



NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

WSC Literature Committee • 890 Atlanta Road, Marietta, Georgia 30060 • 404/427-2086

April 1981

Dear Fellow Members:

MEMPHIS LITERATURE CONFERENCE

We now have our book in review form. It has been sent out to all registered groups in our worldwide Fellowship. Our program of recovery will soon be more generally and efficiently available.

The spirited and talented members who showed up at Memphis for the Third World Literature Conference of Narcotics Anonymous worked more than forty-five hundred service hours compiling the material prior to review. The Conference kept busy nine electric typewriters and two photocopiers and used more than twenty thousand photocopies. A solid wall of love greeted each arriving member. As with the preceding literature conferences, only N.A. members participated. The atmosphere of recovery was the strongest and most sustained I have ever experienced, from the enthusiasm of the early days to the deep dedication of the final days of the nine-day Conference.

Approximately seventy-five members from thirteen states attended and each was in touch with their home area on a daily basis. This helped the work because the consciousness of the group extended to the whole Fellowship.

From the first day onward, the Conference ran twenty-four hours a day. The dedication, spirit, active participation and support of members from all areas not physically present resulted in the miracle at Memphis. Memphis members were excellent hosts and brought spirit and warmth in addition to securing a fine facility and getting all the equipment together.

Several members from the East, Midwest and West Coast stayed on after the Conference and several members worked night and day for at least eleven days after the Conference officially closed.

On the fourth day of the Conference, it was found that we needed six thousand dollars to print and distribute more than a thousand review forms of our book (estimated at five hundred pages each) to every group in the world. By the end of the Con-

ference, the entire amount had either arrived or was on its way from N.A. members and groups. Thanks for the success of WLC-III really goes to Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION

Obviously, we feel that the material in the first ten chapters developed at Memphis is very good. Publication of the review form is our act of faith that the Fellowship at large will go over the material and report any flaws, additions or items inconsistent with their recovery experience to us in writing. A Fourth World Literature Conference will be held in the Los Angeles area from April 26 to April 29, 1981. We will go over the input forms which have been received in response to the review. This input will be incorporated into the basic text.

Our position of direct responsibility to those we serve, and our certainty that the material can and will be completed, has led us to consider the following criteria:

We feel that the book will be complete when

1. It contains all the things we do to get clean, stay clean and help others;
2. This material is accurate in terms of the written and spoken traditions of N.A. recovery;
3. There has been Fellowship-wide review for input over enough time for sincere N.A. members to respond;
4. It is found to be free from plagiarism.
5. Readability and literary style will never be complete to everyones satisfaction.

Literary style is the least of the reasons for the review now underway. We are mainly after recovery-related material and viewpoints. These will be added to complete the review form and the extra "we's", "but's", spellings, grammar and readability can then be brought to final form. This was not done at Memphis because we knew that it would change after Fellowship-wide input was added. The intent and purpose of the effort at Memphis was to compile a text on N.A. recovery that was as complete as possible at that time for the purpose of review. Final form becomes important only after input.

If we can't complete the work at WLC-IV, another up-dated review form will have to be printed and distributed for Fellowship-wide review, at our expense, and another major conference held to include input, at our expense, which would change the form

effort of making these arrangements will not be lost, but only ready for another day soon to come. Discussion of publication arrangements will naturally be a major topic of the upcoming World Service Conference anyway, and the homework needs to be done by then.

If at the end of WLC-IV, members present feel good enough about the material, the Literature Committee will present the material to the World Service Conference to be held May 1-3 for Conference approval. When the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous approves the material, no further changes will be allowed, for the time being, and there will be nothing else to do but publish the first edition. Members of the Board of Trustees will be on hand at WLC-IV to act as guardians of our Twelve Traditions. The immediate next step will be to publish fifty to one hundred thousand copies of our hardback book, Narcotics Anonymous. We urge all members with something to contribute to attend and support WLC-IV. Flyers are included with this mailing.

Additional copies of the review form can be had for the cost of registration at Memphis (\$12.00), by writing WLC-III, P.O. Box 41323, Memphis, TN 38104. All free group copies have been mailed, and only a limited number of the review copies remain. This money is needed to close out the Memphis Conference and any overage will go to the WLC and WLC-IV.

If it seems like we are in a hurry, we are. Far too many addicts have died never knowing recovery was possible. In words telegraphed to Memphis, "The full fruit of a labor of love lies in the harvest, and that always comes in its right season." We are praying for a season of growth and new life for addicts seeking recovery, not another season of death by ignorance.

THE REVIEW FORM OF THE BASIC TEXT

The review form is in some respects like a baby with unformed fingers and toes. Don't be too quick to cut out material which could be improved without deletion. Valuable material which may or may not fit the style of expression common to you or your area can be rephrased. The real purpose of review is to find, as much as is possible, a more common written ground for the material already included and to gather and include any material which may be needed for completion. Remember, we are all addicts pulling together. It might be helpful to make a list of those things which have been very important in your recovery and look for these things as you read over the material. Take notes as you go and send them to us for use at WLC-IV.

Stories contained in the eleventh chapter of the review form will be deleted unless we have a release form from the con-

which will have to be published, at our expense, and create a "dog chasing his tail" effect. Memphis cost twelve thousand dollars in Conference expenses alone and more than sixteen thousand dollars to attending members who are serious about the N.A. book. We are concerned that non-attending members may take for granted the tremendous effort which has already taken place. The review form didn't pop out of mid-air. Many we talk to apparently feel that we are approaching the "getting serious" phase when in reality, we have been serious for some time.

Waiting for another one, two or three years would only yield the situation we already have at hand. Enough quality input will give the material completeness. A large number of members will have to be on hand to say that they feel the material is complete as to content and literary style and suitable for publication. This can happen in a month, a year or another twenty years. It's really up to you. Ultimate, the material will be finished and ready for publication. This can happen at WLC-IV if enough members pull together and support the Conference.

We believe the text to be of sufficient importance to be worth an all-out effort and that is exactly what we are asking for from you, the Fellowship. Sending out another review form at the end of WLC-IV and holding another conference just to include input from members who can't do it in sixty days or have not taken the work seriously would leave us with a situation exactly like the one we have now: Will the input be sufficient to complete the book? Will WLC-IV be able to include the input and correct the spelling, grammar and readability? If they succeed, will the material be published? Will the success be published as another review form or as a first edition?

The principles of our Traditions and group consciousness give me peace amid these thoughts, but I want to share them because not everyone has been to a literature conference and may not realize what has been accomplished already. The review form came from members who are planning to attend WLC-IV, and they are coming to it with the experience gained from Wichita, Lincoln and Memphis. They, and those who come for the first time to help, are capable of miracles! They have proved it already and I am sure they've been sharpening their pencils.

It is for this reason that I'm going to these lengths to spell out the situation as I see it. I have a duty to pass on what may not be commonly known. These literature people are fantastic! They are able to combine strength and sleepless effort with moderation and conscientious concern for the work at hand. Their existence enables me to recommend that inquiry be undertaken now to assure proper copyright procedures in accordance with our Second Tradition. Furthermore, I urge that arrangements for immediate publication of the first edition be ready May 4, 1981. If completion is not obtained at WLC-IV, the

tributing member by WLC-IV. If you know of a story writer not in touch with us, please have them contact us immediately.

Also, in order that "the Book" will have a consistent theme of recovery throughout, we are asking story writers to send us supplementary material on how their life is today. We are not looking for "All-American Success Stories" about cars, money, jobs, etc. We are not looking either for stories of family reconciliation, although in some cases that is an integral part of recovery. We are looking for how you, as a recovering addict, utilize the Twelve Steps, apply the Twelve Traditions and participate in the Fellowship in ongoing recovery. If the Fellowship approves, we want to leave the door open for additional stories during WLC-IV. Otherwise, we will be unable to include additional stories which may come in during the review period.

The review of material is primarily directed toward the ten chapters of the basic text portion. Feelings about a member's story from Chapter Eleven will be useful and should be included, although the final say about style and content remains in the hands of the contributing member. We can pass on the comments and the material can be improved in some cases.

We learned a lot at Wichita, Lincoln and Memphis. We learned that we can have our book if enough of us put forth the effort. We are grateful for the progress so far and expect to have a great Conference at Santa Monica. Be there! Our most important members are standing at our doors seeking that which we have been freely given. Let us give it to them.

In loving service,

BO
Bo S
Chairman
WSC Literature Committee