

Narcotics Anonymous

**It Works:**  
How and Why

Part Two  
**Traditions Input**

UNAPPROVED LITERATURE  
NOT FOR USE IN N.A. MEETINGS  
For Input Only  
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.


VOLUME TWO

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

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



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TRADITION REVIEW MATERIAL BOOK - 1988**

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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           C.    Cooperation, not competition - (disagreement without
- 2                    disunity and without being disagreeable).
- 3           D.    Willingness to commit to NA unity.
- 4    IV.    Building Unity - (By practicing our common purpose we support
- 5                    our common welfare).
- 6           A.    Applying the Steps and Traditions.
- 7           B.    Participation.
- 8           C.    Follow through and Consistency.
- 9           D.    Patience and Tolerance.
- 10          E.    Service Efforts.
- 11          F.    Faith and Trust.
- 12    V.    How the Tradition applies to and affects members, group and the
- 13                    NA service structure as a whole.
- 14    VI.    Cherishing Unity.
- 15    VII.   Application of Tradition 1 to members, groups, and N.A. as a
- 16                    whole.
- 17    VIII. Conclusion and lead in to Tradition 2.
- 18

1 Blue Review Book Draft

2

3 Our common welfare is at the top of the list in the Twelve  
4 Traditions because as long as the ties that bind us together are stronger  
5 than those that would tear us apart, all will be well. If we break down  
6 "common welfare" to its simplest form, it means shared happiness, well-  
7 being, and spiritual prosperity. Common welfare is that which is best for  
8 the group, not just for one individual.

9 Before deciding on something, we can first think, "would this help  
10 the group as a whole, or is it just to fit the needs of one person?" To  
11 make sure that there is stability in the group, we should be able to  
12 disagree, but not have to be disagreeable. We need to think about the  
13 welfare of N.A. first, not just the welfare of ourselves.

14 Believing that we have a common welfare is not always easy. As  
15 suffering addicts, we came to this program thinking only of our personal  
16 welfare. Most of us had never experienced the kind of attention and  
17 personal care that we found in the N.A. Fellowship. But in N.A. we  
18 learn that by helping each other, abstinence and ongoing recovery are  
19 possible. There is a spiritual center in the midst of every N.A. meeting  
20 held in accord with the Twelve Traditions. It lies in the fact that we are  
21 people who literally depend on one another for our lives.

22 In N.A., we are accepted and loved for who we are. The  
23 individual is precious to the group, and the group is precious to the  
24 individual. In order to recover, we seek out the people in N.A. who live  
25 by spiritual principles. We try to share what we have with newcomers.  
26 Some of us get involved with service committees in the Fellowship.  
27 When we travel, we visit N.A. members in other places and share with  
28 them. We study ourselves through the Steps, our sponsors, and others in

