

Literature Committee Quarterly Meeting – April 3, 2015, 1:30 pm EST

DRAFT SUMMARY

Attendees:

Larry A., Chair
Robin R.
Bonnie K-M
Susan C.
Christine D.
Mardi M.
Patti H.
Xanthi T.
Kathy
Jude
Marietta B.
Desiree V.
Bruno V.
Valentina

Open with serenity prayer

Introductions

In the 1990's ACA had a conference table full of literature. The pieces were all interesting, colorful and artistic. But no one had an idea of the program or how to experience recovery. A literature piece can be interesting, but still not benefit us as adult children, nor guide those who approach us on how to recover. The *Schematicized Recovery Packet* gives a sense of where along the recovery spectrum a potential piece for publication belongs. The *Schematicized Recovery Packet* is Martin Smith's copyrighted material. We can use it for internal purposes, but we can't publish it. WSO is not putting it as conference approved literature for groups to utilize. Groups are autonomous and can use anything they choose.

1) OVERVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Literature Committee Policy Statement – Joan B. was working on OPPM (Operations, Procedures, and Policy Manual) updates and expansions. Joan asked Larry A. for a literature update. Larry drafted a Literature Committee Policy Statement as a guideline for future direction of the literature committee.
- b) Literature Queue – Larry also created the Literature Queue. This short document shows the literature is 4 categories: Newcomers, Meetings, Service, and Future Literature Needs.
- c) Production Queue – The Production Queue (long document) shows the timeline of all projects in terms of each project's beginning, status, anticipated end date, and other information. Robin keeps all projects in production.
- d) Schematicized Recovery - The ***Schematicized Recovery Packet*** is the foundation of the ACA trauma recovery process. It is a condensed version of extensive research of literature written about dysfunctional families and traumatized people. We are allowed to use this for reference only. It is not meant for publication; it is copyrighted material owned by Martin Smith and otherwise not written with a mass market as its intended audience.

2) Formalizing literature sub-committees with specific objectives

- a) Spanish sub-committee
- b) *ComLine* sub-committee – this sub-committee been operational since the first quarter of 2015.
- c) Production sub-committee

- i) Non-English literature verification, printing, and all literature distribution outside the US. One function of the production subcommittee is to have translations verified by agencies to determine quality of translation. This includes syntax, word usage, overall construction, etc.

Recently, because of international currency exchange rates, we became more concerned that doing all the work in the US will cost WSO more, and would cost EU members more because of fluctuating exchange rates. Jeffrey, our WSO EU literature sub-committee member, is investigating various production costs overseas. It is possible that groups and Intergroups may become local distribution centers for ACA literature. They will need storage and a person to manage these mini-distribution centers.

- d) Literature review sub-committee – We need members to read, review, and recommend to the Literature Committee which items should be considered for development and moving forward. We are hoping that during the next literature meeting we can have a more active and intelligent discussion about these agenda items. Following is an updated list of all items submitted by the membership for review:

- i) Ready, Set, GO!!
 - ii) The True Parent Calls
 - iii) Telephone Meeting Guidelines
 - iv) “Honey, you are doing just fine!” as official ACA slogan
 - v) Laundry Lists Workbook Meditations book
 - vi) Workplace Laundry List as free literature on website
 - vii) “Beary Cute Bears” toys
 - viii) ACA Meeting Format as tri-fold
 - ix) Vignettes book (shares from the BRB)
 - x) Becoming Our Own Loving Parents tri-fold
 - xi) Stepping Up: Service in ACA tri-fold
 - xii) Sponsorship tri-fold
 - xiii) Sharing in ACA tri-fold
 - xiv) To Therapists trifold
 - xv) Letting Go of Dysfunction trifold

- xvi) Twelve Traditions workbook
- e) Research and Development of Current and New Projects – Some of these were authorized by ABC. Other pieces are developed, as they are needed. They include:
 - i) The Twelve Step Workbook expansion (current)
 - ii) ACA Service Manual (from BRB Section III)
 - iii) ACA’s Oral History & Online Archives – This involves interviewing those who were instrumental in starting ACA – many of whom are 70 years old and older. Larry is particularly interested in pursuing this project while these adult children are still available and willing to be interviewed.
 - iv) “ACAs and Their Bodies” – We are looking for authors who have an understanding of ACA steps and trauma body recovery to write “ACAs and Their Bodies”. We would especially like to get the medical community’s input in writing or overseeing the writing of trauma-recovery literature. Plans to combine “ACAs and Their Bodies”, and “The Basic Five & Six Essential Tasks” into one piece were abandoned because of copyright issues.
 - v) “Many Cultures: One ACA” – This was envisioned to begin in 2016-2017. We are nowhere near starting that project. Aspects of ACA cultures include:
 - (1) Minority communities
 - (2) Adolescents (young adults, and even children).
 - (3) Global communities
 - (4) “Golden Years” – older adult children. Some are older and new to ACA; others have been in the program for a long time
 - (5) Excerpting the BRB chapter about ACA Teens, many of these people do not see themselves or their experiences reflected in ACA literature.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Rich and Free-flowing

It is easy to see that ACA literature is a rich and free-flowing conversation that can go in different directions. The Literature Policy Statement is meant to serve as an umbrella: how do we develop this literature, given all the communities and constituencies that we have?

Groups Could Develop Their Own Literature

Groups could develop their own literature. Some groups look to have WSO produce literature that may be pertinent to one group, but not to another. The Literature Committee has to make hard choices as to what kinds of literature the fellowship needs and the allocation of resources – what has a universal appeal? This can be difficult to determine.

Literature Committee Initiatives

Several proposed items are on the production list for development. Some groups decided they wanted their items to bypass the Literature Committee and be presented to the fellowship as

ballot items at the ABC. Many of these did not receive positive treatment, partly because they did not appear to be clearly thought through.

Workload

In reviewing the literature queue and the production queue, it is easy to see how much work is being done, and what is behind that work – that we are now at maximum use. Our resources are stretched very thin. The most recent project, the Russian BRB, must be given production priority. When we receive other BRB translations (Japanese, Greek, French, etc.), they will be given priority treatment. We need to get these books into these people's hands.

Setting Priorities

Translations are a big priority: existing literature should be translated. New literature must be considered for translation. We need to be able to balance the workload we currently have with a workload we wish we could accomplish, and what the fellowship wants us to take on.

Christine pointed out her group speaks French. She would have to interpret and translate the Literature Committee Policy Statement for herself. Larry confirmed this is for the Literature Committee members' use. Eventually we will take it to an ABC or put it out as a proposal for the fellowship to adopt.

Literature Review Subcommittee

The Literature Review sub-committee promises to be interesting. We are hoping it works out well but realize there may be better ideas, and we are open to suggestions. A question was raised: Does making a proposed piece widely available subject it to public domain? How do we protect potential copyrights?

One member noted that that some of these pieces may be better tested at the group / intergroup / regional level before being suggested to the Literature Committee. Sub-committee members will have a strong voice in what goes into the Literature Committee queue. The attachments to the original meeting invitation can be forwarded to those who might qualify as a Literature sub-committee member.

The Literature Committee members need to establish trustworthiness. Reviewers would receive a non-alterable PDF with a watermark. It's hard to steal but can be done. If you receive a piece of literature for review, trust is that you will maintain its integrity. Larry asked that members who want to review literature send an email with their CV (experience and background, including recovery background). Please send your CV via email to litstaff@adultchildren.org with the subject line: Literature Review Subcommittee.

Regarding literature review, teams of at least 2 members for each piece of literature would be better than all of us looking at one piece and then rotating it.

Confidentiality

For those interested in participating in the Literature Review committee, we are asking asked for professional background or interests, and recovery background, etc. What might be beneficial is to assign certain people (a minimum of 2) to review a particular item.

From the very first digital copy click the WSO loses copyright protection. Assuming WSO advances \$10,000 in verifying, and \$8,000 in printing and shipping expenses: the only way to

justify that type of expenditure is because we think we can sell enough to be able to recoup those funds. It's a very tricky balance.

Unity of the fellowship is necessary. Only translation members have access to draft translations.

Much translated literature is free and downloadable. Regarding items not yet produced – they can be read; they can be printed with watermark to send to the next chairperson. We need to maintain some level of control over how widespread digital copies are being shared. In a commercial sense, if we allow unrestricted digital distribution and a piece of literature is in use for a year, WSO cannot defend the copyright.

For translators, the first thing we ask is that all translation groups sign a translation agreement. We can then send materials for translations, including the BRB and the meditations book,

Translators sign agreement and confirm that they will not re-sell their translations. They *can* use their translations within their group and they *can* use their translations in meetings. Translators *cannot* produce translated literature for sale or distribute translated literature electronically.

One example is “Ready, Set, GO!!”, an introduction to 12 steps that lasts 4 weeks. It was done in AA years ago (Back to Basics) and one group is trying to revive it.

“Ready, Set, GO!!” and other literature submissions could be subject to a “test run”, with a resulting recommendation to the Literature Committee. The Literature Committee could then recommend it to the board. The Board would decide to recommend it to delegates or not.

Questions to ask during review/test runs

- Where does it fit in with literature we have currently available e.g., newcomers, beginners, old-timer, service, etc.?
- How does it fit in with ACA recovery?
- How does it fit in with what's already being utilized?

The Literature Review sub-committee would be made up of different sets of people: each set would practice their assigned piece and let the Literature Committee know what they think: how the literature tested; what the piece would need to be effective, etc. This procedure would be applied to all submissions and to allow for a fair and impartial review of literature.

The Literature Committee Policy Statement needs to be clear about translations. We may need to translate policy statement.

Receiving Pre-production Materials

It is easier for the literature committee to receive a translated book in its entirety. It then goes through a verification process. Jeffrey F. (Chair, European Literature sub-committee) is looking for local resources for verification process. The item then goes to Robin for pre-production (layout).

After layout, we get quotes from printers for printing (production). Jeffrey is also investigating local printers in each country for a cost-benefit analysis.

Translation Group's Benefit

The translation group who submits a BRB or WB translation receives a one-time limited right to the first printing. The translation group can order 500-700 copies of work for local distribution. The

translation group gets the translated book at cost (WSO receives no money for this). The one-time limited right to the first printing is to encourage groups to translate.

WSO can print subsequent copies for sale to groups who want it. Distribution is dependent on cost-benefit to the group(s). Time for distribution varies. After a book is in circulation for 10 years, the WSO is obligated at some point to send it for professional word-for-word verification. It will then be published as a verified translation. A statement will be inserted on the copyright page: "This translation has been verified by WSO."

Translator's Use of Translated Materials

Some groups take years to translate a book. Sometimes the Literature Committee will receive a completely translated book that they did not expect. We need to allow flexibility in our schedule to get books into the queue so we can get them to the translation groups.

If you are on a Skype meeting, and have a draft translation, you can read it out but not distribute it. Digital copy distribution affects pricing.

Literature Preview

We hear and feel that countries outside of the US want literature. How can WSO make it affordable? One way is through local production, with electronic version availability. However, there are parts of the world where we cannot print locally, and electronic versions do not work because of lack of power and technology. Those parts of the world may have severe problems getting literature into their community. Hopefully this committee can address those barriers.

Most of us have other responsibilities and other projects. Bonnie is the Intergroup subcommittee chair. Larry and Robin have other projects in the works. The quarterly Literature meeting is for the entire Literature Committee. However, subcommittees can meet weekly if they like.

The Literature Committee Chair will assign projects based on interests and backgrounds in the CV's we receive. "Ready, Set, GO!!" was sent in 2013, and it has been on our web site for approximately a year. Taking the time to review literature will do no damage.

After reading the *Schematicized Recovery Packet*, the Literature Committee Policy Statement, reviewing the queues, we may find that three months is not enough time.

We should ask ourselves: "How would I explain this to a newcomer?" We should read this material as though we were going to teach it to another person. We should consider the possibility of meetings with Marty S. Then we should each decide if there is anything in particular we would like to do.

The *Schematicized Recovery Packet* is Marty's attempt to write one document that encapsulates his experience, what he reviewed, and what is published. It is not meant for mass consumption. It is meant to serve as a thorough foundational piece. It provides a conceptual framework for reviewing a piece of literature to see how it fits into recovery.

In three months the Literature Review sub-committees will be formally launched. The ABC is April 22-24. Following that is work on the 10-year commemorative edition of BRB. Then Larry plans to focus on the ACA Historical Literature. This is all outside of the daily activities each of us faces. It makes sense to allow members to engage with a project easily and comfortably. This is much better than rush projects.

Production

Jeffrey is investigating local resources for verification of the Russian BRB, the Finnish WB, and literature we are expecting in Japanese and Greek. Jeffrey may be in touch with the Greek translation coordinator. After the Literature Committee receives the Greek translation of the meditation book, we expect it will take six months to produce.

Moving Forward

Larry proposes we establishing a mailing list. Those interested should first review the Literature Committee Policy Statement. Note: aside from producing *new* literature, there is a drag in terms of getting *existing* literature translated! So, when we produce a meditation book, it may be in circulation for a period of time before adult children in the Netherlands receive it, or when adult children in Spain receive it. We only have so much energy, time, and resources to produce, store, print, and distribute. We need to be mindful of the supply chain.

Larry proposes a quarterly meeting. Before the next meeting, those interested please read the Literature Committee Policy Statement. Make your edits and track your changes. Highlight the sections you want to discuss; indicate items you want to change entirely.

In the next 3 months we will look for comments on the policy statement. We will meet again in July to discuss it.

Literature Committee members are asked to review all the documents sent in the original invitation so we can engage in emails discussing those items between now and our next quarterly meeting, which will be in mid-July.

We are holding quarterly meetings. The production queue shows that carving out 1, 2, or 3 hours each month to set up meeting minutes, agenda, and scheduling requires a lot of time. The Literature Committee Policy Statement, the literature queues, and the *Schematicized Recovery Packet* are 45 pages. Quarterly meetings allow members to take time to review the materials so they can understand the breadth and depth of what being a member of the Literature Committee really means.

The *Schematicized Recovery Packet* is a rich piece of literature. Even if we scheduled weekly meeting with Marty for an hour, it would take six months just to review this one piece. Since it could take three months to review a piece of literature, monthly literature meetings would slow down existing production.

Currently there are about 1500 meetings that serve 15,000 adult children. The Literature Committee is trying to get a unique set of people together – people with the willingness and clarity to see this is as a way they can give back. The Literature Committee requests – please – if you know anyone with the inclination to do this, please forward this information to them.

As part of the ACA Historical Piece of Literature, we need to interview people who were part of ACA or witnessed its development from the very beginning. These are the original Golden People – those who have aged with the program. The ACA Historical Literature will be one of Larry's priorities right after the ABC. Help with that project will be welcome. We are looking for an unvarnished history that does not gloss over developmental issues – what it really was like. This document should be truthful and fair.

General Commentary

Italy is a non-English speaking country. Italian adult children translate from English into Italian because they want a natural-sounding literature. They have no books or official literature. They are using translations not approved and still need literature. ACA is in Italy since 1995. The Italian translators are working with Robin, and want to know: What is the next step to get literature translated into Italian? How long to have translations uploaded?

In Greece the fellowship is new, about 1.5 years. At this point the only service the Greek translators feel they can provide is to serve on the translation committee.

For those who are unable to attend committee meetings: consider informing someone from your group may who want to be a part of this exciting future.

Close meeting with serenity prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin R., Literature Committee Staff