

Basic Text Project Update

The moment many of you have been waiting for is here. You can now sign up to receive the review-and-input draft of the Sixth Edition Basic Text. (For background on the project, see the solicitation flyer and other material on our website: www.na.org/conference/bt/index.htm.)

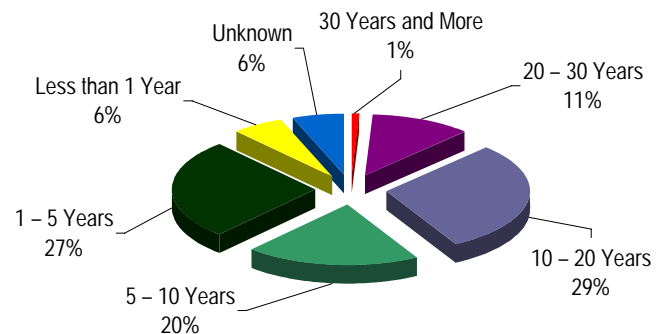
The draft will contain a new preface, a revised collection of stories relating personal recovery experiences, and an introduction to the personal experience section. The “personal stories”—and we may even have a new name for that part of the book when the review draft is issued—will each have an abstract describing them, and they may be divided into sections of some kind. Those of you who have read our reports from the beginning of the project have seen all of these ideas in the past, but now they are really taking shape in the draft itself. It’s exciting and sometimes even daunting, honestly. We have never attempted this sort of revision on the personal experience in the Basic Text, and we are all learning as we go. We want to put together the best book possible and we are breaking new ground here in many ways. We’re not here to tell you that we have it all put together and polished up and ready for your stamp of approval. We are still in the process, and we hope you will help us by reading and giving input on the draft and continuing to spread the word. We will try to answer below some of the more obvious questions you might have.

What have we received so far?

We want to thank each of you who contributed to the project so far. Whether you helped hold a workshop, sent us ideas about what kind of experience you’d like to see in the text, or wrote down your own experience and sent it in, we are so grateful for your contributions. We received more than 700 submissions. Your sharing has moved us, and we know that it will save lives. Thank you.

Clean time

More than 30 years clean: 6
 More than 20 years clean: 79
 Between 10 and 20 years clean: 204
 Between 5 and 10 years clean: 137
 Between 1 and 5 years clean: 185
 Less than 1 year clean: 39
 Unknown clean time: 41

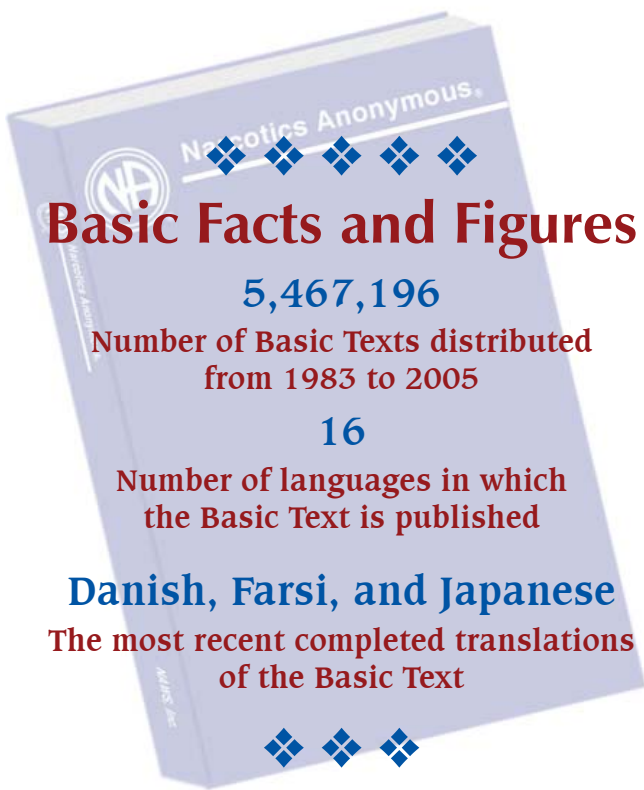


Location

United States: 534 (from 46 states plus the District of Columbia)
 Outside the United States: 161 (from the countries listed below)

Argentina	Germany	Mexico	Puerto Rico	Turkey
Australia	Greece	Nepal	Russia	United Kingdom
Belgium	India	Netherlands	Saudi Arabia	Venezuela
Brazil	Ireland	New Zealand	Spain	West Indies
Canada	Israel	Nicaragua	Sweden	
Colombia	Italy	Norway	Switzerland	
France	Japan	Portugal	Trinidad	





What kinds of revisions would be possible?

Of course, the answer to this question depends in large part on what you tell us you'd like to see. There will be a new preface and an introduction to the personal experience section of the book; the input on these items should be fairly straightforward. What may bear explaining are the possible changes to the personal experience section.

One of the primary considerations is a vision of the work as a whole. It has been quite a job to evaluate more than 700 pieces of writing and to compile the collection you will see in the draft. But our job isn't over yet. The task in front of us now is to make sure the text paints a broad demographic picture of our fellowship. Think of it like an orchestra—we don't want too many strings and not enough horns. We are working hard to fill the gaps in the experience we have so far. For instance, we are still actively trying to collect material from some parts of the world—the Middle East, Africa, and so on. It may be that the final collection published in the approval form may have some pieces not in the review form, or that some of the pieces in the review form may not be in the approval form. We have tried to put together a set of experiences that work in concert, so adding a piece of writing may mean taking out another—or vice versa.

It's also possible that the editing may be within specific pieces. As we have mentioned throughout the course of the project, most of the pieces contained in the draft will be subject to editing. Many of us who can move everyone in a meeting to tears when we speak have trouble getting our thoughts and feelings down on paper. Editing can help us share our recovery in print—to be as effective on the page as we are in our meeting rooms. The pieces you will see in the review-and-input draft will have already been edited, and it may be that we will do further editing because of the input we receive.

In sum, we want to make everyone aware that there may be changes between the review-and-input and approval drafts. In fact, input wouldn't count for much if it couldn't change a text. So please be a part of the process. Sign up and tell us what you think. Be a part of history.

“From the isolation of our addiction, we find a fellowship of people with a common bond of recovery. NA is like a lifeboat in a sea of isolation, hopelessness, and destructive chaos. Our faith, strength, and hope come from people sharing their recovery.”

Basic Text, page 94

How do I get a review-and-input draft?

We will send a copy of the draft to all conference participants, all regional service committees, all area service committees, and any members with interest who sign up. You can sign up online—access the link from this page: www.na.org/conference/index.htm—or you can contact NA World Services via email or post and have a hard copy of the draft sent to you:

NAWS, Inc.
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
worldboard@na.org

And then what happens?

After you sign up, when the review draft is published, we will either send you a copy in the post, or you will be able to download it. The review period for the draft will be six months, from 1 September 2006 to 28 February 2007. We are trying to make it as easy as possible for you to give input, and so we will be accepting input in a variety of ways. We will have a form posted on our website that you can fill out online or download and fill out, or you can send input via email or post. It's easiest for us if you sign up and give input electronically, but we welcome input in whatever form it comes.

Your input will help shape any changes to the text. The revised version will be issued as the approval draft, which is the draft that will be voted on at the 2008 World Service Conference. The approval draft will be published in September 2007.