



Core Issues

Nov., 2013 Vol. 1 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



October 5, 2013

8:30 pm EST 7:30 CST 6:30 MST 5:30 PST

Tuesday Night

CONFERENCE CALL

530.881.1400 593307#

FREE

Recording of last call 530.881.1499 593307#

Attendance: Jmu-Lester-Mitch-Bo

Bo on Minutes

Opened at 8:30

There comes a time when reality takes over from thought and supposition.

Bo – mentioned the lack of firm response from membership is probably where the members feel WSO is like the church headquarters and they will be excommunicated if they express dissatisfaction in any way. They are just surrendered members trying to be friendly and spiritual with no idea that anything improper or unusual is going on starting with they have no business trying to change our service structure.

Lester - Bob B. has had a heart attack and is on life support for now.

Bo plans on visiting Bob where ever he is in Los Angeles sometime after the 19th or 20th. Driving down from San Francisco.

Bo – heard Jim Miller's group in East Liverpool had a poor turnout. Wish them well. I was at Gull Lake for Michigan Sponsorship Retreat. Believe we should support any effort to help Fellowship and get accurate information. We need to understand what is happening with NA. Amish saying:"There is never just one way."

Lester – Issue 3 was sent for review to David B with no response as yet. Will probably go out tomorrow.

Lester – Believes what happens at present is WSO tells the WB what they want to see happen, WB puts it out to the RD's who vote that way at WSC and then WSC directs the WSO to do what the WB told the RD's to do. World Board has replaced the former WSO Board of Directors.



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Bo – Someone has suggested we consider advocating an NA Convention sometime in next year or three. It would be an asset for Fellowship. Fun, we can do it type thing.

Lester – We may be able to get large NA conventions to help with strength and guidance. Northern California Convention and Pacific Northwest Convention are the two oldest conventions after the World Convention. Both have held conventions annually in comparisons to the more recent bi-annual break occurring in WCNA.

Mitch - The Free State Region has good speakers and has a corporate structure under RSC.

Bo – Good time to bring up “No addict turned away.”

Mitch – FSRSC is promoting Living Clean book.

Bo – Just keep trying.

Mitch – Amy G may be core group material, will check with her.

Dale A – has been producing some great writing lately.

Bo – Did anyone pick up on Denny S making FB statement that he was there with Jimmy K came by WSO and spend a half hour talking with Bob Stone?

Bo – asked for ideas and suggestions concerning nacoregroup.org website. Also, asked for volunteers to co-ordinate the conference call.

Close at 10:07 – Lester led us in Third Step Prayer.

Next meeting on 8th of October

“That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship.

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Bo visited Mary Ellen after surgery. She seems to be in good shape, and is waiting on some tests to come back from lab. He also commented that Bob B doing better after mini stroke.

Jmu commented that the “**Honor**” article was good but needs to be simplified. (See Addendum B)

Some discussion on smoking and e-cigarettes.

Discussed recent camping trip, area campout was rained out. He was also at a low point, disenchanted with life, particularly NA events dominated by tobacco use, feels isolated, left out. He and Ellen have not smoked for some time. Sponsorship event had gatherings outside, lots of tobacco; he couldn't hang for health reasons, spent a lot of time alone indoors.

Jmu commented that e-cigarettes was a new issue. David's comment was same or worse, worse because they sometimes come into meetings. Jump suggested a simple disclaimer in meetings “no hand held electronic devices, covers phones, computers, or e-cigs”. David stated that some meetings allow all that. One club even permitting an on-site seller of e-cigs and supplies. Bo joined the call and said that e-cigs was a form of Drug Replacement Therapy. Jmu commented that it probably not as bad for your health, but NOT a recommended way to quit.

David was concerned about e-blast from NAWS, skeptical about work on 12 Traditions book, took survey. The ‘survey’ NAWS conducted was drug specific, not disease oriented and seemed to him as playing to treatment industry. Bo commented that NAWS' big customer was TCs. WSO has forgotten they serve the fellowship, not a 'normal' business, NAWS thinks they are beholden to biggest customer. JMU thought that TC's were motivated to encourage relapse (financially) Greg Pierce clarified by stating relapse is part of our disease, not our recovery. Bo commented that a former sponsor Chuck Skinner interviewed for a job at a TC, employee said 'relapse good for business'. CS walked out. No tolerance for that in those days. Believe what separates us is we see NA as apart from NAWS and WSO. We are focused on Steps, Traditions, Fellowship and original program including some great new writings. Many members are just unaware because they have been conditioned to believe in WS over eye-witnesses and participants by power hungry and unscrupulous bureaucrats. Apparently they don't yet realize there are prices and consequences that come with betraying people's trust. One is that the program they are working doesn't produce spiritual growth. At best they tread water while the membership working the Program is creating the water they float on. David said that he got clean by changing people, places and playthings and that he now sees



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newcomers obsessed with relapse, looking for 'triggers', etc. Bo commented if you focus on relapse, you will. Bo comments that tracking our progress with discussion and writing have come a long way. He found readings at NAWS convention (World Convention in Philly) were drawn from Living Clean, not Basic Text. NAWS seems to be killing the golden goose (BT). World Convention Marketing tool and aimed at conditioning membership to rely on WSO rather than spiritual principles. Seems to be taking themselves further up above the people instead of putting members and their needs as top priority. Most members do not catch this. David - People seem to prefer being followers, David not a sheep in the herd. We are aware of what's going on and that make us responsible to put the truth out there where people can see it. Bo - our message will get to the people who are tired of following the herd. The new stuff always comes from these people. They are the cutting edge of NA. Impending Crisis came out three years ago and has done some good. Still a free download on nawol.org.

David – wants less repetition in newsletter, 2 or 3 should work on it. A digest of minutes would be better than the dot/dash minutes. Bo suggested he call Lester. Lester is open to help. He hit a big bump when his computer died on him last month. Travis saved the day by shipping him a laptop. He has the best laptop in the world, Tough Book by Panasonic.

David - Newcomers want to 'fight for recovery', resist surrender to the program. David and Ellen meet great resistance when they suggest surrender.

Bo is still planning trip to India, some conventions planned there. David commented that there is an NA member on FaceBook from India, very outspoken. Often says things D&E disagree with, but has the poop on NAWS and India. Anthony encouraged growth of fellowship there, including promoting some unsavory characters. One example, NA member now in jail for running illegal TC, boys tied to beds, abused. You won't hear this story from NAWS, only what a wonderful job they have done carrying the message overseas. Bo – That's why I am going, to encourage members. We sent review and approval forms of Narcotics Anonymous to India in 1981 to encourage members then. Always had good web contacts there. Sunil is on core group and has been for three years. In good contact even before that.

Jmu called old friend who seems to agree with core group concerns but wants to work within the system. Bo – Can't work with a system that is rigged unfairly to the Fellowship. They don't win, they corrupt.

Bo - looking forward to CA trip, will go to Petaluma, down coast to LA to visit sponsor Bob B, hopefully meet with Morris T, others, will go to San Diego next to meet with Bill F, et al. Feels guilty about not working more on core issues, but takes a lot of energy, needs to be rested.



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Input from Jmu on “Honor”

Simplify! I have tried reading this the last 2 mornings. I am a bit thick in the morning, and it just isn't getting thru. As I have said before, good thinking in this piece, it shows empathy for the office workers, which is good. Here's another Fallacy. It was your idea, when do we get to see some from you? The all or nothing fallacy;

Event; The Executive Committee of the World Service Office allowed or encouraged the Philadelphia Enquirer to publish their full names and full face pictures.

Conclusion 1; our chosen leaders have demonstrated that the 11th tradition doesn't apply to them, so it is not necessary for any addict in service to make an effort to practice anonymity.

Conclusion 2; The WSO has broken this tradition, so all their actions are in violation of the traditions.

There are 2 opposing conclusions from the same event. Neither is correct, both are evidence of binary thinking, 'all or nothing'. Let's remember we live in an analog world, not the digital world. Making the effort to think in full spectrum rather than black and white will lead to a more accurate picture of reality.

Jmu

Close at 10:07 – Lester led us in Third Step Prayer.

Next meeting on 15th of October. -----Bo was in California

“That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship. “

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Bo on Minutes



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Lester – Newsletter now at ten pages. Suggest we make minutes more compact.

Bo – Core group member suggested we do a digest of minutes instead of sending out every dot and dash in *core Issues*.

Bo – Friend Paul S in San Jose says he can get longer clips on youtube.com will show me how. Paul needs to be on core group. Asked him to send letter of introduction.

Bo – Let's do some more Skype calls. Will help Lester get started now that he has a good laptop and camcorder?

- Videos – Got camera fixed for video production. Plans include doing re-enactment of WLC 1
 - Planning large event to be held in Kentucky
 - Going ahead now that my home is established and will make books out of the core group archives.
 - Do book of core group essays, perhaps combine with “The Book” written by core group members last year.
 - Put Wichita minutes, Informational Booklet and other material in one book. Other related material can be included as separate section or appendix.
 - Send books to Lester, David B, Bruce G, Travis I, Jmu and others for review an input. Include any core group member who wants to see the material before printing.
- Bo – While in California heard one informed member state that the WSO realizes it made a mistake to take the SSP so far and bully the Fellowship into considering it. Now egos are holding the push together because they simply don't want to admit fault. Lester thinks the whole thing was a subterfuge to rearrange the voting at the World Service Conference and that it is backfiring on them. Bo – How is a main representative body without a secretary, treasurer or a chairperson considered functional?

Bo – Woke up with the words “Rule by Rumor” emblazoned on my eyelids. Here's how that works:

- Dis-miss whatever goes against WSO vision or policies.
- I carried around a big briefcase of WSC and WSB minutes, reports, etc. and finally had them converted from fifty pounds of paper to one pound of microfiche. 1600 pages.
- WSC stopped referring to past minutes, like it never happened.
- To this day, WSO does not keep records past ten years. Said this to member inquiry on telephone!



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- Facts don't matter, just what business office thinks is best. NA is not about money. Kirk – sent email describing WS has having a golden light around them and even with what he has learned from core group, it is still there to a lesser extent.
- This is in response to Mitch's question. My sense is that the vast majority of members especially on the east coast could not or would not believe that the WSO and WB would do anything to hurt the fellowship. We believe they were all working a spiritual program and had been clean the longest so that made it correct. It's still one of my biggest problems today. I tend to see the worlds through Rose Colored Glasses however back then my glasses were really rose colored. Today they are just a light rose colored. – Kirk
- Bo – we have gotten the word out to many members and are continuing with our efforts to inform the general Fellowship. To reform the service structure, we need to get back to principles and realize the limitations of group conscience. Group conscience is voting by informed members on issues and needs concerning the NA Program. A good principle is if you do not understand a discussion item, do not vote for it. Even a small item can come back to bite you, you know where! Core group will continue to study, discuss and publish findings to the general membership.

Lester – Chris W of Knoxville, TN says he watched a video on “Stop the SSP” two times and it made no sense.

Close at 10:25 – Bo led us in Prayer of thanks for giving us a way to work for the growth and continuance of NA.

Next meeting on 5th of November

“That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship. “

Fan Page – “coreIssues”

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/NA-Core-Issues/203887439636097>

nacoregroup.org

Projects: NA Views – Go to NA Views – USSC and take a look at what is possible through this amazing venue.

Fellowship Gathering – Considering new location...

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.



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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. You can still dial in for recording of last Tuesday night call by using access code. The downloaded calls I can send you if you need them. – Bo

Addendum: for core group members:

May includes some emails or phone conversations from core group members during past week.

Other input...

Idea - to use these minutes in a way that is little trouble and no extra cost, we could include similar input from say, fifteen or more members and simple reduce the font size to something small, like 6 point. To view one or the other, just select and change point size to something viewable, like 12 or 14 point. It would be like this:

Idea - to use these minutes in a way that is little trouble and no extra cost, we could include similar input from say, fifteen or more members and simply reduce the font size to something small, like 6 point. To view on or the other, just select and change point size to something viewable, like 12 or 14 point.

If you have trouble with this, another core group member can explain how to do it. Like many things, it's a snap when you know how and confusing right before.

Please select material below and set to 14 point size to read and review following articles. You can reset to 7 point when down or paste to another document. Let us know what you think and like/dislike.



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Personal post and response:

Addendum A:

On 10/16/2013 2:38 AM, a Global NA member wrote:

Dear Bo,

These things kind of make me a little bit sad. Been watching you guys in USSC and your experience. I'm raised in NA in how it is now, with 5th and 6th Basic text in Swedish. This makes me wonder, is the 6th edition written by professionals, is our 7th tradition going to pay some professional to rewrite something we have written ourselves 1979-1983?

I read BT every day; my recovery is alive because of BT.

I do believe too there is no recovery without service. My homegroup sent about 500 dollars every year to World Service through and old 80/20 decision. I raised a motion that we should support the district first; through group conscience it was approved. Now we first of all support our district and region. This makes me think even further, I do not want some addicts controlling and making riches because of the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. I love Narcotics Anonymous and I'm alive because of Narcotics Anonymous. I'm still young and hope through Gods will to have more than 50 years left to help our fellowship be more attractive so that more suffering addicts can hear our message and start to live. I'm from the ghetto and all in for the 12th step in these places. I am a little bit upset about the World Service and their structure because I've learned through the program about the reverse pyramid, but is this only an illusion? Now listening to the disband of CAR where it became a controlling CAT makes me angry and I do not want to have my disease get me out of Narcotics Anonymous, I want to be part of the solution not the problem.

What can I do, Bo? I care for the new way of life and carry the message, now I'm upset of the WSO and really want to go beat them up but that is no solution.

Thank you

Bo—Only faith can see us through. We as a Fellowship have gone through terrible times before even getting our group conscience system which sparked the wondrous growth and revelation of the late 1970's and it is still going on. Your desire is real and focus on that. It is no wonder that people who do not share our dream still want to steal it. But they cannot surrender, so they will stay on the outside looking in. Makes 'em mad. You are doing fine. Focus on the miracle. I wrote once, "NA is the accumulation of ten thousand tiny acts of love and consideration." I believe that is still the case. Instead of futile fear and confusion, watch how God handles this one! When the dust settles, the "real" remains and the illusions of money, property and prestige fade away. The Hindu's say in the Bhagavat Gita, "God alone is real. The unreal never is, the real never is not." Be certain you are developing your clear mind and clearing your consciousness of the habits of fear and defensiveness. Let you HP handle those things. I have studied this shit for decades clean and it is the real that endures. That is the meaning of this world being an unending stream of temporary events and changes. The real inside you endures. First we clear



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the physical when we stop using. Then we clear the consciousness through the 12 Steps of NA. This leads to an awakening of the Spirit within us, free from obsession and compulsion. That is recovery. Then we can practice principles and carry our message of hope.
In Loving Service - and Recovery,
Bo S.

Addendum B:

Excerpt from N.A.W.O.L. "The Book Of Life": As we grow through a careful and self loving journey along the NA Twelve Steps, almost all addicts will reach a point where their surrender has become a part of life, conscious contact has replaced to a reasonable degree the self will and ego that characterizes active addiction and we have become freed to walk down any path in life.

*****FOR REVIEW AND INPUT - NOT READY FOR DISTRIBUTION*****

Send to nacoregroup@earthlink.net

Honor

Feel like we are finally getting clear on what is wrong and what is required to re-establish our Fellowship. There is a creepy undercutting of our Program by people who don't have any idea how carefully our writing and policy was set up to make and keep NA a spiritual program. Efforts to re-write the Twelve Traditions are certain to contain further weakening of the spiritual principles involved. Who do you know that talks in terms of spiritual realities? If it ain't spiritual, it ain't NA! It feels like we are getting closer and closer to some kind of basic statement on why we need to overhaul our service structure to serve us, not serve some outside issue. Like, one thing creep forward in my view. By taking the position that treatment industry buys 12 million from NAWS and the NA Fellowship buys only 3 million, they may be justifying their focus on pleasing the treatment industry and forget they work for us. Or, maybe since the 'money' comes from the industry, maybe we sorta lost our primary service center. Something like that... Maybe if they spent more time on the Fellowship, the real 'Service' Office would grow. People know how you feel by the way you treat with them. It seems they now want to shut down regional and area sub-committees.

Honor is a big word for Americans. We are not taught to value honor directly. We read about it from international materials around the world. There seems to be a built in honor at the human level that pervades our culture but for some reason it is not talked about directly as a rule. Within the NA context, honor is more important in terms of how we feel about ourselves than a 'better than' or 'less than' contest. Most of us connect our using with our pain as the basic belief behind all NA. Chemical free, we find it essential to keep our feelings about ourselves positive else the self-destructiveness begins to eat away our lives again. Honor can be one word to describe how we feel about ourselves. It is also the root word for honesty. I had a great conversation with Travis I. from North Carolina – He was saying how the favorite words and phrases in the



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Basic Text could be elaborated on by members who treasure and appreciate a breakthrough in their recovery that stems from what the Text says. I picked up on this because it is a way to illuminate the Text and bring out the writing in a way that may help others. We could make essays available on key points from Basic Text to make plainer and protect the materials from deletion by people who don't get the point of the principle. Principles are all about peace, harmony and good will amongst a body of people. Essays on favorite lines would also help preserve them from later day editors who may be unaware of the importance of certain specific words and statements, intentionally or due to human error. This must be allowed for if we are to pass along the benefits learned by our predecessors. Along with personal preference stating the reason we choose them is "_____." It says somewhere Group conscience is God speaking through clean addicts.

I have become unbuckled from NA world service because of the various mistakes they have made as an organization over the years. This does not mean I hate world service or what it has done over the years. Mainly I think it is normal for individuals within the corp. seek to curry favor or get a promotion. We the Fellowship need to understand and make adjustments in our thinking and policies regarding this basic factor. Conflict of interest has been behind some of the peccadillos like the 1st Edition, the 4th and so far as I know no one has really done of study comparing the 2nd or 3rd Revised with the 5th and 6th Editions. Things were taken out of the Basic Text that may have helped you in recovery. Ignore this at your peril. Many members left NA when they realized the measure and extent of error made by 'corporate' management. Our service structure is simply limited in a way that prevents or precludes correction. I have learned to address principles, not personalities. We are all functions of those we hang out with. I have personally been sanctioned from helping with the processing of future materials, by the egos of those who seek credit or money for doing the same thing. They make their arguments in regular board meetings while I am never heard directly. Many of us do not particularly care to work at close quarters with people who participate in such an unprincipled, closed system. The corporate management system excludes many experienced members from helping out because paid staff members are in a position to exclude them. I believe these people are jealous and incompetent. By their works, not by hearsay. So, their inability of either do better writing or ask for help rules the day. Surely at some point it has occurred to their small group that our efforts might be effective and really help people! And somehow, they are afraid of that. We are pretty sure of ourselves because our beliefs are not based on our thinking or what might be easiest for us; they are based on our personal experience and written practices and policies. Every member of NA reads our writing every time they go to a meeting. How about that? What they read works for them in our NA Steps and Traditions. So, is that based on our great intellects and superior insight? Is it so hard to imagine we surrendered, laid out the best we could see or think of and through elimination came to the things that worked – so it really is based on our faith and belief that God will work through members if they are surrendered, open and honest. Members supported the writing of the Basic Text because they had been involved with the writing at every step and were as much or as little



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involved with the process as their interest warranted. Now, if these factors just resulted in one person getting a better job within the system or a pay increase that would be ok. But these things hardly deserve to re-define or pre-determine what the NA recovery process is or ought to be. This is where a hostile view would be totally out of line. For instance, medical and recovery require special training, schooling and on the job experience. It is a whole world unto itself. But it is not NA. And the whole doctor knows best mentality would hardly be expected to make good literature. Before NA there was no real recovery for addicts seeking help. Doctors want to put them on more and different drugs! If the importance of the Fellowship is viewed as less important because the membership buys less books, it can really set things in motion and supposedly no one says anything because the contrary opinions get little space in the corporate publications. And members who have never known NA to be any different may see some of our customs and ways of preserving anonymity or doing service lovingly differently.

Travis bought up that when members own their service position, their whole identity is at stake and they will not let go of the very real services they are performing. Especially when it becomes obvious that the services they performed collapse without the active support of concerned members in NA recover. That's it – no service without recovery. This kind of dedication is very appropriate. Tens of thousands of members powered the expansion of our Fellowship world-wide. And of course, world service would like to take all the credit for that. The corporation likes to play down all the members who were in on the miraculous growth of NA and the huge attraction it embodied.

Corporations like to take credit. How might it be if world service spent a little more time honoring and extolling the virtues of our members? Creating a world where members in service curry favor with a corporation might result in conflicts with members out to do a good job because they care about the people needing help. Reports might play up how corporate workers might look good and the cheap volunteers need to be replaced by paid workers. It gets very confusing. Deepening the long trenches between paid workers and those who do service of our love and gratitude is the genuine caring within the corporate. Hey, as long as they watch what they say and don't offend any powerful corporate officials, their jobs are secure.

The very offensive thing to me is the appearance that world service is exempt from the statements and spirit of our 12 Traditions. Travis and I talked about many of these things for about an hour. I would ask him to stop and write a note about what he had just said and this article is a result of what he said. Imagining that the fellowship doesn't know about all these things is a joke among us. It's not a funny joke because many members have lost hope and left NA when they observed some of these things close up. They made the mistake of identifying the corporation with NA. When the corporation dominates the spiritual program, it cuts away the basis for belief that NA works. It bothers us because it hurts people. Even knowing what we know, we try to



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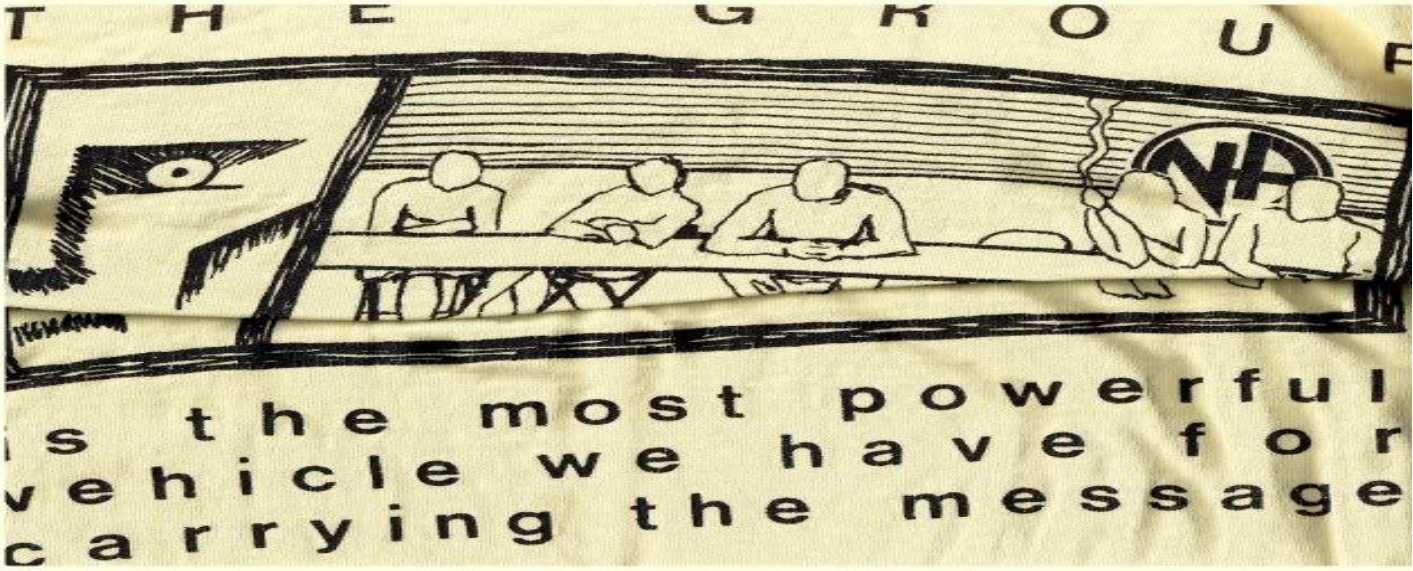
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address things in terms of principles and not personalities. Comprehensive writing and discussion is the only way to counter these things and it is an ongoing responsibility.

Actually, it is the people who make the miracles and world services can claim no more that 1% of that. It is what we call our HP that gets all the credit in truth. And if you don't know of value the truth, hey, keep coming back. Travis has endured years of personal attack and so have I. Recently a core group member asked me in all seriousness if I had ever charged for signing a book. It was no problem to tell him no, never. So, while charging for my signature would be sort of out of line, since I don't do I get a cookie? Who would start such a petty little rumor? Who is pleased by this? Who does it help? What makes them think it is cool to make up or pass along an unfounded piece of gossip? I think I did make a joke or two about charging for my signature. It is my way of lampooning such an idea. Those who know don't care and those who don't know, care a lot - but not enough to check their facts. Back stabbing and rumor mongering thrives where the truth is not allowed to come out. And it is kind of like the trail dust raised by some of the terrific miracles I have been a part of in the course of recovery and service. And the best is yet to come. I think eventually all our writing and speaking will help restore spiritual health and order within NA. Who knows, if enough people become informed, NA will begin to grow again, not because of bureaucracy, but because people will come to recognize the tremendous amount of love and gratitude in the Fellowship. And that is a big part of the attraction. People want to be appreciated, not treated like customers by uncaring functionaries in a bureaucracy who hide behind the phrase, "Just doing my job..." The Fellowship defines and controls what happens in world services.

Ignoring the problems is no solution. Sitting by or worrying that concern is improper and uncomfortable is no solution. Letting business like persons control your Fellowship and re-write your program is no solutions. If you don't take up for NA, who will?





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On Sat, 9/14/13, Travis I

Wow! Perhaps Ken's calling is to freely give what was so freely given to him. Ken sent me several Baby Blues some years back and thanks to his loving effort and encouragement our group printed and GAVE away our 1000th book this year. When the Fellowship no longer has a voice in these type matters we are discussing it takes a very brave person to risk the scorn of the under informed members and tell what they believe and what works for them. The term generated out of the original Core Group that best fits so many informed members discontent with NAWS is called the "Disconnect". Since the standing committees were disbanded at

the World level the Fellowship has had no meaningful say as to how OUR Services are administered and how our Primary Service center functions. Mismanagement of funds specifically the HUGE losses at San Antonio in the recent past should have resulted in several persons involved in the office responsible for the events being fired and a subsequent criminal investigation being launched.

Instead we got excuses and in the end not even an apology for the enormous loss of OUR money...The denial, rationalization, substitution and general dope fiend behavior at NAWS is becoming more and more apparent as the consequences of their unsolicited PR efforts continue to destroy groups in major and minor populations as they are inundated by attendees from drug courts, Suboxone and methadone programs. It's high time more people stood up for OUR Fellowship...

(Written in 1998)

A fellowship wide crisis may be in motion right now. If so, I would suggest that there is a leadership vacuum at the world level. I have seen this before and it will pass. One possible explanation for what is happening is that people who have depended on the shrinking window of group conscience have been able to fool themselves into thinking they could have an effective say without having a commitment.

Bo S.

Group conscience can be thought of in much the same way as personal conscience. Group conscience reflects a collective awareness of, understanding of, and surrender to spiritual principles. The conscience of the group takes shape and is revealed when its members take the time to talk with each other about their personal needs, the needs of the group, and the needs of NA as a whole. (It Works: How and Why)

Lester O

I can recall doing an all day CAR workshop in 1996 (the year of the Resolutions). I was the ASR and I believe that it was the 1st Car Workshop for our Area. It was predetermined that anyone attending could vote. This was done as an effort to get more of a true Group conscience. In an area with well over 80 groups and 100's of addicts about 80 people showed up and by the end of the Day maybe 45 addicts were left and that became our Area's Conscience. We also had help from our Regions RSR Alt. in attempting to explain the Resolutions. I did the best that I could and even then I did not fully understand the Impact that the resolutions would have and I know that those who voted understood them even less. There you have it, an Area voting on the CAR and not understanding exactly what they were voting for. I believe that the same scenario is being played out again with the SSP.