




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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Email: lester7286@gmail.com
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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.

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

Core Group Minutes

•May 6, 2014
•8:30 pm EST, 7:30 pm CST, 6:30 pm MST; 5:30 pm PST



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Tuesday Night
CONFERENCE CALL

Attendance with area codes: Jmu 703 - Bo 404 - John F 707 – Mitch 760 – David B –
Lester 321
Bo on Minutes

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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

Weekly Articles Sent in by Core Group Members

General discussion

Discussion List:

Discussion:

Bo – write new pamphlets, new history is being made right now. The central office has ceased to function as a service body and has co-opted the service structure by making it an extension of a corporate management system. How else can you describe the situation where in recent years, as a cost of \$500,000 each, the RD's have been raked over the coals in an attempt to beat them into submission to support motions the WSO and WB (formerly the WSO Board of Directors with one vote per each director at the Conference!) devised to suit themselves. Had they made a simple recommendation, that may have been correct. Anyone watching would notice that they were pressured on the Fellowship. With many RD's committed to vote against the Service Structure Proposal, the Monday WSC session opened at 9:00 am and lasted all day through 9:00 pm and further into the night until 3:00 am. Could this be considered PUSHING through votes nullifying the votes of thousands of NA members who sent their representatives to the WSC to vote down the expensive and improper motions formulated solely by the central office. "We may create service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve." does not include the business office pressuring the Fellowship to accept a change in the structure they considered under duress for several years and rejected.

Many groups and members feel distanced from the old WSO to the extent they have begun the process of producing their own literature and spending their money on local services as they see fit.



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Jmu – Been a rough year for me. Really hard. Reported on an alternate Basic Text designed for people who do not believe in a supernatural higher power. Atheists are included in the original Basic Text and the specific form a member's belief takes is up to their personal preference. The book contained a Maryland address.

David – 12 Steps and people who were unable to relate to spiritual dogma and stuff. People getting to the point where they are willing to commit their 7th Tradition money to print their own Basic Text.

Bo – already stock piling literature to service needs of members. May put together a new book geared to protect the interests of the Membership. Predict many members will choose to go this route and create a new WSO. If special workers choose to ignore their boundaries clearly set forth in the 12 Traditions of NA, the Fellowship can ignore them. Employees can be replaced.

David B – many members are like worker bees and just go along with whatever the corporation says. The real split is between creative freedom and worker bees.

Mitch – Been looking into the possible impact of some of the big treatment centers in Los Angeles and the effects they exert on the old world office. Many of them learned how to get money from the Federal Government to help addicts. The sums of money are large and it may be that the lure of money, property and prestige are just too great for some members to resist. Will send article on the influence of TC's on NA policy. To these people the Basic Text was evidence that 'real money' could be made in NA. Working carefully behind the scenes it is possible or likely selections or employees, election to service positions, etc. had undue and improper effect on the development of world services from a group conscience based system to the mess we have today. The basic idea of the corporation is to control the addicts in NA.

David – Tracking the heads, like Methadone.

Mitch – Jack B and Bill Beck we4re tied into government money through Cri-Help and Impact House.

Bo – read all about how they are run on internet. Simple goggle to get information.

General discussion of treatment industry and perspectives. Big effect on NA policy, especially if TC and corporation employees populate world services. We have never had open examination of conflicts of interests and how that could work against the material in the book Narcotics Anonymous which is all based on actual addict experience in recovery. Addicts want to be free, "complete creative freedom." What's the difference between suppression of information and information purposefully overlooked?

Jmu – Suboxone – good for getting off heavy opiate habit over 5 week period. Beyond that can get a Suboxone habit like a Methadone habit. The origins of NA have been covered up in WSO publications.

Mitch – Gautuia – long term treatment for addiction in or around Baltimore, MD.



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Bo – A simple division of experience or opinion is different from a 'dangerous split' like changing our written recovery material to please the treatment industry and sell more books. Since TC's are going with DRT, hey, WS wants to get on board. This is dangerous because it misrepresents NA recovery and would short circuit the NA recovery process from active addiction to complete creative freedom. TC's look at relapse as part of the recovery process. NA looks at relapse as part of the disease.

John F – In Kansas City, KS over the last two years, recovery has morphed into being a moral issue. “doing the right thing” as opposed to “don't have to brush all your teeth, just the ones you want to keep.”

Jmu – relapse “if someone mentions relapse as part of the program...” No, it is part of the disease. Recovery is not using drugs. In NA, recovery is the rigorous application of the NA Program.

Bo – like read a book one time is not 'working the program.' People of the lie can justify anything.

Jmu – Going to PI event in Maryland.

Bo – Group Conscience Atlanta in discussion stage – to share among just members feelings and experience.

Mitch – What went down at the Conference? Read the notes from Bill F. who was able to attend the WSC.

Lester – Monday and Tuesday were the big days. Not fond of discussion during Old Business where motions have been circulated and discuss before being voted on regional-Proposals-for-the-CAR. Discussion would just muddy the water and lead to changes in motions already considered and group conscientized. Improper procedure designed to cut out opposition to the motions. Heard a German RD introduced discussion idea. Regional voting was nullified because the regional opposition to the SSP was covered up and replaced with putting the unwonted material into the service guides.

Bo - This type of encroachment is clear evidence that WSO, not the NA Fellowship, is where the SSP came from. Just like 'only World Board Members' can make motions. Only World Board Members can make motions! What kind of representative body does that?

Lester – 4, 5 and 6 were put into GTLS as an option. This has zero backing in the regional group conscience. Changed the import of the Regional Votes! WSC session Monday went from 9 am to 3 am Tuesday. 18 hour session is clearly not called for and indicated how lopsided the Conference was.

Bo – I will no longer take them seriously as a viable service body. They are just a little business in Los Angeles. We were wrong to trust them. Do not want people working their recovery program to give up hope and leave the Fellowship. Obviously, this is a corporate matter operating well outside of NA. Do not lose hope.

Lester – predicts it will get real bad in two years. They decided to move forward with zonal seating. Next step conference where only WB and Zonal Delegates are seated. 36 individuals will make all the decisions. Some



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WB members go to the WSO staff positions. Becky, others, big part of the WSC. Office member sits in on WB meetings. Treasurer of World Board from WSO. Jane Nickels travels with the World Board for conferences. Lots in same sponsorship family. Rehmar sponsees in New Jersey and California. Attended Daytona Convention last weekend. Half of attendance from Rehmar. Dutch H main speaker.

Mitch – Billy A wrote him off for going to ECCNA.

Lester – Has doctor's appointment for CPAP machine.

Bo – Thanks for great job on coreissues newsletter.

Mitch – ECCNA June 20th to 22nd.

Lester led closing prayer with 3rd Step Prayer.

Closed at 10:05

Recording ok

Next meeting is on the 13th of May – check out articles in Addendum
“That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship.”

Core Group Minutes

May 13, 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 - Jmu 703 - Bo 404 - John F 707 – David B
Bo on Minutes

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

Weekly Articles Sent in by Core Group Members

General discussion

Discussion List:

Discussion:

John F – still want number of lady from Missouri who attended the Free at Last Campout in Louisiana two weekends back.

Chad – Utah accepts the 12 Concepts.

Bo – Concepts undermine and counter the 12 Traditions.

Jmu – (will send essay) Good Public Information workshop in District of Columbia – Beltway. Jane N was there from WSO. Talked with her – PR director at WSO. “Can't hear anymore.” Jane N. Asked why people liked the Baby Blue. Told her it was original and unedited by offensive removal of important lines from Traditions Four and Nine. She agreed with the changes even back then. Then I explained WSO did not carry out court order about sending out copies of difference versions of Basic Text and let Fellowship decide which to utilize. Talked some more about the 9th Step. Jane thought communication with Drug Court was good and fostering more understanding.

John F – Drug Court is playing us to save money on cost of incarceration.

Chad – Look at budget and found \$100 K out to communications with Treatment Centers. The so-called apathy is created by not following group conscience. Members just back off when they realize they are not being heard or followed. Trouble is NAWS tried to push their mindset on members when they should be paying attention. Talking with long time NA members, he found that open meetings used to be rare. Now the situation has flip-flopped. Closed meetings are almost non-existent.

Closed at 10:05

Recording ok

Next meeting is on the 20th of May – check out articles in Addendum

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



Core Group Minutes

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May 20, 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 321

Bo on Minutes

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- DON'T USE, GO TO MEETINGS AND WORK YOUR STEPS -
Weekly Articles Sent in by Core Group Members***

General discussion

Discussion List:

Discussion:

Bo – It has turned up in my thinking that NA, as such, may need to be founded. This is a spiritual and intellectual process we all considered done when we got here. It is hard to go back in time and review for accuracy. What this did was confuse our service structure, making them aware of the omission without bringing it up for group conscience. I am sure many people clean in NA in the 1990's recall some of the "mission statement" queries.

What is needed is to review what 'founding' entails and see what may yet need to be done, to be entirely complete and proper. Otherwise we may omit something of importance that could lead to various disorders. More is being revealed!

The Jimmy K office and the early days of the World Service Conference of NA together with the writing of the Basic Text makes NA seem to be founded. But is it really? Certainly, we all know that a business office cannot be our foundation. Our foundation is in spiritual principles and certain main beliefs that make NA a safe place for addicts seeking recovery. It was clear when the book, Narcotics Anonymous, was written that NA not be subject to treatment fads that may come and go. Also, it was very clear that we, as a Fellowship, not be subject to outside manipulation and control.



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John F – New – Made a study of schooling fishes to answer the question: was there a lead fish that determined where the school would go from moment to moment? The results indicated there was no ‘lead fish’ and the majority of the school sensed when to turn left, right, up or down and moved in unison. NA synergy gives an uncanny knack for similar direction without control. We do what we want. But if we go against one or more of our basic tenets, we cease to be NA.

People coming from drug court high on pills or injections and take control of an NA meeting stop it from being an NA meeting, by definition. A co-dependent chair is incapable of standing up to such an unexpected intrusion. They cannot understand ‘no cross-talk’ since their reality is dependent on another person. If members or forced attendance butts in, interrupts, no one challenges their right to disrupt a meeting. This is not NA, it is chaos. Since problems with cross-talk have become routine in the meeting I usually attended, I went to Cameron to get away from the interruptions. I told a fellow member from that meeting and they were aghast. These people are lost in a desert! When they run out of food, water and energy, they will realize they need help but it will be too late for them to find their way back. Members who stayed with the recovery ridges can stop at springs and find spiritual food along the way. They will survive and grow.

Bo – So, it is not enough to let nature take its course and let them die to show that DC and DRT will not work. Pretty cold-blooded.

John – May take a while to show. The spiritual charge of NA doesn’t wear off quickly. There is some shred of surrender and hope for recovery that keeps some growing. And a doctor who took four hours of class time in med school thinks they know better than members with years clean.

Bo – And what is happening in our country and the world is not a promising backdrop to all this. Money is behind many of the pressures placed on NA today. Short sighted goals can do great damage, hard to recover from the broken pieces. One big bubble leads to the next and by the time we get to the final bubble, there is nothing left.

John – The trouble with the economy is the lost jobs and houses never came back and everything people own is six years older and is hard to replace. Highways are wearing out.

Lester came on call after NA home group meeting at 9:55.



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John – After a time the under informed and inexperienced members will want what the experienced members have but they will want it to be like fast food: quick and easy. Crowds of addicts suddenly seeking recovery can choke off the meetings.

Bo – Sometimes the successful members are not exciting enough to gain attention in a swirl of confusion. Having too few closed meetings cannot be expected to carry a clear and certain message. Open meetings serve a limited purpose for outsiders or those who are not sure they are addicts.

Lester – Like John believes three quarters of the country is affected by DC and DRT along with collapse of structure aids to recovery like carrying message into institutions. Out of two hundred meetings, lucky to have ten closed for addicts seeking recovery only.

John – In Kansas City, Missouri closed meetings think it is spiritual to welcome non-addicts! In reality it is a poor message and only waters down the truth about recovery. It takes some work to progress through the 12 Steps.

Lester – Has one grand sponsee who worked for the State of Florida and talked about starting a special meeting for State employees. Like meetings for doctors, and others for whom anonymity is a big problem. NA lacks the good reputation enjoyed by AA and can spoil chances for promotion or retention. One member, retired from NASA, eventually figured out NA stigma spoiled his chances from promotion. Some AA's got the jobs.

Bo – Having a working service structure would allow us to address some of these problems like some special PI presentations to show that NA works. With our lackluster world service bunch, long clean time and recovery experience is seen as competitive by those who lack it and so are disparaged and ridiculed. This has an effect on how we are perceived by those outside NA.

Lester – Another guy lost his job, went to AA and became acceptable again! AA is more acceptable due to their internal backup system. In Florida, religion plays a significant role, part of why NA is pushed to the side. AA is accepted because it has been around so long. In an H&I situation, inmates were offered a chance to go to church or NA. 95% went to church.

Bo – NA needs to make long term recovery known.

John – Persons coming into NA meetings high on drugs prescribed by doctors who are in the dark about recovery are a growing problem. Medical marijuana is becoming a problem.



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Lester – Florida is getting ready to legalize marijuana.
 John - When someone lights a joint in a meeting and defends it by saying it is prescribed for a condition it sort of spoils the atmosphere of recovery!

Closed at 10:10

Recording ok

Next meetings on the 27th of May – check out articles in Addendum

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

Core Group Minutes

May 27, 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 321 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***

General discussion

Vivitrol – new treatment drug.
http://www.dailyastorian.com/news/northwest/drug-courts-to-provide-new-anti-opiate/article_c8a0ecca-a74a-55b4-9f5e-c1a29848386a.html?utm_source=Support+No.+39+Addiction%2FRecovery+eBulletin&utm_campaign=May+27+eBulletin+Vol+1%2C+No+39&utm_medium=email
 Hey y'all. Can you guys please share this with your friends. home groups, sponsors, sponsees, lovers, whatever!
 Sunday July 6th
 29th Annual Dopefiend Olympics



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@ Pine Cliff Park 8350 Pinecliff Park Rd, Frederick MD 21701

12pm-6pm

\$8 in advanced, \$10 at gate

Thanks!

~Gavin

Travis wrote: "Hey Guys and Gals! We are having a Birthday Party for [Bo Sewell](#) on Saturday July 12th starting at 12:00 pm at Clyde Central Methodist Church 410 Charles Street, Clyde NC. 28721

We are still looking for speakers so message if you would like to share with us.

This is Bo's 40th year so please come out and help us make this a very special anniversary for a man who has done so much for NA...

Please share this post with those members on your friends list

PM me more info. Travis Sinclair"

Nadine Says: "Ok RDs, I like that you have some good ideas. I want this all taken to your regions and for the RCMs to come back with reports about what the groups in your region think about this before we go one step further. We're not in a rush, we'll re-evaluate whether our groups wish us to go forward with this in two years." said no World Board member, ever.

What a difference a week can make! Here is John F's heart-felt amends for over stating his concerns that we may someday have persons smoking 'doctor ordered' marijuana in a meeting! A week later, someone showed up smoking pot in an e-cigarette! - Ed

From recent post...

I think I over reacted to the pot smoking in ecigarettes in the meeting.

This is no more out of line than court slips, DRT, encouraging meds, crosstalk or any of the rest of it. I have over reacted.

I cannot smell it and only know they are doing pot when they look stoned afterwards. Alas, I have over reacted.

At least I did not make an ass out of myself by complaining in the meeting where one of the Drug Court monitors was attending. It's just another step in the changing NA. Thanks for being there so I can work thru some of these resentments.

- John F



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In response to Nadine's question about Traditions...

If Drug Court stopping sending people all the groups would go dark. Real addicts have already fled years ago. Various abuses have combined to produce the current situation. They are not ever aware of their common welfare, think NA is something you make up as you go along and do not trust people with clean time because the longer they are clean, the closer they are to their next usage. Some newcomer made that one up. Our leaders are only other new comers because old timers grind axes and are angry for things that happened years ago. This sadness goes on all the way through the Traditions. People just do not know and do not learn. All the many friends I have in NA were fortunate to start recovery in places where they were taught the Steps and Traditions from the very start.

The First Tradition puts the group and our common welfare first so as to direct attention to the importance of our resources in NA. Without these resources personal recovery would not go deep or last long. Learning, practicing, teaching others goes together to bring an individual into a balanced way of life proven to work for addicts by hundreds of thousands over long periods of time, clean time. Thinking of ourselves as trusted servants guides us away from developing a self-serving sense of power over others. We all have to remember all members are in NA on a voluntary basis and perform services as part of their spiritual recovery.

The Second Tradition makes clear the importance of keeping a group informed, involved and knowledgeable enough about our history to know what does and does not work for addicts in NA. Giving every member of the group a say in group business and decisions enhances them and gives them something they may have never known before: a feeling of belonging. God becomes a real part of our existence when we pray, discuss and decide. Many people need this kind of experience to bring a higher power closer and allow God to be a working part of their life.

The Third Tradition helps us step past the problems of judging and playing God over new members who have overcome enough struggles to make it to the rooms of recovery. None of us are perfect and we are spared countless errors of judgment. The other Traditions help each one of us become a working part of the whole of NA. Since we were not judged, we learn not to judge others. There is a difference between judging others and having good judgment in the life of the only person we have any power over, ourselves.

Group autonomy creates a sense of personal responsibility. The Fourth Tradition reminds us



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that NA is not delivered to us on a silver platter. The Group is what we ourselves make it! Respecting other groups and NA as a whole is just our way of giving back the consideration and respect we are given.

Traditions Five keeps our focus on doing the one thing we know how to do well. Without our commitment to carrying our message, NA is not available, even in a room full of people unless they want to be there for purposes of recovery. Somehow, many members seem to forget this is our basis for existence.

Tradition Six homes in on the problems that can arise from mixed messages. Endorsement involves focus, action and attention. Addicts are easily confused, especially if they are new or happen to be in a locale where the practice of teaching members about Steps and Traditions is given proper attention. While quiet, the single word 'outside' is a dramatic mistake for members who have jobs in treatment facilities, professional training or interests apart from their NA membership. It is only natural that these 'outsiders' believe in their particular cause just like we believe in our own cause. To maintain their focus it is not unreasonable to find them convincingly arguing their view point to exclusion of all others, including the NA viewpoint. Endorsement opens the door to myriad problems and addicts seeking recovery only to have their path to recovery misfire due to distraction. Add the distractions of financial gain, property considerations and any sort of acclaim or personal recognition and it is easy to see what happens. First impressions are lasting and associating NA with drug court, a treatment program or any other organization is likely to turn into an escape route for a member in the grip of an obsession.

The Seventh Tradition puts NA in the first person singular as well as group involvement. When you or your group are the ones paying the bills, even in low, symbolic amounts, internalizes as a feeling of responsibility you get no other way. A lot of our literature and special word choices suddenly make more sense than they do for people who just show up and expect recovery to rise from the seat they are occupying. Cleaning up a coffee spill, occasionally bringing cookies or other snacks for members who may be hungry for food as well as recovery, becoming a home group member or trusted servant worthy of trust are all ways we make our membership evident through action.

Tradition Eight helps members sort out where their allegiance lies. NA members are non-professional. Even if you are a doctor or nurse, when acting as a members of NA, you are not



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carrying any titles or calling cards. This can help members from thinking they know better when it comes to carrying our message. It may help those with academic minds to understand that many anonymous members who serve NA, write literature and populate our services are professional in their personal lives. Special workers especially are prey to ethnocentrism because some may feel their job is to be better informed than other members. If they fail to pass on the information that comes to them, it puts the Fellowship and all our members at a disadvantage. How is that loving and caring?

The Ninth Tradition stresses that to be 'responsible' sets up a priority of who speaks and who listens with full attention. It is easy to fall into a trap of thinking because you are a chairperson, committee members or paid special worker, your job is to tell others what to do. That is not anonymous and that is not NA. In service members are kept informed and polled when questions of policy arise. Policy is how things are handled in a consistent manner after they have been considered by members. Setting the pay scale for special workers is a good example of where conflicts of interest can play a role. When members express concerns or ask questions they are being responsible. If something does not make sense to them, they are entirely proper to expect a respectful answer. Unless they are informed and knowledgeable, they cannot exercise their franchise and direct the services involved properly. Not-to-know is a bad place to be, and especially when disinformation or misinformation when recognized is the same as kicking members out of NA. When members realize they are participating with people who do not play fair or base their actions on principles, many former members leave NA or withhold their respect or affection. Calling their response 'apathy' is a sign of spiritual and mental illness. Our NA Fellowship has been greatly damaged by seeing a 'world' trusted servant pulling someone out of a line because they felt they could afford to pay a stiff convention price of attendance, not knowing if they have gas money to get home or feed children. Perhaps some think intelligent members don't watch things like this.

The Tenth Tradition requires some degree of restraint and discipline to hold back when in conversation with a news reporter or any kind of official who is capable of or likely to repeat what you say in a press conference or a private office. It needs to be taught to members whose service puts them in contact with persons who are not members and have no idea how damaging a seemingly small mistake can be to members and the cloud of persons affected by their addiction.

As modern media has redesigned what is public and what is private, the best policy is to stick



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to the maxim "The purpose of public information service is to get an addict to a meeting." Stressing recovery puts a person in touch with people who understand and have answers is better than getting into all the nuts and bolts of NA and how it works. The internet makes new problem areas and concerns but in modern times, search engines and massive information sources allow almost anyone to find out almost anything about almost anybody else quickly and without necessarily being accurate. Focusing on getting an addict to a meeting is a strong way to carry our message through PI.

Most people don't think of all the reasons anonymity is the spiritual foundation of NA. It doesn't matter who does it so much as getting needs met. The principle of self-less service grants a special type of liberation to those who know how to do it. Loving and caring are the twin elements of intention and action. In practice it is very easy to put personalities before principles. The Tenth Step is important when errors occur. "Mary doesn't become the alternate just because her husband will be making the trip anyway." might be a thoughtful example. Many times a representative has to reflect the conscience of his or her service base even when personally they disagree. Keeping groups, service bodies and members informed accurately and in an ongoing manner is the only way group conscience works. Providing consequences when trusted servants do not vote as directed is the only way to insure the system will keep you informed and not fall into the trap of rigging the vote to insure an outcome 'for their own good.' The designers of our early service structure knew very well there would be occasions when world services would want things their way for good reasons they alone knew about. They may find ways to control the polling process and justify it because they did not keep the groups and members informed. There was a clear understanding that it would make sure information was passed on to groups and members so that they would be able to look after the welfare and safe keeping of our resources and decisions about how those resources are allocated.

- Bo S.

Discussion List:

Discussion:

John F – Interesting thing happened in Maryland AA where meetings became so over-run by court slippers they meeting voted to make it a 'non-court slip' group. They banned court slip for their groups. Another interesting item was State employees now sigh court slips. The State would not respond to group expressing concerns, just sent more people to the groups.



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Bo – Still working on “Group Conscience Atlanta” with slogan 'Members Only.'

Another idea to hold event on “Jump starting NA” with actual members from early WSC and founding groups and members from seventies and eighties. Maybe cover dates from 1978 to 1989.

Bo – Noticed Chad put more essays on “Original NA” to attract input or open discussions.

John – Attended six meetings in St. Jo in Missouri. There were eleven on the meeting list but five had closed. Only one meeting evidenced some knowledge of the disease concept. It was like being in a garage with people in overhauls and took who had no idea how to work on cars. Main speaker at NA convention still won't return calls.

Bo – I think NA comes and goes in cycles like the flood and ebb tides. Mending NA is a delicate matter consisting mainly of the truth statements: when addicts get together all to themselves, a special energy come out that is healing and allows members to listen more carefully and share more deeply what they are going through.

John – There are two things that members mistakenly think will keep them clean: one is working in rehab, second is going to church. The creates spiritual confusion.

John – Drug court is propping up NA in Missouri. The steering committee doesn't know what to do because their old timers have been run off and don't have a clue. No four, five years recovery key tags given out because no one is staying clean that long in local Fellowship. Lack of recovery information runs off real addicts who are looking for answers.

Bo – I see where being over-run by court ordered people who know little or nothing about NA waters down the groups understanding and wipes out the atmosphere of recovery.

Bo – think the core group is entering a 2nd Phase – Solutions. I have learned so much the last three years because of my involvement with core group. NA was a good place to send court ordered people when the clean addicts heavily outnumbered them. This was in the mid-1980's. Poor policies and changes in the demographics of our Fellowship created shifts where recovery was pushed aside to accommodate other purposes and causes. Like saving the municipalities money spend on incarceration. Out response was a clumsy mumble about how some addicts among the court ordered people got the message and stayed clean without addressing the



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enormous confusion that results when you have non-members in closed meetings or no closed meetings for addicts only. The solution here is to make it very clear to all concerned: **NA does not work if the 12 Step process, starting with a full and complete surrender to the fact of their personal addiction, is not followed.**

John – Need for 2nd Step. Observations:

- not making new members anymore – poor knowledge of disease concept and spirituality.
- Pool of recovering people shrinking, not expanding.
- Like a hospital adding staff and laying off doctors.
- “The universe will change, I always get what I want” attitude.

Lester – did not want people who don't want to be there. Someone pointed out recently on core call that court ordered people are really incarcerated by being mandated. Has a grandspouse who attends a good meeting of NA at a recovery house learning all about the Traditions and recovery. Melbourne recovery house has 5 meetings a week. Recommends John start a new meeting, stress sponsorship, be willing to stick for at least a year, two other members commit with him. Starting a new meeting based in recovery is the all time cure for 'bad' meetings locally.

John – Started 17 meetings in Napa Valley, CA. Currently has a special meeting weekly at Red Lobster, meeting not on schedule. Note: really great lobster, better than California! Envisions a Convention in Chicago 2019 where main speaker has to have ten or more years clean-time. Speakers will be Lester, Bo, John, Billy A, Jim M and others.

Lester – There are ten members with over twenty years at his home group. Forty members with over twenty years in Melbourne, FL.

Closed at 10:40 – Lester led closing prayer: 3rd Step Prayer.

Recording ok

Next meetings on 3, 10, 17 and 24th of June – check out articles in Addendum



Core Issues

May 2014 Vol.2 Issue 5

By: Lester O.



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

Fan Page – “coreIssues”

websites – www.nacoregroup.org and naviews.org

both hacked in April or May. Must be doing something right...

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

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By: Lester O.



Addendum: for core group members:

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

Dear Fellow Members,

Our greatest common welfare is in Hope. We have overcome one of the greatest tragedies a human being can have which is to be hopelessly addicted. We learn to utilize spiritual principles to deal with issues that were previously insurmountable. Now we are called upon to use these same principles to reset our service structure. It may be a long road but I suspect when we get willing, open-minded and honest, we will see that only we can set things straight. To do this, we have to make common cause.

I am one who honestly waited and kept busy doing what I could to help others. Those I helped know this. I am only one little guy, but with God's help.....

Hope is the important thing for you and for those who look to you in recovery. We are following the proven program expressed in the written message of the original Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*. In the fantasy created by outside professionals the NA Fellowship is incapable of maintaining solid leadership in our regions and among our general membership. This is simply not so. When we were new to recovery, we adjusted our thinking and were willing to try another way. It worked as evidenced by our own recovery. There are vested interests who want to control all things relating to addiction and near as we can tell, total abstinence is a road block in the plans they have to control addicts worldwide. We need to recall how well the special tools we learned to modify our perception of reality to allow for recovery. They worked even when we thought help was not possible. They will work now if we use them. But you got to do things to get results, starting with believing it can be done! Don't forget all the clean addicts who have followed the NA way of living the 12 Steps of recovery. Don't forget the 12 Traditions keep us from infighting and reducing our considerable power to petty personal struggles!

Hope you will be on the call or read the minutes. We can locate the key points and work towards solutions and welcome you to participate. This is what it takes to have a spiritual Fellowship! It is not about being right, it is about being right together!

In Loving Service,

Bo S.