

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 informational pamphlet to be revised during the 2023-2026 conference cycle.

This IP had been identified as the focus for revision in 2020. 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 2020-2023 survey, along with input from focus groups, guided 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.

In the 2023 CAT, the IP #21 project was put forward as a project plan (p. 10), and the conference decided to go forward. At that time, we explained,

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before the internet and technology made online and virtual types of connections possible, and the IP is embarrassingly outdated.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.

Over the 2023-2026 cycle, focus groups were convened from among those who indicated interest on the [volunteer form](#). The material gathered from the focus groups, together with the material from the surveys, contributed to the draft—as did the structure of the original IP. In the process, a couple of things became clear: one, that people who have had the experience of recovering in isolation are not fond of being called “loners.” And two, that in the last few years a panoply of new resources for isolated members have become available. The delays forced by the pandemic led to the timing being absolutely perfect: the revised IP includes resources and approaches to isolation that didn’t exist when this project began.

The revised [IP #21, *Staying Clean in Isolation*](#), was included in the 2026 CAR and approved unanimously at the 2026 WSC. It is now available online and in the webstore.