




Core Issues

Jan. 2014 Vol.2 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 'core' 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 weekly 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.

<p style="text-align: center;">We Believe that the Greater the Base (Global NA Society)</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">The Broader the sides and the Higher the point of freedom.</p>
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Yours in Loving Service,
Lester O.

Editor of Core Issues
(A non-profit Newsletter of the Core Group)

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.



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Summary of Core Group Project Discussions for the Month of December, 2013

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Core Group Minutes

December 3, 2013

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

Opened at 8:30: Attendance: Bryan – Bo S – Jmu - Lester

Bo on Minutes. Be sure to check out commentary and posts in the Addendum at end of these minutes.

Bo – While listening to some members of the core group a new subject has come up, i.e.: (a need for a conference to consider adaptation of the AA Concepts for NA. This has never been done. At the request of the NA World Service Conference back in the early 1980's I was asked to report on the service structure of other Fellowship's who use the 12 Steps. At the next WSC I turned in a 43 page report on the AA service structure including the AA 12 Concepts. Later a fine member from Las Vegas, Dave T, headed up a group working on writing the original material that became the NA 12 Concepts. The group had progressed up to a point and then WSO took over the project and finished the writing before it was presented to the Fellowship and voted on at the following WSC. Neither the original manuscript nor the final form bears any resemblance to the AA 12 Concepts. This has been glossed over and the Fellowship mislead into assuming the NA Concepts contained at least similar material, which is not the case. I believe a modern survey with reports, discussions and point by point consideration would lead us to leave out any dated material from the adaptation and include other matters that may concern our membership. This is the first mention of this project and I believe we could do some helpful service in a needed area in full view of the NA Fellowship. More will be revealed.

Bryan commented that the original AA meetings were called house parties. He has been checking out some AA history.

He concluded that they had some terrible problems before they worked out the 12 Concepts.



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Jmu – Things are looking bad. Fellowship hasn't been growing for a long time. The service structure is off the rails at this point and is not familiar with the AA Concepts. This could be a great opportunity. We have not been focused on a real solution for a long time.

Lester supports adaptation of AA 12 Concepts to be reviewed and discussed openly. Can we get the report Bo did in early 1980's?

Bo – Steve F can help with that... He knows narchives better than anyone I know.

(www.magshare/narchives/)

Bo – Jim Nichols died today at 3 am in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was the 2nd World Literature Conference chairperson in Lincoln. This was a major step forward for the Fellowship to have its own Basic Text. He will be missed.

Lester requested an updated email list for coreissues newsletter. Bo will send to Lester!

Bryan – If our car is not working, we take it to a garage and get it worked on. There is nothing wrong with the service structure that can't be repaired. We are losing our spirituality because the focus has been put on business and voting at the expense of what is really important in NA. Bo commented that Bill F was sending important articles about what's happening with NAWS lately. (I would urge you core group members to read these carefully because you need to be aware of what is going on right now.) Thanks Bill!

Bo commented that ^{David} B is writing some great material and will attach essay stressing how many thousands of words are put out by WSO to support their positions and motions when they are not even allowed to make motions by our Traditions. "We may create..." does not mean we hire secretaries and officials to tell us what to do with our service structure. At the same time, almost no space is given to regional motions when are being categorically excluded from consideration in the 2013 Conference Agenda Report.

Bryan comments that this is not in keeping with the spiritual foundations of NA! Bo mentions that a takeover of our service structure is a blunt instrument, very destructive. People leave NA because they feel like they are up against a brick wall to speak out on principle.

Bryan asks "What is NAWS greatest fear right now?" Lester believes that the Budget being disapproved at WSC is among them.



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David - came on call after his NA meeting and comments that Bill F is reporting from discussion boards mainly and that Nadine W., also from the West Coast is writing good stuff, succinct and clearly worded.

Bryan thinks the special group on FB is good idea for us to utilize for in house discussions. David commented that it is a great FB tool, easy to use and free service. Gathers information from other people. He would need a current core group list for the FB group.

David mentioned that a member asked him to explain the history of NA Literature. He responded couldn't be put in a few words. Also, the person asked about the inverted pyramid. Steve R told him it was a myth on the phone with WSO.

Bo - This misinformation is a major issue for NA members to target. WSO makes up their own reality and seem to have no idea that the program we follow came to us from those who 12 Stepped us and we want that program to be passed on to the new generation of members. The Program we follow is taking from thousands of members in the process of writing the Basic Text. Throwing out the recovery process with major elements like total abstinence and certain spiritual processes that seem to have flown over the heads of those who took over what used to be our primary center. Now it is a tacky corporation that makes money the chief focal point. People seem to look on like cows watching highway traffic. Maybe modern conditioning has resulted in 'non-reaction' rather than taking an active role in the business of NA. NA is a spiritual, not commercial, program of recovery.

Jmu suggested that Cleanstock needs to be planned carefully. Major event takes a lot of coordination and work. 100,000 is a lot of people. Lester is all for Cleanstock and asked when and where. Bryan mentioned that Lexington, Kentucky, will have Clean Fest first week in June 2014. Bo thinks that it could be a prelude to Cleanstock.

Lester asked about the corporation for Cleanstock. "Is Kentucky 'non-profit' friendly legally?", "How about onsite medical personnel, Porto toilets, etc for the people who attend, and estimated cost etc Bryan said," We hold an annual festival of recovery called "Clean Fest." Good place to meet up and get people involved with Cleanstock. Attending Clean Fest could be a precursor to the event which will take a couple of years to put together."

David asked if there would be a P.O. Box and everything? Bryan thinks it will be the biggest recovery gathering ever... David Questions merchandising, no addict turned away policy. Bryan



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commented that the quest for money has broken up many good things over the years. This is not about money.

Bo – We have even talked about creating a system to return any balance to registered attendance. Twelve Stages with their own audio towers and covered stages. Cleanstock is not a core group event; it is a stand alone event for those who wish to attend a real NA spiritual event.

Please let us hear from you if you are interested in the adaptation of the 12 Concepts for NA. It will be a long document stressing the spiritual keys of recovery. Big business has almost killed us. We don't care about the money, we care about the people.

Bryan – Led us in Gratitude Prayer...

Closed at 10:05

Next meeting on 10th of December

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

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Core Group Minutes

December 10, 2013

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

Attendance: Bo S – Lester – Brian YE – Nadine W - Mitch

Bo on Minutes. ***Be sure to check out commentary and posts in the Addendum at end of these minutes. Opened at 8:30.***

Thanks for posts from Bill F and Mo T and Welcome Nadine Double U. Is that spelled “NAdine”?

Bo, read these notes at start of meeting:

Where there is great love, there are always miracles...Don't let outside forces screw it up?

We need to have members at regional level tutor and teach one another how to act and what to do when confronted by an unworthy tactic or strategic move for power. Disadvantaging the Fellowship is really not ok. It will never get better until we learn to take up for ourselves.

Pretending it will get better is not an answer. God gives us good sense to take up for ourselves.



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We recover by participation, not manipulation. Our NA recovery process requires a sufficient level of entanglement to power personality change. If a member doesn't count, they count for nothing.

Begin talking about how we were 12 Stepped in beginning of our recovery. Lester commented that his area had Learning Days but they are nothing like the Learning Days that I got clean with. NAdine said that when she came in there was a lady with several years set her straight on differences between NA and AA which helped her later on. She learned what NA is and what NA is not. Members today are not 12 Stepped the same. Bo commented that first impressions are lasting

Lester posted the AA 12 Concepts on our FB page alongside the pitiful charade of the ill thought out NA 12 Cons. *(If this phrasing seems harsh, please compare the two and ask yourself which would protect the fellowship concerned. - Ed* thought out NA 12 Cons. *(If this phrasing seems harsh, please compare the two and ask yourself which would protect the fellowship concerned. – Ed* Bo commented that the 12 Concepts were approved by members who did not attend the workshops held earlier the year they were presented. They are the most flagrant assault on the 12 Traditions ever.

Nadine remarked that the new people are confused; don't know what to do when they get to service below regional level. Lester made note that a member in his area moved down from Ohio. He was in treatment and they put him on drugs. Been doing heroin but doesn't want to do any more drugs. In five days they had him up to 70 mg of methadone. He asked to be taken off and they were now taking him down 5 mg per day. Clean now. *(We need to know what happens that concerns our newcomers. Ignorance is not an answer.)*

Nadine reflected that her local Fellowship has begun campaign to send letters to WSO because members want to have a voice again. They are now working on core planning group and making new website.

Mitch came on call at 8:15 and said that there were 18 members on world board. They write motions and they still got a vote. Nadine asked for clarification. Lester commented that “They got to vote in new business only.” He also remarked that they changed the rules in the middle of the game by lowering the vote to pass a motion from 2/3's majority to a simple (51%) majority.



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Brian would like to see NA re-start. He believes lots of members are brain washed to believe we are working on thirty year old resentments. Bo replied “If changes from thirty years ago produced some of the difficulties we face today, it might be an astute observation and we should thank our critics. It came up recently in core group that members today are more concerned about the problems they see happening today. And so are we. “

Nadine Double U commented that WSO doctored reports emphasize a few members seem to support the SSP idea and brush over the 250 members who oppose. They call this service! Members where she lives agree on a few points:

1. Get rid of Delizia paid consultant \$100,000 or more per year.
2. Don't want Service Structure Project (SSP).
3. Print letters and send to WSO, hand deliver.
4. Members need to have voice.

Don't know how many other members write or call WSO. Many members are afraid to complain. Don't want to be ostracized or labeled a complainer. Bo added, “It is a compliment to be a complainer when there are serious problems ahead”. We will no longer imagine we can pass on the free message of hope and recovery with our service office pretending to 'be in charge' of our Fellowship. That was never the idea and the 12 Traditions clearly state two things. Only 'we' (the general membership) can create service boards and committees. Further, that these service boards and committees are 'directly responsible.' This is not a dream or something we made up, it is NA fact.

Lester mentioned that several groups in the Orlando Area broke away and formed their own area and then left the Florida RSC and joined South Florida RSC because they were not being served by a responsive service body. His own area may break away from the Florida Region. They are working to set up communications with other areas.

Mitch asked Nadine if she knows James W.

Bo asked “What part of California do you live in Nadine?”

Nadine replied “Desert City”, 15 miles from Palm Springs.

Bo reminded us that the NA Program was called “the self-correcting program” when I got into service. That was Jimmy K's dream and vision. We found that attractive.

Nadine commented that we need to reflect on what works for members and address the problems and concerns, not evade them.



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Lester mentioned in preparing the upload to the World Wide Web he noticed the AA 12 Concepts also mention that they are can be used for personal growth. Some of the Concepts mention the groups. He will also add Nadine's email to the coreIssues newsletter mailing list.

Mitch said that the Free State Convention went great. It was good to hear a local historian talk about what's going on today. They had a Mississippi speaker and Dennis from Marietta. Unfortunately, all the proceeds from the FSC went straight to WSO.

Brian Yellow Eyes expressed concern about spokesperson – members have been conditioned to distrust NA old-timers. They will often say if so and so is involved they do not want to be involved. Bo commented that old-timers are treated like their knowledge and personal experience are so much baggage by written and spoken-spin masters of a management system. We don't need someone to tell us what we think – that's what conscious contact is for.

9:20 Nadine – as one of the spokes-persons where she lives, she was asked to do a video of the workshop on the SSP. She will send it to us for minutes. We will also put on our new FB page.

Mitch said that seven years ago his sponsor got booed off the stage at an assembly in Maryland. Asked what would Greg Pierce say if he was alive today. Bo commented that Greg was never happy with the partial implementation of the NA service structure as presented in *the NA Tree*. Greg wrote our original service structure to give membership a voice and ultimate control of NA and our written message of recovery. Greg was my mentor and we spent long hours together talking about these things. He would probably agree that the problems we face are a wake-up call to the Fellowship. Whether it will wake-up remains to be seen.

Nadine – asked if Mitch has closed meetings in his area. Mitch – We have several, including a Grey Book Study meeting. Likes Nadine's area idea to write physical letters and hand deliver to WSO in hopes they will not be trashed.

Nadine – Really sad about the Resolutions which spawned all this. Brian congratulated NAdine for her letter writing. Nadine is also getting videos in Spanish as well as English. Concerned about German Fellowship where RD is pro-corporation and presents only the WSO line.



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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRk0daU6pps>

And this is the new "Our Service Structure" video.



[LDA - Our Service Structure](#)

0:34 - Inverted Pyramid 0:45 - History 1:19 - Group 1:44 - Group Service Representative (GSR) 2:09 - ...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KiYkXzJrwU>

Here is the "What Is the SSP" video



[LDA - What's the SSP?](#)

Helpful Info: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u33677tyow65nzp/LjWveiTnd7>
Informational only. No opinion. ...

Nadine found out about the core group from David B. David came on the call after his home group. Long talk about what WSO's real goal is after the SSP is pushed through. Nadine said that they wanted to get rid of group conscience.

David says, It's all about money and prestige. Property is being used to leverage these two. RD's need to get some balls and stand up to the WSO.

(Frequently in these minutes, WB is mentioned in place of WSO but we are coming to realize the WB is only a front organization working for WSO. They get paid in travel spiffs and prestige. Imagine if you worked for a treatment center and could put "World Board Member" on your resume. We need to emphasize and expand our understanding of these matters if we are to be effective. If anyone has problem with this, let us hear from you. - Ed)

Nadine sees conflicts of interest in that the WSO tells incoming RD's at the WSC that they are not just here to be a messenger from their regions, areas, groups and members –they should vote for NA as a whole. "I am going to vote the conscience of my Regional Service Committee or vote for the good of NA as a whole." They also work hard at smoozing, taking RD's to dinner in Hollywood, etc. to influence and control the voting. David feels that the Fellowship has to wake up. LA propaganda is not NA as a whole! Lester said that 52% of voting at WSC is US regions. WB individuals each have a vote. There are more RD's from outside USA whose travel is paid by WSO. Brian thinks that paying RD's travel



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influences their vote, another conflict of interest. Bo – It's all our money. Copyrights, fund flow, every dollar belongs to NA Fellowship and they want to control it under pretense of doing what's best for us. We created the service structure as we have it. Brian – And we can un-create!

David – Our Book and all lit, our money, - we need to make WS accountable.

(Still five on call) David – don't adopt their language. Bo commented that "They believe they have "a mandate from God."

Nadine thinks that they Don't have to 'run' the Fellowship with Straw polls, crappy responses to questions, and RD's assigned to WB members. Bo comments "They aren't running the Fellowship, they are ruining it." Nadine asks "what happened with USSC?"

Bo – As we pursued the USSC formation, we were horrified to realize there was no possible way to create a United States Service Conference with a hostile WSO and a dismantled WSC in place. They would always be undercutting our efforts. This way – the core group – is free to investigate and report findings to the Fellowship straight up. The RD's hostile to the formation 'took over' the effort and stole the money we had raised. Our immediate response was we didn't want to blood money and began to research the whole subject. To our amazement, we discovered we have a vast body of members 'conferring,' discussing, and reaching concurrence with almost no plane tickets and inconvenience from family or local Fellowship. Who could ask for more? When WSO talks about grossing \$15 million, they think they are talking big bucks. That's pitiful. If they served more and ran off members less, we could easily gross \$150,000,000. After all, we wrote the Book. The book brings in over \$5 mil a year for thirty years (somebody research this please!!!) and that's \$150,000,000 at least we have invested so far. And they think they're ahead of the game. They're holding us back and stifling the Fellowship to boot! David B – Remember when I was called a NAWS plant? Members can get excited and think all sorts of things.

Lester – People are already changing their minds.

David B – Don't see USSC effort as viable, it's not creative. Agree with Billy A and Jim M, get the information out there. They are doing a great job in their sphere. Synergy!

Bo – BTW, Bruce Gayle is moving to Mother Russia! Got a job there. He is a computer teacher! Yea Bruce, we're glad for you! Keep us posted. Cairo, Bangkok, Canada, now Russia!



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Brian Yellow Eyes – USSC effort is a splinter group. ASIS, etc. is generally in agreement with us. We have a new Free Conference Call Group at 6:00 pm with speakers 30 years clean or more.

Thanks all for coming. Great meeting.

Nadine – led us in closing prayer, “Take my will and my life...”

Closed at 10:05

Next meeting on 17th of December

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

Core Group Minutes

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Core Group Minutes

December 17, 2013

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

Attendance: Bo S – Lester –Nadine W – Mitch – David;

Bo on Minutes. *Be sure to check out commentary and posts in the Addendum at end of these minutes. Opened at 8:30*

Thanks for posts from Bill F

Mitch – Let’s write a letter to NAWS on this phone call.

Subjects suggested:

- Why is WSO promoting changes in our NA Service Structure?
- How does Tradition 9 not apply to a legal corporation pushing the changes referenced in the corporations SSP?
- Does the WSO ever do a 10th Step?
- What will passage of the WSC SSP lead to next?

Note: keep questions simple to get a clear answer...

Lester attended a Questions and Answers workshop in 2003 held in San Diego at the 50th Anniversary of NA on Public Relations Handbook. He asked “When are we going to get a PI Handbook?” He explained that in 1996 the PI sub-committee had a handbook in approval form that had been sent back to the fellowship for review and was WSC ready but had been pulled because of the dismantling of the Sub-committees in 1996. This left the fellowship with having



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to with an outdated handbook. Lester explained that he got answered with the same rederick that the WB uses today. Citing that the Handbook had been put on Hold depend on the outcome of three Round Table Discussions with various Treatment Centers and/or Drug Companies. I think it was three years later that they began work on the handbook that we have today and is completely different from the approval form that got dropped 10 years prior today my area and many others still choose to use the old approval form.

Bo – A term for informed members who keep up with the goings and comings of NA world services have been called the ‘Vocal Minority’ by people who do not realize in any large group you always have a smaller group that keeps track of things. Vocal Minority is used in a derogatory manner as if being in the know or bringing something to everyone’s attention is somehow wrong or disruptive in and of itself.

- Many NA members are well educated and have college experience or degrees.
- Do they study, travel and communicate because they have nothing better to do? Is it possible they really care and are more willing to do whatever is required to maintain a watchful eye on our ‘trusted servants’ to make sure they are following their guidelines and honoring the Twelve Traditions?
- Is there any other way to keep informed and knowledgeable about the bigger world of NA?

Bo - It is common knowledge that there is an air of arrogance prevalent in world services under the WSO regime; the employees do not give clear answers to Fellowship concerns or questions.

- What gives the World Board the right to write motions to be considered at the so called World Service Conference?
- Isn’t it wrong to deny Regional Motions from the Regions of NA?

Nadine – Someone noted if a motion crafted by the World Board doesn’t get a full 50%, it should pass anyway.

Nadine – Flyers and letters need to be sent out to RSO’s, RSC’s and RD’s.

Lester – Yes, if we send just to RD’s, some will destroy or ‘lose’ the letters.

Bo – Suggest we form a “Reaching Out” letter and emailing service to compose and send out letters and flyers after being reviewed by entire core group for at least a week for input. Suggest Nadine be in charge of this group effort if she is willing. Nadine is willing. Videos, letters,



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media campaign to get word out to membership, groups, areas and regions. Will send drafts to core group for review.

Bo – When Anthony retires, perhaps Becky would be a good choice to rebuild the WSO into a proper service office. One that serves not usurps. In the 1980's we had a service structure wherein every group studied and voted on WSC motions and their votes were tallied at their areas, then their regions and our regional REPRESENTATIVES voted the conscience of their regions accordingly. It was understood that disinformed or misinformed regions would not make a workable group conscience. Therefore great time and care was taken to keep members, groups, areas and regions well and accurately informed. This linkage has been dismantled especially since 1990. Ask yourself, what has it been replaced with? How do you get your information? The answer to this question is interesting.

Other Comments:

- David –
 - Letters are good.
 - Information to the Fellowship helps build up a stronger Fellowship.
 - Stop interference from an outside enterprise responding to outside interests.
- Nadine – Perhaps we could build some videos to send to RD's. These could be available on our website.
- David – Fan Page – Read excellent article posted by NA member: “I am an NA Purist...” Check it out.
- Bo – Yall check out the nacoregroup.org for background and possibly helpful material to understand what we have attempted or accomplished so far.
- Nadine – Spiritual Program – our program reflects where we are at spiritually. The answers are all in the spiritual.
- Mitch – compassionate.
- Bo – One thing we have gained for the three years of core group: the disease cannot keep up positive action consistently over time. We have gained restraint and discipline
- Mitch – writing a letter for Nadine to send to WSO. . We discuss principles, not personalities. Issues, not individuals.

10:20 - Nadine – led us in closing prayer, “Take my will and my life...” Closed at 10:05 Next meeting on 24th of December “That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship. “



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NOTIFICATIONS:

ON Christmas Eve both Bo and I missed the meeting and I have received any minutes to post.

On Dec. 29th I sent out emails at Bo's request canceling the meeting scheduled for New Years Eve per Bo's request because he will be speaking in Lexington, KY that night.

Bo, Brian, and Guido toured the Farm at the Federal prison in Lexington, KY and read over and signed the bylaws for Cleanstock. This is not a Core Group function but is a matter of interest for the NA Society.

Here's some food for thought. My Spell Checker wanted to change the word "Deliza" to "Deliria"

