Narcotics Anonymous®

It Works: How and Why

Part Two

The Traditions

Review-Form Material

Traditions Seven — Twelve

UNAPPROVED LITERATURE
NOT FOR USE IN NA MEETINGS

FOR REVIEW AND INPUT
INPUT DUE JULY 15, 1992

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.

Volume Two

It Works: How and Why
The Traditions

Review Form, 1992

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WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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TO: The Fellowship

FROM: World Service Board of Trustees

DATE: December 10, 1991

RE: Review form of *It Works: How and Why--The Traditions*
Traditions Seven through Twelve

As with the first six chapters we released in April 1991, we decided that including the following information might enhance members' understanding of the process, development, and current state of the project. We have included not only background information regarding decisions but also information about the review period, the type of input being requested, and our plans for the completion of the traditions portion of *It Works: How and Why*.

The attached drafts were generated by the WSB Traditions Ad Hoc Committee. The 1988 brown and beige input form of *It Works* and input from the fellowship served as the foundation for their work. Committee drafts were reviewed by members of the World Service Conference Literature Committee and the World Service Board of Trustees. After factoring in the literature committee and trustee input, final drafts were developed by the ad hoc committee and approved by World Service Board of Trustees for release to the fellowship.

As reported in our various communiques, the following was adopted as the statement of purpose for this book: *"The Traditions portion of* It Works: How and Why, *shall serve as a resource for NA groups and the individual member. The book seeks to explore the spiritual principles within the traditions, engage members with the spirit--not the law--of the traditions, and provide a basis for thought and discussion about the traditions."* This book is not meant to fulfill every need for every group or every member; rather, it is to be a book that will generate discussion and allow for practical application of the principles contained in the traditions.

In order to engage the reader, this book is written in more of an experiential rather than a didactic or "how to" manner. This decision to write it in this way was made as a result of lengthy discussions about whether the work should be idealistic in its presentation or more reflective of current

practices within the fellowship. We strived to write this material in a nonjudgmental tone, keeping the discussion on a level that is spiritual in nature. The style prefers the simple rather than the complex in presenting the concepts contained in the material, and is written to engage rather than impress the reader. The audience this book is aimed toward is the membership of Narcotics Anonymous and the NA groups rather than nonmembers.

The attached drafts are out for fellowship review and input until July 15, 1992. As we have stated within our various reports, we are looking for conceptual rather than line-by-line input on these drafts and, as a result, have not included line numbers. You will find six questionnaires in this package, covering each of the chapters. Please complete them as fully as possible and return them to us in care of the WSO. We are hoping that you will tell us what we may have missed or what may be incorrectly or insufficiently articulated. If you feel that these drafts are on target, please let us know that, too.

Our plan for completing our work on this book, depending upon the availability of resources, is as follows:

1. Begin working on the approval form of *It Works: How and Why--The Traditions* in January 1992.
2. Complete the approval form in time for action at the 1993 World Service Conference. (We have not, as yet, made a final decision about releasing the approval form in sections or in its entirety. This decision will be made either before or at WSC 1992.)

It is important to realize that, depending upon the nature of the input we receive, the approval version of this work may be somewhat different than the attached drafts.

We thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of our work. If you have any questions about this material, please contact us through the WSO. It continues to be a privilege to work on this project for the fellowship. Thank you for allowing us to be of service to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRADITIONS SIX - TWELVE
REVIEW FORM

TABLE OF CONTENTS[1]

TITLE **PAGE**

1 This table of contents reflects the page-numbering system started with the review and input draft of Traditions One through Six released last year. The input form of Tradition Six ended on page 56, therefore Tradition Seven starts on page 57. This is done so that you may combine the first and second halves of the review form if you so wish.

TRADITION SEVEN

Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

The Seventh Tradition adds further clarity to our group's relationship with the surrounding community. Tradition Six cautioned us against funding other organizations, "lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose." By the same token, Tradition Seven encourages us to decline funding *from* other organizations, and for the same reason: to maintain our group's focus on its primary purpose. By paying our own expenses, we remain free to carry our own message.

While we encourage every NA group to become fully self-supporting, we recognize that most meetings don't start that way. Some meetings are started by nonmember professionals who've become acquainted with the Narcotics Anonymous program. Wanting to provide their clients with access to what NA has to offer, these professionals set a time, find a room, buy some literature, give a *Group Booklet* to the addicts who've gathered, and help them start a meeting. After some exposure to the principles underlying the NA program, these recovering addicts often begin taking responsibility for their meetings themselves.

Other meetings are started by one or two NA members who want to help carry the message to other addicts. Frequently, such members pay rent and buy literature for these meetings out of their own pockets. Sometimes they're given help by established NA groups in the community or by the nearest area committee. Either way, it often takes quite a while before a new meeting is able to stand on its own feet.

How a meeting is begun is not nearly so important as how it grows. Our experience is that, once a meeting is established, it gathers momentum. The meeting begins attracting a group of addicts who attend on a fairly consistent basis. These addicts share their experiences with one another and help each other better understand NA's principles of recovery. As they get to know and

principle, our Twelve Traditions, helping them join the personal strengths of their members in a fellowship that supports and nurtures the recovery of us all.

We pray that Narcotics Anonymous *never* becomes a gray, faceless collection of addicts without personalities. We enjoy the color, the compassion, the initiative, the rough-and-tumble liveliness that arises from the diverse personalities of our members. In fact, we find that the stronger our individual members are, the more strongly united our fellowship becomes. This is a great paradox of NA recovery: In joining together in a commitment to the greater good of Narcotics Anonymous, our own welfare is enhanced beyond measure. In surrendering self-will, humbly placing whatever individual power we may have at the service of the whole, we find an amazing power not only greater than our own but greater than the sum of all its parts. In serving the needs of others selflessly, *anonymously*, we find our own needs served in turn far better than we ever could have imagined. In joining anonymously in a fellowship with other recovering addicts, placing the welfare of the group ahead of our own, our own spiritual growth is enhanced beyond measure, not diminished. This is what Tradition Twelve means when it says that "anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions." So long as we place spiritual principles first, our individual personalities can grow and flourish like never before, insuring that our fellowship also continues to flourish, strong and free.

Our common welfare depends upon our unity. The only hope we have of maintaining that unity amidst the tremendous diversity we find in Narcotics Anonymous is by the application of certain common principles: those found in the Twelve Traditions. So long as we place the practice of those common principles before the exercise of our individual personalities, all will be well.

IT WORKS: HOW AND WHY - THE TRADITIONS INPUT FORM

TRADITION TWELVE

1. Does the draft reflect the concepts contained in this tradition accurately?

   Yes_____ No_____

2. Are there any concepts missing? Yes_____ No_____ If yes, what?

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3. General Comments:_____

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THE DEADLINE FOR INPUT IS JULY 15, 1992

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.