

July, 1983

To: Members of the Central Maryland Area Service Committee

From: Fawn Ackerman, member of the World Service Office Board
of Directors

This is to inform you that Jimmy Kinnon, the Office Manager of the World Service Office (WSO), was replaced without cause given. The manner in which it was executed just plain stinks and I have yet to receive a decent explanation as to what actually occurred.

For those of you who are not acquainted with Jimmy, he was one of the original founders of Narcotics Anonymous. In 1975, in Los Angeles, Jimmy was handed a half a box of records and books showing that we were in the red. With nowhere to set up camp, Jimmy continued to do the work where others gave up, in his own home. At that time, there were no funds to speak of really, and progress was slow. But a communication line was established and literature and information was provided to the Fellowship WORLDWIDE out of Mr. Kinnon's home by Mr. Kinnon and a few newcomers. Jimmy's home became bombarded with literature, orders, letters, and all records. His telephone rang off the hook 24 hours a day. I know, I was there. I saw how this man committed himself to getting the work done and I also saw the love, devotion and spirit he displayed in getting it done. For six years the World Service Office was located at 10717 Sherman Way, Sun Valley, California -- Jimmy's home. Jimmy never insisted on a salary during this entire time and his home was open to those who cared to help out.

In 1981 the World Service Office was finally moved out of Jimmy's house to a storefront in Sun Valley. I was also involved during that transition and if it weren't for Jimmy during that time, I'd hate to think what would have happened. It was then that people started crawling out of the woodwork proclaiming their desire to be the 'new Office Manager, a Vice President, a member of the Board, a Chairman of a committee, anything with a title. Board meetings were a farce and rarely was anything accomplished. Yet during this entire time, it was Jimmy that continued to show up every single day and continue to do work that only but a few would 'stoop so low' to do! There were of course some great starters, but they all lacked consistency in following through with projects or 'ideas' they had about how an office should be run. Jimmy even resigned from the World Service Office Board of Directors AND the Board of Trustees at that time because he was disgusted with the 'no action' both Boards displayed. He remained as the Office Manager solely and got that office running smoothly. In the entire time Jimmy was the Office Manager, the Office never showed any liabilities and never owed 1 penny to anybody.

I urge you as members to start asking questions and demanding answers from YOUR service levels in N.A. For a Fellowship who speaks so highly of unity, sharing, helpfulness and consideration, I think it's time to put a stop to this 4-year-old practice now of arbitrarily pushing people out and around with no cause.

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I would also like to bring to your attention that the World Service Conference meeting minutes from this past year are available in two versions! The edited version is \$3.50 and the complete documentation is \$25.00. In the past, having served as secretary to the World Service Conference, this was never the procedure. Regional Reps were mailed the WSC meeting minutes, regardless of their length and content.

3 years ago at the WSC it was voted that nothing would be voted on at a World Conference level without first mailing out to all Regional voting members, an agenda of what was going to be discussed and voted on at the Conference -- 60 days in advance. I personally never heard any mention prior to the Conference of Jimmy's removal. The recommendation to have Jimmy Kinnon replaced was made by a Trustee who also wore the hat of a Board member of the World Service Office, and I might add that it was brought up at the very tail end of the Conference -- when many people were already on planes going back to their homes. That's downright shabby folks, not to mention that Mr. Kinnon was not even present -- he was at the Office of course, doing his job.

Jimmy was never formally notified of his termination. He walked in on a Monday morning after the last WSO Board meeting and the new Office Manager, whose name is Bob Stone, not a member of N.A. by the way, and receiving a salary of over \$1,000 a month to start, introduced himself to Jimmy that morning as the new Office Manager.

Just the other day, Jimmy received a letter that was written at the World Service Conference thanking him for all he's done and that he should "be doing those things that he's best at." Jimmy's response to that was, "what the hell do they know what's best for me?"

I want to end by saying that though the issue here might sound like how unjust actions were committed against one man, the issue here is really that it's time the actions taken by the Board of Trustees and the World Service Office Board of Directors were questioned as to their integrity and in keeping with the spiritual principles of our Fellowship.

If you have questions, as I do, I can only tell you what I am doing. I am calling people and lots of them. Jimmy Kinnon - 213/765-3821; World Service Office - 213/768-6203 and writing lots of letters. This Saturday, July 9 at 5:00 L.A. time the WSO Board of Directors is having another Board meeting. I will be on the conference phone and I will be asking questions. I address this group and invite you to give me any questions you would like me to address to the Board as members. That's the most I can offer. I feel at this time that we should all do what we think is right and that we do make a difference -- each one of us as individuals, COUNTS.

Sincerely,

Fawn F. Ackerman

Fawn F. Ackerman
Member-WSO Board of Directors
Member of N.A. - 5 years

cc: Fellowship at large
Board of Trustees
WSO Board of Directors