

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT IWS

Is IWS part of AA?

-yes IWS is an AA group. We are a group of sober alcoholics. The primary purpose of our (and any) AA group is to carry the message, and that's what we do.

Has IWS been asked to stop carrying the message by printing the MINI EDITION of the first 164 pages?

- yes, by about 8 persons, none of whom said they represented a group. Neither GSO nor any intergroup has asked IWS to stop publishing the MINI EDITION.

What does the IWS group do?

- IWS as a group carries the message in the most efficient way possible without becoming organized. The greatest part of our effort is our distribution of the MINI EDITION. We have gotten the price down to as little as 60¢ each. Places like prisons and inner city detoxes can now afford to give the BIG BOOK away to those who suffer the most.

We also publish the STUDY EDITION. This to help in the learning of the message so that it can be passed along to others.

Does IWS change our Fellowship's literature?

- No. IWS has not changed the content of the BIG BOOK. We are only preparing it for low cost distribution and study. Study aids such as indexes and historical notes are limited to facts and are clearly differentiated from the original text.

Has IWS violated any copyrights held by World Services?

- No. The copyright on the BIG BOOK lapsed in 1983. The low price of our books prevents profiteering from this situation. The Traditions and Preamble are reprinted with the permission given to every A.A. group as explained in Chapter 8 (page 93) of the A.A. SERVICE MANUAL.

Does IWS try to confuse the membership into believing our books come from GSO

- No. We have done everything suggested by A.A.W.S. and more to eliminate the occasional false perception. We have added disclaimer to our books, changed our group's name, changed the color of the books to red, etc..

How many books has IWS distributed?

- About 130,000 including more than 30,000 that have been given away free.

Where does the money go?

- to pay for the books. We have made no profits, and have accumulated no "prudent reserve."

Doesn't ISW's activities violate the Traditions?

- No. Below we have addressed this question Tradition by Tradition.

1. We have preserved unity at every turn, working with the Trustees at every opportunity.
2. The authority in IWS is a loving God as expressed in Our Group Conscience.
3. Our Group is open to anyone with a desire to stop or stay stopped drinking.
4. IWS has been in frequent contact with the Trustees on any matter that may effect AA as a whole. We would prefer more contact, but frequently our questions and correspondence to the Trustees have not been answered.
5. The primary and only purpose of the IWS group is to carry the message.
6. IWS does not use the A.A. name (apart from Alcoholics Anonymous being the name of the book). IWS, Inc. is separately incorporated as a secondary aid to A.A. as explained in the long form of Tradition 6. Like a clubhouse that assists those in A.A. that is set apart from the groups that guide it and use it, so too is IWS Inc. set apart. Any group can use the services of IWS Inc., not just the IWS Group.

No profits are made and no prudent reserve is being accumulated lest problems of money, property and authority divert us from our primary spiritual aim.
7. The IWS group is self supporting from its own membership's voluntary contributions. No money from the sale of books is used for group purposes. The use of funds generated from the sale of literature would be highly dangerous and just isn't done.
8. Neither the IWS Group or IWS Inc. has any employees. Contractors (printers, typesetters, answering service, etc.) are used as needed for a stated purpose.
9. Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. IWS has the least possible organization – no staff, no office, no prudent reserve, no letterhead, no dinners, etc..
10. IWS has no opinion on anything outside AA.
11. IWS group members observe personal anonymity. The IWS Secretary reports only on our Group Conscience. There are no other spokespersons.
12. Principles are what guide our actions. There is no "personality".