



Core Issues

April 1, 2014 Vol.2
Issue 4



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.

Email: lester7286@gmail.com

Phone: 321-215-5898

Yours in Loving Service,
Lester O.

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

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.

aninconvenienttruth

A GLOBAL WARNING

THE FINAL AUTHORITY FOR NA SERVICES
STILL RESTS WITH THE GROUP! DO NOT
ABDICATE



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Summary of Core Group Project Discussions for the Month of March, 2014

Core Group Minutes

March 11, 2014

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

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance with area codes:

Jmu 703 - Chad 775 – Bo 404 - Mitch 760 – Lester O 321 – John F 707 – Brian YE 340

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

General discussion

Discussion List:

Read Letter we are preparing to send to regions...

Chad NV – wants to study letter – new to core group, 17 years clean, from Utah change NAWS to WSO. Service should not be about control and money.

- If world doesn't get happy, will stop sending money
- Traditions are non-negotiable]
- Wants help at local level
- People haven't been told what's going on accurately
- wants to start local Traditions study group
- interested in the early days.



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- World cannot create service boards and committees.

Mitch – Thanks Chad.

Bo – Where do we live without NA?

- Forced attendance with written surveillance
- Drug Replacement Therapy – DRT
- Unnecessary complications with paperwork at world level.
- Not following Traditions

Jmu – Appreciates Chad comments. Not a conspiracy against NA in anyway.

Bo – Need list of where to send out to regions and areas.

Mitch – will get list

John F – Over two years service for feet – scabs on both arms.

YE – (twang) 27 years!

YE – Bulletin #4 – note on copyrights FIPT doesn't state approval process. Includes right to change at any time.

Mitch – looking into copyrights

YE – ask Page C.

Bo – change copyrights from NAWS to WSO, Inc.

YE – 4 splinter groups want him to re-write a book based on Grey Form.

Mitch – Thanks for Bulletin #4

YE – can go to na.org and will send list to mail letter.

Closed at 10:10 – Jmu led closing prayer...

No Recording

Next meeting on 18th of March – check out articles in Addendum

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

Original 3rd Step Prayer from the Greybook –

"God I've made a mess of my life. I can't solve my problems and I ask YOU to take care of me and show me how to live."

Core Group Minutes

March 18, 2014

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



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Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance with area codes:

Chad 775 – Bill P 410 – Connie P 817 – Bo - Mitch 760 – Lester O 321 – John F 707 – Brian YE 340

Bo on Minutes

Conference call opened at 8:30 pm EST

General discussion

Discussion List:

Lit Conference in Longwood, Florida near Orlando. March 15, 16 and 17th. Went well. Work shopped Grey Form Chapter One. Light edit. Also, *Complete Abstinence in NA* and New Literature, *What About Psyche Meds* Betrayal of NA basics and trust accorded to the title of what used to be a primary service center for NA. This was scrubbed out by corporation tactics employed against the world-wide membership. I firmly and calmly believe we need a major house cleaning. There are no structural bodies who have the power to do this but for the regions. The regional committees have been asleep at the wheel. History will not be kind to them for their duplicity and lack of principles. I would never have believed we could be so disadvantaged as to be up against major psyche tactics to use the Fellowships trust against them. It is really sick. Hope you core group folks are being brave and standing on principle!

Brian – sent in 2 items for the lit conference in Longwood, neat Orlando. Camilla offered the input. Brian will send in for minutes here.

Lester – did not see the input Camilla brought to conference from herself, Brian YE and one other member.

Bo – Sorry did not get last weeks minutes out. Will send out last week and this week soon.

New political force: spectatorology. People listen, read and discuss items of interest and then do nothing. They pay attention but do not react. They seem to act as if there was anything of importance, someone they trust would bring it up to them personally. We can lose a lot of our protections and rights if enough people just lay back and 'let it happen.' Once lost, it will be hard to get them back. WB and WSO have been making a habit of pushing things through and then saying we voted for it when they know very well, the vast numbers of members are under informed or disinformed and the vote is largely unknown to the Fellowship.

Hey Mustang Connie!

Chad – Went to CAR tally - people don't know what about SSP.

Bo – Great tee shirt “moreaboutthenassp.com” Order one, I got mine!



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Chad – 3 motioned failed, Area 51 – he is not in Utah anymore.

Lester – everything passed in Florida region. 6 out of 23 groups in his area voted – 1 apathy, 2 didn't want anything to do with WB.

Bo – in Marietta, GA area, a few for, a few against and most abstained. Lots of members in different places are going to use the Baby Blue from now on.

Bo – Will send out FIPT to core group – Mike R sent in report, including all the modifications. Will send out with minutes.

Brian – study the price vs. cost at WSO

Connie – SSP is being misrepresented to Fellowship. It is legal garbage to baffle membership.

Bo – one thing new I heard at Longwood – it is becoming apparent that WS is employing a 'death tactic' hoping some of us hurry up and die so they can have a freer hand with writing literature and cashing in on the cash flow. We are hollerin' loud as we can: "WAKE UP!"

Connie – People not happy with the SSP at last WSC. Educating members effort with courage and enthusiasm is best we can do. Affordable Basic Text will help.

Bo - explained the 4th Edition was a botched effort with a \$250,000 advance order from Hazelton. We need to re-examine our group conscience process. Regional Representative's came with group conscience to disallow the 4th Edition and go back to the 3rd Revised which they say would have bankrupted the WSO at the time. We need some firm policy governing the WSO to prevent this kind of mismanagement. Bob Stone made a tearful admission of fault at WSO regarding the 4th Edition, including ignoring concerns raised by NA Members regarded as trouble makers by WSO. Very poor policy to black list members who do their homework and try to bring up difficulties before they go too far.

Mitch – need good history work.

Bo S. - We need to get out tee shirts, like the on moreaboutthenassp.com. We also need one enumerating the Homeland/Drug Court as an instance of forced surveillance with many unexpected problems with a policy rule allowed drug court attendance. Also need tee shirt on DRT problems. Can't have outside attendance seeking to avoid consequences and using approved drugs, getting clean time and voting at group level including attendance at closed meetings for addicts only.

Chad – A few questions about 3rd Revised: 1) what were the unapproved changes in First Edition? 2) The deletions in Traditions 4 and 9 restored in Second Edition. 3) Removed again from Tradition 4 and 9, possibly due to wording of questionnaire which made it hard to understand what had been done. 4) the Third



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Edition had changes to add new wording from the White Booklet where the italicized portion before the 1st eight chapters were up updated.

Bo – We are the conservatives, wanting only what it right and fair: the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and a more accurate adaption of the 12 Concepts from AA. We are calm and dedicated and have not all died yet. We are following through with the core group and our aim to restore sanity, simplicity and order to our world services. Calling the SSP “new service structure” is literally mis-leading.

Mitch – One thing has been very deceptive and that is the idea that RD's were for the SSP at the 2012 Conference.

Chad – used the negative perception of the Baby Blue to change Traditions 4 and 9.

Mitch – invited Chad to attend the Connecticut NA History Conference.

Chad – has a new history group going where he lives, opening old files.

Lester – Reported on the Lit Conference.

- Explained that only 1/4th of Fellowship is voting on the CAR. And few members know anything but the WB controlled service.
- Pleased with the Literature Conference at Longwood, FL. Attendance not as great as expected. Many new members blown away by what they learned. Want to do it again in a month.
- Lots of members on psych meds in meetings.
- Lots of people from Drug Court in meetings.
- Looking for stories by members who got off psych meds.
- When finished with the piece on “Complete Abstinence” newly named because of Basic Text reference to complete abstinence rather than total abstinence. When done, will forward to a new work group.
- Will post on Google Drive to review and discuss.

Brian - There is a writing group on Thursday night. Will send in information for minutes. Historical Significance

Mondays @ 9pm ET
559 726 1300
code: 108786#
LOL - Loving Our Longtimers

Wednesdays @ 8pm ET
Speaker meeting with 30yrs or more
559 726 1300
code: 108786#

Thursday Writing Group (as of now we are working on an IP called *Personal Responsible*)



(ASIS Service)

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8pm ET
559 726 1300
code: 108786#

Thanks for the Bullet
In Loving Service,
Brian YellowEyes

Chad and Connie – very interested.

Connie – sees SSP mis-represented, real purpose is to further dismantle our service structure.

Brian – Believes conventions held in NA should use proper language that the conventions are not “of” NA but “for” NA.

Bo – Please start writing a summary of what you need to find out and what you can share with us. Will be copied and pasted straight into the minutes from what you send. We need an ongoing service body to keep NA, NA.

Closed at 10:10 – Connie led closing prayer...

Essays coming from Connie and David B.

Chatted on call after close. The recording misfired. Was cut on but went to download and it had reset at 15

Next meeting on 25th of March – check out articles in Addendum

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

(The American Society of Association Executive’s Key Philanthropic Organizations Committee (KPOC):

Costs and benefits of social networking discussion other nonprofit CEOs:

Anthony Edmondson: I find that our staff spends a disappointing amount of time on social networking. Our members are flooding the staff with requests for information or contact, and we’ve set rules about how much time can be spent in that arena. It’s a nightmare.



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March 25, 2014

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

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance with area codes:

Chad 775 – Brian YE 540 - Bo 404 - Mitch 410 – John F 707 – Lester O 3214
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 -***

Drudge today disclosed that the Navy tracks all traffic and parking tickets thru it's Linx program. Homeland Security is a member of Linx. Therefore you can bet NA secretaries signing courtslips with their phone number required are logged into a database.

We are under surveillance. - John F.

Special Workers

I walked into Narcotics Anonymous for one reason; I thought you might be able to help me with my drug problem. What I received in addition to freedom from active addiction has been beyond belief. I have found the “new way to live” as described in our Fifth Tradition. It’s bizarre how I was looking for one thing and got something so much bigger. We all need to take this notion and use it in consideration of our Eighth Tradition. The Tradition tells us that, “our service centers may employ special workers”, after warning us that “Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional.” Has our primary service center, the World Service Office (WSO), changed the role of special worker, losing sight of the idea that they are suppose to, “work within our Traditions and are directly responsible always to those they serve, to the fellowship.”?



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By: Lester O.



Before moving into the explanation of this letter, a couple of things need clarification. This letter is not about what the WSO special workers are doing. This is not a witch hunt demanding that the World Board members (WB's) be burned at the stake. It's got nothing to do with how our Service Structure was constructed or the processes currently in use by the World Service Conference (WSC) every two years. It's about our roll as NA members, or more precisely it's about our obligation to ensure this program remains viable for future generations. Additionally, it's critically important to remember a very profound statement from our Basic Text, "If a solution isn't practical, it isn't spiritual." Perhaps we have somehow negotiated away our responsibility to the Twelve Traditions. Maybe we forgot, "They are the guidelines that keep our fellowship alive and free." There is one thing we need to remember for certain. "Our Traditions protect us from the internal and external forces which could destroy us. They are truly the ties that bind us together. It is only through understanding and application that they work."

The way I understand the Eighth Tradition is very simple, our service centers may need to hire people to do things that we have directed them to do. Narcotics Anonymous is a Spiritual program; it is not a, "Charitable Organization doing business as World Service Office Incorporated" as reported to the State of California, and it's not a "501 (c) (3) not for profit Corporation known as NAWS to the United States Internal Revenue Service." Our primary service center – The WSO – is a business that we set up to serve the fellowship in fulfilling its goal of more successfully carrying the spiritual message of Narcotics Anonymous. The primary purpose of most businesses is to make money; we decided that our principal purpose was to serve the needs of the fellowship. What are those needs and what is the current process in serving those needs? Who has the role of establishing those needs? Have the established procedures been approved by a vote of the fellowship, the WSC, or the corporate directors known as the WB's? When did the fellowship decide that we needed to make 900% profit on the *Just for Today* book? When did we instruct our special workers to hire professional consultants? Why is it necessary to make close to \$1 Million a year on key tags and chips? Why do we have to decipher financial reports? Why is it impossible to get detailed financial reports - especially with cash involved - about our biggest event?

Any office that utilizes special workers, especially one that has close to 50, should have some type of Office Manager. The instructions about special workers found in our 8th Tradition declare that, "Such employees are directly responsible to a service committee. [And] As N.A. grows, the demand for these workers will grow. Special workers are necessary to insure efficiency in an ever-expanding fellowship." The efficiency described here would imply that we have established policy and practices for our special workers to follow, and the management of those practices is scrutinized and reported to a service committee. If the World Board is the entity that our special workers are responsible to, what type of reports are they requiring of the management of our service centers? What is the established procedure to move from a position on the World Board to becoming a special worker? Or in being a family member of a special worker and on the World Board? Who, what, how and when is efficiency measured? Who measures the efficiency of the management? When was the last time we put together a search committee for an Office Manager, aka Executive Director? Where can we find the procedural manuals for our special workers? What are the job descriptions of our special workers?



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When our special workers hire professionals or make purchases on our behalf, who ensures that the possibilities of kick backs or corruption are not being circumvented? What is the policy for special workers handling cash at our world convention?

Over the 10 year period of 2006 to 2016 our special workers will have cost us over \$33 Million. When did we morph from having an office manager to having an Executive Director with an Assistant Executive Director? Why do both of these positions have personal assistants? I think the time has come for our Trusted Servants attending the WSC to start asking some tough questions, and demanding answers. If the answers do not meet with the same level of scrutiny we would require of our Group, Area or Regional practices then it's time to make some changes. How many Regions have had devastating experiences with their Regional Service Offices (RSO)? How many of those RSO disasters could we have prevented if the reports coming from our primary service center were more specific? How many executive directors of non-profit corporations would have been kept in their positions after managing to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars on a semi-annual event? Both of our directors not only kept their positions they got a raise and a bonus. Additionally, they both violated our 11th Tradition at this year's semi-annual event in Philadelphia.

If we painstakingly examine the warning in our Eighth Tradition, about how we should remain forever non professional, I think it will become obvious that somehow we've gone off course. Our special workers have become professional workers, doing things that not so long ago would have been considered service work. With annual salaries now over \$3.3 million for special workers, and the recent price increase to our literature, it makes me wonder if we have forgotten exactly who our most important members are. Our basic text says it perfectly, "Ideas from the past are often incomplete and unsatisfactory. Everything we know is subject to revision, especially what we know about the truth." If we as members of this spiritual program insist of transparency and accountability at the local level, why do we not insist on it at every level? I have recently read that we were a fellowship that had an office, and that we're now an office that has a fellowship. Let's prove that wrong and demand that what we know about the truth, is in fact, the truth. Let's return to the time when our special workers were simply that, nothing more.

Bill F

Conference call opened at 8:30 pm EST

General discussion

Bo – Have not mailed out the letter to participants, do not think it will be understood or effect any helpful changes. Help me figure out what to do.

Discussion List:

Brian YE and Bo - If SSP passes, we will stay clean. We have our faith in the original NA that triggered the world-wide growth of our Fellowship. We will service the true NA members in the traditional manner using the 12 Steps and following the 12 Traditions.



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Brian – “of” NA is incorrect, conventions by Traditions can only be FOR NA. Bo agrees. It is the therapeutic value we share. Bo – check out nacoregroup.org Brian did and it is no longer up. Bo will set it up again. The server went out of business. They provided hosting at no cost and this is not from the outside. Lester is doing great job with “coreIssues” newsletter and David is maintaining coreIssues Fan Page with Face Book.

Chad – Here to re-form a solution for our Fellowship.

Bo – It is necessary to change personal at WSO and create policy to avoid hiring outside consultants who train our members to act against our Steps and Traditions. We members claiming to be about a solution who accord with each other when ever and wherever we can.

Chad – read the CAR and it contains 30,000 words. Tricky wording making passage of any one motion require the others to set up. This neat trick was used to push through the service changes resulting in the Super Board. It covers up the major change in our service structure.

Bo – I am an NA member. I believe in the Steps and Traditions. We need writing to explain our concerns and viewpoints. The Concepts make WS exempt from the protections built in favor of the Fellowship not the WS employees.

Chad – Since only NA World Service Board of Directors can make motions at the so-called WSC, the whole event loses its structural base and represents no region, area, group or members. It is thereby invalidated. Traditions make it clear that they are non-negotiable.

Bo – At what point do we hold a conference to resolve these issues and what form shall it take? Need bold, corrective move. Our concerns are with what is happening. Moral outrage over changes in the Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous, are not trivial issues. The lie that we are acting from thirty year old resentments misrepresents our proper moral outrage. It is up to the membership to maintain the standards required for a spiritual Fellowship. We have tried being patient with these people. We need to start some closed NA meetings and waive off concerns about ASC's and meeting schedules. We can make our own meeting schedules.

Making a positive difference will discomfit those who are breaking faith with the spiritual standards of NA and they will heap condemnation on us. They will do little 'corporate' maneuvers to counter our good efforts they way they try to change our loving and caring efforts to produce a Basic Text into a financial weapon that finally challenges our recovery Program to sell more books to a treatment industry. The treatment industry is tied into big government's vested interest in drugs that negate the need for recovery and claim to have all the answers. A clean bed, food, shelter and supportive company are just fine. Mis-representing our need for good Fellowship to support the terrible costs associated with treatment, they somehow shift emphasis away from the role played by each individual to get clean and stay clean. Our spiritual Program gives us a way to achieve recovery by helping others and working on our very own spiritual growth. NA is not a business and yet there have always been those who act like they are the adults who know better.



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By: Lester O.



They did not write your book and as it becomes more obvious, they actively attack our Fellowship for taking up for our principles. You know, human nature does have a dark side and it is understandable that this dark side will find ways to work in the shadows to undo all we have done and call us names. If that is the “Fellowship-wide split” be it known we are on the side of light! If no one takes up for our Program, we will not have a Program. Even if we succeed in our fight for the principles of NA, the dark side will always be there.

Acceptance allows us to generously allow others to exist so they can grow to better things and yet be firm and correct in maintaining our loving ways. Maintaining our Program does not give us a license to loose our own dark side. We can be effective without falling into anger and insanity ourselves. Remember, firm and correct: those who know our history and those who act like it never happened. If someone should ask, “Which one are you?” have a ready answer!

Lester – His Home Group was celebrating an anniversary tonight, so he was late. Getting 200 Baby Blues to give out at his meeting. The South Florida Region is sending a delegation to his area to show how SFRSCNA can serve area. There is a motion at his area to join the South Florida RSC. Will report how that goes. Lester believes his area is typical of many groups and areas throughout the Fellowship. A big split is occurring as we speak. The outcome is up to Higher Power. Always believed the corporation should be completely separate from NA. May see this in near future.

Lester on his area -

Apathy is at a all time high in my Area. All Area positions are open, former Chairs etc are stepping down and no one seems willing to step forward. Next month is Area weekend and a South Florida delegation is visiting to tell us what their Region can do for are Area. Also (two) motion's regarding leaving the Florida Region will be going back to groups. this should be interesting. If nothing changes before the end of June Area Service's could cease.

I do not not think that are Area is unique in this. I believe that other Areas are also not liking World Policies and are also about to inward dissolve as far as Area Services is concerned.

On the Upswing of things, two groups are about to form in my area. One is a Historical Perspective group that will be using Baby Blues and adhering too old time Traditions. The other will be a Writing Group patterned after the one in Youngstown, Ohio. Our focus will be on writing new literature. Neither of these groups will be operating under the umbrella of Area, for the time being. More will be Revealed.

Bo – I will redo the website right away. We still have the Fan Page on FB David B put up for us. We will service those who dissent with the SSP. WSC is gone, WSO is gone. They no longer 'serve' you, they have morphed into a profit driven corporation and we need to distance ourselves immediately. If they are called “NAWS”, we need



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to be called something else, like “Original NA,” We talked recently at a core group meeting about ONA being a good new name for what we do. If there is a “Fellowship wide split, it is those who disregard our Traditions and the basic values of love and concern for one another on one side. These are the people who uphold the attractive principles of Hope, Surrender and spiritual growth through complete abstinence and actively helping others. On the other side are those who want to follow the corporation path. Even though they may claim to subscribe to a spiritual path, we have a duty to acknowledge and reciprocate to sincere love and caring and reject greed and conscious manipulation of our trusting membership for financial gain and power to represent our Program while raking in the cut. Maybe they are people who work in treatment. To make a difference, we must be willing to stand up to those who would undo what we have accomplished. Their anger and resentment must not become our own.

I asked myself in the course of early recovery, what works for us here in the program now that we have dropped out old ways and focused on the spiritual life? The answer I found comes from old China: to be firm and correct. Grateful Dave was our first martyr because he stood up to the corporation. WSO threw away one hundred thousand dollars of Fellowship money to sue our member Grateful Dave who believed written recovery should be available to all and a low cost Basic Text was not only possible, he got with others and produced one. It had a light blue cover. The Baby Blue is a symbolic statement of his belief and many members of NA have had time to think about it. He personally told me when he was dying that there would be a hue and cry that sought to defame him and rob him of virtue and humanity by calling him a name used for offspring of a female canine. He was willing to go through that for the principle of carrying our message. It was then that I began to understand why we should never allow ourselves to become an extension of a corporate management system: the SSP is a management system that does that.

Lester – Two new groups forming in his area. One is Historical Significance, the other is a Writing Group. They will use the Baby Blue books. While they expect extreme criticism by members who do not know or understand what is going on right now.

Chad – Three things going on in his area: 1) a Group Conscience meeting, Traditions Study 2) Underground NA meeting called “Old School NA” - off schedule and disaffiliated with ASC 3) Formed a website under construction – original NA.org.

From: Chadler from Southern NV (a.k.a. Chubs)
Re: OriginalNA.org

OriginalNA.org / The Old School N.A. Website

This site will serve those regions, areas, groups, and addicts who know that our Traditions are NOT NEGOTIABLE, that the service structure is NOT N.A., and that any structure that purports to serve



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By: Lester O.



our fellowship must abide the Traditions and follow the will of the homegroups as the group level is the only place Ultimate Authority is expressed. Our heritage as recovering addicts is God-Given Freedom and the right to fully administer the services of our fellowship under the direction of a Loving Higher Power. No service body or contrivance of "Concepts" supersedes our Traditions; revisionist history notwithstanding.

"Narcotics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women; addicts meeting in groups and using a given set of spiritual principles to find freedom from active addiction and a new way to live. All else is not N.A."

Bo – need seed money – those who can help should do so. Recommend an information block on “About” and main page to make it plain and simple, “If you agree and are grateful for what is shared on this page, feel free to make a donation if you can. This 7th Tradition will be utilized to keep the webpage going.”

John F from Kansas City, MO – Following national and global news, people working for Wal-Mart in Nebraska for \$2 per hour. The US Navy is tracking people with something called the LINK program with Homeland Security which sponsors Drug Court Program. The LINK tracks parking tickets, maybe other surveillance. The US government has a 'vested interest in Bupomorphine, Suboxone. So, the government is creeping in with forced attendance and written surveillance. This is currently one and a half million convicted criminals fleeing jail time, saving \$50,000 each the cost of incarceration. This is \$75,000,000,000. Get it? What's happening is much bigger than our baby corporation in a neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Bo – We desperately need 'CLOSED' meetings for addicts only to carry our message of hope and recovery. This is not possible where other considerations interfere with our atmosphere of recovery. I person on DRT, drug replacement therapy, is unable to experience the transfer from hopeless desperation to the NA Program of recovery when on mind and mood changing chemicals. Avoiding the consequences of criminal behavior is not noted for creating a surrendered state to work even Step One. Because they are self-admitted addicts who want to be there, DC members can attend Closed Meetings.

John F – NA in Kansas City is not working. Just a matter of time when a court case classing NA as a religious organization surfaces again.

Mitch – came on call late from meeting.

John F – found an office building for \$99 a month rent, \$900 to move in. Will send photo of building for minutes.



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By: Lester O.



Chad led us in the 3rd Step Prayer.

Closed at 10:05 – Connie led closing prayer...

Recording

Essays coming from Connie and David B, please.

Next meeting on 1st of April – check out articles in Addendum

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

ADDENDUM 1:

LIMITED PUBLIC DOMAIN: THE FUTURE OF NA

(Reprinted from New Awakenings February-March 1995)

It was great to receive New Awakenings today for the first time in a -year. The fact it's still here and is still vital reflects its firm spiritual foundation. I know, for I was chosen by God to be an integral part of its birth, emotional support and sending material so the newsletter would flourish. Today I know I was used as an instrument throughout the whole process of saving our copyrights from those who still believe, smugly, that they have usurped them. Countless hours were spent buried in historical documents and devouring all of the legal information about United States copyright law. It was an energy not my own and I'm not bashful to say God led me to a breakthrough, a portion of the law called "Limited Public Domain".

No lengthy dissertation is needed to explain the term; simply, it's the portion of the law which absolutely and legally justifies the right of any NA Member or Group to print literature, at cost, while at the same time preventing any other publishing houses from printing our literature.

I'm writing this, as many of our Members and Groups are confused by the "Trust Document", a document which still contains legal fallacies. If you remember the campaign of fear perpetrated on the Fellowship in 1990, the biggest lie, or possibly the highest ignorance, was that if we were allowed to print unchallenged by the WSO, anybody, any enterprise in the world could print our literature. We did get somewhat beyond that when the conference passed a document which gave restricted, limited "authority" for Groups to publish literature. I've been gone a year, so have no idea how this is working. However, am sure there is still confusion everywhere, as recently I spoke to someone who wanted me to send him an approved F.I.P.T. (Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust) because his Area was afraid of printing. Obviously there are more out there who lack the "security" to do the right thing.



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By: Lester O.



For those who are still unsure, just do it! You don't have to take my authority on it; I'm only an equal Member. You could verify my research by reading the laws and the court transcripts. All I can say is, irregardless of who is the "author" or "owner", the fact is you are protected by copyright law and jurisdiction is still in a US Federal Court. The needs of society at large, the still suffering masses of Addicts, overrides the rights or imagined rights of anyone who claims ownership. If printing cheaper literature reaches many more newcomers, how in the world will any court of law, seeing the benefit to society, rule against those who print and distribute free of cost?

ADDENDUM 2: (Excerpt from The Impending Crisis (Redux) 2010 page 26)

“When the service structure changed removing the 'world representative' from the World Service Conference, the Super Board could be engineered. Our name was now lent to a legal corporation: Narcotics Anonymous World Service, Incorporated. When it suits them, NAWS cites the Traditions. When the will of the Fellowship goes against corporate policy, they cite the Concepts. With our Traditions compromised, the corporation can proceed to appease the big pharmaceutical interests and treatment industry by eroding our stand on total abstinence and justify it all in the name of profits.”

Fan Page – “coreIssues”

website – www.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.

– 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?



Core Issues

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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.**

One Member Writes:

AS FOR US PURISTS...

I am an NA Purist and make no apology. I mean really, there is nothing for which a purist need apologize. All we want to be able to do is let the still suffering addict know that by living the NA way they can stop using, lose the desire to use and find a new way to live. Many among our ranks are seen as militants and labeled 'nazis' or 'NA Police', likely because when we take a stance in defense of our Traditions we mostly do so at the expense of some addict's ego. Not a one of us starts out willing to be told we're wrong and most of us never really grow to like it. When we point out a violation of our Traditions or cry out in agony over the bastardization of the language of our message, the passion a purist feels for our fellowship often gets delivered with a punch born out of the threat we feel to our beloved way of life. I'd like to believe that it is never intended as a weapon against the individuals or groups that we hope to inform and educate. Perhaps the newer members of our ranks do not yet understand all of the principles behind their love for NA and only feel and act with the fervor that has been ignited. That might explain some of the apparent clash. I cannot speak nor apologize for any individual human being. Nor would I want to. I only want to help others understand our view. We, as a movement, do not hate AA, or any other group of folks trying to help their respective suffering. We, as a movement, do not hate religion or deities or church. We, as a movement do not hate the practice of medicine nor psychiatry. Our message as purists is not that these ought to be shunned, scorned or spurned. Our message is simply that Narcotics Anonymous works. This Program is sufficient to the needs of an addict, any addict, without regard to choice of drug(s) used. We do not say "alcohol" (or any other drug name) or "sober" (or any other language besides our own) ONLY out of respect for ourselves, not out of disrespect for others. For decades I've heard our detractors chastise our ideals by pointing to the debt of gratitude we owe to AA for showing the way and allowing us to adapt our Steps from theirs. What I have always wanted to ask these people is this: "What exactly do you think we owe them? I mean how should we pay this debt? By bowing to them and living in their shadow in perpetuity?" I submit that the best, nay the ONLY way we can pay this debt is to become (we already did) and REMAIN a distinct fellowship and Program of recovery in our own right. AA fully supports this in that they need to address the single issue of alcoholism and to help only the alcoholic. We can be of utmost service to AA by addressing the single issue of addiction and helping only the still suffering addict. We need not and CAN not do anything else. We can pay our debt by being pure.