

A.R.T.S. Literature Committee Report for the January 2025 Conference

The work of the Literature Committee has continued with collecting stories and Author Permissions for a Members Stories book, updating and reviewing the Traits and Talents, and beginning work on developing A.R.T.S. Literature on the Twelve Steps.

Members Stories Subcommittee: This committee is in its second year of meeting twice a month. Out of this committee came two workshops inviting members to write and submit their A.R.T.S. Anonymous experience, strength and hope (ESH) stories. Two scripts were created, one outlined suggested way to write the ESH story. The second outlined a guide for leading a writing workshop with their group. These scripts are available to members through communication announcements via the Newsletter and the Website.

As a result of the workshops and communications, 16 members submitted their stories. Out of the 16, 13 completed and returned a completed Author's Release Form. Two of the three wish to revise their story, and one remains to return the Author's Release form.

One member of the group reached out to Dublin and London to open up a discussion inviting countries in Europe to consider involving their groups to host a Member's Stories Workshop for their members to write, submit and contribute to the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Member's Stories Publication project. Hopefully these seed ideas will sprout to grow and reach back to us.

Traits, Talents and Tools Subcommittee: The Tools were updated and sent to the 2023 World Service Conference, where they were crafted and passed. In addition, the 2023 Conference approved an Introduction to the Twelve Traits and amendments to Trait 7. There remained but two items for the Subcommittee to do under its then brief, as follows:

- 1) Submit to the Literature Committee the final, draft review updating of the 12 Talents. This work had been completed by the T,T&T Subcommittee in late 2023. But the draft report was held over until January 2024 before sending it into the Literature Committee.
- 2) Addressing the tense of the 12 Traits, placing the wording of each Trait into the past tense. Members of the Subcommittee met three times for this work. A final, draft report of the 12 Traits, written in past tense, was sent to the Literature Committee on May 2nd, 2024. The purpose is to present the Traits as something in the past, and that recovery does happen. (Note: the Steps are presented in the past tense.)

A review of the suggested updates to the Traits and Talents was conducted by the Literature Committee during 2024 and some amendments were made and passed. At its October 12 meeting the Board of Trustees approved the recommended updates for consideration by the January 2025 World Service Conference.

Pamphlets Subcommittee: An update to the pamphlet *The Creative ProcesZ* was presented to the Literature Committee in January 2024. The purpose of the updates was to remove the 'second person' tone and present the material in the third person so as to make it more

accessible for personal identification. The decision was made to suspend this project for the time being. Reasons included that it was questionable if this represented the collective voice on such an extensive topic, and whether the pamphlet included experience, strength and hope in a 12-Step program of recovery. The Pamphlets Subcommittee has suspended its work for the time being.

Steps Subcommittee: At the 2023 World Service Conference, one topic of discussion was on Accessibility of Literature, and the need for Conference-Approved Literature on the Steps, among other concerns. The first Literature Committee meetings of the year included discussion on next projects for the Literature Committee. This new Subcommittee was formed in April 2024. The need for Conference-approved Literature on sponsoring, the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts of Service was expressed. An ongoing idea for a series of Step workshops, one step at a time, was brought, and has since been implemented. This workshop series is also being presented by members based in the U.K. The material developed by the workshops, including feedback from participants, is being adapted and used to create a booklet offering guidance for working Steps in A.R.T.S. A longer-term project *may* include a more extensive publication on the Steps that includes stories of member experience, strength and hope. Writing on the Traditions and Concepts of Service is also possible in such a publication.