


# New Awakenings

## Total abstinence means NO DRUGS.



"This is a program of total abstinence, however, there are times, such as in cases of health problems involving surgery and/or extreme physical injury, when medication may be valid. This does not constitute a license to use. There is no safe use of drugs for us. Our bodies don't know the difference between drugs prescribed by a physician for pain and drugs "prescribed by ourselves" to get high. As addicts our skill at self-deception will be at a peak in such a situation. Often our minds will even manufacture additional pain as an excuse to use. Turning it over to our Higher Power and getting the support of our sponsor and other members can help prevent us from being our own worst enemies. Being alone during such times would give our disease too much leeway to take over. Honest sharing can dispel our fears of relapse. Serious illness or surgery can present particular problems for us.

Physicians should have specific knowledge of our addiction. Remember that we—not our doctor—are ultimately responsible for the risk we expose ourselves to. To minimize the danger there are a few specific options that we may consider. These are using local anesthesia, avoiding our drug of choice, if any, stopping while we are still hurting, and spending extra days in the hospital in case withdrawal occurs.

Whatever pain we experience will pass. Through prayer, meditation and sharing we keep our minds off our discomfort and have the strength to keep our priorities in order. It is imperative to keep N.A. members close by at all times, if possible. It is amazing how our minds will go back so quickly to our old ways and old thinking. You'd be surprised how much pain we can handle without medication. In this program of total abstinence, however, we need feel no guilt after having taken a minimum amount of medication prescribed by an informed professional for extreme physical pain."



## Any Questions?

## MEDICATION: AN INSIDE ISSUE

The 10th tradition of our program has been used to escape the responsibility of dealing with the medication issue. Our 10th tradition is referring to outside issues like Republicans and Democrats, or should we invade Haiti, ect. They are the social issues that we do not have an opinion about.

However, as a fellowship of recovering addicts, we do have an opinion on abstinence from mind changing and mood altering drugs. All through our literature, it is written in every way conceivable so that there would be no confusion. Yet, our denial keeps us confused so we do not have to become responsible to the principle of abstinence.

Abstinence is the very first spiritual principle that we come in contact with when we enter the program of NA. It is an ancient principle that has been around since the beginning of humanity. Every spiritual program on the face of the earth has had the principle of abstinence as one of its fundamental principles and practices. In NA, it is called a 1st step.

Why do these NA members coddle newcomers on medication? We are not doctors, they say. Yes, this is true; we are not doctors. However, we are a program of complete and total abstinence.

NA is not here for the mentally ill. We are here for the addict who still suffers. We are here for people who are tired of using drugs to restore themselves to sanity. A drug addict can never recover while on drugs that elevate their mood or stabilize and balance their mood so they do not become manic or depressed.

Therefore, we are faced with making a decision. Wow - what a fearful proposition - to stand up for a spiritual principle. One of the fears many of us have and also the reason for not pushing for a decision on this inside issue is that the decision may be that medication could be acceptable and our abstinence would become mockery.

There are some questions we need to ask ourselves:

- 1.) How many of our so-called members are not abstinent?
- 2.) Do we have any trusted servants on mind and mood altering medication?
- 3.) Are any of these people serving at the Group, Area, Regional, or World level?
- 4.) If they are on medication for psychiatric reasons, are they qualified to serve a fellowship of total abstinence?

*continued next page* ➡

### *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.

After three years of uninterrupted publishing we will bring *New Awakenings* to an end with a last issue this December. Addicts willing to do the work can always start another one but there's been much under the bridge and its time to stop, take a break, do some inventory. A good place to discuss past and future will be in West Virginia October 13-15 (see page 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:

Virginia	12.00
Virginia	25.00
Florida	20.00
New Jersey	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.00</b>

#### Expenses Issue 3:

Printing	96.88
Postage	29.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>126.00</b>

We have developed in our fellowship what is known as a Euphemism:

The use of a word that is less expressive or direct but considered less distasteful, less offensive, etc. than another.

Instead of using drugs, these people are on medication. Wake Up! Isn't that what we used to do; self medicate ourselves so we would not feel depressed or manic. There is no difference once you come to believe in the N.A. way of life.

Let us stop playing games with words. Let us stop using our fear that we will lose friends if we get honest and tell the truth.

The truth is this:

- 1.) Medication for depression and mental illness is mind and mood altering which equals drugs.
- 2.) These people are not clean.
- 3.) They are not abstinent from drugs.
- 4.) They should never be allowed to serve in the N.A. service structure at any level outside the group.
- 5.) These people need to keep coming back to our meetings.
- 6.) We need to be honest enough with them to let them know how N.A. deals with the mental aspect of our disease, which is complete and total abstinence.

The Basic Text and In Times of Illness\* refer to using drugs for physical pain due to physical illness or surgery. It does not refer to mental illness, depression, bipolar manic depression, Schizophrenia, Psychosis, ect. It only mentions physical illness.

When we are willing to stop justifying the use of drugs, we find freedom. Freedom from the disease of addiction. We have a good 1st step.

It is time for this fellowship to stand up for abstinence. Make it clear, make it black and white, keep it simple, but we have to stand together. We don't have to stand tall, but we do have to stand. Are you willing?

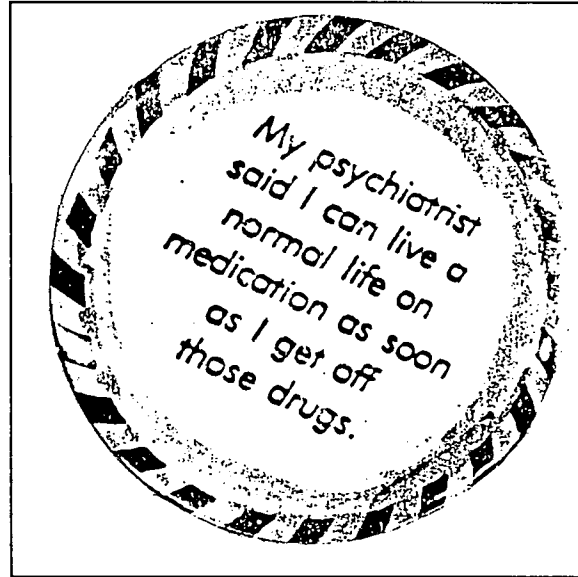
Having discussed this matter with many people, we have noticed a strange fear. There appears to be a common fear that if this issue were ever to reach any of our Trusted World servants, the Board of Trustees, or the World Conference, and they had to make a decision, we fear they would decide that the use of mind and mood altering drugs known as medication would be accepted by our World servants.

N.A. deals with a disease of the Spirit that is expressed physically and effects us mentally. The way to treat our disease is with spiritual principles. Drugs have never been able to help us when it comes to the disease of addiction. In N.A., we do not use medication to deal with depression, fear, anxiety. We use a 4th step for that.

**"STAND FOR SOMETHING, OR YOU'LL FALL FOR ANYTHING"**

Hello Readers,

One of you didn't get your last issue, Vol 3 No 3. It was returned to us shredded, in a plastic bag, by the Post Office with an apology for their high-speed sorting equipment. Nothing remained of the label. If you got a No. 2 and a No. 4 but no No. 3 then this was yours; please let us know.



In Loving Service,

An N.A. Clearist

\* *New Awakenings* does not in any way endorse or recommend this WSO Inc. product.

# Dual Exhaust

I'm still laughing about the cartoon on the back of *New Awakenings* June-July '94: "EZ-Clean", with the great big trade mark and the little NA symbol at the lower right. Every now and then I remember this and just about fall off my chair all over again. Sometimes I guess a picture is worth a thousand words.

Not long ago our meeting was visited by a large bunch of people never seen before. It turned out they were from a treatment center though I did not know this until after the meeting when one introduced herself as a counselor. These people, she explained, were "dually diagnosed" (not to be confused with "dually addicted", another popular treatment center term whereby alcohol is thought of as different from other drugs). The dually diagnosed are addicts who

need to be maintained on drugs in order to recover. They are crazy, as opposed to the rest of us who are OK, or something like that.

Now I understood why she had put her head down on the table during the meeting and appeared to be in some anguish. As God would have it, we just happened to pick back up that day in our Basic Text reading at the line, "This is a program of total abstinence" and proceeding through that good stuff like, "...we, not our doctor, are ultimately responsible...".

My initial concern was that our small meeting was not able to receive such a large bunch of people, that its character and atmosphere of recovery would be quickly gone. This I sought to politely communicate to her when the rest spilled out. My fears were put to rest as the counselor had no intention of bringing her charges back to such a terrible meeting. "Aren't there other NA meetings around here that don't do that total abstinence part?", she asked. Yes by God I thought, pick any meeting off the schedule in this town.

We have NA meetings run by paid staff of the facility in which they meet, meetings that don't pay rent, meetings that sell another fellowship's book, meetings devoted to wounded inner little children and meetings that conclude with the 23rd Psalm. Dual diagnosis? Shouldn't be a problem. I can't tell you how many times I've heard it said, "If the doctor gave it to you it doesn't count". And if you represent enough potential book sales maybe WSO would write you a new book with those offensive sections diluted or deleted altogether.

Praying inside for humility and guidance, I suggested that she could contact the local H&I Committee for a regular in-house presentation but her immediate grimace and subse-

## WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STATEMENT REGARDING ADDICTS WHO USE METHADONE

There have been many inquiries and concerns from many members, groups, areas and regions of our Fellowship which have pointed up a need to address the question of persons using Methadone and their right to share, conduct meetings or be a trusted servant in Narcotics Anonymous.

The short and simple answer to this question is no. Methadone is a drug and N.A. is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs. Tradition Three says that *the only requirement for N.A. membership is a desire to stop using*. It is our belief that this desire must be evidenced with the conviction and complete commitment to total abstinence.

Persons who are using Methadone are welcome to attend meetings of N.A. As with any addict who is using, however, they should participate only by listening and by talking with members after a meeting.

We share at meetings to carry a message of recovery according to our Fifth Tradition. We only have a message of recovery to carry after we get clean from all drugs. Our Fellowship is founded on the principle of total abstinence from all drugs. This is our starting point on our path away from death due to our addiction.

The Board of Trustees believes that Tradition Three, Four and Five are not in conflict regarding this issue. It is our opinion that group autonomy cannot be utilized to allow Methadone users to share, chair or be a trusted servant for an N.A. meeting because these matters affect N.A. as a whole.

Our Fellowship must be cognizant of what kind of message we are carrying if a still-using addict shares in a meeting, leads a meeting or becomes a trusted servant for a group. We believe that under these circumstances we would not be carrying our message of recovery from the disease of addiction. Permissiveness in this area of concern is not consistent with our traditions and is destructive to recovering addicts, the N.A. Fellowship as a whole, and still-using addicts.

The Board of Trustees endorses the efforts of groups who have utilized our traditions, especially Tradition Four, to guide them in reaching the following guidelines:

- a. Asking that those who have used any drug within the last 24 hours not share during the meeting.
- b. Upholding the suggestions in the *Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure of N.A.* with respect to suggested clean time requirements for service positions.
- c. Asking that the meeting leader, chairperson or speaker be an individual who is not using any drug. (This is in compliance with Tradition Five.)

Our experience has shown that an N.A. meeting cannot become a forum for users who want to justify their using. We believe that this position reinforces our recovery, protects our meetings, and supports addicts in striving for total abstinence.

***The balls for spiritual guidance in the '80's***

## TOO MUCH FREEDOM

It seems that the time has finally come when we've built too broad a base for our pyramid. The pinnacle can't be seen in the distance, and as a result, we've built a new mythos: 'If we can't see it, it mustn't be there'. Up until recently, recovery was always an opportunity for us to boost each other up at any chance, to support efforts for growth, and to expand tremendous energy trying to do things differently so that our actions would match up with our principles. In the past three or four years I have had more experience with addicts telling me that I couldn't do something than with loving encouragement. I don't know why, and I miss having people pull for me.

Am I the only addict left who was told on arrival, "Sit down, be quiet, listen carefully, and you might survive"? The responsibility for having any answers, I was told, was not my problem. Addicts explained to me that all that I knew must change and that what I knew most about was using, which they didn't need any additional lessons in. I was given instruction in the form of Steps that aided me in finding a new perspective. These Steps have been a constant force for growth ever since. Recently, I watched all sorts of newcomers wander in, assume they know anything about recovery, and end up running right back out. My God is strong, but knows better than to blunt his tools trying to work them too hard. I don't have the time, energy, or

frankly, the inclination to try to change the world. We do, however, need to pay attention to this phenomenon. It's really starting to affect our Fellowship.

Traditionally, we don't give anything but suggestions to people who ask. This is because by nature we are a truly rebellious bunch of reactionaries. As we respond poorly to direction, suggestions have been a good tool for having addicts work together for change. However, there are must in this program, and indifference and intolerance are not two of them. These come into play every time the subject of NA service comes up. I'm not just talking about the "with the gear in the rear" kind of service, but about front-line service with addicts helping addicts too. NA service is about loving this Fellowship and another addict so much that we're willing to do whatever we can to help God help us. I had to be shown how to do this and was corrected when I got lost.

We all know now that power and prestige can carry a message, but do we know what we're giving? We had a simple, effective method for reaching out and sharing hope, now we can't see the Tree for the forest. According to Addendum D in this year's CAR, unless I was born in a Lit Committee meeting, was suckled on the tit of the BOT, and was raised (definitely latch-key) by the WSO, there is little possibility of my future involvement with writing literature through the approved channel. That is not our experience! Our experience is that we can sit in meetings and hear an addict with a day clean thank God for the miracle of this program. Our experience is that one addict is no better than any other addict. Our experience is that we have no need of professionals in NA. Now, I'm not suggesting that we make a newcomer responsible for service. But we do need to remember that the newcomer is still our wellspring.

Now that we have positions of authority in our Fellowship, now that we have thrown out our Traditions and replaced them with concepts, now that our service boards can totally dismiss our groups' conscience without any fear of reprisal, I wonder what will be required before our Society will take a stand. Our Freedom is dwindling away, and many long-time members (like myself) are becoming desperately weary of our situation. It is not too late to save our Fellowship, but we must as a whole decide to use the Principles that have worked since the inception of Narcotics Anonymous, instead of buying in wholesale to whatever glossy, slickly produced, mass-marketed, professionally-driven solutions that are forwarded at the cost of our autonomy.

Oh, and by the way, I can still see the pinnacle. Can you?

An addict in Maryland ♦

### Dual Exhaust *continued...*

sequent words indicated that she had already tried that and I understood perfectly: this committee, staffed by adherents of many different "recovery" programs and dominated by oldtimers that themselves make a living in "the field", staggers along in a state of chaos and self-will, works at cross-purposes to itself and others and mostly fails to work at all.

It strikes me that after centuries of beatings, jailings, head-shavings, electroshock therapy, etc. without any success, the professionals came to us to see what it was we were doing for ourselves that seemed to work. The irony is that when we are finished catering to them there won't be much left of the miracle.

It strikes me that the one sacred, untouchable part is the involuntary fund flow; all else is negotiable. I'm wondering how stinky it has to get before its too stinky for *you*? And more importantly, what are we going to do then?



# ATTACK OF THE

## Group Questionnaire

1) Should a meeting be accountable to NA with its 7th tradition?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

2) The world service office has recommended that area service committees be formed so that a meetings primary purpose, "to carry the message to the addict who still suffers", can be realized. Do you believe that meetings who have this available to them should vitalize these services provided by the A.S.C.?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

3) The W.S.O. has issued a statement saying that giving away basic texts, purchased with the 7th tradition, is a misappropriation of funds. Do you believe meetings should still practice this?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

4) The W.S.O. suggests that all meetings purchase their literature from their A.S.C. because they are too busy to handle individual meeting orders. Do you think meetings should go on buying from the W.S.O. even though its more taxing on our NA service structure?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

5) Our 7th tradition allows our area to have (among other things) picnics, campouts and dances etc. If meetings did not make donations, our area would completely dis-unify in this capacity. Should this be a concern for the area?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

6) Do you believe it is OK to close a meeting because the chairperson doesn't like what your sharing?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

7) With all the problems we have filling service positions, do you think it is OK for a group to tell you that you can't be of service to NA in any form while you are of service to their group?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

8) Do you feel it is OK to ask addicts to put money in a basket and not allow you to have a say in how that money is spent?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

9) The L.B.A. has a policy to remove any meetings from the directory if they don't show up at area, or at least send a report, for two consecutive months. This is the only way the area knows if a group is still meeting or not. If a group doesn't show up for 6 months, do you believe they should be dropped?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

## Group

So what did they do to deserve this? They hold an annual chili cook-off and funds raised are used to buy Basic Texts from W.S.O. Inc. which are then given away FREE to newcomers. This was (is) considered a "misappropriation of 7th Tradition funds".

They also won't change their Group's Policies (see page 1 *New Awakenings* Vol 3 No 2) in spite of repeated requests to do so or be financially accountable to the A.S.C. Those wandering bands of meeting terrorists are not allowed to participate in their Group Conscience, AND, least we forget, they have "a general attitude of dis-unity".

This Group had long been excommunicated and removed from the Lake Borderline Area meeting list. The

# KILLER AREA

## Off Meeting Schedule

Group's events have been better attended than the Area's events (clearly a violation of the Traditions) and then they began doing their own PI with PSA's on a local cable television station. Something had to be done.

So using the above reasons they developed the accompanying questionnaire (left) and announcement (below).

The RSR requested a letter in reference to this Group's practices so he could recommend to the World Service Office Inc. that this Group be removed from the W.S.O.'s meeting registry. The Borderline A.S.R. was asked to show something in writing from W.S.O. Inc., since questions 2, 3 & 4 imply these came from W.S.O. Inc. She stated she that she had something written and on tape but not with her. A Welcome Home Group member called W.S.O. Inc. which denied complicity.

At the next Lake Borderline A.S.C. the A.S.R. stated that she had talked to an apparent spokesperson for the Committee on Ultimate Truth at W.S.O. Inc. and was told that Welcome Home Group was an NA group even though different on some things, were not in tradition violation, and so long as they didn't violate the Intellectual Trust policy (Tradition 13?) could be registered with W.S.O. Inc.

The A.S.R.'s term was up and her report never appeared in the minutes but don't worry, at the next A.S.C. she showed up as a G.S.R. Remarkable, huh?

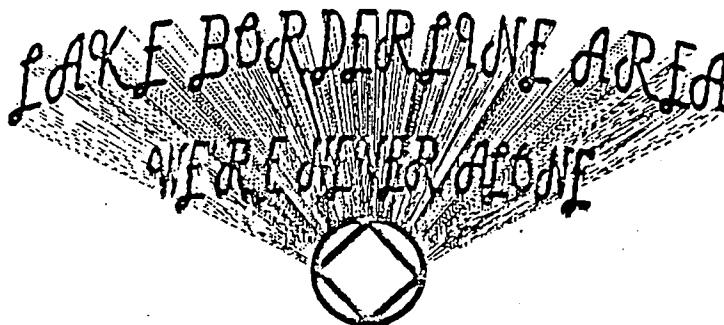
Anyway, the G.S.R.'s refused to distribute the questionnaire and after reading

the announcement at meetings for a few months enough of them showed up to rescind it.

Maybe Lake Borderline's "We're Never Alone" is like, you know, an Alfred Hitchcock movie. Stay out of the shower.

This bizarre interpretation of our Traditions might easily be

taken for the confusion of a few isolated whackos if it did not bear a striking resemblance to one written by a lawyer and Regional muckety-muck in the United Kingdom. Could it be merely a coincidence or is there some sinister force at work here? Stay tuned.♦



### GSR's Please read this with announcements

The Lake Borderline Area Group Service Representatives (GSR's) voted that the Tuesday night "Welcome Home Group", on Utica in Waukegan, was repeatedly in violation of NA's Traditions and is **NO LONGER** considered an NA meeting and is not to be supported by **ANY** NA groups in the Lake Borderline Area. This came about after years of deliberation at the Area Service Committee (ASC), repeated requests to change their policies, their lack of commitment and unity with this area and the Greater Illinois Area of NA and a general attitude of dis-unity.

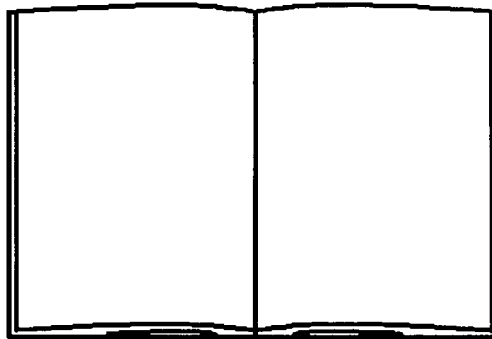
Their repeated attempts to USE our NA meetings to distribute fliers for their own money-making ventures is a perfect example of their total disregard for our traditions. The money made from these functions does not go through our NA service structure nor does it support the Lake Borderline Area or the Greater Illinois Region. In fact, this group refuses to be accountable to NA with ALL the money collected, including their so-called 7th Tradition money.

Remember, personal recovery depends on NA unity.

In loving service,

Lake Borderline Area Service Committee

# OUR BOOK



Our Book was "edited to ensure consistent and correct use of capitalization, verb tenses, gender, singular/plural endings, and other grammatical errors". At least that was the motion passed at WSC 85. At the time it must of seemed like a good idea. Most people didn't know it was going to mean a major re-write and an even bigger controversy.

I compared a few sections of Our Book with the 5th edition and found some very disturbing things. Under the "consistent and correct use of capitalization" portion the word "fellowship" is capitalized throughout the 5th edition even though it was not in the Approved Basic Text. The word "Program" was no longer capitalized in as many places as it was in the Approved Basic Text. Also "NA" is used instead of "Narcotics Anonymous" in many places. I guess that's "capitalization" or maybe it was "other grammatical errors"?

The third paragraph of the 7th Step was moved to the first paragraph. I wonder if that was "gender" or "verb tense"? Probably "other grammatical errors"! And what about removing quotations from around a lot of words that were quoted in the Approved Basic Text? Doesn't that change emphasis and meaning? Probably "other grammatical errors" again!!

The following are some more disturbing examples I found by just comparing a few sections of Our Book. To me these seem like conceptual changes.

## Approved Basic Text

"We were very dependent on them to carry us emotionally through life."

"If you are an addict, you too can find a new way of life through the NA program that would not otherwise be possible."

"We begin by asking for help, and this is accomplished by working the Twelve Steps."

"We felt miserable without drugs."

"Character defects are those things which cause pain and misery all of our lives."

"If we truly want to be free, we will take a good look at what is pointed out to us."

"Mismanagers all; not one of us is capable of making consistently good decisions."

## 5th edition

"We were very dependent on them to carry us through life."

"If you are an addict, you can find a new way of life through the NA Program."

"We begin by asking for help."

"We felt miserable without drugs, and our lives were unmanageable."

"Character defects or shortcomings are those things that cause pain and misery all of our lives."

"If we truly want to be free, we will take a good look at input from fellow addicts."

"We are mismanagers and not one of us is capable of consistently making good decisions."

These are just a few out of the small section of Our Book that I compared. I guess "other grammatical errors" and "conceptual errors" are the same to some people.

It seems that this attempt at professional editing caused either a terrible mistake or a desired result. At best it is one person's interpretation of Our Book.

God Wrote Our Book! It wasn't written to get an "A" on an English assignment. It is a Basic Text for Addicts trying to live and enjoy life without the use of drugs. God's personal special education book for us.

Professionals feel they're better then non-professionals at what they do. This EGO Edges God Out. Somewhere we forgot we were meant to be "Forever Non-Professional"! ♦



# WEST VIRGINIA MESSAGE

I'm an addict and very grateful and proud to be a member of the Clean & Free group of Narcotics Anonymous. I'm writing this for a couple of reasons one of which is to share with you the joy I have inside for the Home Group I am a member of. We will be celebrating our 3rd year of carrying the message of Narcotics Anonymous in a small town in West Virginia. We meet every Tuesday and our format is a Basic Text study meeting. We read out of the 3rd Edition Revised with original Traditions, commonly called the Baby Blues.

I would like to share a little history of our Group being one of the three members that started this Group. The other two members are no longer active in the Group. One relapsed and we pray that he will get clean again and the other original member of our Group doesn't attend N.A. for whatever reasons. We formed our Group for several reasons, one of which was we were members of other groups. The Home Group that I was a member of at that time was having a business meeting and they voted to send the World over \$100.00 because one of the members read a plea from World for money. I brought up that the 7th Tradition flows from member to Group, to Area to Region then to World and I felt I had no voice in this matter or in a lot of others that have occurred in the past 7 years. I was a member of that Group. It always seemed that my personality would be attacked whenever I would bring up what was going on with our world service structure and the other two original members experiences were similar. They were also dissatisfied with their former Home Groups. So we formed the Clean & Free Group Sept. 2, 1992 and at our 1st Group Conscience we decided that we would not support W.S.O. Inc. financially. We joined the Area Service Committee and after a couple of months my former Home Group attacked the Clean & Free Group alleging that we were an illegal Group and should

be taken off the meeting schedule and shut down. Well, we stood firm in our beliefs and Principles and by the Grace of god the other Groups in our Area said that our Group is not illegal, our policy and format is ours and while the other Groups didn't support it they would uphold our right to be autonomous and carry out our format and the message of Narcotics Anonymous to the still suffering addict. Its not so to speak a victory for us but rather the Traditions and Principles working in our Group and Area.

Well, we have had like other Groups members come and go and we have had for a long time 4 very active Home Group members. All of us are trusted servants in our Group and Area Service Committee and our Home Group meeting attendance is not the smallest or the largest in the Area. We average from 12 to 20 addicts and let me tell you we live in a town that has around 10,000 people and the town across the Ohio River has about the same and we are kicking ass when it comes to carrying the message. ♦

## Brothers + Sisters

*The New Awakenings Newsletter will end this year. Do you want it to end?*

*If not speak out!* Write a letter to  
the Newsletter: P.O. Box 21232  
Oakland, Ca. 94620

*This is our information source which started in Feb. 1993. Your ideas and feelings are greatly needed. Let us know how your Awakenings have been and where your support is.*

*It's not about money. The solutions are the ties that bond us together. Let's keep this ship sailing.*

*Love + Respect*

*Addict from Ga.*

# TRADITION SEVEN

*from the Grey Book*

*Every N.A. Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*

Being self-supporting is an important part of our new way of life. For the individual, this is usually quite a change. In our addictions, we were dependent on people, places and things. We looked to them to support us and to supply the things we found lacking in ourselves. As recovering addicts, we find that we are still dependent, but our dependence has shifted from the things around us to a loving God and the inner strength we get in our relationship with Him. We who were unable to function as human beings now find anything is possible for us. Those dreams we gave up long ago can now become realities with God's help. Addicts as a group have been and still are, millstones around society's neck. In N.A., our groups of addicts not only try to stand on their own two feet, but demand the right to do so.

Money has always been a problem for us. We could never find enough to support ourselves our habits and our self-gratification. We worked, stole, conned, begged and sold ourselves; there was never enough money to fill the emptiness inside. In our recovery, money is often still a problem; we stopped trying to support our habits; we got to work and often find unexpected success. We clean up the wreckage of our past and things seem to be going our way for a change. However, financial security can still seem to run like water through our fingers. We've got a lot of growing up to do and this takes time. Common sense and responsibility are things most of us usually have to learn from scratch. Learning how to live can hurt a lot, but for most of us it's a great adventure.

N.A. needs money to run the group; there is rent to pay, supplies to buy and literature to pay for. We pass the hat to cover these expenses and whatever is left over goes to support our services and to further our primary purpose. Unfortunately, there's usually pitifully little left over after a group pays its way. Sometimes members who can afford it kick a little extra in to help. Sometimes a few get together and put on some activity to help raise funds. These efforts help a lot and without them, much that we have been given to do would have had to be left undone. N.A. remains a shoe-string operation, and even though it's sometimes frustrating, we really wouldn't have it any other way; we know the price would be too high to bear.

Our poverty enables us to be much closer to our Fellowship. We all have to pull together, and in pulling together we learn that we really are a part of something greater than ourselves.

Our policy concerning money is clearly stated: We decline outside contributions, our Fellowship is completely self-supporting. We accept no funding, no endowments, no loans, no gifts, and no handouts because we know that there's no such thing as a free ride. Everything has its price, regardless of intent. Whether the price is money, promises, concessions, special recognition, endorsement, favors or anything else; it's just too high for us. Even if those who would help us could guarantee no strings, we still would not accept their aid. The price would still be too high. Nor will we charge for our services for to do so would distract from our spiritual purpose. We cannot even afford to let our members contribute more than their fair share. Because for us the price is paid within our groups: disunity, controversy, insanity and death. We will not put our freedom on the line again; not for "an easier, softer way", not for anything; never again!

## bits from the mailbag



"Some very 'somniferous' doings around here in 'the structure', and the herd seems totally hypnotized by the eloquence of the WSOers. I guess it's all part of the plan, but noticing it is NO FUN!" - Georgia

"When I received my last copy of 'New Awakenings', it was tossed at me by my cousin's husband. He's been clean and sober for 7 years." - Indiana

"I got in touch with Al. He is an angel." - Canada

"RE: Bob Stone Interview. NA has no opinion on outside issues. All else is not NA. Why. He is a scam." - Washington D.C.

"I think I remember meeting you years ago at a WSC. At the time your position was treated as radical and unnecessary...After personal experience with bullshit artists at the world level,

I am convinced there is a better way to carry the message...I refuse to give money to World any more..." - New Mexico

"Lots of freedom. Hugs." - Germany

"I've seen a simple program of recovery twisted so severely, its sad..." - Kansas

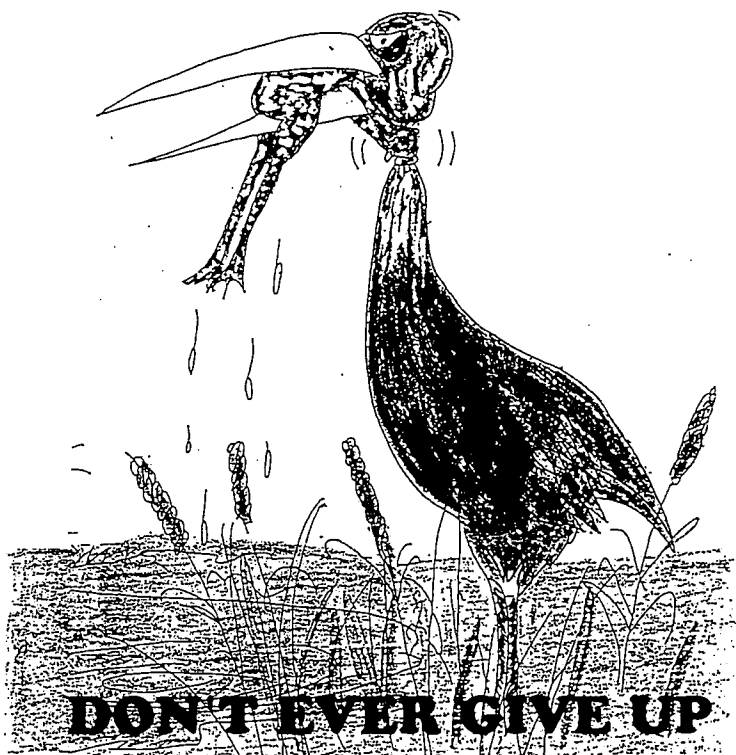
"Re Bob Stone... As often as the poor fellowship in India has been trotted out... how many of them are there? How many books were printed? How much did it cost to translate?" - California

"Someone has fed you suggestions." - Pennsylvania

"... 'Guess What They're Doing To Us In My Region...' letters are pretty much the standard. ...We who read this newsletter already feel the aforementioned frustrations - those kind of letters get like drug-alogues after awhile. What I'm treasuring are the information articles, the timelines and interviews. Articles that give information." - Kentucky

## Gathering in West Virginia

Another Service-At-Cost, You get what you pay for. As the true joy of conventions is being together, we propose to gather for a relaxed weekend of meetings/workshops/sharing or whatever we decide. Topic or format suggestions? Your input highly valued. Write in or call Bill at 916-755-1773. FREEDOM, CREATIVE ACTION, GOODWILL Bring what you have to GIVE away.



▼ To make flyers enlarge onto 8½ x 11 at 130% ▼

# PURE SPIRIT

## TRADITIONALIST GATHERING

October 13-15, 1995

### West Virginia

Gather for a weekend at beautiful Jackson's Mill with friends old & new. Cost for weekend is \$67.32 of which \$33.25 is cafeteria style meals. Package rate. No partial packages. \$20 representing first night's lodging and facility user fee must be received no later than September 9th, balance payable on arrival. Use the form below. Further information will be sent. Make checks payable to Clean & Free Group. Jackson's Mill: 304-269-5100. For more information call Paul: 304-675-8832.

- NA History
- Newsletter
- Spiritual Foundations
- No Merchandise
- Recovery Meetings
- Fellowship
- What Can I Do?

Please Check One

Enclosed \$20.00 for one reservation ☐

Enclosed \$40.00 for two reservations ☐

Enclosed \$67.32 total cost for one ☐

Enclosed \$134.64 total cost for two ☐

Mail to:  
Clean & Free  
PO Box 135  
Pt Pleasant WV 25550

Person #1

address:

telephone:

Person #2

address:

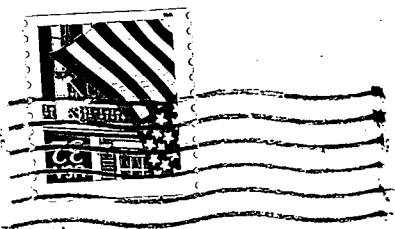
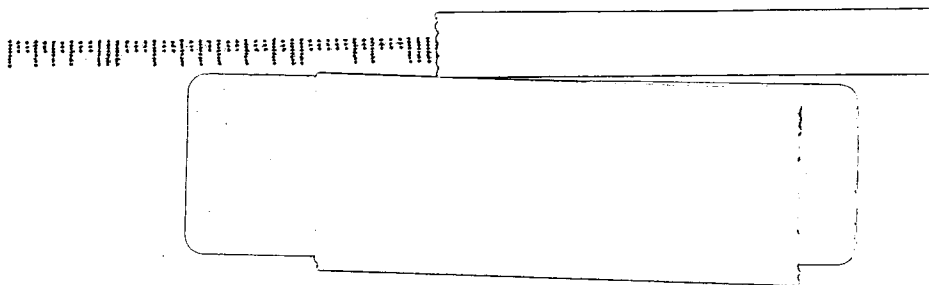
telephone:

# YES WE CAN (II)

THE DISEASE OF ADDICTION IS A SPIRITUAL CONDITION, AND THE NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS PROGRAM IS A SPIRITUAL REMEDY FOR THAT CONDITION. THANK GOD, "AS WE UNDERSTAND HIM," THAT IT WORKS. WITHOUT THIS DEFENSE, WE WOULD HAVE LITTLE HOPE OF SURVIVING. THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF OUR RESCUE IS THAT "WE OF OURSELVES ARE POWERLESS OVER OUR ADDICTION", AND ARE IN NEED OF "A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES THAT IS GREATER THAN OUR ADDICTION." IT SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH TO ME, AND HAS SERVED ME WELL FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN 7½ YEARS.

IT GRIEVES ME TO SEE OUR SERVICE STRUCTURE ACT AND "SERVE" AS IF THE MOST PRETENTIOUS NOTION, THAT WE CAN CONTROL AND IMPROVE ON OUR DELIVERANCE, IS VALID. ARE THE VOCAL FEW CAPABLE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE MANY WHO WISH TO BE "ENTIRELY READY"? I THINK NOT, AND AM FEARFUL, SORROWFUL, AND ANGRY THAT THIS ATTITUDE SEEMS TO GROW AND FEED ON ITSELF.

THE SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS REQUIRES NO REGISTRATION, SANCTION, OR COPYRIGHT. IT IS "A LOOSE AFFILIATION OF MILLIONAIRES, BILLIONAIRES AND BABIES." OUR RICHES LIE IN THE BLESSINGS OF GOD "AS WE UNDERSTAND HIM", AND OUR TRUST IN THE PROGRAM OFFERED FREELY, IS ABSOLUTE. WE KNOW EACH OTHER. WE SUPPORT "OUR COMMON WELFARE". WE LOVE EACH OTHER, AND WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US: Happy, Joyous, AND FREE. ♦



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