



Core Issues

Nov. 2014 Vol.2 Issue 11
By: Lester O.



Goals And Purposes

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

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



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

Email: lester7286@gmail.com

Phone: 321-215-5898

Yours in Loving Service,

Lester O.

Editor of Core Issues

(A non-profit Newsletter of the Core Group)

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



Core Group Minutes

Core Issues

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October 7, 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 707 - David 318 - Mitch 410

Bo on Minutes

recording 44479748-mp3

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

THE FIRST GLOBAL NA ASSEMBLY

Early Registration \$15.00

Door Registration \$20.00

Sunday morning breakfast will be \$12.00

Wyndham Jacksonville River Walk
1515 Prudential Drive - Jacksonville, FL, 32207 USA
Hotel Phone 866 539 8430



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Room Rates \$69.00

Discounted room registration will be open until Nov 8.

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For Pre-Registration please send

P.O. Money order to:

Global Anonymous Services Inc. PO # 360685

Melbourne, FL 32936

MORE IS BEING REVEALED

Discussion:

8:30

Progress report, read to attending members:

GAS, Inc. – Global Anonymous Services, Inc. project

- Lawyer created 501-c3 - Non-profit app in progress
- Began collecting for Just for Tonight - Global NA FB group
- Business office – need \$ -
- Structure – People seem to like the 'Global Service Structure' (GSS) simplified into a self-consistent system with sub-committees at area, region, national and global levels. Member, group, area and region remain the same except for replacing some designations with the word 'representative' and 'service.' Virtual Office will be set up on web with free downloads, starter kits and anything you deem necessary or helpful. Over forty free downloads begin readied for website.

Core group:

- Websites still in repair – nacoregroup.org and NA views - Fan page still in place - Event in Jacksonville, last weekend in November.



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Occupy Naws

12:02pm Oct 1

This "clarity statement" issue, right?

It implies newcomers and less experienced members might be or are fucking up Narcotics Anonymous, right?

Consider that the World Board and RDs support the SSP (which takes away regional, area, and group self-determination of identity, service body structure and membership, and decision making.

The Living Clean book which is nothing more than a promotion of middle class white American armchair psychology infused with new age motivation, aspiration, and religion from non-NA sources then couched as NA now cooperating with professionals regarding "medicalization" of addiction (treatment)....

I ask you....who's really fucking up Narcotics Anonymous? Not the newcomer....believe that. 8:30 Open Call

10.7.14 44479748-142506796.mp3 recording

David - Perhaps we should re-boot Global NA FB

Bo - Good ideas came in from a lady named Janice and our own Alan H. Includes Wiki, Nasolar, Naverse.

David - interest in holding a meeting in Dallas during History event on November 8th. Focus on getting ASIS, Billy, Jim and all together. Why not do a conference twice a year? Talked with Billy A about an event hosted in Texas.

Bo - What are you all going to do about the event we're holding in Jacksonville?

David - No money, already planned vacation time.

David - Has great Greg Pierce audio tape in mp3 format. His story included. Read an excerpt. "Claim your chair!" Need to understand 'addict on the street.'

Bo - We are starting a new service structure.

David - we can mine core group writings. Lots of members on the sidelines, ready to go..

Bo - Jacksonville gathering is going to bring good people together. I think we will plan a big gathering as well as plan a lit conference. We are going to ask for ideas from members overseas.

David - copyrights? Meditation book...

Bo - have domain established for globalnalit.org, working on site now.

Lester - On Radio Free saying that our copyright process is same as NAWS. One Individual on FB won't buy anything from GAS Inc. corporation.

Bo - Hold your breath!

Lester - Yesterday a post said thinking a single person has to own the copyright to protect it was a myth. Mentioned location on web.



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David - Where is it? I am on web right now, What was the date and which FB page or group?

Bo - We will be looking to list national needs and global needs as well as trying to think up stuff we can do. We already agree that we need no money from overseas Fellowship. Let them spend their money on their own people. They can buy a plane ticket now and then if they want to come and see us. Skype, various services allow fact-to-face interaction. Unity comes from agreement on information and understanding.

Mitch - Why can't we unify?

David - Talk to young people, They are curious and bright. The generation of malcontents was born of corporate politics and disinformation campaigns. The new generation has the capacity to think for themselves. We need to amplify our brotherhood.

Bo - Good idea David!

Bo - Don't disparage, rumor, gossip. Be positive. Core has gone through long period of study and discussion. Now we're acting. That will raise our leadership profile.

David - Bill P from Baltimore is coming to Dallas.

Bo - Has anyone heard anything about USSC in Carolina?

Nobody heard anything.

Bo - What are some good ideas for books?

Lester - Idea for a Doctor Shopping book. How to write on this?

Bo - Collect writings from members who have found good doctors who know about addiction and recovery. Share successful experience! Haven't forgotten Mark S. He has a great spirit!

Bo - We already plan to write on DRT, DC and the Deletions.

Mitch - Incorporating 12 Precepts of Recovery/Service.

Bo - Ran into a member who came in through Drug Court and suggested he write about his transition from following the court directive over to NA membership. We could get a whole book on this and put some helpful information in as well.

Lester - It'll go over really well. "What about people who got clean through drug court?" Transition into recovery.

Bo - The man in Michigan was really into NA recovery.

David - the TC's could provide same transition from treatment into membership. Like recovery role models.

Bo - DRT, DC, TC success stories!

Lester - Knew lady who got clean off methadone - she didn't count her clean time until she was completely off it. Has eight years now.

Bo - Mitch, you still want to work on Deletions?

Mitch - Yes, very much.

Bo - going to Northern California in late October. Workshop in San Jose.

David - Working within...

Bo - "Change from within.." is short for neutralize those who notice errors of flaws with actions of current world services. You can't get the casino to better the odds. You can't negotiate with the child molester.

David - "Get in the herd!"

Mitch - What about 'Trusted Guardians?' Is Mel H ok, friends with Jack B.

David - Different people get along with people where we don't...

Mitch - He is never on the call...



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Bo - Mel is good guy, far as I know. Celebrated 46 years. I know him from Chuck Skinner who took me by Mel's electronic shop in Whittier.

Lester - Doesn't like Jack's personality, Mel has great personality!

John - I don't believe in current USSC group from my experience in KC when they met here. Recently had a big celebration of NA in Kansas City and there were eight people with over 20 years. Sat next to one guy and didn't talk for whole four hours. No one came up to them. All speakers had very little clean time. Old-timers isolated, new people in charge.

Lester - speaker Jam in his area - everybody attending had over 20 years.

Bo - You get to talk here John.

John - Old school anonymous is new name of his little meeting at Red Lobster. My life here is wonderful in other respects. Two hour talk on last tour of duty in Afghanistan by officer who flew helicopter at the Military Collector's Club. Showed hoist that raised floor of helicopter when flood ran down under the deck from battle.

Closing Prayer 10:05 - David led Gratitude Prayer.

10.7.14 44479748-142506796.mp3 recording

Next meeting on 14th of October.

Check out articles in Addendum

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

Core Group Minutes

October 14, 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:



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Bo 404 – Monica 678 – Lester 321 – Nadine UU 760

Bo on Minutes

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8:30 Open Call

Bo – Hey Monica. Will you type up my notes from the conference call recording? It is 9.23.14. Will attach it to you if I can find the downloaded .mp3.

Monica – Glad to...

Bo – What drummer are we dancing to tonight?

Lester – Put four registrations into bank account.

Monica – When is the admin meeting of core group.

Bo – We have little structure in keeping with being a non-structural, informal service body. We discuss core issues and report to the Fellowship in general in a variety of ways. From my experience, members who participate or read the minutes become informed, stable and all help in some way. We have no motions and no elections. Core call is the admin...

Lester – Jacksonville NA Convention this weekend.

Bo – Going to San Francisco this Friday, back on the 26th. Visiting friend in Petaluma. Will do core group call from there. Workshop in San Jose Monday the 20th.

Lester – NAWS announced they envision no change on DRT stance. Using drugs is not clean They said that they had been asked them to make change's and that they would not be making any changes.

Bo – Let's see what they do when book sales drop off...

9:30 Nadine UU on call

Monica – Heard of Grey Zone recovery?



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Nadine – Never met anyone who called themselves clean while on DRT.

Lester – NA “as such” – what does it mean to you Bo?

Bo – NA “as such” is when two or more addicts decide to not use for that day. Used to distinguish between the spiritual event and allied service bodies and events.

Lester – there are many different ideas on this.

Nadine – Good question. WB has one interpretation. Others see it differently. NA “as such” is the spiritual basis of our Program. “as such” is the membership. Can’t have NA without the members.

Lester – My view is everybody interprets this the way they want. For me NA as such has changed over the years. Today, I inclined to agree with Bo on this. When I was first clean, as such was every aspect of NA, anything in or done in the Program. Service bodies, meetings, conventions, everything. Now I see NA more as such to be more in the spiritual Realm i.e. working our steps, practicing our traditions and living the program thru practicing spiritual Principles and attempting to apply them in our lives and our affairs to the best of our ability.

Bo – Good idea for pamphlet.

Nadine – Exhausted from all the stuff on WS. SSP has layers and layers of discussion and viewpoints. Aftermath of WSC is huge divide in NA. Other projects get neglected.

Bo – Tirade on how nothing is wasted, everything is necessary. We need negative precedents to inform members about why we do this or avoid doing that. If they don’t know, they really can’t follow except blindly. We have paid a high price for our experience.

Monica – thank you.

Bo – What would you all like to see most?

Nadine – reunited Fellowship. WB stop pushing idea that members who don’t agree with them are outside NA and not to be taken seriously.

Miracles happen all the time. Wish good people working on different stuff together and in groups. More in common than differences. Real unity of mutual affection and respect. Roll up sleeves and do something to help.

Monica – Hard question. Feel love and goodness on one side and then there is the other... What goes on with NAWS? Like to see people stand up for their true beliefs. Stop being so complacent and expect others to do stuff and wait for them to act. Laziness and ignorance, people manipulating others. It is a divided Fellowship.



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We as members take up for global NA. 50 years from now those with strong foundations will still be here. Not right to have to struggle so. People die. We can fight for what we believe in. Addicts have above average intelligence. We allow ignorance to prevail. Pray to God of my understanding to let me know why the World Board has so much trouble with communications.

Bo – Matter of focus.

Nadine – People vote on personalities. My area strong a year ago. Region in trouble. Won't look at my report on what happened at the WSC. The nature of NA is in trouble. Lots of motions had effects not foreseen. True nature of the motions didn't come out until it was too late. Laziness and complacency. We can turn out back and believe it will be ok. Didn't think if we turned our back it would be ok. Got bamboozled and didn't realize it.

They haven't worked out a way to communicate with the Fellowship from world services all these years. Became divided. People in middle don't want to know because they would have to pick sides...

Monica led us in closing prayer, "Many of us have said..."
10:30 pm

44479748-142565379.mp3 recording

Next meeting on 21st and 28th of October.

Core Group Minutes

Core Group Minutes

October 21, 2014

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

Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

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**Bo 404 –Lester 321
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Nadine Double-u

3:49pm Oct 13

With the advent of the new "PR" in NA I'm concerned with the trend of "we are representatives of NA, we need to act a certain way all the time so we don't give NA a bad name". It's in the PR book, not in those words, but definitely in spirit. I hear it said a lot more within the fellowship now. For myself, this brings to mind my church going days, when church members were constantly reminded "you may be the only bible anyone ever reads" and that as Christians we "represent Jesus" etc etc etc. Religious acceptability and



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conformity and public face became more important than relationship and genuineness. I refuse to live that way again. In my opinion and experience, that is the fertile ground in which hypocrisy, dishonesty, ego, judgment and lack of integrity flourishes in. I am not a representative of NA. I am not an NA member to convert people to anything, convince them of anything or represent anything. My behavior is my responsibility, good or bad and I carry myself a certain way because it is a reflection of who I am, not how I want anyone to perceive me (At least most of the time). I refuse to begin to think of myself as carrying the responsibility of the embodiment of NA and it's human representation wherever I go therefore responsible for if the world thinks well of NA or if they think ill of NA. My ego would love to think I am all of that, but I cannot afford to fall into that kind of thinking. I am an addict who has found recovery through the process of steps, sponsor, spirit, service and meetings. I will act great and I will act like an asshole at times. I will exhibit recovery and exhibit Decovery at times. My goal is to connect to my HP and myself in a way that gives me the freedom to fully be me in a more genuine way than ever before in my life. Free from the hypocrisy and bondage of "trying to be" or "appearances". Why in the world would I trade that in for the idea that I somehow represent NA wherever I go? I won't. I do my best and make good decisions, treat others with respect and try not to make wreckage because I live what the steps have taught me. Not because I am trying to impress the outside world and be a walking NA billboard. The miracle is that I am an addict that is not destroying my life and those around me with active addiction. That is enough. My HP has made me into a miracle. I won't cheapen it with becoming an example of public relations. Period.

"One of the saddest lessons of history is this. If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. Once you give a charlatan power over you, you almost never get it back."

Dr. Carl Sagan

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freedom, Global NA – the dream, Discipline and Restraint, NA Unity – Many service models, one Fellowship, God, Service and Representative

Work on new book nearing completion. (See Addendum 1)

8:30 Open Call

Bo - I am in California for vacation and to give first presentation on how the Basic Text was written in San Jose. It went well with nearly a hundred members attending including a bunch from Fresno. I had trouble with access so Lester and I took a while trying to connect and I walked him through procedure to host/moderate, so he can do it. We reviewed and discussed things that may be worth hearing if you check the recording.

Basically we are committed as ever to Global NA. We feel the Fellowship is suffering from a sort of mass hypnosis where they are led into thinking they are free and open when the reality is a little different. Many who say that it has gone too far and that there is no sense in opposing the corporation which was set up to served us and now thinks apparently that they own us are simply lazy or uninformed. I read a few lines I wrote out to see what it looked like on paper (!).

“If you know the government has a vested interest in Suboxone and treatment centers have to offer Suboxone therapy to qualify for Federal funding than you know total abstinence is go to go out of style for a time until someone notices the people following their direction die. Further, that this same government is empowering judges to dilute our message of hope and recovery by determining the compo-sit ion (attendance) of our meetings. NA will collapse under this sort of pressure. We have no alternative but to start a new service structure under Fellowship control. With the incredible brain washing and misdirection we have suffered, it is hard to get members focused on making it better, simpler and more open. It seems an impossible goal. ‘If it works don’t fix it’ is no solution if it is too far out of balance.”

By lowering group costs, simplifying our service structure and decentralizing, we are not starting a new NA. We are still NA all the way. Buzz words and spin statements don’t oblivate the fact that severe changes have been implemented by a hostile camp of power people who do not respond to what members want. The last WSC showed that. Hopeless! Where does hope come from in NA? Prayer and meditation! How do you run out of prayer and meditation? We are not starting a new NA, we are maintaining NA.

Lester – There seems to be something to what you say... How do we get this across to the Fellowship?

Lester and I got together after we worked out the hosting system and talked a bit about what is happening right now. The work on the Grey Book with Stories is in proofing stage right now. Thanks for all the help we received from only a few members. But you know, it doesn’t take that much once you make up your mind and starting asking for divine guidance. Progress is easy once you break out of the trance. How many people pray for divine insight?

New idea is to collect success stories from those who have come into NA through drug court, DRT and



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treatment centers. I doubt how many members know what is really going on out there. By letting those who have made it through the maze share, they may be able to reach folks in their own terms of awareness and from their personal experience and perspective.

Video clips have the power to transmit more than just what comes through in print media. By working out some base lines that keep the material from public venues, we can work within the 11th Tradition. We have a right and need to get our word out to those who need it. Not for public distribution, no last names, don't appear to speak for all of NA, keep to personal opinion and experience. If someone knows your face, they learned it before they saw the video.

New readings can be taken from Grey Book, NA Way of Life or written especially to give our view to those who want it or need it.

New book composed of transcribed tapes by Greg Pierce. Future books may include Joe Proctor, Jim Nichols, Pepe Acuna and other important members who have encouraged and raised the bar of recovery through their passion and intense recovery experience.

Lester downloaded the recording of our talks tonight and I will also now that I finally have access.

In Loving Service,

Bo and Lester

Closed at 10:30 pm.

Prayer: "Many of us have said..."

44479748-142626305.mp3 recording

Next meeting on 28th of October.

Core Group Minutes

Core Group Minutes

October 28, 2014

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

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- **God, Service and Representative**
- **Work on new book nearing completion.**

8:30 Open Call

Bo S. – Work going forward on Grey Book with Stories

Jim M. ill, those who know him should call...

Bo - Current deadlock sets members at odds with other members over invisible issues. You have on one side members out of touch with the working structure that brought together members to produce a co-ordinated world-wide Fellowship as evidenced by unprecedented growth and Our Book. On the other, members intent on something new and untried. If their work reflects anything, it is personal recognition, while denying that recognition to others. Hard for them to give something they don't have! If you can't give it, it's hard to give it! Those who study and attempt to honor the Traditions are dismissed out of hand. Meanwhile, the forces of government creep forward, encroaching and wiping out any pretense of love and spirituality. Amid all this, we hope the reading and study of our common heritage will help the Fellowship learn to keep it simple, make it fun and pray for strength and guidance.

Lester - NAWS doesn't know how to get rid of the Conference Agenda Report. Fellowship disillusioned and non-responsive.

Bo - Dispirited old timers just sit there and watch like cows by a fence. Afraid of something...

Can't do anything without God=s help. It is not egotistical to want to make it better.

Lester - In my experience, people in Northern California are more spirited than in Southern Cal. Believes it is result of WS administration. They are riding on our good works and our good name.



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Bo - Related to people who didn't write the book. The prayer for God to take our ego and self-will and give us the strength and guidance to do His footwork really makes changes in reality. On-going changes. It also makes it hard to see people who are gaming, You can't see what they are up to. I believe when we were praying and working, other people were thinking, Boy, I see some big money coming. They went after what they wanted, big time. But divine guidance really does cover our ass.

Lester - Lot of changes in the Basic Text at WLC 5 in Santa Monica. Most attendees had not participated in any way, shape or form until then. These changes undid some good things. That's why the Grey Book is so popular, it has great content that was taken out. Noticed Southern California is fast paced way of life. That's one reason I moved. Maybe, faster than New York City. In Northern Cal it is less rushed.

Bo - How about San Diego?

Lester - not much difference.

Bo - How will GB with Stories be received in Melbourne?

People have been conditioned to not read print material, don't trust print anymore.

Lester - Lots of people will want to separate into two books. They don't like reading long books.

People on FB not ready for Global NA. We needed forms on website and Paypal for the planned conference.

Bo - No committee. Not sure what's going on. Trying to leave it alone and let Hank run things. I really can let go and let God. We'll find a solution.

Lester - Hotel wants signed contract and another \$600.

Lester - Many of us have said....

Closed at 9:40 pm

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Addendum: for core group members:

Addendum 1:

INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHIVAL FORM OF THE GREY BOOK WITH STORIES



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In the past decade there has arisen an interest in our NA History along with some major historical documents. Central among these is the Memphis Review Form of our Basic Text, aka the Grey Book. Because of this need, we are going forward with plans to make available a new printing with all the stories that went out from the Philadelphia Literature Conference in 1982, a year after the Grey Book. Additional stories were found in our search for all the stories from the Review Form. They are included because you just can't have too many.

One of our Literature Workers said of her experience:

When I volunteered to proof and edit the stories contained in this book, I was asked to take each one and revert back to the original version, as compared to what had been edited and published by professional writers.

My background taught me well how to catch spelling and grammatical errors to produce a document as near to perfect as possible. Generally, in writing, it is imperative to remain consistent, unswerving, throughout the written work. Here, there are punctuation and grammatical verbiages that may seem unacceptable in our English language convention.

In the illustration of stories by diverse addicts, it is imperious that we take nothing from the story-teller's message. The assortment of the authors' stories endures the varied intent of their message being carried to the addict. It is my meticulous effort to proof and carefully edit, with resolve and accurate conveyance of the addict's message.

Though these stories were pioneered several decades ago, they still touch people's lives. It is my hope that we addicts can continue to write stories and literature "by addicts, for addicts" to share with our Fellowship members world-wide.

It has been an honorable privilege to partake in this literature endeavor. I have personally benefitted by perceiving how very important it is for us addicts to carry the message being mindful, and respectful, of the writer's intent

We are a diverse lot, with one common bond; it is through this diversity that each story has been cherished to carry the personal message of recovery.

Grey Book with Stories – Timeline

1979 WLC 1 at Wichita produced the ideas for the "Handbook for NA Literature Committees."

1980 WLC 2 at Lincoln created outline and cut and pasted 800 pages of input into the outline.

1981 WLC 3 at Memphis finished the Grey Book Review Form, raised money and sent out copies at no charge to 600 meetings, all we could find on the planet.



Core Issues

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By: Lester O.



1981 WLC 4 at Santa Monica took input from all the groups who had the Review Form, page and line number: insert, delete, modify. So did the following conferences until the Book was done. This was right before the WSC in LA.

1981 WLC 5 in Niles, Ohio continued the process of reviewing the input and four chapters were considered complete at the Ohio Lit Conference.

1981 WLC 6 at Miami, just after the World Convention of NA XI approved the book and approved sending out an Approval Form to every known group in the world. The Form was approved in 1982 at the WSC.

1982 WLC 7 in wintery Bucks County outside Philadelphia workshopped all the Stories. The stories were then sent out to every group in the world - 1800. NA had tripled in nine months. Our service structure worked just fine back then.

2014 – In the years that followed several members began reading the Grey Book from Memphis and started study groups that morphed into regular NA meetings. There seemed a need to make available both the Original Grey Form and include the remarkable stories that include many of the members who worked on the Basic Text along with many stories that came in after the first printings of our Book.

“We may create...” – The need for clear, easily understood information on who we are and where we come from has never been greater. As big as NA has grown, there are new problems you cannot have when you are small and have no money. Money has always been a tough one for us addicts. With money you can buy things and posture like you are a big deal, which you may be in a way. But addiction can still baffle, confuse and kill you. With ease and comfort, it is easy to stop doing the things that brought us back to health and slide into disease and discomfort quickly. God is colorless, odorless and tasteless for a reason. It is because God is so huge, it would knock our socks off if it were different. You can see God, in a way, in how our lives change and how well we do when we are awake and willing to do our part which is to surrender, study and learn. When the student is ready, the master will appear. Attention is one price we all have to pay.

In Loving Service,

Bo S.