

Narcotics Anonymous

It Works:
How and Why

Part Two
Traditions Input

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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.

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Networks Anonymous
It Works: How and Why
Traditions Input

VOLUME TWO

It Works: How and Why
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| TITLE | PAGE |
|--|------|
| TRADITION ONE (Outline) | 1 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 3 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 7 |
| Newsline Articles | 18 |
| General Input | 23 |
| TRADITION TWO (Outline) | 31 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 33 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 38 |
| Newsline Articles | 53 |
| General Input | 64 |
| TRADITION THREE (Outline) | 71 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 73 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 77 |
| Newsline Articles | 89 |
| General Input | 91 |
| TRADITION FOUR (Outline) | 107 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 109 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 115 |
| General Input | 125 |

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For Review and Input Only
Input Due Oct. 31, 1989**

**WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE
TRADITION REVIEW MATERIAL BOOK - 1988**

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

| TITLE | PAGE |
|--|------|
| TRADITION FIVE (Outline) | 133 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 136 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 140 |
| General Input | 150 |
| TRADITION SIX (Outline) | 157 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 159 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 164 |
| Newsline Articles | 179 |
| General Input | 197 |
| TRADITION SEVEN (Outline) | 202 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 204 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 210 |
| Newsline Articles | 228 |
| General Input | 233 |
| TRADITION EIGHT (Outline) | 250 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 252 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 255 |
| General Input | 263 |
| TRADITION NINE (Outline) | 286 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 288 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 293 |

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For Review and Input Only
Input Due Oct. 31, 1989**

**WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE
TRADITION REVIEW MATERIAL BOOK - 1988**

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

| TITLE | PAGE |
|---|------------|
| Newsline Articles | 303 |
| General Input | 306 |
| TRADITION TEN (Outline) | 313 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 315 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 318 |
| General Input | 327 |
| TRADITION ELEVEN (Outline) | 331 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 333 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 336 |
| Newsline Article..... | 346 |
| General Input | 347 |
| TRADITION TWELVE (Outline) | 354 |
| Blue Review Book Draft..... | 356 |
| 1986/1987 Unpublished Draft..... | 364 |
| General Input | 377 |

WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE
 1988 TRADITIONS REVIEW MATERIAL BOOK
 INDEX OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION*

| DESCRIPTION | ITEM NO. |
|---|--------------|
| INTRODUCTORY: | Introductory |
| N.A. Way Articles BOT Transcripts N.A. Speaker Meeting - History Transcript | |
| TRADITION ONE: | 1 |
| N.A. Way Articles Member Interviews Transcripts BOT Transcripts | |
| TRADITION TWO: | 2 |
| N.A. Way Articles Member Interviews Transcripts BOT Transcripts | |
| TRADITION THREE: | 3 |
| N.A. Way Articles Member Interviews Transcripts BOT Transcripts | |
| TRADITION FOUR: | 4 |
| N.A. Way Articles BOT Transcripts | |
| TRADITION FIVE: | 5 |
| N.A. Way Articles BOT Transcripts Member Interviews Transcripts | |
| TRADITION SIX: | 6 |
| N.A. Way Articles BOT Transcripts Member Interviews Transcripts | |

INDEX OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

| DESCRIPTION | ITEM NO. |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| TRADITION SEVEN: | 7 |
| N.A. Way Articles | |
| BOT Transcripts | |
| Member Interviews Transcripts | |
| TRADITION EIGHT: | 8 |
| BOT Transcripts | |
| Member Interviews Transcripts | |
| TRADITION NINE: | 9 |
| BOT Transcripts | |
| TRADITION TEN: | 10 |
| N.A. Way Articles | |
| Member Interviews Transcripts | |
| BOT Transcripts | |
| TRADITION ELEVEN: | 11 |
| N.A. Way Articles | |
| BOT Transcripts | |
| Member Interviews Transcripts | |
| TRADITION TWELVE: | 12 |
| N.A. Way Articles | |
| BOT Transcripts | |
| Member Interviews Transcripts | |

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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

