

Aug., 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 8

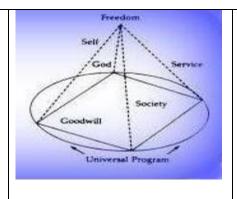
Bv: Lester O.



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 July, 2015



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Bv: Lester O.



July 7, 2015

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 – Mitch 410 - John B. 318 – Brian 540 – David 318 **Recording 44479748-144740595.mp3**Bo on Minutes

"Birds born in a cage think that flying is an illness."

Discussion:

The new Grey Book with Stories book is now available in soft cover \$12 plus \$4 S&H. Hard cover will be \$22 plus \$4 S&H. Order from NA Foundation Group 164 Privette Road Marietta, Georgia 30008. Bulk orders, no shipping. Call 404.312.5166 for additional information.

Global NA continues among the originators who work to simplify the service structure by stating and restating basic principles having to do with the design and elaboration of the services we provide in NA. This dream is not dead. Some miracles take a little longer than others... I was a WSC officer and helped get the WSC started up, along with a fine many others. We went from 3 RSC's to 28 the year I served as Vice-Chair and Joe Proctor as Treasurer. The Fellowship grew from 600 meetings in February of 1981 to 1200 in November of 1981. So, if anyone tells you it wasn't working, tell them openness and inclusion are strong principles!

Change coming: Infrastructure growing around spreading NA History and Heritage. Non-commercial NA is proliferating rapidly. As time goes by, more and more our message is carried by members of NA at no charge. Look ahead and be a part of the solution. The Fellowship needs and Office more that the Office needs the Fellowship. Think about it. We don't want to take over and tell people what to do, we want to carry our message and keep the NA name clean from commercial interests and mentality.

Grey Book Daily Meditation still going on Thursday at 7:30 EST. Will start at 8:00 EST



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henceforth. Discussions on call resulted in change to accommodate the needs of those who are showing up. - Bo S.

"Group conscience applies only to things involving NA growth and continuance. In other words, we don't bicker about the service structure, just so long as it is effective and serves the needs of the NA Fellowship. Making up new committees and spending needless time on policy issues is a waste and should not be tolerated. If we need radical new leadership, so be it. The needs of the Fellowship must come before quibbling over details which are generally only a matter of personal preference. In service we put group purpose ahead of personal preference." - Bo S.

8:30 Open conference call.

https://app.box.com/s/iszfvwnc96bj9c43dbimi5vzqxrbw5ft

"--- easier to fool someone than to convince them they have been fooled."

- Mark Twain

Bo – Been checking out public domain for some Fellowship writings. It would preclude the acquisition of our literature as a commercial commodity.

Gene Haag is in bad health and needs our prayers.

David – H&I not doing well in Monroe. Getting notice of what they want us to do. We have limited resources. Need appointment with prison offficials to talk over our policy of non-affiliation face – to – face.

Mitch - Apologize for leaving call last week, feeling really off healthwise.

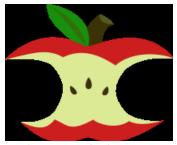
Bo – Love you Mitch!

David – Prison officials are used to telling prisoners what to do. Perhaps they regard us as underlings. Need to get with Warden and Chaplain.

Went to doctor today, says I have pneumonia. Gave me antobiotics and steroids. Had cold chills, couldn't sleep. Started as bronchitis in Baltimore visiting my Mom. Possibly had come second hand smoke. Got bad Sunday morning, so now on Tuesday had to go to doctor.

Bo – is there anything else we need to talk about tonight? No? Well let's close.

9:35 close with Third Step Prayer.



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Other good closing prayers....

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"Dear God,

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"Nothing blinds a person like fanaticism which is just an outward expression of obsession."

Next meeting on 14th, 21st, and 28th of July, 2015

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

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July 14, 2015

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

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"He who controls the Past, controls the future.

He who controls the present controls the Past." – 1984 movie

History is written by the winners. – Jewell

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Bo – Suggest we discuss NA myths and legends. Important to verify or deny new information before we decide what to do with it. We had a secretary in the Georgia regional committee who would change minutes to suit themselves. The chairperson eventually had to hold a tape recorder in face of member making motion or amendment to make sure it was 'recorded' accurately! Unsubstantiated rumors like the Jimmy K lockout and Bob Stone's death should be dealt with so that correction is understood to be correct and proper. We have no way to deal with this that I know of but it can't be that hard to do if enough members see a need for historical accuracy in our Fellowship's knowledge base or understanding.

Several untruths that are embedded in the general Fellowship:

- 1. Jimmy K was locked out of WSO by and ungrateful Fellowship.
- 2. Bob Stone committed suicide in desert due to inoperable cancer.
- 3. That NAWS sends free literature all over the world and translates it for free.
- 4. Addicts in recovery cannot write.



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If there is any evidence to the contrary, we urge you to contact us and give us your concern and supporting material.

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Public Information idea:

PI Committee contact local colleges, medical training, police academys and other teaching institutions and get contact information, graduation schedules and procedures for arranging regular presentations about NA and recovery to help these students by telling them about recovery.

John B – Heard and believed Jimmy K was locked out.

Bo – I did too for quite a few years. Also the Bob Stone suicide.

Lester – Sponsorship family propagates the lie. Powerful but unscrupulous. Lockout rumor confined to upper echelon office personnel.

Mitch – Nebraska letter also should be listed.

Bo – Mitch, find that letter and send to me again. I will make it available to core group.

John B – Narchives didn't make sense when I checked it before, maybe when I check it again it will be more clear. I have learned a lot.

Bo - You all please locate any other lies that are untrue and in need of correction.

Mitch – read some on public domain, still have questions.

Mitch – Heard WCNA not well attended in Brazil. We need to collect some information on this. Hope it helped them down there.

Lester – Heard from reliable source that NAWS changes from Robert's Rules to CBDM according to which one would help their motion.

Bo – First serious change in our structural practices was when the WSC stopped stepping up vice-chairs to chairs and allowed Administration Sub-committee to fill vacant positions by appointment rather than approved service structure which made vice-chairs a training year. Also, counting abstentions as no votes. Anyone have the pro to this practice? Will put in



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minutes. I cannot recall how such a thing makes any sense at all.

Lester – another thing about vice-chairs is to fill in for chair if they cannot attend a required attendance commitment. Nobody wants to be vice-chair.

Bo – Yeah, once members saw what was going on, not stepping vice-chairs to chair position, the immediately began to respectfully decline nominations! Killed the WSC. Be nice to get back to loving, caring service!

Mitch – People who don't know what real service is like, having joyous occasions, leaving a service committee meeting feeling great and wonderful about NA and what all we are doing to help addicts. Doesn't see it ever coming back.

Going to great H&I Conference Saturday in Salisbury, Maryland – group sponsored, spirit based event.

Bo – That's the answer. It'll be fun and it will spread because it generates good, positive feelings.

Lester – two group split off from ASC and formed new area. Working on plan to work with existing area to help addicts.

Bo – Service structure invented itself easily. Real service today in Members, Groups and Areas. Seems like regions are corrupted or tainted by money, property and prestige. Let us know how it goes please.

Mitch – Can't get anyone to go with me this weekend to Salisbury.

Bo – is Kirk going?

Mitch – he was but his wife broke her ankle on stairs. Gotta take care of her.

Bo - anything else for tonight's call?

John B – Got something going in H&I

Mitch – searching na.org for info on WCNA in Brazil.

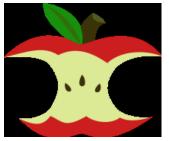
Bo – still working on learning more about public domain.

Mitch – still getting interest in Grey Book with Stories. Members from UK we met at ECCNA few weeks ago.



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Bo – Core group – please send in notes, articles and posts for inclusion in minutes.

John F - The meetings here have established a new position of "Court Slip Signer". Courtslipers have been threatening meeting secretaries and posting their names and photos on You Tube to out them.

Hopefully this will redirect the rage to the signers who will be brand new members that are expendable. It's a bold move to try and preserve the little backbone left in the rooms.

Meetings going dark is a big problem here in California too.

Hope all is well.

John

It is impossible to find a solution so long as all effort is being attributed to defending mistakes. We need to let go of the past before we can move into the present. – David B.

9:50 John from Monroe, Louisiana closed us with "Many of us ..."

Other good closing prayers....

"They say a picture is worth a thousand words. But what if it reflects not reality but an agenda? In this age of airbrushed magazine covers, computer-generated images, reality tv, and phony viral video, have words lost meaning? Or have they become more important than ever?

"Dear God,

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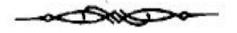
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MISCONCEPTIONS

- N.A. DOES NOT operate detox units, recovery or half way houses and is not affiliated with such facilities; we do however, cooperate with those who cooperate with us.
- N.A. DOES NOT crusade, solicit, advertise for members or try to persuade anyone to join us.
- 3, N.A. DOES NOT engage in or sponsor research.
- N.A. DOES NOT keep membership records or case histories nor follow up on members or in any way try to control them.
- N.A. DOES NOT make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses nor provide marriage, family or vocational counselling.
- 6. N.A. DOES NOT provide welfare or other social services.
- N.A. DOES NOT conduct spiritual or religious services of any kind.
- 8, N.A. DOES NOT engage in education or propaganda about drugs.
- N.A. DOES NOT accept money for its services, is not funded by any public or private sources or agencies. Accepts no contributions from non-N.A. sources.





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Bv: Lester O.



July 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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Recording 44479748 -.mp3

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showing up. – Bo S. Note: **Note: core group conference call number and access for Grey Book Daily Meditation effort. Due to popular request.**

"One of the saddest lessons of history is 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"... Carl Sagan, astronomer

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supporting material.

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From John F 12:11 pm today-

It's slowly dawning on me that I am the only clean person here in Napa NA. Everyone not on antidepressants is smoking pot. The parking lot outside the meeting is a pill flea market.

I am also the only person here that is not on a court slip.

It appears that it's the same story over in Fairfield where we attended that meeting together.

Less than half the meetings from two years ago are still going.

I suppose it's things like this that make it hit me just how lucky I am.

It will be interesting just how this fellowship regenerates and becomes strong again.

Cash flow is a real problem. None of the meetings have any money to buy literature.

But hey, it's all in the name of Drug Court and beating it into the heads of the unwashed masses.

John

from John F 6:12 PM today -

We have tried everything to fix Napa NA. We signed court slips, we vilified the oldtimers, we endorsed Drug Court, we endorsed anti-depressants, we allowed cross talk, we pandered to newcomers, we ended the meetings early, we gave away books, we watered down the rules, we eliminated the rules, we endorsed Suboxyen, we waived clean time, we ignored drug dealing in the parking lot, we ignored drug dealing in the meetings, we went along with NAWS, we ignored NAWS, we closed our noncourtslip signing meetings, we allowed secretary less meetings, we silently watched meetings go dark, we silently watched oldtimers ridiculed and driven from the rooms. Now, finally, it is over. NA no longer exists in Napa or the other towns in our area for that matter.

True, stoned people from Drug Court hold classes and use the NA name for the purpose of staying out of prison via court slips illegally signed.

But the point is, NA has finally hit bottom. It died. And that is hitting bottom. Jails, institutions and death.

Now upon hitting bottom, a new dimension is entered. New possibilities arise. Now instead of



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saving it, they talk of starting up an NA meeting in Napa. So doing something. Of pursuing a dream.

John

And no one showed up for core group tonight. I waited on the call for thirty minutes... Thanks John.

In Loving Service,

Bo S.

Other good closing prayers....

"They say a picture is worth a thousand words. But what if it reflects not reality but an agenda? In this age of airbrushed magazine covers, computer-generated images, reality tv, and phony viral video, have words lost meaning? Or have they become more important than ever?

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"Nothing blinds a person like fanaticism which is just an outward expression of obsession."

Recording 44479748 -.mp3
Next meeting on 28th of July, 2015

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





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Bv: Lester O.



July 28, 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 - Mitch 410 - John B 318 - Lester O 321

Recording 44479748 - 144846670.mp3

Bo on Minutes
"Birds born in a cage think that flying is an illness."

Discussion:

8:30 Open conference call.

Bo - I am going to start recording my thoughts when I start call at 8:30 Eastern Time. It is interesting to me from the days when I served for five yearts on the World Service Board to be here now and doing what I do with the core group. The WSB was a formal part of the NA service structure specifically toact as guardian of the Twelve Traditions. There is no equivalent service board today.

John F - I am in Reno, Nevada in a rental truck with trailer. There were no old faces when I visited Napa Valley, California. They were all gone. The oldtimers who no longer show up ar meetings are blamed for the sad state of affiars in Napa.

Bo - Any effort to get together among oldtimers who left regular NA meetings?

John - Napa still has schedules and meetings but they are all court ordered of on some kind of medication. It is just a shame.

Bo - No, not a shame, it is a result of corporate intrusion and it will hit every area in the world before it is done. We are the NA resistance!! The effort to routinize and manage NA groups

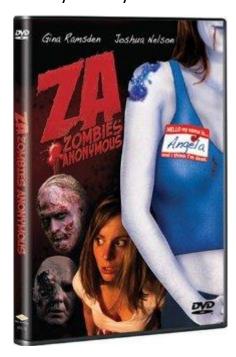


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and members is killing and chilling to our people. NA is not a business and never will be. Spoke with another member today and we laughed about the "Talking Dead" and the new "Zombie Anonymous." Talking Dead is when people can quote the NA literature but not practice it. The Zombie Anonymous is those whose recover centers are not activated but they haven't fallen down yet. They can still talk and walk but carry no spiritual message.



ZA takes you on a weird ride where life meets death - or does it?

Grey Book Daily Meditation book:

- 1. Now over 300 quotations selected.
- 2. Work begun on essays Idea is to include all ideas submitted to essays.
- 3. Prayers for each day.
- 4. Thought for each day, formatted to fit along edge of the gutter or the outside edge.

Not sure how many months this effort has been going on but we know we are the first to work on it. Doesn't matter if other Fellowship groups do another version. More the merrier!

Mitch - Debra sick with vertigo, I have bronchitus tonight and won'te be able to stay on call. Coughing a lot.

Bo - Hope you feel better.

John F - Back on call, the mountains cut off my signal to cell phone. So off and on!



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Bo - My two bits is to adapt to the situation by avoiding the corporate structure. "Never Alone" applies to our efforts. Zombie Anonymous and Talking Dead are jokes!

John B - David B. has 23 years tomorrow! Congrats on new job!

John F - Got antique clock for \$15, will sell for \$120. Went to antique rug shop and was waited on by Iranian rug salesman who learned from his grandfather! Every move and gesture flawless! One rug sold for \$85,000. When Iranian oil booms again, rugs will go for big bucks over there and disappear here!

Lester - Celebrated 21 years tonight!

Bo - Congratulations Lester O!

Broaden our program beyond the corporate. We are doing this as we speak. Start by holding small, inexpensive events, fly below the radar. As people learn, they grow.

Lester - Start with home group activities. My former home group put on events with speakers.

John B - Like it, would help, so much disunity - everybody trying to do their own thing.

Lester - At home group business meeting make suggestions, support other HG events.

John B - WE are planning a day event now.

Bo - I just got back from one! It was in Decatur, Alabama, three and a half hours west of here.

Lester - Speaker Jam planned for September. All speakers over 20 years. \$20 for dinner and dance. Proceeds go to H&I to put books for members in jail.

Bo - What about Public Domain? The more I think about it, it would open the door for free Fellowship literature and offset the idea that literature is just for writing to help out the corporate cause. It transfer ownership of material to the Public. Non-reversable.

Lester - Heard it good thing considering how our service structure is set up. In PD everybody can copy materials, free downloads.

Bo - We can teach people how to make their own books!

Lester - Cheaper prices.

Bo - Price depends on cost and quality.

John B - Are we suggesting a new service structure?



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Bo - No, keep it simple for now.

Lester - Hazelton will make less money from NA. Best thing is change in service strtucture. The point is not making money.

John F - the Corp will just have to go after money from the Federal government to keep courtslip meetings going.

Lester - If the corp loses cash cows, will find alternatives for income.

John B - Loosen corp grip will change service structure.

Lester - loss of revenue alternatives, not literature for our members.

Bo - So much more is known about recovery today and the subtlities and exact wording require Fellowship processing. Changes may be good or bad. Pray and meditate!

John B - corporation will lose control.

Lester - Europe won't follow what we do. Don't have world wide movement right now. Europe, Middle East, Asia will take longer.

Bo - Dale is in Bangkok, doing good over there. Iranians are apalled we let national government police our meetings, allbeit only encroachment for now. I think we need to consider the statement we make with making new literature Public Doman.

Lester - Is ASIS NA? Think they are giving docs they work on at Longwood to ASIS. Say they are Public Domain.

Bo - where duplication of effort is an issue, we should just do the best we can. Anything that helps addicts should be ok with us.

John B - Apologize for not making core group last week.

Lester - The Blue Papers done by Peter Heuer and passed out at Orlando and MARLCNA started people thinking. It actually led to core group.

Bo - Thank you Pete!

Lester - At Orlando Pete and others were laying the Blue Papers out on tables and Steve Rusch was walking right behind them picking them up. Then, another team came behind Steve and laid some more down. Great stuff.



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Bo - Thanks for caring John! If a core group member can't make the meeting on time, you can always call and let us know. We are a spiritual movement.

10:10 - Closing Prayer by John B - "Thank you for all these blessings..."

Other good closing prayers....

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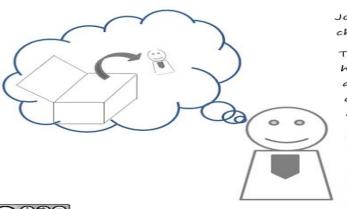
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"That we can all come together for the good of the Fellowship."

Recording 44479748 -.mp3

Thinking outside Box





Joe needs to prepare himself for this change himself

This transformation of the organization has to be organic and should not cost anything, as it will attract too many anti-supporters trying to stop to stop the change

Joe needs allies.... He needs to build his army!

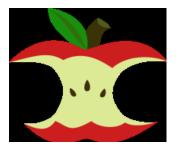
Joe has to think outside the box.... How is he alone going to change the minds of so many!





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Fan Page - "corelssues"

websites -www.nacoregroup.org and naviews.org sorry got hacked

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 <u>Cleanstock!</u> 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 hacked – Made link to youtube.com to make it easier to get to our video clips.

NOTE: this is a private list, do not give out to people not on core group as a courtesy. Please let us know if you want your contact info on list. - Ed



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We have downloads from all the calls to date. Listing is a chore. Some may not be on our hard drives but no one has asked about them and we go where you directs us with emails or phone calls.

You can still dial in for recording of last Tuesday night call by using access code. The downloaded calls I can send you if you need them. – Bo

Addendum: for core group members:

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

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

Without including this in our minutes, the situation is almost impossible to believe, much less explain. This is why we need big change now! – Bo S.

Forwarded by core group member for your information and consideration Addendum A"(Excerpted from History of Narcotics Anonymous by Jody R):

http://www.bosewell.com/newhist.htm

New Service Structure

A service committee, an area meeting, a regional general assembly, even a meeting of the Board of Directors at the WSO, is not a group. A "group" is a meeting of two or more addicts who get together to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Members of a home group who get together with each other, to vote on decisions for our fellowship, have the ability to express God's will in their conscience because their decision is based in the very roots of the group, not out on an open service committee floor. How can a God's will, who expresses himself through a GROUP conscience, express himself in a non-group arena?

Under our original service structure, all decisions are taken from the area floor BACK to the groups for a decision and vote. That vote is then carried by the GSR to the area floor for tallying. Then the area counts it's votes from the home group votes, and so on, until a vote count is sent on to WSC for a count of "group conscience" votes.

Under the concepts, we will now have "delegates" who make decisions for us on these area and regional floors. I would trust just about any moron in an environment where I knew God's will



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would prevail, as would happen in a home group. But to cut someone lose on our behalf, who doesn't even know our history, our service structure, or that even has that much clean time in some cases, onto a floor where people are grappling for power and control, under the rule of what could be a clever, manipulator with hidden agendas, and then tell me I call them a "trusted servant" - I DON'T THINK SO.

There's also many other problems with this setup.

- 1. The flow of information you can't fool every home group. Nor could someone with a hidden agenda, reach each and every home group. No one could be in that many places at one time. There's a certain safety in numbers. But put each and every person's name and face on a floor, and on a phone list, and suddenly, you have people who can be "lobbied" just like in the government. I'm not paranoid I've watched this happen. You also have now a target of people with which WSO can target propaganda to, whereas the groups can't so easily be put onto a mailing list. Again, I'm not paranoid I've seen these propaganda mailing lists put out by WSO like the once attached to this letter that just went out recently that conveniently didn't reach the groups just key, target people.
- 2. The loss of anonymity if I'm carrying a vote back from my home group, this is not my vote but theirs. I don't enter into the picture. Not my background, opinions, viewpoints, religious beliefs, childhood issues with authority, nor my fear of bucking the group or of needing approval from others enter onto that floor. It's not me up there but my home group's vote.
- 3. The loss of no "hidden agendas" if GSR's are voted in by their home groups, then other positions can be had by votes of certain other people who are not tied to our home group. This allows a risk of "selling out our home group" in order to lobby for another service position. I might make a more popular decision that even hurts my home group if it strengthens my position to be nominated for a world position by the area or regional floor members.
- 4. The loss of time to consider important issues In a home group environment, an issue can be picked apart and debated for weeks before ASC. A careful consideration of each issue can be made. On ASC or RSC's floor, there always seems to be this "hurry" to get things over with, so some issues receive 15 minutes or less of consideration. When individuals don't properly understand issues, the proceedings are not stopped until everyone understands, but instead they are just glossed over without so much as the batting of one eye of conscience that sometimes more people who don't understand the issue properly are voting than those who do.
- 5. The potential for misunderstanding an important issue I can't tell you how many times I thought I really understood a motion until I had to explain it to my home group. Some of them had questions I never would have thought of, concerns I never considered, or knew more about the issue than I did. We're addicts, and our perceptions are not always accurate, but through the question and answering of a home group situation, the bottom line can be found. I would have



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made serious mistakes on votes, despite knowing our service structure, and our traditions inside and out, and having a lot of clean time, if I had been allowed to vote on issues on the floor.

6. The loss of the newcomer input - when our home group used to meet and discuss motions, newcomers were always invited. I was always surprised at the clarity at which sometimes they saw issues. A clarity that was not seen by regular members who may have been too caught up in social issues like not wanting to rebel against their sponsor, or not wanting to go against their husband on a vote, or wanting to make the guy next to them like them by not getting controversial about an issue in front of them so he wouldn't think they were a bitch, and so on. It was usually at these home group meetings, that newcomers felt empowered to go on to service on higher levels. Rarely is the impact of a newcomer's clear vision felt on an area or regional floor where a vote is being made without their input (rarely have I seen someone with two weeks clean at ASC).