

Fellow N.A.'s:

This letter is both an invitation to a Narcotics Anonymous Conference of Delegates and a request for your group's active participation in the establishment and staffing of a World Central Office to serve N.A. as a whole.

The Conference will be held on the weekend of November 5 - 7, at the La Mirada Country Club in La Mirada, a suburb in southeastern Greater Los Angeles. In addition to the official N.A. delegates' meeting, we will have speaker and participation meetings, general discussion sessions, a banquet, and sufficient free time for those who wish to visit Disneyland, Knotts' Berry Farm, or other nearby attractions. All N.A. members are invited, whether delegated as group representatives or not; come and bring your families and friends.

The principal purpose of the Conference, however, is to get together delegates from N.A. groups in all localities to establish an N.A. World Central Office, and elect a paid, full-time business manager to be in charge of this office. The formation of a central office, and the election of its manager by representatives of N.A. as a whole (rather than by members from any one region) were so voted by the Board of Trustees of Narcotics Anonymous at the July 23rd, Trustees' meeting.

The decision that such a central office is needed, and that it should be established in the immediate future, followed a lengthy consideration of the communication problems that have arisen in N.A. during its recent period of rapid growth. The Board of Trustees is responsible to the Narcotics Anonymous fellowship for setting guidelines and interpreting our traditions; there should be lines of communication between the Trustees and N.A. groups wherever they might be. We know that many new N.A. meetings have been started, both in various regions of the U.S. and in other countries, which currently have little or no contact either with us or with other N.A. groups in other areas.

We feel that the N.A. fellowship as a whole needs strengthening, and a greater sense of intergroup cohesiveness. We want to be sure that the experience, strength, and hope developed over the years in the many areas where N.A. has been effective are made available to new groups everywhere. We want to be sure that outlying groups starting new meetings are made aware of - and receive - the free N.A. literature available to them from our Los Angeles publishing facility. (Free material to new groups at present includes 25 copies of the Narcotics Anonymous booklet, the sheet, "Suggested Method of Leading a Meeting," and a set of the N.A. by-laws.) We want to be sure that requests for literature, and for information about N.A., including information on the location of meetings in all areas, are answered promptly and accurately.

We feel that the formation of a World Central Office will do a great deal toward solving the communications problems we have had in the past. Having a paid, full time business manager should prove much more

effective than our present system of communication, where letters are answered and literature requests filled by individuals acting in their spare time - members of the N.A. Southern California Region G.S.O. (General Service Office) and other volunteers. With the continuing growth of Narcotics Anonymous and its expansion into many new geographical areas the maintenance of effective communications will become even more essential.

The Board of Trustees, and the members of the Southern California Region G.S.O. who will be your hosts at this Conference, have discussed many ideas on ways the new central office can provide more complete service to our fellowship. We're sure your group will have some ideas too, as to what we need in N.A. - please plan to have someone delegated to present your views at the Conference. Remember, this world central office will serve, and should be supported by, Narcotics Anonymous as a whole; our problems can't be solved by any one area or region (nor should any one region attempt to act as managers for the overall fellowship.) Our groups are traditionally autonomous, except in matters affecting N.A. as a whole.

This central office will be your office. This Conference will be your conference. Plan to attend. Plan to submit your ideas. If you have a nomination for business manager, support your candidate....

Other questions may be brought up at the delegates meeting. Such as, should there be an annual N.A. Conference? If so, should it rotate among the various regions? Would your area like to host such a conference? Or perhaps a smaller-scale conference for the N.A. groups in your own region? What does your group need? Better community relations? Practical steps to take in forming an institutional committee? At the Conference you should find people from other areas who have experienced, and worked through, any particular problems you might be having at present; or you could present your successful solutions to a problem that might be bothering some other group.

However, we're not inviting you to just a business meeting, important though the business may be. This will be the first conference given for N.A. as a whole, and we'll have meetings, socializing, and lots of fellowship. So please plan to attend - the more the better.

P.S. If you know of any other N.A. groups holding meetings in your area, whom we may not have contacted (we're sure we're not aware of all existing N.A. meetings, although we should be) please pass along this information, and invite them to send delegates to the Conference. For future referrals, we would like to have the location and meeting nights and times for all N.A. groups.

There is one other N.A. project where everyone's participation is invited, not limited to those people who can make it to the conference. The Board of Trustees has authorized the preparation of a hard-cover book, entitled Narcotics Anonymous, to replace our present pamphlet of that name. We plan to have a much expanded description of the drug addict, the drug dependency problem in general, and our N.A. recovery program - what it is and how it works. The new book will be somewhat analogous to A.A.'s big book, Alcoholics Anonymous, which N.A. has been using as a text for many years; but it will be written by, about, and for addicts.

We will need additional stories to include in this book - recovering addicts with some time on the program relating what it used to be like, what happened, and what it's like now. In the present N.A. pamphlet most of the stories stress the "hard" drugs, mainly heroin; in the new book we would like to also include stories by users of the newer drugs - speed, acid, etc., as well as stories by pill users. We'll certainly stress recovery from heroin, but we don't want to limit the attraction of our book, or of the N.A. program, to opiate users only.

If any members of your group would like to submit your story for evaluation for possible inclusion in the book, please do so. We would like stories from a wide geographical area, as well as from a wide variety of drug categories used. We would like to emphasize the recovery phase of the addict's experience - share our experience, strength, and hope, rather than just give a long "drug-a-log" ending with, "and then I joined N.A. and now everything's all right." Stories should be about the length of those in the present pamphlet. Either bring along a copy to the conference or send it to the mailing address at the top of this letter (it will help if you mark the envelope, "Attn: Literature Committee." We hope to hear from a lot of you within the next three or four months.

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