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# WORLD BOARD

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# *NEWS FLASH*

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## What Should NA Literature Say About Sponsorship?

We are sending this brief letter to let you know about our discussions regarding the sponsorship project. We ask you to copy and distribute this letter as widely as possible, so that as many of our members as possible will have the opportunity to read it and help us begin a dialogue about this important subject.

We, your World Board, implemented our Publications Committee in July 2000, and the committee had its first full-length meeting in September. At the initial meeting, the committee created a broad framework of what needs to be done in regard to our literature, specifically as stated in Motions 1 through 4 (CAR 2000). It was very clear that the most pressing of these motions was Motion 3, which states *"That the World Board encourage area and regional literature committees to develop source material about sponsorship in 2000, with the board starting a preliminary evaluation of the issues relating to the sponsorship material in 2001."*

First, we need to talk about how Motion 3 came into being. In 1999, we sent out a survey to find out what our fellowship wanted in regard to revising or creating new literature. This survey revealed that the fellowship wanted something on sponsorship, although it was unclear as to what it should contain or in what form: a booklet, chapter in the Basic Text, a book, a new pamphlet, a revision of the existing pamphlet, or a combination of these various options. We are now requesting source material, which we will begin to evaluate later in 2001. It is our intention to develop a project plan for this work for the next conference cycle (2002-2004).

What we need from you are ideas and concepts on sponsorship. To assist you, we created a series of questions for you to think about, discuss, and write about. We set a deadline of 1 June 2001 for this input, after which we will evaluate the source material and create a project plan for WSC 2002. We want to thank those of you who have already started to develop material for this project, and for all of your hard work and enthusiasm. To this point, we have received various types of material which include: line-by-line revisions of the existing IP, a sponsorship guide for working the steps, drafts of booklet- or chapter-length material, a list of questions about sponsorship, and individual ideas about sponsorship. We believe that it would not be a prudent use of the fellowship's resources to automatically send out this material. However, if you want the material, please contact the WSO and a copy will be sent to you. What is important to know is that we are looking for *your ideas and concepts*, not drafts.

For updates about this and other literature projects, please read future issues of *NAWS News*, which is also available on our website ([www.na.org](http://www.na.org)). It is our hope that later in this conference cycle we can enter into a series of dialogues with the fellowship about NA literature in general and, more specifically, about our Basic Text and Little White Booklet. In the meantime, thank you for joining us in this exciting time.



# Sample Sponsorship Questions

We want to gather as much information as possible about what you—our fellowship—thinks, wants, and needs about sponsorship. Please keep in mind that this is for literature published by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous for its members.

As you think about this project, we must say this: you do not have to be organized into a formal literature committee to participate. We know that almost everyone has some ideas or opinions about sponsorship, and we would like to hear those ideas. Since only a small number of our members are involved in service committees, we want to encourage greater participation by keeping this as simple and as open as possible. We encourage you to meet and discuss this project in any way that works for your local NA community. It may be a few members or a large group of members, an ad hoc literature committee for this project, or even just one person who has some ideas to contribute. There are no requirements or committees to organize: nothing more is needed besides your ideas about sponsorship.

To help initiate your discussions, we have provided some *broad concept* questions. You are welcome to begin your discussions and brainstorming around these points. And, we encourage you to expand upon these ideas. As you consider the subject of sponsorship, perhaps your creative thoughts will flow by thinking about, “*Everything I ever wanted to know about sponsorship and was afraid to ask.*” Our sole request from you is to share your **personal experience**—to think about sponsorship within NA, as a whole, when you write your thoughts.

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In the big, overall picture, the concept we obviously want you to consider is:  
What should NA literature say about sponsorship?

And to help you start your discussions, we would like you to consider these points:

1. Is sponsorship a significant part of recovery?
2. What is important about sponsoring others?
3. How, or can, recovery occur without a sponsor?
4. How, or can, recovery occur without sponsoring others?
5. What is the relationship between spirituality and sponsorship?
6. What is the relationship between support and sponsorship?
7. What are roadblocks to utilizing a sponsor?
8. What are pathways to opening-up to a sponsor?
9. Why is there same-sex sponsorship?
10. Can opposite-sex sponsorship work?
11. What is your understanding of the role and purpose of a sponsor?
12. How do you deal with relapse or illness with a sponsor?

As you can see, these questions are simply a starting point and are hardly exhaustive on the subject of sponsorship. If these suggestions are useful, please consider them. Probably, a simple way to begin is by asking, “What is it that I want to know about sponsorship, and what would help me?” Your thoughts and experiences may mirror our concepts, or may be a new concept. There are no wrongs ... so have fun!

