

Response from Sherman Oaks Group, California

Subject: Blue Book Questionnaire Response Date: Tue, 10 Jul 2007

Questionnaire 2006 4th edition Blue Book

1. Do the language and tone of the book feel welcoming to you, whatever your 12-Step affiliation may be? If not, what is missing?

1. We appreciate all the hard work that has gone into this draft of the 4th edition. That said, the question is, do we want to say, “This is what we did to get where we are.” or, “This is what we have done and are still doing on this path toward greater commitment, communication, and caring.” Our impression is that a lot of the tone in the book is more like the former statement rather than the latter.

2. We find inconsistent the use of singular & plural. On p.11, “Coupleship Challenges”, it reads “...we are no longer alone as a couple...” Yet on p.14 line 2- 3, it reads “...as we started talking about our coupleships...”

On pp. 40-41, “A Vision For Two”,

1. *behaviors* (Why plural?)

3. “*as a couple*” (Here it is the singular)

5. *..coupleships, ..intimacies*” We feel this should read “Being sexual enhances our coupleship and increases our opportunity for further intimacy.” **We believe the purpose here is to focus on the one coupleship, not all the coupleships in the entire membership of RCA.**

12. “*We are proud of ourselves as couples*” We feel this should read “We are proud of ourselves as a couple.**”**

There are many other examples of this shifting from singular to plural, as well as lots of shifting from present to past tense. The bottom line here is our strong suggestion that the Fellowship contract with a professional editor in order to establish greater consistency and readability in these areas; it will make a much stronger finished product. This is arguably the most important project in RCA, a work that hopefully will endure for many years. Let’s get it right.

2. Is the treatment of the topics balanced? If anything is given too much or too little emphasis, please specify what that is. **Seems fine**

3. Is there anything in this revised Blue Book you find offensive? What would you like in place of this if anything? **No**

4. Please tell us of changes from previous editions you like and don't like
Our earlier comments apply

5. Has there been anything significant in your couple's recovery, particularly of a spiritual nature, that is not mentioned somewhere in the Blue Book? **Trust. (If this is mentioned somewhere, we missed it.)**

6. Do you have a practice or "Tool" not described in the Blue Book?

We don't know if this is mentioned in the book, but every morning when we awaken, get up on our feet, embrace, and say the serenity prayer together, we gain a positive approach to the day.

7. Has there been anything in your meeting's success that is not mentioned in the Traditions in the Blue Book such as socializing outside meetings or other meeting practices? **We often meet for fellowship after the meeting, sometimes as a group, sometimes just two couples.**

8. In what ways could the spirituality of the program be better expressed? **It's Fine**

9. In what ways could the RCA Blue Book better support your meeting or help you start a new meeting? **No suggestions.**

10. Some RCA members want the 3rd edition of the Blue Book available. Would you purchase the 3rd edition of the Blue Book in preference to this 4th edition if you could do it over? Would you use both? Is there a place for the 3rd edition if it meets AA guidelines? **In our nine years in RCA, we have found the 3rd edition extremely helpful, and see no need to make any but minor changes per AA.**

11. Should the stories be retained if the couple has split up? Would you write your couple's story? Should real names be or not be included in the stories?
No objection to retaining the stories. We think anonymity should be the guideline.

12. Is the writing in the Blue Book consistent with and supportive of RCA and its traditions? **Yes**

13. Do you find the grammar, person, and tense of the Blue Book clear, comfortable, and without gender discrimination? **See our comments above.**

14. What would you like to see added to the Blue Book? Why? **No suggestions**

15. What would you like to see deleted from the Blue Book? Why? **No suggestions**