



Speaking Of Service

Dedicated to Open Discussion of Service by Members of Narcotics Anonymous

Volume 1 Number 1

January 1991

Wake Up Groups - "N.A. As Such" Is Now WSO, Inc!

(Today The WSO/BOT Agenda is: "Money, Property, and Prestige")

**Today: NA Is A Big Business With Big Profits;
"Trusted Servants" Have Become Our "Masters;"
We Must Return Control of NA To The Groups.**

Give Up Fear - Make Your Voice Heard!

FLORIDA: Look around, disagreeing with any portion of World's policy has marked addicts as traitors to NA unity. If they continue to disagree or just ask for a lawful, moral accounting of the money WSO earns and exactly how it is spent, they are impeached, shunned or whispered about.

WSO makes many promises in its legal agreement with Dave M. (page 4). For instance, it has agreed to place motions before the WSC in April. It did not promise the WSC would pass those motions. All WSO has to do is submit the motions to the WSC - if it does that, it has followed the legal agreement.

Do any of you seriously think WSC is going to ratify those motions? Do any of you think WSO and the Board of Trustees are not in complete control of WSC voting? Wake up and smell the poop. Take time to read WSC policy and the history of the changes instituted over the last five years.

Does any NA member or group think WSO, WSC, and the BOT are going to allow any change to policy that reduces their authority or threatens the cash flow generated from their literature sales?

When we fail to care enough about our fellowship, we are living in our disease. Fear cannot be allowed to stop us from living up to our spiritual responsibilities.

We, the addicts who want to carry the message of recovery freely, or least for the lowest possible cost, have lost the service structure to the forces of money, property, and prestige.

Let's surrender to that. It's time to dig deeper within our fellowship and build on our strengths.

It's time for an alternate service structure.

We can join with each other again, this time dedicated to following the 12 Traditions and not just the first Tradition. We can stop creating committees or boards that are not "directly responsible to those they serve." We can learn from our past mistakes. This time we can remember that without our diligence, monitoring, and yes, criticism, the service structure will fall in the hands of the self-seeking and the manipulators - "spiritual giants" that apparently still have defects to work on. We need to pray for their recovery, not support them in service positions.

Now is also the time to create committees and boards that live by donations from the addicts they serve and not with money generated by selling recovery. The "involuntary," profit-motivated, cash flow must be stopped. Any time profit is generated, sharks will grow and prosper.

The time for a spiritual rebirth in NA is now!

Daytona ASR Speaks To The Florida Region December 1990

FLORIDA: My name is Ted C. and I am an addict. I am a member of the "Against All Odds" Group in Daytona Beach. By the grace of God, I will have 10 years clean time on January 19th. I am the newly elected Area Service Representative of the Daytona Area.

What I am about to say is a personal perspective concerning service in Narcotics Anonymous. The points I am addressing in this five minute presentation are: fiduciary accountability, fiscal responsibility, adherence to traditions, and copyright ownership. These are heated, emotional issues with legal ramifications that can only be finally decided by full due process in State and Federal courts.

This room, however, is the forum for presentation of ideas from trusted servants and the Group Conscience of individual members' of Narcotics Anonymous.

I am not now, nor have I ever been, engaged in the sale or distribution of the so called "Baby Blue" Basic Text. I am, however, philosophically aligned with the duplication of N.A. literature by N.A. members as a viable option until questions of fiduciary accountability and fiscal responsibility are resolved between World Service Office, Inc. and the groups of N.A. I do, at this time, feel that the copyright for N.A. literature belongs to the spiritual Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, not to the California corporation called WSO. I am, at this time, of the opinion that World Service Office, Inc. has been fiduciarily unaccountable. This accounting could have been sent to each Area or each trusted servant at less expense than that incurred by the "justification" mailing I have received lately.

I asked W.S.O. by phone on November 30th and was promised (by an administrative assistant of support services) a 1989 audit, but it never arrived, despite his assurance that it would be mailed that afternoon and despite a follow-up call a week later.

I do, at this time, suspect that World Service Office, Inc. may be financially irresponsible. I have heard so many accusations from within the Fellowship, and have received so many communications from the World that included no sufficient answer to questions raised, that I am left unsatisfied.

I have for some time thought that sometimes the Area, often the Region, and usually the World are not directly responsible to those they serve and are therefore in violation of Tradition 9, and that they function in a governing capacity in violation of Tradition 2. Stuart Tooredman, Acting Director of W.S.O., Inc. has sworn in a Federal Court document that the "Fellowship's decision-making body is the World Service Conference." Clearly they have placed World at the top of the service structure, not the bottom as intended by the Traditions. They manage us according to what they say our needs are rather

than serve us according to what we say our needs are. There are those among us who have gone to bed with power, property and prestige, who have been seduced away from and have forsaken the Traditions.

Our zeal for expediency and organization must not override our most fundamental premises. The unity of the spiritual Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous depends upon our success at this level, in either negotiating with and restructuring this corporation in California, or replacing it. Without these efforts, secession and division will result. Until there is a resolution to these conflicts: a) No money should go from the Region to World except funds specifically allocated by Groups and Areas; and b) Membership should be able to duplicate and distribute existing N.A. material as decided by Group Conscience at the Group, Area or Regional level.

I and many others believe that the goal is to return the power in the service structure to the Fellowship. The goal is to restructure the World Service Office, Inc. so that it is not a decision making body and is directly responsible to the Fellowship.

Basic tenants are:

1. All decisions should be made by Group Conscience going through Area to Region to World.
2. The World Service Office, Inc. should have no decision making ability.
3. The 12 Concepts of Service should be tabled to the Groups.
4. The Joint Administration Committee and the Board of Trustees should be abolished and not replaced.

May the ties that bind together the spiritual Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous be stronger than the egos of the power brokers. May God make his face to shine upon us, and give us peace.

Ted C.

Computer Communication

GEORGIA: It encourages me that there are people all over this Fellowship who see that things are gravely wrong within our service structure and who are willing to do something about it. It gives me hope. With our Higher Power's guidance, we will succeed in restoring our service structure to the Fellowship.

My belief is that communication is the key. If enough people know enough information regarding what is going on, the Fellowship as a whole will demand that our service structure, especially at the world level, quit acting like a government. Communication through this newsletter, computers and gathering for a conference are useful.

The idea I and others in the Marietta Area of Georgia are focusing on is gathering together as much documented information as we can and

distributing the whole thing as widely as possible throughout the Fellowship. We have collected letters, minutes and other documents regarding acts of governance at the world level. This includes changes in the basic text; the "It Works: How and Why" fiasco; spending money without Fellowship approval; making decisions without Group Conscience or disregarding the expressed will of the Fellowship; disinformation campaigns by World; actions taken by World to gain control over our literature and our service structure; threats, intimidation and now lawsuits. This has been going on for at least several years. We have a lot of information, but we need more. We especially need recent information regarding the lawsuit, changes in the copyright of the basic text, exorbitant charges to American Express and perhaps other charge accounts, and World's ongoing disinformation campaign.

We are arranging to put all of this information into a computer. Then we will print copies for local distribution. We will put all of this on a disc so we can print more copies as they are needed and update the file as new information comes in. We will also maintain a well-organized set of copies of the original documents. Some people may challenge the validity of the computer printed information. We can show them the documents themselves, with letterheads, signatures and so on. We will then send a disc containing this file, along with a set of copies of the original documents, to people all around the Fellowship.

In this way, working together, we can saturate the Fellowship with information, with the truth, about what is happening. A knowledgeable, informed, Fellowship will probably take care of the rest.

We plan to be ready to start distributing information at least by the time of the Marietta Area Service Meeting, Sunday, January 27. We are hoping for more Fellowship debate on all service issues.

Bob F.

Letters To SOS

Letters should be less than 250 words, cover a single subject, be positive in tone and must be signed. Your name will be withheld on request or reduced to first name and last name's initial to protect anonymity.

The deadline for the next issue is the 20th of the current month. All letters become the property of Volusia Grphic Arts.

Mail to:

Speaking Of Service

P.O. Box 3021

DeLand, FL 32723-3021

Phone or Fax to:

(904) 673-4206

Let's Create A New Basic Text

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bo S. was chairman of the original literature committee that created the Narcotics Anonymous Basic Text.

PENNSYLVANIA: My idea is to begin a spontaneous work on an expanded Basic Text. I would like to chair the effort. I chaired the last effort [Original NA Basic Text] and have withstood the strain and distractions of the position. My interest is solely in furthering the primary purpose of our groups.

The preface of our new Basic Text would contain a legal document along the line of:

"This book is written for the addict who still suffers and shall never be subjected to the indignities and controversies that resulted from the fact that the first edition was accomplished amid great hardships and political turmoil. All are welcomed as members of Narcotics Anonymous, yet none shall rule over others.

When done to a point of refinement satisfactory to those involved, the book will be offered to the WSO of NA as available for consideration. If approved by the groups, it is definite that no person, service board or committee will ever consider this book their property or work to secretly undermine the spiritual and symbolic value of our combined love, spirit and selflessness.

The first edition has taught us that there will be those who are never satisfied and will seek to control the material as if it were their own without realizing what they are doing. The addictive tendency to judge others by our own motives will always be a fertile ground for dispute as we incessantly inventory others while refusing to look at ourselves.

In the case of the first edition, this resulted in numerous changes where the new version was only marginally better in places and diminished in most as to the clarity and directness of the writing. as we learn to set aside our differences so that we may enjoy our similarities, we will go through many changes. It is our hope and intent in undertaking this work that our focus be on sharing out what has worked for us and many others. We will pray constantly that selflessness and devotion to the needs of addicts seeking recovery in N.A. will take precedence over the need to be right or set standards for others we are unwilling to apply to our own living."

A structurally correct method for doing the work must be sought and found unless we just want to go for it and let the devil take the hindmost. Launching such a work now would take advantage of the fact that many members are outraged at the multifaceted confusion within world services today.

The recent discovery that the status of our primary recovery document was changed without fellowship knowledge or consent pushes the elements of concern ahead to a point of action. Replacement of the existing Basic Text with an enduring form would end the current strife as energy mounts to accomplish the work.

Bo S.

Fund Money Received Has Been Returned

FLORIDA: The David Moorhead Legal Defense Fund and its trust account have been closed.

All checks donated have been returned to those who contributed. "Grateful" Dave appreciates all the donations.

The struggle to have the cheapest Basic Text possible still goes on. All NA members must keep themselves aware of the progress of the agreement WSO reached with Dave.

Help Grateful Dave Pay Legal Bills *More Costs To Come*

Dave needs our help to pay huge telephone bills, copying costs, etc. that he incurred while being sued by WSO. He is still receiving bills from this suit.

WSO and Dave reached an agreement, so, no attorney was hired to handle his defense. Legal copies and transcripts must still be paid for.

The legal defense fund could not cover any bills other than from an attorney. So Dave is stuck will paying these other costs himself.

This legal battle is still raging. The WSO needs to be monitored or the gains will be lost. Dave is in California working on this now.

He lives on Social Security Disability and will deeply appreciate your financial assistance, in any amount.

Please send direct donations to:

**Dave Moorhead
1110 E. Palmer St.
Philadelphia, PA 19125**

WSO Agrees To Conduct World Tally of Groups' Basic Text Choice

Compromise Reached With WSO "Baby Blue" Printing Stopped

AGREEMENT

This is an Agreement entered into this 4th day of January, 1991 between World Service Office, Inc., (hereinafter "WSO") a charitable corporation with a principal place of business at 16155 Wyandotte Street, Van Nuys, California, 90025, and David Moorhead, an individual residing at 1110 Palmer Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19120 (hereinafter "Moorhead").

Whereas WSO and Moorhead have been engaged in litigation in Civil Action No. 90-7633, in the United State District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, concerning certain copyrights, trademarks and service marks held in trust by WSO;

Whereas the parties are desirous of amicably resolving the above noted litigation;

It is hereby agreed by and between the undersigned parties who intend to be legally bound thereby, as of the date of the entry of the ORDER, attached hereto as Exhibit A, as follows:

1. Civil Action 90-7633 shall be terminated subject to the entry by the Court of the ORDER, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. Moorhead hereby covenants and warrants: that he produced approximately 9,000 copies of a book incorporating portions of the Basic Text of Narcotics Anonymous, which was identified as an infringement in the Complaint in Civil Action No 90-7631, that he is no longer in possession of any of said approximate 9,000 copies; and that he has destroyed any and all printing plates or other apparatus associated with the manufacture or production of said approximate 9000 copies.

Full Details of Controversy Will Be Printed By WSO Service Purge of Members To End

3. Moorhead and WSO hereby agree, that in an effort to heal any wounds caused by the controversy which led to the above referenced litigation, a Statement shall be published in the January 1991 Fellowship Report and the next editions of the Newsline and the NA Way containing the signatures of Messrs. George Hollahan, Stuart Tooredman and David Moorhead. The contents shall be agreed to by all three individuals and be published to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. This

Statement shall: (a) reference the controversy which led to the above litigation, and include a call for peace within the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous; (b) include a call for a full and adequate discussion of the issues which led to the above litigation; and (c) include an admonishment against any recrimination within the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a result of the controversy which led to the above litigation.

WSO To Submit Motions At WSC Judge's Closing Remarks Included

4. WSO agrees to place, without comment, but with an introduction, the following Motions in the 1991 Conference Agenda Report of the World Service Conference ("WSC"), which shall immediately follow the publication, in their entirety, of the closing remarks of the Honorable Louis H. Pollak entered at a Preliminary Hearing held on Wednesday, January 2, 1991, in the United States District Court in Philadelphia, PA., prior to the announcement of any judgement.

Groups Decide On Official Text

Motion 1

That the Fellowship reconsider its decision on which Edition, or parts thereof, (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd Revised, 4th, or 5th) of the Basic Text shall be produced and distributed by the WSO as the official and accepted text of Narcotics Anonymous.

In order for this Motion to be considered, a description of the differences between the respective Editions will be sent to each registered areas and region, along with a copy of the complete Basic Text Third Edition, Revised. It is expected that the WSC will rescind the motions adopted in 1988, which adopted the Fifth Edition as the Basic Text, as well as the motion restricting any change to the Text for five years.

WSO Must Print Low-Cost Text

Motion 2

That the WSO produce, at a reduced price, the Edition of the Text ratified by the WSC. The actual price of this text should be determined in view of the following factors: its affordability to the membership at large; a change in the cost and quality of the materials used in producing the book; the responsibility of the WSO to provide services from the income generated by sales of

the Basic Text; and whether it includes personal stories or only the first ten chapters.

Registered Groups Vote On Text

Motion 3

That the WSC be directed to obtain a group by group tally of all the groups registered with the WSO, on Motions 1 and 2 above. This procedure will begin on July 1, 1991 and continue through December 31, 1991. All registered groups shall receive a copy of a paper detailing the differences between the Editions of the Basic Text, and a complete copy of the Basic Text Third Edition Revised. In addition, each group shall receive complete information concerning the issues relevant to a reduction in the price of the ratified Text.

The committee appointed to supervise this tally shall consist of the following: four RSRs, to be nominated by the entire group of RSRs in attendance at the 1991 WSC; two Trustees to be nominated by the members of the World Service Board of Trustees; two WSO Directors, to be nominated by the Directors of the WSO; and the WSC Chairperson. Those nominated by the RSRs, Trustees and Directors, respectively, are to be submitted to the World Service Conference in 1991 for confirmation by two-thirds published roll-call vote, failing which, those not confirmed shall be replaced by others nominated by the RSRs, the Trustees, or the Directors, respectively. Two members of the WSO staff shall also be assigned as non-voting advisory members. The results of the group tally shall be published in the Fellowship Report and confirmed as official at World Service Conference in 1992.

5. This agreement represents the complete agreement of the parties and is to be construed and enforced pursuant to the laws of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

6. WSO and Moorhead hereby unconditionally grant mutual releases to each other, their successors, predecessors, officers, employees and directors for all causes, claims or demands, both in law and equity, arising from the beginning of the world until the execution date of this agreement.

Dated: 1/4/91

/s/David Moorhead

/s/George Hollahan, for WSO, Inc.

An order, Exhibit A, details the agreement, and retains Federal Court jurisdiction over the enforcement of this Order and the Agreement. It is signed by: Louis H. Pollak, Federal Judge.

**A letter to Stu Toordeman,
Acting director WSO, dated
12/26/90, from Rachel H., GSR,
Insight Group, Lansing, MI.**

I have had the opportunity to read hundreds of pages of dialogue, correspondence, minutes, by-laws, guidelines, policy, and other pertinent information regarding this fellowship and its service bodies.

I have found several areas where the WSO, BOT, and BOD are in direct violation of policy, procedure, and traditions. What follows illustrates:

"5. The purpose of the WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE is to be supportive of the fellowship as a whole, and to define and take action according to the group conscience of Narcotics Anonymous." The Working Guide To The Service Structure (TWGSS).

You [Toordeman] have argued that you were only acting as a directive from WSC, as established policy in such a case. However, "The World Service Conference does not make policy; it cannot because it is not a governing body." The motion voted upon at '89 WSC read (not verbatim), was to give "general consent to the WSO Executive Director and its Board of Directors to proceed with the legal matter relating to the illegal production of N.A. materials or an extralegal matter relating to the situation as they see fit."

Clearly, this was a one-time motion only, not referred to or referred from the policy committee. As a non-governing body, non-policy making, and servants for us, the statement that it "also established a precedent for the kind of principles to be applied in similar cases." is a lie.

I hope I never live to see the day that the WSO or the WSC passes a motion to sue everyone who uses the N.A. logo without permission from WSO, uses the words "Narcotics Anonymous" on a flyer, wears jewelry with no service mark, or other "violations" that happen every single day. That would be impossible to enforce. Until that day, however, the WSO and its Board of Directors seems to be comprised of hypocritical, power-hungry, example-making fools who would rather spend tens of thousands of dollars suing someone than using that money to carry the message. It's an obscene waste of our money, and you should all be ashamed of yourselves.

Next, from TWGSS, "One of the most difficult jobs of the World Service Office is dealing with public anonymity breaks. Due to the nature of our fellowship, no part of our service structure should ever serve as a disciplinarian...It is never our place to attempt to punish--we can only try to prevent the recurrence of this type of problem."

I point out two violations: One, that anonymity of several individuals was broken by the WSO when it handed out names of trusted servants to whom "cease and desist" letters were sent a few months ago, and; two, that the WSO

goes against its own guidelines when it sets itself up as disciplinarian in this situation, or any other, for that matter.

To continue from TWGSS: "The WSB does not govern. Its nature is that of a custodian, providing guidance...The internal structure of the World Service Board is different from that of the rest of our service branches. The trustees do not represent, they serve...The Board and its members are responsible as a whole through out service structure, and they must remain responsive to the needs of the fellowship."

This is definitely refutable by your actions. What "census" was taken? How many home groups were consulted? How long did you wait for an answer, an expression of God's will?

Again from TWGSS: "A trustee should keep in mind that trusteeship places us in the role of examples, and avoid politics, personalities, and controversy." How on earth was controversy averted by filing suit in Federal Court?

More from TWGSS: "Prior to the actual vote, a voice vote (yea-nay) will be taken to determine if the item is conference business or if it should be returned to each group for a "group conscience" vote." When, at WSC '89, was this done in regard to suing for trademark infringement?

Now a few questions regarding some of your [Stu Toordeman's] quoted statements.

"Financially, it was clear by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous that World Service Office, Inc., was to spare no expense to protect the spiritual properties and copyrights of our fellowship...the fellowship, as it expresses itself through the World Service Conference, has made it clear that they do not want anyone, including the WSO, to change, alter, distribute or print their Basic Text without the permission and direction of the WSC." (7/28/90)

- 1) How was it made clear by the fellowship? Have you documentation or anything to the effect of a blank check from us?
- 2) So the fellowship expresses itself through the WSC? I thought God's will was expressed through group conscience. Has that changed?

"When I refer to the fellowship, I am referring to the World Service Conference as the decision-making body of Narcotics Anonymous." (7/27/90)

- 1) Does this mean that after July 27, 1990, every time you said "Fellowship," you were talking about recovering addicts in a spiritual program of recovery, Or just those members who participate in the WSC?
- 2) When did WSC become the decision-making body of Narcotics Anonymous? Again, I thought God's will as expressed through group conscience was our ultimate authority.

"We are not saying that the illegal text doesn't carry our message." (7/27/90)

- 1) No question there.

"Membership has nothing to do with it, aside from allowing them the courtesy of a telephone call before action is taken." (7/27/90)

- 1) Is this membership or fellowship? When you refer to membership, what are you

referring to? Do you have a different interpretation of membership?

"I too have seen the changing of the WSO in the early 80's and believed it was necessary then, and I feel that the changing of the WSO in the early 90's is now warranted. So if the fellowship desires to change the directors, so be it." (8/10/90)

- 1) Where do we start?
- 2) Again, is that "fellowship," per your definition, or membership?
- 3) Why don't you offer to step down? Why doesn't the entire Board offer to step down? Why do we have to vote people out?

"If the fellowship has other ideas as to the way they want to protect their property, we as the World Service Office Board of Directors will do whatever they want in that effort." (9/7/90)

- 1) Gee, really? I guess if I had my choice, I would rather see one or two "self-willed individuals" continue to carry the message in the way they see fit until they run out of money, rather than the World Service structure run out of money trying to set a precedent in the legal arenas. I've heard it said before if it isn't spiritual, it won't work. why, then, do people continue to feed fuel to the fire? It will only get as much attention as we give it.

"At this time, the World Service Conference is where fellowship decisions are made on behalf of all N.A. groups." (9/7/90)

- 1) Isn't group conscience where decisions are made?

"Basic organizational and philosophical decisions and directions are discussed and determined at the WSC level." (9/7/90)

- 1) Again, clear indication is given here that you don't believe in group conscience to determine what direction Narcotics Anonymous goes in.

"The work of the World Service Office and its Board of Directors is supported by the sale of literature and other inventory items. Rent on the building itself, costs of printing our literature, salaries of special workers, and other office expenses are paid from these funds. Translation of literature is also paid for from these funds." (9/7/90)

- 1) How much literature could be translated for \$20-\$50,000?
- 2) How many other things (like carrying the message in a concrete way) are being pushed to the back burner?

From "Responding to illegal Publication--A report from WSO BOD" comes the numbers that: 44% of Basic Texts were sold at a 40% discount. 16% were sold at a 35% discount. 5% were sold at a 20% discount. 8% were sold at a 15% discount. 11% were sold at a 10% discount. 16% were sold at no discount.

- 1) Who receives a 40% discount? Who receives the other discounts? What discount do Hazelden and Compcare get? What discount do groups get? What discount do newcomers get?

Rachel H.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Letters to SOS should be less than 250 words. This long letter touches many of the problems mentioned around the NA world, so it is included in this first issue.

"Why" do I support the Reprint Basic Text?

CALIFORNIA: Many opinions and statements have been printed by all of our branches of World Services attacking, condemning, and slandering us for printing and distributing the Reprint 3rd Edition Basic Text with the original 4th and 9th Traditions. We have been threatened with arrest, and barred from service within the Fellowship. The regions, Areas, and Groups have been terrorized by possible repercussions if they even discuss the Reprint Basic Text. The one question not asked of us at the world level has been "Why." Let me explain a few reasons "Why" I support the Reprint 3rd Edition Revised, and "Why" I believe in the original 4th and 9th Traditions. Then maybe we can come to an understanding of the problem and then a solution is possible.

The first obvious question we should ask is "Why should we support a printing of the Basic Text that is printed by a source other than WSO and no profit made to support WSO or our service structure?"

To answer this we have to understand the two types of funding we use in our service structure. One is purely Voluntary and one is Involuntary.

Our Voluntary Fund Flow is a spiritual process of conscientized donation. An Addict consciences his donation when he contributes in the basket at a meeting. The Group meets its needs and makes a voluntary contribution to their Area. The Area meets their needs and voluntarily donates to the Region, and the Region does the same with its donation to the World Service Conference. This method of funding is based on the spiritual principle of Group Conscience, self-support, and taking direct responsibility for service boards and committees that are directly responsible to the Groups. A voluntary donation is a spiritually conscientized support of our service structure as well as financial support. If an Addict doesn't agree with the policies or conscience of a Group, he can voice his disagreement through non-support. A Group, an Area, and a Region all voice their spiritual support or non-support through their donation. If a service committee is not getting enough financial support for its service, then the committee must go find out why. This method of funding keeps service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Our Involuntary Fund Flow is the use of profits from literature, fund raisers and conventions to fund our service structure outside our Voluntary Fund Flow.

We can quickly say, "No Addict has to go to dances and conventions if he doesn't want to contribute." This is closed minded thinking. We

must look at our Primary Purpose in respect to these functions. Our spiritual intent for dances and conventions should be strengthening our unity and the bonds between us. We grow much closer to each other when we can socialize and see each other outside of the meeting rooms. The workshops and meetings are a source of strength for every Addict that attend conventions. Many a newcomer has come back from an event with that feeling of NA Unity that gets us through those deep lows in our recovery instead of going back to using. There is a spiritual need for dances and conventions. That spiritual need is not profits.

There is not a choice in the purchase of NA literature. Literature and our Basic Text are as necessary to us as insulin is to a diabetic. Without our written message of recovery, many newcomers would die, and all of us would struggle harder to grow in our recovery. Use of NA literature is not an option, it is a lifesaving tool for our Fellowship.

Money, property, and prestige may divert us from our primary purpose of carrying the message of recovery to the Addict that still suffers. The profiteering on NA literature to fund our World Service Office by siphoning funds involuntarily from our Groups has left the Groups and Areas starving for funds, while WSO spends money hand over fist. Why does so much money go directly to WSO for its purpose, instead of through our Areas and Regions for funding our H & I meetings, phone lines, public information, and other service committees that are in direct contact with the still suffering Addict. Does the WSO believe that they carry the message to more suffering Addicts and serve more needs than all of the Area committees in the Fellowship? Do we believe that? There is another problem in our Involuntary Fund Flow. Over 1/3 of our literature is sold to non-Fellowship buyers. This means that approximately 1/3 of the WSO profit is from outside the Fellowship. If we truly want to be self-supporting, then we should take a close look at what we are doing and where we are going.

If our World Service Office reduced its function in our Fellowship to distributing literature only, and sold it to the Fellowship for the cost of distribution only, then the Voluntary Fund Flow could work the way it is supposed to. Our funds would be conscientized and donated from the Addict to the Group, to the Area, to the Region, to the World. If the World Service Conference didn't get enough funding to cover all of the frills that the WSO has been providing, then maybe it was never the Fellowship's Conscience for the WSO to have them.

The next question we should ask is, "Why is the Reprint Basic Text the 3rd Edition Revised instead of the 4th or 5th Edition?"

The 4th Edition was a professionally edited version of our 3rd Edition Revised Basic Text by a professional addict. They were supposed to only correct grammar and punctuation. The reprinted text was then supposed to be checked by the World Lit Review Committee before being printed. An assumption that the WSO seemed to make was that if there was only going to be changes in grammar and punctuation, then there

wasn't a need to return it to the Fellowship for re-approval.

The changes in the 4th Edition were so drastic that the 4th Edition was not accepted by the Fellowship or the WSO. But, instead of going back to distributing the 3rd Edition Revised or taking the time to review the 4th Edition through our literature process, a compromise of corrections were made to the 4th Edition on the conference floor and that became the 5th Edition. The Fellowship disapproved the 4th Edition and was not even consulted about the 5th Edition. The last Fellowship Approved Edition of our Basic Text was our 3rd edition Revised. The literature review process, as outlined in our Temporary Working Guide to Service (TWIGS), was completely ignored.

Our Fellowship had developed a literature development process that produced literature written by Addicts in NA, reviewed and imputed by Addicts in NA, and finally, approved by the Fellowship of NA. It is not, and was never intended to be, a fast process. Most literature takes years to be written, reviewed and imputed, re-written, and approved or re-cycled. It is a process that guarantees that our literature is written by Addicts for Addicts. Throughout the compiling of our original Basic Text, Addicts prayed:

"God, grant us knowledge that we may write according to Your Divine precepts, instill in us a sense of Your purpose, make us servants of Your will and grant us a bond of selflessness that this may truly be Your work, not ours, in order that no addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction."

Our Basic Text may not be perfect. We write our recovery the way we live our recovery. The sentences may be improperly constructed, the grammar off and the punctuation wrong. Even some of the concepts may conflict with each other. The message of our recovery is OURS. We live it, we understand it, our literature is written to be read and understood by Addicts, not professionals. Like the cracks in real leather, there is a beauty in our imperfection. Of all the problems we ever heard in meetings regarding our Basic Text, none of them concerned the grammar or punctuation. Maybe it's a problem for therapists or other non-Fellowship purchasers, but they have their own books. The message of recovery was pure. The editions by professionals perverted it and watered it down. If we continue having our literature written and edited by professionals, it will be no different than any of the hundreds of newsstand self-help books written by professionals that never used. It will be perfect for everyone but the Addict seeking recovery in Narcotics Anonymous.

The next question we must look at is, "Why did we use the original 4th and 9th Traditions?"

The Guide to Service being proposed by a special ad hoc committee suggests that our Traditions were written for groups only and they are writing the Concepts of Service to guide the service structure. According to the Concept and The Guide to Service, authority is delegated by a group to a GSR to carry their Group Conscience

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Newsletter Needs Your Subscription Today

Independent "Speaking Of Service" Begins World-Wide Distribution

FLORIDA: It has become obvious that uncensored communication between NA members is not possible through service committee publications. Worse than that, the WSO, WSC, and the BOT are now consistently slanting, distorting and managing the truth, to serve some hidden agenda.

An independent newsletter is the only way NA members disagreeing with standing policies of the Areas, Regions, and World can reach each other with alternate solutions.

Believing that communication between us will result in solutions to problems in NA, this newsletter was created. We hope you will support it by subscribing and writing down your experience, strength, and hope about NA service. Frankly, we don't have much money and can't keep sending it out for free. This issue cost everything we had. Besides, no subscriptions means no support, so **SOS** really should die in that event. Anyone subscribing will receive their money back if *Speaking Of Service* folds next month. After that \$1 will be deducted from the subscription price of \$12 a year for each issue you received. A lot of subscriptions means the issues can be expanded and sent to even more members and groups.

Problems Exist In N.A.!

1) NA is selling our Basic Text, our message of recovery, to the still suffering addict for \$8.00. WSO, Inc. sells the same Basic Text to profit-making corporations for up to a 40% discount. Our pamphlets are marked up 6000%. This literature was created by us to carry our message. Why do addicts needing recovery from the horrors of addiction pay more for the literature than Hazelton or Compcare?

2) The huge profits WSO is generating from literature are not completely accounted for. No member can find

out exactly how this money is spent and who is spending it. No concrete evidence exists that any of this money is used to directly carry the message of recovery.

3) After several years and tens of thousands of dollars, there is no Spanish Text. Why is this? We contacted a translator in Orlando, Florida, who teaches language at Stetson University and Rollins College, is certified by the United Nations, and holds Doctorates in both the English and Spanish Languages. He estimated a translation would cost about \$3,200. The work could be completed in a few weeks. Spanish addicts are dying waiting for this Text.

4) The purge of addicts sympathetic to others printing a cheap Basic Text has placed the various levels of the service structure in the role of disciplinarian. Addicts who are not removed or forced to leave service positions are smeared in conversation of world/WSO apologists and supporters. When did the service structure become boss? When did they decide that they were the only voice of NA? Stu Toordeman, Acting Director of WSO, told an addict in Florida last November that the BOD and WSO believed that: "Anyone having anything to do with the Baby Blue is no longer a member of N.A.!" They decide who are members? And who are not? Besides discussing the need for unity, Tradition One says, "No one can revoke our membership or make us do anything we do not choose to do. We follow this life by example rather than direction. We share our experience and learn from each other."

We don't like disharmony or conflict in Narcotics Anonymous; NA saved our lives, but we don't believe that we can live with our heads in the sand.

Sharing and learning from each other, without censorship, is what Speaking Of Service is all about. Its about caring enough to speak out for using the other 11 Traditions. Its about trying to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering addict freely.

Please remember that just thinking SOS is a good idea isn't enough - You must subscribe to keep this alive. Send us your \$12 today. OK? Use the coupon below. Thanks.

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REPRINT BASIC TEXT SUPPORT

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and make decisions on their behalf. The GSR's delegate authority to an ASR, the ASR's delegate authority to the World Committees. Many Groups, Areas and Regions presently use this principle when they give their representative a "vote of confidence" to vote what the representative believes would be their conscience.

Rather than using our representative as a messenger to carry our conscience upward to direct our service committees on what they should do to serve us in carrying the message, we instead give our representative authority to make decisions and come back to tell us what we should do to serve them in carrying the message.

Using this method of representation, a group, area or region can ignore the direct responsibility for the decisions of our service structure or the direction of the Fellowship. The name for this method of service structure is called Representative Government. With this method of delegated authority, we will have as much understanding and authority in our Fellowship at the group level that a civic association has with the Federal Government. Politics and "Who you know," seem to have more effect than Group Conscience and "What we believe."

Our 9th Tradition state very clearly "N.A., as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." What does "...ought never be organized..." mean to us? Does it mean that we ought never have a rigid, detailed, structured, organized guide to service manual that every Group, Area, and Region is "suggested" to follow, but if they don't, they are ridiculed as being Rebels and causing Disunity? What does the Tradition mean by "...we many create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." Does this mean that WSO serves WSC, which serves the Regions,

which serves the Areas? Or does this Tradition mean that our service boards and committees, from WSO BOD to the Area Activities committee are directly responsible to those they serve - The Groups?

How can we say that everything outside of the Group is not NA, but only a service board or committee directly responsible to the Group? It is very simple. No service board or committee outside of the Group follows all 12 of our 12 Traditions. None of them can; it is impossible. Addicts recover and live with the 12 Steps. Groups grow with the 12 Traditions of NA. The WSO and our RSO's and ASO's are the fulfillment of our 8th and 9th Traditions. If a NA meeting is not following all 12 of our NA Traditions, then it is not NA. How can we say our service boards or committees are NA? Should we let Groups be part of NA that only follow 3 or 4 of our 12 Traditions?

Our service boards and committees are useful and help us carry the message of recovery to the addict that still suffers. Every one serves a purpose and we need them. We just have to keep the perspective that they are our committees to direct instead of they are our groups to "suggest."

Our 2nd Tradition states "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern." Do we have any other purpose other than the group purpose as outlined by our 12 Traditions? If not, then we shouldn't have any other authority than a loving God as he expresses Himself in our group conscience. This does not mean ASC, RSC or WSC conscience. God's will is expressed when our self will steps aside and open minds let His will in. Do we believe God's will is expressed better in political arenas with fixed agendas and strong personalities at conferences? Or is God's will more easily heard in thousands of basements by Groups of Addicts whose strongest influence is a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer

before we vote?

If we want our service structure to be guided by a spiritual insight, then our servants should go to the source for direction. The process of the WSC referring all decisions, other than non-policy procedure, back to the Regions, Regions referring decisions back to Areas, and the Areas referring decisions back to the Groups for a Group Conscience, takes time. If we are seeking direction from a loving as He expresses Himself in Group Conscience, then the decision will come in God's time, not ours. We can easily adjust our structure to allow His authority to direct us. We seem to have failed at directing God to adjust to our service structure.

The Reprint Basic Text is not the problem, but only part of the solution. Open discussion has begun on starting a new Alternate Service Structure within our Fellowship.

Many Addicts believe that our present service structure is unchangeable and are not willing to be part of it. We can ignore the issues discussed, waste time and money trying to suppress the Reprint Basic Text and find out too late that we are so divided over what the problems are that it is impossible to find a unified solution. If we really do have two different beliefs of service, then maybe the solution will be two service structures. However, if the problems are not a difference in belief, but a difference in understanding, then we must open our minds and be willing on all sides to discuss these issues of disagreement until we come to come unified understanding which we can accept as a Fellowship. I pray to God that He grants us the willingness to seek an understanding and solution before the ties that bind us together become weaker than the beliefs that will tear us apart.

May God guide us and keep us clean,

Mickey

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