



Core Issues

Dec., 2013 Vol. 1 Issue 6
By: Lester O.



November 26, 2013

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

Nothing that is written in this Newsletter is the viewpoint of any individual member. These viewpoints are shared by many and are collectively expressed here by the Core Group Members.

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance: Jmu – Mitch – Bryan – David – Lester - Bo

Bo on Minutes:

Opened at 8:30

Jmu – moderator

Bo introduced Bryan from Mayville, KY and has been on phone last few weeks. A member from Lexington came home from WCNA Philadelphia with the idea we should have and NA convention opposite the WCNA next time! For those who missed it, all the readings at WCNA were from “Living Clean” apparently to promote sales. There could conceivably be other reasons but commerciality is the byword at our primary service center.

Bryan who has 7 years clean is interested in core group to find out things not usually discussed. Introduced idea of holding a large NA convention to be called ‘CleanStock’ in the Lexington area of Kentucky.

Bryan says that the event will be outdoors and on or near old site of the Narco Farm and will be largest NA convention ever. Love, ideas welcome. Next WCNA in Rio de Janero 2015 Labor Day weekend.

Mitch welcomes Bryan and asks if he would like to speak on 9th Tradition at the Freestate Convention in Baltimore, MD held 29th and 30th. 410.833.7105. He also asked Bo. (Both Bryan and Bo will get back with Mitch on this.)

Mitch went to ad-hoc Committee for Freestate Convention. He also reported that Steve M brought up need to find ways to have Secretary control the RSC meeting. Crazy talk about “Team Management” discussed. Also, DRT (Drug Replacement Therapy), Bulletin 29.

Bo – asked for time to present new take on what the heck happened to service in NA from 1977 to now. (See Addendum A for both parts. Part 1 was continued).



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Hah, hah, hah! By all of us...

Jmu said that service in the core group is the most rewarding service he has ever experienced. Bryan stated that at WCNA Philadelphia, he attended the World Board meeting and they all seemed to be talking about a deal with the Fellowship. He confronted the WB on DRT and Drug Court and the effects they have on our Fellowship and Program. He attended the USSC effort in Kansas City recently. Much of what the WB appeared to be doing was hiding behind Tradition Three, basically saying they could do DRT and hold NA service positions at the same time. He observed them saying people who seek NA membership should be treated with kindness and love. His concern was the treatment industry is now promoting medications instead of getting people off drugs.

Mitch said that the WB only brings up Traditions when they are convenient to their goals. TC's are profiteering big time.

Bo suggested that we Pray hard and dream big. Can't blame the moths for loving the flame. We are to voice of the members who don't get heard by the service structure any more. May be still good in places. Send in ideas, suggestions, questions, anything that might help sort this out.

Jmu – Is it time to close for tonight?

Mitch – sending out request for speakers at Freestate Convention at end of this month.

Close at 9:45 – Thank you God!

Next meeting on 12th of Nov

November 12, 2013

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

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance: Lester O – Bryan H – Bo S – David B – Bo on Minutes

Opened at 8:30

Lester – coming up on 10,000 days! That's 27 years, 4 months and 16 days.

Bryan – congratulations Lester!

Lester – Working on 6th Issue of coreIssues newsletter.



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Bo – Let's do a large NA convention based on love, good Fellowship and celebration of 12 Step recovery. Let's do one where 12 Steps for addicts began – in Lexington, Kentucky.

Bryan – Narco Farm site has over 500 acres, a Horse Park, Kiddy Park and a large Fairground. Going to see again this Thursday at 4:30.

Bo – advising and supporting effort to do cleanstock. Registered domains for .net and .org. Not a core group project, per se. We discuss and report on core issues. The issue here is to have an inexpensive, available celebration of recovery emphasizing NA principles and values. Especially, not an extension of a corporate management system. Yeah 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

David – did not get minutes last week. Will send.

Bo – read notes about essay on NA from 1979 to now synopsis (See addendum A). Especially, imposters weren't there for crucial parts of our history and forget the great expansion of our Fellowship in 1981 from 600 meetings in February to 1800 meetings in fall. We believe this was result of the writing of the Basic Text and putting together a service structure that allowed all members of NA to have a say. There are persons on WB and at WSO who know better and yet persist in making arbitrary changes in our service structure in violation of our 12 Traditions. We set up an integrated service system and the corporation has been systematically dis-integrating our system, distancing themselves and playing up to an outside interest to make more money. An informed Fellowship is an effective Fellowship. Why would anyone want to dim the light? Surely there are some great acts of loyalty and honor in WC but we'll never know because of the closed door policy. Will add these ideas to the essay in addendum to these minutes.

Lester and David – against the pot laws.

Bo – agrees, the laws are worse than the addiction aspect.

Bryan – WB not clear on DRT and DC. Went to “the only requirement” chapter in BT, Tradition Three used to justify using drugs and calling it clean. Are people on Drug Replacement Therapy clean? Hiding behind T3.

David – Locally, they have a stamp for drug court slips, do not sign them personally, and don't give out phone number for court records, court wants information on sponsorship to monitor clients. Drug Court stopped sending to NA because we won't play ball with them. Same with Suboxone doctors. To them, there is no profit in using NA support in their 'treatment' of sick addicts. NA is not profit-motivated like NAWS and treatment centers. They want to make a profit off NA affiliation. Want money off of jewelry also. Groups give out Basic Text's for free and practice unconditional love. Hot topic. David and Ellen won't buy Living Clean book because it is just a cash cow.

Bryan – Don't hear 'drug-free' and 'chemicals' as much anymore. Prescription meds justified



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rather than used with caution. Meetings are called “Drug Court Meetings.” Hard to find “NA meetings.”

Bo – Watering down our message is like shooting people.

Bryan – Bad message of recovery kills people, addicts we should be helping. Soft pedaling using drugs undercuts total abstinence and lowers the passion needed to get clean and stay clean. We need a 'Boston Tea Party' feeling for NA to work. Americans were British citizens until they threw the first box of tea off a ship in Boston harbor.

Lester – Chris B and Boyd P may have good ideas on all this for CleanStock.

Bo – Dream big, pray hard.

Close at 9:45 – Bo led us in Prayer of thanks for giving us a way to work for the growth and continuance of NA.

Next meeting on 19th of November

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

November 19, 2013

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

TuesdayNight CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance: Attended by: Bryan H and Bo S

Bo on Minutes

Meeting opened at 8:30 pm.

Bo commented that Lester was celebrating 10,000 days clean, today. That’s 27 years, 4 months and 16 days. Next, Bo talked about Cleanstock mentioning that it is a Kentucky event and several members of core group will serve and support the event, it is certainly something that deals with core issues in NA and it is a fit subject for our consideration and dialogue. Thanks to Bryan and the members working towards this worthy goal. (See Addendum B: “Cleanstock the Gathering”)

Bryan asked the question “How did it get this way?”

Bo responded with a description of events from the mid-seventies to date. Doesn’t need to be recited here in whole. The new simile was working at a company, you go around and make friends and find out the history of the company, and how they progressed from a start point



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and made discoveries that led to the present products. It is important to discover how things came about if you want to understand today.

Jmu – Have a friend who was a co-facilitator in the past and the person is reluctant to come forward and tell what he knows.

Bryan – Something has got to be done. Will not attend drug court meetings. Feels sorry for newcomers who have to get clean in watered down recovery meetings.

Jmu – A.S.I.S. – now doing conference calls. Have a nearly completed writing on “Total Abstinence.” They do flow readings. Local drug court meetings declining, Oxford House meetings are big. He lives ten miles west of the District of Columbia.

Bryan – Suboxone doctors are becoming routine staff in treatment centers around Kentucky.

Bo – Thanks Jmu for helping solve the problem I was having with the software to send out mailings.

Bryan – Guido in Lexington is excited about Cleanstock and went to visit the Narco Farm location last week with him.

Bo – Lester told me the newsletter is coming along for December.

Bo – Dream big, pray hard.

Closed at 9:45 Jmu – close with the 11th Step Prayer from the Grey Form.

Next meeting on 26th of November

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

Core Group Minutes

November 26, 2013

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

**Tuesday Night
CONFERENCE CALL**

Attendance :Lester – Bo S – David B. Bo on Minutes



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Important Notifications

Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2013 4:55 PM
Subject: New Post/Thread Notification: WSC 2014

Hello,
xxxxx has just posted in the WSC 2014 forum of WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012) under the title of Regional Proposals for the CAR.

This thread is located at <http://disc.na.org/wsc2012/showthread.php?149-Regional-Proposals-for-the-CAR>

Here is the message that has just been posted:

Maybe a bit of a recap on the current situation is in order.

The World Board sent an e-mail to all conference participants which stated the following:

"Without exception, the proposals that have been submitted would not meet current policy for inclusion in the CAR were they motions. In order for a proposal to be "CAR-ready," it must be unambiguous and understandable, and it must be clear to those discussing the proposal what it affects and what the consequences of approving it would be. Each of the proposals submitted for the 2014 CAR is unclear, is impossible to execute, or fails to consider conference policy."

We have seen in this thread, three regions (Carolina's; ABCD and NorCal) state that their conversations with the World Board during the proposal submission process ended with no mention to the RD's of those regions that their proposals were unclear, impossible to execute, failed to consider conference policy, ambiguous and therefore not "CAR-ready." That, my friends, is the problem (or, the most important problem (IMO)) that needs to be cleared up at some point.

Bill F

(For Fellowship comments see addendum A.)

Note: you may have to register with New York Times to access the article about deaths from overdose on a popular treatment drug... - Ed

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/17/health/in-demand-in-clinics-and-on-the-street-bupe-can-be-savior-or-menace.html?_r=2

*"But buprenorphine is not being monitored systematically enough to gauge the full scope of its misuse, some experts say. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not track **buprenorphine deaths**, most medical examiners do not routinely test for it, and neither do most emergency rooms, prisons, jails and drug courts.*



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“I’ve been studying the emergence of potential drug problems in this country for over 30 years,” said Eric Wish, the director of the Center for Substance Abuse Research at the University of Maryland. “This is the first drug that nobody seems to want to know about as a potential problem.”

“The government has a vested interest in its success.”

Opened at 8:30

Compliments to Paul S for creating a \$12 My Years with NA by Bob Stone!

Be sure to read “Cleanstock” in the addendum to these minutes.

Lester – Some RD's are thinking and talking about boycotting the WSC or going and halting the Conference. Very upset.

Bo – If they do, it will be the first visible instance of Fellowship waking up.

Lester – The US no votes on SSP will be countered by the YES votes from Europe and Asia. Biggest backlash in twenty years.

Bo – Aftermath of writing “Future” has left me feeling big change inside. Just mentioning this change.

Lester – Comments on FB report that the USSC didn't take off but do not cover the why we discontinued for the present.

Bo – Yeah, I think we shocked members by how much had gone on beneath their noses. They all we nuts for power grab. Probably will approach subject this more thought and deliberation in future. Instead we have worked on apprehending Global restructuring. Going ahead to make books from core group writings, etc.

Bo – Europe and Asian members are smart and they know there's trouble in River City. Russell Brand made good points in BBC interview about “Abstinence Based Recovery.” We figure that's a euphemism for NA.



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Bo – Politics is boring, Spiritual is exciting. Speaking with lady I sponsor, I switched over to breakthroughs in approaches to spiritual growth and she brightened right away. Like prayer is for worldly things and meditation is for things beyond this world. Spiritual awakening in freedom from obsession and compulsion, clear headedness.

Bo – No complaints about adding members to core group in recent weeks.

Lester – Thanks to inquiries and for articles. Praise and recognition works. Also, add them to the email list. Found out some members found out about the newsletter from photocopies given out by other group members.

Bo – Remember, keep backups on flash drive. Discussed options to make longer, ten to twenty page, articles available like from free downloads on coregroup.org website and G-drive. Put list of titles of such articles in coreIssues newsletter. Jmu will help I am sure...

Bo – some people will have judged our patience as ineffectual and may feel loss of face as we move into action. This is not a tug of war or an ego trip. I can only claim what I bought with me when I became a member of NA after qualifying for membership in the usual manner... WE are successful because we find points of commonality and bring members together.

Lester – mailed December coreIssues #6 to Jmu and David for review and input.

Bo – mentioned I took off dial-up from our minutes. Will add reports on Cleanstock and books effort.

Bo – on WS blocking regional motions – If a prescribed format was a requirement, it should have been made clear to RD's. Good example of how far we have slide downhill from the days when the WSC was our main representative body. Now the hirelings tell us what to do...

David B – came on call at 9:15. Will look over the newsletter next few days. Has noticed lots of feedback in ABCD, NC, GA, CA and elsewhere - "What's going on? What can we do about it?"

Bo – If WS pushes through SSP, it will kill present service setup.

Lester – Newcomers are picking up on what's going on.



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David – WB shooting themselves in the foot. Members do not care about what happened thirty years ago, they want honesty and accountability now and they realize they are not getting it! Need to starve the beast, print alt literature and make alternative merchandise available.

Bo – We will try to keep low key while getting the word out.

David – Want to improve BB artwork, need good master copy. Hasn't heard anything good about WB in a long time.

David – We should have early history workshops and then recent history workshops.

Bo – Big history conference planned in Connecticut in 2014.

David – when he mentioned Cleanstock gathering he heard some members say, “They'll never pull it off!” Concerned we have no loose cannons. Checks and balances.

Bo - Pain is a great teacher. Informed group conscience is golden – uninformed group conscience is a nightmare. Learning the lessons of the last twenty years will be all we have to show for it. Remember, there are many loyal members in the WSO staff. We don't need to train a bunch of new people. Learning experiences can be painful and wasteful.

Closing Prayer: David B – Gratitude Prayer – My gratitude speaks when I care and when I share the NA way.

Closed at 9:45

Next meeting on 3rd of December

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

Addendum A: “The voice of those we serve”

THE FELLOWSHIP SPEAKS ON REGIONAL PROPOSALS NOT BEING IN THE CAR.pdf

- Just in case you all wanted to see what the Fellowship thinks about this newest assault on the regional voice as it is brought to bear at the WSC, take a look. Mind you, these quotes are not solely from the usual suspects that you all have lumped together into a



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meaningless blob of ignorance. These voices come from the US and abroad and represent those you have been elected to serve. I will post them as an attachment but will also add a few choice pieces I have cherry picked to give you an idea of what those outside this bubble of obedience think.

- “Pathetic absolutely. Just keep letting it be known. It is presented by those who live in a bubble. They would have had this in the bag a long time ago if it weren't for social media. They counted on all information being controlled by them. Please keep doing the wonderful work you do! People have a mind of their own.
- Sorry folks...that's not NA, that's not spirituality, that's not service, and it's not recovery. It's one sided false conscience with no respect or belief in accountability. And how dare anyone utter the word "god" in connection with censorship and what the World Board and NAWS have done stealing the CAR from the fellowship. It's almost like the godless Bohemian Club, Carlisle Group, and Goldman Sachs have taken over NA with the help of Karl Roves counterpart...Jim DiLizia. And there are enough needy trusted servants slaving to be liked, loved, and or elected into the World Boards good graces we are in pretty serious trouble.
- California has interesting incorporation laws. In our favor.
- Short of asking the California Attorney General to open an investigation, there really isn't much we can do. I've considered it but am not sure I want to be the next Grateful Dave. Better to make NAWS an non-entity in my life and continue to work at the group level
- No, that is NOT better, but entirely up to you to bow out. Thank GOD not everyone thinks like that. What NA will you leave for those who follow? Will you be among those who left during Tradition Wars, Concept Wars, etc? Those who refuse to see the part they played by leaving all those years ago? Bah! Humbug!
- I'm not going anywhere. NAWS can't destroy the foundation of this program. What they can do is show us that we need to stop supporting them financially or otherwise. I just ordered 25 used Basic Texts for \$28 dollars to give away to new comers. I will no longer contribute to any service body that supports NAWS financially and that's how I'm gonna operate. In today's internet age, the fallout from an investigation would do too much damage to NA as a whole in my opinion.
- There are other options beside atty gen investigation, WTF would they investigate?
- Whether the Articles of Incorporation were violated, or the by-laws. If my memory serves me correctly, the Articles of Incorporation state clearly that all NAWS does as far as the WSC is concerned is provide logistics support. As far as the by-laws, they have



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been slowly changed over the last 12 years to eliminate any protection of the Traditions being a guiding document for the WB.

- It's in the by-laws under Article 2 Purpose. The most recent amended copy I have is from 2009. It states the followings: "A specific purpose of the Corporation shall be to provide administrative, organizational and logistical services to the World Service Conference (the "WSC") of Narcotics Anonymous and the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous at large and in other such capacities in accordance with the will of the WSC.
- The fellowship has been awake and not pleased but now they are EFFEN LIVID! In the words of the Red Queen in Wonderland, OFF WITH THEIR HEADS! Whoops! Just realized that this group is not the place for this discussion, Anti NAWS/ WB posts will be deleted, whether the Anti is deserved or not!
- I believe we do have some attorneys in this fellowship. Whether or not they want to get involved is another story. I see direct dereliction of duty since members were directly assigned to provide assistance in these matters which they failed to do.
- We need to find one in California that is familiar with the state laws.
- Guess I'm sitting in a miracle. My HG is taking place right now with no help or support from NAWS. Our regional website is up and running too. These things are taking place under our current service structure. Amazing, just amazing.
- How do you feel this action falls outside of providing "administrative services to the WSC"? To me, they can always argue they were doing their job, just made a mistake...I guess it would actually be 14 mistakes. But seriously, how are seeing this?
- Determining what is and isn't CAR ready falls into the category of decision making not admin services. Admin services are things like printing. When was the last time you saw or even heard of a corporate Administrative Assistant make a corporate decision?
- I looked into some legal terms of art in response to your post. All the definitions about administrator or administrative that I looked into support your assertion, that administration is about execution not decision making. In common usage, admin is often used to imply authority, hence my confusion.
- What I can say about this move, they really made it at perhaps the most inopportune time they possibly could have. We have had a couple of years of practice at working through our anger, and feeling disempowered. We are now empowered and articulate. We need to take some focused actions in response.
- I am at a bit of an advantage here. Had to deal with the CA AG office during a family proxy bloodbath a few years back with a company I was employed by.



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- I'll be honest, I'm really disgusted and have a really saddened heart over the latest NAWS stunt. I cancelled my reservation for a CAR workshop in Jan as I don't know if I can stomach one more WB member knowingly lying or withholding info from us. Don't think I'm willing to participate in the charade we call the WSC."

Last edited by Patricia H.; Today at 12:32 PM.

PATRICIA H.
ABCDRNA-RDA

Permission granted to share my posts with other members of Narcotics Anonymous.

Addendum B: “Cleanstock: The Gathering”

Hello, addicts. My name is Bryan H. and I am an addict. I am from beautiful Maysville, Kentucky, and I have been clean for 7 years. If it weren't for NA, I would be dead, or in prison, at best. If it weren't for willingness to travel to the cities an hour away from my town, I would have never experienced recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. My sponsor is from Lexington, Ky. and has 25 years of clean-time in NA. His sponsor has 28. His sponsor has 38. His sponsor has 39. And, his sponsor is Bob B, with 53.

I am very fond of the history of our fellowship and I long to show my respect to our predecessors for their hard work and perseverance. I enjoy listening to the stories of how they saved lives, how they save lives, and how they still insist on saving lives with this wonderful program. We ARE in the business of saving lives/souls/asses. I hope things only get better for our fellowship, but I must admit that I live in fear much of the time about our future.

We all are capable of serving, voting, and even writing fresh literature. What we are not capable of is controlling the actions of others. I am 1 versus an 18-person world board. I am 1 versus a 55-person WSO staff. I am 1 versus 35 treatment clients in a meeting. I am 1 versus a 15-person drug court team. I am 1 versus a 10-person probation and parole staff. I am 1 versus a clinic with 4 Suboxone/Subutex doctors in it. I am 1 versus a methadone clinic with a 28-person staff. I am 1 versus a recovery house with 16 guys in it, 5 being dirty for undetectable synthetic marijuana. I am 1 versus the 2 Intensive Outpatient Counselors who give their client and my sponsee a deadline to have his 4th step done within his first month (1st phase) in the



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program.

I cannot take on all of these entities, my group can't, my Area can't, and our Region sure as hell can't. Can't our World Service Office talk to the "heads of these entities"? Doesn't our WSO have a lawyer on retainer to talk to the lawmakers, government officials, and agencies? Are we going to let these external forces destroy us? Are we going allow the internal forces (members compromising principles and negotiating with the disease) to destroy us?

One of the oldest strategies in battle/war is "divide and conquer." This comes from the Latin saying "divide et impera" (divide and rule). Our fellowship has experienced this a few times, already, and is going to experience it even more In the future. The divisions have been subtle, but are becoming more and more evident. Let's see if these sound familiar: Men/women. Black/white. Purist/conformist. Step-workers/step-snails. Tradition-workers/non-tradition-workers. 12th-steppers/paid 12th-steppers.

The newest slugfest on the list will be "the disintegrator" – total abstinence recovery vs. medically-assisted recovery. This will be too much of a bite for our fellowship to swallow. Our world board has not claimed to be In favor of what Hazelden and many other entities call "an out-dated idea" (a drug-free lifestyle and chemical-free recovery). Our board is taking a hands-off stance, much like our AA cousins (which is the nicest nickname I've ever given to them). Will Narcotics Anonymous become an oxymoron? Will we be a society of men and women who take narcotics safely? This is preposterous!

I hear talks of rebellions and motions being made at the group, Area, Region, and World levels. I hear talks of writing literature. I hear talks of calling WSO and cursing them out. But, I don't see much significant promising headway. In the spirit of Mohandas Ghandi and Martin Luther King, I wonder if there are better non-violent, legal demonstrations than just waving our little voting hands in the air. I hear Billy, Bo, Jim, and Vito yelling things very similar to "the British are coming, the British are coming!" But, I don't

see anybody picking up the first crate of tea and tossing it into Boston Harbor. I see our "fore-fathers" bickering amongst one-another, only to please and comfort the dictating King George. So, if we are to do something peaceful and meaningful, what can/could it be? Write a book? That's been done. Send in a motion? That's been done. Write hateful letters and make crank calls to WSO? That's been done. Make true and false accusations and claims against our trusted servants in Southern California? That's been done. Have an event that is bigger/larger than a regional or world event? Well, unless you count Iran's yearly convention, THIS HASN'T BEEN DONE/TRIED. A universal convention. How about a universal service office or service body? How about a universal board?

Can/could three regions or more host an event to get EVERYONE'S attention? Can we all come



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together and get along for one weekend? Can we do it within the traditions? Can we make a big splash within the world of addiction? Can we show the entities/agencies that we ARE the best choice and answer for the addict who still suffers? Can we show our “AA-cousins” that we are not just a bunch of rejects? Can we show ourselves that we count and mean something to one another? YES.

The big question is, will WSO, NAWS, the board, and/or whoever is “in that bed” respect our efforts? Well, maybe they will. Maybe they won’t. If they do, they’ll need to negotiate with our old-timers and dedicated members. If they don’t, then we can take the proceeds from the function and get lawyers OR fly members like myself out to LA to protest/picket with Lone Ranger masks on like a patriot can and should do. We are not fighting for a flag, a name, or a bank account. We are fighting for millions of addicts and quite possibly billions over the next several years. We are fighting for ourselves and our families. We are fighting for addicts who fought for us and died clean. We are fighting for God.

So, what about this function? Will it be “no addict turned away?” YES. Will it be at a geographically central location relating to the population concentrations of our country? YES. Will it have a historical significance and theme? YES. Will it be in a place which has never had a world convention? YES. Will it have a pure message delivered? YES. Will it have entertainment provided by recovering NA addicts? YES. Will it have a building dedicated to writing/developing/exhibiting old and new literature? YES. Will it include addicts from 0 days clean to 55 years clean? YES. Will it work within the 12 traditions? YES. Will addicts get clean? YES. Will addicts stay clean? YES. Can we get Dale to come? YES!!!

In Maysville, we started NA in 2007. In 2012 we formed/developed an Area. We had almost 30 meetings at the time. I think that is a miracle. I know it is. In 2008 we started a yearly event/function called “Cleanfest.” After that event, and being the sick addict I was and am, I wanted more. WE wanted more. I told them one day that we could and would have a “Cleanstock” with the message and some music. I talked of old-timers, musicians, and thousands of screaming, cheering clean addicts. People’s faces have always seemed to light up at the mention of a clean version of the greatest gathering of addicts and using people the world has ever seen – Woodstock in 1969.

Woodstock was more than just a concert. It was a demonstration. It was a protest. It was a retreat. It was a spiritual idea. It was a fair. It was an exposition. It was a gathering. Can we do it again, without the drugs? Can we do it again without the disease? Can we do it again without the stigma? YES. Who else would and could, but the recovering addicts of Narcotics Anonymous – the unstoppable force. “Cleanstock” at the Narcotics (Addict) Farm in beautiful Lexington, Kentucky.



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Addendum C: “Why We Don’t Sign Attendance Documents”

In Narcotics Anonymous we are asked to do many things; as individuals and as groups. We may be asked to clean up after our selves, to not bring drugs or paraphernalia into a meeting, or to not share if we have used today. These requests are easy to understand and it is simple enough to see how they fall in line with our Traditions. One thing that we are asked to do on a regular basis is to sign meeting attendance documents. How does this action relate to our literature? Well, it doesn't.

Our Sixth Tradition tells us, “An NA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose”. A dictionary defines endorse as, “to approve, support, or sustain”, related as, “connected by reason of an established or discoverable relation”, and outside as, “not belonging to or connected with a specified institution, society, etc...” When we sign or stamp meeting attendance documents, whether it is our intent or not, we are endorsing related facilities and outside enterprises. We are providing our approval and support to the treatment industry and judicial system; by doing so we are helping to sustain them.

The rest of this Tradition goes on to relate why we don't do these things. Lest is defined as, “for fear that”, and prestige is defined as, “weight or credit in general opinion – influence”. In plain terms, we do not endorse related facilities or outside enterprises for fear that their influence will divert us from carrying the message to the addict who still suffers.

Our Tenth Tradition asserts that “Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy”. A dictionary defines opinion as, “a personal view, attitude, or appraisal”, outside as, “not belonging to or connected with a specified institution, society, etc...” issue as, “a point or matter of discussion, debate, or dispute”. When we sign or stamp meeting attendance documents, whether it is our intent or not, we are giving an opinion on outside issues. We are agreeing that an individual is an addict and that they should be forced to meetings in order to satisfy a legal judgment, employment requirement, or professional opinion; all of which are outside issues.

Our Twelfth Tradition relates that “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities”. Anonymity is defined as, “the quality or state of being unnamed or unacknowledged”. When we sign or stamp



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meeting attendance documents, whether it is our intent or not, we are naming someone as an addict and acknowledging that they have attended a meeting, In “Tradition Twelve” of the Basic Text it says, “anonymity makes us all equal”, and “no member is greater or lesser than any other member”. By endorsing attendance papers we create a relationship of dominance and subservience; due to the person’s dependence on our signature or stamp.

Anonymity is inherent to placing principles before personalities. In a dictionary principle is defined as, “an accepted or professed rule of action or conduct”, and personality is defined as, “the pattern of collective character, behavioral, temperamental, emotional, and mental traits of a person”. By providing our endorsement we are allowing the emotional and mental traits of our personalities to guide our behavior and letting the accepted rules of action contained in our Traditions fall to the wayside.

Our literature also gives us a series of warnings:

“We keep what we have only with vigilance...”

“As long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well”.

“Personal recovery depends on NA unity,” and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions”.

“Our Traditions protect us from the internal and external forces that could destroy us”.

“The Twelve Traditions of NA are not negotiable. They are the guidelines that keep our fellowship alive and free”.

We’ve now identified the problem, so we should also identify the solution.

Our solution relies on the strength of our service committees; namely PI and H&I. Our PI committees would inform the related facilities and outside enterprises of our default and put them into contact with our H&I committees. Our H&I committees could then ensure that the NA message and meeting schedules are carried to the potential addicts that are under the direction of the legal system or treatment industry. These individuals would then have the choice to come and go, freely and anonymously, into or out of Narcotics Anonymous; just as any other addict does.

In Loving Service,

An Addict