

WSB MEETING DRAFT AGENDA
July 29 - August 1, 1993

Thursday, July 29, 1993

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Elections for chair and vice chair

New trustee orientation

As time permits:

Inventory communications
Composite Group

WSO Report - Joe Gossett

WSC Report

WCC Report - Chuck L.

Translation Committee Report - Becky/Donna

NA Way Report - Bob McK.

Video Group Report - Danette B.

Friday, July 30, 1993

9:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Continuation/Completion of Reports

New Committee discussion
Additional Needs

Trustee Assignments

HIV/AIDS article input
"Quarantine" and "instinct of flight"

Prejudice article input
Lucy Gelinas letter

Committed Motion

"Any region which submits a full budget history of three years and a donation of 12% of the average aggregate total budget will have two representatives fully funded by the WSC to attend the WSC. This does not establish exclusive criteria for attendance funded by the conference."

Motion #39 Discussion

Work Group recommendation: "Everyone was in agreement that the issues expressed in motion #39--

("To make the following changes to our steps and traditions:

- * Step Three: 'We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of a God of our understanding.'*
- * Step Seven: 'We humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.'*
- * Step Eleven: 'We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with a God of our understanding, praying only for the knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.'*
- * Tradition Two: 'For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as may be expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.'")*

--are bigger than the language used in motion #39, and that there is a need for these issues to be discussed in depth for a period of time. We also realize that we are entering an inventory process and would recommend that motion #39 be committed to the inventory process with the following two questions.

- 1. Does the language of the steps and traditions truly reflect the principles of the program?*
- 2. If not, what language does the fellowship feel would better reflect those principles?*

Furthermore, we recommend that these questions be a basis for discussion within the fellowship. Recommendations of the WSC Literature Committee and the WSB were given. In both cases, the recommendation was that the issues need to be discussed widely within the fellowship."

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

WSB Inventory Discussion

Purpose, Goals and Objectives for WSB

Saturday, July 31, 1993

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Committee meetings

Discussion of "Scope of inventory" as it applies to WSB Committees

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Inventory Discussion

Integration of Committee Recommendations

Sunday, August 1, 1993

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Finalize WSB Inventory Plans

Carry over from WSC final meeting

Mexico and South America trip reports

Ukraine report

New Zealand letter and package

(See attached for approved "scope of inventory")

Q:\bot\agenda\wsb0693a.doc

III. SCOPE OF THE INVENTORY:

A. The Purpose of World Services

1. Goals of World Services
2. Objectives of World Services

B. World Services Resources

1. Human
 - a. Special Workers
 - b. Volunteers/trusted servants
2. Financial
 - a. Source
 - * flow of funds (traditional)
 - * direct contributions (members and/or groups)
 - * sales of literature
 - * money left over after activities/conventions
 - b. Allocation
 - c. Utilization
 - d. Fiscal accountability
3. Resource Utilization (human and financial)
 - a. How we share resources
 - b. Do we maximize our available resources?

C. Structure

1. Elements
2. Relationships and roles
(How it is or is not mandated by guidelines)
3. Decision making
4. Policies and standards
5. Methods/procedures/process/accountability

D. Communication

1. Internal (individual committees and boards)
 - a. intra board/committee
 - b. inter-board/committee (as individual entities of world services)
 - c. inter-fellowship (between groups and the various service entities)

2. Communication Channels
 - a. Oral/written
 - b. Periodicals
 - c. What needs to be communicated
3. External

E. Services

1. To groups
2. To areas
3. To regions
4. Fulfilling our primary purpose
5. Public relations

IV. WORLD SERVICE INVENTORY PARTICIPANTS:

A. Members, Groups, Areas, and Regions:

Each of these elements of the service structure will be encouraged to involve themselves by providing input about their needs and evaluating world service efforts. The input and evaluations will be sent to the composite group. The fellowship forums will be used to gather additional information and input.

B. The Conference Committees:

Each conference committee will complete it's own self-assessment and submit that assessment to the composite group for an evaluation. Conference committees include all standing committees, currently established ad hoc committees, and the administrative committee.

C. World Service Boards:

Each world service board will complete it's own self-assessment and submit that assessment to the composite group for an evaluation. World Service Boards include: World Service Board of Trustees, WSO Board of Directors, and the World Convention Corporation.

D. World Service Office:

The World Service Office will complete it's own self-assessment and submit that assessment to the composite group for an evaluation. The World Service Office will include in it's assessment all components of the World Service Office.

STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

06/02/93

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Present: Becky M., Garth P., Stu T., Bob McK., Danette B., Mitch S.

WSO Staff: Hollie A., Joe G.

Both Bob McK. and Mitch were late in joining the call (5:45). Joe did not join the call until almost 7:00 as he was on an inventory support group call.

After a short review of agenda items, Danette shared her conversation with Jamie S-H about the composite group. He questioned his position on the group as being a communicator from the trustees, and doesn't want to give only his own input. The Steering Committee agreed that both he and Bob S. are not on the group as spokespersons for the trustees. Rather, they are there to provide the mixture and cross section of the conference that will be essential for the composite group. This does not preclude individual trustees, or the board as a whole, from providing input to the group through Jamie and Bob.

The minutes from the Steering Committee call of 5/19 were then approved after some minor revisions. These will be released along with the minutes from the WSB meeting of 11/92.

Copies of the inventory plan as approved at WSC will be faxed to Stu and Bob as they do not have finalized versions.

Workplan for the year:

Considerable discussion was held on how our board will be involved in the inventory process. We decided to focus on the approved "scope of the inventory" as it relates to the trustees. It was determined that we are not locked into waiting for the inventory group to develop their plan, since we can integrate our input into whatever inventory instrument is developed. The historical material available from the WSO is mainly minutes, past policies, etc., not a developed history of the WSB. Bob shared his feelings that the trustees should review their focus as a board. Discussion continued as to the role of the trustee's in the inventory process that included the Steering Committee's interpretation of that role. After discussion it was the committees position that the conference wanted the trustee's to focus on their inventory and not maintain or seek a leadership role.

Agenda for July Meeting:

Discussion then turned to developing the agenda for the July meeting, since we will only be having two trustee meetings this year. A suggestion was made for the entire board to discuss the scope of the inventory, specifically, at minimum, the purpose, goals and objectives. The trustee committees would then meet to discuss their role in the board's inventory process. After reconvening, the full board will then discuss how to integrate this material into the full WSB inventory. The Steering Committee agreed that until the board can agree on the vision, purpose, goals, objectives and direction for the

board, we will not be able to complete an effective inventory. The discussion included whether the trustees should go back to being reactive (non-project oriented), or should we continue to take the proactive stance (project oriented) we have held over the past couple of years. The steering committee felt that issues such as these were what the full board and trustee committees needed to focus on to establish a foundation to complete an effective inventory.

The Steering Committee discussed items and structure for the proposed agenda for the upcoming meeting. The following items and structure were proposed to be included in the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

- Elections for chair/vice chair
- Orientation for new trustees
- Development Forum 1994
- Proposal for new WSB Committee (Additional Needs)
- Trustee Assignments
- HIV/AIDS article input
- Committed motion
- Motion #39 (changing steps and traditions)
- Inventory Scope for WSB
 - Purpose (goals and objectives)
 - Resources (human, financial and how to utilize)
 - Structure
 - Communication (internal, external and channels for communicating)
 - Services (to groups, areas, regions, PR, primary purpose)

Mitchell shared with the group that a consultant has been chosen to work with the composite group. Barbara O'Hearn was selected during the call earlier this evening. Mitchell indicated that any input from the trustees to all of world services on how to do the inventory would be welcome. A couple of trustees shared their uncertainty of what part the trustees will have in the entire inventory process based on the previous discussion on the role of the trustee's. Danette asked that the Steering Committee consider developing a short inventory form use by the trustees at the July meeting. Discussion was held on whether or not we should wait for the composite group to complete the instruments or develop some tools of our own. The discussion was split and indecisive. The Steering Committee decided to wait for full board discussion and determination based on the progress of the composite group and status of the inventory project at the time of the board meeting.

The Steering Committee moved on to discussion about the date and time of the meeting. It was Bob asked that meeting start and end early on Sunday so the trustees from the east coast can return home on Sunday. Otherwise, they will be unable to return to the east coast until late Sunday night or early Monday, and miss more time at work. The Steering Committee set the schedule for the meeting to begin Thursday evening at 6:00 PM, all day Friday and Saturday, and begin Sunday at 8:00 AM. The meeting will be held July 29 through August 1, 1993.

Trustee assignments:

Danette indicated she has spoken with Mary J. about serving as a member of an additional needs committee should it be formed by the full board, and that Mary is interested in this position. Darwyn is also interested. Donna M. has indicated to Danette that she would also be interested in serving on that committee as chair. The committee discussed the need to form a new trustee committee during the inventory year. Additionally, the committee felt that no new panel member should be assigned to the additional needs this year.

Floyd will be asked to serve on the Internal Affairs Committee. If an additional needs committee is formed, it will be comprised of Donna, Mary and Darwyn. Other committee assignments will remain the same until discussions at the WSB meeting. The committee discussed the advantages of keeping some committee membership assignments the same and rotating other assignments. Bob indicated he is unsure of where to serve. If the editorial board proposal to the WSO board regarding *The NA Way* is not accepted, he will not continue to serve on the editorial board. The committee discussed that there are several things still pending decision by the Board of Directors and Interim Committee which may affect the trustee assignments, so some assignments will have to be discussed and made at the full board meeting. All the trustees will be advised that, according to TWGSS, there are two more positions for trustees open on *The NA Way* review panel.

Phone Bills:

Becky related that the April phone bills submitted for reimbursement by boards and committees exceeded the entire administrative budget. These expenses need to be drastically reduced. WSO accounting staff are working on a form for use by trusted servants to track phone calls. Discussion went on that included having the phone bills for the trustees reviewed for their integrity by presenting the phone bills for the trustee's calls to the Steering Committee for review. It was suggested that the WSO have a phone consultant review our present system. Joe shared that this has already been done, and so far no one has been able to give us a lower rate than the service we are presently using. More will be revealed on this issue.

Conference Summary Report:

External and Literature Review have not yet gotten their reports to Hollie. Bob McK. will call the office to give a verbal report, and Danette will work on putting her report together. It was clarified that the coordination of the report changed in mid-stream due to Stu becoming ill last week, and will now be done by the office. Becky will ask Mary V. if she can help with the External Affairs Committee. Also, Becky will liaise with Garth over the weekend on the Development Forum report. Becky will work with the WSO to compile the full report.



WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.

P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
(818) 780-3951

DATE: June 15, 1993

TO: World Service Board of Trustees
World Service Office Board of Directors
World Service Conference Administrative Committee
Past trustees

FROM: Hollie Arnold, Fellowship Services Team

RE: Material for review

The first item in this package is a copy of the approved **Steering Committee call minutes** from June 2. This item leads into the **draft agenda** for the July meeting. *That meeting will begin on Thursday, July 29, at 6:00 PM and will end on Sunday morning, August 1, 1993. Please review the agenda and get any input to me, Mary or Becky by June 30.*

A letter regarding **how members identify** themselves in meetings is next in the package. The draft response follows, along with several other letters that are addressed to the WSO regarding the same issue. This seems to be a hot topic in the northeast right now. Please get any input or revisions to me by June 30.

Next is a short note from Chris K. in Washington DC about **court referred addicts**. He is suggesting that a trustee bulletin on this issue be developed. He included a copy of an IP that AA puts out on this issue. I have also included a copy of the response which is normally sent out by the office when we get questions about court cards.

A letter from a member with **input on the prejudice bulletin** is also included in this package. The **input for discussion on the HIV/AIDS bulletin** is included in the agenda. *Please review both these items prior to the meeting for the discussion on these bulletins.*

MAY 10 1993

N. JOHNSON
175 ORIENT AVE.
J.C., N.J. 07305
May 6, 1993

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE
P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA. 91409

DEAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

I ATTEND NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS
IN THE HUDSON COUNTY AREA OF THE NORTHERN
NEW JERSEY REGION. AT THE BEGINNING OF MEETINGS
A MAJORITY OF THE SECRETARIES IN THIS AREA
READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

THIS IS FROM THE WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS. IT IS OUR BELIEF
THAT THE PROGRAM OF N.A. IS A PROGRAM FOR
ADDICTS SEEKING RECOVERY FROM THE DISEASE
OF ADDICTION. WHILE ALCOHOL IS A DRUG AND
AN ALCOHOLIC IS AN ADDICT, ONE MUST BE
ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS AN ADDICT
AND TALK ABOUT RECOVERY IN N.A.

MAY 6, 1993

PAGE 2 (TWO)

I AM WRITING TO REQUEST YOUR GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF THIS STATEMENT. COULD YOU PLEASE FORWARD ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ITS ORIGIN. WHAT IS THE INTENT OF THIS STATEMENT? WAS IT TAKEN FROM THE CONTEXT OF A MUCH LARGER LETTER? SHOULD IT BE READ AT THE BEGINNING OF MEETINGS? THESE QUESTIONS WERE PROMPTED BY A GROUP CONDUCTING A BUSINESS MEETING TO ASK A MEMBER WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS "A MEMBER OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS" TO ADHERE TO THIS STATEMENT OR DO NOT PARTICIPATE THROUGH SHARING.

ALSO IN THE BASIC TEXT IT STATES THAT "CLOSED MEETINGS ARE FOR ADDICTS OR THOSE WHO THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE A DRUG PROBLEM" (pg. 11, 4TH EDITION) LIKEWISE, IN A SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTION, IT STATES IN THE FOURTH TRADITION THAT "THERE ARE TWO BASIC TYPES OF MEETINGS: THOSE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THOSE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC (FOR ADDICTS ONLY)." (p. 61, 4TH EDITION) THE CONTROVERSY THAT EXISTS IN OUR AREA IS

MAY 6, 1993

PAGE 3 (THREE)

IF SOMEONE THINKS THEY HAVE A DRUG PROBLEM
AND CANNOT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS AN ADDICT
SHOULD THEY BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE THROUGH
SHARING OR FURTHERMORE ALLOWED TO REMAIN
IN A CLOSED MEETING?

ANY CLARIFICATION THAT YOU MAY OFFER
TO THIS DISCUSSION WOULD BE GREATLY APPRE-
CIATED.

YOURS IN SERVICE,
Kate J.

DRAFT RESPONSE

June 8, 1993

name
address

Dear friends,

Thanks for your recent letter to the World Service Board of Trustees. The situation you describe is delicate in nature and somewhat difficult to address.

Whether someone has to identify themselves as an addict in order to share at an NA meeting is not a new concern in our fellowship. In looking at our history, the issue of "NA language" has been discussed for many years. As a natural outgrowth of our development, some NA members identified themselves as addict/alcoholics who are clean and sober. Many of these members got clean in another fellowship either while NA was in it's infancy in their area, or before NA even began in their local community. As more and more addicts got clean and stayed clean primarily in NA, the use of language consistent with our program became more of an issue in our meetings. In 1987, the World Service Conference participants approved several wording changes for our literature by removing drug specific language and terms. At this same conference, an article was proposed for adoption by the World Service Board of Trustees regarding the use of NA language. Included in this article was a suggested statement for reading at NA meetings on the use of language consistent with that used in our literature. As a result of concerns regarding the strong statement and forceful language in the article, it was not approved by the conference participants.

In the years since this occurred, many NA groups have chosen to include a statement in their formats asking that members identify themselves as addicts and refer to their time on the program as clean time or recovery. Many other groups have made a decision not to ask this of the members attending their group. In accordance with our *Fourth Tradition*, it's up to each group to make the decision they feel is best for their members.

While most of the members of NA identify themselves as addicts, nowhere in our literature does it state that you must identify as an addict to be a member of our fellowship. If someone feels they are a member of Narcotics Anonymous and has a desire to stop using, it is not up to other members to decide for them how they should identify. That is a decision for each member to make for themselves,

in consultation with their Higher Power and their sponsor. As long as members discuss how they are using the principles and steps of NA in their recovery, then how they identify shouldn't be the issue. Rather, it should be whether they are carrying and sharing a clear message of recovery through Narcotics Anonymous. It is reasonable to expect that members in attendance at an NA meeting will hear about recovery in NA.

The enclosed format is a sample we send out upon request for groups to examine and consider in discussing how to structure their meeting. We have also enclosed a copy of an article written by the World Service Board of Trustees on our relationship with AA. This article also discusses the use of language consistent with NA recovery. We hope these enclosures will be useful to your members and groups. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call or write.

In fellowship,

Hollie Arnold, Coordinator
Fellowship Services Team

Enc: Sample formats
Trustee Bulletin #13

HA/ep

Q:\bot\letters\nalang.doc

4-21-83

Dear World Service
Brothers + Sisters

1993

I am a ~~graduate~~ member of W.A., is
you identify most
of ourselves ~~that~~ ~~find~~
them. Based on the
memo from World Service
asking A.A. People to
share the W.A. ~~space~~
People are ~~misleading~~
call my self an ~~addict~~
in ~~quest~~ to ~~participate~~
I stand on ~~the~~ ~~thing~~
and trusty ~~lead~~ ~~just~~
and would be grateful
if you ~~could~~ ~~share~~
your collection wisdom

on this issue,
I have been a member
of W.A. for at least 14 yrs
and do not wish to
be the object of
any one's misinterpretation
of World Service
teaches ~~them~~

Respectfully
Eugene

Eugene R. Johnson
4 Jan Nostrand Ave
Jersey City, NJ 07305

APR 22 1997 / 19 / 93

My Name is
Johanne Richardson

I reside at
125 Summit Av

Jersey City, N.J.
07304

When I share at meetings
I state that I am a
grateful member of N.A.
instead of stating I AM
a addict. The question is

- Am I sending a
mix message to the
new comers,

4/28/93

6-2-2 15-2-1999

Dear Brother and Sisters:

Please provide me with some feedback on the following issue. Clarification is requested.

A few of our meetings in the Western Queens Area of N.Y. recite the following in the beginning of a meeting: "I'm keeping with our first tradition of unity and our sixth tradition of non-endorsement, and not to dilute our message. We ask you to please use the N.A. language. Our time in the program is simply clean time and recovery."

I am well aware of the autonomy of each group and our primary purpose, but isn't this a bit willfull. I am offended when told what to say and how to say it. One of the foundations of our society (America) is our freedom of speech. The beauty of our program is that it is one of suggestions and not mandates.

There are a great number of members in our fellowship that attend other 12 step fellowship meetings including myself. I love N. A. and am devoted to our purpose. I respect all fellowships and use the appropriate over

lingo when it is warranted; however I am appalled when I hear something suggestive violating my constitutional right.

The people who invented the afore-mentioned statement cringe and make grimaces whenever the words alcoholism or sobriety are mentioned. Alcoholism is an addiction to a particular substance which can be subsumed under the word "addiction".

There are times when someone from another fellowship will visit our meetings and are made uncomfortable by some of our members who share in a derogatory and vindictive fashion to let their position be known in the name of N. A. I feel we should attract people who seek help from us not repell them. What do you think? I will be anxiously looking forward to your response.

Respectfully

Kenneth Mercury

I realize
that Court
REFERRED Potential
Addicts is
Controversial.

IF ONE Addict
GETS Help its well
worth it.

I'm having
Gratitude SERVICE
Chris K.

CHRIS KEELEY

PHOTOGRAPHY

4000 TUNLAW ROAD • 1119

WASHINGTON, DC 20007

202 • 337 • 0022

4/28/93

WSC, WSO, WORLD PI
or WORLD LIT.



I WAS
WONDERING
IF WE
COULD PRODUCE

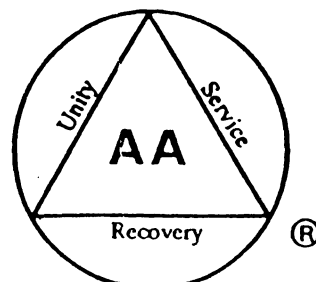
AN I.P. LIKE THIS
ONE THE "Mother Fellowship"
DOES. CAN OUR AREA
SERVICE PRODUCE SOMETHING
LIKE IT

About Those Meetings —

They are really not that bad. You won't find a bunch of winos or religious fanatics. But you will find a bunch of friendly people enjoying life. The meetings are short — just an hour. They are easy to find — they are all over town: mornings, afternoons, nights.

Take a look at the meeting list; you'll see the days and times and places. The meetings marked (O) are the open meetings where many friends and relatives show up. You may feel more comfortable there.

If you have a minute, take a look at the leaflet, *This is A.A.* It will answer a lot of questions you may have in mind. And when you are alone sometime, try the little quiz, *Is A.A. for You?* Sometimes it is hard to know if alcohol may be becoming a problem in your life, and the quiz questions will help you decide.



W.A.I.A. CENTRAL OFFICE
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OFICINA INTERGRUPAL HISPANA
1801 Columbia Rd., N.W. Suite 104
Washington, D.C. 20010
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**SO THE COURT IS
SENDING YOU TO
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
— AND YOU HATE THE IDEA**

**DON'T WORRY
— IT'S NOT THAT BAD**

You don't have to give your name.

We don't ask you; nobody keeps attendance records anyway. If the court wants you to have a card signed, the meeting chairman will do this for you and probably won't notice your name. You will hear some A.A. members introduce themselves, but that's their choice. You don't have to give yours in return.

You don't have to speak.

Some people will, but no one will think it strange if you remain silent. There are lots of A.A. members who prefer to sit and listen.

No one will ask you why you are there.

At the open meetings, lots of non-alcoholics show up — family, friends, spouses, people like yourselves. Why you're there is nobody's business but your own.

There is no charge — even for members of A.A.

During the meeting a basket is passed to pay the cost of renting the room, the coffee, etc.; but there is no obligation to contribute. In fact, we would prefer that you didn't.

No one will tell anyone you were here.

There is a rule about A.A. meetings: "Whatever you see here, or hear here, stays here." That's the anonymity part of the program.

It's not a religious meeting.

Most A.A. members have a program based upon a belief in a Higher Power. There are no church rules or church liturgy.

THIS IS THE RESPONSE WE NORMALLY SEND OUT FROM WSO WHEN WE RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON COURT CARDS.

Thanks for your letter regarding NA attendance and the signing of court cards. I hope the following information is helpful to you in working through this situation.

The issue of whether or not it is within the traditions to sign probation or parole cards is not up to the WSO to decide. We do know it is common practice in most areas of our fellowship for these cards to be signed. There is nothing in the traditions to prohibit any member from signing these cards, nor is it seen as an affiliation with the probation or parole department when cards are signed. Neither is it seen in these areas as an endorsement of the legal system to sign cards for people who have been directed to attend our meetings. Rather, it is seen as one of the ways we cooperate with potential members by carrying the message of recovery.

Our fellowship cannot assume that outside organizations or agencies will either understand or uphold our traditions. It is up to our groups to maintain the spiritual principles inherent in our traditions. One thing we have found occurs quite frequently is that groups focus only on one tradition during their discussions of problems or difficult situations. In our experience, we have found that when one tradition is being discussed the remainder of the traditions also need to be considered. We would suggest that you look at Traditions Three and Five in your discussions. Our Third Tradition states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. Many of us made it to NA through encouragement from our jobs, families or the legal system. As is stated in our literature "We are not interested in what or how much you used, what you have done in the past, how much or how little you have, only in what you want to do about your problem and how we can help." It is not up to us, as members, to decide whether or not someone has that desire.

There are several practical things you might want to consider in making the decision of whether or not your group will support the signing of court cards. Since there are some people who come to meetings only to get these cards signed, they will sometimes come in, get the signature and then leave. Or they will come in late and expect to get their card signed. One way which has been used to circumvent this problem is to ask that anyone with a court card place it in the Seventh Tradition basket as it is passed. They are then informed that these cards will be signed and available for them to pick up at the end of the meeting. Most meetings will not sign cards unless the person has attended the entire meeting. If the secretary, treasurer or group leader is uncomfortable with signing their first name and last initial, they have the option of only writing the name, date and time of the meeting. Another option which has been used is for the group to have a group stamp made up, and simply to stamp the card. In this way, there is no way anyone's anonymity could be compromised. If the group makes the decision it definitely does not want to sign court cards, then this needs to be

announced at the beginning of each meeting so anyone in attendance with a court card has the option of looking for another meeting where cards are signed.

Your area service committee may want to work cooperatively with the H&I and PI subcommittees in contacting the probation and parole departments to discuss our traditions with them. It would also be helpful to educate them about NA and what we do. Additionally, they need to be informed that by signing a members court card, NA is not verifying attendance. It is not our responsibility to see that members stay for the entire meeting, or that they are who is identified on the card.

Your group may also want to look at how the actions of the group in refusing to sign court cards may be having a negative impact on how Narcotics Anonymous is seen by the legal system, in particular, and society in general. Over the past several years NA at the local, regional and world levels have been making a concerted effort to improve our public image by making efforts to let the public know who and what we are, and that NA is a viable method of recovery from the disease of addiction. By refusing to sign probation or parole cards, it may promote a negative image of NA to the legal system, and the families or friends of those persons who are referred to our program by the courts. If we do not welcome anyone who comes into our meetings, no matter how they get there, this could affect NA as a whole.

Again, it is not up to the office to make the decision for your area. However, this situation was discussed with the chairperson of the World Service Board of Trustees who supports the information we have included here. Please do keep us informed of your discussions of this issue as we can use your experience in sharing with other groups and areas in the future in similar situations. Best wishes for your continued recovery efforts.

April 30/93

To: BOT

From: Lucie G., FSR - Alaska region

re: 'Prejudice Bulletin'

I'm unable to attend your open forum due to my participation in the Outreach committee meeting this evening, but would like you to consider my input on this bulletin.

First of all - thank you for giving the fellowship a tool to enable our healing and acceptance. This is an issue that affects us all in some way. My concern is that prejudice against mentally ill or "dually diagnosed" members was not mentioned. One member suggested to me that the mention of the use of medication covered the issue. I don't think that it does.

As a member of this program, diagnosed as manic depressive and not on medication, I face other slants to this issue. For example the need to be hospitalized for severe depression in order to regain my health has occurred in recovery. My first reaction was one of shame towards other NA members - that somehow I was less than or intellectually or emotionally incompetent. My fear of sharing my experience kept me from attending meetings, feeling that I would be judged. In a program that welcomes health and healing, I still wanted to hide in the corner with my defect - which is what I felt my illness was.

Instead I chose to talk about it at meetings. Sometimes I feel from others that I didn't quite measure up to their example of a recovering addict who'd been clean for a few years.

I hope you'll consider adding mental illness to this bulletin because so many of us have felt so alone in this program. Sometimes. Identifying this as another form of prejudice will hopefully encourage members to share honestly about how they feel. Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

Sincerely,
Lucie Gelinias