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No. 18 March/April 99

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# Anonymi

I remember sitting on the floor of the house of the rising sun in Marietta Ga in the spring of 1981.

We were talking about autonomy of a Fellowship...our Fellowship the one we'd committed our lives and recoveries and service to. We were talking about the autonomy of primary purpose, the difference of philosophy, between ours and the other (much larger & more accepted one). We were regretful that many of the 'leaders', the oldtimers, those involved in vast worldwide service to this fledgling Fellowship seemed so very determined to keep it a fledgling Fellowship. We noticed that they seemed to think that our program was just a back door into the real thing. They introduced themselves as Addict/Alcoholics and took every opportunity to tell new folks about the Other Fellowship of which they were also members...

But we were sharing with each other a new vision... Autonomy of a fellowship, dedication to the truth of powerlessness over the problem exclusive of the symptom. We were talking about a Narcotics Anonymous that didn't exist yet. We'd met each other involved in the 'Literature Movement', we helped each other recover more fully, we 'called' each other on the lies that were so very intertwined into our recovery philosophy, by necessity because before we'd met each other we each were the only one (or one of the very few) who believed that NA was something different and special and true. After we'd

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met each other it could never be the same -we weren't alone anymore, as we'd been before alone amidst a world of treatment-acceptable Addict/Alcoholics

We formed a group. We called that group Anonymi. We met and helped the book and the 1<sup>st</sup> 13 pamphlets and Narcotics Anonymous itself get a foothold in autonomy.

We still meet-and you're probably part of us.. if you refused to compromise the 12 Traditions for any expedient concept, if you seek the truth. If it will never be the same for you because of what you believe, and who you met in service...real service *Anonymi*

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## 99 CAR or A New Model of the same old Jalopy?

Well, it's thinner. But is that a winner? Some things are thought out and presented, others just won't fly. Still others, which have some good ideas that need further discussion.

Not much from the NAWS, unless you look at the position papers. (How did they get in there? They weren't supposed to be able to do that.)

1/5<sup>th</sup> the size and only 1/2 the cost. (Oh yeah, to pay for translations).

Is this year's CAR a fair presentation? Not yet, but there is a motion to try to level the playing field by allowing 150 words for the makers of motions to tell their side to the Fellowship.

How about talking about the issues that are contained in the motion without binding ourselves with procedure first?

**Motion 1.** Why limit input to all these things that the fellowship needs to discuss at some point? Sure pick several for formal discussion at the WSC. But how about seeking comment on all the topics? Why limit the input on these topics for discussion to just current conference participants. Why not use the resources we have? Only four or five papers on a topic is somehow limited information. Why not make all topics open to all former conference participants for a start? Are we smart enough to discuss this?

**Motion 2.** Another one of those subjects that the Fellowship has avoided talking about for years now. The last comments from WS coming in about 84 as a Trustee Bulletin. This motion jumps outside of the development process that we just decided to use. The wording is offensive to some. This makes the dilemma statement an official reading and included in our recovery literature. Not much chance of passing as it stands. But underlying this is a subject that has been around for years. Here is a statement that has

helped many localities address the desire for the NA Fellowship to stand up on its own as a source of recovery. So there has been successful use of this method. Perhaps the discussion of the need for this sort of thing belongs in the Guide to Local Service. (GTLS) In the group section and in PI there could be some help giving for those communities that feel they need to do something of this sort to stand alone and have a positive separate recovery identity.

**Motion 3.** Here is another one that won't fly without discussion. I don't have much information but know that there are different things faced in other countries in trying to do service. To think we know and believe the problems are the same is ignorance. Here is a country asking for help in how to build support for the service part of our recovery. Perhaps a section in GTLS is in order. Lets not just throw away ideas that need further work. Nor let us think that we as a US controlled fellowship have the RIGHT answers.

**Motion 4.** Oh boy! Letting Groups and committees selling at the store for the length of the WCC? Just what we need a supermarket of goods. There is already a dependence on merchandise to raise funds for services in this fellowship. There are members that form 2 people areas and sell stuff for their own personal gain. When do we actually find our way to teaching personal responsibility in funding our services? Is this a place to start and actually discuss what's wrong with this approach to raising funds?

**Motion 5.** Now this is a prime example of what we can do with a suggestion better than a motion. As worded this motion leaves a bunch to interpretation. This motion attempts to correct a lie we have been saying for a long time. This new line says we do not participate. So does that mean we don't sign court or probation cards anymore? Good idea to correct inaccurate information, but words need to be correctly used to communicate ideas.

**Motion 6.** Good idea, but a bit early. Give it to those that are to present the outline for how things are to be done in a 2 year conf. cycle. Best way is to ask how many are supportive of this idea, then give it to the NAWS so they know that this is something that the fellowship wants a little, a bunch or a whole lot.

**Motion 7.** Motivated by a Region in Canada that didn't know that there was a better exchange rate for purchasing their NA materials, available through their national office. But what it shows me is that we know little about how these things are set and who gets what for how much. A request for such information might allow us to be better informed and perhaps be able to give guidance on how and who might be the parts of our fellowship that receive these discounts or rates. We could make it a priority to offset these costs when we understand what is being done now.

**Motion 8.** As mentioned above a great motion allowing more dialog on a motion from its creator. Leveling the amount of comment is a great idea and it even has support from the NAWS committee.

## **New Attitudes...**

***We shall attempt to print all articles promoting a change in our intolerance and indifference towards spiritual principles. We seek any and all ideas for this publication to become a venue for change. All materials shall be printed in a spirit of anonymity.***

***We encourage the use of humor and lampoon to stimulate thought and levity. Our hope is to find ways to transgress the perceived separation that exists amongst members of our***

**Motion 9.** To create a new description of how we will create NA literature. As worded it forces all starts for any work to begin at a conference. Think that it would better say "All NAWs proposed projects..." this allows other boards and committees to begin literature projects and stops any self decided and directed literature development from NAWs. Is an amendment in order?

**Motion 10.** Seems to be to narrow a focus on what we would like to see in our future. Don't know background for further discussion. Probably won't hit the floor.

**Motion 11.** Aha! Now here is a forward-looking motion. These same ideas around for so long and having the same input year after year. Even a lie in the NAWs comment on

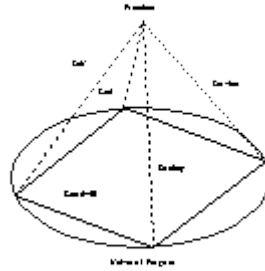
rejecting the motion, they state in their third sentence from the end that this motion "would eliminate all members of the world board, ..., as conference participants". That is simply not true. They just wouldn't have a vote. The suggestion I see is to think about the influence the NAWs already has and when is enough, enough? Perhaps the beginnings of switching to consensus starts with the exhibition of faith by the NAWs that they have been heard on subjects many times and don't need another voice in decision making. Placing trust in a loving God must be what this whole process is about.

**Motion 12.** This certainly is a Parliamentary can of worms. This could be placed in a working group on the first day of the conference and have resolution before the end of the second day. This will show us how we have grown or how stuck we still are in the old mind set. Is this a discussion forum or what? I hope that they show us that they are changing further and not just stopping at a place that's convenient to be.

All in all not a bad thing to start out a new way of doing business. Part of the old shit and a way of finding new shit hehehehe. Are we up to the task? Not if the conference planners don't think that it is important to change the old places we return to with this sort of business. Perhaps the evolution on the conference will continue in the planning stages. If you have any ideas for them to think about send them soon they meet in a couple of weeks and then again before the conference. Help them to make a difference or nothing changes. See a problem and have an idea for a solution? Tell someone that idea. You may be the only one to think of it. With all of our help there would be nothing that we couldn't do, with Gods help.

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**Our Hope and ...**



Hopeless living problems have become joyously changed. Our disease has been arrested and now anything is possible. Pg.102, 5th Ed.

Today we experience a full range of feelings. Pg.14, 2nd Ed.

Answers are provided. Problems are solved. Pg.14, 2nd Ed.

We discover new opportunities. Pg.14, 2nd Ed.

We loose the fear of the unknown. Pg.14, 2nd Ed.

From that point forward, we can see that every clean day is a successful day, no matter what happens. Pg.20, 2nd Ed.

We found hope. Pg.20, 2nd Ed.

We find that we can learn to function in the world we live in. Pg.20, 2nd Ed.

Perhaps for the first time, we see a vision of our new life. Pg.37, 5th Ed.

## **Our Freedom**

As we learn to trust our Higher Power, we begin to over come our fear of life. Pg.22, 2nd Ed.

Look our past in the face, see it for what it really was and release it so we can live today. Pg.26, 2nd Ed.

It is great to feel human again. Pg.14, 2nd Ed.

We begin to feel like we finale belong. Pg.17, 2nd Ed.

We are set free. Pg.14, 2nd Ed.

We do have a choice. Pg. 18, 2nd Ed.

Our negative sense of self has been replaced by a positive concern for others. Pg.14, 2nd Ed.

his is not an ending but a Beginning. Read any edition of the Basic Text, find those lines that speak to hope and freedom as you have experienced hope and freedom in Recovery. Add those lines to this list, rearrange the sequence.

Take your effort to your home group. Get some other members involved and we will start from our home groups an addition to Our message.

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P.S. We also deal in the barter system if you would like to send supplies instead of \$, we need stamps, paper (#20 8 ½ x 11), ink cartridges for Lexmark WinWriter 150C.

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## **Committee in my head?**

Used to be this picture was one of chaos. A meeting from hell as I saw it. Seems like the devil was the parliamentarian. Chairman of the board was just that, bored. No order, no method, no process, every one of those pieces of me all talking at the same time. The several child and adolescent parts throwing things at each other. Profanity the choice of communications. Some of the toughs in my makeup brandishing weapons. A few parts of me hiding out in the corners to afraid to speak out. Out of Order? Out of Order? The whole damn idea of trying to reach any concrete, positive, decision was way Out of Order!

There were so many tradeoffs taking place. The angry one, dealing with the sex fiend, to get what WE thought we needed at the time. The drug dealer telling them all that more dope was on the way to help with the decision making process. At the same time the dealer is making side assurances that everything would be fine and the hurting would go away if we just saw it his way. The dreamer, doing his deal with the schemer. The horrid avenger badgering Mr. Conscience. The hopeful me ending up shutting his mouth time and again out of hopelessness. The fatalist finally just continually saying screw it isn't worth it, the survivor saying we are close to dying, hearing "So What!" in reply.

See I needed to put something in place to make the change possible. I was taught first and foremost that the first rule of order for decision making was no drug ruled decisions allowed. At meetings I found people that I could talk to. I think that's what they are for, for me. (they are first to carry the message) This became the process of changing the committee in my head. Years and years of working steps formally and sharing my very personal stuff with many others made up a whole new committee in my head. Allowing many others to know the most hidden parts of me allowed for those parts of me to be heard and integrated. Having a system of support, not just one or two, to be there for me to contact and share those things that happen in life that I simply have to deal with. Needed a new parliamentarian. Had to find Sargent at arms that could maintain order. I had to find a new chairman of the board.

In steps God to make order out of chaos. Had to happen once the self honesty, and hope was in place from the first two steps. The void filling decision to turn the care over to something other than the process that I had been using. A chairman that would evolve with the rest of the committee as the "understanding" increased. The "Restorer" my own architect of adversity. From the start a peace keeper and comic. Showing the committee that it wasn't all that serious, that there were many things in life that I needed to laugh at

and not cry over. That war with me, with myself, was simply self defeating. So this began the restructuring of the board.

Adding others to that committee in my head has been a saving grace. When it comes to decision making time it works wonders to have others thoughts and ideas there for me to use. Today the committee contains people from around the world that have become resources in my recovery. At times I must personally call them on the phone for the input. At other times their spirit and conscience is there to help, by just thinking of what they would say if I asked. I just had to let those people know who I "Really" was, all of me. The hurt, the pain, the afraid parts of me had to be revealed so that they could understand. Now that's a committee I can count on!

So today the committee in my head is quite different. Don't get me wrong there are still meetings that don't go all that well. You need to know that the "ME" still has the majority vote. It is still easy to overrule the decisions of the chair. The sargant at arms, the spiritual me, has to be called into action often to control the familiar old ways of doing resolution. (torture, pain, physical harm etc.) It seems to be easier to have those that I love and who love me be included in these decisions as time goes on. What a blessing to come to a consensus within the storm of all the things I am and have been. Try it! You might like it!

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## **FORTY-EIGHT MUSTS IN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

### **as found in the Basic Text**

1. "Everything that occurs in the course of N.A. service MUST be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who. still suffers.  
- pg. XVI
2. "We MUST always remember that as individual members, groups, and service committees we are not and should never be in competition with each other." pg. XVI
3. "We MUST face our problems and our feelings." - pg. 15
4. "We are people with the disease of addiction who MUST abstain from all drugs in order to recover." - pg. 18
5. "A second admission MUST be made before our foundation is complete." pg. 21  
Explanation: It is not enough to admit that we are powerless over drugs, we MUST also admit that our lives had become unmanageable.
6. "We MUST be done with the past and not cling to it." - pg. 28'



7. "Assets MUST also be considered, if we are to get an accurate and complete picture of ourselves." - pg. 28
8. "Although He already knows, the admission MUST come from our own lips to be truly effective. Step five is not simply a reading of step four." - pg. 31
9. & 10. "We MUST carefully choose the person who is to hear our fifth step.' We MUST make sure that they know what we are doing and why we are doing it." - pg. 31
11. "We MUST be exact." - pg. 32
12. " We MUST realize that we are not perfect." - pg. 35
13. "Our experience tells us that we MUST become willing this step will have any effect." - pg. 36 (step eight)
14. "We MUST separate what was done to us from what we did to others." - pg. 37
15. "As with each step we MUST, be thorough." - pg. 38
16. "We MUST remember the pain that they have known." - pg. 40
17. " It is said that for meditation to be of value, the results MUST show in our daily lives." - pg. 46
18. "We MUST give freely mid gratefully that which has been freely and gratefully given to us." - pg. 47
19. "Our disease involved much more than just using drugs, so our recovery MUST involve much more than simple abstinence." - pg. 53
20. "We MUST give up this old concept and face the fact that reality and life go on, whether we choose to accept them or not." - pg. 53
21. & 22. "When we are prepared, we MUST try out our newly found way of life. We learn -the program won't work when we try to adapt it to our life. We MUST learn to adapt our life to the program." - pg. 55
23. "Unity is a MUST in Narcotics Anonymous." - pg. 60
24. "We MUST live and work together as a group to ensure that in a storm our ship does not sink and our members do not perish." - pg. 60
25. "We MUST be constantly on guard that our decisions are truly an expression of God's will." - pg. 61

26. "An atmosphere of recovery in our groups is one of the most valued assets, and we MUST guard it carefully, lest we lose it to politics and personalities." - pg. 61
27. "We MUST remember that officers have been Placed in trust that we are trusted servants, and that at no time do any of us govern." - pg. 61
28. "Our Sixth Tradition tells us some of the things we MUST do to preserve and protect our primary purpose." - pg. 66
29. "We MUST first understand what N.A. is. Narcotics Anonymous is addicts who have the desire to stop using, and have joined together to do so." - pg. 70
30. "In order to achieve our spiritual aim, Narcotics Anonymous MUST be known and respected." - pg. 71
31. "To improve ourselves takes effort and since there is no way in the world to graft a new idea on a closed mind, an opening MUST be made somehow." - pg. 75
32. "We MUST relearn many things that we have forgotten and develop a new approach to life if we are to survive." - pg. 77
33. "We realize we MUST do something." - pg. 78 (read the prior sentences)
34. "When we feel the old urges come over us, we think there MUST be something wrong with us, and that other people in Narcotics Anonymous couldn't possibly understand." - pg. 79
35. "We come here powerless and the power that we seek comes to us through other people in Narcotics Anonymous, but we MUST reach out for it." - pg. 79
36. "Recovery found in Narcotics Anonymous MUST come from within, and no one stays clean for anyone but themselves." - pg. 80
37. "if we have relapsed it is important to keep in mind that we MUST get back to meetings as soon as possible." - pg. 80
38. "We MUST totally surrender ourselves to the program." - pg. 81
39. "We MUST use what we learn or we will lose it in a relapse." - pg. 81
40. "We MUST, use what we learn or we will lose it, no matter how long we have been clean." - pg. 82
41. "Eventually we are shown that we MUST get honest or we will use again." - pg. 82
42. "We MUST smash the illusion that we can do it alone." - pg. 82

43. "Staying clean MUST always come first." - pg. 82
44. "Some things we MUST accept, others we can change." - pg. 92
45. "We MUST be willing to do whatever is necessary to recover." - pg. 93
46. "We never know when the time will come when we MUST put forth all the effort and strength we have just to stay clean." - pg. 93
47. "No matter how painful life's tragedies can be for us, one thing is clear we MUST not use no matter what!" - pg. 98
48. "In order to receive we MUST be willing to give." - pg. 102

**NEW ATTITUDES**

**P O BOX 447**

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