



Core Issues

July, 2013 Vol 1 Issue 1

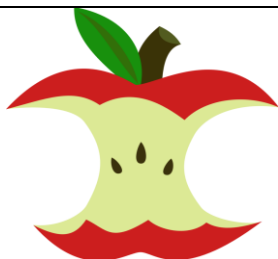
By Lester O.



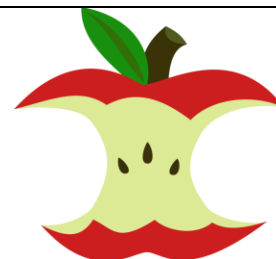
Goals And Purposes

We believe there needs to be discussion among the members of NA with regard the purpose and direction of our fellowship. There are 'service' groups springing up throughout North America; their goals are as many and varied as our members. Our purpose at the 'core group' is to provide a venue to facilitate open and respectful discussion among the members of the fellowship. We discuss ideas about how to make the NA fellowship more responsive to the still suffering addict. We hold weekly meetings, publish a monthly newsletter, and plan events for the purpose of uniting our fellowship. These are not core meetings, core newsletters, nor core gatherings; they are our gift to the NA fellowship. We envision a Global NA in which all members can freely communicate with each other and further carry our message of recovery from addiction by total abstinence and utilizing the Program of Narcotics Anonymous. We hope others will be inspired by our goals and take up the challenge to unify NA as a cohesive and caring fellowship of individuals committed to serve the still suffering among us. We believe our higher powers want all addicts to take part in becoming of service in NA. We do not claim to have all of the answers. We believe it is each individual's responsibility to choose which of the fellowship initiatives they decide to become a part of. We believe that initiatives within the fellowship that thrive and grow are sound and good. Will you be a part?

I am an addict from Florida. I produce a monthly newsletter containing Core Group information compiled from our weekly core Call minutes where members discuss the various ideas flowing within the NA fellowship, where we provide updates on various initiatives that are being tried, and where we plan activities that promote discussion about what NA service means and how it can be accomplished. If you would like to receive the weekly newsletter, "Core Issues," please provide an email address and phone number by which we may contact you. Above all, please commit to reading the newsletter with an open mind understanding that you will not always agree with each proposal found within. We often disagree, but we have promised to listen respectfully, and to support one another wherever we can. We believe this is the essence of group conscience, and although we do not consider ourselves an NA group, we commit to operate on the principles of compassion and open-mindedness. We hope you will too.



Email: lester7286@gmail.com
Phone: 321-215-5898
Yours In Loving Service,
Lester O.
Editor of Core Issues
(A non-profit Newsletter of the
Core Group)



Please feel free to pass this Newsletter to your Friends in Recovery.



Separation

The question of why was there a separation between the Core Group, Host Committee, and Planning Committee has been asked. Since the question is being asked we feel it needs to be answered. The first fact that needs to be clarified is that the Planning Committee was never a part of the Core Group.

The Planning Committee was formed after a group of individuals who were on the Core Group decided to leave the Core and align themselves with the Host Committee who declared themselves autonomous and not accountable to the Core Group. This action occurred when a vote was being taken and the host committee decided that they would not wait for the vote and acted on self-will. This type of action is the same action that our service system has been doing for years and purpose of forming a USSC was to prevent this from happening.

When the Core Group asked the Host Committee if they were autonomous, they said yes. That action told the Core Group that they (the Host Committee) had separated themselves from the Core. Within that week some members of the Core Group choose to form the Planning Committee and align themselves with the Host Committee that declared autonomy and separate themselves from the Core Group and their core values of group conscious. 95% of the original group members are still on the Core Group who never went anywhere.

The Core Group holds on to its goal of helping to form a USSC based on group conscious and serving the fellowship through a conference of the regions (USSC) of the USA using the 9th Tradition and its Inverted Pyramid that makes the member the most important person in the fellowship. Through this process the day again will come when a home group can make a motion and change what can happen in the US Fellowship by that motion having the opportunity to be group conscious by all groups in the USA. The Core Groups maintains its original core values and plans to continue to have Fellowship Assemblies in the future as well as workshops. We ask for your continued support and visit us at our Web Site: nacoregroup.org



Core Projects

Projects:

NA Views - video conferencing center in Waynesville is still going forward with Travis bringing in his new developer to set the system up in his new home. They have the software, hardware and access now in new home. Bo and Ed to visit.

In the Know – ‘back burner’ for now. Idea of providing a platform for experienced members to share what they have learned to participants is sound. Lucy O. – Memphis, Allen J MD and a regional person from Louisiana showed interest. Brian - Was to be non-confrontational and open to free sharing of experience. Phone tree to get word out. Myriad topics. Speakers on panel have one dial-up, participants listen on mute, email questions during week to be mentioned at next call. Bruce – could record speakers on good subjects for playback. Brian – keep recordings for future needs. Bruce – wonderful idea to hear from experienced members.

Fellowship Gathering – talked about possibly doing it in Memphis. Bo will call Gene and Lucy about it. Maybe they have a good idea. NA History might be good. Also good site for NA Literature History. Maybe Jim Nichols might be interested in hosting in Lincoln. People who helped write the Basic Text would all show up with their friends.

Did You Know:

1. World services considers themselves exempt from the NA 12 Traditions?
2. Homeland Security states that NA receives no direct support from them.
3. NA ought never be organized.
4. What are the three elements of self-determination?
5. Do you think spiritual growth is important?
6. How do you describe spiritual growth?
7. What's the difference between individual opinion and efficiency?
8. Do you believe the spiritual dominates the mental and physical realms?
9. What about body drugs in recovery?
10. Did you know that many members attend big conventions with funds paid by a treatment center?
11. Did you know the 12 Steps and Traditions are spiritual principles whereas the 12 Concepts are corporate principles?
12. (Fill in the blank!

nacoregroup.org – Made link to youtube.com to make it easier to get to our video clips.

NA Basic Text pg 56:

"Sharing with fellow addicts is a basic tool in our program. This help can only come from another addict. It is this help that says "I have had something like that happen to me, and I did this...." For anyone who wants our way of life, we share experience, strength, and hope instead of preaching and judging.



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Food For Thought:



The Sponsorship picture was taken from the June Issue of the Spiritual Awakening Newsletter for the Houston Area of NA

NA Basic Text 5th ed. Page 55:

Our earliest involvements with others often begin with our sponsor.



Summary of Core Group Project Discussions for the Month of June 2013

Week of June 4, 2013:

- Brian talked about NA Membership being a privilege and the rights of membership.
- Bo talked about his trip to New Orleans and the energy he felt there and how we need to take what we have learned in the last 2 years and re – invent the Core Group.
- Brian talked about how there are those with 30 year old resentments and the need to learn surrender and then there are those who want to cut the purse strings to WSO and how their job role should be literature distribution and collecting and broadcasting information to the fellowship.
- Bo mentioned that having the opportunity to engage in positive discussions and exchange information in a loving manner is what gives us new life.

Week of June 11, 2013:

- Kelvin from Louisiana joined the Core Group.
- Jmu discussed the needs for a National Helpline.
- Kelvin mentioned that we had developed a core to repair the disconnect with National Services such as H&I, Helpline etc.
- Jmu stated that it just wasn't happening. He said that World decided that Sub-committees were not working and tried to reorganize them and then went over to Business and Public Relations instead of Public Information.
- Lester commented that his area is looking to break away from the Florida Region and one of the possible outcomes that we are looking at is to become an independent area.
- Jmu mentioned that he had learned about a Basic Meeting Finder that was easily downloaded and when you typed in the zip code it found your meetings right away,
- Lester commented that the BMLT (Basic Meeting List Toolbox) had been out for some time now and that the Florida Region uses it. One of its problems is that areas are not automatically listed with it. If an area wishes to be added to it they have to install it locally so they can get on the Regional list. Many areas have chosen not to do this and therefore their meetings are not listed.
- Kelvin asked Lester why area wanted to break away.
- Jmu commented that the Service Structure is not serving the fellowship the way it might and that members are looking for ways to do service...
- Lester commented that the Florida Region has become the poster child for the SSP and now operates entirely on CBDM (Consensus Based Decision Making and that our RCM is now a mute position since very little comes back to the Region to be voted on. Under



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- CBDM if 10 Area's each submitted a motion to Region to forward to World Services. All motions would be discussed on the regional Floor and the top three would be picked and sent to a workgroup to be workshopped. And after the motioned was workshopped at the Regions digression the motion would either be stopped or sent back to the groups in its newly rewritten form to be voted on as to whether or not send it on to world. Basically our groups and areas no longer have any say at region. Since all motions are discussed and for the most part dispensed with on the floor of Region.
- David came on conference call and Jmu was talking about core group and why we are doing this.
- David - Conclusive to group purposes, more creative, more spirit and freedom. Don't need all the rules. Thrive in non-structural service. Some members can't deal with non-structural.
- Bo stated that we don't need all the structural boundaries. We are trying to form NA Society and inform members including writing study material.
- Lester said that his area had looked at the SSP and what is happening within our fellowship and we came to conclusion that WB members hit nail on head when they said the SSP was a done deal whether we like it or not.
- Jmu asked, "Is that good or bad?"
- Lester replied that FRCNA is poster child for SSP and our groups no longer have a voice. Our RCM are being asked to vote for us a, not in our behalf.
- David is more optimistic about our core group efforts. Members say it is too complicated and don't like World telling them how to form their boundaries. Members actively seeking information. They're waking up.
- Kelvin commented, "our RD's have lost the concept of their position." Need to get back to members down service instead of dictating.
- David – you have members brainwashed into believe they should accept being talked down to by servants. Delegated to represent and make decisions without representing group. Admins don't have right to decide what information should be passed on to local Fellowship.
- Kelvin – Reading Living Clean now. Elaborating on Basic Text info. Need BT more than LC. Thinks the writers of LC are just expounding on BT. Don't need servants to think they are in positions of authority. Doesn't know many members in WS. Structure needs to be in tune with our message.
- Lester agreed to do Newsletter?
- David – need to represent good articles like ABCD and our archives

Meeting Closed at 9:35 PM.



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Week off June 18, 2013:

- Brian and Bo talked about how things are going.
- Lester has email list made up, ready to send. Wants to ask if the members want to receive the newsletter before sending it out. Core Issues.
- Bo – summer of 2011. The core group kinda blew. Didn't allow me to contact new core group members. Could have Chris K's email because it would come out to all his long blog list. Other things. Trouble with Wichita Minutes. We kept going but we were definitely being undercut.
- Brian – Just keep plugging along. Do what we are doing and it will get better.
- Lester – Let people know what we are doing.
- Brian – we send out stuff now. Bill F in San Jose would pass it along. Don't send stuff to the choir, sends to those who have no idea of what's going on, someday, they will start seeing what's happening. Their eyes will open.
- Bo – address general problems on principles, not personal names.
- Brian – core agreement – we need to let core group members know, the truth cannot be spoken, can only be experienced. We have to see things from our own perspective. The truth we can see will vary from person to person. Don't make assumptions. They want to become informed.
- Lester – thinks if WSO stayed out of our fellowship business and distributed literature we'd be a lot better off.
- Bo – Money and power are mood changing drugs. If we don't succeed in making a difference, NA as we know it will be dead in ten years.
- Brian – something similar is happening in AA to let Steps and Traditions slip into public domain will result in changes that will alter the nature of recovery in their program.
- Lester – has a lot of newcomers come up asking questions. Have an ad-hoc committee to talk about leaving FRCNA. May start their own area. Some of the tools we have today can help provide services.
- Brian – where will they get literature?
- Lester – some think they should just make their own. Use 7th Trade in their area. Thinks that is the direction they are headed in.
- Bo – this is the leading edge of Global NA. It is re-connecting the Fellowship. Lester – the more people see it and like it, the more areas will follow suit.

Closed at 9:50 – Lester led closing prayer.

Week off June 25, 2013:

- Jmu reported on ASIS conference. All went well, fifteen members showed up in Pennsylvania.



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- Lester gave an update on the Core Issues Newsletter
- Bo – thanked Jmu for correcting about attendance at Tulsa which was 100, not 25 like Milwaukee.
- Mitch asked about holding an event at WCNA at Philadelphia.
- Lester likes idea about having another event and is open to go to Philly. He should at least present what we are doing, have hand out's ready and perhaps announce a future gathering.
- Mitch – need write up on what is our purpose.
- Lester – Thinks we need clearly defined purpose.
- Mitch – reach out to people. Get them involved.
- Bo – think core Issues will help clarify our efforts.
- Lester – The past is behind us, the future is now.
- Jmu – Principles of Spiritual Self-governance – did it give you a feel for where we are and what we are doing. Brought up working on the Grey Form as a starting point.
- Bo – we can do that but need to do the footwork to set up for it.
- Lester commented that we could make handouts of our writings.
- Jmu will put together master hard copy for us.
- Bo stated that the Principles are listed, Info, polling, accountability etc.
- Lester stated that he always thought that abstentions should be like a non-vote. Lester asked about expanding the list to Bo's list of 85, sighting that his list was currently 50. He also asked about keeping Chris Keeleys Blog on the list. Lots of discussion ensued. It was decided that for the present we should exclude the blog, because it goes out to everyone. Also mentioned that we could develop a News letter that we designed for the Blog i.e. minus minutes etc.
- Jmu added that discretion is better part of valor.



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- Bo – so, we can talk and write – we don't want our discussions taken out of context and used to bad mouth us.
- Lester – Blog has been removed from list for now keeping it within the core group.
- Mitch – there is guy in Canada wants big corporation, wants to be on the board. Tried to get Mitch to side with the WB.
- Jmu – Knows who Mitch is talking about
- Lester – just thinking about WCNA we had a NA Way of Life conference in Atlanta. We got a good results
- Bo – Next WCNA is in Brazil possibly Rio?
- Subjects to talk about - WCNA, publications, policies, Booklet on Principles of Spiritual Self-Governance, Handbooks on sub-committees, Travis Quotes: Willingness to Try, Impending Crisis, reinventing core group, Skype calls,
- Lester – PI handbook approved by Fellowship, has a copy of it. Hard copy and computer file.
- Bo – send me file. We can put out some handbooks and resurrect for future use. Pissed off members who worked on it. H&I Handbook, Handbook for NA Lit Committees, conventions, best of sub-committee guidelines.
- Mitch – has some of these
- Bo – talked to Vito about doing a sub-committee conference sometime.
- Lester – knows someone visiting.
- Closed at 10:00– Lester led closing prayer: Third Step Prayer.

Basic Text 5th ed. Page 12

We let new ideas flow into us. We ask questions. We share what we have learned about living without drugs. Though the principles of the Twelve Steps may seem strange to us at first, the most important thing about them is that they work. Our program is a way of life. We learn the value of spiritual principles such as surrender, humility and service from reading the N.A. literature, going to meetings and working the steps. We find that our lives steadily improve, if we maintain abstinence from mind-altering, mood-changing chemicals and work the Twelve Steps to sustain our recovery. Living this program gives us a relationship with a Power greater than ourselves, corrects defects and leads us to help others. Where there has been wrong, the program teaches us the spirit of forgiveness.



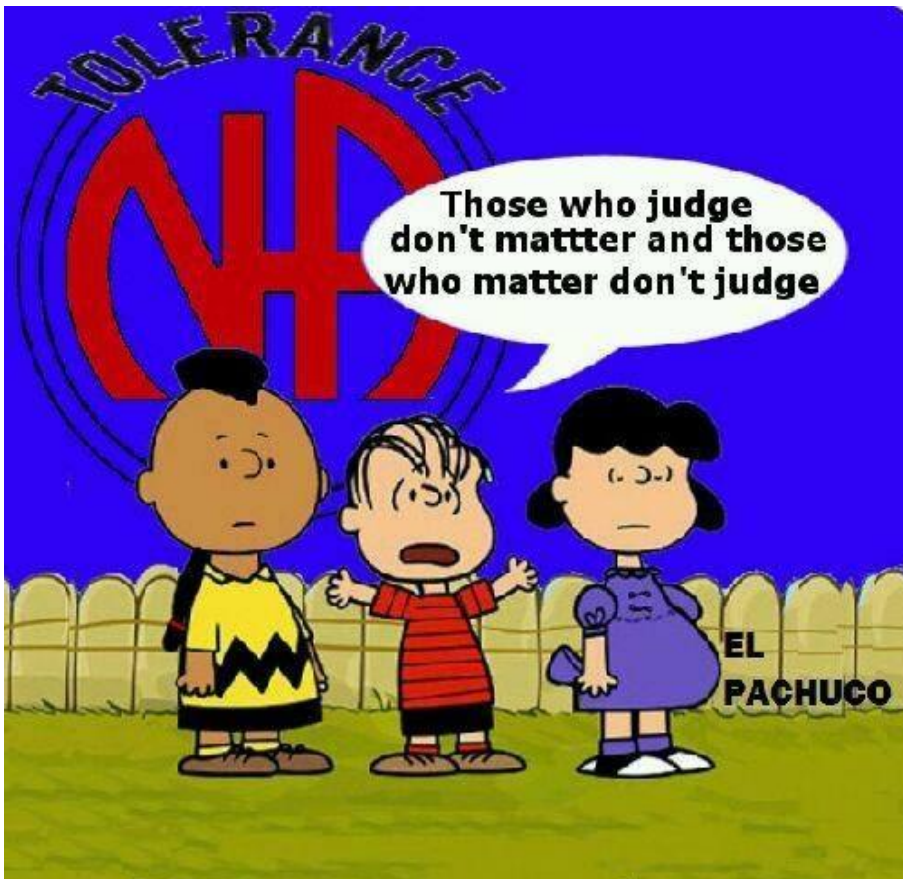
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Top -- Cartoon was taken from the November, 2002 "Clean Times" Cape town Area Newsletter. Bottom -- Cartoon was sent to me by email.



No Matter What



Personal Opinions:

Recently a friend of mine asked me, "What was the Definition of a Purist. I did not hear much about the Purist Movement on the West Coast when I got clean in 1986. My personal belief is that running Newcomers away from NA is not NA nor is scolding those who do attend other fellowships. I learned to use NA language very quickly out of respect for my when at my home group as well as having a few addict explain the reasons we use NA language after the meeting in a very loving and caring way. This is not what NA is about. I easily identified as an addict and found it to be inclusive. NA is about Living a Program of Attraction and total abstinence from all Drugs including the Drug Alcohol.

This invited me to do some research. So I went to "The Traditions War" for a broader perspective. Here are some excerpts.

"Recovery in NA was just a dream for most of us. Yea, man that would be cool to have NA every night. Someday. ."

Something that the key players in the Lit movement understood was that you had to bet your life on NA or no one else would! They began to become adamant about this stand and would leave these Lit conferences and NA conventions where they met up with each other to get pumped up, then would go back to their small NA communities and with excitement they had gained by being around other like minded folks, **would push the new message of one disease and one program to all the poor unsuspecting drunks and junkies back home.**

Back then, they came up with the name **S.W.A.T** which stood for Service Workers Attack Team! **This was really the first organized, named purist group.** They even made up t-shirts for you collector types. In discussions with the spiritual leader of the literature movement, Greg Pierce (deceased), several of the members he sponsored wanted to come up with a name and purpose other than SWAT. The discussion came around to a simple card and a simple name and a simple purpose. Greg said to me; "You don't wanna know what it started as. smile!" I guess he toned it down a bit. It was called **Anonymi**, and it was simply a printed blue calling card that said: (I apologize, I can't find mine so I will do as best I can, and hope someone will edit it correctly) **"A worldwide NA home group who's trusted servants gather to gain the love and support they need to continue carrying the message in their home groups and areas.** It's primary purpose is to disband."

Basic Text 5th ed. Page 102

We become increasingly open-minded and open to new ideas in all areas of our lives. Through active listening, we hear things that work for us. This ability to listen is a gift and grows as we grow spiritually. Life takes on a new meaning when we open ourselves to this gift. In order to receive we must be willing to give.



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ANONYMI

A world-wide NA Home Group designed to provide our trusted servants (whose service has sometimes isolated them from their local groups) with the love and understanding they need to survive.

So the purist movement was actually made up mostly of sons and daughters of Anonymi and SWAT. With a few original members in the mix. The seeds of the movement were firmly planted at a late night rap session in Washington, DC prior to the WCNA 14 Miracles Happen convention in Chicago September, 1984. It was during this year that DC had a fund raiser for their bid committee. The cool thing about NA was that all the opposing bid committees showed up to support them, Virginia, Pennsylvania etc. They were so moved by this, as their turn out from the local fellowship was a bit weak and our coming to support them made the event a success.

Late night Saturday, a bunch of us Anonymi's/Convention/Service friends were gathered in a room at Georgetown University where the event was being held. We jokingly began talking about the do's and don'ts of being a purist. The word had been floating around for a few months by now. It came out of an article that the guy Jim M from Ohio had written for an early NA way magazine entitled "The unfolding of the fellowship". **It asked "what about those folks that only go to NA meetings for their recovery and identify themselves simply as addicts. Are these folks radicals? No they are merely purists"**.

In our late night talk session, we came up with 24 do's and don'ts to be a purist. Some was for fun; some we truly believed in our hearts was the right thing and the only true future for NA.

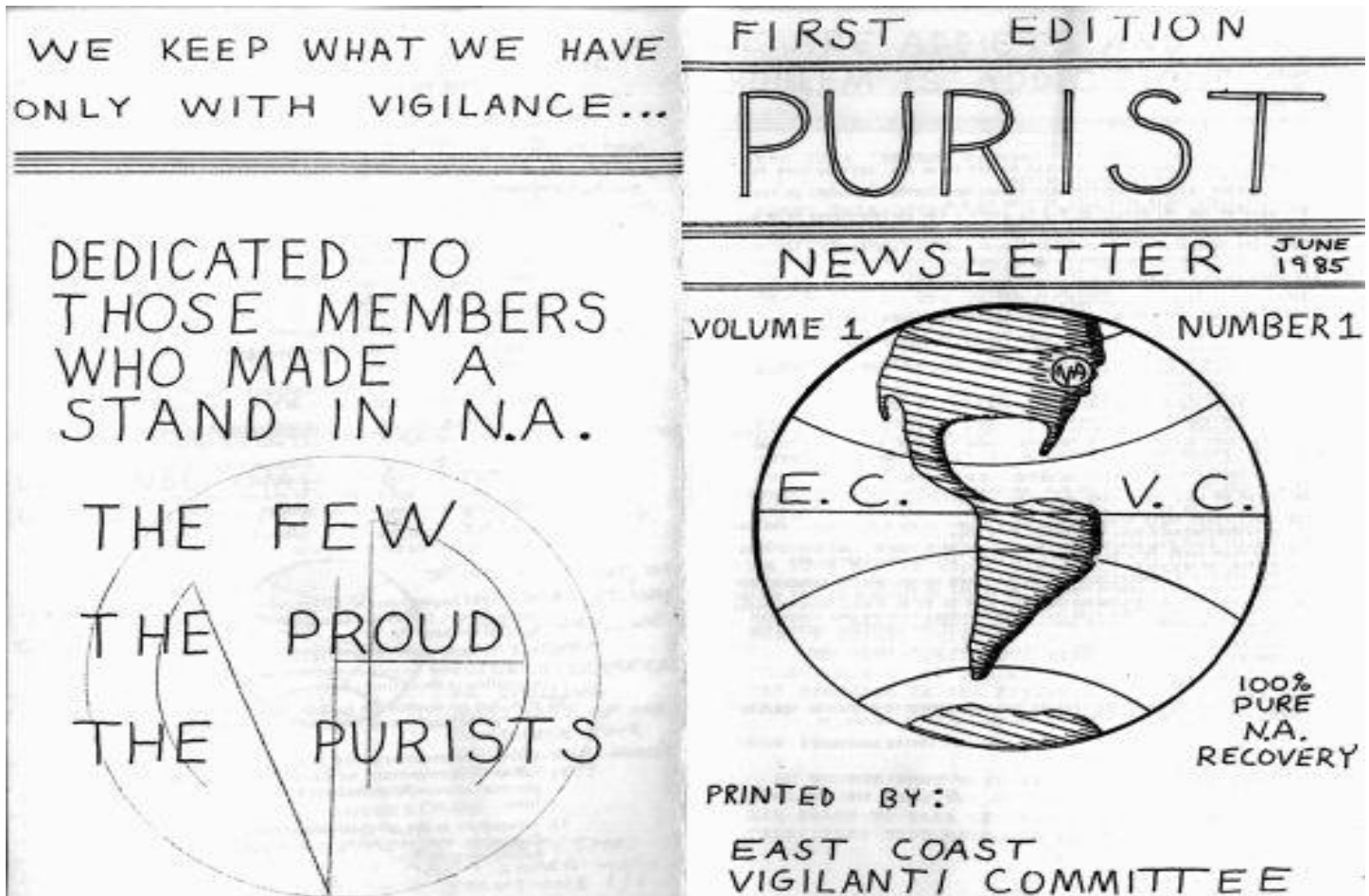
Jimmy D was at that meeting that night and felt inspired to go home and create. He came up with a simple purple bandana and a folded up little news letter called the Purist News volume 1; Jimmy says he had the bandana at Chicago. I know that the Newsletter was distributed at the 6th East Coast Convention held at Towson State University, Towson, Maryland in June of 1985, just prior to the World which was being held right next door in DC in September, 1985. Jimmy gave me a copy of the Purist News and like the rest of the gang; I went home and copied it like mad! It became our manifesto. It was the first thing in written form that spelled out what it was that had become imbedded in our hearts and minds for a long time now.



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March 27th, 1985

Qualifications for a "PURIST"

- #1) Identify themselves as "ADDICTS".
- #2) Sustain their Recovery by attending N.A. Meetings.
- #3) Would prefer to travel 50 miles to get to an N.A meeting than go to any other fellowship meeting.
- #4) Consider their membership in N.A. the most important thing in their life since their very life depends on N.A.
- #5) Live by the Principles of the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions of N.A.
- #6) Speak the language of N.A. (Being clean, not sober; accumulate clean time, not sobriety).
- #7) Refer to our book as the "Basic Text" not the big book.
- #8) Do not refer to the people they sponsor as "pigeons".
- #9) Quote our "Basic Text" Not any other fellowship books.



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- #10) Are active members on the Group, Area, Region, and World levels.**
- #11) Take their service commitments seriously and try to the best of their ability to carry them out.**
- #12) Attend and support all N.A. functions first before any other functions.**
- #13) Carry the message of N.A. Recovery, which is undiluted by any other message.**
- #14) Understands that N.A. is a unique and separate fellowship that offers recovery from addiction.**
- #15) Helps Newcomers**
 - A) Explains the meaning of the first step of N.A.**
 - B) Explains the concept of Anonymity.**
 - C) Shares and cares the N.A. way.**
 - D) Encourages involvement in N.A. meetings and other N.A. functions.**
 - E) Takes new members to meetings where the N.A. message is found.**
- #16) Cares enough about the future of N.A. to get up and do something about it.**
- #17) Considers it a privilege to serve the fellowship.**
- #18) Upholds the traditions of N.A. in their Groups, Areas, and Regions.**
- #19) Speaks up when traditions are being violated even when it brings criticism or resentment from non-purist members.**
- #20) Realizes that their personal recovery is based on N.A. unity... and that N.A. must remain pure to insure its survival.**
- #21) Realizes that our group conscience never goes against the traditions and that there is a difference between "group conscience" and "group opinion".**
- #22) Are usually misunderstood and/or disliked by non-purist members, but believe in their hearts that it is better to follow what they believe is best for the fellowship of N.A. than it is to please some members.**
- #23) Share a strong common bond with other purist members and often go to great lengths to seek out other members who consider themselves "purists".**
- #24) And perhaps, most important... Purists give warm loving hugs... The N.A. Way**

**In Loving Service,
Anonymous Member of the East Coast Vigilante Committee**

Written by; Jim D



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Recovering Purist:

From a recovering purist

MAY 1987

I am an addict, and one of the problems I have as an addict is interacting with other people. There are two personalities inside me: The spiritual recovering person and the diseased addict person. I can be compassionate, understanding and nurturing. I can also be insensitive, obnoxious and judgmental.

How well I am working the N.A. program is what determines my words and my actions. I have learned to check my motives, and I try to keep in my mind to seek to understand rather than to be understood.

In my love for and pride in N.A., I have been a big pain in some of our members' behinds. In dealing with what I have considered tradition violations, and in differences about opinion of N.A. philosophies, I have been confrontive, agonizingly persistent and overbearing.

At these times I considered myself vigilant and concerned about the well-being of N.A. as a whole. Looking back now, I can see that I was self-righteous and radical. This letter is not a confession or admission of guilt, it is

simply the truth as I see it today. Hindsight is 20/20.

I have calmed down a lot, much to the dismay of some of my radical friends. My beliefs have not changed, but my methods have become refined. I have found that tact and diplomacy work much better than threats and antagonistic confrontation. I have learned these lessons painfully by making many mistakes and some enemies within our fellowship.

I still believe in carrying a pure, undiluted N.A. message, I believe in using N.A. language, I believe in the concept of "one disease—one program," and I believe that N.A. is the only place I need to go for my recovery.

Today, however, I am willing to let other members have their own opinion. I still cringe when I hear someone in an N.A. meeting talking about their "sobriety" or about their gratitude to another fellowship, but I do not verbally take their inventory during the meeting nor do I tell them after the meeting that if they can't share the N.A. way then please do not come back. I have done both of these things in the past.

Today, I do not have to "protect" N.A. from anyone. I am not responsible for what anyone says at a meeting. At one point in my recovery, if someone said that they needed to go to another fellowship for any reason, I would give a number of reasons why I did not need to go anywhere but N.A. for my recovery. I would not allow any newcomer to leave any N.A. meeting that I was at thinking that they had two diseases or that they needed

anything else but N.A. to recover. I could be brutal in my sharing and I often was.

When I first got wrapped up in this "purist movement," it was at a time when there were very few N.A. mem-

I have calmed down a lot. My beliefs have not changed, but I have found that tact and diplomacy work better than threats and confrontation.

bers that I knew about who only went to N.A. for their recovery. None of these members were near me. There were only two N.A. meetings in my area when I first came around, and I helped start three more within the next year. I was going to all five of them and traveling around the state going to others.

I knew that I did not need to go anywhere else but N.A., but no one else in my area believed that they could. For me, making that decision to go only to N.A. when no one else believed in it was very scary.

In my fear I became very proud and very self-righteous. I became extremely outspoken about N.A. and extremely critical of other members who went to the meetings of other fellowships.





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I intentionally tried and in a few cases succeeded in driving certain "cross-addicted" and "sober" N.A. members out of N.A. I don't feel good about the way I acted but I am not sorry for what I did. I did what I did because I thought it was for the good of N.A. I do not know where those addicts are now; I hope that they are still clean and recovering somewhere.

I designed the "purist" T-shirts and bandanas. I had them printed up and sold them at conventions. I printed the *Purist Newsletter* and the *ODOP* (One Disease, One Program) newsletter.

I did these things because at the time I needed to do them for my recovery. I did these things because I thought that they needed to get done. Somebody had to stand up for N.A. and this was my way of doing it. Thank God that I don't have to do these things anymore!

Today I can be a member of N.A. instead of being one of the "guardians of our traditions." My message hasn't changed; the way I share it has. I find that my message is much more accepted when I share it in a loving and caring way.

I don't waste my time trying to get anyone to do things or to say things that I consider are the N.A. way of doing and saying things. I share my experience before, during and after meetings with whoever will listen to me. I try to focus on newcomers.

The purist movement is not over, and it will never be over. There will always be newcomers, fresh out of rehabs talking all the "cross addicted" language and concepts that they were taught in rehab. They don't know any

better, and it is our responsibility as N.A. members to share with them about N.A. language, N.A. philosophy and N.A. recovery.

There will always be members from other fellowships who will find their way into N.A. They will be using terminology from whatever fellowships they come from and they don't know any better either. It is our job as N.A. members to share with them about N.A. and our program of re-

Today I can
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covery in a loving, caring and non-combative way. I am trying to do this today.

I don't need to write purist newsletters anymore because I can write for the N.A. Way and our other fellowship newsletters. My articles are often viewed as antagonistic, and I am working on that.

I don't need to wear purist T-shirts anymore because it doesn't help anyone; it only creates disunity within our fellowship. I do not intentionally try to drive anyone out of N.A. for any reason today. I am trying to accept all of our members as they are—as recovering addicts just like me.

I am deeply grateful to all those other N.A. purists throughout the world, because without them I doubt that I would be clean today. Without

their love and support, N.A. here in my hometown would not be where it is today. We have grown from two meetings per week to twenty-three meetings per week. I am grateful to be a part of the growth of N.A.

There are eight thousand N.A. meetings in the world today [written in May 1987—two years later, there are almost sixteen thousand]; when I got clean there were less than one thousand. Chances are that many of those who are reading this article got clean in a local N.A. community that was started by a purist, someone who believed in N.A. and was willing to go through the pain of keeping it alive when other recovering addicts were not.

There is nothing wrong with being a purist if you are one, and there is nothing wrong with going to other fellowships for recovery if that is what you choose to do. There is no right or

wrong when it comes to N.A. membership. We are all N.A. members and we are all equal. It took me a long time to realize that we all belong here regardless of how we identify ourselves or what terminology we use.

As we grow in recovery and in our understanding of the N.A. program, most members find themselves using N.A. language because that is what is most appropriate. We learn to separate the different messages that we carry and when we are in an N.A. meeting, we carry the N.A. message only. It is so simple to understand when we become open-minded. It is a matter of personal awareness and growth.

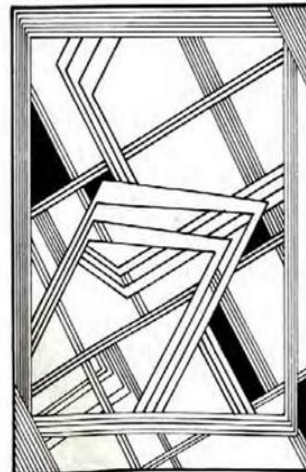
It is also easy to understand that none of us has the right to intimidate or criticize any other member. I understand this very well today. When I am sharing with other members about language or traditions, I keep in mind that no member ever intentionally tries to harm the fellowship. I really try to understand where this member is coming from and I share in the most loving and caring way that I can.

I have grown a lot since those first purist T-shirts made their debut in Chicago at WCNA-14, and so have many of us who call ourselves purists. We have been blessed (or cursed) with the burning desire to help N.A. grow. Sometimes our methods are wrong, but our motives are not. We are human and we are recovering addicts.

I have no regrets about the past, only hope for the future, and I intend to keep the N.A. message alive, pure and undiluted, just for today, where ever I am.

J.D., New Jersey

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Core Issues

July, 2013 Vol 1 Issue 1

By Lester O.



NO ADDICT SEEKING RECOVERY
NEED EVER DIE...



WE KEEP WHAT WE HAVE ONLY
WITH VIGILANCE...

EAST COAST VIGILANCE
COMMITTEE

JUNE 4, 1985

DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS:

THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO PRINT A NEWSLETTER, WRITTEN BY AND WRITTEN FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE A STAND IN N.A. PURE N.A. RECOVERY!

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD-WIDE FELLOWSHIP OF N.A., THERE ARE MORE AND MORE MEMBERS MAKING A COMMITMENT TO RECOVERY EXCLUSIVELY IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF N.A. WE ARE ADHERING MORE STRICTLY TO OUR 12 TRADITIONS, WE ARE USING THE LANGUAGE OF N.A., AND WE ARE GOING TO ANY LENGTHS TO CARRY THE MESSAGE OF N.A. RECOVERY TO THE ADDICT WHO STILL SUFFERS.

IN SOME AREAS, THIS IDEA OF N.A. PURISM IS NOTHING NEW, IT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG TIME. IN OTHER AREAS, THE THOUGHT OF JUST GOING TO N.A. FOR OUR RECOVERY IS NEW AND SOMETIMES A BOLD STEP FOR US TO TAKE. FOR THOSE OF US WHO LIVE IN AREAS WHERE JUST ABOUT EVERY ONE IS GOING TO "BOTH PROGRAMS", MAKING A STAND IN N.A. SETS US UP FOR CRITICISM AND EVEN VERBAL ABUSE FROM THE OTHER MEMBERS AROUND US. YET, MANY MEMBERS, MANY OF US, ARE MAKING THAT STAND AND WE ARE REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO FEEL AS WE DO. WE ARE REACHING TO THOSE WHO CAN SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, AND HOPE WITH US, AND WE ARE REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN US.

THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE COMMON GROUND FOR WHICH WE CAN FIND LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING AS WE MAKE OUR STAND, A PLACE WHERE WE CAN SHARE OUR RECOVERY WITHOUT CRITICISM, AND A PLACE TO LEARN HOW TO BETTER CARRY OUR MESSAGE OF N.A. RECOVERY.

WE WILL BE PRINTING ARTICLES, STORIES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS WHICH DEAL WITH N.A. PURISM. WE WOULD GET PERMISSION TO REPRINT ARTICLES AND STORIES WHICH DEAL WITH PURIST ISSUES, ISSUES SUCH AS: N.A. HISTORY, N.A. LANGUAGE, N.A. COMMITMENT, N.A. SERVICE, N.A. ETC.

HOPEFULLY, THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE "PURIST NEWS" WILL BE READY BY JUNE 21st AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE 6th E.C.C.N.A. IN BALTIMORE PLEASE SEND YOUR INPUT, SUGGESTIONS, STORIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND OF COURSE YOUR EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, AND HOPE TO US. WE LOVE YOU!

WE KEEP WHAT WE HAVE ONLY WITH VIGILANCE...

THE "PURIST NEWS"
62 DIVISION ST.
TRENTON, N.J. 08611

IN LOVING SERVICE:

P.S. THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE "PURIST NEWS" WILL MEET AT THE 6th E.C.C.N.A. IN THE "PURIST" HOSPITALITY ROOM... MORE WILL BE REVEALED!



Links

NA Core Group

[Core Group 2-11-09](#)
[Core Group Archives](#)

[NA Views \(You Tube\)](#)
[NA Core Issues \(Facebook\)](#)

Basic Text 5th ed. Page 12:

We let new ideas flow into us. We ask questions. We share what we have learned about living without drugs. Though the principles of the Twelve Steps may seem strange to us at first, the most important thing about them is that they work. Our program is a way of life. We learn the value of spiritual principles such as surrender, humility and service from reading the N.A. literature, going to meetings and working the steps. We find that our lives steadily improve, if we maintain abstinence from mind-altering, mood-changing chemicals and work the Twelve Steps to sustain our recovery. Living this program gives us a relationship with a Power greater than ourselves, corrects defects and leads us to help others. Where there has been wrong, the program teaches us the spirit of forgiveness.

Another look at the 1996 CAR Resolutions (What you may not know)

Resolution A

To approve *in principle* a change in participation at a new WSC...

Comment: This Motion passed and the big Change is just now occurring now in the form of the SSP

Resolution B

To approve *in principle* the adoption of a World Board, replacing the current World Service Board of Trustees, WSO Board of Directors, and the WSC Administrative Committee.

Comment: Motion passed and was implemented

Motion 75 amended Resolution B by stating that the world Board should include a group to serve the original purpose of the WSB i.e. guardians of the tradition

Comment: Amendment was Implemented but later disbanded.



Core Issues

July, 2013 Vol 1 Issue 1
By Lester O.



- Motion to vote on amendments C through G as they appeared in the CAR and refer all amendments to the Transition Group.
- Passed.

Resolution C1

To approve *in principle* the elimination of standing Committees.

Comment; This Motion was (Defeated) but was later fully implanted.

Resolution C2 (To approve *in principle* a significantly downsized standing committee structure responsible to the World Board.

Comment: This Motion Passed but C1 was implemented instead of C2

Resolution D

To approve *in principle* the adoption of an ad - hoc committee structure responsible to the World Board.

Comment: This motion was Defeated but is now the type of Structure that we have and are moving towards.

Resolution E

To approve *in principle* the adoption of a unified budget encompassing all world service funds.

Comment: This motion Passed and has been implemented.

Resolution F

To approve *in principle* the adoption of a World Pool of experienced trusted servants as a resource to world service projects and initiatives.

Resolution G

To approve *in principle* the adoption of a Human Resources Panel as a means by which the WSC may choose trusted servants based on the willingness to serve, experience, and knowledge.

Comment: Both Resolutions passed and were implemented.



Core Issues

July, 2013 Vol 1 Issue 1

By Lester O.



Not 67 or 105: Defeated a proposal to create a single World Board now and a proposal to do so at the close of WSC'97
Not 68: The chair ruled out of order a motion to change wording in Vision Statement because such a change can only be made through the CAR process
Not 77: The chair ruled out of order a motion that required the current zonal forums to be the geographic entities called for in Resolution A

As one can plainly see, on several of the Resolutions they went against Group Conscience, especially with motions C1,C2, D, and the amendment to Motion B. Motion A called for a fellowship review of 5 options. It was later decided to allow this to occur in a natural process. This was 17 years ago and the review never happened and now we have the SSP.

Basic Text 5th ed. Page 12:

We want to look our past in the face, see it for what it really was and release it so we can live today.

Crossroads by Jorge Arrieta:

