

Speaking Of Service

Dedicated to Open Discussion of Service by Members of Narcotics Anonymous

Volume 1 Number 2

February/March 1991

WSO, Inc. Brings In Over \$5,000,000 A Year Selling N.A. Literature Where Does All This Money Go? How Is It Used? Why Is It Used? Ask WSO For An Accounting-They'll Give You A Cryptic Report

The headlines in the first issue of SOS proclaimed WSO, Inc. as a business with big profits (it's true), SOS claimed trusted servants are becoming our masters (please read the 12 Concepts For N.A. Service) and SOS called for the groups to take control of N.A. (Traditions say, N.A. is the groups and that God's Will, our ultimate authority, is expressed only in group conscience).

Were those headlines too strong? Ask yourself, If your home group treasurer told you and other members that you shouldn't worry about how much money was collected in the basket or about how it was used, what would you say to that treasurer? How quickly would you elect a new treasurer? At your area service committee meetings do you tell your area treasurer, "We don't really need to know how much money the area has, we trust you to spend it wisely?" How 'cum addicts who demand total financial accountability in their home groups and areas, don't demand that WSO account for each and every penny it earns and further demand that the WSO spell out, clearly, exactly how that money is spent, why it was spent and who spent it?

In a N.A. world that could exist, our Basic Text could be produced and sold for \$1 (there would still be some profit for handling fees and office expenses). Think about a \$1 Basic Text. Today, if your group has \$8 left over after paying its bills, your group could buy one text and give it to a newcomer. With a \$1 Basic Text, the same \$8 buys eight texts. Many groups cannot afford to give away \$8 texts, but almost all groups could give away some \$1 texts.

Last year WSO sold over 300,000 texts - they cost about \$1.50 to produce and after WSO gives discounts up to 40% to companies like Hazelton and Compcare they still get almost \$6 a book. Still-suffering addicts get a books for \$8-10 (addicts pay full price). Between WSO and others, \$4.50-7.50 in profit is generated. That means four to seven books do not reach an addict's hands. The 300,000 books sold by WSO could have been 1.2 to 2.4 million books. What services does WSO provide that can carry our message as effectively as putting Basic Texts in addicts hands?

Maybe the January headlines were strong, maybe there is a good reason they were strong and maybe our headlines will stay strong. We hope to help stir addicts to demand a complete financial accounting by WSO, Inc.

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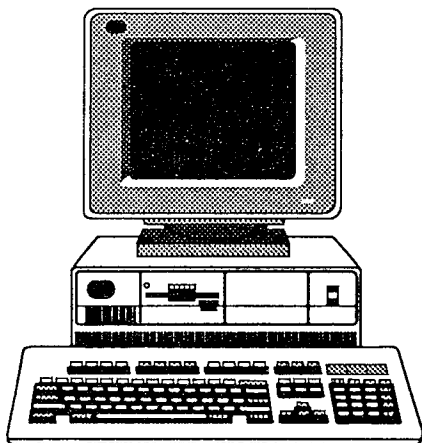
Recovery First Group

P.O. Box 442

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N.A. Members Are Beginning Computer Communication

National Meeting Is Now Possible!

Bulletin Board For NA Members Begins In Florida

Georgia Addicts Create Information Disks

Addicts Ready To Meet Using PC-Link Plus

New Ways For Addict's To exchange Ideas and Information

A Narcotics Anonymous Computerized Bulletin Board

FLORIDA: This is the beginning of what has been talked about by members of the Fellowship for some time now. This service is dedicated to the sharing of any information that addicts feel necessary to share with other concerned addicts who care.

With the situation at WSO, WSC and many Regions, Areas and Groups there is a need to have a medium to share uncensored information.

There will undoubtedly be many functions that this BBS can serve. Just to mention a few:

----A message center where you can leave and receive open and personal messages.

----Information on meetings - currently the South Florida Regional Meeting List is available via paging the SYSOP and will soon be available for direct searching and down-loading. With your help, your Area or Regional Meeting List can be available also.

----With the help of the members in Georgia, files will be available containing WSC minutes, WSO memos and much more.

----Newsletters prepared using word processors from all over the world.

The success of this service depends on you and your input.

All ideas are welcome and requested.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

For the time being, this service will be on-line starting March 18, 1991 on the following days and times:

----Monday - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM EST

----Wednesday - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM EST

----Friday - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM EST

To log-on dial (305) 763-1728 & follow the directions:

When your last name is requested, please only leave your last initial.

In Loving Service, Paul

Time To Act With Computer Information

GEORGIA: Now is the time to act. Now is the time for us to get more organized so we can act more effectively. The world level of our service structure is rapidly becoming N.A.'s government. We have this newsletter now. There is a conference coming to Miami in March (see page 5), where some of us can get together face to face. We can use computer services such as "Prodigy" or "Compuserve" (Next letter writer uses "PC-Link") to hold fellowship wide meetings.

A group of concerned addicts in Marietta, Georgia are taking steps to make information about the truth of our world services more widely available.

Like many of you, we have received information from a variety of sources, and it can get rather confusing. World's propaganda machine puts down much of this information as "unsubstantiated", "untrue," etc.

We have compiled a report describing problems with the WSO, our basic text, the lawsuit and other Tradition violations. The report includes footnotes indicating precisely where each fact can be verified. We have assembled a file containing this and other pertinent information on floppy discs. We are printing copies for local distribution and sending floppy discs to other areas, regions and concerned addicts. Our goal is that every area in the fellowship will have this information.

If you would like to receive a copy of this report and a floppy disc containing this information, let us hear from you. We need your help too. We can always use more information with which to update our file. We also need addresses for RSC's across the fellowship. And we need love and support.

Write us at: Second Tradition Committee, P.O. Box 5076, Marietta, GA, 30061-5076.

The "Second Tradition Committee" is not our formal name. We don't have one. We are just

a group of concerned addicts. We needed something besides a person's name to give to the post office. The Second Tradition most clearly expresses our beliefs about how source structure should work.

If you can, we ask that you send us a couple of dollars to help defray our costs. If you cannot afford that, or simply have problems with sending money, write us anyway. We know that as long as we remain true to spiritual principles, the means to do this will be there.

Our prayers and our gratitude go to all of our brothers and sisters who are taking a stand on these issues. In loving service,

A Group of Concerned Addicts

Trial Private Chat Room Established In PC-Link Plus

FLORIDA: I'm hoping other members will join PC-Link and contact me. Leave a message for "rdu" in Plus's private "The Upper Room." I'm waiting out here somewhere in the electronic expanse of the phone lines, for another addict to "chat" with. These chat lines are fun and I hope this electroic linking will lead to a national meeting.

I purchased PC-Link for \$29.95 from Radio Shack. Another addict found it on sale for \$14.95. The first month (\$9.95) is included in the price and they give you an hour (\$6.00) of Plus (chat) time with your monthly payment. PC-Link has over 600 numbers nation-wide.

PC-Link seems like the cheapest service and worth a try. A private chat room can have up to 24 people on-line at the same time, so a meeting is possible. The service has many standard service features and up-loading/down-loading capability.

I hope others will join me with PC-Link, let's have a cross-country meeting. This service will be a good way to test having modem meetings or doing literature projects.

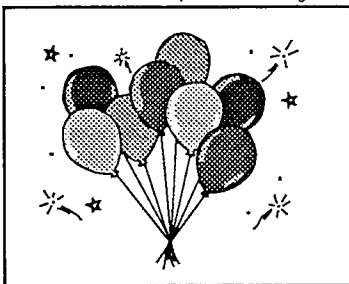
Ray U.

Editorial

Addicts, utilizing a loving God through the group conscience process, have the right answers.

Really this editorial is just another uncensored letter from an addict concerning service in N.A. For those who have asked SOS to define its editorial policy--this is the policy: *To print uncensored letters from addicts about N.A. service.*

The more voices heard, the better N.A. gets.



QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVICE IN N.A.

NEW JERSEY: There are many times that questions about our services come up and how we make them fit within the principles of N.A.? There are times when World Services will come up with an idea and go through with it without so much as asking our members how they feel about it this makes me feel unneeded and unheeded.

As an example of what I'm talking about, the WSO, Inc. printed 5,000 glorified 5th edition Basic Texts as a "collector's items." This was done without asking anyone. Supposedly this was to translate our literature into foreign languages. Most importantly, Spanish. From what I've heard members of the fellowship in California and Florida have already accomplished this? Why don't we start out with the one that is already done? I'm sure that they would be happy to release this to the rest of the fellowship for the benefit of all Spanish speaking addicts! I was under the impression that WSO was directed by the WSC to do this translation years ago!

Our communication must really be terrible, that we are not able to hear the answers to this and other questions! I guess that the people who are speaking out or, are in the "minority," are being suppressed by the voices of those who seem to be making our decisions WITHOUT US! The appeals of those who are concerned are being ignored or censored and held up for ridicule in the "Fellowship Report" and "Newline!"

Why do some of us try to suppress motions and or ideas from the rest of the fellowship especially when our home groups or regions vote for them and try to pass them up and out to the fellowship through the established service structure? Where is a LOVING GOD that is supposed to be the basis of ALL our decisions in N.A.? Why is it that when we try to go through the proper channels that the channels close up on us like a Venus Flytrap? When a committee tries to voice its concern the structure seems to break down--just at that time? Maybe its because of lack of commitment, personality, irresponsibility or because some individual that is in a sensitive position just plain throws it in the trash! It seems to me that the input from our members is unwanted and we are not the only ones who have come to these conclusions!

Why does it seem that some of the people we elect to serve us suddenly seem to end up serving themselves and rejecting the ones with whom they are most familiar and supposed to be serving? Then they get to the "upper levels" of service, why do they have a severe EGO ATTACK!? Seemingly they need to impress everyone that they are with, out of some inordinate need to be recognized or to belong in this "RARIFIED AIR" at the "TOP." They seem to forget those who loved them and supported them when they were detoxing! DID YOU GET THE POSITION THAT YOU WANTED AT WSC OR THE RSC?

I'M CONFUSED, ARE YOU? I'm having a real hard time writing this letter, because a lot of things keep going through my head about our service structure and how we can make it work for everybody just the way it is

written in our guidelines! I'll grant you that there are plenty of good, responsible servants out there serving us right now. These are not the ones that I am talking about in this piece. What I'm talking about here are the ones whose obsessions with control and power and prestige have led them to climb the service ladder on the backs of the selfless for their own self centered reasons!

The thought of a Newsletter like this to be able to share with one another our love and concerns about the fellowship and our service and recoveries, gives me a lot of HOPE that there will, FINALLY, be a way for us to talk openly without censorship or restrictions of any kind. Maybe this newsletter can help raise the conscience of our groups, helping us all to depend more on a Loving God.

If we all come together and utilize this paper as it is meant to be used, we will encourage the free exchange of information fellowship wide. I believe this publication has the potential to unify us as we have never been before. Within its pages we can talk about, identify, and rectify some of the problems that we have in N.A. service through communication with each other. Maybe we can implement some of the old proposals that have been put on the back burner and try out some of the newer ones that are being proposed today.

I'm so happy that some of our members care enough about N.A. to start this and are willing to risk ridicule and financial loss for me and the idea of a "Loving God that expresses Himself in our group conscience! Maybe now we can use our service structure that we already have and toss the "Guide to Service" and "The 12 Concepts of N.A. Service" in the trash!

Thank you *Speaking Of Service* for being there when I needed you.

J.B.

How To Get Extra Copies Of SOS For Your Friends

You can reproduce SOS once, twice, a hundred times - we will not sue you. Please consider this an official OK for anyone to copy and distribute SOS at their discretion.

We hope you will encourage others to subscribe to SOS.

Here's The Story Behind Having A February/March Issue

This second issue of *Speaking Of Service* will be followed by the third issue April 10 and the fourth issue the first week of May. Thereafter, issues will be mailed at the end of the first week of each month. SOS subscriptions are for 12 issues.

If you want a letter published in the April issue we must receive it by April 4, so be quick because we want your letters. We're specifically asking for letters that reflect your opinions about the Conference Agenda Report and other N.A. business before the April WSC.

SOS has placed all subscription money in the bank to pay for postage. We can defer printing costs, but not paying for stamps. There has been a good response to this newsletter, however we need and hope everyone will subscribe and encourage others to subscribe as soon as possible so we can pay for the printing too.

'The Story of the Basic Text'

Bo S., who chaired the original literature committee which wrote our Basic Text, is offering hand-made hard-bound copies of this informative history of how addicts created their book "Narcotics Anonymous." SOS has no paid advertisements - we just believe "The Story of the Basic Text" is must reading for addicts trying to get a perspective on our literature history. Make payment to: Bo's Studio, 490 Franklin Ave., Aliquippa, PA 15001.

Writer Wants NA Archives Lit Made Available To All

CALIFORNIA: "Give up fear? Make your voice heard?" Fear is a valid emotion. It warns us of danger. Yes, we are consumed with fear when we stumble into this fellowship. Our drug addiction is usually life threatening by then. Of course we will experience fear when the threat of disunity rears its ugly head. Our fear is warning us. We accept our fear and ask God for help. then we can come clear with what our needs are and take the action necessary. Sometimes it's as simple as, nothing needs to be done other than being open minded.

We believe that freedom of expression is our most precious gift in this fellowship. When this freedom is suppressed or any member overpowers another's expression in judgement of what's right or wrong, we lose our freedom. Our form of expression can take place in a number ways. Verbally, emotionally, in combination physically and written are some of these forms.

Since we are addicts (a form of suppressing ourselves through habitual responses) we experience, during the recovery process, ourselves overpowering others. WE experience various forms of ourselves that show us our character defects.

This Baby Blue Book controversy has provided grounds for a great many addicts to experience recovery. But most important is that it is revealing to the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous that a form of our expression is in danger of losing its freedom.

The WSO, WSC and the WLC established the means in 1982 to protect the freedom of our written message.

"WE ARE OUR OWN PUBLISHER!!!"

So, why is our expression in written form in danger of losing its freedom?

An individual member can express in written form to the entire fellowship through the *N.A. Way* magazine, *Reaching Out* and the *Loner Group*. These forms are edited. The writer is contacted and informed an edit may take place to print the article.

Through the collective writings of members on literature review committees, the WLC also edits or completely rejects submissions.

For any forms of literature to be made available openly at a meeting, whether for sale or not, must be approved by the WSC.

So, WHY is our expression in written form in danger of losing its freedom?

OUR PUBLISHER HASN'T BEEN ALLOWED TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE ADDICT WHO STILL SUFFERS.

THE WSC, WSL, AND THE WSO HOLD VAST AMOUNTS OF RECOVERY INFORMATION THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE FELLOWSHIP AS A WHOLE. WE ARE LIMITED TO ONE OF 6 BASIC TEXTS THAT HAVE BEEN CONFERENCE APPROVED. WHY? WE NO LONGER HAVE ACCESS TO *IT WORKS*, *HOW & WHY*, WHICH WERE PRINTED FOR INPUT AND REVIEW AND FELLOWSHIP APPROVAL. WHY? AT THE TIME THE BASIC

TEXT WAS WRITTEN AND AFTER, THERE WAS A WRITTEN GUIDELINE FORMED BY MEMBERS ON WRITING THE STEPS THAT CARRIES THE FOCUS ON SELF REALIZATION, AND UNLESS YOU KNOW THE RIGHT PEOPLE A MEMBER DOESN'T HAVE ACCESS. WHY? AND WHAT OF THE VAST STORES OF INFORMATION THAT THE WRITER OF THIS ARTICLE ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF? WHY?

Written material must be CONFERENCE APPROVED! IT MUST BE FELLOWSHIP APPROVED!! WHY?

If 5 different regions want the 3rd Edition to be made available to their members, they should have it. THEIR NEEDS ARE TO BE MET!

WE ARE OUR OWN PUBLISHER!!!

If a region has used and wants any information to be made available to their members, they should have it.

WE ARE OUR OWN PUBLISHER!!!

N.A. has room within for all manifestations of the recovering and wholly recovered person. Our common denominator is that we failed to come to terms with our addiction. Does this mean we must fit ourselves into 1 form of literature. We are not the same. To expect that someday we will have full agreement is unrealistic.

Our literature can always be evolving. Our literature can be always changing and growing, as we are in recovery. But most of all it can be made available to all members and newcomers.

WE ARE OUR OWN PUBLISHER!!!

We must protect the integrity of our written message? Who has set themselves up as judge of completeness, unimpaired, honest, sincere and sound condition?

MAKE OUR VOICE HEARD?

Since this form of expression limits the sound of the hurt and anger I feel toward the frustration of my own recovery process, I would like it to be known in this article that I am furious at our publisher for not recognizing the power we have as a fellowship to carry the message and process of recovery in written form and making it available to all members. Excuse me for not recognizing that I had to be connected to the "RIGHT PEOPLE" to receive the meat of recovery information available! The last few years of my using I was rather spoiled. My connection was a reliable source of some of the best drugs on the West Coast! Excuse me for not realizing that I needed to incorporate the same attitude and action in N.A. as I had when I was using. GET THE BEST CONNECTION AND YOU WILL GET THE BEST STUFF!!!

IT'S KIND OF FUNNY THAT THE "IT WORKS, HOW & WHY" FOR FELLOWSHIP APPROVAL THAT WAS NOT APPROVED AT THE CONFERENCE IS BEING USED BY MEMBER'S WHO HAVE IT. AND MEMBERS USE THIS MATERIAL IN THEIR SPONSOR-SPONSEE RELATIONSHIPS.

Our WLC is quite efficient. In 7 years they will have produced 3 "It Works, How & Why." And if the conference doesn't approve the next one, hang on to your copies of the input & review, IT MAY BE ALL WE GET!!! BE CAREFUL THOUGH, YOU CAN BE PROSECUTED FOR

VIOLATING COPYRIGHT LAWS WHEN MAKING COPIES OF THIS MATERIAL AND PASSING IT TO OTHER MEMBERS ONCE THE CONFERENCE HAS DECIDED TO STORE IT IN THE N.A. ARCHIVES AT THE WSO. LOOK WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE 3RD EDITION. SO BE WARNED AS YOU'RE STANDING IN FRONT OF THAT COPY MACHINE WITH YOUR SPONSEE, RUNNING OFF THE FIRST 3 CHAPTERS. WE ALL KNOW WE CAN'T DUPLICATE THE ENTIRE BOOK. SO WHAT'S NEXT!!!

So, WHY is our expression in written form in danger of losing its freedom?

WE CAN ONLY KEEP WHAT WE HAVE BY GIVING IT AWAY!!!

Erin M., Hurt and angry in recovery

Grateful Dave Speaking About Truth and Denial

There are not many faces that the truth can take. There are a thousand times more guises the disease will use to present itself as the truth. Spiritual divination is not an osmotic process, it is pure and intuitional in nature. To divine the truth is to be open to the lies, accepting the disease as a given. Denial is manifested in our unwillingness to embrace the existence of both as one. When denial is present, it is an impossibility to divine the truth. When acceptance of this truth is present, we have moved to the spiritually sound place where reality exists. Our denial is no longer an impenetrable barrier the disease uses to divide and conquer. Addicts have no greater problem than this - a prideful man has no concept of, or acceptance of, how desperately we need God's help and the help of other addicts. We must exorcise our self-sufficiency, pride, self-hatred, control and our fear, becoming vulnerable to our humanness and need.

Divine Spiritual Reality occurs when we are all together in true anonymity, knowing our proper relationship with the spiritual truths of our steps and traditions guided by a loving God that WE understand. Humility is a byproduct of a right relationship with God and each other.

We who are afflicted with the disease of addiction, must constantly be on guard that we do not fall victim to seduction of "the lower power." This is manifested in the things and cares of the material world.

Ego is a vain and useless tool in the pursuit of oneness with God. Control is valueless in obtaining a working relationship with God. Self-will is at the root of our inability to function as instruments of a loving God. Only through the act of total surrender to the Holy Truths of our steps and traditions can we expect to find any sanity or relief from the disease. Any circumstance or difficulty that we may encounter is sanctified and made righteous by our adherence to these precepts in all our affairs.

The lessons that we are to learn and to teach others are given to us as we live "Just For Today."

Continued

See "Grateful" Page 6

Stand For Something Or Fall For Anything

PENNSYLVANIA: "We stand for something, or we fall for anything."

I first heard this quote at the History and Literature Addition July 13-14, 1990 in Allentown, PA. During those two days I heard much about N.A., the writing of our "Basic Text," comments on N.A. service, speakers from all over the country and saw for the first time the light-blue 3rd Edition Revised Basic Text. Several members of my home group and myself liked what we heard and took it to our next group conscience meeting. I also obtained a copy of the 8 cassette tapes of that weekend, that I enjoy listening to often.

My home group has given out the light-blue text to newcomers since. I personally bought 100 Baby Blues for myself. I've been taught in N.A. that we can't keep what we have unless we give it away. Selling something for \$8 is not giving it away. My Area Service body sells Basic Texts for \$9 to the groups.

Since the conscience of my home group "offended" other groups in the area, they voted a policy in, 7-2 to not allow any area group to use "un-approved" literature at our meeting. (It's funny because I never remember voting on the 4th or 5th Edition in my home group.) In following months my home group has been boycotted, however we still meet at the same time and place as a safe-haven for addicts seeking recovery. Consistently different groups have made motions (each time failing to get a majority) to send our home group a letter to change or be removed from "their meeting list." The other group from the original 2 has now left the area and joined another area. They were tired of the constant attacks and intimidations. We came to N.A. for support, unconditional love, and the hope of recovery. Whenever my group has a motion it dies for lack of a second or is out of order. My new name is "Out of Order Bob" as many other groups submit self-serving or Tradition violating motions which I suggest maybe out of order. More will be revealed.

Bob P.

Keep N.A.'s Identity Stay With Our Traditions

ALABAMA: This is a call to arms my friends. The time has come to arm yourself with pen and paper for we must fight if we are to survive. There are those among us that would have us become a carbon copy of A.A. We have a program and service structure based on spiritual principles, and if we are to remain a spiritually based fellowship then we must stand for our principles, and the right to be led by the God of our understanding through group conscience in all levels of service.

If the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart then all will be well. This tells me that there are those that will tear us apart. I do not feel it is entirely deliberate. My recovery has shown me that I

carry my disease with me just as I carry my recovery. I am an addict and will always be an addict, therefore, I suffer from a progressive and fatal disease. One of the symptoms of that disease is denial. I have learned to stand for my principles, yet to stand to be corrected. Denial in places of authority will tear us apart. The Basic Text tells me that it is part of my responsibility to share what I see, and how I feel with you.

When I look back at how our Basic Text was written, the time and money it took, I see a power greater than ourselves at work, and with the same look at some of our present projects I do not see that same Spirit. Are we in denial, or am I seeing things that others are. If so I hope our voice can be heard, and the presence of a loving Spirit felt.

As a recovering addict I did not start to recover until I became willing to inventory my past, and present. Maybe, we as a fellowship will not recover until we do an inventory. I've always felt this is a we program. Not them and us, with a dividing line. I was wrong and I promptly admit it. My head is out of idealistic utopia, and seeing a little bit of reality today. There is a definite division in our fellowship that has been there for some time. Probably since a few world-level trusted servants in 1983 took it upon themselves to change the Basic Text on their own. Could be that the changes needed to be made, maybe, but the Fellowship never had the opportunity to respond before their action, and I believe their action created a distrust in the Fellowship that has never mended, and rightfully so. Our leaders are trusted servants they do not govern. We lead by our example. What kind of example do we have?

The only solution to problems for the recovering addict, or at least any I know is the steps. So maybe the solution to our problem lies in the steps. Are we as a fellowship willing to lay aside our fears and ego and look at us as a whole, the good, the bad, or if you prefer the positive and negative? It will take faith, commitment, and time. With the courage to seek truth without attaching labels. One region has started the task. Watch for flyers, and those that feel the same way lets meet on the common ground of recovery and have the Faith and Love to go forward with the task. You may want to form a committee at your Region to View its History, and put it in the written form also. I pray the Spirit will lead us all. I care.

Alabama Anonymous

Our Ultimate Authority Is Still Group Conscience

MARYLAND: I have recently heard about a message some say we send to World Services. It is belief based on the lack of participation being a clear message from the fellowship. In other words, World Services should be able to make our decisions because we tell them to do so by our lack of participation in Group conscience, as a decision making process for the fellowship.

The Spiritual Principle of Group Conscience seems to sometimes get lost when we look for

the voice of our Fellowship. Is the lack of participation in Group Conscience on the part of Home Group Members a clear message that we want decisions made for us?

How would you like it if our local and federal governments abolished your right to vote, because the majority chooses not to participate in this decision making process.

The lack of participation in Group Conscience is usually spawned by apathy, bred by feelings of powerlessness or lack of knowledge. When I see a small number of groups carrying a Group Conscience at an ASC, it lets me know it still works. Just as the voice of our people is heard at an election by those who choose to participate; the Spiritual Principle of Group Conscience, as a decision making process, is available to whomever chooses to participate in it.

If we are not vigilant in protecting our right to this vehicle through which a loving God may express Himself throughout our service structure, we will lose it. So, when your motions are decided on by a minority of Groups, we can be grateful that Group Conscience and God still works. You'll find that Group Conscience, usually don't have it at their home groups. In loving service,

Bill P.

Continued From Page 4

Grateful

Without recognition of our powerlessness, we manipulate the circumstances of our lives and recoveries, never full experiencing life, as God is delivering it to us. When we exert power to change ourselves or protect ourselves from the ups and downs we experience as we go through life on life's terms, we deny ourselves the lessons' reality has to teach us. There is only one "safe harbor" from the stark reality of this disease - the power of God! There is no such thing as an immoveable object - for Gods power is mighty and will move all that resist, in His time and at His pleasure.

Grateful Dave

"The Baby Blue Basic Text is not a political item. Do we need a \$1 basic text, yeah we do. Can we, with a \$10 or a \$9 or a \$8 basic text, carry our message as far as a \$1 basic text? No. It's simple, economic, free from personalities. It is not a political item."

Grateful Dave

Remember how Dave helped carry the message of a cheap basic text throughout the N.A. World? WSO, Inc. sued him and the Federal Judge ordered the compromise that was reached.

Now Dave, who incurred large debts because of that suit, continues to seek financial help. Consider sending him a donation, in any amount, in care of Oma Jackson, 1269 Elden St. #102, Herndon, VA 22070.

CALIFORNIA: WSO, Inc.

Editor's note: This letter was sent to SOS by the Assistant Executive Director of WSO, Inc., a "special worker" earning nearly \$50,000 a year, plus normal employee benefits. When attending N.A. functions and conventions, George's expenses (travel, lodging, food, registration, etc.) are paid entirely by WSO, Inc.

Dear Editor,

I was introduced to your newsletter during the first week in January, just after finishing the preliminary draft of what was to become the published agreement between Grateful Dave and the WSO. I was not surprised nor alarmed by what I read; many of the same issues had been written about in the same manner for many years. My hope was that the first draft of your newsletter would be changed to reflect at least a wait and see attitude, so the final product was in my eyes a letdown.

I guess it may be a bit too hopeful and naive of me to think that the spirit by which the agreement was entered into could carryover to others as well. Nevertheless, those are my hopes and they remain alive today.

When I reviewed a copy of your published volume I suffered some disappointment in spirit. Not because I believe the issues are unworthy or without merit but because of the inflammatory style and characterization of opinion or innuendo as fact. If as a group of authors your true desire is to rid the fellowship of a wrongful, over bearing, and tyrannical influence, then I wonder why you have chosen to use the same methods as those whom you've accused. It has often been my experience around here to take part in, and/or witness the fine art of the pot calling the kettle black. It becomes even more profound when by self-realization that I as the accuser have stooped to the same shameful modus operandi of those I accuse.

To continue down this path in the proscribed manner will not lead to any lasting resolution but it will prevent any opportunity for an acceptable solution to be found. I guess that is what truly troubles me, inside where I live, that if the solution was right in front of us we would overlook it and pass it by. Never recognizing it for what it was nor its true value. That is sad and inexcusable to me and very, very hard to accept as what may be the truth of this whole matter. So what are we going to do about, you and I? Let it consume us, tear at us until the bitterness is too much to overcome? Or do we responsibly force ourselves to work together to achieve something that will benefit our common welfare?

The only thing I know for sure is what I can do, my part, my responsibility. And that is only limited by my humanness and where I may be for the moment in my understanding of a loving God. If as N.A. members we desire certain truths to be revealed then we must accept the burden of the full truth, which is to look at what

motivates us first before we seek to impinge the integrity of others.

None of us is perfectly wrong or perfectly right. All on the other hand have had plenty of opportunity to err in our lives, as members, and in service. We have permission to do that, we do not have to seek it, and we can learn from it. The truth will emerge if we let it and surprising enough and more often than not, it is not what we suspected it to be.

George H.

Addict's Respond To George's Emotional Letter

NEW YORK: Dear George: Working for WSO, Inc. is not "being in service" to the fellowship. N.A. Service is volunteer. You are paid to do a job, paid well to do a job. You are one of the voices of WSO, Inc., you are paid to promote WSO policies and when you attend N.A. functions at WSO's expense, you are representing WSO, not N.A.

* * * Just an opinion, Linda B.

FLORIDA: I used to listen to George in the rooms of South Florida in the early 80's and I was really impressed with some soulful stuff. Then I read this letter from George and I thought "Maybe I was gullible because I was only a couple of years clean." Somebody else that knows him then-and-now said, "No, it was for real; he was for real then; he just turned over since then, and got sucked into the phony shit in the World Services."

Too bad. I miss the old "Real George." This letter from George sounds like metaphysical claptrap, the type of utter tripe that the old counterfeit dope con-artists would spew out to keep from getting beat up by addicts they had ripped off. We have been "ripped off" (misleading or deceptive communication, refusal to honor group conscience motions, mismanagement of funds entrusted by the fellowship) by World Service, and George is trying to baffle us with bullshit. Some precious few are impressed by his brilliance. But, I didn't get straight so that I could be more of a fool than I was loaded, so why should I "wait and see" for the rip-off and the perversion of spiritual values to get worse? I was in service for two years til 83 when I saw the structure begin to go to bad with money, property and prestige, forsaking the 12 Traditions. I got out. I waited to see. It got so bad that I became horrified that I might no longer in good conscience be able to refer an addict to N.A. because the leadership was becoming as spiritually deviant as Jimmy Swaggert or Jim Baker.

So I'm back at 10 years clean, motivated by our Traditions, to say that World Service Publishing Company/Fellowship Administration appears unwilling to negotiate with its trustor - addicts who pay their salaries.

George, the Assistant Director of WSO, Inc. and one of the most highly paid PR men from this company, responds to fellowship demands for accountability with sloppy sentimentality,

morose whining, and cotton candy spirituality. The truth that is emerging here is that we have two choices:

- 1) to change a system from within by tripling our revolutionary efforts against a system that is consolidating its effort to resist change - see WSC Agenda.
- 2) get the fuck out - with an Alternate Service Structure which can cut our losses and restore the 12 Traditions to service.

Ted C.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next issue of SOS will highlight some solutions - unity among the Traditionalists and an alternate structure.

MICHIGAN: George asks us to "wait and see." That's very amusing to me considering I spoke these same words (fallen on deaf ears) to my area, region and the BOD concerning their "inflammatory style and characterization of opinion or innuendo as fact" presented in their statements published in The N.A. Way Magazine, Fellowship Report and in letters sent to addicts. A single instance of this was the opinion that the Baby Blue Basic Text would cause serious losses to WSO, Inc. through lost literature sales. It seems this is the "pot calling the kettle black."

I've tried to remain open minded throughout the entire time the "controversy" lasted, to try and see solutions and not let them pass by. Principles before personalities is one of the many keys that unlock this dilemma we've found ourselves restrained by.

Personally, I need for the WSO, world boards and committees, and world level trusted servants to show me not tell me. A lot of wrongdoing and irresponsibility was owned at the conference in Harrisburg, yet I see no effort to clean up the mess. As for me, I'll wait and see, show me, don't tell me.

Recoveringly yours, Tom S.

Have Any Thoughts About 1991 C.A.R. Or WSC Motions?

SOS is asking every reader to write down any thoughts you have about this year's Conference Agenda Report or about the motions up for approval and send them by April 4 for inclusion in SOS. The more short letters, the better. Keep each letter to one subject, send as many in the envelope as you can.

The April issue of SOS will precede the WSC by one week. Once again, think quick, write quick and send quick, every one of your opinions is important to us.

You can fax your letters to SOS:
(904) 673-4206.

Mail to:

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P.O. Box 3021

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"The being that patiently endures injustice and silently bears insults, will soon become unjust, or unable to discern right from wrong."

Mary W., 1792

The Following Quote Is From The February 1991 N.A. Way N.A. Way's "Wait and See" Message Is: "Get Out!"

Excerpt: An Open Letter, Page 30.

"To whomever gave her [a newcomer] this book [Baby Blue Basic Text], this letter goes to you. I'm sure that you believe that you did her a favor by giving her a free book. But I'm here to tell you I believe no addict ever relapsed simply because he or she didn't have a Basic Text. Our recovery is available in our meetings to all who seek it, free of charge. If you insist on spreading disunity and confusion among the newcomers based on your misguided beliefs, then I can only say that I wish you well in your recovery, but I wish you would recover elsewhere, outside of Narcotics Anonymous.

According to *The N.A. Way* Editor letters go through a panel process to determine their worthiness. The seven member panel must agree unanimously to print a letter for it to be sent to the editorial staff consisting of *The N.A. Way* Editor, a trustee and a former RSR. The panel and editorial staff of *The N.A. Way* obviously think "...I wish you would recover elsewhere, outside of Narcotics Anonymous." is a message worthy of the fellowship's magazine. Our Basic Text, all editions, says, "No one may revoke our membership or make us do anything we do not choose to do. We follow this way of life by example rather than direction."

Members who believe in N.A.'s Traditions must continue to offer the N.A. Program to all who seek it and speak out against telling addicts that disagree to get out of Narcotics Anonymous.

The Service Structure Exists To Help Member's "Carry The Message"

FLORIDA: SOS: We have an 12th Step obligation to ourselves to carry the message. Our groups have but one primary purpose, to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. We believe that years of letting the service structure operate outside group conscience has allowed our universal message to be corrupted, we now have leaders that think some addicts should go away. Their call for "blind obedience" and "absolute conformity" has replaced "leading

by example." According to Tradition Two, "By nature, we are strong-willed, self-centered people, thrust together in N.A.; mismanagers all; not one of us is capable of making consistently good decisions." Good decisions occur when addicts express their views through group conscience. Without every N.A. member's participation, we get mismanagers. With mismanagers we get the message: "If you disagree, go away!" Our Traditions allow us to disagree.

Please join N.A. Traditionalists and subscribe to SOS today.

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"Delegating Authority" What A Concept!

NEW JERSEY: Who should decide what Narcotics Anonymous is - what Narcotics Anonymous does? A few members of a service board, along with a handful of hirelings of a service office? Or the entirety of the membership of N.A. - skeptic and believer, service-junkie and tow-meetings-weeker, newcomer and oldtimer alike?

We could adopt the concept, or "principle" of delegating authority - letting some few members (and non-members) decide which of our desires we truly need. But can such a "principle" be called spiritual? Who among us, having had their spirit awakened by our Steps, has found "delegating authority" a principle to be practiced? Have any in our membership found serenity and a sense of purpose by delegating the authority to make our amends, or delegating the authority to ask for God's will for us, or by delegating the authority to decide in who's care we should place our very will and lives?

Finally able to say "we made a decision - no one made it for us," can "delegating authority" be anything but a slap in the face of that loving God which gave us this gift of freedom?

Wouldn't it be better if we choose to exercise our God-given authority to decide for ourselves? If we let timidity, laziness or confusion keep us from demanding to exercise our responsibility to the blessing, what reason do we give ourselves that we are living a new way of life any different from our past irresponsibilities?

Our experience shows that building a consensus of what is Narcotics Anonymous, and what should be done in its name, is a tremendous responsibility - and requires an equally tremendous effort to get it. Can we, in good conscience, place so much trust (or fiduciary) in the hands of just a few who would decide? Or does not practicing our release from bondage require that, be it about grave criminal prosecutions or simply new "1/2 birthday" coins, we take up the task of deciding for ourselves - each of us, one all? Does such a choice seem daunting because of its formidable labor and scope? May we all remember then, that never again are any of us alone, and that, together we can do what we cannot do alone?

signed, a nameless addict

"Speaking Of Service"

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P.O. Box 3021

DeLand, FL 32723-3021