

BASIC TEXT PROJECT

The review period for the Basic Text project ended at the close of February, and there is much to do between now and the release of the final draft in September. The workgroup is busy reading through the fellowship input and making recommendations for revisions to the draft. We look forward to their report and in the meantime are still busy collecting stories to fill the gaps in the text. As we've shared with you before, we see some obvious geographical gaps in the collection, and we are working hard to find pieces that might fill those. We've also talked about including a piece from a member diagnosed with a mental illness who remains on medication. As the input has come in, some of you have shared this concern with us as well.

In addition to that work on the draft, we have spent some time discussing decisions that will need to be made at the conference and how to frame the material in the *Conference Agenda Report*. We want to share our thoughts with you now, as soon as possible, so that you can begin discussing some of these issues in your local regions and areas before turning your attention to the approval draft.

Separate Motion to Replace Stories

One of the possibilities we discussed at our last meeting is including a separate motion in the *Conference Agenda Report* to replace the existing stories with those contained in the approval draft. We think we will offer this as a distinct motion to separate the issues so that it will be easier for RDs and others to workshop the material. If this motion is adopted, then a motion would be offered to approve the remainder of the draft (the preface, introduction, section titles, reflections, and abstracts).

Remove Book One and Book Two Designations

We also made some decisions about a number of the issues we've mentioned over the course of this project. As we report in the cover material for the review draft, we will recommend removing the titles "Book One" and "Book Two" from the text and replacing them with "Our Program" and "Our Members Share," respectively. We haven't heard strong feelings about this recommendation either way since we first mentioned it.

Update Statistical Information Regularly

Another issue that will be addressed through a motion in the CAR is the ability to update the statistical information in the preface. As is indicated in the review draft, the numbers of meetings, countries, and so on would be updated regularly with an "as of" date in the footnote.

Quotes from the Basic Text in *JFT*

There are more than a dozen quotations in *Just for Today* that come from the existing personal stories in the Basic Text. We have talked quite a bit in our board meetings about how to best handle this issue. As you may recall, we were confronted with this same circumstance when approving the revised *Sponsorship* IP at WSC 2004. At that time, we recommended replacing the three quotes in question. That solution becomes increasingly impractical and inelegant as we continue to update and revise literature. In fact, replacing the existing *Youth and Recovery* IP will bring up another instance of this same issue. The best recommendation we have is to remove the citation entirely (the citation is the reference under the quotation that tells where it comes from) and to add a footnote at the beginning of *Just for Today* that explains that quotes without a citation refer to literature no longer in print. Because the reference information refers people to the original text if they want to read more, and this will no longer be an option if the text is not in print, this seemed like the most logical approach—and one that would not necessitate purchase of new editions of *JFT* by our members.

Revised Index

The final two items we discussed recommending in the CAR were not part of the project plan, nor were they mentioned in the review draft. Nonetheless, we think they will improve the text, and so we will include motions in the

CAR for the fellowship to consider. Long before this project ever started, people asked for a revised index to the Basic Text, and since the release of the Sixth Edition draft for review, the request has been rekindled, coming up in the input repeatedly. Of course, we would need at the very least to update the existing index if the Sixth Edition gets approved, but we would like to do more than that. The current index is not always as helpful as it could be. In some cases it merely lists a word every time it appears in the text rather than where someone can read about that idea or concept. Other times it doesn't even do that. We would like to take the opportunity to improve the index and will have a motion making that recommendation.

Copyedits to Chapters 1–10

The final issue we discussed may look scary at first glance. “Copyedit” is a word that can mean a number of different things. In this case, we are recommending two very specific changes that do not affect the content of the text. First, we would like to see the name “N.A.” with periods after the two capital letters replaced by “NA” with no periods. In all other material we publish, including the steps and traditions themselves, we have edited the periods to reflect our use of NA as a name, not just an abbreviation for Narcotics Anonymous, but we have not taken this liberty with the Basic Text because of our history with the text and the strong feelings attached to it. The second item we will be asking to revise is the reference in the footnote to Tradition Eleven that mentions *A Guide to Public Information Newly Revised*. Again, in a different publication we would make such an update silently, but since this is the Basic Text, we feel it is important to fully communicate our ideas and include a motion in the *Conference Agenda Report*.