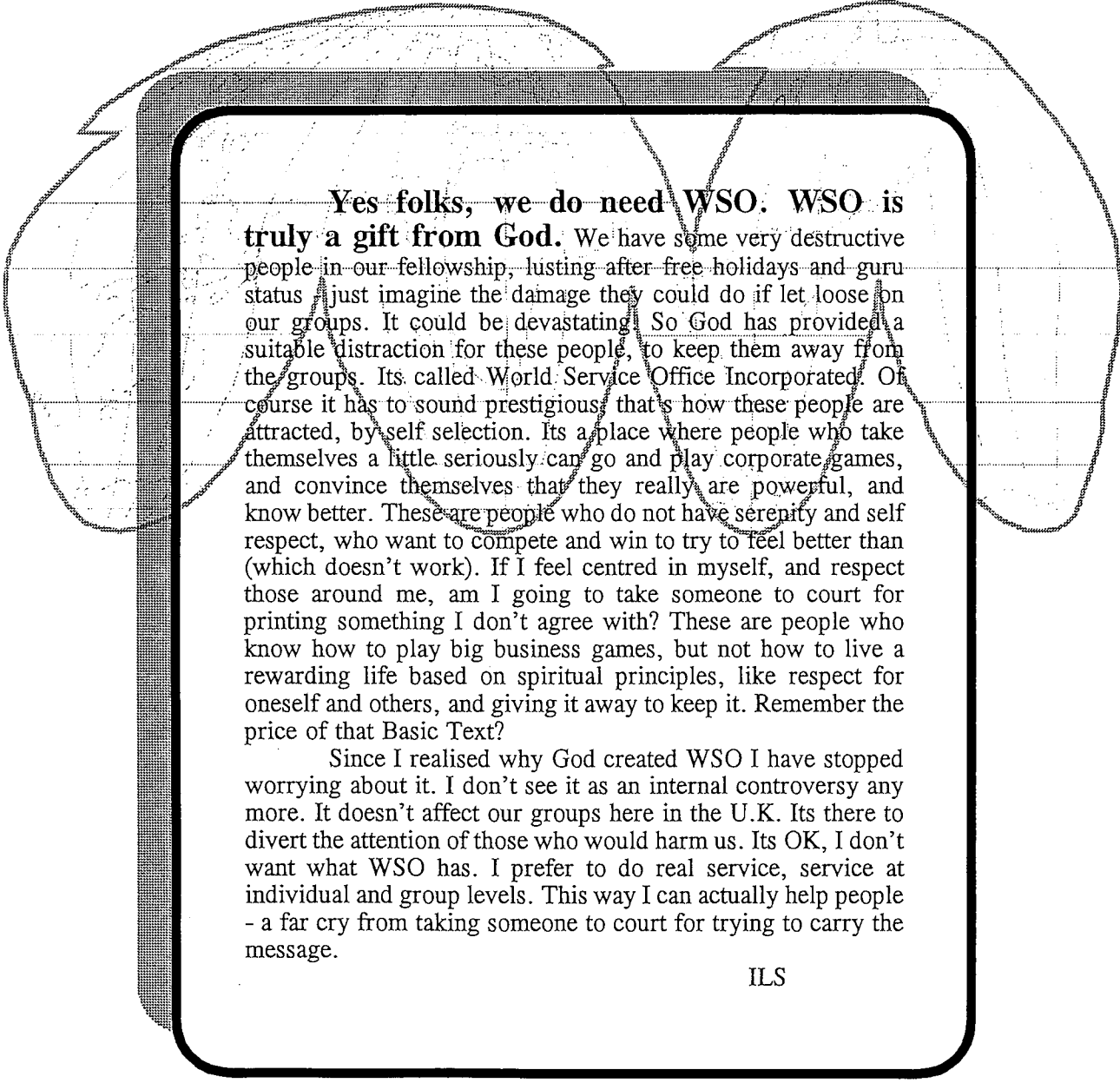


New Awakenings

WHY WE NEED WSO



Yes folks, we do need WSO. WSO is truly a gift from God. We have some very destructive people in our fellowship, lusting after free holidays and guru status - just imagine the damage they could do if let loose on our groups. It could be devastating! So God has provided a suitable distraction for these people, to keep them away from the groups. Its called World Service Office Incorporated. Of course it has to sound prestigious, that's how these people are attracted, by self selection. Its a place where people who take themselves a little seriously can go and play corporate games, and convince themselves that they really are powerful, and know better. These are people who do not have serenity and self respect, who want to compete and win to try to feel better than (which doesn't work). If I feel centred in myself, and respect those around me, am I going to take someone to court for printing something I don't agree with? These are people who know how to play big business games, but not how to live a rewarding life based on spiritual principles, like respect for oneself and others, and giving it away to keep it. Remember the price of that Basic Text?

Since I realised why God created WSO I have stopped worrying about it. I don't see it as an internal controversy any more. It doesn't affect our groups here in the U.K. Its there to divert the attention of those who would harm us. Its OK, I don't want what WSO has. I prefer to do real service, service at individual and group levels. This way I can actually help people - a far cry from taking someone to court for trying to carry the message.

ILS

"How do we live the Traditions in Service"

It has been written by our Literature movement, "We came to this program for many different reasons. Those of us who stay do so for the same reason--to stop using and stay clean. After we've actually stopped and the fog has cleared a bit, most of us take a look around to see what this program is all about. We start to do the things we see those around us doing." "We're taught that we can only keep what we have by giving it away. So we seek out and give our hand to other Addicts who have problems like ours and want help." "Our meetings are very special to most of us. They're a place where we feel safe; a place where we fit in. But what keeps it that way? one would think that any time people like us get together the results would be chaos. Groups of self-centered, self-willed, isolated individuals just can't meet together peacefully and safely; but we do. The reason that we can is that we have Twelve Traditions that help to keep our groups safe and free."

"Understanding these Traditions comes slowly over a period of time. We pick up information as we talk to members and visit various groups. It usually isn't until we get involved with service that someone points out that "personal recovery depends on NA unity", and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions. Because we hear about "suggested steps" and "no musts" so often, some of us make a mistake and assume that this applies to groups the way it applies to the individual. The Twelve Traditions of NA are not negotiable. They are the guidelines that keep our Fellowship alive and free."

"Our Traditions are what protect us from the 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."

So I have been doing as our Literature suggests. I've talked to many members over a long period of time. I've visited NA Groups all over the United States and some other countries. I've studied the Basic Text and other NA Literature; past and present. I've searched myself to discover what the Traditions mean and I've tried to stay open-minded.

What I've learned is what I try to live. Sometimes this seems to upset other people. This is when I have to reevaluate what I'm doing. If I still feel it's the right thing to do then I have to make a choice. Either I go against the Traditions and cause disunity or I deal with these people being upset with me. Almost always I choose to make the unpopular choice. I choose to live with some people being upset with me. I choose to put Recovery First. You see I believe that personnel Recovery depends on NA unity and NA unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions.

I have met many so called "NA members" that tell me that I can't serve the Fellowship the way I believe; even if it is consistent with the Basic Text. They tell me I must only do what is authorized by the WSC or the WSO Inc. So I have a choice, either upset some "NA members" or go against my belief in the Traditions. So what do I believe?

I believe that we must follow the Traditions. The only way I can do this is to lead and follow by example. To try hard to disagree without being disagreeable by using the principle of anonymity. Anonymity gives me the

Publishing Box

New Awakenings is a service at cost for the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. It is not affiliated with the known service structure. We are guided in this effort by the principles contained in the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions of NA and by a desire to improve our internal communications. You may freely reproduce this newsletter in whole or in part as long as you don't sell it for a profit or alter the text - we call this the Fellowship Spiritual Trust.

Who writes these articles? You do. The newsletter also needs your cartoons, poems, feedback, suggestions for improvement, etc. Sending the names & addresses of members who might be interested (please keep those coming!) results in their receiving two (2) issues. Members not responding are deleted from the mailing list (see bottom of p. 11).

We share our experience and learn from each other. No individual inside or outside the fellowship represents Narcotics Anonymous. Nothing appearing in this newsletter is necessarily more than the feelings of one NA Member, just for today.

Financial Statement

Received:

Georgia	5.00	Florida	20.00
Washington DC	11.00	Florida	4.07
Georgia	20.00	New York	10.00
Georgia	5.00	England	12.00
Virginia	5.00	Georgia	10.00
Pennsylvania	10.00	Colorado	25.00
Pennsylvania	20.00	England	7.00
Pennsylvania	5.00	England	5.00
Pennsylvania	5.00		

Total 179.07

(Thank You!)

Expenses Issue 4:

Printing	77.94
Postage	37.99
Total	115.93

from page 2...

ability to argue principles and leave without holding a grudge, resentment or bad attitude. I believe no one can revoke our membership or punish us or make us do anything we do not choose to do.

I believe we must seek God's conscience, in our Home Groups, to find how our Group can better help the Addicts that still suffer. These decisions must be practical and Traditional. Remember, some of our most painful growing experiences have and will come as a result of decisions made in the name of "group conscience". True spiritual principles are never in conflict; they complement each other. I am responsible to keep this in mind when making decisions in all my affairs. The Group and the Individuals are one in the same.

I believe we must maintain an unconditional open membership to all who want to stop using drugs. In this way our freedom to recover is guaranteed. Any Addict who chooses to live the NA way is a member. That only the desire to stop using is needed insures no caste system will develop making one addict superior to another. Seeing an addict with one day clean vote opposite me, thus cancelling my vote, reminds me of the joy of humility. It shows me the only power I have is the power to lead by example. I am never given authority because of clean time or experience or anything else.

I believe autonomy gives our groups the freedom to act on their own to establish their atmosphere of recovery, serve their members, and fulfill their primary purpose. Each group should be allowed to carry the message of NA recovery as they see fit. Of course using the Traditions as their guidelines. This allows each group to be personal and unique while maintaining the integrity of the NA message. This way we have unity without uniformity.

I believe that everything my Home Group does must go to better carry the message of NA to Addicts. This can only be achieved by keeping our groups recovery oriented. If our groups had any other purpose our message would be diluted and eventually lost. I am responsible to fulfill our primary purpose. People come to NA to learn about NA. The only reason I'm at meetings is to teach and learn NA. In this way there is consistency in a group and between groups. This is our unity.

I believe that we cannot endorse, finance or lend the NA name to anyone or anything outside NA. An outside enterprise being any agency, business venture, religion, society, organization, related activity, or other fellowship. This includes WSO Inc. I cannot support a Group that donates money to any outside agency. That allows a business venture to use our name to make money. That allows a related activity to write and change our literature, claim that we write it for them as a "work for hire", then sell it to us and others outside for a large profit. Any group who endorses an organization that encourages addicts, that don't agree

Daily Definition ☺

from Webster's New World Dictionary,
College Edition

di•lute (di-loot', dī-lūt'), *v.t.* [DILUTE (-id), DILUT-ING], [*< L. dilutus*, pp. of *diluere*, to wash away *< dis-*, off, from + *luere*, to wash], 1. to thin down or weaken by mixing with water or other liquid; hence, 2. to change or weaken (in brilliancy, force, etc.) by mixing with something else. **adj.** diluted.

pro•fes•sion•al (prə-fesh'ən-'l), *n.* a person belonging to one of the professions. 2. a person who makes some activity not usually followed for gain, such as a sport, the source of his livelihood.

with the company policy, to leave NA. As addicts we know this could mean death or even worse. Any group that does that is not NA because they do not follow the Traditions.

I believe we should have no professionals. By employing professionals in NA we will and have destroyed our unity. There is no room for professionals in NA. Especially professional writers. Even if it is authorized in the concepts. Also by employing NA members at our service centers we destroy the equality of all members and give these employees the opportunity to become professional NA members.

I believe a group or groups can create committees to help the creators better carry the NA message. The committee must stay directly responsible to those who created it. The committee never has the power to rule, censor, decide, or dictate. They never have management or control. They exist solely to serve the group or groups that created it. They are not NA. They are tools we use to help us better carry the NA message.

I believe to further our primary purpose it is important to let people know who, what, and where we are. When we do this we must never have an opinion on outside issues. I don't give opinions about any other fellowship, treatment center, recovery house, etc.; whether I'm at a meeting or representing NA outside a meeting.

I believe in personal anonymity at the mass media level. We should never use our picture or last name when appearing in the media as NA members. No one should speak for NA. Our meetings speak for themselves. If someone wants to know about NA they are welcome to come to our open meetings.

I believe in principles speaking for us. I try to let people's action speak louder than how I feel about them. Without my ego I can see and hear people as they are, staying completely open-minded. I don't have to like you to learn from you. In this way the spirit of anonymity protects us from our own defects of character and renders personalities and their differences powerless. ♦

Life In The Dead Sea

I recently heard about the assassination of the rebirth of the East Coast Convention. It should not have surprised me. I have witnessed the destruction of both the spirit of our members and the principles that support group conscience for years. I use to live in the C&P Region which is now the Free State Region, the only region I know of to use the guide to service! Did you know that some of us hold meetings and make long distance phone calls plotting to manipulate to gain and retain the control of our fellowships service structure? Our service structure has its own secret society. We have solders and those that "want to be", hoping for a position with a title, carrying out the dirty work. These people are performing deeds like our country's intelligence agencies of the past. It is this arrogance that pervades our service structure which I have a real problem with. Nothing, no one, or new information should ever take precedent over our groups' needs or their direction to our service structure. Most members here are not aware of the problems the trappings of property, money, and prestige have brought to our fellowship's service structure, nor for how long. I have come to find that God is more likely to speak through the many, than a select few. Just take a look at the obvious differences between a pure democracy and a representative democracy. A pure democracy allows for a broad base of participants to make decisions. Representative democracies select a few decision makers and come to be about personalities. They tend to be fraught with problems like payoffs and other conflicts of interest. Which kind of democracy sounds more likely to fit NA principles? As a result of the shenanigans of the power brokers and money changers in our services structure, we have problems. The rebirth of an east coast convention, which passed an area's group conscience, met a dope fiend death. We hear rhetoric like "the big picture" used to justify action taken without the general knowledge of the fellowship. For instance, neither the concepts or the guide to service were requested or written by the fellowship. As our groups are being forced to adopt policy and literature, the group's conscience failed, apathy spreads to our H & I and PI services. Could there be a correlation? Some members, including myself, see the price of our Basic Text limiting our NA Groups and members in the quest of our primary purpose. The AA Big Book is half the price of a Basic Text and is twice the size. How much more effective could we be if the number of Basic Texts at the group level and H & I doubled with no additional cost. I almost feel ashamed when I look into the faces of the men at the H & I meetings I sometimes do, because we should be bringing in a box of Basic Texts. The money is just not there, its

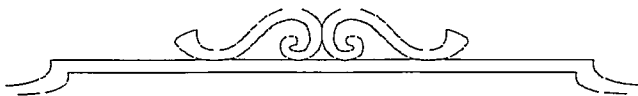
being sent on. This is one of the problems that caused the birth of the Baby Blue which sells for one dollar.

Could A.S.I.S. be the answer? The Alternate Service Informational Structure is another NA service structure, serving a small but growing number of home groups. One basic difference is their direction comes from motions from the groups that pass or fail through a group conscience tally. If a group does not pass a motion it does not have to adopt it!

What is the answer? As the pendulum swings towards the outer most edge with the recent decisions made after the WSC, some regions will fly their RSR's to California to take a stand. While locally, the disillusionment of some of those well intending members, who joined the World Convention Program Committee, gives cause for them to ask; how do we get the original 4th and 9th Traditions put back in the Basic Text. Meanwhile, the concepts have replaced our Traditions in our newsletter and a flyer for a 12 Step workshop requests a \$5.00 donation. The answer! Alone, I do not have it. Together, through God's help in the practice of life's lessons held in the direction our Steps, Traditions, and their principles offers us, we can be happy, joyous, and free. I have chosen to follow this path and to speak the truth at Tradition meetings, my home group, and to other members. There is a number of us that have confused the service structure with the fellowship. It's sort of like the attitudes of the Vietnam era, anti-war protestors were thought to be un-American by the war supporters. So remember, no one wants to destroy NA. What about those that con, control and manipulate our members and our service structure to keep it from becoming a pure democracy? The requests and warnings in our Traditions are being ignored. Self centeredness does not allow room for principles like group conscience, group autonomy and responsible to those they serve, all founded in anonymity. What action will you take? First ask yourself, do I have the strength to face the abuse of the personal attacks, being shunned at meetings, having to face the emotionally out of control enraged anger of addicts. Most often the "directors" self worth does not come from within. Fear of loss will drive those whose substance lies in their positions of control when their foundations are shaken.


Are you ready? What is your answer? Share it with me and others. Write about it and send it to *New Awakenings*, and your local newsletter.

Keeping my faith in God and the NA program,
Anonymous in Baltimore♦



WHAT IS THE NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS PROGRAM

(excerpt from *Grey Book*)



The structure of Narcotics Anonymous is quite unlike any health or welfare agency known to us. Although N.A. practices may vary from place to place, all N.A. services are performed voluntarily by the addicts themselves and without cost. N.A. does not accept money for its service, is not funded by any public or private sources or agencies and accepts no outside contributions.

Addicts respond instinctively to honest sharing. The fact that the addict can feel the unconditional love and judge for themselves the "qualifications" revealed in the stories of recovering addicts, awakens the notion that at last there might be hope. The newcomer loses his fear when he discovers that N.A. members give away the message of cleanliness in order to stay clean. We of Narcotics Anonymous are currently trying to bring about more communication, understanding, respect, and cooperation between N.A. and any professional person who works with addicts—so that more and more addicts may be able to recover. With local groups in many communities, we are part of an international fellowship.

In the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous we make use of things that have worked for those who have gone before us: the Twelve Steps, the principles and the many positive tools that enable us to make recovery possible. We have one primary purpose to stay clean and to help others who may turn to us for help. We are united by our common problem, addiction. Meeting, talking with, and helping other addicts, we are somehow able to stay clean and to lose the compulsion to use, once a dominant force in our lives.

We are grateful also to see new people coming to meetings from the streets. There is nothing that compares to a new person freely talking about the pain and the endless hustle that goes on out there. As a result, Narcotics Anonymous has had more than twenty-five years of trial-and-error experience, face-to-face, with literally hundreds of thousands of addicts. This mass of intensive first hand experience with all kinds of problem drug users, in all phases of illness and recovery, is unparalleled in therapeutic value. Narcotics Anonymous is here to share freely with any addict who wants it.

Narcotics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs in one form or another had become a major problem. We had become so physically, mentally and spiritually ill that we became crazed, depressed and terrified people. We were sick people. The growing fellowship of N.A. supports us in our efforts of recovery. It gives us new friends who understand where we have been.

Our message of recovery is based on our own experience. Before coming to the Fellowship, we exhausted ourselves trying to use successfully, or trying to find out what was wrong with

us. After coming to the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship, we find ourselves among a very special group of people. Many were a great deal worse off than we were. Here we found hope. If the Narcotics Anonymous program worked for them, it might work for us. We began to ask questions and listened a little more closely to the suggestions. After all there's a chance we could get a little relief.

We do not think we are the only people who have alternatives to the problem of addiction, but we know that the N.A. program works for us. We have seen it work for every one who honestly and sincerely wanted to stop using. The main point is that we meet people, addicts like ourselves, yet they are clean for months or years. We watched and listened to them openly and realized that these people had found a way to live and be happy without drugs.

In all honesty the most we can do for the newcomer is to share our experience, strength and hope and be ready to help when asked. If we go beyond this we risk becoming enablers. Most of us can remember doing nothing as long as we could get someone else to take care of us. We don't want the help we can offer to rob the new person of that essential ingredient of living which setting their own house in order can bring. We addicts have no choice but to help one another. In helping others our own recovery is aided. We don't criticize them better we love them better. As several great men have pointed out, there is more to it than a simple love. We are really talking about survival in a world where we have ceased to be functioning members of society. This program has given us a belief in a loving God that works through people. Never should we claim to have all the answers, but we can share our experience and the things that work for us. N.A. offers alternatives and suggestions that have worked for others.

We don't want to settle for the limitations of the past. We want to examine and re-examine all our old ideas, and constantly improve on them or replace them with new ones.

We, in N.A., are men and women who have discovered and admitted that we are powerless over our addictions. We have learned that we must live without drugs if we are to avoid the disaster we created for ourselves and those close to us.

The consequences of our addictive using (and thinking) have also varied. Some of our members had literally become derelicts before turning to N.A. for help. We had lost families, possessions and self respect. We had committed many offenses against society, families, and employers. Others among us had never been jailed or hospitalized, nor had we lost jobs because of our using. Even those men and women finally came to the point where they realized that using was interfering with normal living. When they discovered that they could not live without drugs, they, too, sought to help themselves through N.A., rather than prolonging their pain. The program works a miracle in our hearts. We become new people. The Steps and abstinence give us daily reprieves from our self-imposed life sentences. We become free to move about without compulsion or guilt.

Communication is a very important part of our program. Without it we would not have the chance to share ideas and new aspects of the program with each other. What one group or area learns can and should be shared with other areas. This is how the Fellowship of N.A. has grown and spread over the past twenty five years. We need each other.

The following is the history section from the Grey review form of our Basic Text, 1981. The second half of this chronology will be carried over to the next issue of New Awakenings. Extensive chronologies have been done since. Interested?

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

A CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

June 1953: Six people met at Sun Valley, California for the purpose of organizing the first "AA-NA" group. The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous were adapted for use by the group from the very beginning. Between mid-June and September 14, 1953, this original "governing" or "steering" committee held various meetings for the purpose of writing by-laws.

September 14, 1953: After checking with the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office, the committee voted to change the name from San Fernando Valley AA-NA to "Narcotics Anonymous."

September 21, 1953: The committee met one last time to iron out details for the first N.A. meeting.

October 5, 1953: The first meeting was held in facilities rented from the local Salvation Army Dad's Club, Sun Valley, California. Seventeen people attended that first meeting. These original members made a commitment to continue for one year, agreeing that one recovery would be "significant."

1956 (or later): The first N.A. (unofficial) publication, "Narcotics Anonymous," was printed. This was a brief (eight-page) information pamphlet containing the "20 Questions," a brief outline of N.A., the Twelve Steps and addresses of groups at Studio City and San Diego, California.

November 1959: N.A., per se, disbanded briefly. It was almost immediately revived by several original members. The early years of N.A. were a period of slow growth.

1960: Entering the new decade, N.A. again entered a period of crisis. The Fellowship was still in a state of slow growth. During the early 1960's only four groups contributed to support of a general service office. All in California, they were at Studio City, Hollywood, Burbank and Los Angeles.

1962: The original white book, the pamphlet, "Narcotics Anonymous," was published without stories.

1963: In order to ensure unity of purpose, the general membership in California established a Board of Trustees. A literature sub-committee was established as part of the service arm of the Board of Trustees.

1966: The new white book with stories and a white cover was printed.

1967: The board of Trustees was expanded in size.

February 1968: Volume I of the Voice appeared.

1969: Because of continued growth, the limited capacity of the Board of Trustees to adequately coordinate a unified "world" effort and frequent regional conflicts, a decision was made by the Board of Trustees and the general membership to establish a central office. This central office was to function as a clearing house, rather than a legislative body.

As a result, the Parent Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous was created.

1971: The name, Parent Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous, was changed to Narcotics Anonymous Central Office Committee.

July 23, 1971: The Board of Trustees authorized a central office.

November 5, 1971: The first "world" convention was held at LaMirada Country Club, LaMirada California. The convention ran November 5 through November 7.

November 6, 1971: At a business meeting during the world convention, the general membership voted to elect a Narcotics Anonymous business manager with a "formal" office. Various problems followed the establishment of a business manager/business office—primarily money. There were inadequate resources to pay the manager and he was unable to serve without pay.

November 15, 1971: The financial statement for the general service office for January 15, 1971 through November 15, 1971, reported income received from groups in Georgia, Nevada, Colorado and Idaho, as well as California.

December 13, 1971: The Narcotics Anonymous Central Office Committee announced by letter the firm decision to open a "world central office: in January 1972.

January 1972: The world central office opened at 2335 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.

February 15, 1972: The Board of Trustees authorized by letter the publication in hardcover of an N.A. book on recovery-not yet written.

October 23, 1973: The first Area Service Committee, the San Fernando Valley (CA) A.S.C., was created.

November 1974: Following moves to 1346 Highland Ave., Los Angeles; a room in the suicide prevention center, Los Angeles; a room above a bail bonding company on Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys; the World Service Office was moved to its present location in the Sun Valley.

Following the move to Sun Valley, it was discovered that several boxes of records and other historical data had been lost.

Prior to the move to Sun Valley, the name had been officially changed from World Central Office to World Service Office.

November 15, 1975: At the California Service Conference, Arroyo Grande, CA, the first "N.A. Tree" was accepted for publication. In addition, the California Service conference authorized publication of a World Director.

November 17, 1975: The "N.A. Tree" was published. This publication is the parent Service manual of Narcotics Anonymous.

January 7, 1976: The Board of Trustees accepted the "N.A. Tree" as an official N.A. publication.

August 28, 1976: The first foreign language (Spanish) publication was authorized. This was followed by a German translation in late 1976, early 1977.

October 24, 1976: At the general business meeting of the Ventura County Convention, Ventura CA, three major decisions were rendered: an "N.A. Tree" Committee was established to revise and republish that pamphlet; the qualifications for Trustee as they now exist were established; and the decision for a "World Service Conference" was made.

November 13, 1976: The "first" World Service Conference was held at Ventura, CA.

January 25, 1977: The World Service was incorporated.

April 17, 1977: The first Regional Service Committee, the Southern California R.S.C., was created.

July 1977: The first "N.A. Newsletter" outside California (Kansas) began publication.

November 1977: The "second" W.S.C. was held in conjunction with the Seventh World Convention at San Francisco.

The conference was cancelled due lack of quorum as defined by the "N.A. Tree." Only three people showed up for the conference.

November 11, 1977: The Board of Trustees predicted by letter that the next two or three years would hold greater growth for the Fellowship than that of the preceding twenty-five years.

December 1977: Two more "N.A. Newsletters" appeared outside California, in Georgia and Pennsylvania.

During this period, through early 1978, printed copies of the white book were in short supply, and groups were furnished emergency photocopies.

February 1978: W.S.O assumed publication of the Voice.

April 1, 1978: The "third" World Service Conference (the first as it is now known) opened at Van Nuys, CA. The basic concepts of World Service and the World Service Conference as they now exist were formulated at this two-day conference.

Early 1979: Mainline began production.

April 28-29, 1979: The World Service Conference, meeting in Los Angeles, directed the Literature Committee to conduct a World Literature Conference for the purpose of collecting material to write an "N.A. book on recovery."

Who Owns Our Fellowship?

I am a member of Narcotics Anonymous. ...How do I define that term for myself? ...I base my program on the concept of powerlessness over addiction as stated in the first step of Narcotics Anonymous. ...My recovery is patterned after the spiritual principles found in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous. ...I actively participate in a Home Group. ...I serve that Home Group or any group of Narcotics Anonymous with the belief that "...one addict helping another is (therapy without) parallel", and, "...that the individual is precious to the group...", as stated in our basic text discussion of the first Tradition.

Recently [written in 1993 -Ed.], I received a report from a "Trusted Servant" in the mail. The spelling, typing and grammar was as incorrect as my own often is {I could relate!}. I have learned that willingness is more important than expertise. The name of the trusted servant is unimportant, however, accepting a position of trust holds us to be "directly responsible to those we serve". Our trust was violated by the actions of this "Trusted Servant" as they themselves reported.

In the position of a Regional subcommittee chair this "trusted servant" went to the W.S.C. quarterly and during an open forum reported "about the area in our region that is planning to write literature, use it on their tables and make it available to other areas." This "Trusted Servant" asked "for some direction" from the "Trusted Servants" of the World Service Conference.

The direction given was, "...We should encourage them to write and help them to understand the process that we as a fellowship use and that the purpose of this process is to insure that a piece of literature is first submitted to the WSC-LC, then the Board of Trustees and then to the fellowship." They went on to say, "...this area might develop a newsletter and use these articles in them or utilize the region's existing newsletter." The "regional Trusted Servant" reported that "it was stated that it is rather arrogant for anyone to think they do not have to follow the process developed by the fellowship, it also creates 'disunity'."

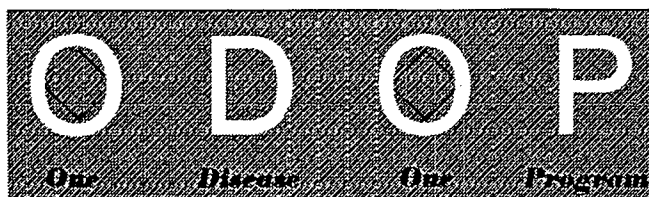
Who owns THIS FELLOWSHIP???? Do our Boards and Committees? DO our TRUSTED SERVANTS? Who is the ARROGANT party in this essay on what groups and members may or may not do? This area that our Trusted Servant felt the need to "run and tattle to the 'World' about" has members who were on the World Literature Committee that wrote OUR BOOK. This Area held one of the World literature Conferences where the BOOK was

WRITTEN. This area knows through experience what the "real" Fellowship Literature Process was. It was not allowing boards and committees to decide and dictate what was written and it was never perceived that Groups and Areas would only be allowed to "write to newsletters" and such. A controlling posture like that would have resulted in no book ever being written. Most Addicts with under twelve years clean would now be dead, in jail or insane if not for the willingness of "this group and area"! The area in question trusted this "Trusted Servant" to serve their Area. The "Trusted Servant" however, seems to believe that the only direct responsibility they have is to service boards and committees. My Home Group is not in this Area; must we now worry that next time this so called "Trusted Servant" will report on our actions?

The direction given by the W.S.C.-L.C. states that the current literature process is "holding with the spiritual principles of Narcotics Anonymous". This is the process that replaced the process that wrote the Book. The current process will not allow any member who worked on the Book to participate in our lit. committee today. This current process is responsible for paying a professional to rewrite the fourth edition and writing the fifth edition without fellowship input or approval {you did not get to go over this book word for word as we did before this current process began}. You and I are only allowed to approve or disapprove literature today. This current process didn't even look at the hundreds of pages of input collected since 1984 on the "Just For Today Book". This current process chose to write it in closed committee instead. This current process has never made amends for breaking faith with the FELLOWSHIP. Where are the spiritual principles in these actions?

Who Owns This Fellowship? Narcotics Anonymous members do: Narcotics Anonymous groups do. If not for the members and groups there would be no need for a service structure! There would be no need for service positions or titles. Who owns our literature? The members and the groups do. We do! WE WROTE IT, and the only "direction" we had came from a loving God as he expressed himself in our Group Conscience.

The Spiritual Principles of Narcotics Anonymous are NOT NEGOTIABLE, no matter how many "concepts" we write to try to relieve ourselves from direct responsibility. No matter how hard we try to decide for, govern and dictate to, members, groups and Areas. No matter how convincingly our addiction tells us that our service position gives us the "right" to tell members, groups and areas what they may or may not do. MEMBERS OWN THE FELLOWSHIP. ♦



WHO AUTHORIZED THIS?

NA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BULLETIN #5

CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITHIN THE NA FELLOWSHIP

The procedure to be used if any conflicts arise relating to copyright or trademark use by an individual NA member, group, or area or regional service board or committee

The conflict resolution policy described in this bulletin was developed specifically to help address some issues that may arise in implementing NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1, *Internal Use of NA Intellectual Property*, at the local level.

Before we proceed further, let's define two terms we will use in this bulletin. By "local" we mean the group, area, and regional levels of the service structure of Narcotics Anonymous. The term "registered" refers to those area and regional service committees that have registered themselves with the World Service Office for the purpose of using NA's trademarks and reprinting portions of NA Fellowship-approved literature. Details on how to register appear in IP Bulletin #6.

Once an area or regional service committee has registered with the WSO, it is granted authority under IP Bulletin #1 to extend similar permission to its subcommittees. As a condition to the exercise of such authority, each area and regional service committee shall be held accountable for its subcommittees' use of NA's intellectual property.

If a conflict should arise on the local level regarding the reprinting of NA Fellowship-approved literature or the use of a registered NA trademark or service mark, the following is the process that will be used to resolve it:

1. If the conflict arises with an individual NA member or at the group level, the conflict should be resolved at the group, the area, or, if necessary, the regional level.
2. If the conflict arises at the area level, the conflict should be resolved at the area or regional level.
3. If the conflict arises at the regional level, it should be resolved at the regional level.
4. If it is not possible to resolve a conflict at the local level, the World Service Office should be contacted for assistance in resolving the conflict.
5. Since the WSO is held legally accountable for safeguarding NA's intellectual property, it is also legally responsible to be the final arbiter of such conflicts.
6. If the member, group, service board, or committee is not satisfied with the decision made by WSO, it can request that the conflict be resolved at the next annual meeting of the World Service Conference.

This document is published by WSO in accordance with its duties as described in Article V, Section 1:1 of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust Instrument and Article IV, Sections 4-7 of the Trust Operational Rules, approved by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as given voice by its groups through their regional service representatives at the World Service Conference on April 27, 1993. For more information, write to the World Service Office, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys CA 91409 USA or telephone (818) 780-3951.

Not you, not me, and not the W.S.C. One of the World Service Conference Co-Authors of the "Use" Document has disavowed it. Yet there it is, easily mistaken for Ultimate Authority. How many are aware that a U.S. Court retains jurisdiction in this matter?

More Grateful Dave "From The Grave"

N.A. STATEMENT OF UNITY

1. Every Member of Narcotics Anonymous is entitled absolutely to know all the business of Narcotics Anonymous.
 2. We shall always be guided by the idea that the truth shall make us free, and that censorship and suppression of information will lead to crippling disunity.
 3. We make clear our understanding that our right, as individuals within this Fellowship, to know is paramount and is exceeded only by the primary purpose of Narcotics Anonymous itself; to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.
 4. The right of anonymity and confidentiality pertaining to business matters which our Fellowship finds itself involved in should never be used as a reason to avoid full disclosure.
 5. It ought always be the responsibility of those who disseminate information relating to Narcotics Anonymous that they ensure that such information is factually true and accurate.
 6. No one is in authority over anyone else in Narcotics Anonymous, thus no one, regardless of position, has a right to withhold information from members of the Fellowship about the affairs of N.A.
 7. We accept no other authority in Narcotics Anonymous but a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience and we do not look to any entity in N.A. as "official" or holding any authority over any other entity or Member.
 8. No Member of Narcotics Anonymous shall ever have the right to decide for another what information shall be made available. All information is necessary for our Fellowship to collect an informed group conscience.
 9. We recognize and make clear that any stifling of or attempt to stifle our freedom and right to know fully the affairs of N.A. by any individual, group, element or faction within our Fellowship is a clear violation of the very spirit of Narcotics Anonymous.
 10. Where key information about our Fellowship and services, which the membership has an absolute right to know, has been withheld by those who would make themselves authoritative and decide who shall know what and when they shall know it, the principles contained in this Statement of Unity shall be used to expose such information fully and widely.
 11. Because our paid workers in Narcotics Anonymous may hold positions of sensitivity, they shall be held to a high standard and their activities on behalf of N.A., individually and collectively, shall be scrutinized and fully reported to the membership that provides the support, Special workers should never take the place of volunteer trusted servants.
 12. As our recovery is based on the Twelve Steps, our groups' relations with each other and the world is based on the Twelve Traditions, our service structure and method of operating within that structure is based on the Twelve Traditions, so is our desire to promote the full and free flow of information and free and open sharing of all the affairs of Narcotics Anonymous defined by the Statement of Unity.
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WHAT'S UP?

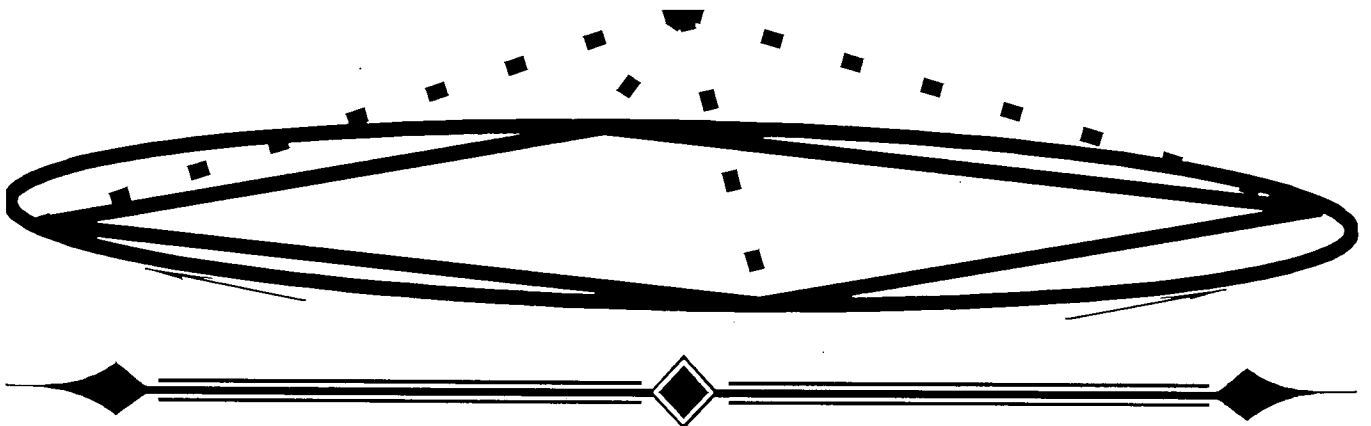
I've been around this thing since before the first article was written. There has been a tremendous amount of thought and discussion that has taken place on it's make up, policy, style, etc. Yet there isn't much response in writing from it's readership to supply ideas on where we are going with it. Don't get me wrong, the response has been very supportive and thankful for what has been done with this newsletter. The insight supplied and the ideas shared have met with acceptance on many fronts throughout the fellowship. Some have expressed that they felt for the first time, that they were not alone in the way that they felt. It has done me a world of good to help this effort and to hear that some think that it has been a job well done. Now what.

The idea to provide an alternative voice and view of this thing we do called recovery, has been around awhile. When workers for the Basic Text drew together they found themselves taking shots from the rest of the fellowship. They passed out cards with the name ANONOMI on them. This carried the description of a world wide home group for individuals that had been looked at as different in their home locations do to their work on the book. They faced comments like "who do they think they are, writing the book about the fellowship." Tough stuff to face when you are working on an effort to bring something into existence that previously had no frame work, no description on the process that was found to work for people like us. As it neared completion there existed a band wagon for the effort for those who didn't take part, to jump on.

The book then spent many years as a football. Going through it's changes and controversy and the splits that this can cause. Once established as a primary source of recovery it has been put out to rest. The old literature process of conferencing the material is gone from the WSC process. What then shall those that learned to love that process do?

Well we began working on other projects like the history book and The NA Way of Life book. Then this newsletter started to bring you information and other views of what is happening in NA. It would seem there are a lot more things to explore and you are the ones to bring them forth. I need this sort of stimulus to keep me green and growing.

You have sent your bucks and should have what you are looking for. You have got ideas... now give them up. Lets get on with it. There is so much we can do when we all share the work and work what we share. ♦



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 #4 in the U.S. cost 68.0¢. Projecting from this cost we figure the cost for a year (6 issues) should be \$4.08. Sending more enables *New Awakenings* to go out to addicts who haven't seen it yet.

♪If you move don't forget,
let us know where you went! ♪

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