

# WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409  
(818) 780-3951



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: November 2, 1990

RE: October meeting of the Traditions Ad Hoc Committee

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The committee met during the weekend of October 26 - 28, 1990. Present were Danette B., Jack B., Nancy S., Mitchell S., Ceven McG., and Bob McK., committee members, and Ann Rider, Nancy Germond and Steve Lantos, WSO staff.

## **Friday, October 26, 1990**

The meeting started at 9:30 a.m. The first item on the committee's agenda was a discussion about the input received from members of the BOT, the WSCLC and former Traditions Ad Hoc Committee members on the second drafts of Traditions One and Two. Some of the input received pointed out that the material may be lacking in specific examples or illustrations of how each tradition may be applied, and that the chapters may be somewhat brief in length. Some of the ensuing discussions pointed towards the committee's desire to keep the material simple, in order to allow for local interpretation of the application of the principles contained in the traditions. It was once again noted that this book is meant to be more general, rather than overly specific, not a book that will serve as a "rule" book, answering all questions. The committee then decided to study some of the input overnight, and proceed with the review of the first drafts of Traditions Three and Four.

Tradition Three was then read aloud by the committee, and each member gave general comments about the material in terms of content, flow, style, etc. Next, the draft was reviewed line by line. One point the committee had considerable discussion about was whether or not the word "drugs" was implied after the word "using", in this tradition. One member felt strongly that it was not, but the committee overall believed that it was implied. It was the consensus of the committee that Narcotics Anonymous is a program for *drug* addicts, not individuals with other problems. The committee broke for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:45 p.m., and the specific, line by line review of the Third Tradition draft continued. Another item of discussion that arose during this session was the issue of "membership" and what it means to be a member of Narcotics Anonymous. While some felt that it may be appropriate to discuss the various aspects of membership in some publication or possibly an I.P., it was the consensus of the committee that for the purposes of this Tradition, it was not appropriate to include it in this draft.

The committee having completed reviewing the first draft of Tradition Three, moved on to reviewing Tradition Four. Once again, this draft was read aloud, with each member giving general comments about the material. Afterwards, the committee decided to adjourn for the day at 6:15 p.m.

#### **Saturday, October 27, 1990**

The meeting reconvened at 8:45 a.m., with a paragraph-by-paragraph, specific review of the first draft of the Fourth Tradition. During this process, the committee had in-depth discussions about balancing the freedom of the group's autonomy with the responsibility reflected in the second part of the tradition. The committee finished the review of this draft and gave directions to the staff team to help them in their development of a second draft on Tradition Four, and broke for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:45 p.m. with the review of the input received on the second drafts of Traditions One and Two. At this point the committee reviewed those drafts once again, utilizing the input received. This process took up the balance of the day, and the committee adjourned for the evening at 5:10 p.m.

#### **Sunday, October 28, 1990**

The meeting started at 8:30 a.m. The committee had some final discussion about the second draft of Tradition Two regarding group purpose and primary purpose, and gave some additional direction to the staff team.

The next item for discussion was the possibility of releasing the third drafts of Traditions One and Two to the fellowship for a fast, conceptual review. The committee after considerable discussion decided upon the following.

1. To release the third drafts of Traditions One and Two, upon completion, to the recipients of the regular BOT Traditions Ad Hoc Committee meeting reports;
2. To draft a cover letter that includes the major decisions reached by the committee in terms of purpose, focus and style for the drafts, as well as a description of what the committee is looking for in the comments from the fellowship;
3. To include a brief one-page questionnaire with drafts and a self-addressed envelope in order to facilitate the return of the comments to the committee;
4. To send the package to the full BOT and the members of the ad hoc committee for their approval, in the beginning of November; and,

5. To establish a target date of December 1, for this mailing to the fellowship, and a deadline of February 1, 1991 for the receipt of the questionnaires from the fellowship.

The next item on the committee's agenda for this meeting was some discussion regarding Traditions Five and Six to assist the staff team with their development of first drafts. Following the discussion, the committee was given rough first drafts of these traditions to look over in the interim between this and their next meeting. Additionally, the committee will receive another set of first drafts reflecting the discussion this morning, prior to the next meeting.

The final item was the committee review of "C" input on Traditions Ten and Twelve. The committee read the input and evaluated its usefulness. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for the weekend of December 14 - 16, 1990 in Van Nuys.