Revising IP #21 *The Loner – Staying Clean in Isolation*

Background:

IP #21, *The Loner: Staying Clean in Isolation,* was selected by the 2023 WSC as the information pamphlet to be revised during the 2023-2026 conference cycle.

In 2020, this IP had been identified as the focus for revision. We were able to begin with a survey about changes members would like to see in the IP, but the resource crisis brought about by the pandemic led to suspension of the project. And thank goodness! In the next few years, the resources and tools available to isolated members changed dramatically. And many more of us experienced what some members have known for decades. If we had forged ahead at that time, we would have missed a golden opportunity. Sometimes the best thing we can do is wait—even when it's frustrating.

The results of that 2020-2022 survey, along with input from focus groups, guide the work. As always, it's the experience and insight of our members that makes our literature shine. The message is hope, and it comes from all of us.

Last year we talked about IP#21 in the CAT and the Conference Report, before the project was passed at the WSC. Here's the text from those documents, for those who are interested in how we got to this point.

2023 Project Plan from the Conference Approval Track (p. 10):

Addendum E of the 2023 CAR contains a list of all recovery and service materials published at NA World Services. The list includes the creation date, the last revision date, and the languages into which each piece is currently translated. Many IPs have never been revised or have not been touched in decades. In some cases, this may be intentional, but for many of the pamphlets it seems to be more about our lack of commitment to review and/or revise existing materials.

Many IPs, booklets, and books are included as revision choices in the 2023 CAR survey. We do not have the resources to take on a book-length revision project in the cycle ahead, but we continue to believe it's past time to start updating IPs. In 2020, the WSC had consensus when they selected IP #21, The Loner, as the focus for the Revising Existing IPs Project Plan. We have surveyed the Fellowship about possible revisions, and we will include a summary of those survey results in the 2023 Conference Report. We would like to take the next steps in the process of revising The Loner, but we are open to whatever the WSC chooses.

The Loner was written in 1986, long before the internet and technology made online and virtual types of connections possible, and the IP is embarrassingly outdated. We received input from members who are or have recovered as "loners," and the IP would allow them to share their experience with other members looking for experience, strength, and hope.

From the 2023 Conference Report (p. 29):

The results of the survey for The Loner give pretty clear direction for revisions of that IP. The parts of the IP that speak to NA principles are still valid and valuable and can remain as written. The input is almost solely focused on how technology has changed the way we connect since the IP was published and on a more nuanced understanding of what it means to be "a loner," including a reexamination of that term. We believe this IP can be updated easily, possibly with assistance from focus groups.

IP#21 Survey Data Summary can be found beginning on page 83 of the Conference Report.

Next Steps:

Over the past few months, we have met with focus groups and worked with their input and the material from the surveys to begin crafting a draft. When that draft is ready we will post it on na.org for at least a 90-day Fellowship review and input, revise the draft based on the input received, and ultimately have an approval draft in the next *CAR*. Your input is vital to ensuring that the draft is as rich, as clear, and as true to our current experience as it can be. Everyone is invited to participate in this process. Please watch for the announcement of the draft release; 90 days can pass so quickly!