



**WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, Inc.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

16155 Wyandotte Street
Van Nuys, CA 91406 (818) 780-3951

January 30, 1985

WSC Participants:

Enclosed is a corrected copy of the #23 I.P. entitled "Hospitals
Institutions And You."

We were advised this morning that one line had been omitted from the copy enclosed in the Fellowship Report mailed to you yesterday. Please take page 60-61 out of your Fellowship Report and through it away. Use this corrected copy instead.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

In Service to the Fellowship,


Robert B. Stone

levels. He has completed a term as regional H&I chairperson, and regularly takes panels into institutions.

Working with others in an institutional setting, if approached with respect for our steps and traditions, consistently enhances personal recovery. "Hospitals and institutions work has lent a new sense of life and vigor to my recovery," says one experienced member. "I have learned more about the spiritual basis of the Twelfth Step since I started carrying the message inside institutions than I ever did in all my reading and talking about it before that time. To watch the eyes of someone who is hearing the N.A. message for the first time slowly come to life, to see that person begin to ask questions and get the first glimmer of hope that maybe there is a way out, and to later see that person at a meeting on the outside accepting a chip or keytag—how can I measure the value of these experiences? I only know that they are at the heart my spiritual awakening today."

These statements are common among N.A. members who are active in H&I work. Any N.A. member who wants to put the steps into practice, whether or not he or she has spent time in a institution, is encouraged to look into H&I work. Guidelines for H&I committees and meetings are

available from the World Service Office. These should be read carefully, because they contain experience that may help anyone involved in H&I work avoid pitfalls others have fallen into. If you are interested, ask your group's GSR for more information on how you can get involved. Be prepared for an adventure.



I.P. No. 23

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

HOSPITALS
INSTITUTIONS
AND YOU

CORRECTED
UNAPPROVED LITERATURE

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.
16155 Wyandotte St.
Van Nuys, California 91406-3423

HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, AND YOU

We know that addiction leads to "jails, institutions and death," and that N.A.'s primary purpose is to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. It's not surprising, then, that carrying the message into hospitals and institutions is one of our top priorities. N.A. members have consistently supported this belief by forming hospitals and institutions (H&I) committees worldwide. Still, some N.A. members have been reluctant to get involved in H&I work because they have never spent time in an institution or hospital, or because they were afraid they had nothing to offer. This pamphlet is intended to be a brief introduction to Narcotics Anonymous hospitals and institutions work, and to encourage more members to avail themselves of this opportunity to serve.

The stories included in this pamphlet parallel those of thousands of other N.A. members who have been involved in H&I. They illustrate the fact that even though H&I work may at times seem intimidating, and we all sometimes ask, "what do I have to offer," the results consistently turn out to be worth the effort.

One member had been clean in N.A. for three years, but was beginning to feel that something was missing in his recovery. His sponsor, a long-time H&I supporter, suggested that he get involved in an H&I panel in a prison as a way of working his Twelfth Step. He was somewhat reluctant to do that because he had never been in prison; he was afraid he had nothing to share that "those people" could relate to. He was willing to follow the sponsor's example, though, and get involved in H&I in spite of his fears. Not only was he well received by the inmates, who he came to realize were just like himself (only they got caught), he was also revitalized in his recovery. He was still active on the H&I committee two and one half years later, when his job took him out of the area.

A future member of Narcotics Anonymous had been in and out of detox centers for years, and had never heard of N.A. Finally she found herself in a detox in which an N.A. H&I panel was held, and she had her first exposure to the Fellowship. "I had never heard people share that way before!" she said later. "I was expecting the same old message that people had been giving me for years: 'You can't ever use dope again.' Instead, I heard the N.A. message: 'You don't have to use, just for today.'" That

simple message provided her first ray of hope. She got involved in N.A. at that moment, and continued to be involved after her release. She spent some months going to meetings and working the steps with her sponsor, and was then asked to sit on that panel as a N.A. speaker. She was grateful for a chance to give back some of what she had received. She has since participated in numerous panels, both as a panel leader and a panel member, and has several years of clean time. "I never say no to an H&I request," she says. "That's the most rewarding part of my recovery."

A third member of our Fellowship was doing time in prison when he first heard of Narcotics Anonymous. Near the end of his stay, he decided to try one of the meetings that had been held there every week. He did not immediately become involved in this Fellowship, but he later stated that he did not realize how much a single exposure to N.A. had affected him—he had learned about the solution. He began using shortly after his release from prison, and soon saw his life going back in the same old direction. In his desperation, he remembered the N.A. institutional meeting, and he sought out an N.A. meeting. That was the beginning of his recovery. Now, over three years later, he is active in H&I work at the group, area and regional

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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Is it appropriate
for the WSC chair
to actively campaign
for an issue?

Februrary, 1985

To WSC Participants:

Within the next sixty (60) days, you will be receiving a constant flow of information directly relating to the upcoming Conference. It will be of utmost importance for you to keep abreast of all communications from this point on through your departure for WSC-85. This information will be a valuable aid to your understanding of the procedures and goals we will be establishing during the Conference itself. Traditionally, this time of year has been filled with many misunderstandings, as we "rush to judgement" trying to inform the Fellowship of the new ideas that have been advanced through the Fellowship Report. Study the items carefully, if there is something you have questions about, please contact the WSO, who will forward your inquiries to the WSC Administration committee for a prompt response.

By this time, most of you have recieved your copy of the Fellowship Report. In several of the reports there is brief mention of the hiring of a professional writer to assist us in providing the Fellowship with the best quality material, in carrying the N.A. message of recovery through our literature.

This decision was preceded by many long discussions over the years regarding the quality of our literature and the procedures which have been used in the past to write it. With the growth of new groups and members, and the ensuing interest of the general public, it is clearly evident that we as a Fellowship approach the creation and developement of our literature with a new understanding. We, as addicts, perhaps know what we mean to say, but it is becoming increasingly important that people outside our rooms and meetings know what we mean to say. The continuation and growth of Narcotics Anonymous is paramount to the understanding we convey of ourselves to those members of the general public, who by virtue of their understanding of us, will recommend and direct the suffering addict to our doors for many years to come. The consequence of not achieving these goals will mean the advent of outside agencies attempting to explain the Narcotics Anonymous message of recovery. I sincerely believe we owe it to ourselves and especially to our future members to ensure that the N.A. message is clearly and concisely expressed by our literature.

The hiring of a professional person to assist us in our literature endeavors will enhance the ideas, concepts, and actual words, we have received from members of the Fellowship. The writer will continue his/her work by interviewing N.A. members across the country, who by their experience have achieved a degree of success in applying the principals of our steps and traditions in their lives. Along with the input of these taped conversations, the Literature committee will continue to receive written input from all members in the time allotted. The work done by a writer is only a draft that will be reviewed by the World Literature Committee and then the Fellowship in accordance with normal literature procedures. The Fellowship will continue to have the final word in all literature approval procedures. It is very exciting to realize the potential of such a valued project to the addicts everywhere, seeking recovery through the steps and traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

One of many continuing problems which has hindered the work of the WSC over the years, is the makeup of our sub-committees. According to our current guidelines, the RSR's are responsible to take an active part in this process and should be advised by their regions this responsibility. Sub-committees work on a year around basis, and need the active support of our RSR's in order to fulfill the duties and obligations directed by the Conference. Sometimes this has led to financial hardship placed on our trusted servants, and needs to be examined closely by both our Regional and World Service committees to provide some form of reimbursement of expenses. The WSC Administration committee is currently working on several concepts regarding the improvement of this situation in the near future.

However, the problem still exists, and we are asking the RSR's to commit themselves prior to the Conference this year. In this report you will find a form which asks you to list, according to your priorities, which sub-committee you prefer to serve as a participant. These will be considered on a first come first serve basis according to your listed preferences, and will be spread evenly so that each sub-committee will have equal participation. You may want to consult with your Regional committees regarding your preferences, and you may be assured that each form will be considered fairly and equally. These forms should be returned before March 20, 1985 so you may be notified of your assignment upon your arrival at the Conference. Your cooperation in this matter will greatly contribute to the overall success of the Conference.

We have just received word that the region formerly known as the Pacific Northwest has divided itself into three new regions which are: the British Columbia Region, the Washington and Northern Idaho Region, and the Oregon and Southern Idaho Region. This brings to six, the number of new regions who wish to become participating members of the WSC. We wish them great success, and look forward to opportunities to be of service.

~~If any region or RSR has not received the Fellowship Report or these monthly reports, please notify us immediately by writing the WSO c/o The WSC Administration Committee, and we will forward these reports to you. The next scheduled communication will be the first week in March.~~

In loving service,
I remain,

George Hollahan
Chairperson WSC-85

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
16155 WYANDOTTE STREET
VAN NUYS, CA., 91406

COMMITTEE PREFERENCE RESPONSE

The existing service manual provides that the Conference have a number of operational sub-committees that include as members the Regional Service Representatives of the Fellowship. After reading the information in the attached letter, please indicate your preference for committee assignments for the coming administrative year.

The Committee Options are:

Policy Committee
Finance Committee
Hospital and Institutional Committee
Public Information Committee
International Affairs Committee
Convention Committee
Literature Committee

My preference for committee assignments are:

1st choice: _____

2dn choice: _____

3rd choice: _____

Please return this preference form to the Administrative Committee at the address shown above, at the earliest possible moment, but in any event, not later than March 20, 1985.