

New Awakenings

NO SLUGGO THE 7th TRADITION IS NOT DEAD, IT'S JUST SLEEPING! ?

It started to happen some time ago and it has been going on and getting worse for a long time now. Some of us are sad and alarmed because we feel the danger and see the disease hard at work within our ranks. But, strangely enough, a lot of us can not see it at all.

I am talking, of course, about the change in the manner in which we fund our services: from the traditional self supporting through our own contributions, basket-group-area-region-wsc, to the now apparently universally popular profit making commercial endeavors - merchandising, dances, picnics, conventions, etc.


What happened? How did we go astray? It seems there is hardly any level of our service structure that is financed via the 7th Tradition these days. In my region none of the Area

Service Committees or the Regional Service Committee would be able to pay their bills if it wasn't for the profits made by the Entertainment, Merchandising, and Convention Committees.

Granted, our text says that sometimes a committee needs to be formed to raise funds when basket contributions are insufficient, but that used to be the exception rather than the rule. Today the majority of the funds come from just those committees instead of from our dollars in the basket.

You say that you still don't see the problem? Well, the problem is that the cart is before the horse and the tail is wagging the dog! Selfless service is best rendered when closest to the need. Instead of the amount and kinds of services we structure being determined by the contributions available to fund them, it is just the other way around; we create structures and then scramble around to find the money to pay the bills in any way possible, usually by charging too much money for goods or services. In so doing we are succumbing blindly to the defect of greed and going back to living in daily fear of not getting enough, just where the disease wants us! Where there is profit there is greed; they go together, you can not separate them. Where there is greed there is fear and where there is fear there is no peace of mind.

The consequences of this are dire indeed! We have created a whole new lower class of member: "the indigent". That is, the member who is not any longer anonymous, he or she is now singled out simply because of lack of money. Principles are no longer before personalities. If you

continued 



NO SLUGGO

... from page 1

are poor you are not like us, you can not attend the meetings or workshops at the conventions because you can not afford to register. You can not dance the night away with that nice newcomer you just met and fell in lust with because you don't have the 5 bucks to get into the fricking dance. You feel so, so shitty and shit upon that you almost borrow some money to buy some of that N.A. Toilet Paper that they are selling over at the merchandise room just to clean yourself up. The N.A. Toilet Paper is right there on the merchandise table right next to the N.A. Soap, N.A. Boxer Shorts and N.A. Playing Cards, all overpriced in order to bring a nice profit to the committee.

"I've never said it was easy but the chances are pretty good that within a year or two that person is going to have a job, and that person is going to be in a better position to pay \$8.00 for a book, or \$9.00, or \$10.00 and that's the issue as it's always been argued at world services..." - Bob Stone

But the worst of all is what has happened to our literature because of this process. Our literature is no longer the written message of recovery. It has been reduced to mere product, just another piece of merchandise to be sold at exorbitant profits by the WSO. No longer do addicts share their experience, strength and hope on paper in order for other addicts to recover. Now we have professional (salaried) addicts producing generic pabulum for Hazeldon to buy from us and then sell to the general public. How can the healing miracle of recovery exist in a piece of literature produced by someone being paid to write it? In my humble opinion, it can't. It takes the total dedication and pure Love and constant prayer and humble surrender demonstrated by those fortunate members who were able to participate in the writing of our Basic Text against all odds and with great sacrifice!

We have been robbed my friends! Our pockets have been picked clean and most of us don't even know it! I am one of the few fortunate ones who has been able to experience the awakening of the spirit that happens when two or more addicts get together to write about recovery. But that possibility is no longer available to us now within the existing service structure so that those of us who refuse to give up writing about recovery are forced to do so 'outside' of the service structure. But enough of that, I don't want to dwell too much on this literature thing; suffice it to say that our literature has gone from the sublimity of our Basic Text which is blessed and magical and powerful, to worthless paper like It Works If and When which was put out by WSO because they needed new products due to lagging sales of the Basic Text and very unexpectedly poor sales of the Spanish Basic Text. Our members could learn more about the steps and traditions from reading the Basic Journal than from reading It Works! Paid employees writing our Spiritual Literature, give me a break! How could we be so dense?

Well, what can we do about all this, you may well ask. My answer is that I don't know the answer, other than to just continue to try to live as spiritually as possible within our principles trying to be a channel for God's Love and serving other addicts unconditionally. Won't you join me? ♦

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.

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.

After three years of uninterrupted publishing we will bring *New Awakenings* to an end with one more issue this December. Please do not send us any more articles to print or money to print with. See you in West Virginia October 13-15 (see page 3)!

Financial Statement

Received:

California	5.00
West Virginia	15.00

Total	20.00
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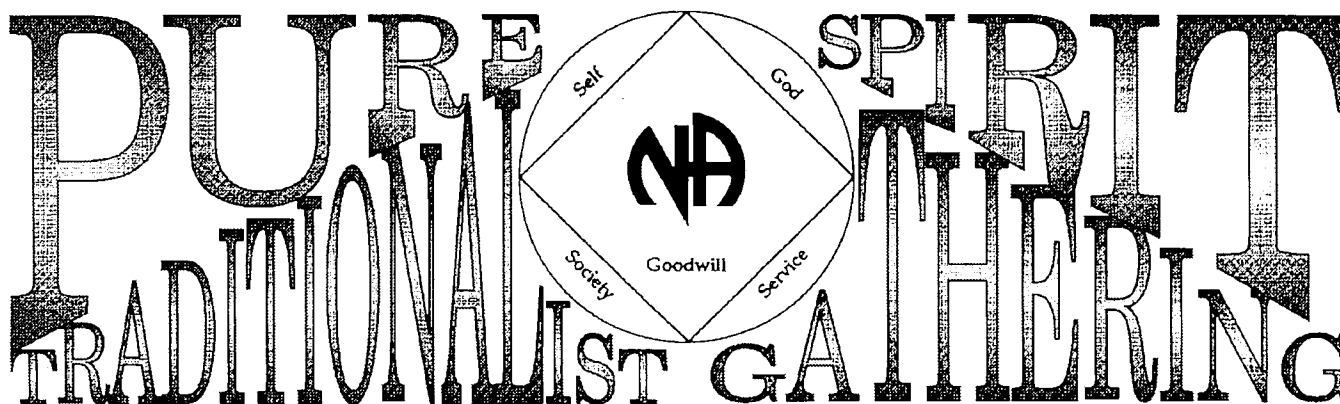
Expenses Issue 4:

Printing	79.02
Postage	24.32

Total	103.34
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Traditionalist Gathering Oct. 13-15

within 4 miles of the facility, Wilderness Lodge, Super 8, and Comfort Inn. Meal tickets to eat on the facility may be available.



We do have an informal program agenda set for the weekend. Friday 7:00pm will be a workshop on NA History. Saturday 9:00am will be a workshop on New Awakenings Newsletter and other "Services at Cost". Saturday 1:30pm will be a workshop on Groups surviving in isolation because of their Traditionalist's principles and actions. Saturday at 7:00pm will be a Narcotics Anonymous Book Study Meeting, topic 7th Step and 7th Tradition. Sunday 9:30am will be a workshop on what do we want to do next. If you have any comments, suggestions and/or any other input please call Bill at (916) 755-1773 or write Traditionalist Gathering c/o New Awakenings, P.O. Box 21232, Oakland, Ca. 94620.

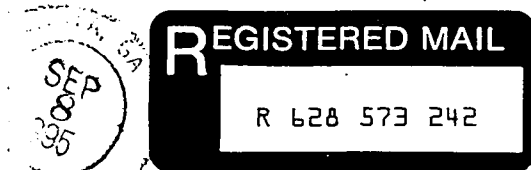
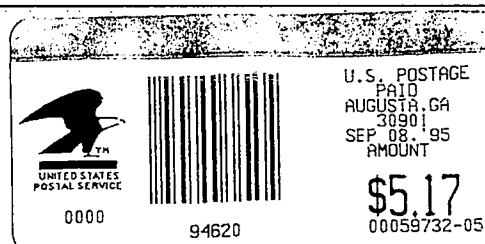
If you haven't registered you may still be able to stay at the facility. Please call Paul at (304) 675-8832 or write to Clean and Free Group, P.O. Box 135, Point Pleasant, Wv. 25550 for more information. There are also three hotels

There are NO FEES required to attend this event. We need 15 people to register at Jackson's Mill to obtain the meeting facility. All registration money collected goes to the facility for the 6 meals and 2 nights lodging. We will not ask for or try to sell anything else to you. In keeping with this we ask that you do not bring anything to sell. We can only keep what we have if we give it away. So bring what you have to give away.

The purpose of this Gathering is to have a Vacation and renew our Spiritual condition. Leave your resentments at home. We have no axes to grind, just a proven way of living by spiritual principles to share.

Directions are take either exit 105 or 99 on interstate 79 and head toward Jane Lou (a small town near Weston, WV.). Then look for signs to Jackson's Mill. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Close Encounters Group of N.A.
P.O. Box 12291
Augusta, Ga 30914-2291*



NEW AWAKENINGS
P.O. BOX 21232
OAKLAND, CA. 94620

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU REMOVE OUR GROUP FROM YOUR MAILING LIST AND CEASE AND DESIST IMMEDIATELY MAILING ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIAL TO CLOSE ENCOUNTERS GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS. THIS DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BUSINESS MEETING OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AUGUST 27, 1995 BY MOTION, SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
SINCERELY,



Dear New Awakenings (Fellow Recovering Addicts),

I have just returned from work and was delighted to receive my new issue of New Awakenings. I sit here filthy from a long day of digging a trench and sweating to death totally ready for a shower and sleep but I just couldn't resist digging in to your articles. For some time your Publishing box has been stating this will be your final year and this issue you asked for some feedback about this situation. Thus I felt compelled to write. I am not your model NA Member. I often forget to seek conscience contact, I usually drag my feet with the Steps, I haven't held a service position for over a year and I have 4 years clean. But the bottom line is I care. I'm not perfect but I do progress sometimes slower and more painfully than need be. Your Articles Inform and Inspire me, they remind me of the direction I need to be in and the defects of character I need to work on. Example, I was one of those Addicts pretending to be clean on Methadone claiming to be clean and preaching my trash to other Addicts at meetings. Thank "God" an Addict had the coconuts to let me know my clean time was non-existent and that this is a Program of complete abstinence. I appreciated his honesty, not at the moment of course, but it certainly woke me up. I only wish other still suffering Addicts could get a hold of this issue, maybe I'll slip it in with the book of announcements at my Home Group (Just Kidding). I did start my clean time after I got off the prescribed dope by the way. Anyway this is a great thought provoking publication filled with truth and I would truly hate to see it end, I know it's helped me.

Thank you for all your hard Work and your Excellent Publication. - Addict from St. Louis. ♦

Another Look

Dear Readers

At the July N.C.R.S.C. meeting at region, the Sacramento Delta Area of Narcotics Anonymous was seated and became the 18th area of the Northern California region.

It is our belief that any group or single addict will be welcome to attend and if they so choose to participate in the growth and activities of this new area.

Our literature says: "There are no strings attached to N.A.", "We are not affiliated with any other organizations", "We have no initiation fees to pay, no pledges to sign, no promises to make to anyone!", It also says "Anyone!" And we mean anyone may join us regardless of age, race, sexual identity, creed, religion or lack thereof. We are not interested in what you have done in the past. But only in what you want to do about your problem as an individual addict or as a group. How can we help? It is my experience as an addict in recovery and as a trusted servant that as long as this new area's participants grasp and uphold this principle, we will be able to say that we have started on the right path.

STEPS OF A SPONSOR

1. I will not help you stay and wallow in limbo.
2. I will help you grow, to become more productive, by your definition.
3. I will help you become more autonomous, more loving of yourself, more excited, less sensitive, more free to continue becoming the authority of your own living.
4. I cannot give you dreams or "fix you up", simply because I cannot.
5. I cannot give you growth, or grow for you. You must grow yourself, by facing reality, grim as it may be at times.
6. I cannot take away your loneliness or pain.
7. I cannot sense your world for you, evaluate your goals, or tell you what is best for you in your world; you have your own world.
8. I cannot convince you of the crucial choice of choosing the scary uncertainty of growing over the safe misery of not growing.
9. I want to be with you and know you as a rich and growing friend; yet I cannot get close to you when you choose not to grow.
10. When I begin to care for you out of pity, when I begin to lose trust in you, then I am toxic, bad and inhibiting for you, and you for me.
11. You must know - my help is conditional. I will be with you, hang in there with you, as long as I continue to get even the slightest hints that you are trying to grow.
12. If you can accept all of this, then perhaps we can help each other to become what God meant us to be, mature adults, leaving childishness forever to little children.

Any group or individual is autonomous therefore free to come or go or come back again whenever they so choose without the threat of retaliation or punishment or fear of exclusion from participation at any time!

Nothing is written in stone, nor is it ever inferred in our literature. The purpose of an Area Service committee is to provide a forum where groups or individuals can meet and facilitate our fifth tradition, our primary purpose. And to practice the free exchange of ideas on how we can best do that. The moment we conduct ourselves in a manner that conflicts with the principles of the program "we" forfeit the right to call ourselves a fellowship or society and we sever the mystic bonds that tie us together and we will have become just another fractured organization. True spiritual principles never conflict.

In closing, no group or individual can be forced to leave or join an area they didn't choose at the group level to be part of.

However, I would suggest that all addicts and groups do as I did and take another look.

Your trusted servant,

- reprinted from The Fifth Tradition, August 1992

The following excerpt is from Step 12 of the "Chicago Draft" of the 12 Steps of Narcotics Anonymous. It represented 7 years of work of addicts writing for addicts on "Our Steps" through July 1988. This had been a volunteer effort until the process was changed by the WSC in 1989.

The ability to accept life on life's terms was an essential part of our spiritual awakening. We could either accept it or we could stay miserable. We found a profound difference between total abstinence and recovery.

We learn not to isolate ourselves. Our fear turns into faith. God becomes a source of nurturing. Self esteem replaces our poor self image. We learn to appreciate and develop the talents which God has given us. We're willing to admit when we are wrong. We become willing to strive for self-improvement and take responsibility for our actions. We learn how to love ourselves and others. We see ourselves more honestly and in a more realistic light, rather than wasting our time on delusions and fantasies. We learn to take better care of our health. We become more open-minded towards other people's opinions, rather than worrying about what people think of us. We forgive ourselves for our imperfections, developing a more balanced view of ourselves.

Now, more and more, we are able to live a balanced life. Our bodies, minds, and spirits are in harmony, and our lives show the difference. As we look around the meetings, the members who are working the steps are different people than they had been when they first got clean. Their eyes are open to life as it is, not as they want it to be.

We began to believe we had been spiritually awakened as a result of practicing the Twelve Steps. Sometimes we even took it for granted. It was only occasionally, when something reminded us to look back, that we were aware of how far we had come. The steps had changed us and they could change the newcomer.

We needed to surrender our old ideas so that we could become more familiar with the new ideas of the program. We believed that our self-destruction and self-centeredness could only be replaced with spiritual principles. But we had to take the action and apply the spiritual tools we learned from studying and practicing the steps. Praying for guidance, making choices, and accepting the world as it is were some of the ways we applied these principles.

Usually, the greater the effort a person made, the more profound the change was. We knew people who were able to stay clean by just working the First Step, or Steps One and Twelve. They were often miserable people. There is nothing more miserable than addicts without drugs, unless we have found something else to fill that void.

We saw that having had a spiritual awakening

"When at the end of the road we find that we can no longer function as a human being, either with or without drugs, we all face the same dilemma. What is there left to do? There seems to be this alternative: either go on as best we can to the bitter ends—jails, institutions, or death—or find a new way to live. In years gone by, very few addicts ever had this last choice. Those who are addicted today are more fortunate. For the first time in history, a simple way has been proving itself in the lives of many addicts. It is available to us all. This is a simple spiritual—not religious—program, known as Narcotics Anonymous."

meant we now had the knowledge and acceptance that it was God's power working in us and through us to make a difference in other people's lives. We didn't make the difference. God made the difference. God worked through us. The same way other people had been put in our lives, we were put in other people's lives.

Now we got a new kind of excitement every time we talked to someone about recovery. We saw that doing the Twelfth Step was putting spiritual principles into action. Carrying the message can be as simple as telling somebody our story, and then following up with whatever came next. We backed up our message by putting into action what we were saying. What we were saying to them was that recovery was possible. It comes from all of us together.

At first, we had felt a tremendous responsibility to make sure the message was received. We took it personally when somebody went out and used again. We felt it was our fault or somehow we hadn't done what was right. We didn't have that kind of power.

Regardless of whether or not the person stayed clean, our member had stayed clean and had planted the seed of recovery. He knew what his limitations were and had no expectations for the other person to do or be anything.

All of us can learn from that. We can neither get somebody clean nor make someone stay clean. All we can do is carry the message. We might be the only example of N.A. recovery that someone ever sees. Our recovery speaks for itself.

Usually, by the time we achieve this state of mind, no one has to tell us to share our new life with the still-suffering addict; we are more than eager to help that person, giving away that which has been freely given to us. All we have is our experience, strength, and hope. As recovering addicts, we offer what no one else can; ourselves and our recovery.

July 10, 1990

[Trusted Servants Full Name and Address]



Dear [Trusted Servant's First Name],

You recently received a letter dated July 2nd from Wagner & Middlebrook, our copyright attorneys, asking your help in stopping the illegal publication and distribution of the Basic Text. We did not single you or your service committee out to accuse you of wrongdoing. The letter was sent to all NA leaders in those regions where we knew the illegal text had been distributed at one time or another, not only to individuals we personally suspected of being involved. Our intention was to do what we could to stop the illegal printing, find out how widely the illicit text has been distributed, and seek your assistance in this matter.

A number of individual members have told us that they have seen copies of the unauthorized light-blue paperback Basic Text being distributed in their regions. (An open letter, which you may not yet have seen, is enclosed. That letter explains the matter in further detail.) We spoke to our attorneys about the matter. They advised us that, if we intend to protect the entire NA Fellowship's rights to the Basic Text, we should send a letter to everyone who might possibly have any connection with the illegally-published text. That letter asks the recipient to cease, if he or she has anything to do with the publication or distribution of the illicit text. Unfortunately, many of those who have already received the letter have skimmed over the qualifiers indicating that the letter is aimed only at those personally involved, and have taken offense. Believe me, none was meant.

We have sent these letters to trusted servants in positions of responsibility, both at the regional and area levels, in all the regions where we knew the text had been distributed in any way at all. The questionnaire attached to the letter is meant to help us begin gathering the kind of information we will be required to present in court, should the matter go that far. The questionnaire will also help us narrow the scope of our investigations. Please return the questionnaire to Wagner and Middlebrook as soon as possible.

The letter was mailed from the offices of our copyright attorneys. The mailing list they used was one we supplied to them as our agents, to be used only at our direction. We used the most recent addresses we had on file. It is a confidential mailing list, and will not be used by anyone else for any other purposes. All responses to the letter will be returned to the World Service Office, and nowhere else.

If you took offense to the letter of July 2nd, please accept my sincere apologies, (Trusted Servant's First Name). Your assistance is vital in helping the World Service Office Board of Directors protect the rights of the entire Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous in this matter. If you have any questions about this or any other subject, please call me.

In service to Narcotics Anonymous,

, Chairperson
WSO, Inc., Board of Directors

September 1995

OVER HERE IN ENGLAND, We're still printing our literature, keeping to part of our primary purpose and to help the most important person in our meetings.

We've got seven meetings a week going at the present time. So it is possible for newcomers to get at least a meeting a day.

A problem that has arisen is that in one of our towns, there is a group that meets once a week, it's part of the East of England area, which of course is participating at UK region using the Consaps! UK region through our Area out and took our meetings out of the non WSC authorized UK Where to Find. Since then we have been informed that because our meetings are now longer in the UK where to find, members of the once a week group meeting have the authority to tell newcomers at their meeting that they are the only NA meeting in town and to go to AA for more meetings. It's obvious as to what they believe!!

The miracle news is this, the newcomers that we are getting straight off the street, some of them are staying around. Just last Tuesday we had 10 people in our meeting and 9 of us just do NA. It's Fantastic.

The Disease Concept is getting easier for them to absorb and the truth that NA is a Total Recovery Program because of this, Our Disease Concept of Addiction.

My Home Group is saving for our own phone line. The money comes out of the basket. As we don't believe in fundraisers.

As we are staying clean longer, we are certainly getting better at helping newcomers. One of our sisters is just withdrawing from a slow acting prescribed injection, we're praying for her, we hope you will too.

NEWSFLASH!! On the inside cover of the UK Where to Find is written, "A listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of any Group's approach to, or practice of the NA Program." If you have selective eyesight read it again. ♦

Re: Alleged Copyright/Trademark Infringement

Dear [Chairperson, WSO, Inc., Board of Directors]:

This is in response to your letter of July 10, 1990, as well as to the certified letter of July 2, 1990 from Wagner & Middlebrook regarding duplication of the revised 3rd edition of the basic text of Narcotics Anonymous.

When I received the Wagner & Middlebrook letter, I was extremely troubled by three points. First, the fact that I had never even heard about, let alone seen, the subject text meant that the letter was being sent in a shotgun approach to every conceivable trusted servant in NA; this was confirmed the following day at the North Dade ASC when it was determined that not only I as Chair, but also the Vice Chair and ASR had received certified letters. The use of this procedure, at a hard cost of \$2.75 together with whatever legal fees were incurred, supports the perception held by much of the Fellowship that the WSO has no concept of fiscal responsibility whatsoever. This perception was supported by the receipt several days later, by DHL overnight mail, of your letter apologizing for the first letter. In my experience, overnight delivery costs a minimum of \$7.00, meaning that this whole exercise cost the Fellowship thousands of dollars which could clearly have been better spent.

The second point that troubled me even more is the fact that at least in this instance, little if any consideration was given by the WSO to the Traditions. Clearly, if some law firm in Glendale is writing me as a member of Narcotics Anonymous, my anonymity doesn't count for much. The 12th Tradition does not state that anonymity can be broken to the WSO's "agents". The fact that the WSO apparently gave no thought to the principle that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions likewise supports the perception at the group level that service at the world level operates more on the basis of money, property, and prestige than on the primary purpose of carrying the message.

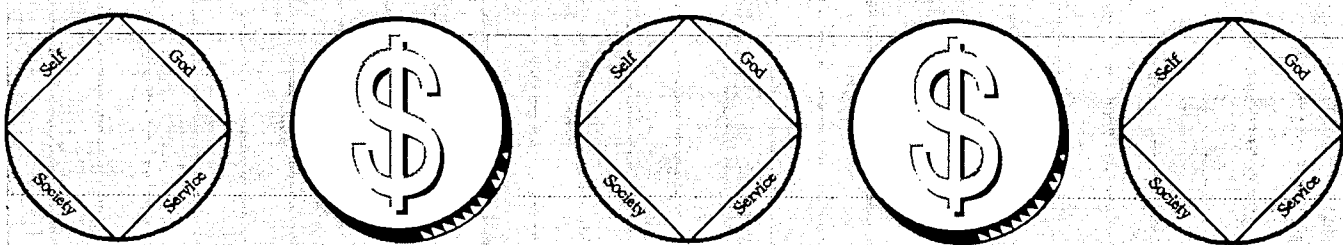
This brings me to the final point, the document which is the basis of this controversy. Without knowing exactly the manner in which the various trademarks and copyrights mentioned in the Wagner & Middlebrook letter are held, I am not able to determine if their statement of the law and facts is correct. It was always my impression that the WSO held these rights in trust for the entire Fellowship. While I am not an intellectual property attorney, if this is the case, it would seem that duplication of materials by a member of the Fellowship would not be illegal. While I have not personally been engaged in such duplication of materials, it again seems to me that questions of money, property, and prestige may be playing a more important role in this dispute than the primary purpose of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

I find the tone of Atty. Middlebrook's letter to be threatening and insulting. I do not intend to respond to or with the questionnaire accompanying the letter, nor does the prospect of litigation cause me any great fear. However, the fact that members of our world service committees are threatening institution of legal action against other members of Narcotics Anonymous to restrain them from distributing free literature which, contrary to Mrs. Middlebrook's statement, was in fact the last edition of the basic text to be "Fellowship Approved", causes me a tremendous amount of pain. Had this matter been allowed to resolve itself according to the spiritual principles and traditions of this Fellowship, my guess is it would have shortly died of its own weight. By your actions, overkill, and threats, it appears you have now converted the relatively minor matter of an unorthodox group or area into a controversy which may in fact create permanent schisms in Narcotics Anonymous.

It may be that such is God's will in this situation. It has been my experience that controversy, while painful, is often healthy. At the very least, the argument has caused a great many addicts to go back to their literature and review it for the first time in a long time. It is my hope that the Fellowship will grow from all on this. In any event, you have certainly given us much to discuss around our homes, business meetings, and service conferences.

With my thanks for that, I remain,

Very truly yours,



"However, we do have a choice after we eliminate all the things we have been telling ourselves to justify our using."

from the

RSR Alternate's Report C & P Region

June 9, 1990

On the first day of the WSC, in Open Forum, the second person to the mike was Steve Ringer, a seasoned conference veteran, the WSCPI Chair, currently residing in Bay Area who confronted the C&P Region. On the floor of the WSC he stated many negative things about group conscience which included that he has attended approximately 5-10 meetings held following NA meetings here in the C&P, mostly in Bay Area, known to us as group conscience meetings. These meetings he stated were misinformed and uneducated to the facts about the CAR and WSC of which he was able to help rectify. He called the group conscience process inept. He read a line from the C&P Pros/Cons which was slanderous towards the WSO's new money making projects and in closing he asked "what did the C&P Region want?" You could of have heard a pin drop. Everybody seemed like they were looking at us and I could just feel their anger. I don't know if Karen or I have ever been more intimidated or overwhelmed with anxiety and apprehension. I guess that is what the WSC was trying to do, control our feelings (disease).

Here it was the first day of the WSC and we were already being confronted on the full conference floor about our beliefs. I had to wait over an hour standing in line to get to the mike to rebut. I was courteous, thoughtful, sincere and spiritual. I referred to Steve as my colleague and thanked him for his input. Told all about our efforts to educate the region through CAR workshops and how large the region is. Then stated that I didn't need to defend my region to anyone for anything and that I was proud to be from the C&P, and that we try to call things as they are. He asked "what do we want"? I told them we want spiritual principles as realities, not just theories. My dialog went on as I made the following statements. In C&P we believe in the literal interpretation of the Traditions. That trusted servants shouldn't govern, control, sensor or manipulate those they serve and yes, we believe in group conscience. That in order for groups to be autonomous, they must take part in the decision making process of NA through group conscience. And finally that we must be responsible "to" those we serve, not "for" those we serve. Yes, we believe that the WSC isn't adhering to these principles and examples of these problems are exemplified by the following: the Adhoc on BA Service is trying to make NA a business venture with a few in charge (centralization); the JAC is out of control and doing things they were not asked to do (holding super JAC meetings); the staff team approach needs to be shot down for a broader based incorporation for our literature; the WSO is out of the control of the WSC (BOD will not open pool to WSC's control); WSO staff workers being able to vote in the WSC is a joke (what conscience do they represent?); and ex-conference participants should not be allowed to gain employment at WSO due to conflict of interest by this prompting us to politic (ass kiss). I further stated they we knew exactly what we wanted and that was, the conference

cleaned up. This was quite a way to start off the WSC and especially to get everyone to know your RSR's.

The next day when the WSC Treasure's Report was handed out, 2 RSR's took to the mike and accused us and other regions of being "long on talk and short on dollars". They stated further that "we should put our money where our mouths are". These 2 RSR's regions happened to be from two of the larger contributors. Again I stood up for the C&P by stating that I resented being intimidated and put on a guilt trip in this manner and informed the WSC Chair that I thought he was out of order for letting this type of emotional abuse and harassment take place. Again, I said that I wasn't going to defend my region because I didn't need to.

Again as you have heard Karen explain, we got very little of our wants, wishes or needs granted or accomplished. I hope you know that we are out of sorts with the rest of NA. What we call spiritual principles is not being acknowledged by the majority of NA through the WSC. There is nothing else that has the right to speak for a more collective voice of NA, in other words, the WSC is and has the last voice. Anyway, this was one of the most emotionally trying and difficult time of my life. I thought NA to be a spiritual fellowship centered in principles of respectable values where we allow each to "live and let live". Well we were laughed at, jeered, hissed, mocked and made fun of for carrying your conscience. We represented you to the tee and spent much time and effort discussing just how to do it correctly because we knew how important it was to you. We placed many procedural motions on the floor trying to get the conference to be fair to all, especially the minorities which we were consistently the main one - along with some other east coast regions. Everyone of the CAR motions we passed, failed at the WSC except for one. We voted on the losing side over 95% of the time. The last time I was this emotionally badgered by others it was at WSC 85 when we were doing the same thing, carrying group conscience. These people do not respect people who believe in group conscience and many display their disdain. Obviously for the WSC to become so centralized, controlling more of the fellowship, these members must be getting a form of personal reward for selling out group conscience. I believe it is denial of addiction to money (travel), power and prestige that is causing this cancer to flourish within our fellowship. But out of all of this hell, there was some love. I found out that those who accept you regardless of your beliefs have undergone a spiritual awakening. This gave me good opportunity to practice my 12th Step as well, which I had to make extra effort to exhibit to all, even to those who were nasty or just avoided me. There were of course our friends who continually stood with us on our voting and these happen to be those other regions who have been meeting with us at the Workshop of Regions, the East Coast. So we were fortunate enough to have had a support system that it would have been totally unbearable without.

Folks, I have a really great life and for this reason I refuse

to submit myself to this kind of emotional trama again. I am not a willing victim today for I do not enjoy being emotionally abused by others. My recovery has taught me that I don't have to be beat up to know when something is painful - due to lack of control, and to submit myself to this again would be pure stupidity. What I am getting at, is that the WSC is so obviously headed in a different direction than we, that we need to take inventory of ourselves and our needs for a service structure. At this time, I would like to present to options to you.

1. That once the "Guide to Service in NA" with it's business and managerial (AAs) principles is passed by the WSC, we surrender and accept that maybe we are 20 years ahead of the rest of the fellowship's needs. Go ahead and rearrange our service structure to accommodate the new change with no fighting or quibbling about it; or

2. Succeed from the WSC and create a new service structure for ourselves. Try to join together with other interested regions to form another conference. This is what the Australian delegation suggested after seeing how suppressed we are due to our belief differences. They stated that it's what they did.

What this region has done in the past to deal with this, is to fight and then surrender, or surrender then fight. We have done this by the RSRs that we have elected. We have had 4 of each to date, that I am aware of. We elect an RSR to represent us in collective conscience then we elect another to represent us by their individual conscience and it's been for 8 times total with 4 RSRs each. I am the 8th generation of RSR for the C & P. You gave us explicit instructions for the WSC on how you wanted us to represent you. We did that with 3 others and the other 4 we gave a different message, that whatever they believed to be true was more important and should override the group conscience we gave them. Whether we gave them that message or not, that is how they represented us. Is it not our fault for not demanding more honesty and recovery? All those members that rolled over didn't have the clean time requirement when they were elected. Is there a message here? A moral we can learn from?

I personally am sick and tired of fighting and if you want me to represent you as RSR, I have some needs which need to be met. I refuse to submit myself to another WSC with our current beliefs in group conscience. So let's either change our belief system to that of centralization or form another conference. these are the only choices I see that I can live with. You might want me to resign at this point and I will ask the chair to have me acclaimed as RSR to see if that is your wish. All in all, it would be better than being beaten up like I was this past year by the WSC. So I need an ASR to make a motion out of the above options. It is my hope that this doesn't cause too much confusion. I have examined my motives and believe my honesty to be up-front about where I am at and it to have been, the only choice I could have made for me.

Thanks for allowing me this opportunity to serve the C&P.

Daytona (FL) ASR December 1990

I have for some time thought that sometimes the Area, often the Region, and usually the World are not directly responsible to those they serve and are therefore in violation of Tradition 9, and that they function in a governing capacity in violation of Tradition 2. Stuart Tooredman, Acting Director of WSO, Inc. has sworn in a Federal Court document that the "Fellowship's decision-making body is the World Service Conference". Clearly they have placed World at the top of the service structure, not the bottom as intended by the Traditions. They manage us according to what they say our needs are rather than serve us according to what we say our needs are. There are those among us who have gone to bed with power, property and prestige, who have been seduced away from and have forsaken the Traditions.

Our zeal for expediency and organization must not override our most fundamental premises. The unity of the spiritual Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous depends upon our success at this level, in either negotiating with and restructuring this corporation in California, or replacing it. Without these efforts, secession and division will result. Until there is a resolution to these conflicts: a) No money should go from the Region to World except funds specifically allocated by Groups and Areas; and b) Membership should be able to duplicate and distribute existing N.A. material as decided by Group Conscience at the Group, Area or Regional level. - from *SOS January 1991*

C&P Region, 13 June 1992

As your Regional Service Representative I offer you, the voting participants of this regional body, the following recommendation and the accompanying questions to ponder and then to take back to your groups for a decision. Please, if you will, bring the conscience of those groups to the regional meeting in August.

"I HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT THE CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC REGION OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS NO LONGER PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE."

I also offer the following questions as an intent to the above recommendation:

QUESTION I. As a result of the 1992 World Service Conference, and the changes therein, what and/or who does this service body now serve?

QUESTION II. Does this region wish to be over seen by The Twelve Concepts and a single point of authority?

QUESTION III. Where if at all do The Twelve Concepts and The Twelve Traditions conflict?

QUESTION IV. Is it true that spiritual principles are never in conflict?

QUESTION V. Does this region wish to retain The Twelve Traditions as the guidelines by which it operates, or does it wish to adopt The Twelve Concepts for this purpose?

QUESTION VI. How mindful of our Seventh Tradition and how cost effective with the funds from the basket is it to be represented at The World Service Conference?



Narcotics
Anonymous

New Jersey Regional Service Conference

P.O. Box 477 • Atlantic City, NJ 08404

**Are RSRs still needed at the World Service Conference
and do the groups still have a voice there?**

Let us take a look at some of the things that have happened in the past year, some without fellowship approval. At last year's WSC; discretionary items for the budget were not ranked, as mandated, in TWGSS. We were told that there was no money or staff support available from the WSO for any discretionary items. During the course of the year, several discretionary items have been funded, as well as other changes made, the inclusion of two of the administrative directors of the WSO into the Interim Committee, the creation of the Expanded Leadership Committee and two meetings for that committee, additional trips and conference calls for WSC leadership, the creation of the single project, the Funding of 20 RSRs to the March WSC meeting. These are just a few of the things.

Now let's take a look at this year's Conference Agenda Report. First, the regions are asked to submit issues discussion papers and are given a deadline that is impossible for many regions to meet. After the C.A.R. comes out in the introduction, it states that we will only be discussing the issue picked by the Interim Committee and those issues that pertain to it, and only allow 3 hours for issues discussion at all. So, what happens to all those regional issues? The second thing is regional motions. All old business motions, with the exception of the WCC motions, have been put off to the last day of the conference, after new business. The only motions besides the WCCs are regional ones. In the past, we didn't have the time to take care of all the new business motions on the last day of the conference. So, what happens to all the regional motions?

I don't know where regional motions come from, in other regions, but in New Jersey, they come from the groups, through the areas, to the region. From there, they go back to all the groups in the region to be voted on, before going back to region and being submitted for the C.A.R.

My understanding, of the WSC, is that it is there to serve the regions, and the areas and groups they serve. So, what happens when motions and issues from WSC committees take precedence over motions and issues that come from the regions? What happens when regional issues and motions are printed, read, and voted on by the fellowship, but are never allowed to come out on the WSC floor? If regional issues and motions are not heard on the floor of the conference, and WSC committees can do as they please when the conference is not in session, is the WSC still serving the regions, or is it simply serving itself?

If RSRs are not allowed to present the issues and motions from their regions, the only purpose they serve is to be regionally funded members of WSC committees.

The views above are mine and not necessarily those of my region.

In Service

RSR New Jersey Region

IN NJ 1-800-992-0401

OUT OF STATE 1-201-462-9199

Early 1995 (above) and late 1995 ◊

Northern California Regional Service Committee Inventory

It would seem that today's Regional Service Committee is focusing on being the Single point of accountability financially. As it's primary purpose. The facts speak for themselves on this point with a large percent of all RSC meeting time focused on \$\$\$ and how it is to be spent rather than on our primary purpose.

Somewhere we lost our focus, Our traditions warn us of these problems. The Time is at hand during our inventory process to honestly access our Priorities. At this time are we in the midst overlooking the 6th tradition. Directly pointing to the Money, Property & Prestige that has diverted us away from our Primary purpose. *Let's be brutally honest.*

We are one of the richest \$\$ Regions in the World. We spend a lot of time debating \$\$\$ and its management. NCRSC has not always been like this. Take the Convention's \$140,000 plus budget. The Convention is a large part of the RSC, Directly Accountable. It has grown so large that we have eliminated most of our fellowship from being able to Host such a mammoth event. Do we maintain the single largest event in Narcotics Anonymous for the *spiritual Value*? Or did we out-grow that as well? The time has come to realize that there is a real measure of *prestige* that comes with a title like this. And any addict whom is placed in a position of "running" such an event could be in real danger, as recovery goes. Does this concern pass across anyone else? This single activity has been turned into a business in it's own. And our members treat it as a business venture (well they really have to when we are this large).

As for Actual Services, well? One that goes to directly assist our primary purpose is meeting directories. We should have taken note at the time we stopped printing these. Why did we? \$ they cost too much, took too long and we had too many meetings within the region to keep them current. When we were smaller these were not problems.

What about how our members, who by all rights are at the top of this structure, view the RSC (as a business). Can we afford to put off the inevitable changes that are being called for? On the Basis of growth of a *spiritual program* we have fallen into a tendency to overlook the obvious. Why are we here? To serve Who? Can we realistically serve such a geographically diverse Region equally?

One other problem that needs be addressed is within the realms of the 12 Concepts of NA Service. Since the RSC has

adapted these as additional guidelines. Some members among the fellowship have charged that we have become an "*Entrenched Bureaucracy*". In some of our committees, while paying attention to the need for *continuity* we are *putting the blinders on* to the fact that our trusted servants are rarely new members to the Service structure. If we honestly look at where our trusted servants come from this charge is very true (*Terms up, change hats*). Each Committee & sub-committee has taken measures to avoid trusted servants becoming entrenched by imposing Service limits on positions at The RSC, H&I, P.I., NCCNA, RSO. Although it is still largely the same members doing different jobs year after year. Solution, Service Limits for Regional Service.

(Effective NA leadership knows not only how to serve, but when it will serve best to step aside and allow others to take over. An entrenched bureaucracy inhibits our fellowships growth, while regular influx of new leadership, balanced by continuity, inspires NA growth. The effective leader also knows that, in order to maintain the distinction in service between principles and personalities, it is important to observe the practice of rotation) (Taken from the 4th concept)

Take a look at how many trusted servants have served on the RSC, RSC admin. & It's sub-committee's RSO & NCCNA, etc..? This has become regular practice in Northern California NA and there has been creative ways of staying in service. We changed position, that rule only applies to that position. If we take a year off, the limit starts over! We take a different position to avoid the *Consecutive* rule. We have gone as far as to create new positions. How long is enough? While all of the concepts are important, the truth is that True spiritual principals are never in conflict with one and other. Some of these observations elude us when we loose focus, or get into a position of "Leadership" within the fellowship and have been there too long.

"We keep what we have only with vigilance"

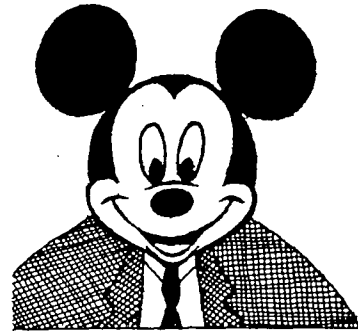
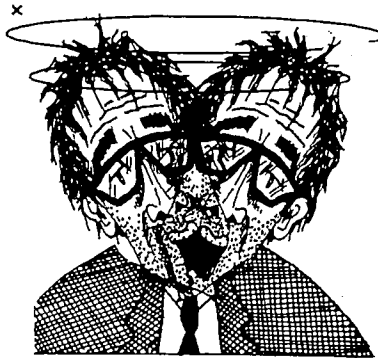
How much longer can we place "Band-Aids" on top of "Band-Aids" to hold this Juggernaut together? The longer we put off the inevitable the harder corrective action will become. Now is the time to make the needed changes.

One of the solutions has to be to allow the natural growth of this Spiritual program to continue. With that comes forming a new Break away Region. As it did when Mid-State formed, and right after that The NCRSC's focus was renewed.

- Input from 916 North Area by ASR ♦

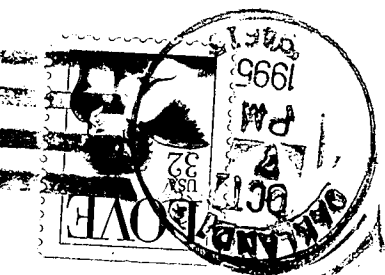
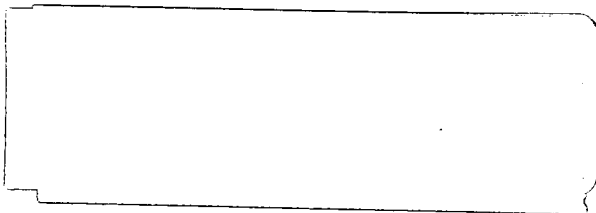
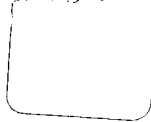


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When at the end of the road . . . SURRENDER



New Awakenings
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