

New Awakenings

WAR IS OVER

I feel I must speak out against the witch-hunt that is going on in our fellowship at the moment. I have sat back, surrendered and "let them get on with it" long enough. I am sick of taking my own inventory in this and think the time is right (or long overdue) to take other people's. Yes I am renowned for sitting on the fence, playing devil's advocate and all sorts of non-committal acts, but I would like to try and present a balanced picture to the UK fellowship of what is really happening in Cambridge. I trust you to be open-minded, which after all is what recovery is all about.

Shock Horror: Addict speaks out in protest against injustice

I am bored and sickened with hearing these two words together in one sentence, but what I have to say needs to be said, so I will write them down. The words are Baby and Blue (no its not a love song). As everybody knows by now, we have been using the Baby Blue in some of our meetings in Cambridge for just over a year. I am neither for it nor against it, I have been both at different times and I have been neither (I have also been confused, threatened, torn, manipulated, deluged with info, lied to, terrified, disillusioned, etc...on the plus side I have also been alerted to service matters, forced to question my beliefs and feelings about NA, etc...) I **am** for: Unity, honesty, fellowship, service etc.. I am against NA politics, misinformation, propaganda, being controlled and manipulated etc...

In Cambridge we do our best to follow the principle of group conscience as described in Tradition 2. We do not all agree about everything. We work for solutions in the NA way. Some people don't agree with us having separate men's and women's meetings, so they don't come to those meetings. We try to practice a spiritual principle of co-existence. People assume that the meetings which use the Baby Blue, only use the Baby Blue. This is not true. In fact in the last year, we have spent about 200 pounds on WSC approved literature from UKSO. We have bought about 8 copies of Just For Today, and the hard back Basic Text (5th Edition) is always available. We do not sell the Baby Blue, as some stories have it, we give it away. We give away ALL our literature, and always have. (I was given a hard back copy of the Basic Text at one of my first meetings six and a half years ago). We even buy a pile of copies of Clean Times out of the pot and let anyone take them that wants one.

Drug-free recovery-crazed fiend in truth-telling storm

It is easy to understand why the pro-Baby-Blueists see their edition as the official (fellowship-approved) version. I'm not going to go into that argument here. What needs to be addressed is whether we agree with the concept of the original 4th and 9th Traditions, or the version which was revised without the fellowship approval. Is the service structure NA or not? Can it censor, rule, decide and dictate?

We know what NA is: "A fellowship or society of men and women who meet regularly to help each other stay clean". We also know that "the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using". If the service structure **IS** NA, then surely a newcomer should be able to get clean by going to 90 service meetings in 90 days. If the service structure **IS** NA, then there can be no requirement to serve on a committee other than the desire to stop using. If the service structure **IS** NA, this means WSO **IS** NA, therefore they should be "fully self-supporting through their own contributions". Clearly this is not the case, because WSO is supported from the profits of literature sales, many of them outside the fellowship. In short, if the service structure **IS** NA then it should follow the Traditions. In that case why do we need the "12 Concepts for NA Service"? In the Basic Text (all editions before you ask) it says that service can be as simple as cleaning up ashtrays or unlocking a meeting room. Which Concepts apply here? Maybe the widely held view is really that the service structure needs different guidelines to NA meetings?

Obviously I am being facetious in order to make my points. My own view is that the service structure *belongs* to NA. These are not all my own ideas, like everything else in recovery, I have listened and tried to make sense of what I hear. Surely these questions cannot be dismissed out of hand? Like the question of why the WSC is

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not RSR's only vote? How come individuals have the same voting power as the representative for the WHOLE UK Region? Does this make sense to anyone? Is it just me being stupid? or reactionary? or causing disunity? whoooooaaa there Lesley.....

On the other hand, who cares?

Blame it on the Blues

The anti-Baby-Blueists are spreading propaganda about disunity, about newcomers being forced to learn the history of resentment against the World Service Office etc.. There is a rumour as well that some leaflets saying "Say No to WSO" were produced by Cambridge NA, this is a lie, I have never seen one of these leaflets and I go to three meetings a week in Cambridge! No-one from Cambridge has ever taken Baby Blues into other meetings, we have never actively pushed it, the only time they appeared in meetings in other parts of the country is when people have taken them away from our meetings. Most of the people spreading gossip about us have never even been to a meeting in Cambridge. We haven't had any problems with disunity in Cambridge. We have had personality clashes, differences of opinion and heated Group Consciences but we have also got the most meetings out of all the groups in our area, donated the most money to the ASC, ordered most literature from UKSO etc.. We have done huge and on-going PI efforts, recently started an H+I meeting, produce a newsletter free of charge to the groups in the area (not political, purely recovery stories) and are generally achieving a lot.

Unfortunately some of the other groups in our area (east Anglia) didn't support us to try and find solutions, they put forward a motion to throw us out of the area (along with another group which uses Baby Blues), but then resigned instead. Some of these people who claimed to be actively against the Baby Blue took copies of it away from one of our meetings to give out in an H+I meeting!

Obviously there are political issues behind the Baby Blue. There is manipulation on both sides. Making a drama out of it (or even a crisis) is not helping anyone. If anyone is thinking of engaging in gossip or defamatory rumours about Cambridge NA, then I invite them to come to any of our meetings and feel the unity and fellowship. See how we esteem and value the newcomer and go to any lengths to carry the message. (There can be no question that the Baby Blue carries the true NA message of recovery from addiction). To my way of thinking, who is right and who is wrong is not as important as how we deal with it.

Fundamentalism rears its ugly head

Even the vehemently Pro-Baby-Blueists are not anti-NA. If anything they are fundamentalists which (although it may be a bit rigid or old-fashioned for some people) is not a crime and is certainly not against the Traditions or NA philosophy in general. The 12 Concepts state clearly that we should always listen to the minority viewpoint and that we should have recourse for grievances. Let's put some of these principles into practice instead of just paying them lip-service!

With love and hopes for unity♦

Publishing Box

No item appearing in this newsletter is necessarily more than the feelings of one person on one day.

This is the end of our first year of publication. But don't despair, we're hard at work on our first issue for next year. We had a lot of hurdles to overcome this year. Now we're ready to fly.

One of the things we wanted to do in '94 was publish monthly. With the publication of a similar newsletter on the months we don't publish (see page 10), we decided to continue printing every other month.

We would like to thank you for your support. Please don't stop sending articles, items, letters, suggestions, fax photos, complaints, complements, and cash. We couldn't do it without you.

Financial Statement

Received:

Wisconsin	5.00
California	5.00
Florida	20.00
Washington D.C.	2.00
Missouri	5.00
Wisconsin	4.00
Massachusetts	10.00
California	7.00
Ontario	10.00
Illinois	4.00
Wisconsin	5.00
New York	10.00
California	4.00
New York	10.00
	<hr/>
	101.00 Total

Expenses Issue 5:

Paper & Printing	133.15
Postage	46.11
	<hr/>
	179.26 Total

UNITED KINGDOM REGION STEERING COMMITTEE (UKRSC) ATTEMPTS TO HAVE AREA REMOVED FROM REGION AND GROUPS SERVED BY THAT AREA REMOVED FROM UK "WHERE TO FIND"

The UKRSC Ad Hoc Committee has been formed regarding the "Baby Blue" Basic Text. Part of their report to the UK Fellowship states:

"The Baby Blue is illegally printed and distributed by persons acting outside of NA and is unapproved literature. It contains extracts of past NA texts which have been superseded, together with parts which were never approved by the NA Fellowship and are printed without consent and against the wishes of the NA Fellowship expressed through their representatives at the WSC." (*report from UKRSC ad hoc committee on baby blue to UKRSC July '93*)

Chairperson for Ad Hoc Committee puts out Anti-Baby Blue article entitled "Draft for Comment" as Ad Hoc Committee's opinion. Other members of Ad Hoc Committee say its not Committee's opinion. "Draft for Comment" given out to NA Members. NA members that agree with the Baby Blue are not given last page. Last page has address of where to send comments. Another example of unbiased service. Here's some excerpts:

(1) "in particular, one might consider the position of a group which has either formally or informally adopted the use of the Baby Blue. If that is their group's conscience, then it need not concern NA, as long as the group does not continue to represent itself as an NA meeting. If people want to attend a 'Baby Blue' meeting as distinct from an NA meeting, that is their prerogative."

(2) "Unity does not imply that our opinions should all be the same. However, our first tradition emphasizes this principle. An NA group or area ought not to rely on its group conscience as authority for any action which goes against the spirit or letter of the rest of our traditions, and still expect to be regarded as an NA group in good standing."

(3) "This matter has caused untold disunity and strife throughout NA, against tradition 1, goes against our group conscience against tradition 2, has adversely affected other groups and NA as a whole against tradition 4, has diverted NA resources from our primary purpose against tradition 5 and 6, compromised the self supporting nature of the groups concerned by undermining the basis on which they pay their

way in the NA community against tradition 7, appears to be an organized attempt to undermine NA services against tradition 9, given rise to controversy against tradition 10, and compromised the spirit of anonymity by creating a personal cause, against our twelfth tradition. Small wonder that some members may express frustration at the actions of those who want to persist with support for the Baby Blue."

This is a very imaginative way to look at our Traditions. WSO Inc. could be said to cause much the same problems.

The UKRSC Ad Hoc Committee put forth three motions that were voted on at the UKRSC in September '93:

(a) That a Group using unapproved literature be warned verbally, then by letter.

(b) If the Group continues to use the literature then the Group will be removed from the "Where To Find".

(c) WSO Inc. will be notified of the Group's actions and asked to remove them from the World Directory.

The first two motions passed with no votes to spare. One Area changed their groups' conscience and another had not been at Region for over 6 months. The last motion failed. It didn't make any sense to me either, and I was there.

The new "It Works How Much and Why" is being sold in London as the "New Basic Text", the Concepts as the new and improved Traditions.

UK Region is serving World Services well; could it be due to the \$14,000 they owe WSO? ♦



New Awakenings Subscribers

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Is it time to renew your
subscription?



The Voice of a Member...

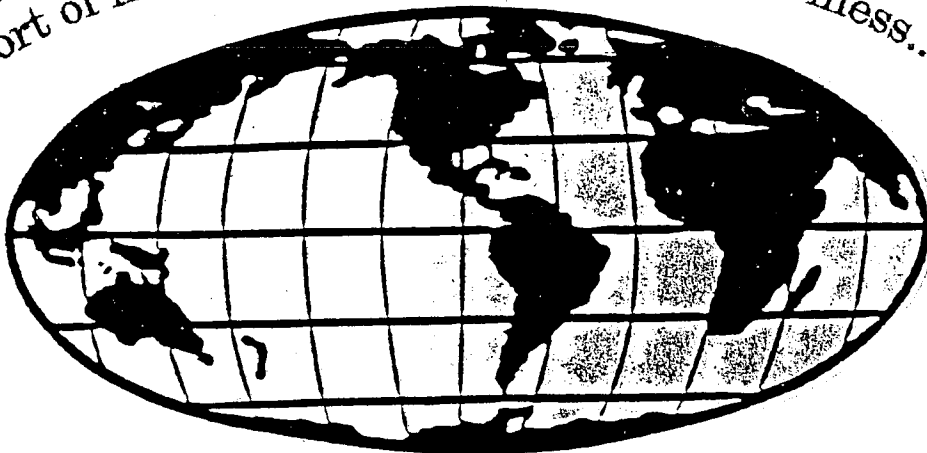
What is the Narcotics Anonymous program???... I've been contemplating this simple question for a time now and I'm not so sure that I like what I have witnessed being dubbed NA. Ideally, the NA program is the activities associated with our recovery meetings. What Narcotics Anonymous is to me is the recovery that is found at our meetings through the process of working the 12 steps in our lives and applying the 12 traditions to our groups. Anything else is not NA.

Our groups have joined collectively since the formation of NA and created, "service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve", as the ninth tradition suggests we may do. The concept of creating these service boards or committees is directly related to providing some service that the groups have asked for and need. The simple fact is, that the service structure is not Narcotics Anonymous, but the groups are. The service structure is the creation of the groups, and is directly responsible to them - period. The service structure is not the conscience of the fellowship. It has evolved to be the conscience of a small percentage of NA members that act on behalf of NA as a whole. The day is drawing near when an NA group (which is the primary entity of the fellowship) will have to comply to the direction of a service committee (which is a secondary entity). When that day arrives, we may as well burn the traditions, the basic text, and everything else.

One of the factors that will facilitate this dictatorship is the seventh concept for service, which talks about "full participation" of all members of a service committee. I have heard many discussions of this "full participation" and what is being said is that the people with the most experience can't vote, and that isn't right because after all, with all of their experience they have a better understanding of what is right for the fellowship. Well thank you for carrying the burden of the fellowship, but WE could survive without your vote. YOU were elected to serve, which means help, not dictate. The groups are NA not the service structure. I am sick and tired of career service junkies acting like they are doing the fellowship some big favor by gracing us with their time. There is only one pure motive to give of yourself to NA, to serve, and that is because you are grateful for the life you have found and you want to share that with others. Not because you have the most experience or wish to enrich us with your privileged views. If that is the case, stay home on Sundays, we don't need that type of "service". What we do need is members of NA that are willing to serve the groups as the groups direct them to.

Some trusted servants will say, "But the groups don't participate, what are we supposed to do, stop conducting business?" The answer is YES. If there is a lack of group, and member involvement, that may mean that the fellowship feels certain services are not necessary or less important than the facilitator of such services would like to think... If you are a member of Narcotics Anonymous, and feel that the most valuable means of making decisions that affect your fellowship is the "Ultimate Authority of a loving god as expressed in OUR group conscience", then oppose any form of resistance to that ultimate authority. Giving votes to trusted servants at the area and regional levels of service only serves to take away from the final word of group conscience. When listening to those that would oppose these views, look at their motives, and what they might have to gain or lose. ♦

"We began to see that we had rationalized the most outrageous sort of nonsense in order to justify the mess..."



P & A HEY, HEY, HEY

W. S. C. 18

Policy and administration is what they call it around here. Any way you spell it, it comes out the same. It's the place where we can learn some very good lessons, or find out how sick we still are.

The gift is in the giving. The greatness of the gift comes only with awareness. Even though there are traditions to follow, we create new wheels. Blessed are those who run around in circles, especially big ones, for they shall be known as "Big Wheels." Well, the wheel keeps on turning and some groups keep on burning, roll it, roll it, roll it down the structure.

It took until the first part of September for the fellowship to get minutes of the WSC. A good indication of how far we haven't come over the years. The early drafts were in the hands of RSR's but not for the general fellowship's eyes. Originally these are to be done by the first of June. Haven't heard a reason why it took this long this year. I guess patience is what is being taught with this one.

AN INVENTORY! AN INVENTORY! Good. Well this sure is an old idea all grown up. The ideas for it are many, but its reality is somewhat different. It took a lot of time to make the BOT's suggested format for an inventory into the WSC's format. An Ad-Hoc Committee [why does this always mean add s---] has been formed and even the original plan of the WSC doesn't exist any more. What the fellowships' servants [RSR'S] approved hasn't been put to work. Many changes, a different flavor and different members contribute to a watered down and totally different look at the fellowship than what the WSC had wanted. Well trust is something we learn up close and personal. A trusted servant should be just that. Trusted to do for us what they have been told to do. Not what is convenient or unapproved. Once more those who make decisions outside of our guidance are trying to teach us that all we have to do is trust?

Largest lesson this year went unlearned. The first day of the WSC was quite sad and upsetting to many. The misuse of the fellowship's credit cards by the WSC Chair and a Trustee. The amounts may have been small, yet the principle was the point. If only this had been dealt with in the way that we should expect our trusted servants to behave. Some really poor behavior took place, sad to say. When addressing the WSC later in the week the Trustee talked of this behavior and that the impropriety was not limited to these occurrences and that it should be looked at. When a motion was presented by the WSC Treasurer to look over the last five years' of records for like situations, the RSR's decided for the fellowship that we didn't need to know. Faced with a problem in recovery we are taught the need to search for our moral make-up. Is this the lesson of the ostrich, our head in the sand and our ass in the air?

The Intellectual Property Trust was approved after last minute amendments by the BOT. Once again, what the Fellowship votes on is seldom what is finally approved. Additional amendments from the Fellowship to the I.P.T. were not heard until after the document's approval. Does this mean that we have come to a point where we are electing members that are expected to decide for us, after we have told them what we have decided? Added, was a part describing use of the property by groups. This was something that was never given to the Fellowship to consider or input. Its inclusion early in the process might have helped to change the distrust and apprehension that many felt. Once more, we are asked to have faith. Yet when left out of the process, how are we to have anything but blind faith?

The fellowship's representation continues to grow. This year five new regions were seated. This large growth will at some time have to be dealt with. Several motions this year were defeated by a very narrow margin. If we are no longer seeking consensus or unanimity then we need a fair way to serve group conscience. When a region with 6 meetings has the same vote as a region with 1000+, is this seeking a true fellowship answer or something different? Equal representation is something that seems to never be a consideration, why not? Shared responsibility and involvement can allow for a greater sense of belonging. We talk of equality, let it happen in our decision making process.

All in all this was perhaps the _____ conference to date. As you can see I can't put a name on it. For a group of people that hated rules and laws so much how did we get stuck in this process? It seems that everywhere that I hear from the stuff is the same. Policy...Policy...Policy! Have we developed a belief that we can find the right answers in procedures and not through application of spiritual principles? Do most of you believe that a few members who can afford to take the time off work are average members of our fellowship? If you have seen the inventory questions do you believe that the system is still responsive to you? It's about the newcomer, right? Then everything that we do should be geared to that outcome, letting another person who suffers find us so that they might not have to die. Changing the rules will not provide us with anything more than a more controlled business. Let's get free of our needs to be right with procedure and find new ways to carry this message of freedom and not show how stuck we are on policy.♦

LETTER

I recently received a copy of *New Awakenings* in the mail from a friend of mine. What a breath of fresh air! For about seven years I was very involved in service. I served as selflessly as I could on the levels starting at the top with the newcomer & the Home Group on down to regional commitments. During this time I was taught to have the courage to think, question & formulate my own beliefs. This, coupled with the recognition & acceptance of my own pain & struggles, both getting to & going through recovery, led me to a heart-felt belief of what our primary purpose is & what is meant by "That no addict seeking recovery need ever die without first having had a CHANCE to recover".

Because I dared to think & try to understand, I acquired many labels. I was "trouble", an N.A. Nazi, and many more. How did I get these labels? I believe in Narcotics Anonymous & recovery from addiction. I believed in the importance of making the message of N.A. as available as possible. Whenever we would get the obligatory sales pitch of how much the W.S.O. needs money and I would question the fact, I would be the troublemaker. When I would question the salaries of the W.S.O. employees, or the price of the Basic Text, or why Hazledon could buy the Text cheaper than we could . . . I was a problem.

When I would ask these questions, all I wanted was for someone to justify why the W.S.O. needed more money. If someone would have done that I would have been fine & dropped the subject, but instead all I got was smoke screens. I was told it was needed for them to serve us better. You see, what I didn't understand was that if they flew a couple of Trustees half way around the world & put them up in a nice hotel & had them eat fine food, that that would help the newcomer when he came in the meeting today, or better yet the one that hasn't found us yet!

When some members of the Fellowship took it upon themselves to print a softback copy of the Text for about \$1.00 a piece, I thought that was great. Not that they had circumvented the system, but that it could be done! Home Groups could almost afford to give every newcomer a Text. What a concept!! Making our literature totally available, accessible at a time of vulnerability & willingness, when we first get here. But that's an absurd thought, where's the profit? How would we support ourselves without profits from literature? Hey, what's the basket for?

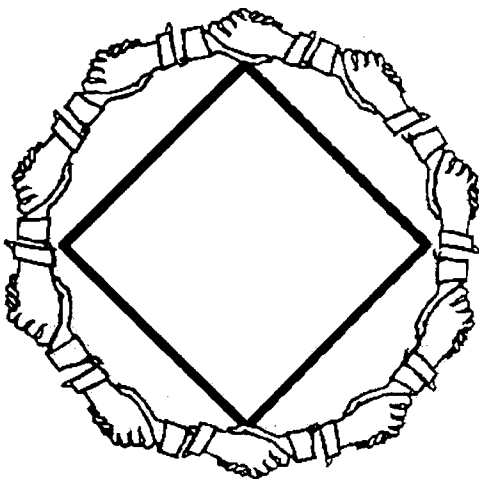
Hey, I don't know, maybe I'm crazy, but I thought that I read somewhere about being self-supporting through our own contributions. I also thought that I read somewhere about not financing outside organizations. I don't know, maybe I'm just too critical, but to me, selling our Text to Hazledon at a cheaper price so that they can make a profit by re-selling it at the same price we do seems to be financing their operation. Here's a crazy thought, maybe my Home Group could buy the Text at a cheaper price, or maybe my Area, or the Region . . . STOP! I'm getting carried away, we can't do that... or could we?

Well here's what I can do. If you heard the sarcasm or the cynical tones, that's just the pain of my wounds healing. What I do now is I share with the newcomer & I try to be as nurturing as possible. I try to practice the principles that I've learned here in all my affairs & be

a living example of why someone may want to stay here. I'm not on a soapbox today, but when the newcomer who has seen me in meetings regularly comes up to me & asks about recovery, the beauty of this thing comes to life! I'm given the honor to share my experience, my strengths, & my incredible amounts of hope that I've gotten, just for today, by holding on through the pains of recovery & truly cherishing the joys.

So today, I go to meetings regularly & that's where I serve in the most loving way that I can. I'm not real in touch with world service anymore, but my immediate World is better than it has ever been. I can't say that the rewards I receive from the service that I do now is better or worse than the rewards I received on other levels of service. The best thing that I can say is that the rewards keep coming as long as I serve!

In Loving Service ♦



AN

ATMOSPHERE

of RECOVERY

We come to this program from homes and apartments, offices and schools, treatment centers and jails, parks and gutters. We come from many different places; but they're all called loneliness, pain, and fear. Somehow addiction draws us together; to Narcotics Anonymous.

We come to this program for many different reasons; but those of us who stay all do so for the same reason. The desire to stop using and to stay clean. After we've actually stopped, and after the fog has cleared a bit, most of us take a look around to see what this program is all about. We start trying to do the things that we see those around us doing. Eventually we come to the Twelve Steps and try to work them as best we can. The result is a degree of freedom we have never known before. We find freedom from drugs and the obsession to use them; and in time a bit of freedom from that part of ourselves that has been destroying us.

We're taught that we can only keep what we have by giving it away. So, we seek out or are led to other addicts who have problems like ours who want help. Usually, one of the things we try to do when we're working with a new person is to get them to a meeting as soon as possible. After all, that's what worked for us.

Why is this so? What is it about our meetings that's so special? Usually about all we can say is that there is a feeling there; a feeling of strength, hope and love; an atmosphere of recovery. Our meetings are very special to most of us; a place that's "safe", a place where we fit in...but what keeps

them that way? One would think that any time people like us got together, the result would be chaos. Groups of self-centered, strong-willed, isolated individuals just can't meet together peacefully and safely, but we do. The reason we can is that we have Twelve Traditions which help to keep our Groups "safe" and free.

For most of us, understanding of these traditions came slowly over a period of time. We pick up a little information here and there as we talk to members and visit various groups. It usually isn't until we get involved in service when someone points out that "personal recovery (our recovery) depends on N.A. unity" and that unity depends on how well we stick to our traditions. Because we hear about "suggested steps", and "no musts" so often, some of us make a mistake and assume this applies to our groups the same way it applies to the individual. The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous are not suggested; they are not negotiable. They are the rules that keep our Fellowship alive and free.

By following these principles in our dealings with others in N.A. and with society at large, we avoid many problems. This isn't to say our traditions eliminate all of our problems. We still have to face difficulties as they arise; communication problems, differences of opinion, internal controversies, problems with individuals and groups outside the Fellowship and the like. However, when we apply these principles we avoid some of the pitfalls.

Many of our problems are much like those our predecessors had to face and overcome. Their hard won experience gave birth to the Traditions and our own experience has shown that these principles are just as valid today as they were yesterday. Our traditions are what protect us from internal and external forces which could destroy us.

They are truly the ties that

bind us together but they don't work automatically, it is only through understanding and application that they have power.

AN
ATMOSPHERE
of RECOVERY

as originally
published
in the Apr. '83 N.A.

Way
included the following
editorial note

"This material is from the introduction to chapter six of the review form of our Basic Text - much of it does not appear in our Basic Text as approved. We felt you would enjoy seeing it and have reprinted it here with permission from the WSC Literature Sub-Committee"

Permission to reprint from the N.A. Way is granted to all other service boards or committees of the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

N.A. LEAFLET
for info. on
reprints for
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- write -
HEALTHY CHANGE
PO BOX 42
COLUMBIANA
OHIO
44408

What Happened? 1983-1993: Part 2

(Part 1 of this article appeared in the last issue of New Awakenings)

Our position today is not hopeless. We have come a long way. Two years ago world services launched a lawsuit in Federal Court. Today, the forces behind that action appear to be quiet. They are not gone. Among themselves, they have to laugh at us.

This year a major piece of literature was introduced and approved without the knowledge or consideration of the vast majority of the Fellowship. Did as few as two or three hundred members read the new It Works, How and Why book before WSC '93 voted to approve the material? Is this your voice, N.A.? Is there someone out there who thinks this is OK and feels that a few members should do it all for us poor dumb addicts? I don't think so. My experience in N.A. is that when a great many members get involved and work along positive inclusive lines for many years, the result is quality. Quality that great treatment centers can only envy. Quality that bears testament to our spiritual nature. Quality that can only be explained by the involvement of a Power Greater than Ourselves.

I think the vast majority of members in service are very informed generally speaking and honest in their sincere efforts to serve. It seems that we have problems related to competing versions of where our emphasis should be placed and too few solid positive precedents to guide us. Generally, most organizations reach a point of chaos and if they survive, they sit down and work out their by laws or basic service documents which become their rules of operation which all abide by in good will. Changes occur easily or with difficulty to keep the organization alive or it flounders and dies.

Too long, we have allowed our leaders to act as if the material in our approved guidelines was antiquated or out of date and they have proceeded as if the guidelines didn't exist in several crucial regards. Generally, marketing and money took precedence over all other considerations. Negative analysis of current events was repeatedly used to justify severe violations of N.A. Traditions and group conscience policies. It has been very tense the past few years. Any member today who takes a look at the N.A. Tree, will be amazed at how workable the document is and how interactive the various service elements were designed to be. While some expansion would help, the base document is strong. Any students of N.A. history or service structure should get a copy as soon as possible.

During the last few years, intense concern over trouble in World Services has had a depressing effect on the distribution, study and voting at group level of the WSC Agenda. This year was the worse I have ever seen. I have yet to find a region where a majority of areas, much less groups, got the Conference Agenda Report.

In one group, there was a motion that no one gets cakes for their clean time anniversary anymore. The secretary asked a former trusted servant where this policy came from. They were told that someone made the motion and that it carried. I asked, "Who in our group is conscious of this motion?" Group conscience, I believe, is what members feel and believe to be correct to the best of their understanding. If no one knows, how can it be group conscience?

Tomorrow is my nineteenth anniversary of living clean in Narcotics Anonymous. I have seen the love of this fellowship up close all that time. There is no shortage of that love today, even with the confusion. There are many devoted members who may be reaching a saturation point with the study of policy, procedures and rules of order. We are in a better position to appreciate the miracle of being clean and the awesome implications of personality change than ever before. I hope all our trouble allows us to grow strong in reality and lay down the kind of bedrock to provide unity and creative peace to provide for our future.

Many of us have undertaken the acquisition and study of computers to tool up for our service work. Believe me, it helps. We now have the ability to telecommunicate and routinely ship files to one another on floppy disks. This used to be a dream. The day will surely come when those who play games of intrigue and manipulation will be snared in their games and we can get back to being the greatest force against the disease of addiction in the history of mankind.

We may come to a place soon where the ability to create lasting policy documents will come into play. Maybe not. Policy work is so tedious and requires so much training that the good work of one session is destroyed at the next sessions by people who didn't attend or understand what was done in the first session. This means that we will have to surrender to some workable structure at some point. I seriously recommend that you

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wait until you see a document that reflects some real workable quality and set with that material for a year or two before signing anything into N.A. law. Be careful to reward good work and don't let anyone rush you into anything.

The greatest miracle is that we are clean and growing in these many ways. I was not going to get to walk through all these difficult passages.

There seems to be a prevalent attitude that members who support World Services or are currently elected members of World Service are somehow under fire and that the opposition is aggressively negative and has no valid issue or concern to which the members currently in World Service could respond to in all good conscience. Well, this is not true. What we would like to see is no more hidden agendas where contracts are signed in advance of consideration by the Fellowship. Also:

1. No signing of legal contracts or binding agreements in violation of approved policy.
2. Restoration of WSC Finance Committee.
3. Vice Chair as a training position within our Service Structure in general to build in the idea of continuity of service.
4. Restoration of the World Directory of meetings.
5. A redrafting or correction of the Twelve Concepts of Service lest they be taken seriously by default.
6. A custom or tradition of gratitude for our trusted servants that transcends politics and various leadership groups.

We would be nowhere without our trusted servants. If all they have to look forward to is damnation, they will grow guarded and serve more in fear than in joy. We honor them to keep them honorable. There may be other items that should be on this list but hopefully some members reading this will come to realize that our deep dark service problems are really pretty simple. What gives them power is that we won't come out and talk about them. This makes it seem to one side that they are always being attacked and to the other side that they can expect more problems since those in charge refuse to deal with issues. The disease thrives on this! The loving gratitude of hundreds of thousands of addicts in recovery is so simply negated. A solid Tenth Step could resolve a lot of this.

One of the initial troubles was the reintroduction of a motion again and again at WSC 1985 of the motion that only RSR's vote. This made it clear that until dominate forces in World Services got their way, the motion would not go away. The trouble is that year after year, the motion has come back in many forms. The time has come to commit to the principle that it is what the groups of N.A. want and ask for that counts. Otherwise, we wind up with a team of current glory seekers year after year who are sure to fail because nobody taught them to listen to what the Fellowship has to say about things.

The deadlock will go on until some bright spirit says, successfully, enough! We have an approved structure which allows for all the elements of N.A. service we have followed for years. It is called the Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure. The joke is that the N.A. Tree has been reduced to twigs: TWGSS. The reality is that the real discussions of our Service Structure along with WSC motions and the Subcommittee Guidelines have gone into the Temporary Working Guide.

The reason it is called Temporary and Working is because the Fellowship saw a need for refinement and improvement that got twisted into a total conceptual rewrite. Year after year since 1984 or so, thousands of dollars each year has been spent on redoing the Service Structure. The idea that once we vote to adopt the Structure it ceases to be recommended, got lost and the Structure is invoked as a matter of convenience when it is to your favor and disregarded as recommended when it is not.

The answer is not in an improved Service Structure. The answer is a return to the basic values of caring for others, trusting God and each of us doing our very best within the written structure. The minor changes in our written Structure may or may not keep pace with this spiritual endeavor.

I think and feel the most important thing is that the Fellowship come to terms with the fact of our essential spirituality as a program of recovery. The Fellowship must not let those who profess to serve them speak as if N.A. is a business. It confuses newcomers and breeds animosity. Once the spirituality is taken out, N.A. collapses like a tent without a pole! When spirituality is taken out, we can't stay clean. Parts of the general Fellowship have missed some of these troubles by ignoring World Services. That is how I explain the lack of member and group participation in going through the pre-conference agenda materials. It is not that they don't care, the general Fellowship has been deadened to their opportunity and responsibility to run their Fellowship. These things happen. The thing to do now is admit that it has happened, figure out where we are at as a Fellowship and go on from here, together. ♦

HISTORY NO LONGER SUCH A MYSTERY

The tenth meeting of the history committee took place in September 1993. More work was done and things decided about archival info and information access. This update is short and sweet.

The book is now at about eighty pages. More archival documents could be added but haven't been. The major decision was to let others know that the material currently in our hands will be always available to everyone. The idea is that we as a committee have started digitizing materials onto computer. These first few major pieces, we believe, are the ones that have had the most requests from those of us who collect materials and pass them on to others. Instead of trying to meet everyone's request with hard copy with it's production and distribution expense, we have figured that if you want it you will find the access to a computer to use the material that we can more inexpensively generate and ship by computer disk. This can also avoid the cash flow responsibility.

To that end we offer this small list of materials of things we currently have on disk.

YELLOW BOOK The fore runner to the White Book circa 1954

WHITE BOOK A early draft prior to publication in 1963-4

GREY BOOK The input copy of the Basic Text Feb. 1981

THE 12 STEPS A 1974 writing on the steps

N.A. TREE The first service manual of N.A.

JUST FOR TODAY A long form from a magazine in 1954

IN LOVING SERVICE A writing on the traditions, second draft

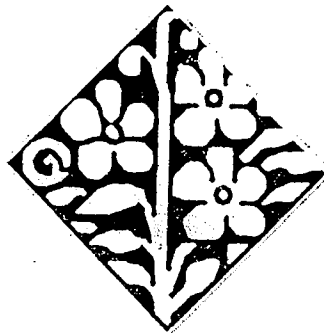
N.A. HISTORY What has been done to date by the history committee

Many other pieces are in the process and will be added as they become available. These include conference minutes, Power to Recover, Chicago draft of the steps, Clean and Serene, and a whole lot more. If you have requests or suggestions on what we should focus on in production of these materials, let us know. If you would like any of these materials, simply send a computer disk and return postage to P.O.B. 206 Central Lake, MI 49622. We currently use IBM compatible, Dos based, Word Perfect format.

If you simply must have hard copy, write, we'll talk about it.

In Loving Service

Our history workers



"We can examine and re-examine all our old ideas and constantly improve on them or replace them with new ones."

Basic Text, 3rd Edition Revised page 9

New Awakenings is pleased to announce a new newsletter:

NOW EVEN MORE IS REVEALED!!!

Write TO:

**The Conscience Connection
P.O. BOX 58
Lanham MD 20703-0058
U.S.A.**



MORE WILL BE REVEALED

Things we never dreamed of become true. We find ourselves daring to care and love and with love, all things are possible. We find ourselves advancing as human beings along spiritual lines and doing a great service.

We get the very finest friends. These are some things many of us could not conceive of. Before, we thought in terms of self-centered materialism that could not possibly bring us happiness. Now we live with a new outlook, that of caring and sharing the N.A. way

We are surrounded by like-minded addicts, who once were at the depths of misery and despair, and now serious about their own recovery and helping the suffering addict.

We are living and enjoying life without drugs. At times we look in the mirror and find it all so hard to believe. The great fact is that it's O.K. It does get better and we never have to be alone again.

We have, in recovery, experienced difficult times when we could not decide our next move. The truth has been revealed to us. In meditation we may concentrate on a dream of service for our fellow man and find that the rest is just willingness and foot work. More will be revealed. It takes work to uncover it but it is, we believe, the one thing worth working for--Twelve Steps of recovery.

Today we are free from the obsession to use compulsively even when we are beaten. We are free to live as we see fit without drugs. The ability to accept God's will and feeling serene inside is freedom for us. Faith has replaced our fear and has given us a freedom from ourselves. Today we have the freedom of choice.

The program of N.A. is truly a program of freedom. N.A. has given us back the freedom that we lost when we turned to drugs in our search for freedom. We had believed that drugs were the answer. When we were under the control of our addictions we had given up all of our freedom to choose--the only choice left to us were jails, institutions or death. At last, with the help of the Fellowship and our Higher Power, we have regained our freedom.

When we first came to the program, many of us felt defeated, beaten and ashamed. As a newcomer it is sometimes hard to see that through our defeat and surrender we had regained some control of our lives once more. Through our freedom we begin taking responsibility for our lives again. In our freedom we have found that our dreams come true, if we choose to make them happen.

Through the freedom in our new lives we are finally able to see the special qualities that we possess as individuals--qualities that we used to envy in others--never realizing the potential within ourselves.

(excerpt from the end of the "Gray Book", the review form of the Basic Text)

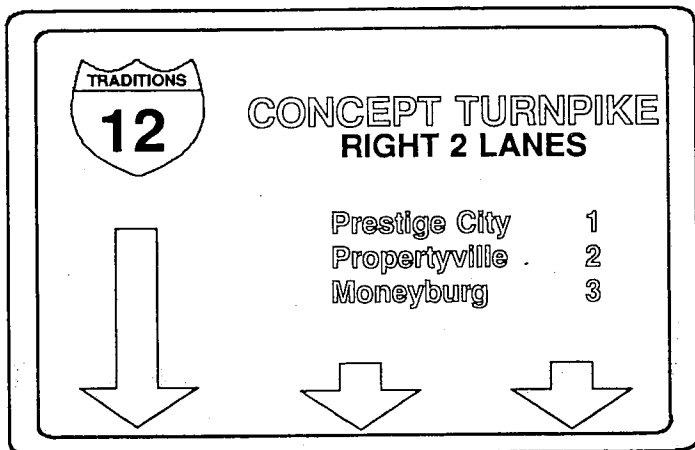
To get *New Awakenings*

Just send us your name and address. Use this form if you wish. Send us a letter if you can. We publish the first week of every other month. Getting you one issue #5 in the U.S. cost 73.4¢. Projecting from this cost we figure a year's subscription (6 issues) should be \$4.40. Sending more enables *New Awakenings* to go out to addicts who haven't seen it yet.

Please don't forget, if you move, let us know where you went!

Name _____

Address _____



Recently, addicts on their way to work the Steps one morning were surprised to see a new sign on their path. It had apparently been installed prior to their awakening.

New Awakenings
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U.S.A.