regional H&I committees some time early in 1988 for their input.

The contact information for many of the registered H&I committees throughout the Fellowship is extremely out of date. In many cases, we do not have accurate information for quite a few regions/areas. Please forward a copy of the correct contact information for your region/area to the H&I Project Coordinator at the WSO.

N.A. WAY MAGAZINE

The changes to the format of the *N.A. Way* magazine are now in place. In addition to the articles and essays which share recovery experiences, the magazine now has a section called "N.A. News" and one called "Opinion." There has been a price increase from \$12 to \$15 per year to cover the increased costs that go along with making the magazine larger.

The price increase went into effect on November 1. We are aware, however, that there are still many subscription forms out there which quote the old price, so we will continue for awhile to receive subscription orders with \$12 enclosed. We will give those people a nine month subscription to the magazine and send them a letter offering them the choice to complete the year's subscription by sending the other three dollars or leave it as is. Please help us to avoid this by informing the members of your group of the new format and the new price. (You may still use the old order forms, but include the new amount.)

N.A. News Section

Since this is a new concept for us, our understanding of how to best use it to serve the Fellowship is still growing. There are a few other periodical publications put out by the World Service Office or Conference which go to a limited mailing list, such as the *Fellowship Report* or *P.I. News*. One way we are using the magazine's news section is to excerpt from these publications and give background information that would be of interest to a wider N.A. readership. Our goal there is to avoid unnecessary duplication of information, but pass along information of wider interest to members who do not see those other reports.

A second use of the "N.A. News" section will involve your area or region. We want to print feature articles regarding events or developments of interest from various areas or regions around the world. For example, a mostly rural region may wish to send us a feature article describing how it has addressed the problems inherent in small,

isolated areas and groups spread over a large geographical area. An area which has had a successful Public Information event could write an article about it that would make those ideas and experiences available to other areas. The possibilities go on and on--conventions, H&I, phonelines, activities, finances, committee decorum, creative approaches to any kinds of problems.

There are two ways you may get articles like this to us. One way would be to produce it yourselves and send it to us with a copyright release. We would prefer it if the news features we receive would go through some local screening by the appropriate service committee to ensure objectivity and accuracy. Perhaps a literature review committee, a newsletter committee or some other area or regional subcommittee could be given the job of developing the piece, and it could be turned over to the committee as a whole for a final review. The point is that we would like to see careful consideration given to the development of these articles so we can be confident that the magazine is fair and accurate in its reporting. Here's your chance to be an N.A. reporter!

The second way we can develop these articles is for our staff to talk to your committee members by phone and do the actual writing ourselves. We would be more than happy to do it this way. We could talk to three or four different people to get a varied perspective, write the piece and send it back to the area or region for their final review. A final call with an appointed person on your end for any last minute changes, and we would be ready for publication.

We're excited about this possibility. If you plan to do anything like this, we would appreciate as much advance notification as possible so we can plan for it, and perhaps work directly with you from the start. Write us, and include full information on the contact people we should work with.

We will also be making space in the "N.A. News" section available to World Service boards or committees to print feature articles regarding their area of service. The November issue, for example, includes an article submitted to us by the Hospitals and Institutions Committee of the World Service Conference. The article discussed various aspects of the panel system for bringing the N.A. message into hospitals and institutions. The committee had been aware of some confusion regarding this system, and sought to clear it up with this article. We invite all other boards and committees to use this section in a similar way.

Opinion Section

This section of the magazine is developing nicely. There are several possible formats for the "Opinion" section, and we will vary them from month to month.

One format is "point/counterpoint." When we receive two articles on a given subject, each of

which presents one side of a particular issue, they can be printed together as a way of presenting two opposing views at once. The November "Opinion" section contained two very different articles on the use of medication in recovery. These articles were received independently, and did not seek to address one another. In the future we may send the two writers the other's piece before publication and invite a response prior to printing the first piece. The editorial team will look at that on a case by case basis.

We will also use the "Opinion" section to print articles from the Trustees. Individual trustees have written several pieces, some of which may appear in future editions of the magazine. Collectively, the Trustees sometimes approve a statement on an issue related to our Fellowship. We will print those statements whenever the Trustees approve them for publication in the *N.A. Way*.

Also in the "Opinion" section, we will print one or more articles received on any appropriate subject. That is, we will not always print a counterpoint. Sometimes two or three articles will be presented at the same time which have no relationship to each other. In that way we will give voice to the greatest variety of views without having to balance each one out with an opposing view.

The expression of the opposing viewpoint will be left up to our readers. One main purpose for having an editorial section in the *N.A. Way* is to allow for free and open dialogue among us as a Fellowship on a whole range of issues of concern to us. The main articles presented will often be vehicles that spark an ongoing discussion, sometimes debate, that will be printed in the "From Our Readers" section.

As always, the magazine is in need of your participation to continue to make it a successful Fellowship project. The "Experience, Strength and Hope" section, still the heart and soul of the magazine, is getting just enough material to get the magazine together under the deadline every month. In fact, if we were getting more we would expand the size of that section too. We are particularly short on longer articles, 1300 to 1700 words, four pages or so in print. We like to mix these in with our usual shorter pieces. If you are a writer who can structure an essay in a way that keeps the reader's interest and develops your point clearly over that much space, we invite you to do it.

A final note regarding our "Coming Up" section: We are willing to devote three pages of the magazine to this section. You can send us fliers or notes regarding any N.A. event at all, including one day events and service-related events. We want it to be as complete an N.A. calendar as it can possibly be. It is important, though, that we receive the information as far in advance as possible. Our production schedule is such that we receive notice sometimes almost two months in

advance of the event, but the magazine is already being pasted up or is at the printers. We really need about three months' notice now to be sure to get your event in the magazine.

The *N.A. Way* staff and editorial team would like to thank all of you who participate in the magazine, either by subscribing or writing. There are thousands of you now, and that really makes this a gratifying project. We are always striving to improve the magazine, both in content and appearance, and thanks to you, we've taken some pretty big strides in the last several months. With your support we'll continue to grow. We invite all of you who are not yet subscribers to join us in our monthly meeting. We need you all.

THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON IT WORKS

Several phone calls received by WSO staff and Conference participants indicate continued confusion about the *It Works* project and its relationship to the World Literature Committee. The Ad hoc Committee was formed by the World Service Conference in 1987 to conduct a series of world workshops to gather more input on the steps portion of the *It Works* manuscript. This is a separate committee from the World Literature Committee.

From the Committee Chairperson, Vince D., the following is a quick recap of the work so far. More details will be provided in his Fellowship report and future *Newslines*.

'The long awaited workshops are happening. Now is the time to report what is going on. By the time most of you receive this *Newsline*, five of the planned world workshops on *It Works* will have already occurred. The first two happened in Baltimore and Australia. The most recent ones were held in Seattle, WA on November 6-8 and in Dallas, TX and Kansas City, KS on November 13-15.

The things that we hoped would happen in this process are happening. At these workshops our members are getting their first experience with how we create and develop a major work of literature in Narcotics Anonymous. And they are taking it back to their area and regional literature committees and sharing it. Strengthening these committees is very important, as it appears that we, as a Fellowship, are going to have a lot of writing to do during the next several years.

Our members are bringing quality prepared written input to the workshops. An they are bringing something else to our book; their love, hope and experience. All of us giving to each other, many of whom are strangers, form special bonds of friendship by the end of the weekend process. Our unity is proportionately strengthened each workshop as this process continues and grows. It's the N.A. way experience.

We're slowly combining the review- and approval-form manuscripts (both of which are combined in the black and white covered version currently being sold by WSO to all registered literature committees) into one with overall additions, deletions, changes and rewrites. We still need more original written material on ideas and concepts that are not in our book yet.

I have to share a special experience which occurred during the Seattle workshop on Saturday night. The Seattle membership had prepared a pot luck dinner, and you would have thought everyone would have been exhausted because they had worked so hard all day. Not so. I looked up from my table and everyone was excitedly talking to each other as if they had been friends for life. Twenty-four hours previous they were total strangers. And the best part of all, is that the conversation at every table was about the steps!

People were sharing the things they had learned about whatever step they had worked on that day. When a group of recovering addicts sits down to work on material related to our Twelve Steps, something very special happens. In Baltimore, members went to their hotel rooms on Saturday after the main work ended and kept working until 1 and 2 A.M. The spirit and energy is building, and it's going throughout the Fellowship. Perhaps this is because of the truth we believe that is best stated on page 19, paragraph 2 of our new Fourth Edition Basic Text, "The steps are our solution. They are our survival kit".

Keep writing at home and get that input in! Keep in touch with your local literature subcommittees for future information and updates about this important item of N.A. literature.

The next scheduled world workshops are Miami on January 15-17 and Chicago and San Francisco on January 22-24. Many regions are also hosting separate workshops for the purpose of review and creation of new material, so if you're interested, there's plenty of ways for you to get involved. Input generated at area and/or regional workshops can be sent to the WSO so that it can be passed on to the next closest world workshop for compilation into master lists. Better yet, show up in person and experience this process.

The WSO has received some calls from members voicing concern about the cut-off date for submitting input to the Ad hoc Committee process. Please be advised that after this stage of input gathering, the master lists will become the basis of the World Literature Committee's future work on this project. That committee's work will be directed by the World Service Conference in 1988. The anticipated direction will be to begin work on a review-form manuscript, which will take at least one full conference year. So, there will be at least another two conference years to continue sending input after this year's Ad hoc process in completed.

On Another Note:

From the Chairperson of the *It Works* Ad hoc Committee, regarding the need to have Fellowship input on some important questions. We need your help and are including these concerns here so that discussion and comments will be generated throughout the widest possible segment of the Fellowship.

There are several questions that have been raised during the past year regarding certain aspects of the *It Works* project. Some of the most often heard include, Should specific drug references be included or not? Does it depend on the context? Should the book include individual's experiences (personal examples), shared representative experiences or shared collective experience (those which every member has experienced in the same way?); Should the book only be written in the "we" form?; Should the chapters include short, simple step study guides?; Should there be a set length for the chapters?; Should consideration be given to different reading levels? and if so, in what way?; Should prayers be included in the book? and if so, which ones?; Should we refer to ourselves as addicts, drug addicts or both depending on the circumstance?.

These are important questions, not only for the *It Works* but for all of our literature. Please, take some time to discuss these concerns in your service committees and send your thoughts to us. Any additional general comments you have on the book's style, format, etc., are also welcome. These responses, along with all other input collected by the ad hoc committee will be turned over to the World Literature Committee at the end of the input process.

FROM THE WSO

In early October, the Office completed a report on the possibility of reducing the price of the Basic Text and other literature items. This report was prepared in response to a request from the World Service Conference. The report contained background information and attachments reflecting the impact of possible change. The report was mailed to all Conference participants and regional chairpersons. Additional copies of this report are available to members of the Fellowship who request in writing a copy of the report. Because the report is rather extensive, a charge will be required for each copy distributed. The nominal cost for this is \$2.75. Requests for this report should contain the \$2.75 for each issue and identify the Price Reduction Study. Copies will be mailed out as soon as requests are received.

From time to time, the Office receives requests for the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in different forms than they are currently available for sale from the office. The most frequently sought after format is on a window-shade type of

material that can be easily be rolled up and put aside in storage between meetings, particularly in facilities where permanent display of the steps and traditions is not practical or possible. The Office has from time to time looked into different aspects of this request, and is currently considering a format similar to that which is currently being produced in Australia by the Australasian Service Office. The Australasian Office is making available and selling to their groups and members the Steps and Traditions on a cotton sheet type material that can be easily be folded or rolled up. This is being purchased by a great many of groups and area committees in the Australasian Region.

A similar type material and format would be very easy to produce and could be easily be stored. We will investigate this and report at a later date the progress of that study.

As reported in the study to consider the possibility of reducing the price of literature, the World Service Office is not on as a firm a financial foundation as we had previously believed. This was learned as a result of analyzing information that was intended for and included in the report. This consequence of the report is important to learn from, in that it provided the opportunity for us to gain at an earlier date than we otherwise would have become aware, that consideration should be given to changing policies that impact our financial condition.

The two aspects of policies that have changed our financial condition are policy decisions made last year concerning the discount sales policy, and the shipping and handling fee. What we have learned is that the cost for shipping merchandise from the World Service Office to our Fellowship customers exceeds the amounts of money received from those Fellowship purchasers to pay the cost of the shipping. This is a direct result of changing the policies approximately twelve months ago. At that time, it was decided to have the World Service Office bear the full cost of shipment for certain orders made to offices, area and regional service committees.

It may be necessary, following additional study, to reinstate a requirement for all purchases to pay at least the cost of shipping, if not the cost of shipping plus a small percentage for handling fees. More will be discussed on this subject in the upcoming *Fellowship Report*.

The related decision of increasing the level of discounts to offices and service committees for large purchases will also be reevaluated. It may be necessary to reduce by a small percentage the total amount of that discount in order to renew the offices financial condition. The effect of the discounts, when combined with the loss generated from the shipping costs, have worked together to cause the office to utilize funds from our prudent reserve for current operational needs. During the last sixty days, it was necessary to transfer from prudent reserve to operational expenses, approximately \$50,000.00. \$10,000 has been

returned to prudent reserve, but we are not certain at this moment, when or if we will be able to return additional funds to Prudent Reserve. This matter will also be studied during the coming months and a report made to the Fellowship at a later date.

CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT

It is not too early to place your orders for the 87/88 WSC *Conference Agenda Report* through the WSO. All interested members, groups, Areas, and Regions should use the order form attached to this *Newsline* to be sure you receive the report in time to review it and participate in the Fellowship's group conscience process. A number of new literature items including a new Fourth Step guide, plus WSC Agenda items from other WSC committees and boards will all be contained in this report. The cost is \$5.00 and normal discounts will not apply. Be sure to include your correct name and address so you may receive it in time. Orders from groups and service committees may be placed by telephone and billed upon receipt.

COMING EVENTS

ALASKA: Mar. 11-13, 1988; ARSCC IV; Wasilla, AK; Michelle (907) 745-1052; ARSCC IV, PO Box 874935, Wasilla, AK 99687

ARKANSAS: Dec. 19, 1987; 4th Annual Central Arkansas Christmas Party & Dance; Kierre Hall, North Little Rock, AR; Jon or Maryanne (501) 221-2847; Woody 664-6054; Lisa 666-5771

CALIFORNIA: Mar. 4-6, 1988; NCCNA; Oakland Hyatt Regency Hotel & Convention Center, 12th & Broadway, Oakland, CA; Steve (408) 446-4445; NCCNA 10, PO Box 59114, San Jose, CA 95159

CANADA: May 13-15, 1988; 1st Ontario Regional Convention; Toronto, Ontario; Rachel (416) 789-0264; Susan 252-6686; Community Centre, 5597 Main Street, Toronto, Ontario, CAN M4E 2V6

CONNECTICUT: Jan. 1-3, 1988; CRCNA III; Stamford Sheraton Hotel & Towers, 1 First Stamford Place, (203) 967-2222; Judy 229-0019; Dave 342-4708; 3rd CT RCNA, PO Box 697, New Britain, CT 06051

GEORGIA: Feb. 25-28, 1988; GRCNA VII; Hyatt Regency Ravinia, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30346, (800) 228-9000; Shirley (404) 535-1626; Mitch 264-9540; Rhonda 252-7137; GRCNA VII, P.O. Box 2226, Gainesville, GA 30503

HAWAII: Feb. 12-14, 1988; 4th Annual Fellowship Weekend; Camp Erdman, HI; Tom C. (808) 262-4631; George K. 262-4394; C.C. 261-3869; Regional Office 533-4900; NA Fellowship Weekend, P.O. Box 27909, Honolulu, HI 96827

INDIANA: Apr. 1-3, 1988; KRCNA II; Executive Inn, 6th & Walnut St., Evansville, IN, (800) 457-3841; Mike W. (812) 424-1672; Donnie A. 422-5815; Bernie T. 426-0357; KRCNA II, PO Box 3184, Evansville, IN 47730

KANSAS: Dec. 5, 1987; Regional Convention Fund Raiser; Chili Feed, Knights of Columbus, 111 East 1st, Ellinwood, KS; Mike (316) 792-7514

KENTUCKY: Feb 12-14, 1988; 3rd Annual Traditions Workshop; Days Inn, 101 E Jefferson St., Louisville, KY 40202, (502) 585-2200; Ro S. 935-2481; Steve D. 937-1760; KRSCNA, PO Box 72305, Louisville, KY 40272

2) Apr. 1-3, 1988, KRCNA II, Evansville, IN--see under INDIANA

3) Dec. 12, 1987; Fund raiser for KRCNA II; Parish Hall 6th & Broadway, Paducah, KY; Brenda 443-0012; Charlie 444-0399

LOUISIANA: Mar 4-6, 1988; LPRCNA VI; Holiday Inn, Covington; Hotel res--Cheryl Hunt, (504) 893-3580; Info--Peter or Mary, (504) 626-7298; John or Kat, (504) 893-9265; LPRCNA VI, P.O. Box 1693, Covington, LA 70434

MISSOURI: Dec. 5, 1987; Unity Conference III; Gardenville Community Center, 6000 block of Gravois, St. Louis; Greg S. (314) 277-6407

2) Dec 25-26, 1987; 2nd Annual Christmas Party; Drury Inn, I-70 and Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO; Nancy F., (816) 459-7326; Christin W., (816) 483-6022

NEVADA: Feb. 5-7, 1988; SNCNA II; Las Vegas, NV; Debi A. (702) 453-6653; Dave T. 452-6938; Nancy T. 451-0899; SNCNA II, P.O. Box 4771, Las Vegas, NV 89127-0771

NEW ZEALAND: Jan. 15-17, 1988; 1st New Zealand Area Rally for N.A.; Shirley Community Centre, Shirley & Slater Streets, Christchurch; Chris or Dave 859-738; Chrissie 883-544

OHIO: Dec. 12, 1987; Celebrating 7 Years of Recovery; St. Patricks Church, 38th & Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, OH; Dinner & Speaker

OKLAHOMA: Apr. 1-3, 1988; Oklahoma Regional Convention; Camelot Hotel, 4956 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74105, (800) 331-4428, (918) 747-8811; Leo S. (918) 664-4883; Sarah L. (918) 742-4816; Chuck G. (405) 372-4007; Tonja H. (405) 787-4007; OKRSC, PO Box 52465, Tulsa, OK 74152

2) Nov. 18-22, 1987; 3rd Annual Fall Spiritual Retreat; Camp Takatoka on Ft. Gibson Lake, Choteau, OK; Sondra L. (918) 743-1276; Susan K. 587-5572; Fall Retreat, 1117 E. 48th St., c/o De Ville Apts. #42, Tulsa, OK 74105

PENNSYLVANIA: Feb. 26-28, 1988; Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference IV; George Washington Lodge, Allentown, PA, (215) 433-0131; Bill A. 398-8438; Lou or Mike 432-8719; Dave or Brenda 437-3285; 24 hour helpline 439-8440; MARLCNA4, P.O. Box 4475, Allentown, PA 18105

RHODE ISLAND: Apr 1-3, 1988; NERC III; Marriott Hotel, Providence; Info--Steve (401) 789-2569, Ken N. 728-2714; NERC III, Attention, Mishell L., P.O. Box 3009, Newport, RI 02840

SOUTH CAROLINA: Jan. 22-24, 1988; 8th Annual Upper South Carolina Convention; Holiday Inn Haywood, I-385 & Roper Mountain Road, Greenville, SC; Mark (803) 244-1621; Bob 271-6542; 1988 NA Convention, 205 E. Hillcrest Drive, Greenville, SC 29609

TENNESSEE: Nov 25-27; Volunteer Regional Convention 5; Knoxville Hilton (615) 523-2300; Buddy A. 691-6931; Wade A. 675-9233; Allison C. 383-8417; VRC 5, PO Box 12467, Knoxville, TN 37912-0467

TEXAS: Mar 25-27, 1988; LSRCNA III; Rodeway Inn, Hwy 360 at Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011, (817)640-7080, (800)228-7080; Vince 924-0939; Don 738-5329; Rick 573-3201; LSRCNA III, Prog. Committee, PO Box 5540, Fort Worth, TX 76108

VIRGINIA: Jan. 8-10, 1988; 6th AVCNA; The Hyatt Hotel Richmond, Interstate 64 at Broad St. & Glenside Dr., Richmond, VA; Mel 644-9143; 6th AVCNA, PO Box 13087, Richmond, VA 23225

2) Mar. 4-6, 1988; 2nd Annual Chesapeake/Potomac Regional Convention; Stouffer Concourse Hotel, Arlington, (703)979-6800; Lonceia C. (703)437-6433; Dave H. 860-2880; Kevin A. 941-7474; Registration Committee, P.O. Box 6821, Arlington, VA 22206-0821

WASHINGTON: Apr. 8-10, 1988; 3rd Annual Washington-Northern Idaho Regional Convention; to submit a tape contact Rhonda A., 6622 W. Yellowstone, Kennewick, WA 99336

Group Code Number

For Office Use Only

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Today's Date: _____ Area _____ Region _____

Meeting Day: _____ Time: _____ [] A.M. [] P.M.

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Meeting Date: _____	_____
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Zip: _____	_____
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Name: _____	_____
Position: <input type="checkbox"/> GSR <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> GSR <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer
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