

Tape Three
Allentown, History Literature Addathon 1990
Speaker: Fawn

At this time, I would like to ask Fawn if she would like to say anything about where she left things off last night or in reference to anything she did not finish saying or about this letter.

Fawn: Hi, I'm Fawn I'm an addict. Did anyone have any questions? I don't know I pretty much what I covered last night I finished. I think someone approached me this morning and asked me about what progress is being made in the way of putting some kind of text, a history text together. I have spoken to Betty quite frequently, Betty was Jimmy's wife and she's got lots and lots of file cabinets of archival history of Narcotics Anonymous, because Jimmy was a saver of a lot of stuff. Written correspondence, to and from individuals confirming that we were not apart of any that, we had no affiliation with the early NA in New York or Louisville Kentucky, Lexington I'm sorry. So anyway God knows what is there, it has been very hard to open up. She has moved a few times and she schleps all these file cabinets wherever she goes and she kept them closed for along time because it is painful for her to go through all this stuff. A few years ago, Lynn A. a friend of ours approached Bob Stone at the office and said that, that Betty was willing to turn all of these historical archives over to Narcotics Anonymous under one condition that they not be revised, edited, or changed in anyway because they represented NA, as we know it began. There was an immediate answer by Bob and he said No I can't give you that condition because as soon as you give us something the office can do with it what ever we want to do with it. So under those conditions she said forget it. So now needless to say because of the events that had happened she is not very trusting to a lot of the people who are over anxious to get something going because of what you just heard and stuff like that. She was very apprehensive about whom to trust with this project to because she knows she cannot do it alone. So a few of us have been working on that and we are scheduled to meet with her either this summer or in the fall and we are going to start trying to put this stuff into some kind of order , by months maybe by years first, so that NA can have some kind of historical thing to go with. As far as the outcome of the project how it will ever get, if it will ever be approved, as we know literature how it gets approved today through the conference. I don't know if it will ever happen that way and a lot of that should be understandable after the letter you just heard read here today, because a lot of our history affects those people who are still empowered. That is where the difficult part is going to come in because you know that's it. From what I understand this is all, she has all this historical stuff and something is, she is ready. I know that there are some history workshops going on, I know there is one in Alabama in August. They are real excited about it I know they are handing out some flyers about it , I don't know if you guys up here have received those fliers, if you haven't I guess I can send some to Dave or Billy, and you guys can pass them out. So there is, workshops starting to happen and right now, what I think is going on is people are talking about the history because maybe that is the beginning of anything.

Just like with our Basic Text there was, as Bo will cover later there was talking of the idea for us to be discussed and talked about and then it starts to become something. Oh, great. Grateful Dave addict. Had a couple of questions. Hi Dave, hi family. It is like part of the problem today as Douglas said in his letters that currently people who are in positions of power are still running our World Services and flying around. Our World Service Board of Director chairperson and the chairperson of our World Service Board of Trustees were some of the people that Douglas was referring to in that letter that stole Cry Help and Impact from Bill Beck is not that correct. That is one question.

Fawn: You want to know if that is correct. Well put it this way, Bill Beck was the Executive Director, Jack was the Assistant Executive Director, and these treatment centers were run by

dope fiends for dope fiends. It was not very structured, they lived off donations from the community you know they would send vanloads of residents out to Safeway, and you know can you give us some bread to feed us. It was like a 6 to 9 month program and so it was not I do not know all the details, because I was a resident at that time at Cry Help and under the, when Bill Beck was the Executive Director. That is where I first heard it you know, I loved being there I learned a lot about myself and the program when I was there. I do not know what went down, I was not behind the board meeting, and all I do know is that Bill Beck took a typewriter home and a lot of times. Oh I know another issue that the board had of the treatment center was that, a lot of times we would do trading, like the printing company would give us paper if we sent a couple of the residents over there to collate. So it was like I think they charged them accused them of slave labor or something. No I do not recall when I was being a resident there of ever feeling like I was being used or mis abused or whatever.

The charge was () misuse of federal funds for his own personal gain, and it was Jack Bernstein who was apart of that legal movement to get him. I just want people to know that we are being led by thieves, liars and punks. ()

I have a , you know in that letter it talks about a north south rift, it refers to the north , south rift, just like today we seem to have an east west rift. Narcotics Anonymous, repetitive historical past that seems to be in that same direction today again. That north south rift, could you put more light on that.

Fawn: Well I know it had to do with, like the letter was talking about it had a lot to do with the AA terminology and literature being used in our NA meetings. You know back then you have to understand that most addicts were going to AA and NA. Na was not always as large so a lot of the people were going to both. A lot of the Trustees that are on the board today you know started out in AA. That is where NA was at back then. So there was a lot of resentment that was born when this movement started to happen about let NA stand up on its own two feet and be a fellowship onto its own and quit using AA's literature and stop all these Tradition violations and that did not sit to well with some of the old timers. There has always been that competitive thing; you know who can do it better, who has got it stronger, who got more you, know.

I am addict, Yeswau by name. Hi Yeswau. See if I can word this right. I am trying to think how to say this and put it on a respectable level, instead of a street level. Ok, we got these people, this Board of Directors who have their foundation in AA, this is what I am understanding and they cannot seem to detach from that and be NA people to help Narcotics Anonymous. I guess my question is, it does not help me for somebody to tell me the board, or the directors. I need James this, Andrew that, Andre this, Sandra this, whoever the names are. What their position is and how we can write letters to them and tell them and tell them what we do not like what they are doing or whatever. And how we as the fellowship can organize to out, to remove them and put people who are responsible in those positions to continue the primary purpose of Narcotics Anonymous.

Fawn: Well all the, the information is available to everybody. It is in your World Service Conference meeting minutes. If you just take a little time and do your homework, you can see the names yourself, who made the motions, Read who is making the motions that is very important. The history of the conferences is another very important thing to understand. Early on in our history, everybody could vote ok. It is pretty much the way you have it now the board, the different boards all had a vote. Now another thing that was also possible back then was that these World Service subcommittees, if you wanted to be a member, if any NA member wanted to be a member they could. They were not closed subcommittees, anybody who was anybody in NA all you had to do was say you wanted to be apart of it. So you would try your

best to fly yourself out to when they met and all that. Another thing that was happening at the conference was that as long as you were a member of a subcommittee you could talk, you could not vote but you could speak. So this is how a lot of shit got stirred up at the conferences, you had a lot of people talking and a lot of movements going on at the same time, I mean this is how I saw it okay. There was a lot of confusion, but if you go through your meeting minutes, when the meetings were written back then, because I was secretary for two conferences in a row, I did names, I do not believe in this other shit. I did not always reveal the last names but I put the first name and initial, who made the motion, some of the discussion and was it carried or was it failed. A lot of times, you can sort of get a feeling for whom, you can see the movement being forged, and what you can really see when you look all through this is how the shaping personalities have shaped our World Services that is what has happened. My personal opinion is that because all these boards who have a vote and a voice at the conference. They represent nobody, nobody but themselves. How could they possibly feel and experience what a group conscience is a vote is alright not like an RSR could, so my feeling has always been if the RSR's are the only ones who can vote because they represent someone they don't even represent themselves technically, they represent their regions. If they would come to the World and that was all that was on the agenda, is what your region wants, there is no room for any of this other ego shit that going on. You know because these, too much is coming from the World down to my region and I know it is not coming from my region and going to the world. So that is kind of, I think how that was born was years ago in NA because of the I guess it is the overall mentality or the personality of the addict if somebody else will do it let them. The apathetic stuff you know with GSR's, ASR's and RSR's it was always like ok you are our GSR, or you're our ASR or you're our RSR, go vote how you feel best for us. We will give you that vote of confidence you know so that is where your problems happen see. If you think about it, most of your people who are involved with service work are new in recovery. I do not know if all of them have worked all the steps or familiarized themselves. That is a very dangerous thing to put upon anyone you know I am going to vote how I see fit and hope that it is God's will. So what you see happening is, I think it is very natural when you are overwhelmed and new in a big group of people you want to be heard you want to let people know, Hey I am on the ball I know what's happening. So this is what happens because they can just arbitrarily just make a motion or when it has come from nowhere. So that is what I see as being the disease in our world services. That it has stopped being a group conscience endeavor. I mean regional reps may go there and vote certain ways but they are being manipulated and politicked when they get there because these issues were not talked about at home. I mean because I read these minutes and I never heard these issues in my area. My group never made a motion to do a lot of this stuff with the changing of our literature. So I think if we got back to the basics, open committees, a system of rotation more volunteerism and true group conscience, that we will heal our World Services. It starts with the group, it starts with you know how well are your business meetings going? Encourage the members to participate in the group conscience. Teach them the difference between a group conscience and a vote and expect more from our GSR's and ASR's and our RSR's and this stuff will not happen. We have laid it all; we know what a group conscience is.

Yeswau: I understand that Betty has this compilation of material and she wants to put it in the proper place, in proper hands. Is there a group of concerned NA members like yourself who understand the sophistication of all of this and acquiring a place to put all this stuff and somebody to go through this and put our history in a chronological reasonable, rational, readable order so that us as NA members can read this? I mean are you going to get it printed. In other words, what is being done starting with today about getting this material together?

Fawn: Around the world there is a young by the name of Lynn up in New York, there are some people in California. I know that Lynn is a writer a professional writer, and I am a professional typist so I do not know. I don't know what the final outcome will be, but I know that's what is

going to be started this year is that we are all going to meet and we are put it in some form and try to get the ball rolling. Does that answer your question?

Hi, I am an addict named Jodi: Hi Jodi. Before I get to the question, I need to share something briefly. First, I wish to make a statement that I never used the chemical alcohol and I never went through any treatment center, rehab, nothing. I am a pure NA baby and very proud of it. Recovery from the disease not only being clean is possible in NA only and I have a right to this fellowship NA, pure unadulterated NA, and I have a right to that. So I had to leave California, I could not find NA. There are two people in this room that have taught me something, very much. One person taught me a lot about the principles, the steps, the traditions, the politics, and the importance that personal recovery depends on this. We cannot run from this, our personal recovery depends on NA unity. I see people throwing up their hands not wanting to be involved but personal recovery depends on it. Someone else has taught me that sometimes our disease can get so lost in the intellectualism behind this and get so caught up and focusing on the politics that we lose the personal side of this. How is it affecting us, how is it affecting the newcomers. I see people throughout not wanting to get involved in the controversy and not understanding how this relates to them. Well what does history has to do with me, what does history has to do with recovery, what does history. I was talking to someone this morning that really pointed up that I would like this addressed because I heard a newcomer say and I have had the same experience that they tried reading the 5th Edition and they were not getting it. It was like a textbook to them and they were not understanding it. As soon as they got a copy of this unapproved rebellious outlaw 3rd edition revised, it clicked and this is what we are talking about here. This does affect our recovery. It affects the recovery of the members. It affected my recovery I living out there being fed lies and dying from my disease and not knowing what is wrong until I got the truth. It does affect personal recovery. In that area where the denial is so thick there, are addicts with 8 and 10 years clean killing themselves and not knowing why, because of this propaganda. Now that I know that, they are not hearing the NA message and hearing this propaganda is a lot of why these people have been killing themselves clean. You know an avoidance of the personal side of this, like the two extremes, you know the head in the sand versus the head in the clouds. My question is, I would like to know from Doug and I would like to know from Bo and from Greg and from you and all these people I would like to know your opinion on how this affects each member, their recovery and how it has affected your personal life. Because you know I found out I was pregnant yesterday and my immediate response was you know I had a material comfort in California and I am not having that here. But I have found NA and I have found recovery and my immediate response was I am going to go back to California and do the financially responsible thing and I am also here on a mission not only for my personal recovery, but on a mission so to speak. And what I have heard here, what I have heard here from each one of you has made me realize that money doesn't solve everything, that we can be dead and rich from this disease. It has affected, this weekend has affected my personal life because I have decided to stay here. Someone said to me last night, my disease would love for me to go to California, it is true. So let us address how this is affecting the individual member and us that is kind of my question. Let us not get so caught up so in all these politics that we do not see that, cause it does. You know there are addicts out there dying because they do not hear the NA message, I know because I was almost one of them.

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Fawn: Thanks for sharing. How has all of this affected me? It has made me angry, it has made me sad, it has made me feel powerless and ineffective like my hands are tied, there is nothing I can do so why do anything. That is pretty much the feeling. I remember when I had about four years clean and I quit. I was living out here and I called my girlfriend out on the west coast and

I said, I can't believe what happened, I can't believe what happened, why did it happen it can not be Gods will. She said just remember every dog has its day. (Laughter) So I had to like that sounds good you know. I do not know I would like to see change come about in a peaceful way. I don't get off on fighting like I use to, when I was younger in my recovery I had a lot of anger so I could get in there and roll my sleeves up and really get off on all that. It disturbs the little peace I have in my life today to hear what I hear and still feel those old feelings familiar again. It inspires me to see members who have come after me who have made a commitment not only to Narcotics Anonymous but also to try and make NA better for the newcomer. And I know that the people who make that commitment it is kind of hard to walk around peacefully and talk about these issues. Because when you love NA, when people are messing with it or distorting it as how you know it is to be it makes you angry. It is our life. Every now and then every meeting I go to I go by the literature displayed at the tables and one time my friend Leah said, Fawn why do you always go by the tables to look at the literature and I say I just want to make sure they have not changed our name yet. (Laughter) So anyway, that is how it has affected me. I am resolved to a lot of the things but there is still some old pain that I have not come to terms with. I am still confused about the way some things happened. I don't really see anything, I don't know because when I share with newcomers, I don't share about these issues I just share about the program and they can't take that away from me. Maybe if our literature is changed enough maybe I could see how it would affect the newcomer. You know if we changed the, you know sometimes taking out one word or inserting a new word can change a whole meaning and spirit of a paragraph.

Audience: This will be a real simple one for you because I am just going to ask for a yes or no when I am done with it. I am going to ask if maybe I am correct to assume something. Because I am going to assume something right now, okay. Jodi was just asking a question there and you basically talked about how it affected you but basic effects of history. If we had, I would assume that if we had our history documented put down all the issues that we have gone through from 1953, the growing process, the conference actual growth from when it started the office when it started the decision making process, how it evolved and where it has taken us today. That if we had all that documented I would be almost to assume that we had something to look at and be able to better clarify and make decisions in the home group on the direction we are going as a fellowship. But also, that it will protect us from ourselves from making bad decisions, from allowing a power structure from to be created then. If we could have that documented and see how it grew and how what we look at and say it is a power structure. The letter talked about old guard, the old guard, as I know to care is more of an old AA philosophy. Which is introducing an AA service structure to us basically right now. I a fellowship report to going to Columbia and really the World Service Office today endorsing them following the AA service structure. Helping to set that up overseas, same thing with the principles that there talking about with their concepts or whatever they want to call it today. But it is basically, you know the stuff we could see a lot better if we had our history documented. Would I be correct to assume that?

Fawn: I do not know. I do not know. I do not know if having all our history in black and white is, I cannot answer that. I mean how would I know.

Audience: Would you be able to see it if it was written, and say hold it. This has happened in the past, it did not work. It is documented here, it factual so why are we going in this direction again?

Fawn: Sounds good. (Audience) and I will tell you something else that really worked that was very effective. If you are really upset about what is going on at the World. On mass movements are very effective. I do not care, I mean one year at the conference there were people from all over Georgia who flew in, and hitch hiked, and showed up bare feet, barefooted. I mean they

were there, Newcomers some with just 30 days you know they were committed to this effort. It was very impressive, so you know if we as a group band together impress upon the conference what our concerns are and demand that we get the answers that we are looking for. I have not lost hope in that process. I believe it can and should work. I am just as baffled by all of this as you are. I do not go to those conferences anymore. Until every one of them has resigned and I can be assured that none of their sponsees are, have taken their places I refuse to go. I have no interest; I think it should be on a rotation system. We need the freshness and the newness and giving everybody a chance.

I am Grateful Dave, I am an addict. Hi Dave. Hi Family. I am going to keep hitting this mic and you know I am going to ask questions but I am going to have to make them more like a statement because I am not getting direct answers. The purpose of our history at least in my viewpoint is for all of the people to sit down and say what they got to say and pull no punches and name names, everybody gets to say their thing, and it gets printed up. That is the history, and that is the discussion, everybody is perspective, right wrong or indifferent. Now I know a lot of stuff, I know a lot of stuff. I could stand up here all day with stuff that has been perpetrated on this fellowship in the name of the still suffering addict. The vile undertones, the manipulation, and the lies you know. Jimmy Kennon walking to the door of the World Service office and having a box kicked out, thanks for 32 years of answering the phones. You know I know about what I said about, because the man who wrote that letter told me what happened. I know Stu Tordman and I know Jack Bernstein, I have been knowing them for years. They have been lying to us for years. They lied to you just recently on the telephone. So let us get real. Bob Stone was there and Bob Raymar was there. They just appeared, they just showed up one day at the World service Office and nobody knew who they were or where they came from. There was letters sent from the WSO all to the east coast and personal phone calls made by these people to make Jimmy look like a schmuck and get him kicked out. There was lies told and those people are still controlling the fellowship, the Chuck Skinners, the Chuck Gates the Raymars , the new generation the Houlihans and these people are perpetrating a hoax on us in the name of the addict who still suffers. So we got to have this truth told, and I come up to the microphone and people say Well God damn Dave you are angry. Well you are fucking right I am angry because I have been involved with these people for six years plus. And I know them, and he knows them and we know them and you guys do not know them and you cannot believe that this shit goes on in Narcotics Anonymous because you go to NA as such, which is the home group where everything is warm and fuzzy and everybody loves one another and everything is all fucking spiritual. Well let me tell you something that is not reality that is not reality. There are millions and millions of dollars that being played with that belongs to God. It does not belong to a corporation it does not belong to anybody. This message , our book belongs to God. Give it to them for 50 cents give it to them. Who needs a World Service Office to get bigger and bigger and bigger? They ain't doing nothing, but perpetrating a great big hoax on this fellowship in the name of the addict who still suffers. There are 70, 80, 100 people that go to a World Service Conference and do not do anything that we do in our home groups, and all it takes is one trip. Open your eyes, open your mouths tell the truth. Bo knows stuff, you know stuff , I know stuff, Forrest knows stuff, and Billy knows stuff. We know shit that would make you sick and make you crawl out the door, but we are still here clean carrying the message. And the truth is something that we desperately need. Now I am going to back off, but and I am again, and I am going to these question quote statements slash but we need direct answers. But Sally Evans friend Jacqueline Lear gets hired before the World Service Conference for \$100.000.00 dollars to write " It works , How and Why" and the literature committee comes up with a new idea oh boy we didn't approve anything professionally written before but now we've got this great new idea, lets hire professional writers . Only lets pay them, they are addicts so that we can control them. That is what you are going to be reading from now on. That is what that 4th and 5th Edition is they were never conference approved. It was dope fiended on the floor, when are going to wake up. That literature, a pamphlet, get a pamphlet, go to a printer a quarter of a