

New Awakenings

Those Famous Traditions - 4 & 9

Tradition 9

Some texts say of service boards and committees, "None of them has the power to rule, censor, decide or dictate." Some don't. We hear all sorts of rumours, claims, arguments and so on. But no proof. I think the proof is right there in those words. Tradition 2 tells us a group's one ultimate authority is a loving god as he may express himself in our group conscience. To me that means that no service board or committee has the power to rule, censor, decide or dictate. Seems fairly clear. As both books say, "They exist solely to *serve* the fellowship." That too clearly means they can not rule, censor, decide or dictate. I think its a pretty important point. So how does it help to explain the traditions to leave it out? Beats me.

Tradition 4

Talking again of service boards and committees, tradition 4 says, "Whether we choose to utilize these services is up to the group." Again this is left out in the 5th edition. Tradition 2 says that a group's decisions are made solely by its conscience - so of course its up to the group. For this choice to be up to anyone else would be a violation of tradition 2. So again the quote speaks the truth, and again its not in the 5th edition. Interesting.

These quotes are not actually essential. These principles are covered already by tradition 2. But they are there to explain, to make clear, to pass on understanding - just like all the writing on the traditions. For that reason they are important, as is the whole chapter. Does it help your understanding of the traditions to leave these important points out?

If you go from the 3rd edition revised with the original 4th and 9th traditions to the 5th edition, you'll discover all sorts of little changes and re-interpretations and some quite significant ones too. It's quite an eye opener.♦

TOP TEN REASONS FOR AVOIDING TRADITIONALIST SERVICE

10. It'll never work, there's no hope.
9. Right on! Can I speak at the convention? Are there plane tickets? No?! Well screw that then!
8. Will they help me sell my _____? No?! Well screw that then!
7. You can count on me! Call anytime and I'll work my mouth.
6. Well I changed sponsors and I broke up with my significant other and I've been struggling with the nature of God and having problems with issues that aren't covered in the Basic Text and...
5. Somebody has to stay home with the _____.
4. I won't have anything to do with anything that _____ is involved in.
3. I'm out of the mud. No, I used to feel that way but I've risen above all that, you know. I finally realized that like everything is everything and none of that really matters cause it's all in the hands of a loving God anyway and personal recovery depends on everyone liking me.
2. No thanks! I'm doing a bang-up job bringing positive change from within the existing structure.
1. THAT's not approved! Is it?

Humble Ha

Hello out there. The big wheel keeps on turning. Hope you're having fun and recovery is yours to be had. Sure wish I was hearing more from all of you in print. Out here in Boonievillie it takes a heap of phone money to hear the variety that I hear in this newsletter every other month. So please add your voice to the music I love the most, the sound of growth and change.

I've been meaning to write about a certain subject for quite awhile. Humble is the thing and it certainly looks like the thing that we collectively do the worst. I have not heard much discussion and wonder if my feelings are representative of addicts elsewhere. I seem to be getting better at it. Seems we all must or this process just does not work so wonderfully. Looks like we have all used this lack to get our way for so long that it is like a second skin at times. I know there are some that are the exact opposite and never use this power. Those aren't the fighters that I love so well and identify with so closely.

As I learn to be humble a little more each day, I LIKE IT. So I'm learning this by using it and it allows more things into my life the more I apply it. Principles are just words until they are understandable and put to use in my life. So I need the words from all of you in your humblest form. The power lies in this humility. It seems to supply openness that makes room in this packed existence for the many things that god wishes to grace us with.

When I don't do humble well, I'm once again playing god. When I try and get my way, by all the tricks that I have learned, the helping of others becomes a drug. Feels like this fellowship has suffered long enough under the prestige junkies we have attracted. The past shows us that we had to use these individuals because they were the only ones that had the resources to travel. Looks like we have more humility these days, even if it doesn't show up well yet.

In talking with a couple of new RSR-A'S last year they told me that they had gotten into service because they wanted to travel. W E L L! DOWN WITH YUPPIE TRUSTED SERVANTS....UP WITH HUMILITY. Pick the best and keep the rest.

In the courteous way I must approach my god, I hope to approach others and help them, as they help me, to get out of my own way. That way god can rain down some more of that good god stuff that I get off on far better than anything else.

**Yes
Back Issues
of
New Awakenings
are available**

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
Missouri	30.00
Missouri	5.00
Colorado	25.00
Nevada	25.00
Wisconsin	10.00
Washington DC	2.00
Illinois	35.00
New Mexico	7.00
Florida	20.00
Maryland	10.00

Total 174.00

Expenses Issue 5:

Printing	77.94
Postage	35.67

Total 113.61

Standing For Something

"That's renegade literature and I've been told to stop it."

"Who authorized you to write that?"

This is the reaction we've received here in Louisville, KY to the N.A. Way of Life, a fellowship work in progress. I've personally worked on this book, with writing groups in Maryland, for three years but had just recently brought the idea here to Louisville.

The good news is that the idea of writing fellowship literature was well received by some here. We currently have a working group of six members and we must be eating our spiritual "fiber" because we make "regular" contributions to the work in progress. Recovery spirited people in Louisville are still ignoring the ridiculous controversy and inquiring about the project.

When we brought this project to Louisville, we encountered a small, vocal group opposed to the idea. They took it upon themselves to begin announcing in meetings that "renegade literature" was in the Area and that addicts shouldn't participate since this was not "NA approved" and was "unauthorized". When this announcement was made in a meeting I was in I assumed these people just didn't understand how our literature process works. I made my own announcement correcting the misinformation - stating that this project was not being carried into meetings, being sold or touted as NA literature, and that it is simply a work in progress open to any individual.

Seeing that this failed to dispel the hoopla and fury of these self-appointed NA guardians, I went to each of them separately and individually to see what they believed and share what I did too. As I have been taught, I dispensed with the controversy by dealing directly with the situation. The process, although insuring my piece of mind and keeping my side of the street clean, was scary. The power of the disease manifested through fear and distrust is sometimes startling to me.

One individual misquoted a passage from the Way of Life information booklet, telling me it claimed there were 36 written chapters and turning it into something devious. After correcting that I then found that, although he was completely sure we were up to something wrong, "Disunifying" and "against the Traditions", he revealed that he had neither called any of the contact numbers on the Way of Life pamphlet nor had he actually talked to anybody at World Service.

I informed him that what he was doing was spreading misinformation and touting it as the truth.

I had a difficult time actually pinpointing what the problem these people have with the Way of Life work. As I addressed their concerns, they simply changed the focus of their attacks. My gut feeling is that they do not truly believe that addicts can write for ourselves and take action for ourselves. The amazing thing is that these folks are Basic Text thumpers who say things like, "If it ain't out of the Text then I don't want to hear it 'cause its your shit." They know the Text inside out and claim to know all about it's making, "This book is written by addicts, for addicts." Boy was I floored when one of these guys told me he had a problem with the fact that we had asked an addict with 4 months clean to come write on the Way of Life. "What does he have to share?" I asked him if he realized how many of the Basic Text passages he quotes so frequently were written by folks with 30 or 60 days clean. Unfortunately, I have found that these folks aren't really looking for solutions.

The scary thing is that we have a problem not related only to the Way of Life project. Addicts everywhere are being indoctrinated into an authoritarian service structure. Where is the freedom in that? Where do we get to learn about personal responsibility? Lower

author•ized: from the
noun, authority. See
Tradition 2.

levels of service like World, Region, and Area, are being looked at as prestigious. Spiritual principles are being cast aside and votes of confidence are commonplace. We have masters, dictators and leaders. Anytime something is suggested, like photocopying I.P.'s to save H&I money, someone says, "We'll have to check with World Service on that." Who's in charge here? To whom does this fellowship belong? Folks act as if our leaders at the World are necessary to save us from ourselves. The immediate solution to this problem seems to be to continue to be involved in efforts such as the Way of Life, practice what I believe, and share what I believe. I can serve as a living example but I cannot force a new idea onto a closed mind. So, while some in Louisville may think us outside the Traditions and ostracize us, seeing the disease in action only firms our resolve to continue writing.

The most ironic thing here is that the ringleader of the anti-Way of Life movement started a new meeting a couple of months ago called "Standing For Something". What they have been standing for so far has been selling NA tapes, tee-shirts, other merchandise and going to conventions. While these things are not of themselves bad, I'm pretty grateful for what I get to stand for. Through the NA Way of Life and those who came before me, I am truly able to stand for something. ♦

SERVICES AT COST

How do we spend the Millions of Dollars generated for NA Services? Many people say it can't be done within the Traditions, hence the birth of the Concepts. So is it possible to provide Services at cost, to stay directly responsible to those whom are paying and receiving these services?

First we need to separate out each Service and compute the exact cost to provide each Service. Then you charge what it cost!! Seems simple.

Let's give it a try and see. Here are some possible examples. The money figures are my best guess and are not as important as the Principles that apply.

We'll use NA cassette tapes as an example. Let's say 100 blank tapes cost \$160, that's \$1.60 each. Postage cost 52¢ to mail 1-3 tapes, \$1 to mail 4-7 tapes and so on. A small mailing container cost 20¢ and holds up to 8 tapes, 35¢ for a medium container holding up to 20 tapes, 50¢ for a large holding up to 40 tapes, and so on. You could charge either exactly what it cost for each quantity ordered (i.e. 1 tape cost \$2.30 ea., 2 cost \$1.95 ea., 7 cost \$1.77 ea., ect.). Or you could charge one average price (i.e. \$1.90 ea.). Or you could charge something in between (i.e. 1-3 tapes \$2.00 ea., 4-7 tapes \$1.85 ea., 8-20 tapes \$1.75 ea., ect.). You might even add in the cost of order forms which would add maybe 2¢ to the price. A quarterly report of finances should be available and could be reported on the order forms.

Quarterly Report of Finances

Blank Tapes (200 at \$1.60 ea.)	320.00	Balance forward	47.50
Postage to mail 182 tapes	37.50	Money received for tapes	<u>361.30</u>
Mailing containers (40 small at 20¢ ea., 10 medium at 35¢ ea., 2 large at 50¢ ea.)	12.50	BALANCE	\$408.80
Order forms (100 at 3¢ ea.)	<u>3.00</u>	COST	<u>-372.90</u>
COST	\$372.90	Balance forward	\$35.90
		(Avg. price per tape this qtr. is \$1.89)	

The prices should be adjusted periodically to reflect the actual cost of the product. The same could be done for Literature projects. The example below is of a book that has increased in size over a period of time and is now about 300 pages.

Full Financial Report of Project

Copy cost for one book, 300 pages, 2 cover sheets, and binding is \$5.50. This includes cost of coping at 3¢ per sheet of paper, cover sheets at 25¢ each and 50¢ for binding one book. Also the price of postage is \$2.90 for one book and decreases per book with multiple book mailings.

Jul-Sep 94		Oct 90 - Sep 94	
Copy cost for 200 books	1100.00	723 books *	2892.00
Postage for 67 books	154.60	Postage for 412 books	973.76
Mailing boxes (5 at 75¢ each)	<u>3.75</u>	47 boxes *	<u>34.74</u>
COST	\$1258.35	COST	\$3900.50
Sale of 140 books	964.30		
Cost of travel (ARE YOU KIDDING)	00.00	Sale of 723 books	4124.50
Balance forward Jul 94	<u>518.05</u>	COST	<u>- 3900.50</u>
BALANCE	\$1482.35	Bal. forward Sep 94	\$224.00
COST	<u>-1258.35</u>	(* price of book varied because number of pages, copy cost, and cost of boxes changed)	
Balance forward Sep 94	\$224.00		

These examples could be for any Services. Wouldn't it be great if you could give your financial support to exactly what you believed in whether it was the World Translation Project or to produce NA Basic Texts for distribution in Area Hospitals and Institutions or to send World Trusted Servants to Israel to settle a dispute between NA Groups. You could also give your money to your Home Group and help decide with the other Home Group members how God would best want the money spent. Or maybe a combination.

At least you would know what your money was going for. The present state of affairs is that your and your Group's NA product purchases are Taxed like the Government Taxes our purchases. Like when we buy gasoline that costs 50¢ a gallon from the gasoline company but we pay \$1.20 at the pumps because 70¢ is Tax. The 70¢ goes to further what the government thinks is best for us. It's just like buying a NA Basic Text that costs \$2.40 to make but we pay \$8.80. The \$6.40 Tax goes to WSO Inc.

...At Cost

continued from previous page

to further what they think is best for us.

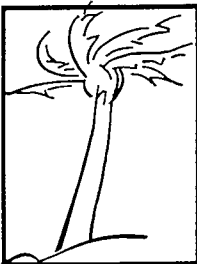
Oh yeah we have a say in what is decided like we do in government. Well maybe not as good as government. I've never had a chance to vote for any of our World Trusted Servants at my Home Group or Area or Region. Except for the RSR's and other World Trusted Servants, none of us has a vote on who runs our "NA Government" at the World level.

So why should they listen to us. They have a monopoly on NA Literature and all other Products. They set the price of the Tax and they decide how to spend it.

It's time to get back to direct responsibility. Services At Cost does just that. If we don't want something we won't support it. If you think it's good to fly a couple of people somewhere to help settle a Group dispute then you can spend your money on plane tickets, rental cars, hotels, and meals, instead of making newcomers pay for it.

Services At Cost will work for all Services, large and small, and at all levels from Group to World. It will make carrying the NA message efficient and effective. Our Program tells us to be responsible for carrying the NA message. I can't just donate money to NA and say I'm doing my part. I must see that it is actually being put to good use making the NA way of life available to Drug Addicts. No longer will I be Duped into paying WSO Inc. \$8.80 for a \$2.40 Book or paying a Literature Committee \$30 for 250 pages of literature "work in progress".

This is why I support projects like New Awakenings. I know what the money is spent on because it is reported in every issue. I know the money I send is only being used for purchasing and mailing the Newsletter because it is reported in every issue. I applaud New Awakenings for showing us the "Traditional" way of providing World Services that are directly responsible to those it Serves. ♦

FSSBNA VI		
TRADITIONS IN THE TROPICS		
THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGION PRESENTS:	MIAMI BEACH MARCH 10 - 12, 1995 SEVENTH TRADITION CONVENIENCE	FLORIDA SPRING SERVICE BREAK VI
SUN, FUN, DANCES		SOUTH FLORIDA HOSPITALITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -HISTORY OF NA. -SUBCOMMITTEE WORKSHOPS. -THE NA MEETING FROM HELL. -WORLD CONFERENCE AGENDA. -SPANISH PROGRAM. 	MARCO POLO RESORT 19201 COLLINS AVE. MIAMI BEACH (305) 932-2233 (800) 327-6363 ROOM RATES: \$69 OCEANVIEW \$81 OCEANFRONT	
REGISTRATION INFORMATION		
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FSSBNA. MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATIONS TO: FSSBNA C/O JOE MARCOS 5122 NW 79 AVE, APT. #108 MIAMI, FL. 33166		
NAME _____	FOR INFO CALL: JOE 305-591-4133 DAVE 407-483-9369 SANDI 305-989-1737	
ADDRESS _____		
PHONE _____		
NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS _____		
DONATION _____ (REGISTRATION IS BY DONATION - SUPPORT OUR SEVENTH TRADITION)		
NUMBER OF BANQUETS \$20 EACH TOTAL ENCLOSED		
ALL-YOU-CAN SCARF BUFFET!! (VEGETARIAN AND NON-VEGETARIAN DISHES AVAILABLE)		
REGISTRATION IS BY DONATION!!		

News Bits

A motion from Show Me Region for a \$5.00 paperback Basic Text was easily defeated at the WSC this year. We were listening to a taped conversation the other day between Dave M. and a WSO BOD from 1990. The BOD, urging Dave to stop printing Basic Texts, implies that bringing this valid issue "using the right channels" would get support. This BOD is now a Trustee. Wonder how he voted...

Seems more of your money is going to lawyers to keep the message from being carried. Seems that the posting of our literature in the on-line computer world (where AA's has been for years) may jeopardize the thousands already spent to protect our message from, from, well you know, to protect it.

If the above NewsBit makes sense to you then you probably already know about the upcoming World Convention in Jonestown and the need for volunteer Kool-Aid servers.

Dilution Department: Western States Literature Convention (WSLCC) believes our message has become staid and dated and if only we could understand the diversity of recovery in our fellowship we would be better able to represent this new understanding in our written message. Furthermore if we attend this event we could come to a clearer understanding of what we personally believe. Experience out, politically correct in. Oh yeah they're also going to have Story Tellers there to share Fairy Tales. I hope they won't be staid or dated...

And then there were twelve... In July the East Anglia Area was finally expelled from the U.K. Region. Vote was 6 for expulsion, out of 13 existing Areas. Do the Math.

Send your NewsBits in with the means to verify them. Like the rest of this newsletter, it will work if it gets support and will die, should die, if it doesn't. Have a nice holiday season and remember, don't follow leaders, watch for parking meters.

The following is the history section from the Grey review form of our Basic Text, 1981. The first half of this chronology was printed in the last issue of New Awakenings. More extensive chronologies have been done since. Interested?

A CHRONOLOGY (Part 2)

May 19, 1979: The groundwork for a World Literature Conference was laid at a meeting in Atlanta, GA.

May 27, 1979: The steering committee for the World Literature Conference meeting in Atlanta, tentatively scheduled the conference for Wichita "in the fall."

August 26, 1979: The conference committee in Wichita held the first planning session for the conference.

October 6-7, 1979: The first W.L.C. was held at Wichita, KS. Attending the conference were a total of thirty-five members from Kansas, Ohio, Nebraska, Georgia, California, Tennessee and Virginia.

This conference established an initial style guide for the proposed book and began the task of cataloguing hundreds of pages of material submitted by the Fellowship world-wide. The Wichita conference staff guide was later released in pamphlet form as "The Handbook for Narcotics Anonymous Literature Committee."

The Wichita Conference opened at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, October 6, at Ash House. Morning details included a presentation by various members of the steering committee on the history of N.A. literature and the need for a definitive text. The members then were presented a proposed workshop agenda and the session closed for lunch.

The Conference reconvened in the Offices of Home Owners' Trust Insurance, Parklane Shopping center, in workshop form at 1:00 P.M. The Saturday sessions closed at 4 P.M.

The conference reassembled to 9:00 A.M., Sunday, and continued in workshops until noon break. Reconvening at 1:00 P.M., the workshop presented a report to full assembly. The conference ended with a group session to approve the two-days' work. The conference ended at 5:00 P.M.

In addition to preliminary work on the basic text, the Wichita conference established general guidelines for the Literature Committee concerning the need for a treasury, ways and means of raising money, the need for publication, and expanding and improving the I.P. library.

Respective of the basic text, the conference proposed a Fellowship-wide effort that would be an N.A. work-not a supplement of the A.A. big book. Guidelines for collecting material were established. Of 62 proposed topics, 59 topics were accepted. Fourteen chapter outlines were proposed and twelve adopted.

More than 500 man-hours of effort went into the Wichita Conference.

Sept. 8-12, 1980: The second W.L.C. was held at the Lincoln Federal Building, Lincoln, NB. Attending were thirty-six members from Georgia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, British Colombia and Oregon.

The meeting opened with a background report on the growth and development of literature. Five achievable goals were proposed for the conference: establish an outline of the chapter headings; inventory materials collected; collate material into outline form; select material ready for print; and determine further material needed.

The first goal was tentatively achieved on day one when the assembly, reporting back from workshop, adopted a ten-chapter outline with additional preface, introduction, dedication, personal stories and appendix.

Beginning with day two, the actual sorting of material began. Due to the large volume of materials, each chapter was subdivided into various categories. By the end of day three the inventory and sorting process had produced an initial draft of "Chapter One" ready for rewrite. By the end of day four, the ten chapters had been divided into nearly 100 sub-headings.

Prior to the end of the conference of day five, the various workshops had sorted through hundreds of pages of raw material and had produced 511 sheets of paste-up material, the genesis of the book. These 511 sheets were the basic outline of a rough draft. Of which 42 pages of paste up devoted to Chapter One, six final "rough draft" sheets were set aside as the "first draft." The conference with a book in recognizable form.

The members of the Lincoln conference worked around the clock during the last three days of the assembly. More than 1100 man-hours of labor went into this conference.

Jan 31-Feb 8, 1981: The third W.L.C. was held on campus at Memphis State University, Memphis, TN. The conference opened with 27 people from 8 states in attendance. The initial meeting of this conference established two goals: complete final draft of the N.A. book; and submit the approved text to the Fellowship as a whole two months prior to May 1, 1981, the date of the World Convention, with final approval to be sought at the Los Angeles convention.

Day two of the conference began with a consensus on workshop guidelines. It was decided by group conscious to divide into smaller groups and to put each chapter through more than one workshop. It was also decided to "workshop" one chapter at a time until a final draft was achieved.

Beginning with day two, the assembly began daily contact with the local areas. Members in various areas and regions were located to accept long distance phone calls for the purpose of further input, as well as to solicit funds.

From day one, January 31, through day nine, February 8, the conference worked nearly around the clock in shifts. Each line in every paragraph, on each page of every chapter went through several group conscious workshops before reaching "final typing." Chapters were rewritten, revised, expanded, cut and edited several times. Not all of the final effort was done at Memphis. One chapter was roughed out in California and air-expressed to Memphis. One chapter travelled to Ohio with a committee member, and was re-written on the plane back from Ohio to Memphis. Long distance calls were made from coast to coast to verify input, assemble new data and to collect stories.

Some of the chapters were found to be in an acceptable first draft stage, based on the work performed at Lincoln. One chapter was incomplete through day six of the Memphis conference.

During the course of the Memphis conference, more than 70 people from 13 states were in actual attendance at some time during the nine days. In addition, dozens more members from coast to coast were consulted by telephone and contributed either by phone, mail or air express.

At Memphis alone, more than 4,500 man-hours were expended in the various stages of writing, rewriting, assembling and final compilation. Nine typewriters, two photocopiers, three cassette players, two telephones and a dictaphone were kept in almost continuous use; and more than 20,000 sheets of paper were used to produce 200 pages of basic text.

February 9, 1981: The Memphis conference ended and the files, equipment and now-approved text of the review copy were moved to a local member's home. A small group of committee members from Kansas, Ohio, Georgia, California and Tennessee remained to carry out the conference directive to have the work printed and assembled for mailing.

The members from Georgia, California, Kansas and Ohio eventually returned home and the few dedicated members from Tennessee continued to work around the clock to coordinate efforts with the stenographer and printer. This group remained in constant contact with committee members from Georgia, California, Oregon and Ohio.

The eleventh hour efforts of the group in Memphis included dozens of phone calls to Georgia, Oregon, California, Missouri and other areas, as well as miles of driving from the work area to the stenographer to the printer; lengthy visits with a lawyer (for copyright of the review copy) and post office (for mailing permits); trips to Western Union to collect money orders and to the bank for deposits; the slow, tedious task of proofreading and final assembly of 1200 copies; and the actual addressing and mailing of the review copy to the Fellowship world-wide.

February 27, 1981: The review copy is mailed.

**This is a life time school;
our graduates get loaded.**

*-from the Grey Book, Ch 10
"More Will Be Revealed"*

HONESTY

Honest - Not lying; cheating; stealing, or taking unfair advantage; honorable.

As a newcomer I was taught that honesty must be an essential part of my recovery. I was told that not only must I learn to be "cash register" honest, but that I must try to learn to be honest with others and most importantly, with myself.

So off I went down the road of recovery trying my best to learn the principles that have been set out before me. Sometimes I do really well and sometimes it takes me awhile to realize that I'm not looking through God's eyes after all, but my own. All in all, I always felt that honesty was one of the easier principles to learn, until recently.

A situation had arisen that any knowledge or admittance to past drug use in my life would hinder me greatly in the direction in which I wish to pursue my life. The problem, whether or not to tell them of my past. Suddenly, honesty wasn't as cut and dried as I thought it was. I had all of these questions, and was starting to realize that there was no easy answer.

All I knew for sure was that I felt a great deal of confusion, and that for the first time in my recovery I didn't have a clear answer. So being the good recovering addict that I am, I prayed about it, then sought the guidance of the fellowship. I see now that I went in thinking that everyone would tell me the same thing, that there would only be one direction in which to go. What I got was several possible answers with so many different kinds of reasoning behind them, that it seemed to only confuse me more and lead me farther away from discovering a real solution.

I realize in listening to people that it wasn't the answer that was confusing, it was the variety of reasoning behind the answers that was so confusing.

I was told That Honesty is a spiritual principle and that it should be followed to the letter at all times no matter what. That if I wasn't allowed to be honest or choose not to be, that I was denying my recovery.

I was told that I should lie, that sometimes we had to break the rules in order to be allowed to play the game.

That sometimes people didn't give us any choice but to lie.

I was also told (by someone else) that if less people played along with those rules and started standing up for what was right, then maybe we wouldn't be forced to lie and that the world might be a better place.

I was told to lie because it was something I wanted.

I was told that I was bucking God's will for me, that if I was meant to go in this direction that I wouldn't have to lie.

I was told that in Step 9 it says we should make amends to everyone except when to do so would injure them or others. I was reminded that I was part of the "others" and that it would be harming myself to jeopardize my chances by telling the truth.

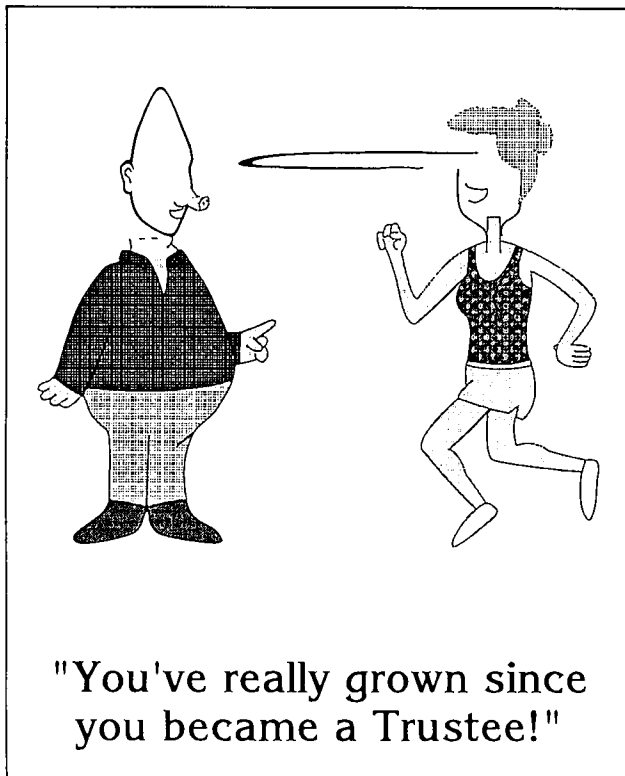
I was told to tell them a half truth, by saying that I had used only once or twice in the past.

And these are just the ones I could remember. I didn't know what to do. I, myself, found it hard to believe that God meant to restrict anyone who had ever tried drugs from being in this particular career field. I have always tried to put my recovery first, knowing that if I didn't, anything good that I might have, I'd end up destroying. Because that is what my addiction does.

I was being eaten up inside with frustration and guilt because I didn't know which way to turn. I kept praying and was sure God just didn't hear me. Then when I had almost given up, I tried one more time to talk to someone in hopes that they would have the answer.

They listened to the whole story and then to my surprise, asked me what I thought I should do. So I told them what I felt was right in my heart.

As I shared with this person I realized that I was worrying to much about what other people thought. That the decision needed to be mine and only mine, because it's one that I'm going to have to live with. You see, it's not important that we always make the right decisions. I don't think life or honesty is so cut and dried. We have to remember that we are human and that making mistakes is natural. All we can do is try. I think the important thing is to remember to have faith in the fact the God will be there with us even if we do make the wrong choice. We try to live by the principles of the program, and hope that with them we will make better (not perfect) decisions as our awareness of recovery grows. ♦





take pen in hand with vast array of emotions. The first is gratitude to be clean today; the second is for I am using the pen for this missive; third is anxiety for I don't know if this is what *Awakenings* wants to publish; fourth is faith, for I know I'm writing what I need to; etc. etc.

The where of now is on Cheaha Mt., the highest point in Alabama, the why is the *NA Surrender in the Mountains* #11, my 8th. It is raining, the leaves are as beautiful as usual at the end of October. My relationship with this mountain started when I was 17 yrs old, in the spring of 1958 and has lasted through 29 yrs. of using (active addiction) and almost 8 yrs. of recovery. During this relationship the mountain has always been the constant by which I could see, feel & gauge where I am today and compare it to any place in the past 36 yrs. Through then all the mountain has been a very special place, positively speaking. My father died up here 17 yrs. ago this coming Nov 5th, today would have been his 89th birthday. I believe today he & I are in loving harmony due in no small measure to the fact I'm clean and a member of Narcotics Anonymous.

About an hour ago I was sitting here in my cabin listening to the Blues Breakers, John Mayall w/Eric Clapton, reading October-November 1994 issue of *Awakenings* and specifically Grateful Dave's NA Statement of Unity when I decided to write & send this to *Awakenings*. The first issue was sent to me and was a most pleasant and thoughtful surprise. As a fellow Anonymi I have expressed my gratitude and support in an anonymous way before but I guess its time to do the dreaded deed "write about it, now".

It is my belief that through my service work I had the pleasure of meeting those responsible for allowing an alternate voice to be heard throughout the fellowship, at an NA history workshop in Huntsville. Also, it was my great fortune and honor to know and love Grateful Dave. During the last couple of years of his life, while he waged such a heroic effort to preserve our NA heritage, we spent many hours on the phone crying, raging, laughing and sharing all the benefits NA & recovery have to offer. That's freedom.

While Dave was doing his service, my service to fellowship, community and self kept me here in Alabama, where much like all the places I've read about in *Awakenings* and heard about from friends throughout the fellowship in the USA, we have felt the effects of the tentacles of money, property & prestige of those given to be driven by the power of the anti-principles. At first, I personally, tried fighting, defending, anger, fear etc., until with the help & love of those who care for me (in NA & outside) the surrender and acceptance came that this fellowship is done in a power greater's time and purpose, then relief and comfort came to me. The bullshit continues, as it probably always will, but it doesn't have to affect or have power over anyone, unless we give (allow) it to.

As the music playing is now the sounds and songs of the humpback whales. The realization that these gentle creatures are able to communicate with each other through vast distances in the oceans and in spite of the distances

and all the obstacles between them they carry and send the message of hope & love, not too unlike those of us who carry the freely given experience, strength & hope of our recovery & life through and in Narcotics Anonymous.

In the last few paragraphs of *Awakenings* you asked for input as to how, or what could (can) be done to continue & encourage others to participate in this vehicle of an alternate voice or ear. Well here goes my 2¢ worth. In my possession was entrusted to me a manuscript about love, hope, commitment and other principles. It is entitled In Loving Service and for many reasons wasn't (hasn't) been published by the fellowship, WSC, WSO, WLC, etc., most probably because of that old bugaboo FEAR. Well, for me, service to others is what will keep me happy, joyous & free. There are (were) some important facts about service, the word & action, that were necessary for me to know (practice) before I could (can) be of service to anyone (fellowship, community & self). First, being a servant is an honorable but not lofty position. A servant is one who tends to the needs of others not as the slave who obeys the commands of a master. Secondly, service without love isn't service. If no love is present then whatever's being done is from self-servingness - self-centeredness - the core of our disease. Finally, service sets one free and helps remove and keep removed the blocks I - one puts between Spirit - Higher Power - Source & me - and only us (me) individually are capable of doing this - service done from love keeps me out of me, allows love in and freedom to grow. ♦

YES, WE CAN

A HIGHER POWER IS THE SOURCE OF THE NOURISHMENT. NOURISHMENT THAT ENABLES PHYSICAL HEALTH, EMOTIONAL STABILITY, AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING. LOVE IS THE ACTION OF THAT HIGHER POWER, AND CARE IS HOW WE RECEIVE AND SHARE THAT LOVE. WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT.

THE NATURAL COURSE IS TOWARDS THAT SOURCE AND WE ARE IMPEDED IN THAT RETURN BY OUR ATTACHMENT TO THE ILLUSIONS WE IDENTIFY WITH. OUR RELUCTANCE TO LET GO OF THOSE ATTACHMENTS IS WHAT IMPEDES OUR JOYFUL JOURNEY TO THE SOURCE OF OUR BEING. WITH SERVICE TO OTHERS BY SIMPLY SHARING LOVE, THAT NATURAL RETURN IS ENABLED AND OUR LIFE BECOMES A PRAYER OF EXAMPLE AND GRATITUDE. WE ALSO FIND THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT.

FEAR IS THE ROOT OF THE ATTACHMENTS WE MAKE TO OUR ILLUSIONS, EVEN WHEN WE DON'T FEEL FEARFUL. TO MAINTAIN VIGILANCE, AND SURRENDER THAT LEARNED BEHAVIOR OF IDENTIFICATION CAN ONLY EASE THE PAIN OF LIVING THAT WE ALL MUST FACE TO GROW TOWARDS THAT LOVING HIGHER POWER WE NATURALLY YEARN FOR AND SEEK. THIS TOO WE HAVE GROWN TO BELIEVE.

THIS PROCESS CANNOT BE DONE ALONE OR EVEN IN ISOLATED CELLS OF LIKE-MINDED PERSONS. WE ALL NEED EACH OTHER. THE PARADOX OF PERSONAL FREEDOM IS HINGED TO THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF OURSELVES. IT'S A REFLECTION OF THE COSMIC SMILE. GOD BLESS US ALL. ♦

Future of N.A.

Members share feelings, dreams and pain. Out of their sharing, member to member, will come the future of N.A. We have never admitted to yearning for rulers or dictators, yet we seem to have a system within our service structure where there are members who "know better." This article is devoted to the principle that we have a future as recovering addicts in N. A. The right to self-determination is not automatic. It requires action and occasionally, courage. Generally, the more willing we are to protect our rights, the less often we have to demonstrate our readiness to action.

How many people have gotten clean in the past few years and have no idea what the problems were with the Fourth Edition, Grateful Dave and WSO. Today's reader may not be able to see how *It Works, How and Why*, is not a book by addicts, for addicts. Using professional writers to finish the work violated not only guidelines, but the spiritual faith we had placed in our servants at the world level. Any reader of the minutes of the World Service Conference will see how the Fellowship expressed its will to keep literature writing in the hands of clean addicts and not reduce it to slick professional renditions that may read well yet lack the flavor and feel we trust.

Just For Today trashed Fellowship input to use form similar to other successful daily meditation books. *It was retailored to fit market needs, not the spiritual reality of N.A.* Many of us believe this retailing is behind many of the service disorders and efforts to control what happens in world service to benefit the corporation. We have licensed our World Service Office to *RETAIL* our literature IN OUR NAME to our membership, as well as the world at large. This is what creates the conflict of interest that sets members against member and makes our service structure accountable to a California corporation instead of our Fellowship.

When the perpetrators of disorder are not thrown out of office, it creates special problems that are hard to deal with by the Fellowship at large. In a short time, the perpetrators can make themselves seem like protectors of order and makes those who corrected them seem inappropriately awkward. We are loyal, informed, active, dedicated members. We are superinformed on some topics. But we have no one to tell us how superinformed we are. We have gotten into such subtlety that our positive proposals and big concerns fly over the heads of our readers. We have a big need to keep it simple.

Writing in the new N.A. World, we have to constantly update ourselves to account for readers new to N.A. who may not have the background either in service or recovery to understand or take part in corrective efforts. Each month, questions are written into *New Awakenings* about the nature of our N.A. literature. It might be very helpful to reach members with five years or less with answers. Many of these members, if not all, are unaware of where our literature has come from in the past or how changes can affect what is possible today. We don't want our writing to seem like an attack on our reader. While a certain amount of pressure to act in a responsible manner will be felt, we are more concerned about preventing the recurrence of errors than assigning blame to individuals who, after all, were acting without the benefit of the writings we are envisioning creating. While we are comfortable being sensitive to the needs of uninformed or disinformed readers, we should not allow those who committed errors to put us behind the eight ball just because we knew the written approved service structure didn't allow for their actions. It should be no fault to be informed and capable of principled action.

I feel we need to write to a general audience of well-intended members who are willing to do their part to help. A lot of members today don't realize that *The Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure* is our official service structure. The title itself is misleading. It was suggested at a time when it seemed correction was no more than a year away. Also, there was an improper understanding about the word 'suggested' in the introduction. Some took it to mean that we don't really have service guides or that if we do, this is not a well thought out, permanent result of considerable time and effort by experienced, informed members. It is. The Guide has worked rain or shine through all these years. Now they have a voting group of people who are nearly totally uninformed of our past who may vote in the Guide to Service or any other proposed piece without realizing they are being gulled.

The *Way of Life* book is going forward. Efforts to finish the current chapters are underway to make for a standard working form that can serve as the basis for discussion and input. Further down the road, individual chapters may be combined to form one new chapter, divided to form two or more new chapters or taken out of the work to form a separate book. While there is no particular section being considered for this, it is good to have this freedom. Also, efforts are underway to make individual chapters available as separate pieces just because it is so hard for the Fellowship to consider a book length piece. Several weekly meetings are now taking place around the Fellowship, increasing input to the book and making it easier for members to get involved.

[Note: There is now a newsletter called the *Way of Life Chronicles* which can be had by writing WOL 375 Franklin Ave, Aliquippa PA 15001. *New Awakenings* is not affiliated with and does not endorse the *Way Of Life* project. *New Awakenings* believes in at-cost services and financial accountability.]

Dear New Awakenings, Dear Family,

How do we consistently write such good stuff for our newsletter? I mean its concise, informed and usually written from experience. Maybe its members who care and can accept the truth that not everything about N.A. is as it should be and as for outside of N.A. but still of N.A. i.e., the service structure. Well that's a few members baby and meal ticket that the truth must be set free about.

Members in some Groups around here where I live actually believe that we (my Home Group and others) are not N.A. because we are not approved of by 1) U.K. Region, 2) U.K.S.O., 3) W.S.C., and 4) W.S.O. Our Area - East Anglian - has now been formally expelled from U.K. Region with an announcement at the U.K. Convention in August. Our crimes - apparently - are gross tradition violations. In my Home Group we recognise Group Conscience meetings as the only decision making process in N.A. To us, none of the above 1, 2, 3 or 4 is N.A. in itself or on it's own and none of them have any authority. We believe in Groups as authority about what happens in N.A. But even then a Group is only autonomous and can not dictate to other Groups, or force anything upon them. We have the right to carry the message, to the addict who still suffers, how we best see fit.

We have this right by being fully self supporting, autonomous, and vigilant in applying all of our Steps and Traditions in all of our affairs. Having this right brings responsibility and commitment if we are to grow healthy. The sad thing is, our actions have brought much condemnation from some and those some are well heard in N.A.

One of the main ways we try to help newcomers in our locality is by offering lifts to get to meetings daily. Phone numbers are given - we have a 24-hour helpline recently started. We offer 5 meetings a week in our town. We travel out to other meetings.

Another service we offer immediately to new people is free literature. This includes the 3rd Edition Revised (with Original 4th & 9th Traditions) Basic Text. We print the Text here and cost price allows us to give them away free. These books are never sold for profit. We get them for 80 pence a book now because the demand has increased - they used to cost £1 - and here then is the "tradition violation". It seems that this particular Basic Text is not approved by W.S.C. (there's no W.S.C. stamp of approval in it) nor W.S.O. nor U.K.S.O. nor U.K. Region - the 1, 2, 3, and 4 mentioned earlier. So the situation here is N.A. Groups in their decision making process (described in Tradition 2) approve the use and distribution of our Basic Text. But 1, 2, 3, and 4 say no. When 1, 2, 3, and 4 are on your back with the support of other members you got to look very carefully at your actions. Study your application of all the Traditions and wonder now and then if you're on the same planet as some of our other members.

My Home Group is over 9 years old - meetings have never stopped here in that time - though many folks have come and gone and our founder member here no longer participates in N.A. as of about 3 years ago. He is today approaching 10 years clean. I got clean here off the street - over 7 years ago. We have had many growing pains along the way and still.

When will the truth come out about our history? Why did we have 6 different versions of our Basic Text from W.S.C. '82 to W.S.C. '88? Why was the Fourth Edition professionally rewritten? Why was the Fifth Edition released to the Fellowship without Fellowship conscience or approval and yet released with a W.S.C. stamp of approval? Do we have anything to hide in our Fellowship? Can a member or a group be told what to do, what to believe; can we negotiate our Traditions for a quiet life or to please some that are well heard?

We do have disagreements and conflicts in N.A. as in life. Despite what some people say we can disagree without being disagreeable. All of our lives

continued next page ➤

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 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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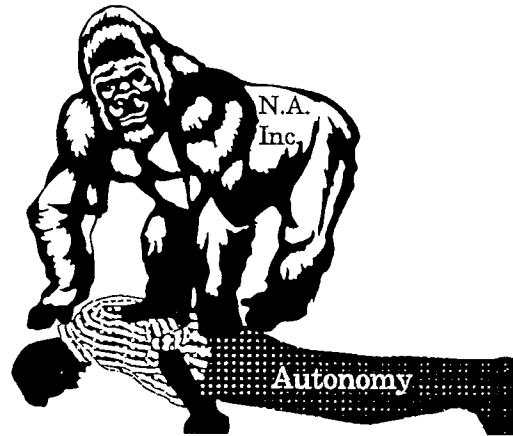
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Dear Family

...from page 11

are at stake. We've been given a new way of life and we can't screw it up just by trying to do our best. Personal recovery depends on N.A. unity. And N.A. unity depends on our personal recovery. The solutions and the answers to our problems of growing pains will only come through practicing spiritual principles. For us there is no other way. Be a part of the solution, not the problem. Don't put your head in the sand. How about some love and some sanity? How about coexistence? What about anonymity, humility, and equality? Why don't we just do the footwork and leave the results up to God? After all, N.A. is a God-given programme.

-From a fully paid up member ♦



Monkey On Our Back

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