

SECOND ANNUAL WORLD LITERATURE CONFERENCE  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  
SEPT. 8-14, 1980  
HISTORY

Although relatively few of the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous stood in the Lincoln Federal Building in September, 1980, the spirits of our contributors and of those still suffering addicts were all around us, encouraging us, sharing with us their hope and pain. Those who enjoyed the actual effort were but servants of a larger whole.

From the moment that the early arrivals gazed into the empty hall in the Federal Building, it was apparent that this was the time and the place for the fulfillment of a dream. Men and women, who had had little or no previous acquaintance of one another, embraced each other readily, eager to enjoy what each had to share.

During that first day, there was a pervasive sense of awe. The impact of what we could accomplish sank into the group conscience and we were excited.

Although few individuals had had much experience and the group had had none, there was divine co-operation throughout the conference. The subject matter was so large; yet our outline work proceeded along a natural course. Our outline and the material fell together uncanonically. Much of the time, the thoughts most appropriate fairly leaped from a page. From the hundreds of pages of collected material, we sorted, compiled, and read; and we read, the ties that bind us were strengthened. We were made whole by our work.

As could be expected, there were problems with weariness, impatience and ego. We all wanted so much and had come so far. We all had to deal with the frustration of working with others on a common goal, perhaps for the first time. Yet, we were able to overcome these very human obstacles and to offer encouragement to our fellow addicts. Our successes tempered our despair, and we reassured one another.

As long days grew into longer nights, we gave each other back-rubs and hugs; pausing often for meditation and prayer. We found need strength in maintaining contact with our Higher Power, and we endured long hours, personalities and problems.

As a result of addicts meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, in September, 1980, a book - a dream - will be realized; but it would be inaccurate to say that we have written a book. We all came from many parts of the country and many walks of life. We have all, by the grace of our Higher Power and the help of our fellow addicts, survived a killing disease. In an effort to continue to survive, we have met here to share our experience, strength, and hope. The book is just a reflection of this effort. It is in this spirit that our book will come forth. Addicts all over the world will have the Narcotics Anonymous book for comfort and for study. When we find ourselves by ourselves, we need not be alone. We will have our book; and we will have each other.