

HD

Narcotics Anonymous

**It Works:**  
How and Why

Part Two:

**Traditions Input**

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Input due October 31, 1989

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## THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS.

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.
6. 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.
7. Every N.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. N.A., as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Narcotics Anonymous  
It Works: How and Why  
**Traditions Input**



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VOLUME TWO

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It Works: How and Why  
Traditions Input  
*Input Form, 1988*

VOLUME TWO

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

BY MARK HANCOCK

TEACHERS EDITION

NEW YORK

WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE  
TRADITION REVIEW MATERIAL BOOK - 1988

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I am pleased to inform you that your application for a [Position] has been reviewed and we are pleased to offer you the position. The position is located in the [Department] and will report to [Supervisor].

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Sincerely,  
[Name]

[Signature]

1 WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE  
2 TRADITION REVIEW MATERIAL BOOK - 1988  
3 TRADITION ONE  
4

5 *"Our common welfare should come first; personal*  
6 *recovery depends on N.A. unity."*  
7  
8

- 9 I. What Common Welfare Means in NA.  
10 A. Common Themes.  
11 1. In Our Disease - (personal degradation is one).  
12 2. In our Personal Recovery.  
13 B. Individual Welfare/Group Welfare.  
14 1. I can't; we can.  
15 C. Commitment to welfare.  
16 D. Selfless service/Selfishness.  
17 E. Freedom from Active Addiction.  
18 II. Our need for unity.  
19 A. Recovery goes beyond survival.  
20 B. Points of unity.  
21 C. Unity is a pivotal principle of recovery.  
22 D. Group Unity - (to include concept of spiritual center in every  
23 meeting within the Traditions).  
24 E. Unity is a practical foundation of Traditions.  
25 F. Anonymity.  
26 III. Learning about Unity.  
27 A. Giving up old ideas.  
28 B. Recognizing when actions subvert NA unity.

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1 character defects of members around us, we render personality  
2 differences powerless.

3 To do this takes an act of will. At least it does not come naturally  
4 to me, nor I expect to many other addicts. To forgive and forget an  
5 injustice is difficult. No, I want to tell the whole Fellowship that so and  
6 so was rude to me or whatever. In other words, I want revenge.

7 Next to slinging blame at others, it is most natural for us to want  
8 to take credit for what we have done. Neither of these acts of egotism is  
9 conducive to humility--the humility required to practise anonymity on a  
10 personal level. I am not responsible for my coming to the Program; nor  
11 am I responsible for anybody else's recovery. My clean time is a gift  
12 from my Higher Power, a gift He has entrusted to my care. Recognition  
13 of that fact is the beginning of humility.

14 Tradition Twelve also reminds us that each member has the right  
15 to privacy. Who and what I see and hear in meetings must remain  
16 confidential. I may tell everybody that I am a member of N.A., but I do  
17 not have the right to say that you are.

18 When I first came around the Program, I was very hurt and angry  
19 that people had told my sister that they had seen me in meetings. I  
20 wasn't sure I could stay clean, nor if I even wanted to, so I very carefully  
21 went to the meetings I know she didn't attend. I was afraid of  
22 disappointing her, but even more I was building a surprise for her first  
23 year cake: I was going to give her the realization of her cherished hope:  
24 that I would be clean before her first birthday. To those who told her  
25 they'd seen me in meetings it was probably just a casual remark, but to  
26 me it was a big betrayal.

27 In conclusion, I would like to say we are, after all, human beings  
28 striving for growth. Some of our greatest tests will come from other



1 members. In the spirit of all the traditions, let's learn to practice  
2 unconditional love.

3

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6

## THE TWELVE STEPS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS.

1. We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

