



Core Issues

Aug. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 8
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)

Summary of Core Group Discussions for the Month of July, 2014



Core Group Minutes

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July 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 – Dan 804 VA – Mark S 530 CA - 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

Advantages of having a local Business office for NA.

My current area rents a room from a treatment center for up to 5hrs on one day every month at a very cheap amount . On top of that they rent a small storage space for records etc. both of which I feel are ineffective for several reasons. For a little more money they could rent a room of equal size for use for the entire month. Then it could double as storage space for area. All area archives could be centrally located instead of be scattered around the Area in individual houses or apts. The Area Literature could be stored at the office instead of the Lit-chairs place of residence and then drug to area once a month for distribution. The office could be manned by volunteers. Then members could go to the office to purchase Literature as they needed it. Even if the office was only open for a few hours a couple of days a week, it would still serve the local fellowship better.

Local offices could serve as a business hub for the area. Not only could Area Service meet there but subcommittees could also meet there instead renting space from groups or other places of business. In extreme cases regular meetings could also meet there. An example would be that a meeting loses their meeting space perhaps an arrangement could be worked out with the office to temporarily meet there until they can find a new more permanent meeting space. Also, local office space could possibly be used for area learning days or other area events. For starters I would recommend a space large enough to seat 40 or more people with storage space for folding tables and chairs some cabinet and shelf space for storage of literature



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and maybe a walled of space or storage of archives. Some closet space would be a plus. Also, Bathroom accessibility should be available.

Lester O.

NA has grown enough for many areas to afford an area office. Cheap rooms and offices are out there. Since they are not expensive, it just means there are more available. Check it out. Care must be taken to not violate the 7th Tradition which puts a member behind an eight ball. This means “not a member’s home or workplace.” Also, I saw a lady shut down an area office because she had political background and did it as a ‘power move!’ It made her feel powerful! It was shut down improperly and the area incurred some back bills as a result, like left the building but did not cut off phone service... Sheesh! Be careful. – Bo S.

General discussion

I reread with interest the message from Mitch's former friend castigating those who print the baby blue. He was obviously very upset as could be seen by the tone of the letter.

The whole idea behind the Baby Blue is to carry a clear message of recovery. The Baby Blue is essentially the second edition without the stories. The critical thing about the second edition is that purists consider it the one correct version of the Basic Text. The Traditions are correct as opposed to all the other editions. You see, when the first edition came out the traditions had been changed to give control to the WSO and not the fellowship. The outrage was so fierce, that the WSO relented and changed the traditions back to the original correct form to appease the fellowship. Thus fellowship wide approval. Then a small unannounced conference in Oregon changed them back to the wrong way and it’s been that way ever since. This is why the second edition and the Baby blue are the only two correct versions of the Basic Text. They are the only two that deliver a clear message of recovery.

In addition to the subsequent versions of the Basic Text became watered down as the language kept getting changed and changed and changed.

So Mitch's friend is saying that those printing the Baby Blue are harming the WSO by interrupting the funds flow, giving WSO a hard time and such. This is hampering the resources available to the WSO to carry their message worldwide.

However, the message that they are carrying is considered by the Baby Blue people to be an unclear message and hence ineffective.

Assuming Mitch's friend is knowledgeable about the above facts, which he appears to be, then we are dealing with one single issue. Mitch's former friend is saying that it is better to give an unclear message to millions and



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millions of addicts, hoping a few will stick, rather than giving a clear message to a few with immense effectiveness and healing power.

The idea of throwing spaghetti against the wall and seeing how much sticks is one way of looking at things. It's the shotgun approach.

True, by bending to recovery houses, selling huge numbers of erroneous books, WSO has been able to generate a fortune which is used to print and sell yet even larger numbers of the books.

It's fairly simple. the choice is, do you deliver a clear message to a small number of people or a garbled message to the masses.

Certainly the garbled message has some effectiveness. One can split their medications in half and still have some sort of effectiveness, just not as much.

I guess this is what we are talking about here.

But Mitch's friend almost sounds like he is saying that it doesn't make any difference, that a garbled message is still a message and if you want it bad enough, it's there for you to get.

One can learn math even if a few pages are missing from the book.

But the numbers do not substantiate this premise.

I was told that the recovery rate was 87% when I came in to NA in 1983. I have been clean ever since is all that I know.

But it sure does seem different today.

I seldom see a four year birthday up on the board these days. Lots of 1 and 2 and even an occasional 3 years. And plenty of 21,22,23,24,25 and even an occasional teen.

But from looking at the board, one could argue that it simply does not work in getting people clean any more.

Not at all, nada.

So then one must ponder whether the current WSO is simply a lot of activity with no real results at all. Is it simply a money making corporation like Reynolds Tobacco which pays good salaries but provides no social value.

Is it simply a profit center with no humanitarian purpose? Is Mitch's friend aware of this big picture. Sure, occasionally some one will come in and get clean and stay clean but it's so rare, if you take out the first 3 year group, it's an anomaly when one does stick.



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The one to three year group does make it appear that NA is very effective, court slips are very effective, meds are very effective.

But is our goal to get people up to three years and have them relapse and disappear?

It almost appears that it is.

I myself, have a hard time buying that concept.

It seems very weird.

It's like when Kragen Auto Parts had a lifetime free replacement policy on their alternators. They were junk but they would replace them.

So we would put one on, it would fail, we would take it off and get a free replacement and do this over and over and over until we were exhausted and then go to the regular parts store and get a good one, problem solved.

Kragen made great money doing this, but really helped no one, in a humanitarian sense.

This appears to be what WSO is doing.

They are selling a 1 to 3 year recovery package. That's it. End of warranty.

We are giving away, a lifetime recovery package.

Good till you croak of natural causes.

So we must look at Mitch's former friend and wonder, what is he thinking.

Does it have to come down to this horrible choice of bogus recovery for the masses or bulletproof recovery but only for a lucky few.

What WE are saying is that you can have your cake and eat it too.

We can deliver an effective message to the masses.

We believe it is possible. It may take longer, be more work and not financially profitable, but it can be done. -
John F. Kansas City, MO

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



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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"

XX

Nadine
Double-u

"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.

Discussion List:

Discussion:

Mark S – 1st call. Nevada City, CA, a town of less than 3000 people, retired there)

Bo – I have experienced a tremendous lessening of pressure since committing to the Kansas City Service Center. It feels so good to be for something positive. The work and time doesn't bother me a bit. Makes me feel good for something.

Mark – His wife tells him for some time should stop fighting, can't battle the current. He is enjoying letting up. Feels better putting his energy into something positive. Enjoyed his talk with Hank S. other day. He is retired and bought his house.

Bo – John wrote a very insightful essay. Put in minutes plus sent out earlier just to give it more air time. Thinks things through.

John – Lots of people can get confused.

Mark – Earlier in recovery moved to an area where the Chair punished groups by shaming if they did give enough of a percentage to the area. Punished for asking questions. Seemed to put many sincere NA's on the outside. Older member asked him if he thought he could do any better. He said yes and was elected to chair the area for ten or eleven years. The area shifted to the original NA friendliness and there was peace in the valet for a long time. 2010, went bad again.

Bo – Hank says the core problem is ethics.



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John – Do you know Joe Cool? Cal 5 years.

Mark – If you don't know history and facts, it is possible to follow NAWS.

9:00

Dan – Introduced himself, first core group call. From Virginia. His home group went through CAR. Discussed NAWS Closing WSB of Trustees and our representative body, the World Service Conference and its sub-committees. Complacency horrible. Idea was to lower price of Basic Text from \$8 to \$4 or \$5 originally. Never happened. Today they only give lip service to Fellowship. You can feel it.

Mark – Read Hanks original letter posted Monday – like a breath of fresh air. Left service for a long time. When he came back he was appalled at the changes he found in the Guide to Service. It was totally confusing. The golden thread through it all was to stay mad and fight or let go and be happy, get to the basics of recovery and the therapeutic value of helping addicts will do the job.

Bo – Talked about the WSC EVENT sideshow. The positive functions of doing service and seeing members benefit makes you energized and happy. When service becomes an unpaid job under the total control of a corporate management system, the thrill is gone.

John – In Missouri, NA/AA prevails because of the large number of truck drivers court ordered to NA. After 60 days they get to go back to work. Old-timers show up for their chip once a year. Newer members confused by drug court in large numbers, loss of atmosphere of recovery and learning from older members. They sometimes rush through a meeting in twenty minutes and clear the room. They chant "Take your meds." and "Take your Suboxone."

Mark – They lost track.

John – WB member read an article in magazine and thinks they know what's going on, meds ok. Out of touch with NA recovery truth from members and groups. Another problem is service dogs in meetings is uncontrolled of a law that makes it illegal to deprive a person of their service dogs trained to help them even if they have seizure or something. Need to address new issues like this.

God clean in Napa Valley, CA which was a test area for Drug Court. A service office for WSO was set in Virginia. A closer look revealed it was set equidistant from three Federal offices for Drug Court. Soon Drug Court forced attendance, some from gangs, were breaking chairs and busting out windows. Old-timers left and struggling, untrained new members were trying to keep meeting going. I tried to start new meetings and the ASC forbade him to start any more. Takes a village to get addicts clean. Learning process broke down. Meanwhile Drug Court was placed under Homeland Security. It costs \$50,000 to incarcerate one person. Our Fellowship has become partnered with drug court. Check the na.org meeting list and see how many are named "Drug Court." There are nine cases of lawsuit against sentencing someone to NA. NAWS is a valuable commodity to the Federal and local government. Important to keep DC/NA going!



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John on KCSC – Found shared office space incubator service in Kansas City. This is the one we profiled a few months back in these minutes. \$399 – first and last month’s rent, 2 secretaries, copier, office, break room, expandable. The idea jelled and we began considering logistics. Need bank account, Fed ID, 501 c3, PO Box, etc.,

Lester – got us a PO Box. He is serving as Treasurer. P.O. Box 360685 Melbourne, FL 32936-0685 Cost \$40 for six months, \$60 on hand.

John – Want to see it work. First visited the potential office and felt exhilarated, rush, first time in over ten years!

We have no following yet, work on 501 c3 underway. Need widespread support to have dream come true.

Bo – Positive response from almost everyone talked to so far. Two out of hundred and thirty core group don’t support. They may later when they see what the plan is. Lower group costs, simplify structural mechanics for groups served by KCSC, no concepts. More to come.

Mark – illegal for board to accept direction from any other body cited as justification for NAWS changes.

Bo – That’s a spin on reality. The idea is a mafia gang cannot incorporate as Pattie’s Pizza and operate a laundry operation. So, if a corporate office is under direction of a spiritual fellowship, they can spin it so as to justify not following group conscience of the representative body. They can even dissolve, effectively, the representative body as well as the guardians of our 12 Traditions. I believe this is what NAWS has done. There is a catch phrase that goes like “If a lie is big enough, it will escape detection because people will say, ‘Oh no, they would never do that!’” So, if they didn’t, where is our Board of Trustees? Where is a service body to balance the 18 votes of NAWS? Where is our representative body? Makes you wonder, doesn’t it?

We are advising and planning to make it clear that the primary function of the global service body we are forming follows the direction of the fellowship through fellowship representatives. No spin, no dizzy.

Let’s send a gratitude card to Lester Overstreet PO Box360685 Melbourne, FL 32936-0685

John – 12 meetings a week, 10 different halls. These are fascinating times! Fast changes, like the collapse of the Soviet Union, can take NA down without more of a head’s up than you are getting here.

1st edition changes, broke Traditions the special office set up near Drug Court locations, If you don’t work your Steps, you relapse. If you violate Traditions, you break up unity. What trying to get at, is if you scratch an addict, you get a raging co-dependent underneath. How about asking would a co-dependent send you to Drug Court or jail? Would a co-dependent take meds to relieve discomfort? NAWS is co-dependent central.

Bo - Warm welcome to Mark and Dan. Mark called in from California, met Dan at the recent East Coast Convention in Williamsburg.



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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

Lester celebrated 28 year celebration – clean date 7.2.86 anniversary party tonight at home group and later at end of month of July.

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"

Discussion List:

Discussion:

Bo – call ten minutes later tonight. Been here since 8:30 pm

John – softer, easier way...

Bo – not dismayed, we're starting up from the bottom. Slow to start something new.

John – addicts like winners, wait for proof it's really going to happen. Hang back to see if it's a go!

Bo – coast is clear to start out on new foundation stones.



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John most don't understand how much we understand from our experience. It is perjury to sign a meeting slip before a meeting. Co-dependency.

8:55 pm

Lester – Started meetings in Portland, OR and it was slow. ASC wanted a Sunday am meeting so he started one. Went to Area after a couple of weeks and twenty people showed up third month. Meeting is still going.

John – Bo, you are second member I know to get 40 years.

Bo – overlooked putting an order form on list for KCSC. Mary Ellen called to talk about the list and she expressed a willingness to help create the order form. Let's go with the cheap office for KCSC.

Lester – saw Hank at FRNA and had great talk with him. Talked about having the office for KCSC in Alabama or Georgia. Cost to travel to Kansas City is too great.

Bo – we have talked from the beginning about other possible locations. Stick with KCSC for now The website is not rooted to a place but can plug in any local address. P.O. Box is in Melbourne, FL.

Lester – KC not cost effective to visit very often. Could do the planning session on Skype.

John – Travis said we could set up a Frequent Flyer Bank for Service Center needs. Has an airline pilot customer who suggested it to him. Maybe frequent flyer miles transferable.

Bo – non-profit global and could be anyplace.

John – real open to where it is located. Doesn't have to be in Missouri.

Lester – Celebrated 28 years tonight at home group. Again at end of July.

John and Bo went "Whoop"

Spoke briefly about getting a MacBookPro.

Lester – knows only Windows.

John asked years ago why get an Apple computer? Friend said, he just couldn't take it anymore. Asked why Apple is better? Called Cupertino and asked if Mac was a car, what kind of car would it be. – A Mercedes. No viruses, has all programs PC has which run on Mac. File conversion free at Apple store. Not as good on games.

Bo – Did you have synergy with Travis.

John – Yes!

Lester – got disk from Travis to fix his computer.

Bo – asked if we could move discussion to the services we envision providing through new service center.]

KCSC location left up for grabs.

Lester – Will we be selling Grey Books? (review form of Basic Text)? ASIS is re-writing Grey Book. Need to stock, may make some problems with NAWS, maybe not.

John – Doesn't think NAWS has copyright to Grey Form. They didn't write it.

Lester – Total Abstinence is not copyrighted. ASIS doesn't copyright anything. Billy hates corporations.



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Bo – I hate the way they take on a life of their own, forgetting where they came from and the dreams get lost in the business.

Bo – willing to work on Grey Book or Total Abstinence separately – then compare and combine or go with the best. Looked at TA from ASIS. We will be considerate to other Fellowship groups working for the general betterment of NA.

Lester – Asked Bo what he thinks about Grey Book.

Bo – Learned from the workshop at Longwood. Saw addicts working in harmony together just like they did in the early 1980's.

Lester – Thinks the Grey Book should stay the way it is. No conceptual changes. If anything is done, make minor light corrections.

Bo – I think we can use it as a basis for a new book. Willing to support and work for steps in a good direction.

John – We will have a gathering place in KC. Open house! Annual face to face. Only go so far on phone and emails. Nice to draw great atmosphere together. We are the underdog. Addicts can relate to underdogs. David and Goliath. Like, we are grass roots to help others. This is like Apple in the early days, working out of a garage. Everything in United States is melting down. Bunch of loving renegades, trying to save the world! Furthest anyone has gone in a good while. If Drug Court dries up, NAWS will close its doors in 90 days. 90% of real membership has been run off by WS policies against our 12 Traditions.

Lester – Only a few people show up from DC where I live in Melbourne, FL.

John – the Eastern Seaboard is an anomaly. Different in rest of country. People in a room doesn't mean they are in recovery, don't know where we came from or how we got here.

Lester – Got clean in Portland, OR where most NA members and meetings are still working the Program. Hasn't been there in ten years. Getting bigger, some court slippers, lots of NA members with long clean time.

John – Sees NAWS vulnerable to crash as they move further from the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Don't work your Steps, you're headed for relapse. Don't honor Traditions, headed for disunity.

Lester – NAWS gets way too much money from other corps, book sales. May become a shell, existing mostly in name. Fellowship will turn away as they are already doing. Be like Reynolds Tobacco. NAWS is vulnerable because a complete audit would put them in big trouble. Don't see anyone doing that, just sayin.'

Bo – That's probably why Billy wants to kick their ass in court. Addiction is going to keep killing people. The Corp is floating on a sea of lies to validate doing just as they please and making more money. The TC and Feds reward them because they don't understand what it means to alienate people in a spiritual Fellowship. People will notice people are still dying of active addiction – ten or twenty years from now! We are following best direction in the world, extending the Proven Program which led to worldwide expansion. People like to be free.

John – Sponsoring two doctors. If they knew everything they would not be asking him for help. NAWS and the doctors are flying blind.

Bo – We are fighting for the right to follow a simple, proven program. Lots of people hold strong opinions that are unsound. You can tell when they snarl up when confronted with evidence contrary to their opinion.



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Lester – Doesn't look for respect, just want to stay clean.

John – NAWS wants respect from Treatment Industry and Government.

Bo – Buying into bullshit doesn't gain respect. People respect integrity and constancy over pomp and rattles. May not show it. They don't respect a person or group that goes against its own basics. DRT and DC translate to mood and mind changing drugs and force attendance with written surveillance. Runs off real addicts seeking recovery. They sit in a meeting hear the readings and realize something is bad wrong in River City!

John – Problem is no new members. Not working the Program: surrender, disease concept, helping others.

Bo – We are working to create new clean ground to build and re-build our Program, nothing new except the discoveries recovery brings. Look deeper into inventory, spiritual life and personality change and write about it, comparing notes with others doing the same.

Lester – New members, under two years, do not know NA history. Never heard of Jimmy K, Chuck S, Pepe A...Think NA is going to meeting, dumping and walking away feeling better.

John – Every members with up to their ten year chip is gone.

Lester – 80% of the people he got clean with are still clean, ten or fifteen people. Other 20% are dead or missing.

John – NA goes along on 1 subject, gets tired and moves on. When the Betty Ford center opened it was all you heard about for six months, then people realized it was just another fad and dropped it. At some point people will shift.

Bo – True.

Lester – We need ladies.

John – Let's close for tonight. "HP, thanks for letting us move forward, give us head's up if we fall into error. Let us know your Will." – Serenity Prayer.

10:45 – Close conference call.

Recording 44479748-141760765.mp3

Next meetings on 15, 22; 29 of July – check out articles in Addendum



Core Group Minutes



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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***

The medical field, the Federal Government through Homeland Security and Drug Court combine to launch a program to push a drug onto treatment centers and the general field of addiction. You know which one. Total abstinence is being phased out. Our service structure has a dependence on cash flow which will be affected as corporations who bought our Basic Text follow the trends. We don't need money, we need to get clean, stay clean and help others. We can do that with our desire for recovery and the information from those who have succeeded in walking our NA way.

We have a clear and pressing need to reform now, while we can. Decentralizing our service structure and re-establishing our NA 12 Steps and Traditions is the only way to do this. Real NA versus corporate NA. Recovery is the result of a new way of thinking. We don't want newcomers to think NA is a coercive extension of law enforcement. There is a qualitative difference between going to a meeting because you desire recovery and going because the alternative is jail.

Born of surrender, we need to protect ourselves from pressures to use drugs and continue active addiction. There can be no doubt about what is happening. Remember what you learned that allowed you to enter a new way of life. Make sure it is maintained and kept alive for you and for those addicts yet to come.

General discussion

Discussion List:

Discussion:



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8:30 Welcome Nadine! Glad you are here.

John – Been in Missouri since 2008. Not allowed to speak in NA meetings, couldn't open non-court slip signing meeting. Dangerous in KC, Meds in meetings, over run by Drug Court, Trucker program is a hindrance because it is tailored to get drivers back to work. Some meetings for them start AA/NA or NA/AA. A thin blue line of experienced members keeps some NA meetings open, when they burn out, meeting goes dark. People yell in meetings: "Stay on your meds" and "You're not a doctor" Meetings are broken. Not attractive, no recovery, Found us a possible office space for \$35/month out from town.

Nadine – The RD in her region is much loved, in hospital for terminal illness. Region is still in good shape. WSC hurt the spirit badly there. Her Video explaining the flaws in the SSP that WSO is pushing made her unwelcome at WSC. WB would not seat her. RD called from hospital and told WB not to seat me. Campaign in our region, smear tactics. Now happening at the national level.

John – Still goes to ten or twelve meetings a week. Meetings are chronically collapsing. One good looking man came and got with the program a while, relapsed and came back to meetings missing a foot. Made clear the seriousness of relapse and need for the 12 Steps. Now seeing the magnitude of our need for the 12 Traditions.

John – in 1983, WSO opened an office in Virginia. The announced intention was to locate a printing company we could buy to handle our needs. Having violated the 12 Traditions by leaving out important parts of Tradition 4 and 9, it was not much of a shock to find the East Coast location was equidistant from three agencies having to do with Drug Court. Napa Valley where I come from was a test area for Drug Court. DC flooded meetings there. Between 1985 and 1987 old-timers left and never came back. With no one on hand, the learning process for new members stopped. People didn't know it would make NA fall apart. Newcomers decided old were dense and not reliable. Removal of character defects among members stopped. Raging co-dependence. Creates strange problems in NA service committees.

Nadine – 2006 – some court cards. Changed her feeling about NA when she was put on DC. Now there is huge change in DC 12 years later. Recalls old timers expressing concerns. NA World Services never officially acknowledged pain of members. Quality of recovery steadily going down. Members today think Drug Court helps. Think going against DC kills addicts. WB does not seem to see the problem clearly, the way experienced members do.

Lester – Somebody wrote on na.org – what about 'goggle glasses' in meetings? Can video just like iPhone does.

Nadine – White papers on training members to understand and practice recovery principles. Connect specifics for our whole population – Lots of new members fresh from rehabs. They do their time and leave. New, young 20 or less stay, get message. Begin working Steps and become members. Don't connect with the 12 Traditions. Our audience has changed.

John – How about e-Cigs?

Lester – eCigs now banned from meetings locally.

John – Members smoking e-Cigs in meetings say they are covered by American Disabilities Act and can smoke



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anywhere. This is a big problem where they are smoking marijuana based e-Cigs.

Nadine – Can't smoke in buildings.

John – No smoking in buildings doesn't apply to marijuana. See a lot of people get burned where 2 liter plastic bottle blows up making crystal meth. Shake and bake meth explodes sometimes, burns arm and the toxin is air born, like on elevators. SATOP is program in Missouri for truckers on meth – not related to Drug Court. Emergency room personnel have to wear a protective zip up suit.

John – members with service dogs have collars which beep every 30 minutes. Harder to know who is attending from Drug Court anymore, they are so plentiful.

Nadine – sub-conscious formats – meetings of two hours reading Basic Text, Traditions, 25 minute speaker, then talk on Steps/Traditions – lot of support. May be looking for a 'real' meeting and this makes the longer meeting popular. Lots of older members died or got sick in local Fellowship. I am in desert where NA is only 20 years old.

Bo – Some problems are cyclic – they come and go. Lack of 12 Traditions may prop the door open for these problems to recur.

John – Stories of tribes – elders speak, pass on wisdom. May replace written recovery! 99% do not make ten years clean. Anti-depressants do not work.

Nadine – Was put on all kinds of meds as a teenager. Getting off meds hard for many people. Worried she would have mental/emotional problems when she got off meds. Bi polar, lithium. Was told she would have to take forever.

John – Severely depressed. Now has only ten bad days a year. Used to be lots more. Healing presence in NA meetings, even if they are not good meetings. Takes more than one or two meetings often. Problem with saying do what the doctors say because doctors are not trained to help addicts. Only know one way to deal with addicts. Sponsors two doctors who regularly ask for his help. Some think it is the 12 Traditions that we have to sign court slips.

Nadine – Over medication is standard now a days. Looking for magic wand.

John – Mission of Drug Court is to avoid expense of incarceration. Stress on harm reduction. How many days abstinence is the pay off.

Bo - We now have new website – globalna.org, check it out, make helpful suggestions. NA does not appear in corporate name.

Nadine – We are not being developed. NA needs to be stronger to help people stay clean.



Core Issues

Aug. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 8

By: Lester O.



Lester – Every three to four years NAWS changes vision statement. These changes show up in WB actions.

Nadine – Dilizia uses vision statement changes to force WSC to take different direction. “Why not add SSP to Guide to Local Service may have come from one of her recommendations. Plan already in place. Don’t have to win Fellowship approval, just the RD’s. Makes WB seems special. Redefines our program with knowledge or approval of the Fellowship.

Lester – People will read vision statement and think it look great, don’t see the potential to harm, do not read the fine print.

Bo – Thanks for coming Nadine!

John – “Please give us guidance. Our intentions are pure, Want to turn on new addicts to the things that helped us.”

11:05 – Close conference call/.

Recording 44479748-141819763.mp3

Next meetings on 22 and 29th of July – check out articles in Addendum

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

Core Group Minutes

July 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 404 - John F 707 - Lester 321 – Mitch 760

Bo on Minutes



Core Issues

Aug. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 8

By: Lester O.



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

Discussion List:

Discussion:

8:30

Bo – new term: “Spectatorology”

John – NA meetings today. Attended this one meeting for the fourth time and only found out today that the whole building is under video surveillance. Nobody told me the three times I attended before.

Bo – John F called today, great guy. Very perceptive and loyal to NA.

John – Reading Living Clean about 12 Step calls. Years ago NAWS did a white paper on “no 12 Step calls.” This was right after someone got killed in Los Angeles when going out to help someone on a 12 Step calls. Our disease is especially deadly.

Lester – Know somebody said “Don’t do 12 Step calls alone.”

Bo – we have just discussed several items on Traditions Advisement. This is one of the services we can offer at KCSC. Surveillance, 12 Step calls and each was accompanied by an exemplary story that sets a certain experience that helps a person recall where our principles get their base in reality.

Bo – John, have you talked to local members about KCSC yet?

John – Yes, in Wichita. Guy thought it was a good idea.

Bo – Will be working on a newsletter, website and conference call to help start KCSC. Corp formed, non-profit status coming. Hank is going to start calling people for support soon.

Mitch – Back from Alaska trip! Didn’t see any bears...

Bo – welcome back brother! The Coastal brown bear is the largest in the world. Five or six feet at the shoulder and fifteen feet long!

Bo – How about doing the national hotline? That was a big service idea when we started working on the USSC. Also, we will have to start building a meeting and contact list. We have some material on a Simplified Service Structure, SSS. It was sent out to the whole core group recently.

John – Like SSS, good to go.

Lester – Hank will call members to get \$50 or so to help start the new service center. They will be GAS, Inc. members, non-voting.



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By: Lester O.



Mitch – Likes the website so far. Positive and upbeat.

Lester – We are working on some book ideas.

Mitch – that will be a major service to provide out of KCSC.

Bo – Web services will be paid by donations to start with, of necessity. Ideas for services include:

- Web services
- Sample formats
- Less costly clean time markers, like poker chips.
- Original Informational Pamphlets (IP's)
- New IP's
- Little White Book
- Meeting and contact lists
- How to start a meeting

Note on SSS – new structure with be the simplified version we are all used to using. Add National and Global initially. We can still create service boards and committees. Simple is better. Emphasize helping others. Decentralizing services.

Bo – Been celebrating my anniversary all month! Want to restore the nacoregroup.org website or make a new one. Still have all the files we had before.

Lester – Hank doesn't want our website published until we are ready.

Bo – want to continue core group after KCSC is established. Planning session in Kansas City, Missouri August 8th.

Bo – the dream is that one member can come up with an idea to help others and be heard by all other members.

Bo – Mitch is trying to take over!

Mitch – You got that right! Had to leave call, something came up in his home...

John – Is anybody unhappy?

Bo – I am just so relieved to be away from the insanity I have observed this past year with the other corp. Optimize! Eyes on the prize! If in trouble, pull together! Dream big, pray hard.

John – Jimmy K started out with a good idea, where did he go wrong?

Bo – I don't think he did, people just moved in on him while he was getting sick and older. They morphed things to suit themselves. Sold out to cheaper goals. It takes miracles to serve NA!

Bo – John, can you go by KCSC to check on things?

John – Yes, at least once a week, check PO box.

Bo – Ideas:



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By: Lester O.



- Workshops
- Deposits
- Forward bills to Lester
- Hold corp. meetings annually
- Hold Original NA meetings there
- Help get out word on SSS
- Adapt real concepts
- People like the 2nd Edition

Bo – there are problems with the revised White Booklet which need to be reconciled with material in Basic Text. We will have discuss this when time comes. At some point we will need a special worker.

We have to initiate, get some money for support, when things are required that cannot be done by a volunteer. This means, we have policy to not put individual behind an 8 ball where a job must be done in a timely manner. There are devoted members who would do it for free but that would violate the 7th Tradition. We will need a few booklet for special workers as well as volunteers.

Lester – may have some material on this...

Bo – how is coreIssues?

Lester – Not the end of the month yet.

Bo – Not putting out trial ideas in minutes. Will confuse people. Instead, we will call, email directly or discuss generally prior to cutting in stone.

Closed at 10:10 Lester led us in Serenity Prayer.

Recording 4479745-141876935.mp3

Next meetings on 29th of July – check out articles in Addendum

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

Core Group Minutes

July 29, 2014

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

**Tuesday Night
CONFERENCE CALL**



Core Issues

Aug. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 8

By: Lester O.



Attendance with area codes:

Bo 404 - Lester 321 – Mark 530 – Mitch 760

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

Discussion List:

Discussion:

8:30 Bo and Mark S on call

Bo – Have you read the SSS?

Mark – Not yet.

Bo – check minutes for the 8th and 15th. Member, Group, Area, Region, National, Global with sub-coms from Area onward. Allows for interactive service communications.

Mitch – DRT and DC, court slip, information. Discuss Global... Need IP's to inform people.

Mark – FB groups talking about need for shorter readings. Also need, "If you are on DRT or Suboxone, we ask you to get with someone after the meeting." Willing to work on writing this.

Bo – We can support if you are willing...

Mark – Send input to avisualcuisine@lied.com Will write up a provisional form to be sent out to core group for input.

Bo – Yummy email address. Will try to get freeconferencecallHD.com for your effort if you need it. You are in charge, we are here to help.

Mark – Also concerned about Drug Court and court slips.

Mitch – Willing to work on DC beginning now.



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By: Lester O.



Mark - I am in Nevada City, California

Lester – Do you know Angel from Sacramento?

Mark – Yes, used to live there. Also, lived in East Bay area.

Bo - DRT has been around a long time. Nothing new like it pretends to be. List cures from opiate addiction: morphine, heroin, methadone, suboxone. What's next? This means NA has been styled to deal with these escape clauses. Using is using, not recovery. If people on drugs share in NA meeting, it is not an NA meeting anymore. We are all about recovery. Nadine contributed an interesting take on the situation: doctors want to help patients and have no drug to give them. Then Suboxone came along. Suboxone is a 'through engine' that was designed for short term withdrawal. Government spend money on testing the drug in early 1970's, has vested interest in the drug. Made law that requires 'bufo' to get Federal funding for treatment centers.

Lester – Not a disease unless it can be treated. If you can't treat, can't be funded.

Bo – Can someone get paperwork on this?

Mark – MD's treat with medicine. Don't know our disease concept. That's the problem.

Lester – Treating alcohol with methadone now. Son got drunk, set to court, then sent to psychiatrist, told to take medicine since you're depressed, Prescribed Elavil.

Mitch – Is it ok to use material from History of the Basic Text?, maybe narchives?
9:25

Bo – Just realized SSS looks similar to SSP! Un-intentional – but quite OK!

Mark – Suggests we think about a pamphlet "How do I affect my Fellowship."

Mark – SSS will be interesting. "Any member can speak and be heard throughout all Narcotics Anonymous."

Mitch – Google Visual text – can host up to eight people at once.

Bo – Gdrive also good for multiple writers.

Mark – Open Office format will send several ...

Bo – New idea to put minutes, essays and summary statements into a book format.

Mark – We should also collect good ideas and articles from the web. Some are valid but inflammatory which spoils the message. Like, "It's wrong, so let's burn the house down." More facts needed, less conclusions. Best to leave conclusions to reader.



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By: Lester O.



Mitch – Has big file with all minutes and essays called “core group.”

Bo – Send me the file!

Bo – Led closing prayer, “Use us as instruments of your will, your peace. We are willing but need guidance.”

Closed at 10:00 Lester led us in Serenity Prayer.

Recording 44479748-141935745.mp3

Next meetings on 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of August – check out articles in Addendum
“That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship.”

Addendum A

(SSS) Simplified Service Structure

Way back when we had no written service structure and only twenty known meetings in the world, a fellow who came to NA in a business suit took it upon himself to write the NA Tree, our first service structure. The NA Tree outlined a structure to suit the special spiritual needs of Narcotics Anonymous. A structure designates the primary service bodies which compose the system by which a membership functions to co-operate for the benefit of all. It also describes and defines how and when they interact to satisfy the needs of the membership.

At the top is the Member, the basis of all of NA. All the functions of our formal service structure are performed by members; they write down things they hear or think of in the atmosphere of recovery we find in our meetings. This is their literature They write down meeting lists if they need to. They carry our message so addicts can find our meetings. This is their public information to let people know where the meetings are and when they meet. They attend our meetings and they alone can start new groups and meetings. They carry a message of hope to the newcomer and carry the experience, strength and hope accumulated within the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

Groups which hold one or more meetings a week are just below the Member in importance. Members read and study to learn the special NA way of doing things. They show up, lay out the literature and put on the coffee. They make sure the meetings start and finish on time. This is to protect the right of members to keep their commitments away from meetings whether it is getting home for a spouse, a baby sitter or their jobs. A chairperson is usually chosen on a monthly basis and a discussion leader starts off the meeting with a few words and a topic of discussion. There are also speaker meetings, participation style meetings, table meetings and other formats described in the course of opening the meetings along with a prayer and readings from our literature. We include these readings in each meeting so as to drive home certain things necessary to recovery involving how we treat one another and our duties and responsibilities as group members.



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By: Lester O.



Each group sends a Group Service Representative to the local Area Service Committee to find out how other meetings are doing, get group supplies and help communicate with the other meetings. Some groups have an alternate GSR ALT (Group Service Representative Alternate) to train to step up to the position or act in place of the GSR if unable to attend.

The Area Service Committee (ASC) is composed of group representatives who share resources to benefit local group needs and participate in discussions that determine how those resources are allocated for routine and special services provided with group resources. The ASC has the usual complement of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer along with Sub-Committees, each with its own Chair and Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair position is important to maintain the direction and services to which their sub-committee is devoted. The most important people in the room are those who carry their groups conscience. They do this by keeping their group members informed and listening carefully to their reactions. One of the difficulties addicts face is no one takes them seriously because of the damage done. When they realize they are taken seriously, they wake up. They are energized. When they feel their concerns and issues are corrected or implemented, they become more responsible. Learning days teach newer members and remind older members how things are done within the 12 Traditions of NA. When members or service bodies disregard our Traditions, insanity and disunity result.

Learning is the only way of maintaining our integrity and commitment to pass on to others what was so freely given us when we got clean. How to chair a meeting, how the service positions work together to produce the miracle of NA recovery. When this system is disconnected from group conscience, service stops working and floats off on a cloud of ego. Service necessarily must be, attractive, approachable and transparent to transmit hope to those who would save lives through their efforts to serve our Higher Power.

Ways to enable the groups to carry the message...literature in probation offices, suboxone, clinics, drug court offices, and presentations to all of those previously mentioned...An effective and low cost virtual Hotline to involve members in...Books in all Libraries, meetings schedules and Posters in areas targeted by the groups through their GSRs or representative if no GSR is present, Outreach members to contact isolated groups and members to determine their needs. Also design website templates that can be used by even the uneducated on websites. Also business cards to give out durable phone numbers or meeting places. The main purpose of an ASC is to enable to use our funds responsibly by "two living cheaper than one." They may buy blocks of website hosting from a company like www.godaddy.com Literature printing like ips and posters. Each Area sends a representative to their Regional Service Committee (RSC) which has the same officers as its component areas.

The Regional Committee pools resources and provides routine and special services for its member areas, groups and members. Many members believe the honor and responsibilities that go with group, area and regional services enhances membership and recovery so long as faith is kept and spiritual condition is maintained. The RSR (Regional Service Representative) carries group conscience which came from members, groups and areas to the National Service Committee which combines the resources of the Fellowship to provide routine and special services such as national help line, public information, H&I, activities, and literature.



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By: Lester O.



Any number of regional committees may be formed to provide adequate communications and the array of services to help our membership get together for discussion and decision making. As with the areas and regions, a National Committee may be required to help establish and maintain services. In some continents this helps where there are unique cultural and language differences.

The Global Service Committee allows all members and their representatives to come together to attend to the business of NA. To prevent excessive concentration of money, power or prestige in one great over body, the main item is discussion of mutual concerns and resources to better service the general Fellowship. A system of service centers replaces the cumbersome rigmarole of treating with members as if they were part of a management system or a mercantile group. Paid personal is used only for performance of routines under direction of members and their service bodies.

The SSS gets away from the idea that our groups and members need someone or something to tell them what to do.

	Member	
Group 1	Group 2	Group X
Area 1	Area 2	Area X
Region 1	Region 2	Region X
National 1	National 2	National X
	Global	

Note: "X" equals any number.

The first physical location of the Global Anonymous Services, Inc. is planned for Kansas City, Missouri.

Literature copyrights can be provided by the Global Anonymous Services, Inc in the review, approval, and various versions under the direction of the originating service bodies and where not in conflict with the 12 Traditions of NA.

At present the SSS is provisional which means it is subject to improvement or alteration to avoid needless complication or conflicts. It is our sincere hope and desire that this structure remain the same over time so as to make unwonted changes difficult or impossible. The services and help roles are the important focus of what we do. Decentralization is one of the main components of the planned system.

SPEAK UP
if you want to get your voice back