




Core Issues
May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
 By: Lester O.



Goals And Purposes

We believe there needs to be discussion among the members of NA with regard the purpose and direction of our fellowship. There are 'service' groups springing up throughout North America; their goals are as many and varied as our members. Our purpose at 'core' is to provide a venue to facilitate open and respectful discussion among the members of the fellowship. We discuss ideas about how to make the NA fellowship more responsive to the still suffering addict. We hold weekly meetings, publish a weekly newsletter, and plan events for the purpose of uniting our fellowship. These are not core meetings, core newsletters, nor core gatherings; they are our gift to the NA fellowship.

<p>We Believe that the Greater the Base (Global NA Society)</p>		<p>The Broader the sides and the Higher the point of freedom.</p>
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Yours in Loving Service,
 Lester O.

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

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

The first step to recovery is to stop using. We cannot expect the Program to work for us if our minds and bodies are still clouded by drugs. Complete abstinence is the foundation for our new way of life.



Core Issues
May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
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**Summary of Core Group Project Discussions for
 the Month of April, 2014**

Core Group Minutes

April 1, 2014

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

**Tuesday Night
 CONFERENCE CALL**

Attendance with area codes: Bo 404 - John F 707 – Lester O 321 - David - Jmu
 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 -

Thought you might like this.....

“Is There But One Ultimate Authority?”

If you have been around the fellowship for any length of time you will more than likely recognize the madness in telling an addict what to do. Even trying to tell an addict that they don’t have to do it exactly how they are told, suggesting that they can modify the demands, seems just as crazy. So why is the World Board (WB’s) trying to use this approach with the Service System (SS) Project? Could it simply be because this has become the standard practice of NAWS Inc., or does it actually work? I remember

something that work fantastically, it was called involvement, or inclusion, something I recently heard described as being open participatory service. Involvement should begin long before the finished product is assembled.

I was told in October 2010, that World Services was looking into revamping our Service Structure. I had become disenfranchised - In the late 1990’s - during the previous makeover on the NA Service Structure, and I knew I had some catching up to do. One of the first things I had to do was become acquainted with the new terminology and

acronyms. The first acronym I had to learn was NAWS, a new terminology I’m still trying to learn about is consensus based decision making. It appears that this has been implemented, but yet to be defined.



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



Regardless, it made me excited to think that perhaps I could make some type of small contribution. I began brain storming about what I would do to make things work better, to reduce expenses, improve services and increase involvement. When I came up with my first, genius idea I made my submission to the WB's through the use of e-mail, for the very first time. I was shocked when I quickly received an e-mail response to thank me for the suggestion. However, I was dismayed when I read on. The WB's or NAWS special worker, were not really looking for new ideas, what they were really wanting was feedback on how great their ideas were. I was mistaken in my belief that they wanted ideas on how to improve things, I failed to understand that they - The SS workgroup, NAWS Staff, and the WB's - had already done all the thinking, all I had to do was figure out how to follow their directions.

I believe this procedure of simply rejecting anything and everything that is not preordained by a workgroup, NAWS Staff, and the WB's is not working. In NAWS News (Sept 2008) they published the names of the ten members chosen for the SS workgroup, plus the WB's assigned to the project. While I was brushing up on my terminology I ran across another hum dinger, Human Resource Panel (HRP's), I mistakenly thought they were the people that blindly chose the members of the workgroups, through some mysterious grading process. My research was flawed; it appears that the WB's do the appointing, or in the case of two of these people it might be called the anointing. In the very same issue of NAWS News I previously mentioned, this was discovered, "In addition to the plans for each workgroup and project, we were able to approve the workgroup members for the remaining projects for this cycle." In looking over the names of the SS workgroup it appears that two of them did such outstanding work they wound up becoming WB's themselves at the World Service Conference (WSC) 2012. Has this become some type of stepping stone process of the WB's hand picking their replacements, or what exactly was the intention behind creating the HRP's? The first announcement about the formation of the SS workgroup came in that September issue of NAWS News. In the November issue of NAWS News it was announced that "The Service System Workgroup has also met twice" The 2008 WSC ended on May 3rd, the WB's selected their work group almost instantly, and the chosen people gathered together twice - someplace - to implement the "plans" - sometime - before the publication of

the November NAWS News. Should we suggest a change in the name of work group? Maybe we should called them the secret specialists, and define their purpose as being the entity that carries out the plans of the WB's.

The 2008 Conference Agenda Report (CAR) had a section titled, Our Service System. In looking through this section I noticed two interesting observations by the WB's that seem related. In one place they mention, "As part of the PR Handbook endeavor, we also put together an Area Planning Tool that was approved at the 2006 World Service Conference as well." And then in the very next paragraph, "The PR Handbook and the Area Planning Tool were both created in response to local needs, and we know in many cases that the implementation of these two new tools would fall into the "what's working" category." I would like to know the exact number where they claim "many cases." I would hope the numbers were dramatically more than the SS Project field testing, where they started with nine and wound up with seven test communities, with only six of the original sites testing the full scope of the local project. They then found the audacity to make



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



this claim at the beginning of the Field Test Summary found in the 2014 CAR. “In some cases, however, having GSF meetings seemed to make service meetings more attractive to GSRs because there wasn’t as much time taken up at the ASC or LSC with reading of group reports.” And at the very end of that same Summary we learn more about the number of testers and that claim, “Eliminating group reports from the business meeting and having a GSF report to highlight the most important elements was also cited as an improvement by a couple of testers.” So it looks to me like the WB’s knew what their Service System plan was prior to the 2008 WSC. The “plan” seems to be an attempt to dismantle the remaining locations where the old fashioned sub-committee structure was in place and working. This is an assertion by the WB’s taken directly from the WSC 2008 Conference Report, “we are stuck in old ways of thinking and appear unwilling to change.” They back up the “plan” by laying out this claim about our current Service Structure in the August 2010 issue of NAWS News, “We have been using a service model designed in the 1980s whose effectiveness and lack of flexibility may have outlived itself.”

I think that the effectiveness of the WB’s telling us what to do is well demonstrated by the results of the SS Project. Their first two years really accomplished one thing, and that was a minor change in the Vision Statement. This is how they summarized their efforts regarding this in the 2012 CAR, “First, we have tweaked the language in general so that it is more clearly a vision statement for all NA services, not just for world services. Then we added a second bullet that speaks to the joy and spiritual growth that come from service.” All of this was reportedly at the cost of only right around \$150,000. Then the next two years yielded substantial proposals & modified proposals and then more modification with some acronym letter juggling resulting in Eight Resolutions and Eight Straw Polls written in a fashion to continue the SS Problem, formerly known as project. Now here we are approaching WSC 2014 with three more soothing suggestions from the WB’s, asking

us “To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system...” So far money seems to be no object in achieving the WB’s “plan”; they have spent - reportedly - close to \$500,000. It now appears that we are the problem, and if we would simply sit up, pay attention and do as we’re told everything will be all right. Well they have me sitting up paying attention and I don't like the "plan". Another part of their plan in the 2014 CAR plainly says, “NA World Services [NAWS] has funded all delegates to the past six Conferences, but this is something we simply can no longer afford to do.” I think we have something more pressing that we can no longer afford, and that something is allowing the WB’s to govern a fellowship that has but one ultimate authority. “

Conference call opened at 8:30 pm EST

General discussion

Discussion List:

- Bo - Two webpage’s hacked according to Travis. Trying to reach server now. nacoregroup.org and naviews.org



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



- Letter - David thinks we should follow instincts... delay sending for now.
- New Grandson! - Arthur Anderson Sewell
- Jmu - the conference may not go well for WB.
- Bo - Has everyone looked at OriginalNA.org?
- David - My sponsor is RD Alt for Louisiana RSC. Fan page getting a little traffic.
- Bo - Spoke at length with Gino in Houston, Texas. Known him a long time, since 1978 WCNA there. Also visited with Chad in Nevada. We do not have a functional Conference, Board of Trustees. Everything is in the Office. Core group has been meeting over 150 weeks now.
- Lester - WSB had one vote each member. Think WSO had one vote to show where they stood on issues.
- Bo - Now the WSO Board of Directors, aka NAWS, Inc., has eighteen votes and the sole power to make motions. We are an Office with a fellowship, not a Fellowship with an office. I think the WSO ate our service structure. We need more closed meeting, addicts seeking recovery only. That way drug court people could go to open meetings for their attendance papers to be signed. Those who are addicts seeking recovery could still go to closed meetings as members. Also, we need to start some special H&I meetings for drug court people. It is important to remember, they are not NA members by right of being sentenced to NA. It takes a First Step to become a member.
- Lester - two new meetings, one for Traditions Study and one a writing group. The writing group is dropping out of ASC.
- Bo - Recently recalled WSO made a big push to approve the Handbook for NA Literature Committees we put together in 1980 at the WSC, even though we missed the deadline. We did not see it getting approved and it seemed like WSO was supporting our service effort. Now, interestingly enough, WSO never put out one copy so they approved it to kill it. It was an instance of deliberate contention from
- the Office against the free and open WSC. Also, it was the Jimmy K. office not the Jim Delizia office. This suggests that there is a natural antagonism between a business office functions and free fellowship functions no one has noticed that I know of.
- The World Service Conference Sub-committee for Literature did not make a stink about it. We hardly noticed - there were still hundreds of copies of the review form of the Handbook we had made. Our focus was almost entirely on the upcoming Literature Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. We were very much deliberately avoiding side issues and did not want to make trouble needlessly. Since we reached our goals, I guess it was a good call.
- Lester - 1st Anniversary of Grey Book meeting in Portland - group doing well.
- David - Need handouts at WSC!
 - the Letter to Regions
 - Special Issues
- Lester - Page 26 of Impending Crisis written in 2010
- David - Jaye Morris speaker Sunday Morning at Northern Louisiana Campout.

Closing Prayer: Davis led in 3rd Step Prayer.

Closed at 9:35



Core Issues
May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



Recording

Next meeting on 8th of April – check out articles in Addendum
“That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship.”

April 8, 2014
8:30 pm EST, 7:30 pm CST, 6:30 pm MST, 5:30 pm PST,

Tuesday Night
CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance with area codes: Bo - John F – Lester O - David B - Nadine - Chubs -
Mitch - Brian
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 -

Bill F 4:29pm Apr 9
Amazingly two of the 9 test areas for the SSP have gone back to the standard structure of the ASC. One after over a year of testing with WB/NAWS support. Jim makes perfect sense. IF you don't understand it it's not spiritual.....
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 11:13 AM
Subject: New Post/Thread Notification: Service System Project
Hello,
Jim B servant has just posted in the Service System Project forum of WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012) under the title of Group Delegate Voting.

This thread is located at <http://disc.na.org/wsc2012/showthread.php?327-Group-Delegate-Voting>

Here is the message that has just been posted:



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



"Could it be that the SSP is much like photosynthesis or gravity or our concept of a higher power in that we don't have to understand it perfectly before it can start working in our lives??"

It is our responsibility to fully understand it. That is what we were elected to do. If we can't, we have no business presenting it to our local fellowships as a path forward in our service delivery. "if it's not practical, it's not spiritual"

The SSP is a service model, it may or may not be useful. Our fellowship is making important decisions as to how we will move forward. "Just trust it", does not inform a group conscience, and under informed group consciences make poor decisions.

We have work shopped the hell out of it in my region, along with plenty of mock GSFs and LSCs. Many still made emotional decisions, but they were fully informed ones.

Understanding is key to the SSP working. It is complex and requires lots of time effort and cooperation. Gravity is inevitable, how we provide our services isn't.

Jim B, RD Arizona

Conference call opened at 8:30 pm EST

General discussion

Discussion List:

- John F - 8: 15
- Bo 8:30 - services performed or current by core group: weekly conference calls, essays, flyers, cards, books, events, fan page, newsletter, youtube.com clips.
- Nadine 8:55 - communication about SSP seems to be black hole, no appreciation of Fellowship concerns.
- Bo - Which way will it go at WSC - seems like a cat and mouse game. Still think there is something going on behind the scenes which are simply a design to distract inexperienced members.
- Chubs 9:07 UT
- Nadine - Dawn RD diagnosed with cancer. Nadine may be California Inland (from Palm Springs to Brice) may replace and Conference.
- Bo - Pressures are coming from law and medicine.
- Nadine - Doctors don't understand addiction as a disease, literally.
Big Pharma - says, "We can get results!" Basically, doctors say, "Good idea, let's do that."
- Lester - Man in Kentucky sentenced to the years in prison, probated to drug court and mandated to attend NA. Probably on Suboxone. FB: man on Suboxone for four years.



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



- Chubs - see same thing in Utah. Methadone now DRT. Med industry and treatment, new therapeutic efforts to medicalize addiction for money, property and prestige! "Bodies don't know the difference..." BT We need to stick with what works for us. Corporation in bed with treatment and legal forces.
- David B - Fear based notions prevailing rather than loving people until they can love themselves.
- Mitch - NA group secretary on Suboxone, moved to Florida. Group conscience there said ok to take service position on suboxone. Free State RSC had an extensive Ad-hoc on Suboxone came up with "if you don't like it, take a hike." Would like to see documentation on treatment centers alternatives.
- Nadine - Time Magazine article on DRT. WB discussed outside issues - telling clients they were clean. NA says people on drugs - mind or mood changing - are not clean. WB media - how to fix. Traditions are simple - complete freedom stressed.
- Yellow Eyes, aka "Mr. Semantics" Nadine mentioned lot of people don't understand addiction. Meaning shifts from person to person, time to time. Alcoholism listed a 'alcohol dependence.' Addiction it thought process based on fear creates pain leads to substance instead of conscious contact with God leads to freedom. From 1400's - addicted to substance, dependence. Change dictionary would help. Bill O'Riley could possibly help us get attention to further this change.
- Lester - On news broadcast last few days: someone addicted to pills but didn't know until his prescription lapsed. It Became apparent when he couldn't get pills. Go to next best substance, then to heroin. Took pills off market. Starting to become epidemic was generated to take focus off one thing and put it on another.
- Chubs - Chemical dependencies - dictionary not something that determined founders of NA. How we feel, outside opinion creates the problem, NA Traditions and Steps are the answer. Answers are covered up. Now talking new stuff. No documentation that DRT works. Certainly not from Narcotics Anonymous. Believes in the NA 12 Traditions all the way.
- Nadine - Designing site. Point A to B. Suggests links to site for membership development. (Bo - send essay for minutes please)
- Lester - How do we turn this around?
- John F - Suboxone - When people are put under drug court, they are subject to jails, institutions and death. Has only seen a few get off drugs from incarceration or medical treatments. Suboxone may not kill but leads to relapse and will kill them over last 30 years. Saying DRT is ok is a green light to using.
- Mitch - What if they kill someone or go nuts?
- John F - Mind or mood altering drugs make for mental problems.
- Chubs - Difference between DRT is not NA. Schizophrenia is different from addiction. In years when our Book was being written, Basic Text brought all members together. Agreement and open participation creates new unity. Slow process. Delizia - read his book, what they are doing is great idea but no for NA. Overcoming opposition is not group conscience. Doesn't change personalities. Corporate mentality is not answer. Not taught our process. Don't know Traditions, freedom.
- David B - DRT is Methadone created in WW1, carried forward. Nothing new. Pharma trying to pretend they have new drugs.



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



- Nadine - Doctors asking member she knows questions about her experience with Suboxone. doctors feel like they have a way to treat addicts. She realized doctors don't have any idea how to 'treat' addicts. to them, it's better than what they are doing.
- Brian - difference between dependence and addiction. Crucial difference, not made clear in dictionaries.
- Bo - The doctors need our help.
- Lester - Questions about Suboxone. Friend on Sub. for 2 years. Talking about how it saved her life, going on and on. Know a lady on Sub. relapsed actually believed she was clean because she was on prescribed drugs.
- Bo - Gigantic growth pains going on now. You members of core give me hope.
- Mitch - personal question - (clarify please...for minutes.)
- Nadine - Recovery attractive, not going away. What bugs her is how we welcome newcomers. Long time members being ignored. Maybe unfortunately... We are powerless over decisions WB is making. Effects are devastating to what we had. Our lives depend on this.
- Bo - told story of how there were six deaths one year locally, people we all knew. One girl was cut up and pieces put in jars. 28 year APD said worst he had ever heard of. The girl was attacked by a newcomer in her apartment. Another lady kept shooting dope and smoking in bed - but passed out and burned to death. Newspaper said tenants could hear her screaming. Her parents kept sending Christmas cards for years...
- Mitch - Wants collection to help member get to Stamford. Call to help.
- Lester - Don't hear H&I discussed ever. Loss of standing committees. When we had standing committees we had idea exchange among trusted servants. People came to NA because they wanted to and stayed because they wanted to.
- Lester - Mandated attendance creates some of our problems. Used to be addicts were trying to get treatment on demand. Today, getting court ordered and getting more mandated instead of those who want recovery. Some are not addicts at all and will never get the desire for recovery. So those who come for recovery do not realize what they are getting is not "NA."
- Bo - Sugar coating does not work. Used to be, a new person would mouth some bullshit and an experienced member would tell them they were full of it. Work you program like your life depends on it.
- Lester - Wrong people in meetings.
- Bo - No more closed, addicts only, meetings. Even closed meetings are open to drug court attendance. Don't think many members understand the importance of the difference. Hear "newcomer most important person in meeting...." and miss completely the part about "because we can only keep what we have by giving it away."
- Nadine - talking about SSP - main thing groups need help. Say, "Don't give us that Traditionalist stuff."
- Lester - suggests special edition of Core Issues. "What we would like to see as Vision of NA." Gotten way off track, please send articles to Lester!
- Lester - Some RD's might change their viewpoint. send to lester1444@hotmail.com
- Bo - There is tremendous power in 'truth statements.'



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



Closing Prayer: Nadine led in 3rd Step Prayer.

Closed at 11:05

Recording ok

Next meeting on 15th of April – check out articles in Addendum

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

Notes April 15, 2014

HOPE

I have the highest regard and affection for each of you on the core group. It occurs to me that there is one thing in short supply and greatly in need by our membership. There is a malaise of pain shooting through NA today. While business and official types seem to really pleased and happy, many other feel NA dying. A spiritual Fellowship of loving, caring members who welcome us to a new life clean and free do not like surveillance and drug use invading our space.

Hope is the essence of or common welfare. Hope is feeling like there are good things coming. Whatever our difficulty or situation, there is a chance things will work out. There are people to encourage us and answer questions that may be bothering us. Not outside force can really shut us down or prevent us from setting things straight once they yield up to our understanding. Among the many blessing of working the 12 Steps is a growing clarity and focus that allows us to view and review information until our questions fade and answers take their place.

Any person who takes a long look at our NA history will surely notice how many times our future looked bleak. Once we had no meetings, and then that changed. Some of us recall how hospitals and treatment centers were telling all newcomers to go elsewhere is we really wanted recovery. Some of us remember when there were only a couple of handfuls of meetings –

world-wide! There were early efforts to build a program for addicts seeking recovery that lasted years. Then we grew. Perhaps a new spirit came out of the pain and confusion of the 1960's. NA rose and fell like the tides, then a PO Box in Sun Valley gave us a place to call and write. The man on the phone answered questions, knew what was happening and worked hard to encourage members and take the Fellowship side whatever came up. Another individual came into the Los Angeles Fellowship who just could not stand to be a member of a Fellowship that had no service structure. His dedication overcame the nay-sayers and the NA Tree was approved in 1975. It still took a few years to jump start the new structure. Everyone had their own ideas about



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



how it should be done. Once we had no book and we were told addicts in recovery could not write. It looked really bleak but we came through and the dream of a Basic Text came true. With not outside funding or direction, we brought forth a great mass of members whose dedication and hard work resulted in our terrific growth from about 1980 to 2007. Slowly we stopped growing and many members left NA permanently due to infighting and confusion behind our rapid growth.

At each step we had members saying 'IT' could not work, we were done for. Again and again our history proves that when it comes to life and death we know how to buckle down and get serious. Hope is the song of many people looking at positive possibilities. There are always plenty who want to play it safe and run for cover. It takes special courage to stand up for a dream. The center is a principle, not a personality. What we lack in emotional and spiritual maturity, we make up for in desperation. Once a people make up their minds and began in investigate, things come together. The despondent and fearful are amazed to see members working hard together, setting aside personal preference for the common good – and achieving them! Obstacles that once seemed insurmountable begin to crumble until they are chewed up into the dust of history and those who said it couldn't work out. One thing we NA's agree on is that bringing a higher power into our life changes everything. The 'X' factor gently brings things into place. We look up and then the sun comes again. Winter fades into spring and there are flowers on fields that seemed dead and incapable of recovery. We learn that while no one

knows it all, together we change the odds in our favor. Life – and recovery – will make a way. Hope is the essence of our common welfare.

April (15 & 22), 2014

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

**Tuesday Night
CONFERENCE CALL**

Attendance with area codes: Bo - John F - Lester O - David B - Mitch - Bruce - Jmu
Bo on Minutes



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May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
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***DON'T USE, GO TO MEETINGS AND WORK YOUR STEPS
Weekly Articles Sent in by Core Group Members***

Hazelden Introduces Antiaddiction Medications into Recovery for First Time | TIME.com

TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON HAZLETON'S SHIFT TO CONDONING MEDICATION. THIS IS PROBABLY WHY WORLD SERVICE OFFICE WANTS TO CHANGE OUR STAND ON DRUG REPLACEMENT THERAPY. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THEY HAVE NO BUSINESS CHANGING OUR STAND. IN A WAY, IT WAS SAD TO SEE IN PRINT THAT THE WORLD BOARD, WHICH IS THE WSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FUNDED BY WSO, THOUGHT IT WAS THEIR JOB TO CHANGE WHAT THE FELLOWSHIP THINKS. OBVIOUSLY, THEY THINK THEY OWN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS.

FROM OCTOBER 2012 WB MINUTES:

PR Issues

Hazelden has been one of the largest supporters of abstinence based treatment and 12 steps; by the end of the 2012, they will be moving into the Suboxone treatment for addiction. What this means is that most likely all of those facilities funded by the government will be strongly encouraged to incorporate medication into their treatment of clients. Current medical statistics shows this medication 'normalizes' people. At the same time ISAM and ASAM (all addiction professionals with the best intentions) know the only thing that medication is good for is short term stabilization and that without a 12 step recovery program, it is not a long term solution.

Hazelden called staff yesterday regarding Time Magazine calling them and in turn directed Time Magazine to call Narcotics Anonymous. Magazine stated that they read bulletin #29 on our website that said we don't welcome people on medication. Bulletin #29 was written in the 1980's and is not in line with our most current literature. SP NA Groups and Medication and In Times of Illness which speak of drug replacement medications. How do we resolve Bulletin #29?

Issues 1) how are we going to respond to the public 2) what we do or don't say to doctors and medical professionals 3) what do we want to do about the posted material on our website (old/outdated).

Another matter: recently assisted in PR training with Swiss fellowship, cautioned them about NA not having an opinion on outside issues (medication), expressed that we typically refer people to the stories in some of our literature and also honestly told them that some groups are more welcoming than others about this issue.

However long term challenge is as a worldwide fellowship-what is and isn't done to make people on medication feel welcome. We say "anyone is welcome" but most in the fellowship are not welcoming. How do we create a cultural shift in dealing with this? Many long term treatment centers are going through this change and for us to ignore the change would not behoove us.



Core Issues
May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
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The minutes go on with discussion on pulling Bulletin #29 and other "outdated" documents from na.org . See full minutes here: [http://moreaboutthenassp.com/uploads/102412_min_apprvd- October 2012.pdf](http://moreaboutthenassp.com/uploads/102412_min_apprvd-October_2012.pdf)

Bill F posted in NA Service Discussion Forum 11:34am Apr 17

When we are informed, we make the correct decisions. "Why we want to change this, why it is working smoothly for us?" Amazing input from our India Fellowship.

From: "WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012)" <webmaster@na.org>
 Date: Apr 17, 2014 5:30 AM

Subject: New Post/Thread Notification: Service System Project

Hello,

Joydeep.M has just posted in the Service System Project forum of WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012) under the title of Group Delegate Voting.

This thread is located at <http://disc.na.org/wsc2012/showthread.php?327-Group-Delegate-Voting>

Here is the message that has just been posted:

Hi All

We SIRSCONA, India had our Regional meeting last week(10th to 12th April,2014) 8 Area RCM & RCM'A along with 3 loner Group was present there and we have talk about the SSP and wanted to take conscience but I was surprise to see apart from one Area in the Region no other area have any Idea of SSP or its functioning ,even I have done just a workshop on 2013 APF and through the SSP material which we have on our NA web site .

The conscience of the table was all the Area of the Region should be well educated about it ,then only we can think about it but for now the Region say NO for Motion No:4,5 & 6.

And one thing came up in the discussion why we want to change this, why it is working smoothly for us?
 Joydeep.M
 RD, SIRSCONA, India

COULDN'T SAY IT ANY BETTER.....



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



Date: April 16, 2014 at 12:19:18 PM CDT
Subject: New Post/Thread Notification: WSC 2014
Hello,

Smccarthy has just posted in the WSC 2014 forum of WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012) under the title of 2014 Conference Report.

This thread is located at 2014-Conference-Report
Here is the message that has just been posted:

Though it is interesting to read how other areas and regions operate, it is of no real concern of ours unless my area or region chooses to use some ideas others have experimented with. In that event, they may seek experience, strength and hope from another region. However, for WSC to have motions for all of NA to 'move forward in a direction' of CDBM, SSP, GTLS, S/N/P or any other homogenized, organized system is a violation of Traditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 12, in my opinion. And depending on the motivation for this type of 'organization' it would also violate 6,

10 and 11. And, if the division on this board that is reflected to a nearly perfect degree in my home area and region is equally reflected in areas and regions around the world, we are clearly in violation of Tradition 1 and our actions and decisions at WSC are causing disunity. We, again, can publish SSP as an alternative or choice to the members and then LET IT GO and work back toward unity, inclusion, patience, tolerance, autonomy, diversity, respect and unconditional love toward all manifestations of the recovering addict. Let us try to bring peace by allowing regions to do their good work the way they see fit. We can revamp WSC through expansion or proxy voting or whatever we want to do but we cannot mandate or coerce regions to do things any specific way, including mandating to which region they must belong or when groups feel that a split is necessary to improve service delivery or how those groups reach their conscience.

Sandy M RD

ABCD Region of NA

A member asked about the Grey Form today...

Is there something in it that is somewhat controversial?

To which I replied...

Not really, though there are two problems that NAW\$ seems to have with it.

It has the original Traditions

They do not hold a copyright on it.

NAW\$ and their spokesperson Steve Rusch have been known to tell any kind of blatant lie to protect their interests. When members read and study the old literature they tend to take a dim view of what the corporation does these days.



Core Issues
May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
 By: Lester O.



Steve Rusch will tell you that the Grey form was rejected by our fellowship. Which is utter bullshit. We know that the Grey form is a rough draft that was sent out for review and was edited with input from the fellowship at the literature conferences following Memphis until we had an approval form which became the Basic Text. So we know historically that the Grey Form was the rough draft of what would become our Basic Text. These historical FACTS do not serve the monetary interests of the corporation, they do in fact seem to inform members about Traditions and other spiritual aspects of our service structure that they really would like to bury. So whenever possible they try to convince the members of our fellowship that these pieces of our history, these writings that took place in the true spirit of group conscience and open participation, that lifted our fellowship up and out from under the shadow of another fellowship are bad things to be shunned.

When groups take an interest in printing older literature like the Grey Form or Third Edition

Revised the folks at NAW\$ tend to worry that it will have a negative effect upon their cash flow if we print literature and give it away to newcomers. They are not interested in helping addicts so much as profiting from them. Is it any wonder that they want to cozy up to the addiction treatment industry with such an attitude.

- There is not controversy, only truth.
- Truth that the corporation does not want you to know.
- Our members have a right to read and to study these materials.
- We have the right to print them and give them away in the spiritual nature of our fellowship.
- We also have the right to tell the corporation to go fuck itself.
They are only the trustees.
- We, the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous are the owners of the literature

What do YOU think??

Date: Apr 11, 2014 12:57 PM

Subject: New Post/Thread Notification: Service System Project

Hello,
 Rob B: Show-Me has just posted in the Service System Project forum of WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012) under the title of History of the SSP taken from NAW\$ News items & WB minutes.

This thread is located at <http://disc.na.org/wsc2012/showthread.php?320-History-of-the-SSP-taken-from-NAWS-News-items-amp-WB-minutes>

Here is the message that has just been posted:

Thanks Jeff P



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



“Instead of focusing on a particular personality, what about the main point (which I think is valid) that was trying to be made.

Is it true that the transition to a new system is easier (or better) for those outside of the US? Or, maybe it's not even that. Is it easier for younger (or even...less developed) local fellowships to switch/try a new system? I mention that because (I believe) the UK has voted against Motions 4-6. I think the UK is the oldest non-US fellowship. If you accept any of those statements as true, I would say that the next question should be, Are the older, more experienced, service entities resistant to these new ideas because they believe their local services

are fine as they are now or is it because, even if there might be problems, the solutions currently being offered don't seem to be viable? Or, is it a simple resistance to change?

Depending on what happens in a few weeks, I think these are questions that need to be answered.”

To answer your question it's a combination for sure in Show-Me
We are split pretty much down the middle.

One problem we have is that some to many may think change is needed, feel our system is totally broke, but would rather stick where we are at, and or just totally stay out of the process than participate in the dysfunction of it. They don't want to argue or fight or be insulted, or attacked, disrespected, ETC..

Another problem is that many of the addicts that are totally against the SSP and or any change in general are addicts that have been in recovery longer than many of them have been alive or close. They are highly respected addicts(by myself also), and they can be intimidating to say the least. Many addicts feel they owe their live to the current system, and many more addicts feel they owe their lives to those addicts(myself also). Many of us would follow our sponsor into the depths of hell, I know I might, I have never gone wrong following him so far.

Another thing I have noticed while doing workshops SSP and CAR is that addicts will freely admit that what we are doing is broke, that concede to the problems, ETC....but when you start talking about changing it they start to get defensive. The reason why, it's like family to them, it might be totally messed up, but it's mine. They have taken ownership of it, they will start blaming themselves over changing the structure. I have heard many times it's the addicts not the structure, what does that matter? There are different addicts in NA, and the whole process the still suffering addict has gone through has changed, I agree the system worked perfect 12 years ago when I got clean, but times have changed, so do we, whether motions 4-6 pass or not, If they fail it's not magically going to be 1998 again.

The WB and NAWs haven't done themselves any favors, when the SSP was first presented to Show-Me by the addicts in our region who went to one of the early SSP workshops in Dallas, they came back with the message that this is going to happen so you might as well jump on board, WE might as well of poured gas on all the addicts who still haven't got over all the stuff that happened in 1998?(I was still using) and more, including



Core Issues
May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
 By: Lester O.



myself. The whole reason I put in a resume for AD at the time, was because I was pissed about the SSP and they way it was being shoved down our throats, LOL. I too had the same attitude, why in the world are we changing our service structure?, what is wrong with these people, LOL, all of it. Then there is the fact when it first came out, as what happens many times, addicts just LOVE to prove how smart they are, and it was more complicated than advanced physics. To NAWS and the WB's and the other addicts involved credit, they have toned it down, or either the addicts who attended the Dallas WS, got the wrong idea ETC...

The more I have traveled throughout the Show-Me Region and the USA I see the need more than ever for change, I question whether or not we are ready. WE may have to hit a bigger bottom to get the point that we have to change instead of trying to be proactive. WE should have done many things different, documented the need at the group, area, and regional level first instead of doing it globally, LOL, and we should have gone much slower. like maybe just trying the GSF, which most addicts can't deny the need for, and let it evolve from there. More importantly now we need to come together as a fellowship, practice the 1st tradition, the more we fight, addicts DIE, and they are.

Date: April 18, 2014 at 1:38:08 PM CDT
Subject: New Post/Thread Notification: WSC 2014
 Hello,

Smccarthy has just posted in the WSC 2014 forum of WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012) under the title of 2014 Conference Report.

This thread is located at <http://disc.na.org/wsc2012/showthread.php?331-2014-Conference-Report>

Here is the message that has just been posted:

Cindy
 I do believe that members of my region would be just as split if the SSP did not have the S/N/P element just not nearly as outraged. Who is WSC to tell them how they are to deliver local services? Where is that tradition? Without the seating element, I believe less people would really care whatever you voted on at WSC because it would have no enforcement mechanism so we could still do things the way we saw fit and just tuck away a GTLS for our own use and be done with the whole mess. Then, we could go back to being 'apathetic' members who sponsor people, do home group service, take newcomers to meetings or spend time with them outside of meetings, teach and learn how to apply steps and traditions and all the things we 'apathetic' members do that actually sometimes result in the transformation of a life- not just talking about newcomers or imagining how to help them- but hands on, putting in the time to actually do it. And have areas, regions and world support us in those endeavors not complain because we aren't paying enough attention to them and



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



what they think they need from us.

That would be awesome.

Oops, that was bad. I should stop and go to work.

Sandy M

General discussion

Discussion List: Bo and John – general talk:

- David B – deposit for next year's Free at Last Campout in North Louisiana. Had great time, despite someone cancelling our reservations last November. Moved to Bistineau Lake SP 85 miles West, so got more people from Texas! In all, Texas, Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Maine. David and Ellen immediately put announcements on FaceBook, email, phone to let people know where to go for the campout at Bistineau.
Thankfully, the Park Service refunded our deposit and compted the new site. People can be nice!
- Bo – someone came on the call and the display showed "anonymous" and after asking them to introduce themselves, they were bumped from the call. This happened twice during the call.
- John F. - Things in Kansas City OK. Open meetings only, one person who would not introduce themselves was taking notes.
- Bo S. - my service is to one home group and to all the areas and regions.
- David – lots of groups using the Baby Blue now.
- Chubs – Thanks it will work our organically.
- David – Has digital copy of the Baby Blue, costs about \$3 to make one copy. Given to new comers.
- Chubs – Digital copies should be made available to any group that wants it.
Bruce – put on website!
- Bo – We will send out duplicable masters.
- Bruce – back home from Russia. NA is grass roots entity worldwide. Group conscience driven, empowering groups. History movement, any attention given to history perks up members because they finally know a little more about where we came from.
- Bo – core group members are everywhere I go...
- Lester – Dallas, Texas has group that uses BB, 15-20 members/week. Around \$80 in 7th Tradition. Recently got 100 BB. Just to test the waters, group called WSO and asked for discount of 50%, turned down.
- Bruce 7th Tradition gives \$30 per month to his Home Group.
- Bo – Mike R does key tags.
- Lester - \$5 week to HG.
- Bruce – the \$ help buy BB.
- Chubs – can put on ONA webiste. Asked about setting up a group conscience committee to drive group.



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



- Bruce – talked with Chubs at length about website issues. Do websites one page at a time. Do not ever give our username or password. Pages are developed offline before finalizing and uploading.
- Chubs – email chubs@gmail.com 775.990.3509
- Mitch – plea for money to help Steve OneShot get to Stamford History conference.

Mitch led closing prayer.

Closed at 10:00

Recording ok

Next meeting on 29th of April – check out articles in Addendum

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

Core Group Minutes

April 29, 2014

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

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance with area codes: Chad 775 - Bo 404 - John F 707 – Mitch – Bonnie-
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 -
Weekly Articles Sent in by Core Group Members***

Hazelden Introduces Antiaddiction Medications into Recovery for First Time | TIME.com

TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON HAZLETON'S SHIFT TO CONDONING MEDICATION. THIS IS PROBABLY WHY WORLD SERVICE OFFICE WANTS TO CHANGE OUR STAND ON DRUG REPLACEMENT THERAPY. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THEY HAVE NO BUSINESS CHANGING OUR



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



STAND. IN A WAY, IT WAS SAD TO SEE IN PRINT THAT THE WORLD BOARD, WHICH IS THE WSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FUNDED BY WSO, THOUGHT IT WAS THEIR JOB TO CHANGE WHAT THE FELLOWSHIP THINKS. OBVIOUSLY, THEY THINK THEY OWN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS.

General discussion

Discussion List:

Discussion:

Bo – some history of the core group. Wichita big success but blew people's minds as they became aware of things new to them and recollected at the Fellowship Assembly. We realized there was a disconnect between world and the Fellowship and spent last three years learning. Weekly meetings on conference call, minutes and many essays.

- Chad the Addict – Had a 'closed – addicts only' home group: Original NA.
- John F – NA is in freefall – lost compass. Need new name.
- Bo – Three points: information – polling – consequences if will of Fellowship not followed.
- Mitch – a group could go over Grey Form or other books.
- Bonnie – listening in, trying to get baby to go to sleep. Love you Bonnie!
- John – Wining and dining RD's, no voice in Fellowship.
- Bo – Cloak and dagger for last 25 years. WS has proved unwieldy and unfaithful to NA spirit and membership.
- Chad – Home Group members discussed, Is NA dying? If so, let's form new Fellowship. The Original NA Group if closed, off schedule, NA website. NAWS is not in line with Fellowship or spirit of NA: giving, caring, loving newcomer and long timer alike. If we form a new Fellowship, we have to do the work. Support new Traditionalist NA meetings Steps and Traditions. NAWS is not NA. It has been kaput since the beginning of NAWS. We do not lend our name to outside issue.
- David B – 75 to 78 voting with NAWS at conference. RD's spineless. Would not stand up to NAWS. We need NA with no concepts, no CBDM, stop donating to WS. NAWS doesn't want to see beyond their views.
- Bo – Not principled people. Been embarrassed because I could not in good conscience recommend NA to some PBS contacts because I knew NAWS would mess them up.
- David – Don't have the numbers to support a new Fellowship right now.
- Chad – Original NA is not willing to give up the name so easily. If we are judged 'not NA,' then



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



we will do the real NA.

- Bo S. – Like Billy A. hard work and dedication but do not want to get into a wasteful court process. Be like going to court to fix your marriage. If she doesn't care for you, go your way in peace.
- David B – People buying and donating to Baby Blue movement.
- John F – Read the entire Baby Blue court case recently. NAWS can't stop us.
- Bo S – Group Conscience Conference. Workshop "How to form a non-structural recovery meeting" Create paperwork for this.
- Mitch – Members have no idea where NA came from.
- David – Appalled at some of the reactions at the Fellowship Assembly at Wichita. Felt we were trying to split the Fellowship. Some people who had helped him in early recovery were way off course. Rude and mostly upset about formation of a USSS. Drank the Cool-Aide, spineless.
- Mitch – Learned Traditions before the Steps in workshops around Baltimore MD, West Virginia, Virginia, etc.
- Bo S – Libraries at Cairo and Constantinople burnt by ignorant people who did not write the books, scrolls and manuscripts. Fantastic loss to history. We have a duty to preserve the history and origins of NA in the struggle to get clean, stay clean and grow spiritually. There is no spiritual part of NA – the whole program is spiritual. If it isn't, it is not NA!
- John – Steps keep the addict alive. When WSO sided with the government, they ceased to be NA. Takes 12 oldtimers to help just one addict. Now have one oldtimer to help 12 newcomers. There is a spread between a few members in Kansas city celebrating 3 or 4 years and a couple celebrating 17 years. People not staying clean on court slip NA. Co-dependence is running rampant, the learning experience has been lost. Character defects run wild on co-dependence. Looking through meetings listed on na.org, noticed many groups included the words Drug Court in their name. Newcomers looking for a 'quick fix' NA. Working program the way they run in a modern burger joint for fast food. Slowly and thoughtfully working through the 12 Step process seems 'un-modern' to them. They think John with 30 years is going on dated information that is no longer any good. All they know is to look for a fast way. Equate time as neared relapse because they are taught relapse is part of the recovery process, so the longer you have clean, the closer you are to getting loaded!. Noticed some people with time not as furious about NAWS. They seem to try to rationalize reasons why to keep going to meetings.
- Bo led closing prayer with gratitude and hope.

Closed at 10:45



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



Recording

Next meetings on 6, 13, 20 and 27th of May – check out articles in Addendum
“That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship.”

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?
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?**

nacoregroup.org – Made link to youtube.com to make it easier to get to our video clips.



Core Issues

May. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



Addendum: for core group members:

David B

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

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

Addendum A: Posted 4/30/14 on Facebooks Group, "More About the SSP".

WSC - Tuesday April 29, 2014

NAWS Report

FIPT: Illicit literature -- "Baby Blues" out there again. Many will remember the difficult and painful times that we went through around this in the past. We would expect this to stop. By and large, for some time, in most places, it did. Once again we're confronted with a group of our members who have decided for various reasons to take the issue of distributing our books back upon themselves. This has once again started to cause a growing level of conflict. We're receiving lots of calls on this. The WSO has the legal responsibility to protect the fellowship's property, but that doesn't really solve this. Until the Fellowship decides that this activity is not OK, there are members who will do this and believe they're doing the right thing somehow. We told you we wouldn't sue another NA member without coming here and telling you. One of the wrinkles that has come with this latest round -- baby blues, areas distributing PDF versions on their websites, etc. Now we're being contacted by the commercial portals that sell our literature and being asked, what's the deal? We have sent a nice letter to the communities doing this that reviews the history and accepted practice on this. Ninety percent of the time this has been effective. We have to now deal with the ten percent. Anthony can't recall ever in our history when service bodies have been as disrespectful and entrenched about this as some are now. Legal remedies are not the solution to this. The solution rests with each member deciding do we still believe in the decisions that were made regarding intellectual property. Needed to air this here. We are going to start writing these letters and stepping up legal measures. Please help us by not tolerating this behavior.

Posted by Mickey

I Love Ya, and there is Nothing that You can Do About That.



Core Issues

May 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.



Addendum B:

From the Service System Proposal

Resolution 1. Our service efforts will be carried out through a system that includes structure, process, people, and resources.

From Delizia's Model for Governance of Philanthropic Organizations

Examination of critical components of governance – structure, process, people and resources – and how they work together efficiently and effectively to ensure the organization can achieve its stated mission, goals and priorities. Analysis and recommendations based on governance and organizational development principles and best practice.

Brent Layne
<http://deliziaconsultingservices.com/>

Welcome
deliziaconsultingservices.com
 Check out <http://deliziaconsultingservices.com/>

Share

governance (n)
 gover·nance [gúvvarnanss]

1. manner of government: the system or manner of government
2. state of governing a place: the act or state of governing a place
3. authority: control or authority



Core Issues
May 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5
By: Lester O.

