

## Serenity Coast Area Minutes

www.SerenityCoastNA.org

groups.google.com/group/serenitycoast

Held March 21, 2015 @ Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church – 7860 Southside Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Serenity Coast Area Service opened at 5:02 PM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and reading of the Twelve Traditions.

### **Administrative Roll Call and Attendance**

<b>Position &amp; Suggested Clean Time</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Chairperson (5yrs)	Dave V.	(904)735-3312	P
Vice-Chair (4yrs)	open		
Secretary (2yrs)	Bob F.	(904)813-4266	P
Alt. Secretary (1yr)	open		
Treasurer (5yrs)	Gina A.	(973)619-3199	P
Alt. Treasurer (4yrs)	open		
Web Servant (2yrs)	Jake Q.	(904)392-4779	A
Info Line	Connor B.	(575)439-1626	A

### **Group Roll Call**

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>GSR / Alt</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Present / Absent</b>
By The Book	Sue M. / Connie D.	(904)327-4044	(P)
Carrying The Message	Phyllis C.	(904)327-0086	(P)
Clean and Serene	Dave S.		(A)
Gift of Life	Sheri H.	(904)955-5112	(A)
Gratitude Group	Judist C.	(904)613-9724	(A)
Grey Book Group	Hank S. / Ray Ray	(904)236-2259	(P)
In The Wind	Eric L.	(904)625-6897	(P)
In Times of Illness	Amanda R. (Kristen)	(904)762-3008	(P)
It Works, We Do Recover			(A)
Just Say No	Ryan G.	(202)425-7178	(A)
Keep It Simple			(A)
Life After Group	Judy S.	(404)661-1114	(A)
Living with Hope	Tim B.	(904)208-0754	(P)
Lost and Found	Eric C.	(904)806-5711	(A)
Middleburg Group	Ken W.		(A)
No More Excuses	Christian C. (Lisa Y)	(904)403-8530	(P)
Safe Haven	Marianne W.	(386)328-3580	(A)
Serenity SWAG			(A)
Sit Down & Shut Up Meditation	Katie B.	(970)596-8503	(P)
The Solution Group	Mike L.	(904)635-8822	(A)
There Is Hope	Gary S. (Haley W.)	(904)254-1832	(A)
Turning Point	Jamie P.	(904)551-8696	(P)
Ultimate Weapon	Randy M.	(904)874-5800	(P)
Why Are We Here	Ted M.	(904)838-5255	(A)

### **Reports**

**Chair's Report** – All is well.

**Secretary Report-** All is well. I need to make a correction from the last minutes. I erroneously stated “Grey Form Group announced it has low priced literature available for sale.” It should have read “Hank S. announced he has low priced literature available for sale.” The Grey Form Group has informed me that they give away literature.

**Treasurer Report-** The balance brought forward of the Area's Treasury on January 17, 2015 was thirty-five dollars and sixty-eight cents dollars (\$35.68). There were four donations from groups to the Area that included

seventy five dollars (\$75.00) from *In the Wind*, twenty dollars (\$20.00) from *Sit Down and Shut Up Meditation Group*, ten dollars (\$10.00) from *Living with Hope* and fifty dollars (\$50.00) from *Ultimate Weapon Group*. Rent in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) for use of our meeting space was given to Jamie P. (GSR) for *Turning Point*. We have a new balance of one-hundred ninety and sixty eight cents (\$190.68). Even though we have no bills due other than the ten dollars rent we pay each ASC every other month, we need to keep in mind that our Info Line bill will be due and payable in early June of 2015. In Loving Service, Gina A.

**Web Servant** – Absent.

**Info Line** – Absent.

### **GSR Reports**

By the Book - All is well.

Carrying the Message - All is well.

Grey Book Group – All is well.

In the Wind – All is well.

In Times of Illness – Last meeting is Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Closing.

Living with Hope - All is well.

No More Excuses – All is well.

Sit Down & Shut Up Meditation Group – All is well. Need support, come see us.

Turning Point – All is well. 10 year anniversary tomorrow, March 22, 2015. Starting at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Ultimate Weapon – All is well.

**Open Forum** – ► Joe D.- (1) GlobalNA is not NA, it's another fellowship. The November minutes states that a SCA group supports GlobalNA. This violates our traditions. (2) Why doesn't this ASC travel anymore? (3) There was a Federal Court Case regarding the Baby Blues. NA members were distributing them and we went to court. We agreed to stop distributing them and NAWS was to print us an inexpensive book. It was not what all of us wanted, but what we got was the "Introductory Guide to NA" as the cheap version of the Basic Text. (4) NA Way Magazine has addressed the issue of groups distributing non-approved literature. (5) First Coast Area will take Serenity Coast Area off their meeting schedule unless this stops. ► Eric L. for In the Wind Group. Is very concerned. Read from NA Way article, attached to minutes, as per their request. Also has Fellowship Intellectual Property Bulletin (FIPT), which states we cannot print more than 40% of any NA literature. We cannot write our own literature in home groups all over the country that is different and call it NA literature.

**Old Business** – None

**Elections** – All positions were open at January ASC. The only open position without a nomination is Alternate Secretary. The following expressed willingness and were voted for at this ASC. Those positions are-

Bob F. - ASC Chairperson

Randy M. - ASC Vice-Chair

MaryJo V. - Secretary

Gina A. – Treasurer

Phyllis C. - Alt. Treasurer

Jake Q. - Webservant

All positions were voted on and all were elected into position.

**New Business** – ► New meeting, the Rising Sun Group of Narcotics Anonymous, has started. They meet Thursdays and Fridays at 7AM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, 7405 Arlington Expressway in the Susan B Anthony room. They asked to join the Serenity Coast Area and were welcomed.

► Motion made by In the Wind and seconded by By the Book.

Motion moves "To remove the Grey Book Group from the Serenity Coast Area". Intent – "Grey Form meeting is violating the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Traditions. The group is violating NA copyright and trust laws. Group is causing disunity in the area, with our affiliation to the First Coast NA area at stake. Supported NA material is attached."

Discussion that followed - *In the Wind* stated that they don't want to isolate any addicts but they do believe that it is a separate fellowship. *Sit Down and Shut Up Meditation Group* agrees. They sent members to find out if this was a historical study group and came back with the belief that this group was trying to break away and start their own thing. *By the Book* group asked how many groups are supporting GlobalNA? *Turning Point* answered that there is no more GlobalNA. It was an event being put on by GlobalNA that we were supporting that never happened. *Turning Point* was never a part of GlobalNA, they were supporting a one-time event. Another group asked if members of the Grey Book group were down south writing new literature right now, and the response was yes. That was what lead some members to believe it is a different fellowship. *Turning Point* responded that it depended on the interpretation of the FIPT, which says the fellowship owns our literature. We do not answer to

World, they answer to us. *In the Wind* responded by saying World Service is the conscience of the group, we vote as a worldwide fellowship, and that is the conscience of NA. *In the Wind* states that this should be a pertinent motion. *Ultimate Weapon* suggested that we may need to vote on this temporarily, as it may be 3 or 4 months before we get back on a combined First Coast – Serenity Coast meeting schedule. It affects the unity of NA as a whole. *No More Excuses* suggested that we contact Region and ask them to remove the Grey Form Group from the regional meeting server list. *In the Wind* offered to modify the motion to refer the motion to the groups if we remove the Grey Form group off the meeting list in the meantime so we don't get taken off the First Coast meeting list. *No More Excuses* seconded the modification. *In Time of Illness* said it causes confusion for newcomers, and now they are having to choose sides. *By the Book* stated that we never allowed outside literature before, why would we now? *Turning Point* asked if anyone had seen the Grey Form, as it states on the very first page "World Service Conference #3" Literature Committee. This was to become the Basic Text. That group studies that draft form, similar to the more recent studying of the draft form of the Living Clean book. Others replied that the Living Clean was approved before we were reading from it in meetings. Grey Form was never approved to be read in a meeting. *In the Wind* replied that by copyright law, you cannot reprint any more than 40% of any publication, and by reprinting these in their entirety, you are breaking the law. A lot more discussion ensued. Quorum was set at 11 groups. Motion was restated. Vote was 7 – 2 – 2 passed.

**Announcements:** The next meeting will be May 16, 2015 at 5pm, at Shepherd of the Woods. Motion to close was made at 5:52pm.

#### Attachment #1

NA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BULLETIN #1 REVISED JULY 2010 Internal Use of NA Intellectual Property A statement of the NA Fellowship's policy on the reprinting of copyrighted NA recovery literature and the use of registered NA trademarks and service marks by NA groups, service boards, and committees. NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 was approved by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as given voice by its groups through their regional service representatives at the World Service Conference on 27 April 1993, applicable as of 1 May 1993. It was amended at the World Service Conference in 1997 and 1998. This bulletin supercedes all previous Bulletins and policies pertaining to the use of copyrighted literature and registered trademarks and service marks by NA groups, service boards, and committees. The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT) describes in detail how NA's name, trademarks, and recovery literature are protected and administered by Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (NAWS). It covers NA's name, trademarks and recovery literature in all forms, including translations, and all mediums, whether printed, electronic and any other media that may be developed in the future. Additional guidelines, contained in this and the other Intellectual Property Bulletins, for the use of NA's intellectual properties by the fellowship are presented as an adjunct to the FIPT. The guidelines are based partly on legal considerations and partly on the nature of NA. By following these simple steps, the fellowship will help ensure that NA's name, trademarks, and recovery literature will always be available to fulfill our primary purpose. All matters not specifically addressed by the Intellectual Property Bulletins will be considered under the conditions of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust. Any questions or concerns about the Bulletins should be directed to NA's World Service Office. This Bulletin reflects the policy affecting the use of NA intellectual property within the NA Fellowship. Use of the fellowships trademarks and recovery literature is a commitment to comply with these Guidelines. Usage inconsistent with the Guidelines is improper. Usage disputes are dealt with in Intellectual Property Bulletin #5. Use by NA groups These Guidelines outline the appropriate uses of NA logos and recovery literature by NA groups. The Guidelines also lay out criteria a group can use to avoid improper use. A description of the NA group--its nature, function, and role in the NA Fellowship--can be found in current NA service manuals. You are encouraged to review those sections describing groups prior to attempting use of the Guidelines described below. Use by NA service boards and committees Service boards and committees created directly or indirectly by NA groups may use NA logos and recovery literature in the ways described in these Guidelines so long as they register with NA World Services. Use by individual NA members or others Guidelines, in this or other Intellectual Property Bulletins do not grant individual NA members or those outside NA permission to use NA trademarks or intellectual property. Individual NA members or others who wish to use NA's trademarks or copyrighted recovery literature should write directly to NA World Services. GUIDELINES FOR USE OF NA TRADEMARKS Some of the NA Fellowship's registered trademarks are: the name "Narcotics Anonymous," the stylized NA initials, the diamond in a circle, and the original NA group logo, all shown below: ® Narcotics Anonymous® . ® Guidelines for Use Use of Narcotics Anonymous trademarks should always reflect the seriousness of our primary purpose and our spiritual foundation

of anonymity. The Narcotics Anonymous name or trademarks should not be used by an NA group, service board or committee in any way that would imply legal liability or financial responsibility by or to another part of the fellowship, service structure, or outside enterprise. Narcotics Anonymous trademarks should not be used in any way that would serve to endorse, finance, promote, or affiliate the NA Fellowship with any outside enterprise. Narcotics Anonymous trademarks should not be used in conjunction with any law enforcement, political, medical, or religious slogans, themes, or other related materials. Narcotics Anonymous trademarks should not be used or displayed in such a manner as to possibly offend or disrespect the sensibilities of other organizations, groups or NA as a whole. Narcotics Anonymous trademarks should not be used in any manner that could draw us into public controversy. Narcotics Anonymous trademarks should not be used on locally developed recovery literature.

**“NA Fellowship Approved” trademark** The “NA Fellowship Approved” trademark is used to indicate that a piece of recovery literature has been approved by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as given voice by its groups through their regional delegates at the World Service Conference. The “NA Fellowship Approved” trademark may not be used on any other materials. Marking trademarks Either the capital letter “R” or a “TM” should be placed inside a small circle to the right of all NA trademarks every time any of them are used. By doing so, we are showing that these logos are legally owned or registered trademarks. This is one way in which we help preserve the fellowship’s legal right to ownership of its trademarks. Protecting artwork Whenever an NA group, service board, or committee has an artist create original artwork, drawings, designs, or screens using any NA trademark, the NA body should always be sure the artist signs a document releasing to the NA body his or her rights to the artwork, including the original rendering. By doing so, we ensure that neither the NA logos nor any artwork that has been created for the benefit of the fellowship can later be used to benefit a private individual or an outside business enterprise.

**GUIDELINES FOR REPRODUCTION OF NA RECOVERY LITERATURE** NA World Services acts as the publisher of all NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature. As such, it has been entrusted with the responsibility to obtain copyright protection for these items on behalf of the fellowship. This ensures that the fellowship’s message as presented in our books and pamphlets is not tampered with. Narcotics Anonymous World Services is largely dependent on the income generated from the sale of NA recovery literature. This income is used to cover the costs of publishing as well as the expenses associated with other services provided to the World Service Conference and the NA Fellowship-at-large. A large part of NA World Service’s income comes from NA groups who purchase recovery literature to distribute at their meetings. Many groups consider their purchase of NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature as one way in which they contribute to the unity and growth of NA as a whole.

**Use by NA groups** As a general rule, no one has the authority to reproduce NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature without prior written permission from Narcotics Anonymous World Services. However, given the nature of our fellowship, our experience indicates that NA groups and only NA groups should have the authority to reproduce fellowship-approved recovery literature in certain instances. When preparing to reproduce NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature, NA groups should discuss the Fourth Tradition and follow all of these general guidelines:

1. An NA group should only reproduce NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature when it has a clear need to do so.
2. NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature reproduced by an NA group should be distributed only within that group. Such materials should always be given away free of charge; they should never be sold to generate income.
3. The text of NA Fellowship-approved books and pamphlets reproduced by an NA group should not be altered or modified in any way.
4. The copyright for the item being reproduced should be shown prominently as follows: “Copyright © [year of first publication], Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.”

**Use by registered NA service boards and committees** Registered NA service boards and committees who wish to quote or reprint portions of NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature should always include the proper notation or credit identifying the origin of the quote or reprinted portion they wish to use. Generally speaking, the length of a reprint or quote should not exceed 25% of the original piece. In the case of NA books, reprints or quotes should not exceed 25% of a single chapter or section. In the case of an article from The NA Way Magazine, the entire piece may be used if the source is fully cited. Any use of NA’s name, trademarks or recovery literature that is not specifically covered is reserved to NAWS, Inc. The use covered in the Intellectual Property Bulletins does not create any other right or claim by the user to any of the fellowships marks under any theory of law, fact, or equity. This is the document identified by name in the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust Operating Rules, Article V, Section 1. It was approved by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as given voice by its groups through their regional service representatives at the World Service Conference as Trustor of the Fellowship IP Trust on 27 April 1993, and revised by the regional delegates at the World Service Conference on 30 April 1997, and 27 April 1998.

It may be changed only by the Trustor. To register, or for more information, contact the NA World Services, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA, Tel: (818) 773-9999, Website: [www.na.org](http://www.na.org).

Attachment #2

**NA WORLD SERVICES, INC.** PO Box 9999 Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA Phone (818) 773-9999 Fax (818) 700-0700  
[www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

## **NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS COPYRIGHTS AND LITERATURE**

### **1991 WSC Motion passed by 2/3 voice vote:**

*To reaffirm that the World Service Office, Inc. is the exclusive publisher and distributor of all World Service Conference-approved literature, including all books, pamphlets, handbooks, and other intellectual and physical properties, as directed by the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous through the World Service Conference.*

This essay is being distributed in response to illicit publication and distribution of the Basic Text. As many of you know, this is not a new issue, but recently this activity has increased along with extensive outreach campaigns to members to join forces, obtain free or low cost literature, and distribute it. Some have even challenged World Services to take legal action, using Fellowship funds to do so. We do not want to have to resolve this matter in court, and we believe most of the Fellowship does not want that either. This has become a politicized matter to a great extent, but what's most important to us, as a fellowship, isn't about politics or even the law; it's about spiritual principles.

We are certainly not strangers to the idea that some members of our fellowship are critical of World Services. However, there is no justifiable reason for the illicit production and distribution of NA literature; it is just wrong, and frankly, it's contrary to the clearly expressed group conscience of the fellowship and principle of unity expressed in our First Tradition. We owe our lives to the message of recovery and hope contained in our literature and the current controversy must not ever be permitted to threaten the integrity of that message.

The fact is, the approval of the Sixth Edition Basic Text at the 2008 World Service Conference was a unanimous expression of consensus. The vote was followed by "hugs, tears, and a standing ovation" (WSC 2008 minutes). The Sixth Edition is the only approved edition of the Basic Text in English.

Part of our job at World Services is to protect the fellowship's property on its behalf. We would prefer to never have to write an essay such as this, but we are simply trying to fulfill our responsibilities and honor the trust that was placed in us as members of the World Board. Our duty is clearly outlined in *A Guide to World Services in NA*, the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust*, and our bylaws. These policies are the result of much controversy and pain in the late 1980s and early 90s, long before any of us served in our current positions. The issues were taken up in numerous *Conference Agenda Reports*, discussions at World Service Conferences, and even a lawsuit against a member. That painful process culminated with representatives of all parties involved sitting down and hammering out an agreement to pose the issues in dispute to the fellowship in the *Conference Agenda Report* and let group conscience decide. The fellowship overwhelmingly voiced its conscience on these matters at WSC 1991, passing several motions including one "To reaffirm and ratify that the ownership of all of NA's intellectual and physical properties prepared in the past, and to be prepared into the future, is held by WSO, Inc., which holds such title in trust on behalf of the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, in accordance with the decisions of the World Service Conference" (67 yes, 9 no, 3 abstaining).

This led to the fellowship's adoption of the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT)* in 1993. The purpose of the *FIPT* is to "hold and administer all recovery literature and other intellectual properties of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous in a manner that will help addicts find recovery from the disease of addiction and carry that message of recovery to the addict who still suffers, in keeping with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of NA" (*FIPT*).

The recent publication and distribution of the Basic Text by members not authorized by World Services seems to ignore all of these fellowship decisions. This is about protecting the future of Narcotics Anonymous so that the message, as expressed in our literature, is available to the addict who hasn't found us yet. If you are a trusted servant, you may have been asked questions about illicit NA literature or you may have questions yourself. Here are a few of the more common things people ask about.

**Why is it so important to protect our copyrights?**

This is first and foremost about the integrity of the NA message and the need to protect NA's property so that NA can continue to own its own material. We have a duty to ensure that Narcotics Anonymous literature contains text agreed upon by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. Protecting our copyrights is the only way to guarantee the conceptual fidelity of NA literature and to safeguard the property of the NA Fellowship.

### **Why can't we have free literature or a low-cost Basic Text?**

The conference has repeatedly entertained and soundly defeated motions to create a low-cost Basic Text. This is fundamentally an issue of economics. Most of World Services' income comes from profit on the sales of literature, and we give away or subsidize more than a half million dollars' worth of literature each year. The money you don't spend on literature impacts our ability to respond to requests for literature from addicts across the globe. We are not a normal business; we are a spiritual fellowship that has to manage a business. But in order to fulfill our mission—to work toward a future where "every addict in the world has a chance to hear the message in his or her own language and culture"—we need to remain financially stable and to protect the property of Narcotics Anonymous. Similarly, many regions and areas depend on the sales of literature to keep phonelines running, texts getting delivered to prisons, and so on.

At the same time, it is important that our message remains accessible to all addicts regardless of their financial situation. *An Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous* is an inexpensive piece of literature that contains the basics of the NA program. The *Intro Guide* was created through Conference action as an alternative to a low-cost Basic Text.

### **What can I do about illicit publication of the Basic Text and other NA literature?**

The only people who can really protect the fellowship's property are NA members and groups. Only our members and groups can effectively enforce the decisions made by the fellowship and put a stop to illicit distribution of NA literature. We are asking you not to participate in this sort of activity and not to condone it. Please help us protect NA's property and take a stand against its illegal production.

Educate yourself and those around you. This memo has been motivated by the purposeful illicit production of NA literature, but there is also a great deal of unintended violation of the FIPT—a service body decides to copy IPs and sell them to groups, a member gets a .pdf of a text and shares it with sponsees; these actions are actually not in line with the Fellowship's decisions and copyright laws. If you are unsure of what is and isn't okay in terms of reproducing NA literature or trademarks, the bulletins related to the *FIPT* answer most any question you might have:

<http://www.na.org/fipt>.

For those who want more background information, following is a brief factual history of the development of the Basic Text, the issues that arose as a result, and the decisions of the Fellowship at the World Service Conference.

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BASIC TEXT**

The World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous approved the Basic Text in May 1982. Having no experience in publishing a full-length book, publication of the First Edition was a very difficult job for the World Service Office. In addition to major problems with the printer initially chosen to publish the book, conceptual problems arose. In the course of preparing the approval-form book for publication, it was noted that portions of the essays on Traditions Four and Nine made it appear that the NA service structure should not be considered a part of Narcotics Anonymous. After much discussion, the WSO Board of Directors and the World Service Board of Trustees agreed that these portions should be removed from the book before publication of the First Edition. In response, the chairperson of the WSC Literature Committee attempted to revoke the earlier release to the WSO of rights to the Basic Text. However, when the World Service Conference met in May 1983, no motion was made to uphold the literature chairperson's action. On the contrary, new WSO by-laws were accepted, clearly stating that NA literature should be held in a charitable trust by the corporation on the fellowship's behalf. The WSO-copyrighted First Edition was officially released on 27 April 1983 by the World Service Office, using the name of CARENA Publishing Company.

Less than a month later, WSC action effectively created the Second Edition Basic Text. Conference minutes of 1983 reflect that a motion was passed, directing "that our book be completely returned to its [original] approved form in subsequent printings." The Second Edition of the Basic Text was released on 28 September 1983, with the missing lines reinserted. The year after the conference directed WSO to reinsert the missing lines from the traditions essays into the Basic Text, the WSC decided that the issue should ultimately be settled directly by the NA Fellowship. In 1984, regional service representatives were asked to poll their groups on whether the wording of the essays on the Fourth and Ninth Traditions should be as reflected in both the original approval form and the Second Edition, or as reflected in the First Edition. The question was submitted to the fellowship in a seven-page document including the proposed changes and the reasons both for making the change and for keeping the text as approved. The fellowship's response was thirty-six votes in favor of changing the text and eight against changing the text. Therefore, at the next printing—the Third Edition—the words originally deleted from the approval-form when the First Edition was

published were again deleted, this time in response to a direct vote of the fellowship. The Third Edition was formally released on 20 October 1984.

The 1985 World Service Conference passed a motion to edit the Basic Text for grammatical consistency and correctness. The motion called for the revised text to be reviewed and approved by the Literature Review Committee of the WSCLC. At the time, however, the Literature Committee was busy putting together *It Works: How and Why*, so these edits were not completed before the 1986 World Service Conference.

The 1986 conference, nonetheless, moved for further revisions to the Basic Text: A motion was passed to publish a revised version of the Little White Book and to edit the Basic Text to reflect those changes. The revisions to the Little White Book were ones that most members noticed because they changed what was read at most meetings. The Basic Text Third Edition, Revised

#### 2013 Basic Text Timeline Commemorating 30 Years

was released in November 1986 and reflected the changes made in the Little White Book, but not the professional edit.

In the course of reviewing the draft of the professionally edited Basic Text, as charged by the conference, the Literature Review Committee discovered six conceptual inconsistencies with the newly revised Little White Book. The committee consulted with the WSO Board of Directors and the World Service Board of Trustees, and a decision was made to defer publication of the Fourth Edition until the conference was able to make a decision about the additional changes necessary to bring the text in line with the Little White Book. The 1987 WSC approved five of those six changes. The Fourth Edition Basic Text, published in October 1987, included these five changes, the earlier conceptual changes brought about by revising the Little White Book, as well as the professional edits. This was also the first version of the Basic Text to include a subject index, per 1986 WSC action.

Not long after the publication of the Fourth Edition, the WSO and the WSC Literature Committee began receiving complaints about errors in the Basic Text. After multiple rounds of line-by-line revision, it was discovered that there were serious transcription errors made in the typescript from which the professional editor worked. At the 1988 WSC, a motion was made to reinsert the missing lines from the Third Edition back into the Basic Text. Some felt that the changes in question were substantial enough to require broader fellowship review, but overall the conference did not agree and voted not even to consider the motion to send a special ballot to RSCs on the matter. Two other motions, very similar to one another, were defeated by overwhelming majorities; these motions sought to return to publication of the Third Edition, Revised, instead of printing a corrected Fourth Edition (i.e., Fifth Edition).

Despite the debate, the motion to reinsert the missing lines passed with significantly more than a 2/3 majority, and the Fifth Edition Basic Text was subsequently published later in 1988. Included in the motion was an amendment making the Basic Text “not eligible for revision for five years from this conference.” The 1993 World Service Conference extended the moratorium for another five years. In 1998 a similar motion for a moratorium failed, but the conference passed a motion to commit to the World Board all input, including motions and amendments, related to revising the Basic Text and Little White Book. The board was to present a proposal to the 2000 World Service Conference. At the 2000 conference, participants voted to begin a process of evaluating possible changes to the Basic Text and/or Little White Book. That process ultimately led to the project that created the Sixth Edition Basic Text. At WSC 2008, three *CAR* motions creating the Sixth Edition Basic Text were unanimously adopted. These motions were (1) to replace the existing stories in the Fifth Edition Basic Text with those contained in the *CAR*; (2) add a new Preface to the Sixth Edition, change the title “Book One” and “Book Two” to “our Program” and “Our Members Share,” add abstracts of each story to the Table of Contents, approve the “Reflections” and the specific titles for the sections of the stories; and (3) give the World Board the ability to update statistical information (number of NA meetings, etc.) in the new preface. The rest of the decisions about the Sixth Edition were carried by substantial majority (over two-thirds) but were not unanimous. The additional motions approved were to include a revised index and make two specific copyedits to the first ten chapters. Those copyedits were to replace “N.A.” with “NA” and to remove a footnote in Tradition Eleven that referenced a PI guide that no longer exists.

This brought us to the current version of the text, and the following statement was added to *A Guide to World Services in NA*: “WSC 2008 approved the Sixth Edition Basic Text. Once it becomes available in October 2008, the Sixth Edition will be the only edition approved for NAWS production with the exceptions called out in the Translations Policy.”

#### 1991 WSC

“That the fellowship reconsider its decision on which edition, or parts thereof (First, Second, Third, Third Revised, Fourth, or Fifth), of the Basic Text shall be produced and distributed by the WSO as the official and accepted text of Narcotics Anonymous.” (Motion failed by roll call vote 23-51-6)



“That the WSO produce, at a reduced price, the edition of the text ratified by the WSC. The actual price of this text should be determined in view of the following factors: its affordability to the membership at large; a change in the cost and quality of the materials used in producing the book; the responsibility of the WSO to provide services from the income generated by sales of the Basic Text; and whether it includes the personal stories or only the first ten chapters.” (Motion failed by voice vote)

“That the WSC be directed to obtain a group-by-group tally of all the groups registered with the WSO, on Motions 13 and 14 above. This procedure will begin on July 1, 1991 and continue through December 31, 1991. All the registered groups shall receive a copy of a paper detailing the differences between the editions of the Basic Text, and a complete copy of the Basic Text Third Edition, Revised. In addition, each group shall receive complete information concerning the issues relevant to a reduction in the price of the ratified text. [The motion includes one more paragraph detailing the committee to supervise the tally.]” (Motion failed by roll call vote 21-55-4.)

## **PROTECTING THE FELLOWSHIP'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The statement added to *GWSNA* about the Sixth Edition was explained in the *Conference Agenda Report* that year, and followed from a decision made at the 1991 conference about the Fifth. In 1990, some NA members took it upon themselves to print a version of the NA Basic Text, Book One, which they had created by combining the Third Edition, Revised, with the essays on Traditions Four and Nine from the Second Edition. In a US federal court hearing, the primary individual responsible for publishing the hybridized Basic Text at that time agreed to stop, and the World Service Office Board of Directors agreed to place three motions before the NA Fellowship in the 1991 *Conference Agenda Report*.

NA Literature Timeline All three motions were published in the *CAR*, were subsequently placed before the 1991 World Service Conference, and were defeated.

Following an extended discussion among all conference participants and the deliberations of an ad hoc committee, the WSC decided to issue the following statement to the fellowship:

“The Basic Text, Fifth Edition, is the only edition of the Basic Text that is currently approved by the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous for publication and sale. The World Service Office Board of Directors is entrusted with the responsibility for protecting the fellowship's physical and intellectual properties, including the Basic Text, and at the Board of Director's discretion shall take legal action to protect those rights against any and all persons who choose to infringe upon this literature trust.”

Two related motions were also passed at WSC '91 regarding NA intellectual property ownership and publishing. On a roll call vote with 67 yes votes, 9 no, and 3 abstaining, the following motion was carried: “To reaffirm and ratify that the ownership of all of NA's intellectual and physical properties prepared in the past and to be prepared in the future is held by WSO, Inc., which holds such title in trust on behalf of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole in accordance with the decisions of the World Service Conference.”

The other related motion was carried by a two-thirds majority voice vote: “To reaffirm that the World Service Office, Inc., is the exclusive publisher and distributor of all World Service Conference-approved literature, including all books, pamphlets, handbooks, and other intellectual and physical properties, as directed by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous through the World Service Conference.”

Regarding the issue of a low-cost Basic Text, the 1991 WSC did recognize that an inexpensive book containing the basics of NA recovery would be a great product to have for newcomers at meetings. A motion that directed the WSO and WSC Literature Committee to compile and publish such a book, to be called *An Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous*, passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **CONCLUSION**

Considering the events recounted above, it seems quite clear that the NA Fellowship has expressed its conscience on the matter of its recovery literature. Any efforts by individuals or groups to reprint altered NA literature do not reflect the conscience of the NA Fellowship. The NA groups, as owners of NA's copyrights, and NA World Services, as trustees in the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust*, are partners in the effort to protect NA's copyrights. We are asking that you embrace this partnership and remember that NA groups and members have the right and the responsibility to demand that those who would reprint or modify NA literature refrain from doing so. Personal recovery depends on NA unity; we must work together to safeguard the integrity of our life-saving literature.