



# Core Issues

Feb. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 2  
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.

We Believe that the  
Greater the Base  
(Global NA Society)



The Broader the sides  
and the Higher the  
point of freedom.

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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 January, 2013

**January 7, 2014**

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

## **Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL**

*Attendance: Bo S – Lester – Mitch – Bo on Minutes*

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

### **Opened at 8:30**

It has been a long time since I have heard from many of you. You are leaving it up to an addict's imagination. Got frustrated yesterday and wrote the following. May be a little hot but seems worth sending out...

I just can't believe you do not respond. Is there something wrong with caring about what happens to our Fellowship? Is it somehow improper to respond to a situation so clearly threatening our whole program and way of life? This is beyond inertia! The signs that we are succeeding in getting the word out and thinking through what is happening to find a non-violent solution based on solid NA principles has won out are everywhere. And in true NA tradition, it has been a multi-person general movement towards awakening to certain facts that can no longer be ignored. We all know what to do about the situation because we all are familiar with the service structure which has worked for many years and is still largely in place at the area and regional level.

Just ask yourself, what would happen if you dissolved all your sub-committees, created a profitable little business to sell literature and group supplies to members who have to buy from you at prices you set. You could even pay yourselves whatever you wanted and wouldn't even have to tell how much to the members. The only way you could find out is to check their 990 forms with the IRS. This way you wouldn't have to have a secretary or treasurer, your little cottage industry could take care of it for you. They could even write your literature for you and make sure NA is in good favor with local and national treatment facilities who love for addicts to "keep coming back." Good for business too!

Well, there might be drawbacks like the treatment centers would figure out they could write the literature and bypass the useless process engaged in by our world office. But then there would be less and less cash stream for WSO and the local businesses may run low on cash as well. And the members who went to NA might not get clean but drug court could send in lots of new blood who have to show up at meetings to keep up appearances. After a while NA may die out in some places where they employ new techniques invented by professionals who should have been totally in charge of treatment all along!



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Maybe a few clean addicts could go off and start some sort of new program employing the known methods of getting off all drugs. This would include whatever opiate like drugs invented by big pharmaceutical companies to help these poor dumb addicts who have to take something, after all, they are addicts! All this talk of God and personality change could be practiced on a small scale as long as it didn't interfere with the booming treatment industry where you can take mood stabilizers, even mood elevators for mourning and when you feel out of sorts. Of course there are diehards who claim the original NA program still works if you work it. But, you know, business is business and you can't beat mass media.

I hope everyone reading this note will reflect on how important we are to one another. We have the opportunity to borrow, share or steal ideas and insights from one another. In the old life it was normal to take advantage of people. In the spiritual life, we often give advantage rather than take it. And somehow this enhances us instead of diminishing. We are more because of each other. Still, blockage can occur and we have to update our thinking's and actions if we are to make good use of what the spirit gives us. Surrender and faith give us great gifts. I haven't even looked at what I wrote yesterday but have the strangest feeling that I won't hear from any of you. Why is that? Have I offended some of you? I feel most or all of you understand my concerns and many even agree totally and take action based on our exchanges. There are a few who come to the conference calls, a few others to email or call me personally. I am begging to think about this. If we are going to do any good, we have to communicate and work towards good common goals. I need to know yours so mine compliment and do not block yours. And I am doing my limited best to communicate with you to test or double check my own thinking which seems to be moving forward into areas and concerns that no one else has expressed to my knowledge.

I am sure you know these matters have concerned me ever since I got clean and we warned of possible problems well before they occurred. Horribly, I need to know if you are planning on 1) doing nothing and letting the ball roll down the hill, 2) have other ideas I need to know about or 3) find it difficult or impossible to understand or follow my thinking. My verbal exchanges and sharing my heart and mind with other members went well in Los Angeles, San Jose, my local ASC, my two regular meetings, phone calls, emails and topping it all off, my visit to Lexington the speak New Year's Eve where I told my story four times in five days. I believe in surrender, honesty and faith. Please do not let me continue my attempts to serve with the core group if we are not moving forward together. Can you see how that would make me feel? My longest and last elected service position was on the World Service Board of Trustees with guidelines that emphasized our common purpose was to work for the growth and continuance of NA. I still function in that capacity and never stopped.

Out of the tremendous diversity and complexity of hundreds of thousands of clean addicts in recovery, one thing shines out: nobody makes it alone. Without the vibrant and positive support of Greg Pierce, Joe Proctor, Jim Miller, Linda Merilatt, and over a thousand others, we would not have a book. The future is the same way. What you think, feel and do today determines how things are going to go. The stuff of tomorrow is composed of the stuff of today. If you want to make a difference in the world, you have to hook up with others. I have found NA to be a well-spring of inspiration and hope. I believe this is possible for anyone who works the 12 Steps.



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My hope for the core group is an informal association of people who care about the growth and continuance of NA. My hope is we will always be a haven for people seeking total abstinence. I believe the people are the repository of the Spirit of NA and we have to include everyone putting themselves in our safe keeping. They literally comprise our Fellowship and when we cannot openly and totally respect that, NA will cease to exist.

I feel like some of you want positive suggestions as to what can help our general situation.

1. First, don't relapse or leave NA! We need you. Your experience is important. You can help make it better! The coolest things are going to happen and if you are on our email list, I believe everyone of you, on different levels of understanding, are going to want to be a part of it all.
2. Second, be more honest. Do not vote for things you don't completely understand. Tell your fellow members the truth as best you can, what you think and what you feel.
3. Third, pray for strength and guidance. That is the best and truest source of information a person can have.
4. Fourth, you already have the information you need to make it better, You just need encouragement to stand up for what you know from your own experience in service at the group, area and regional levels. Remember, our original service structure carried the same positions and sub-committees to the world level. What would happen if you eliminated the positions of chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, H&I, Literature, Policy, Public Information or Relations, Activities, Outreach and any other service sub-committees and turned it all over to a service office. Pretty soon the office would call all the shots and be paid to do it for you. You don't really want that, do you?

### Core group Minutes:

- Mitch – the idea that we have to have a business operation to carry the message was born in the late 1980's. Before that, it was clearly understood this was the job of the Fellowship. The Member was at the top of the service structure.
- Bo - This was made clear in the service structure approved in the mid-seventies by the WSB of Trustees and attractive to the Fellowship because it was open and inclusive. Today we have a serious lack of faith, trust and hope. Those who have worked our 12 Steps know that sometimes, anxiety, emotional upsets and even disorientation are part of the process. Taking a mood or mind altering drug short circuits the process and stops or fore-shortens the recovery process. Sadly, some who come to NA will never quite get this simple message straight up. Amazingly, something has taken over our channels of communication to push the membership in a direction that regards group conscience as unimportant and outside of what needs to be taken seriously. Even opposing drug court and DRT is treated as unloving and misguided.
- Lester - Creating a 2014 Calendar. The CoreIssues Newsletter went out on time and is really spreading the words and feelings of core group members.
- From email - David B. –

Closed at 10:15

**Next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> of January**



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### Commentary:

Yesterday, I was reading, **Addendum A, from the 2014 Conference Agenda Report** and on the 1<sup>st</sup> page, 2nd paragraph it say's "People have all sorts of reasons for attending NA meetings, but the purpose of each meeting—our **"primary purpose"**—is to give NA members a place to share recovery with other addicts. If you are not an addict, look for an open meeting, which welcomes non addicts. If you're an addict or think you might have a drug problem, we suggest a meeting every day for at least ninety days to get to know NA members and our program. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 NAWs had a webinar on the 2014 CAR. The following is a excerpt from notes compiled by Lucy O.

#### ***Motion 1: Why is primary purpose changed in Intro to NA meetings?***

Ron: They were made aware of that and the wording (use of technology is evolving...)

***On addendum A page 47. The board will recommend, if the conf agrees, removing the 3 words "our primary purpose."***

## Musings...Bo S (Submitted by Sunil)

### The Traditions in Relationships

It is said that personal recovery depends on NA unity and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions. Our lives, and the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. The practice of our 12 Steps puts our lives in order, but not necessarily our relationships. How to live successfully with others and society at large, can be found within our Traditions. They are the guidelines which keep our fellowship, and subsequently our relationships alive and free.

Unfortunately, we find members and their partners who are getting healthy individually but who are in relationships that are far from robust. The quality of a relationship can improve significantly through the use and practice of the Twelve Traditions of NA. That belief is based on member's personal experience, rather than opinion.

Any successful ongoing relationship (or individual life for that matter) must have an underlying set of values or principles by which it is conducted. There are a couple of reasons for this: One is that we have to have something to rely on when our lives fall off into the marginal to unbearable area. Any relationship is going to be chaotic from time, but as long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well.

The other reason is that values and Traditions are needed to guide us in the way we treat each other. They characterize what we believe is fair and just. They constitute the "out of bounds" markers where we agree not to drag the other or allow ourselves to be dragged. Values define the rules governing anger and arguments and money and property and power and control and all the other things which frequently rankle in a relationship regardless how much they love each other.



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What values are we talking about? The values we refer to are fidelity or loyalty, commitment, honesty, integrity, fairness to name but a few. I heard a speaker once who said that it's easy to spout off virtuous ideas such as "I don't believe in cheating, that's wrong and shameful behavior. People who cheat and get caught get what they deserve" He goes on to say that maybe those values are there because "nobody wants to f\*\*k you" The point here is, do you still believe in those principles when you have some hot little number throwing themselves at you? In this case, it is impossible to practice fidelity but lack commitment; we disrespect our loved ones and keep ourselves trapped inside the prison of our own making. "Prisoners of our own mind, condemned by our own guilt" as it says in the Narcotics Anonymous Basic Text.

Perhaps nothing in life is more fun and exciting than a romantic relationship with another person. Certainly nothing is more painful when it's not working. And nothing is more frightening or feels more emotionally hazardous than facing uncertainty when your heart is on the line.

The Basic Text also tells us "Relationships can be a very painful area" Many of us think the trick is to find the right person. Actually, the trick is to be the right person. So the question is not: Is he/she the right person? The question is: Am I the right person? What kind of person are my attitudes, and behaviors, attracting? And what adjustments do I need to make to attract a loving committed relationship? It is important to ask ourselves what is my part in the nature of the relationship. In other words, if we find ourselves in a physically or emotionally abusive, chaotic or otherwise unhealthy relationship, chances are that's what we set ourselves up to find regardless of what we think.

Our personalities will determine the type of relationships we attract. People who treat themselves like a doormat, attract those with dirty shoes.

### *A change in perspective...*

It's been said, "if nothing changes, nothing changes" We can't simply achieve a healthy relationship by just wanting it to be so. We must put forth action. Action will change the way we think which will, in turn, change the way we feel. To begin this process, we need to become aware of who we are and how we act within our relationships. Our character is determined by our words and our deeds - not our intentions.

### *Core Group Minutes*

**January 14, 2014**

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

## **Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL**

*Attendance:* Bo S – Lester – Mitch - John F; – Bo on Minutes

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

**Opened at 8:30**

- Bo – We are under surveillance and need to wake up!





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- Lester – Our whole country is under surveillance, the entire USA. Up against treatment centers who do what the Government tells them to do, to keep getting Federal funding. The Government helped test and create Suboxone and other drugs at Narco Farm. They tested it there so far as we can tell. Now they require DRT from treatment centers.
- Bo – Well, one thing, it is a way to call for a complete reassessment of our “services.”
- John F – came on call, new to core group. Lives in Kansas City, Missouri
- Bo commented that in the late 1970’s those in the East looked to California old-timers for help. There were some who were as informed and ardent as we were. Particularly San Diego and Northern California around San Francisco and San Jose. But in Southern Cal, like LA, many if not all went to other programs and did not take NA seriously. Dennis McG in SF, Chuck S in LA were devoted to NA along with many others. But they were a minority and we did not know or realize what that meant.
- John F says that every meeting in Kansas City is closed discussion and they are so un-educated they yell ‘keep coming back when non addicts on DRT’s join the meeting. They fail to realize only self-admitted addicts seeking recovery are welcome at ‘closed’ meetings. They have no training in Kansas City or St. Joseph, MO. There are no Old-timers left except for John who they will not let share. John believes that the best literature is in the drafts of It Works: How and Why, the White, Black and White, the Blue and the smaller one.
- Lester states he came in 1986 and recalls working on IWH&W in ’87 and ’88. Very little of the good stuff can be found in the version finally approved. Bo mentioned that he thinks the good stuff went over their heads.
- John says, Napa, California was the pilot area for drug court in 1987. Later it was tried in Kansas City and St. Joseph, Missouri in 1992 and 1995. He thinks that the drug court hasn’t yet become a big problem in the East yet. Drug court now under the supervision of Homeland Security. Government looks at how many days we are clean. He says that there is still some spiritual force in NA, just going to meetings where he otherwise feels unwelcome. He still goes to two meetings on Saturday, one on Sunday. Usually eight meetings a week.
- Lester first heard Bo in Vancouver, WA Lester s that says there has been problems in the past in Portland when van loads of people came from treatment centers. Out there they have to get papers signed for the TC. He has had to personally sign 15 -20 papers in one meeting.
- John believes that you have to work Steps to understand the importance of the Traditions. Without the Traditions, defects can easily come in, especially co-dependence, so now co-dependents run the meetings. The entire phrase is “The newcomer is the most important person at the meeting – we keep what we have by giving it away.” This has been shortened to “The newcomer is the most important person at the meeting.” This can be very misleading...Leaving off the second part of the sentence can result in confusion for everybody concerned.
- Lester – We have drug court here but it’s not a problem yet. Not like you are telling us about Missouri and Northern California.
- Mitch – Just got home from my NA meeting.
- Lester – Has lots of sponsees and grand sponsees. All working their Steps. My ASC seems to be about ready to leave the Florida RSC due to their support for CBDM and their support for the Service Structure Project.



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- John F says, "Fellowship very supportive of NA growth and writing Basic Text". In Napa, San Francisco all through the 1980's NA was doubling every eighteen months. Bud Kromberg, Lots of members upset over bad editing in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition disaster. Lots of addicts came into NA through Cocaine Anonymous. CA much bigger than NA, collapsed in 1985.
- Bo now feels that WS plans to take over entirely and keep up pretense they represent the NA Fellowship. The Government funds Google, treatment centers, drug replacement therapy. I think they feel very secure as they run off old-timers and make improper campaign to reduce Fellowship control of what they do and how they do it. They are already writing our literature and service bulletins. What next? He thinks that the ten to one ratio of experienced members to new members has been reversed. Many members are on meds. "No teaching, no recovery" in this past year. Newcomers don't like more experienced members.
- Mitch says that Washington DC, Baltimore, Free State RSC has 1500 meetings, susceptible to WS push to change structure to control WSC voting. What can we do? How about getting involved.
- Bo, Yeah, where there is no longer a Chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, H&I, Lit, Policy, Public Information, Outreach, Activities, what's left? I used to think they were just slow but now realize structural antagonism has been with us since 1980 when WSO push "Handbook for NA Literature Committees" at WSC then killed the publication because they published not one copy. Fortunately, we had a thousand copies made for review. The Lincoln and Memphis Lit Conferences went so well in 1981, we sent copies of Memphis Lit Conference review forms to the entire worldwide Fellowship in March, then again the White Approval form in November. No funding or technical support from WSO at all, which actually is a blessing. All the support came from the NA Fellowship service committees and members. We felt good about being self-supporting and that turned out to be a major factor making WSO's claims that the BT is work done for hire a joke. They did not have any money anyway until the Book was done.
- John F says that they won't let him share throughout his home area. They don't have a clue what's going on with NA or recovery. Only a few addicts clean in Kansas City.
- Bo watched *Steve Jobs: the Lost Interview* several times and several movies on Jobs. Very revealing commentary on how wacko the Apple Board of Directors became under a strong bureaucrat. It just about killed the company. Will help those who watch it understand what has happened. The problems we have with our WSO are not an isolated case in America or in the World.
- Mitch led us in closing prayer: "God help us stick together and continue to work for the growth and continuance of NA."

Closed at 10:10 EST.

**Next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> of January** "That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship. "

*Core Group Minutes*

**January 21, 2014**

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





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## Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

*Attendance:* Bo S – Lester – Mitch – David B: Bo on Minutes

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

Bo - one of the problems we experience is having been placed in a position to evaluate and seek solutions based on our clean time, inclination and service experience. Eye witness accounts and hands on accomplishments weigh heavily when compared to talk. We are devoted to the growth and continuance of NA. Since some of us were involved with service in the 1970's and 1980's, and NA grew terrifically during that time period, there is a chance that our recommendations will have value to the members today who have gotten clean in the program since the 1990's when things went haywire. We have experienced a warm, loving and caring environment where things were open to discussion and inspection. The set the stage for more complete surrender and a deepened spiritual experience leading to an awakening. Direct participation was the rule and offered addicts a way to really be a part of every level of service from the member and group down to the world level. We sought to be servants worthy of trust and maintained our Policies. This was attractive and NA flourished.

Our situation is complicated by the fact that members have not been conditioned or prepared to defend their way of life from intrusion. The problem is something we have accepted as a Fellowship because it has grown slowly and deliberately cultivated by bureaucratic policies and trends. Certainly, it is no fun to find a treacherous invader posing as a friend.

So, are we somehow painted in gaudy colors for totally disagreeing with the current policies of the 'world board' and our 'world' service office? Is it unpleasant to complain? Have we no sense of correctness where our freedoms and reasonable expectations are concerned? Is it a member or groups idea to keep hidden payroll information? There can only be one reason for this ridiculous policy: members may not approve of how and where our money is spent! Does that mean it is ok to keep it secret? Is the increasing fascination with sales geared to make

money (!) from sales to treatment centers and related outlets more important our service office than the health and well-being of our membership? Does anyone doubt that this policy will lead to changing our literature to increase our sales by editing members recovery experience to suit an industry required to dispense drugs and call it treatment? Exactly when did the Fellowship begin to cave in to all this? I wonder sometimes how many court ordered criminals even do drugs, much less reach a level of pain and devastation sufficient to have a real desire for recovery. In your area, are court ordered people allowed to attend closed meetings for self-admitted addicts seeking recovery? Can they vote? How do you maintain your all important atmosphere of recovery if the court ordered attendance out numbers the real NA members?



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Opened at 8:30

Bo thinks that we need to plan a face to face meeting of the core group to plan some workshops. We will need to build them small to include those who are asking hard questions. Our situation is getting critical. While we may do some unplanned workshops at conventions and other events, like campouts, I am suggesting we get people who have already read and studied enough to compare notes and move forward to construct some solutions.

*Discussion of changes in our service structure going back to the 1980's.*

The WSC sub-committee system was disbanded officially in 1996. They had stopped meeting earlier. Handbooks for Hospitals and Institutions, Public Information, Policy, Literature, Activities and Outreach have copyright dates around 1991. These are still being sold on world and regional order forms. We need to document all this in an information sheet. The H&I Handbook went out for approval in 1989.

- Lester – 1998 Approval form of PI Handbook
- Mitch – Has a 1985 Handbook copyrighted by WSO
- Bo – Georgia Regional Service Committee getting literature from Florida RSO. Information on these should be in WSC minutes.
- Lester went to WCNA (Meet the WB workshop) in 2003. And asked about the PI Handbook that was never approved due to cancellation of sub-committees. At the same time the Resolutions were being voted on at WSC 1996 the PI Sub-committee had a Handbook that had gone out to the fellowship for Input and Review.

Resolution C1: “To approve *in principle* the elimination of standing Committees” had been defeated in 1996 and **Resolution C2: “To approve *in principle* a significantly downsized standing committee structure responsible to the World Board” had passed.**

**Also in addition to the resolutions in 1996**, Motion 11: To approve the WSC PI Committee workplan proposal to revise the *Guide to PI* and *Guide to Phoneline Service* handbooks, Passed.

*Maker: WSC PI Committee, page 17*

Then at WSC 1998 Regions had gone to WSC prepared to vote on the new Handbooks. Both PI and Helpline handbooks appeared in the CAR and as a result of the 1996 vote on the Resolutions the vote on the Handbooks never occurred. In its place was Motion 98 which read as follows:

**MOTION: To approve the WSC PI workplan proposal for revising “A Guide to Public Information” and the “Guide to Phoneline Services” handbooks.**

*Intent: As stated in the goals section of the proposal.*



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### WSC PI WORKPLAN PROPOSAL

WSC Public Information submits the following plan for its activities for CY 1998-1999:

#### Goals:

1. To complete work on *A Guide to Public Information* for distribution and consideration by the WSC in the 1999 CAR.
2. To complete work on the *Guide to Phoneline Service* for distribution and consideration by the WSC in the 1999 CAR.

#### Objectives CY 1998-1999:

- A. Complete review and input for *A Guide to Public Information* by WSC PI Committee work groups.
- B. Complete review and input for the *Guide to Phoneline Service* by WSC PI Committee work groups.

#### Project Activities CY 1998-1999:

- The WSC PI Committee will meet three times by conference call. Each call will include the chairperson and the vice chairperson. Three voting members and three pool members will also be included on a rotating basis.
- One WSC-funded face-to-face meeting of the WSC PI Committee should be scheduled in September of 1998 to facilitate the completion of work on *A Guide to Public Information* and the *Guide to Phoneline Services*.
- All activities will be coordinated through the staff assigned by WSO Management.
- One substantial mailing will be scheduled for the post input and review phase of the projects.
- The committee will report its progress throughout the year through the Conference Report,

This then resulted in Area's and Region's using outdated or unapproved Lit for the next 5 years. When I asked the WB in 2003 when we were going to get a PI handbook, I was given a canned answer about how we needed to wait on the outcome of three roundtable discussions with various treatment centers etc. Three years later our current PI handbook, copywrited in 2006/2007.

Bo – Working on calendar of events with Lester to keep things straight.

Mitch – Going to attend area convention in New Jersey February 28 to March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bo – F2F can plan workshops for membership. Also, look over books and video clips. Need information sheets checked out and verified for authenticity. Let's work on when and where. Ed from Alabama suggested Chattanooga. I am willing to host one in my home. There are planned events down in Orlando for March. Maybe Kentucky would be good, or Baltimore.

- Bo – Another idea, separate from core group, would be to plan a History Conference in Atlanta similar to the big one coming in Connecticut.
- Lester – We can fly into Melbourne or Longwood near to Orlando, Florida. Newsletter for February is coming along fine.
- Mitch – Are the coreIssue Newsletter on Google Drive?



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- Lester – If they are not, he will put them up.
- Bo – Anyone sending in articles, good correspondence, will be included with minutes.
- David B – Free at Last April 11 to 13<sup>th</sup>. Area Annual Campout. Mike R and Yellow Eyes speaking. Taking heat locally. Not pandering to religion or other Fellowship have made NA vulnerable in Free at Last Area and they have lost a few groups. Reading from the Bible or quoting AA in NA meetings violates the spirit and letter of our Traditions. They go on road trips for recovery and plan to move. Stays in touch with his sponsor. Located in NE Louisiana they don't get much support from community.
- Bo – Plan to support the Free at Last Campout.
- David – We work with our resources and try to introduce idea of spiritual over material.
- Mitch – Attended Region of Virginia convention. Will send essay.

*There followed discussion on what is world service really seeking? More money, more control, less group conscience and direct participation. Looks like populating service structure is going out of style in the view of a few people who regard themselves as better able to take care of NA.*

Closed at 10:00 EST.

**Next meeting on 28<sup>st</sup> of January**

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

*Core Group Minutes*

**January 28, 2014**

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

## **Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL**

**Attendance:** John F - Bo S - Mitch – Nadine – Lester – David B - Bo on Minutes

***Be sure to check out commentary and posts in the Addendum at end of these minutes..also, essays may appear before the minutes to get attention for items discussed. - Ed***

***- DON'T USE, GO TO MEETINGS AND WORK YOUR STEPS -***

**Conference call opened at 8:30 pm EST**

- Mitch – What about those who say, "It's over."
- Bo – We just have to tell the truth. World will have its effect but we have seeds growing everywhere, thank God.
- Mitch – Letter from Bill F. about Jeff Paul's observations on the cost of WSC, the deficit, and a good analysis of it all. Brought up the letter that went out with the core group meeting announcement. "Who are we attracting to the program?" World service difficulties have been killing NA for twenty years.



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- John F. - Need to start a meeting to go over Traditions. (essay in forward to the minutes.) This could be a free conference call meeting.
- Bo – Idea from Vito – Original NA – ONA – I like it because it is clear, easy, accurate, sounds a little like 'our own NA' and has a good feel to it. ONA could be a solution for the 'world service office' money pumps. We could easily provide materials to service groups from Internet and URL's.
- John F. - People who are getting clean are very short time in Kansas City. Usually less than a year. Addicts seeking recovery in a private NA setting are put off by drug court attendance and people 'programmed' by treatment centers. They are told by TC's that NA doesn't work.
- Lester – had a member celebrate 34 years recently.
- David B – NA meetings need to go back to following the proven program.
- Nadine – Talking about same thing at her meetings. Big difference in how members enter NA. People are coming in from TS's – Not grateful like members used to be. Last ten years, big difference. Came back to the program and noticed big difference. TC's are working against us in her area. **The younger members are 'getting message' better than the older members.** Keeps asking herself, “What is my part in this? What am I doing to help?” The atmosphere of recovery is what makes the difference. Let's start thinking about what we can do to help people from treatment.
- David – Moderators – meetings which calm down put members to sleep. Overwhelmed by drug court attendance and treatment centers.
- Bo – asked for essays from David and Nadine. It is better to read what they say instead of what comes through from notes, agreement and memory. Both said they would, but one took some encouragement.
- Bo – Need special meetings for drug court people and treatment center directed.
- Lester – cited a friend who did as part of an ad-hoc committee , helped do study on his area switching over from FRCNA to SFRCA – They reported, “The best thing we can do is to go elsewhere.” This means having an area without being part of a region, putting basket funds into literature, providing hotline service, meeting directories, etc. to member groups, which they can easily do. Lester will send a report on this and how it goes.
- Lester – Fed up with way world service is running things. Difference between the two regions is minimal – both serve the world. Being a “Stand Alone” ASC is real promising, channel all funds back into the area.
- Nadine – Reported on Zonal in California: Basically, do SSP or lose voice. Dissenters don't like being labeled. They are being loyal to their service structure the way it's always been.
- Lester asks “What voice”? The sole reason that my area is going through what they are currently going through is that as an Area we already believe that we have no voice to lose.
- Bo – Note to minutes: WS has been out of line for awhile and being profit oriented the way they are, groups who have no information or real participation are labeled 'apathetic.' This fails to note that the groups expected be accurately informed in a timely manner. Since they were told nothing and asked nothing, they stayed clean and helped others, worked their 12 Steps and followed Traditions. That is the result of WS omissions, not apathy.
- What would the situation be if they cut back on travel, hotel accommodations and gold card meals and spent a half million dollars encouraging and engaging the membership? The 'apathy' is domino effect from paid outside leadership.



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- Nadine – Delizia has been onboard since 1996 or 1998. Plus he charges us \$100,000 plus to teach us how to be “corporate.”
- Bo - Doesn't seem to have a good grasp of what a spiritual fellowship needs to function. Volunteers do not do what they are told, they do what they feel like doing and if left out of the loop, they find other things to do...
- David – People want a book to help them with today's needs. Important to keep the cost down.
- Bo – We can do our own books. WS is hocus-pocus. There are a handful of rogue members in a handful of buildings in a suburb of Los Angeles causing all the trouble, spending all the money.
- David – Baby Blues are the best course of action. It is known and now respected, considered normal. Low impact solution and the price is right.
- Lester – Billy Allen's home group puts out 1,000 Baby Blues a month at a cost of \$1.40 each. The group's ability to routinely raise enough money to keep the going speaks reams of their spirit and love for the suffering addict.
- Nadine – smaller is good.
- David – make the font easily read.
- Lester – could do a 101 page book to keep page numbers the same.
- Mitch – Spinning our wheels – got lots of information out. Need to concentrate on finishing projects. Asked Nadine to share about what the SSP is really about.
- Nadine – Attended Zonal recently and helped with Webinar at \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ❖ SSP lots of service positions will be gone.
  - ❖ Local like one per county.
  - ❖ Regional gatherings.
  - ❖ LSB – oversees Regional Monthly meetings

### Observations:

1. Some describe this as making a bunch of mini-boards out of our current regional/area structures.
2. Results are less informed members than we now have if the SSP passes.
3. Basically a set up for WSO to do whatever it wants to do.
4. Diminishes group involvement.

Will send essay for the minutes.

Bo – This is the first time in our history that I know of when experienced, calm NA members are contemplating after long hours of study and discussion a name change for our Fellowship. It seems many members are realizing that what is laughingly called our 'world services' is not confused or simply off track, they have left town. What they are doing has for a long time been aggressive and deliberate. I would hope that NA scholars will note that while it is a lot of trouble to change our name, it is less trouble than putting up with the corporate fanatics at WSO. Breaking anonymity at WCNA Philadelphia, endless flood of money wasted attempting to manipulate and control in flagrant violation of what NA members hear read at each and every meeting, goodhearted trusted servants bending backwards to attempt communication with arrogant and misinformed employees. There is no way to adequately express our dismay. Anyone who takes the time and trouble to actually sit down and study the AA Concepts will notice that the mal-adaptation into a body of corporate principles undermines the spiritual foundation we stand on as a Fellowship. Hundreds of thousands





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of addicts have left NA over these carefully coordinated attacks on our Membership and Program. NA is less and less attracted to a program compromised by our world service contingent to favor the use of certain drugs. The incursions of outside entities like a paid consultant, a symbiotic relationship with the court system and endless assaults on any member with the gumption to stand up to their misguided and blunt use of corporate tools to force agreement from unhappy members in most cases turn away in sad anger over obvious wrongdoings. Nothing robs a body of people like blatant disregard of foundational rules that all are bound to follow. It is not NA or the Narcotics Anonymous Program that disheartens us. It is likely only a handful individuals who have wheedled their way into positions of bureaucratic power working behind the scenes. But saturation has resulted in wide-spread dismay and acknowledgment of a need to reform or move on. We will never know how many ardent members have been driven away by structural disorders but a conservative estimate would be over 100,000. This is written so that regardless of what happens, there can be no doubt that we acknowledge the problem and trust a loving God to guide us to a fitting and lasting solution.

**Nadine offered closing prayer.**

**Closed at 10:20 EST.**

**Next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> of February**

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





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Fan Page – “Core Issues” website - [nacoregroup.org](http://nacoregroup.org)

### *Projects:*

**NA Views – Go to NA Views – USSC and take a look at what is possible through this amazing venue. We will do more in future but the shares here are worth viewing because they give good examples of what members can share from the heart.**

**Fellowship Gathering – Considering new location... How about 100,000 members showing up to have a good time, the NA way! Hey, let's call it Cleanstock! Why not in Lexington, Kentucky, at and near the original site of 12 Steps for addicts seeking recovery!**

### **Did You Know:**

1. World services considers themselves exempt from the NA 12 Traditions?
2. Homeland Security states that NA receives no direct support from them.
3. NA ought never be organized.
4. What are the three elements of self-determination?
5. Do you think spiritual growth is important?
6. How do you describe spiritual growth?
7. What's the difference between individual opinion and efficiency?
8. Do you believe the spiritual dominates the mental and physical realms?
9. What about body drugs in recovery?
10. Did you know that many members attend big conventions with funds paid by a treatment center?
11. Did you know the 12 Steps and Traditions are spiritual principles whereas the 12 Concepts are corporate principles?
12. **What have we learned since 1990?**

### **What's Happening - Fresh Take!**

Many NA members do not know or recall, but we, the members of NA, wrote our Basic Text from scratch, with no outside support or funding. The WSC refunded one set of receipts for \$232.15 I think in the 1980 to 1981 term. WSO gave nothing once it became clear that we would stay the mile. This includes mailing lists for the Review Form and Approval Form at no cost free to every group all over the world, including locating the groups. WSO would not share their mailing list with us. We had already shared everything we had. We asked. They were furious when we raised \$17,000 in three weeks from members, groups, areas and regions. They never communicated directly after that. Now, remember, this was the Jimmy K Office I'm talking about. Now, I think any office is going to view Fellowship initiatives as competitive and want total credit for everything. It is not human nature but corporate nature. They are attempting to do away with our service structure to make more money and have more control. If you want to peer deeper into what's happening, Netflix Steve Jobs: the Lost Interview and the Ken Burns series on our National Parks in the US. It is very revealing...



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If the RD's restored the power of universal support by informing and polling the general membership, I would suggest their first job would be to establish and maintain the goodwill of all the genuine treatment centers and doctors who looked to us with respect in the past. There are plenty who have supported us in the past. The big blindspot right now is by distancing the Fellowship and pretending to know what's best for you, that respect is going down the tubes. It will be hard to regain it. NA members would weep with gratitude and joy to see some positive changes instead of the mincing, bit by bit, gnawing away at our rights and freedoms by the bureaucracy that has grown like a weed feeding off the cash stream of our spirit and miraculous recovery. Anything that can be dollarized can be corrupted by the greedy and insensitive. Hope is having something to look forward to and right now only uninformed members are hopeful. Can't have your cake and eat it too!

I have noticed that while I come up with thoughts and feelings by focusing on my Higher Power and paying attention to what comes back, one of the things I got from Greg Pierce was that when I asked a specific question, he would shift into the positive role of a Trustee. It was very spiritual and never failed me. Selling out Greg, Jimmy and others... The question I have to ask is this: "Are you in on it?" How do you stop a big rock rolling down hill? Do you sit and gloat as the Fellowship gets ready for another sad show of corporate force as our service structure is beat to death? And, you must realize by now, they are doing it with your money swiped from the sales of literature written by people who never got paid and did not ever seek personal gain for work done out of gratitude and in hopes that it would help some sick, suffering person like themselves. That spirit goes on! Don't hear much about miracles from the corporation do you? God did not take a hike. "The Spirit is deep and vast, full of power and life." That was on a poster at my first recovery meeting nearly forty years ago. The Spirit is still deep and vast and absolutely full of power and life.

Adverse events test our mettle and make us sharp. This may be a surprise to many members who got clean after our rapid expansion in the 1980's. We paid a price for our recovery - and by association, your recovery. It is not negative to take up for our NA ways and Traditions. It is imperative. Just as if a bear has entered an NA meeting, some of us would have to take it on for the good of the others. Very often we have to struggle to learn. But our 10th Step gives us an excellent way to set things straight. It helps minimize fear in the equation of our growth. Like moving through a corridor, the walls tell us where to go. NA thrives on self-correction.

Real service in NA will always consist of combing our considerable resources through good communication and considered discussion. Actions based on group conscience will effect positive improvements. Has anyone noticed we are not attracting people who really need recovery? Wonder why that is? You don't hear people talking about screaming and writhing in the pain of withdrawal. We used to hear that. Maybe we should meditate on this. "The newcomer is the most important person in the room." is an abridgement. We can gain a lasting benefit from our twenty year lesson about our absolute NEED for group conscience. Short term answers beget short term gains. We lose in the long run. Utilizing what works for recovery is far, far better than paying outsiders to tell us what to do.

We include many people and many dispositions. There are obviously some who agree with the idea of



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seeking personal gain and profit along with the spiritual roots of NA. It may well be a phase of recovery for many of us until we can see beyond what's in plain view. Dollarology is on the prowl with humanity as its target. I am a spiritual person and I value the things that money can't buy and power cannot create. WE need a strong and alert body of spirited members to overwhelm with courage and enthusiasm the forces of moneytheism and spiritually not yet informed. We need a Sierra Club for an endangered species of human beings.

The taint of commercialism has already infected the heart of NA. Groups of visionaries see NA as a bright new opportunity to make a buck. Those who live the spirit life of NA 12 Step recovery will be secure in their path - what will happen in the valley where the approaches to recovery give those seeking a path out of the wastelands of addiction? Will they see a loving hand to welcome them or a greedy grimace with one hand in their pocket?

It there is not an immediate turn around, I predict you will ignore all these well-intended warnings. You have little judgment and live in a house others have built. You will have to learn the hard, as you always have. It is not too much to hope that what you learn will be passed on to others so the cycle will be broken and the Program of NA will endure. It would please me to be wrong but arrogance and vain glory is strong in the un-tried and inexperienced. Foolish men and some women too over our Office and made it into their plaything. They made enemies of their friends and benefactors. They mistook kindness for weakness. Let them drag you to their folly. But after the fighting is over, when those who survive lie broken by their pride and ego, we will be on hand and await their surrender. Only the surrendered can accept help. You fight your happy destiny where bad habits and poor thinking may be corrected. It is not us that architect your downfall.

How about Original NA? ONA meetings, Fellowship, Program We can do anything we like and no one can stop us!!! The Traditions give us that right – strength and guidance from a Loving God keeps us on track.

## Upcoming Events

- ❖ **2014\_ 12 Step Retreat Liverpool OH\_ Feb 28 – Mar 1-Mar 2\_2014**
- ❖ **Pearl of Recovery XXIV\_ Galloway, NJ\_ Feb 28 – Mar 1-Mar 2\_2014**
- ❖ **GSR Assembly\_ Mar 15\_2014**
- ❖ **Lit Conference\_ Longwood , Fl – Mar 14 – Mar -15-Mar 16\_ 2014**
- ❖ **GRCNA 33\_ Mar 27 – Mar 28-Mar 29 - Mar 30\_ 2014**
- ❖ **FALANA Camp-Out VII\_ Apr 11- Apr 12- Apr 13\_ 2014**
- ❖ **LRCNA XXXII\_ May 23 - May 24 - May 25\_ 2014**
- ❖ **CLEANFEST\_ Maysville, Ky \_ May 31\_ June 1 – June 2 \_ 2014**
- ❖ **History of NA Conference\_ Stamford, Ct\_ Sept 12, - Sept 13, - Sept 14 \_ 2014**

### Just In

An email from Bill F pointed out a move to the 'medicalization of addiction' and hope he will send us more information. This just in from Dale in Bangkok. This MOA is possibly what has been behind the scenes



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generating the stressful antics of a 'powerful few' to change our service structure.

More is being revealed...

Bo S.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs and Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion of outside issues. Other than complete abstinence in Narcotics Anonymous outside issues such as drug treatment, rehabilitation, medicine, and psychiatry, often hold different modalities for addicts other than complete abstinence. After an addict achieves and maintains complete abstinence in NA long term recovery occurs. Continuing NA meetings, including a spiritual way of life, as prescribed by NA prevents relapse. Periodically, and usually predictably, addicts who are not living the NA program are subject to relapse. When relapse occurs that takes the NA recovering addict outside of NA again. A welcoming back inside the NA recovery program awaits when he or she wants to again achieve total abstinence. However, chronic relapsers begin to feel hopeless and feel less welcomed. Recovering members pray for and tell relapsers to "keep coming back" to meetings and many eventually do begin living completely abstinent by living the NA way. Unequivocally experience in Narcotics Anonymous proves that long term, life long recovery, recovery by complete abstinence occurs and is possible while staying inside NA recovery. Anything other than complete abstinence, regardless of it being debated, promoted, theorized or rationalized, is outside of Narcotics Anonymous.

NA members often do service work to help carry the NA message of complete abstinence to using addicts who want help. This is altruistic service with spiritual principles. Certain NA entities employ non-addict service workers and provides training that NA is a program for recovery from addiction by complete abstinence. Any member of Narcotics Anonymous, regardless of service position or title, including World Board members, are doing a real disservice to NA and it's members when marginalizing, in any way, addicts maintaining complete abstinence. When non-addict service workers participate, in any way, compromising complete abstinence are engaging in disservice, and not NA service. There is no need to accommodated outside interest for any reason, including literature sales. Facts are that NA must stay a program of complete abstinence. Those, inside or outside of NA, that want using addicts to be in other programs, or those that want NA completely abstinence addicts in outside of NA drug programs, or therapies, such as "medicalization of addictions" or "Drug Replacement Therapies" can begin and build those programs without burdening NA. There is no need for causing addicts inside Narcotics Anonymous undue hardship, confusion or any justification for relapse. NA must always remain a program of complete abstinence. Other programs outside of NA can be adapted, and allow for addiction treatment by means of pharmaceuticals, however that is not, and cannot be NA.

TrailDale