



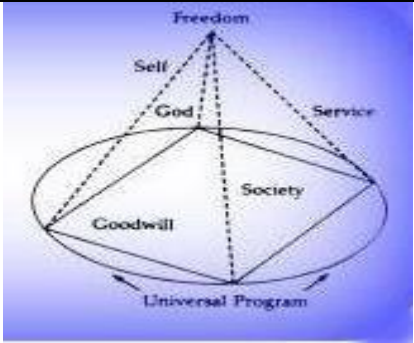
# Core Issues

**Oct., 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 10**  
 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.

|                                                                 |                                                                                    |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|

Email: [lester7286@gmail.com](mailto: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 August, 2015



Core Group Minutes

# Core Issues

Oct., 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 10  
Bv: Lester O.



September 1, 2015

FreeconferencecallHD.com

**new number, 641.715.3660**

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 - Lester 321 - John B

**Recording 44479748-671121091.mp3**

Bo on Minutes

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

### **Discussion:**

#### **8:30 Open conference call.**

**Change to core group conference call number and access for Grey Book Daily Meditation effort. Now the count is 405 quotes selected and many have input for essays, over 100. New number, 641.715.3660 same access code**

Pretense going on that our position is radical or inappropriate due to our ongoing support of the NA 12 Traditions. As John F put it so well, no one is surprised if a person who stops working the NA 12 Steps gets loaded. What seems to be out of political correctness is that where and when the NA 12 Traditions are not followed, services fail and meetings go dark...

The Traditions protect how members feel about their program. If they see a corporation making changes to increase their bottom line, the upper part of the program, the Fellowship, flees for safety!

There are places where NA is shutting down. If the regions of NA were smart, they would get together and access the situation for themselves. Remember, we did not do this. Locating and distributing accurate information is our effort for the growth and continuance of NA.

Like the Vietnam War, the population in America slowly realized what was happening was not ok and eventually took measures to stop it. We have to know NA exists in a hostile, aggressive, profit driven environment. If we are to survive DC, surveillance and medicalization of addiction, it will be due to the efforts



# Core Issues

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of our members to preserve our way of life. Bo - What do we do now? Working your program of recovery under current conditions. Principles do not seem popular now a days - yet I cling to them as if my life depends on them. My life does depend on them.

John F - Life is good. Antiques great. Beautiful home here where I live, two Toyotas Still a few meetings not yet dark.

John B - Doing good myself!

Bo - Heard a guy at home group last night - doing 90 and 90 with all new meetings.

Mitch - Had access problems getting on call.

Bo - Glad you could make it!

Mitch - How about the motion Bill F sent out for discussion on IP submissions on NA.org?

Would give the Fellowship a window to WS.

Lester - My area framed a motion for S. SFRSCNA which they worked on maintaining the intent. Used to be the Fellowship picked all topics for discussion until 2002. Lot of members feel not OK for WB to pick all topics.

Bo -Finally...Will it get support?

Lester If it doesn't get shot down beforehand! Several regions behind this.

Mitch - How many similar motions from Maryland have been shot down in past?

Bo - Snub NAWS. It's a dog and pony show. As if Narcotics Anonymous was nothing but a business office. Chills and kills the Spirit of NA! We can deal with all this in a flip of the mind! Recovery Nukkad had a 375 sub-page website. It was like the greatest ever. Still know Vikram and Suyash. Want to visit them. Recovery Nukkad was threatened by the corporation and the site taken down. This was a major injury to the NA Spirit worldwide. Do any of you recall?

Lester - Entire system corrupted by CBDM.

Bo - Fellowship getting tired of NAWS moves. Do you think overseas members are any different? I have great faith in the general world-wide Fellowship!

Lester - If world gets their way we won't have 67 regions in USA. Zonal thing will gut our voting down to 6, 7 or even maybe 16. Their goal is to reduce 5 or 6 regions to one vote between them, one delegate.

John - Seems any move they can make to reduce voice of the Fellowship is their objective. No group conscience at all. Railroad what they want. We need to starve them.

Lester - Thing their plan is to eliminate 75% of NA.

John - Just a business, not concerned with recovery.



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Mitch - I have always believed WB wants Fellowship to have less than 18 votes world-wide.

Lester - Excluding NA Fellowship from WSO.

Mitch - WSO should have one vote only.

Bo - Strategy may not be your favorite subject but they are immobilizing themselves. I heard at the 7th World Convention of NA that the ultimate act of management is murder.

Lester - WE don't have to lift a finger to destroy the Office. They are doing it to themselves.

Bo - What they seem to perceive as a 'win' is distancing themselves from Fellowship control. They do not seem to realize that had their policies been different, the Fellowship would have been their biggest asset and friend. We gave them the book just to publish and care for and look what they have done!

John F - NA will be non-existent in six months except for the East Coast.

Lester - Albuquerque lists 18 meetings a day.

John F - most are dark, I was just there!

Lester -- Many ex-board members live in Portland, biggest Fellowship in State. Martin Chess (DEC) and Susan Chess live in Portland. There is big Fellowship in Seattle. Northern Cal is one of the largest Convention in Country, three to four thousand members in attendance.

Bo - Maybe Bill F. would know about that...

Bo - We are still here after five years. We have covered a lot of ground. Core group members are spread out all over. Being informed is being fore warned. Someone who does not know their origins will remain forever a child.

John B - Call us and we can put you up on your return from Texas.

Bo - Went to Tallahassee for Big Bend Area Convention three weeks back, Chilhowee Campout two weeks back and Tupelo last weekend for their Area Convention. Only fair I visit Travis in Texas! Yah hoo!

Bo - There are things going on in our larger society that affect our membership. I think there are concerns we should know about that affect our members. Avoiding mind and mood altering drugs is complicated by some unusual sources. Do not visit this site if you don't want to know.

<https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=fluoride+nazi+concentration+camps> HYPERLINK

["https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=fluoride+nazi+concentration+camps&ei=UTF-8&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001"](https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=fluoride+nazi+concentration+camps&ei=UTF-8&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001) & HYPERLINK

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**Closed at 9:50** - John B gave closing prayer, "Many of us have said..."

### ***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,

Please protect and provide for me. Guide and illuminate the path of my pilgrimage. Grant me courage, commitment and strength. Teach me to care and give without reservation. Remind me of gratitude and principle. Please allow me to recognize your presence in me and around me and allow my life to be a reflection of your love." From Greg Pierce

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

### **Next meeting on 8th of Sept., 2015**

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

**No Recording tonight.**





Core Group Minutes

**Core Issues**  
**Oct., 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 10**  
Bv: Lester O.



**September 8, 2015**

**FreeconferencecallHD.com**

**new number, 641.715.3660**

**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 - Lester 321

**Recording 44479748-671136481.mp3**

Bo on Minutes

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

**Discussion:**

**8:30 Open conference call.**

**Change to core group conference call number and access for Grey Book Daily Meditation effort. Now the count is 405 quotes selected and many have input for essays, over 100. Attendance has fallen off with this project and will be suspended until interest and support resumes the effort. You guide us, we have no interest in 'controlling' you. - Bo S.**

Pretense going on that our position is radical or inappropriate due to our ongoing support of the NA 12 Traditions. As John F put it so well, no one is surprised if a person who stops working the NA 12 Steps gets loaded. What seems to be out of political correctness is that where and when n the NA 12 Traditions are not followed, services fail and meetings go dark... The Traditions protect how members feel about their program. If they see a corporation making changes to increase their bottom line, the upper part of the program, the Fellowship, flees for safety!

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Bv: Lester O.



environment. If we are to survive DC, surveillance and medicalization of addiction, it will be due to the efforts of our members to preserve our way of life.

## **Check the Appendix for new information.**

8:30

### Bo - Missing Miracles

Miracles used to be a regular occurrence in NA. People finding program just when they needed to. Experiencing miracles themselves and again when passing on what helped them. The miracles quickened people and made NA attractive. Leaving members out of loop, poor information dispersal, TC, DC, DRT interrupt the Proven Program!

When people come and don't see miracles, they get let down. More meetings without miracles just deepens the bad impression. They expect the flying paper airplanes and spit wads on the ceiling they associate with their NA experience. Persons who try to work the program on the mental plane never see miracles in the first place, so they don't miss them.

John - Agreed.

Bo - Need more closed meetings to produce some new miracles. Without Total Abstinence and Informed Group Conscience, NA doesn't exist.

Need IP on Proven Program.

John - Cool with plan for IP.

Bo - Working with Travis now to update FB Page, Group and Account. He will work with me directly on projects. Putting up core group writings, minutes, Kindle and all free downloads plus selected items at cost.

John - Getting Giant German Shepard and Caterpillar bulldozer equipment for farm. Suffering from bad congestion. Went to NA meeting in Appleton, Wisconsin. Supposed to be one in town tomorrow, three in town.

Bo - Good response from Bill F and Mitch G on FB Page.

Lester - Born to believe NA is a total miracle. The miracle is still talked about in meetings he attends.

John - Only a few members who are white collar and read literature. The rest are going to school to learn how to read. In early recovery, really impressed by members who came to program sleeping in their cars and wound up running companies a few years later - clean! Amazing progress in recovery through working the 12 Steps. Went to motivational programs and lectures until I realized it was all coming from the Program! NA most unbelievable thing he had ever experienced, climbing corporate ladders. I worked myself up corp ladder - suit up and show up.

Bo - I studied and took courses in motivational therapy and success tapes. Also, read lots of stuff on Mao, Machiavelli, and participated to some extent in anti-war movement.

John - I didn't want to die. Most people don't grasp how terribly wrong their lives are going. Learned to deal with all the problems, answer all the questions. Members went from living in car to expert in their fields. They were feeding me, once a day! Like First Century Christianity. By now, I have lived in mansions, clean in Napa



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Valley, traveled in Europe, on and on. Doesn't go off on people. Can stand in line without getting irritable. It is not about money. It is about peace of mind. Habituated to gratitude!

Mitch - I still go off on people.

Lester - One thing about diminishing attendance at NA conventions - people can't afford to go to all of them!

Mitch - People talk about high convention prices all the time.

Bo - Without Miracles, we are bound to experience slow burnout. I know my recovery is a miracle. The things I have been in on went well because I wasn't diverted by distractions. I worked hard, prayed hard and followed through. Still doing it, day at a time with God's grace and guidance. Ego is a blind alley. Hate restricts us and keeps us small. Love expands what we are, what we can hear and what we can see. It gives us the strength and guidance to keep going. Suggest we do an IP on Proven Program. NA failed to grow until we had lots of members directly involved with writing Basic Text. It grew self-motivated people! They are still going strong in many cases.

Mitch - working on noon meeting - 12 members so far. Stressing a day at a time and the proven program.

Bo - People think they have to have it all figured out before they can commit to spiritual action. Spiritual action is not when you know it all, it is when you have a feeling of excitement and love that overwhelms the ego driven need to understand everything. That is just another ego-driven desire to take control. You never get there! God does it all and we do the rest!

Lester - Noticed Monday night meeting has 35 - 40 in attendance. 7 or 8 have over 25 years. Total abstinence and group conscience includes everybody. Lots of new people. 40 - 50 members in meeting on Friday night. 20-25 on Sunday. Spanish Convention in Orlando had over 400 Saturday night.

**Closed at 10:00** - Lester gave closing prayer, "Many of us have said..."

### ***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,

Please protect and provide for me. Guide and illuminate the path of my pilgrimage. Grant me courage, commitment and strength. Teach me to care and give without reservation. Remind me of gratitude and principle. Please allow me to recognize your presence in me and around me and allow my life to be a reflection of your love." From Greg Pierce

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

### **Next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 2015**

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

**No Recording tonight**





Core Group Minutes

**Core Issues**  
**Oct., 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 10**  
Bv: Lester O.



**September 15, 2015**

**FreeconferencecallHD.com**

**new number, 641.715.3660**

**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 - Lester 321- John B 318 – David B 318

**Recording 44479748-671152345.mp3**

Bo on Minutes

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

**Discussion:**

**8:30 Open conference call.**

**Change to core group conference call number and access for Grey Book Daily Meditation effort. Now the count is 405 quotes selected and many have input for essays, over 100. Attendance has fallen off with this project and will be suspended until interest and support resumes the effort. You guide us, we have no interest in 'controlling' you. - Bo S.**

8:30

Following post was sent to a core group member by someone claiming to be a member of NA. She does not seem to know she cannot excommunicate another member.

Dear Fellow Members,

The following post is an example of what Tradition violations unchallenged can lead to. While we don't have NA police, it has always been understood that NA is the "self-correcting" program. This is surely a core issue to be discussed with hope for solutions.

"Hi \_\_\_\_\_. I was at the new 6pm meeting in Cocoa, and heard that you were distributing the baby blues around. You know that literature is not NA approved, and it's disturbing that you would try to influence newcomers to disregard the principles and guides of the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship. This Fellowship has been instrumental in saving many lives, including yours and mine and the newest members deserve to have the chance to get recovery through the same way that we have



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without the controversy of introducing alternate fellowships and literature to them. Now that you have what you want, and no longer need the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous you are free to pursue alternate organizations like ASIS, AF and so forth. But Please, I implore you, leave the people of NA alone so they can get recovery and maybe when they get your amount of clean time they can make another choice. We do not need a revolution at this time. There are too many lives at stake. Thank you for your cooperation. And much success in your future."

We pray for strength and guidance. We need to make clear that loyal opposition is still "loyal." It has never been an NA policy to send people out into the desert because they see things differently.

In Loving Service,  
Bo S.

## Responses:

Matt H - That's pretty much the attitude of today's NA s towards anything out of the little box of NA is my religion type thinking. So, let 'em have it and see how many of them accumulate the kind of time they just scoffed at in that letter. For real, this idiot just told someone with a free spirit to join a terrorist group, how spiritual is that!! Losers

David B - I spoke at an H&I and PI learning day this past Sat Sept 12th in McComb MS. Ellen and John participated in the PI workshop and I was the main speaker. We were well received and spoke in some detail about the 'disconnect' with the service structure and NAWS.

We also sold a dozen Grey Forms, and gave away handfuls of Baby Blues, Paths of Recovery, and original Sponsorship IP #11. Hank and Nolie were in attendance and distributed Grey Form Step Guides. The local fellowship there appeared to be interested in current information and historical literature. All in all it was a very successful event.

Bo – Post indicates security and air of propriety. Feels like she's thinks she is doing the right thing. Someone must be feeding her their opinion and she regards them as an authority. This item is presented to perhaps give you a better idea of the separate world that is growing up in absence of knowledge of the rights, duties and privileges afforded NA members by our 12 Traditions. A business office cannot run a spiritual Fellowship. The blindness of centralism creates the feeling that you have unique knowledge of NA and what our written historical materials present is little more than an opinion.

David B – Lies and manipulation!

Bo – We agree, that's why we are bringing it up.

Lester – How do we stop the lie?



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David – Key items need to be addressed.

- Approval process
- Assumptions about what WSO says in their publications
- ‘Approved for sale’ is used to express idea that material is what members want
- Approval by committee is different from approval by general membership
- Don’t feed the controversy
- Scares new comers off
- Don’t offer info not asked for
- Get attention with NA history

Lester – We can have FB studies. Some members have a little campaign to shoot down the Baby Blue. Influential members try to sell their opinion to others. Members are free to make their own choices. Some may choose to ‘follow the leader’ without realizing their leader may not have done their homework to verify or deny their position.

Bo – That’s why we are going slow and not trying to proceed without checking backup materials.

Lester – Any historical materials are ignored, there is talk about taking meetings off schedule. New campaign to attack new area. Push to make persons involved with new area not allowed to participate with services in old area.

David – Mississippi members last Saturday Public Information (PI) Learning Day argued that the Baby Blue affects NA as a whole – for the better! There is 30% more material in Grey Book. Read and evaluate for yourself. Discussed important differences between public information and public relations. Information is truthful and based on facts. Relations is coercive and seeks to sell something to a potential buyer. NAWS sent letter to a jail where there is an H&I meeting. Lots of distractions with social media on internet.

Truth speaks for itself. Argument turns people off. Made lots of progress last few years, unconditional love attractive.

Bo – We will lower prices on Red Book due to new equipment at print shop. They charge less, so you pay less.

David – Get with Down Under Group – workshop in November. Talked with Hank.

Bo – Will do all I can to help. May have conflict due to West Coast NA History Day in November. Had great visit with Travis. We opened two more FB pages and will do more free downloads. We collect information, evaluate in core group discussions and display results in various ways. We have done tons of work on Daily Meditation Grey Book. Seem to be some copycat efforts out there. Our position is to support all efforts by NA members to help others.

9:55 David let closing prayer – 3<sup>rd</sup> Step Prayer “Take our will and our lives...”

Closed at 10:00 - Lester gave closing prayer, "Many of us have said..."



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*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,

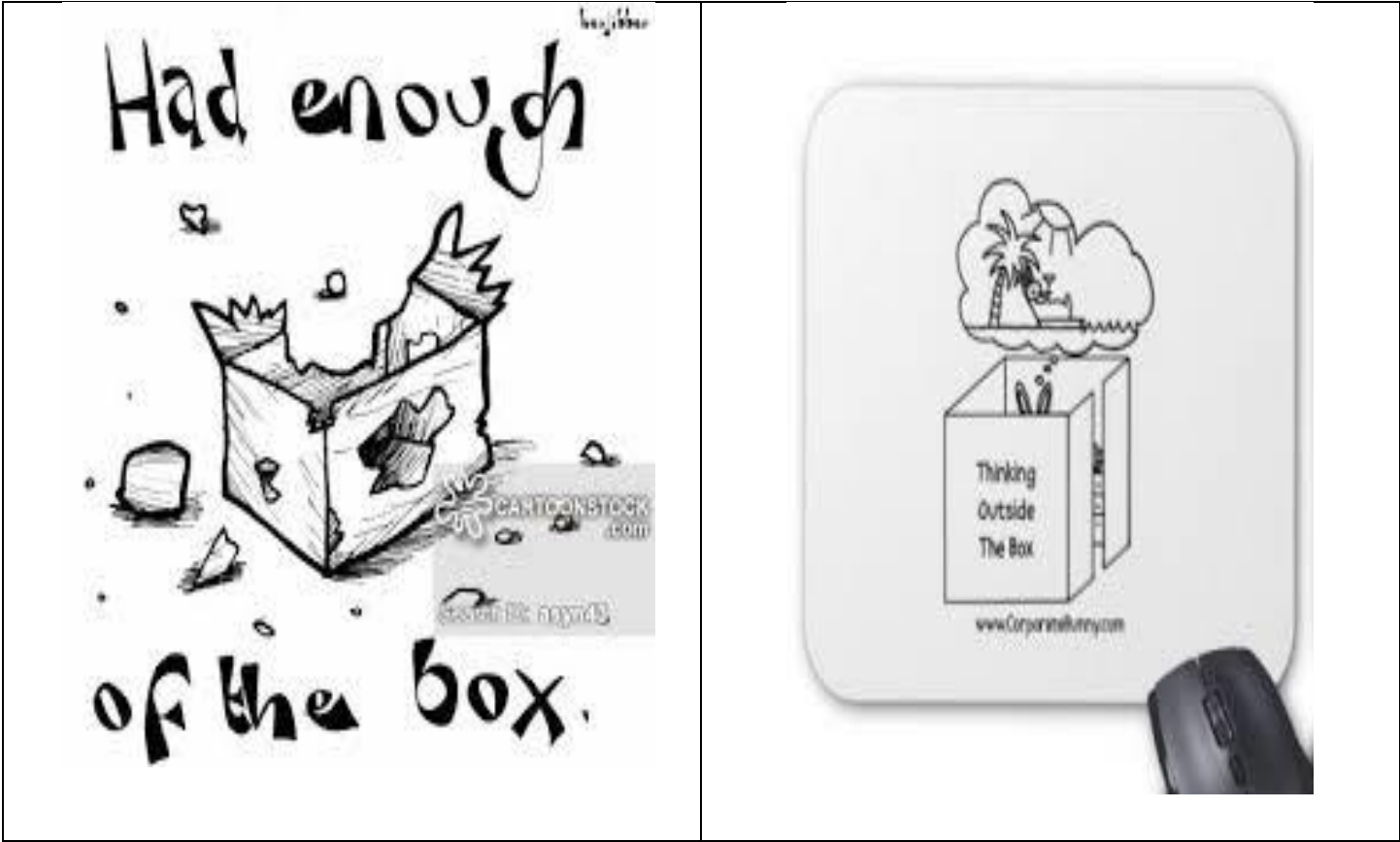
Please protect and provide for me. Guide and illuminate the path of my pilgrimage. Grant me courage, commitment and strength. Teach me to care and give without reservation. Remind me of gratitude and principle. Please allow me to recognize your presence in me and around me and allow my life to be a reflection of your love.” From Greg Pierce

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

**Next meeting on 22<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of Sept., 2015“**

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

**No Recording tonight.**





Core Group Minutes

# Core Issues

Oct., 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 10  
Bv: Lester O.



September 29, 2015

FreeconferencecallHD.com

new number, 641.715.3660

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

## Tuesday Night CONFERENCE CALL

*Attendance with area codes:*

Core group 9.22.15 - Bo 404 – John F. 707

Core group – 9.29.15 - Bo S. 404 – John F 707 – John B 318 – Lester 321 – Mitch 410

Bo on Minutes

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

### Discussion:

#### 8:30 Open conference call.

Change to core group conference call number and access for Grey Book Daily Meditation effort. Now the count is 405 quotes selected and many have input for essays, over 100. Attendance has fallen off with this project and will be suspended until interest and support resumes the effort. You guide us, we have no interest in 'controlling' you. - Bo S.

8:30

No minutes for 9.22.15.

#### *Following Posts will be referred to in these minutes...*

Bill Wild October 1, 2015

Just came from a meeting were I witnessed someone take a baby blue for the purpose of destroying it. I guess this has been going on for a while. This person claims that they say "free" so he is allowed to take them and do this. He is also the alt rd. If I remember my history right every book burning group had some BS immoral reasoning.

This is normal behavior from the people supposedly holding the legal high ground. The moral high ground has obviously been abandoned by them.

History of NA – see Appendix



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Bv: Lester O.



Bill Wild

3:22am Sep 29

"The book has been in the public domain in the US since 1967. Nobody "owns" the Big Book in The USA. Anyone can reproduce it without seeking permission from anyone."

Seems to have worked out pretty OK for AA all these years. They still sell the Big Book and I've never heard of any problems with the content being changed. So really the only fear must be nawc losing money.

What in Unity – Bill F. – See Appendix

Very interesting compilation of information and views on Unity. Thanks Bill.

## Core group – 9.22.15

### Just John and I – still talked issues till 9:45

John F. I see NA members at AA meetings.

Bo – What do you think of the files I sent out to core group? Two from 1989 and 1992 and one on NA Lit? Roots of "Zombie Recovery."

John F. – Topeka turns into Zombie Apocalypse on Sunday night, local fundraiser or something every year. Costume contests, lotsa fun. Maybe I can better carry the message...

AA mtg are good: Steps, crosstalk, advice, vague understanding, some on meds, I am only one clean. Old alcoholics, more stable. Gotta roll with punches, can't change or teach.

Bo – you should find better meetings in nearby states.

John – Thought about getting apartment in another state – Pennsylvania or Florida

Gun show in Atlanta in November.

Bo – Check out Even Alexander on youtube.com

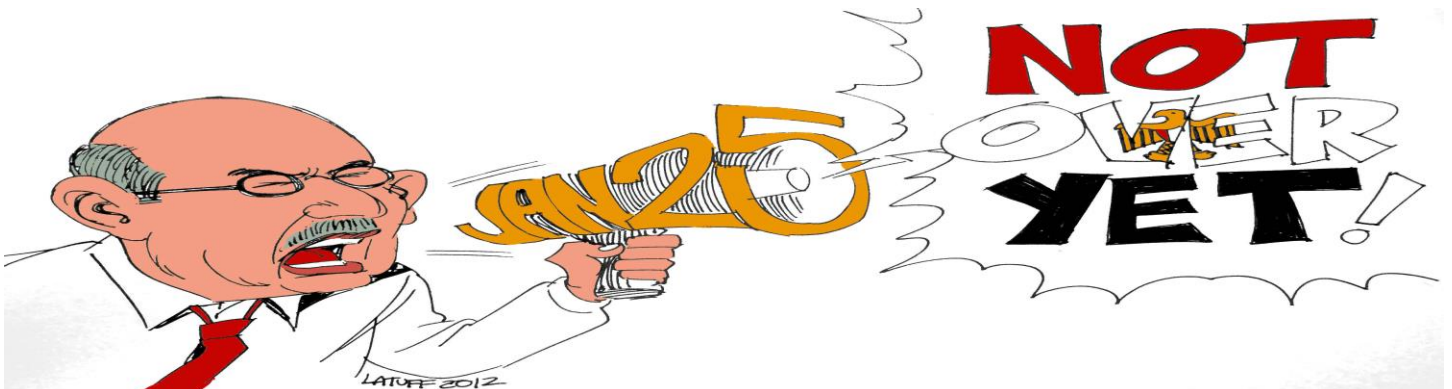
John – maybe NA will fold into AA. Hey, new Steve Jobs movie in October, shows him at his worst, angry.

Bo – Great magazine on Steve, kind, etc. I know from ISP experience just how hard it is to motivate people to work and produce in a field based on the vapor between our ears!

Bo – screenplay talk. Low impact miracles. Flying dreams.

John – check out Eckenar (sp)

9:45 John gave closing prayer.





# Core Issues

Oct., 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 10  
Bv: Lester O.



## Core group – 9.29.15

Bo S. 404 – John F 707 – John B 318 – Lester 321 – Mitch 410

Bo S - No recording. Tired and a little under weather from long weekend in Michigan. Had wonderful time, just got a chill on flight home and was knocked back Monday. Feel better now except when have to wait a while for others to show up, get to talking and forget to cut on record! 350 guys showed up for Saturday night.

John B – met guy from Lake Charles, Louisiana. Hit it off.

John F – had great weekend!

John B – Need to get my head into Traditions. Discussion about Literature and a group approved using 6<sup>th</sup> Edition only. Upsetting because he knows they are unaware of what has led up to now.

Someone said – “That’s a resentment from the 1980’and doesn’t need to be carried on now.”

Bo – I’m not running to be WSC Chair, I just want to see the WSC sub-coms set up again so we can move towards having a balanced structure. There are three classes of character defects: Greed, Lust and Pride. Greed is wanting more, Lust is wanting power and Pride is wanting approval. None can ever be satisfied. When you make a great leap forward, you can expect a backlash.

Mental plane: people stop asking for help. People who stop asking for help, stop getting help.

John – It gets better. To me, NA is the only thing that ever helped me. Cars, house, seems like things blow up in my face. We’re trying to teach people how to drive a car where the people have no idea what we’re talking about. Not what next step is...

“In Times of Illness” has nothing about our service effort. One otherwise nice NA member looked at me like I had a hole in my head.

Bo – You should write more.

John – If I were to write...

Bo – Just like telling your story: “Put your Will in my heart and your words on my screen.”

John L – ...Go over things said in meetings.

Bo – Need to focus on good stuff, members who do care. Bad focus ruins ability to see good.

John B – Watch newcomers come and go. Missing the ones working the program.

Bo – Good evening Lester!

Lester – Miracles in Recover topic at meeting tonight. A lot of people fail to realize the miracles in their lives because their perspective has changed. I believe everything in my life is a miracle.

Bo – Two perspectives on 12 Steps – one for the newcomer and one for a person in the program.



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Lester – When I got clean people talked about the miracles.

Bo – NA is like going to college. After a while the students pass through a phase where they know almost enough for their degrees. They get together in the dorms and have ‘bull sessions.’ Where they trade information and ideas. That’s kinda what we do on the ‘core group.’

God keeps it rolling.

Talked about doing a book on 10, 11 and 12 “The Spiritual Life” about the do’s and don’ts of applied spiritual principles.

Lester – Gene Richardson died, sick long time. Helped a lot of people

Bo – God Bless Gene!

Mitch – Went to game that was cancelled tonight. Coming home from game tonight saw a snake, then a toad, then a frog crossing the road it was so wet!

Bo – What do you all want to do about Daily Meditation? Core group needs to talk about this along with ‘public domain’ and the two files I sent out a couple of weeks back. Please review these as they are the only existing evidence of a cabal that organized a few members to alter our service structure in a masterful example of manipulation and control ever perpetrated on so many by so few. In particular, it outlines their goals set forth in 1989, prior to the Baby Blue court case and later, in 1992, outlines stopping any effort towards a US service conference. You already have this material and the material needs your study and discussion. Principles should always prevail, but if secret, they can be undone. Please note: we are not being clandestine about any of this. You are in the loop. This may be uncomfortable for some but really it is only your heritage.

Lester – Worked on Hank’s “Step Working Guide based on Grey Book”

Mitch led closing prayer at 9:55 – “Kind, considerate, our physical well-being, thanks God for everything.”

### ***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,

Please protect and provide for me. Guide and illuminate the path of my pilgrimage. Grant me courage, commitment and strength. Teach me to care and give without reservation. Remind me of gratitude and principle. Please allow me to recognize your presence in me and around me and allow my life to be a





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reflection of your love.” From Greg Pierce

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

**Next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 2015**

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

**No Recording tonight.**





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## Fan Page – “coreIssues”

*Recorded weekly meetings of the core group. 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:**

- [History of NA – date...](#)
- [What is Unity - Bill F 9.30.15](#)

### **History of NA**

By the World Service Board of Trustees (Note: not the NAWS, Inc. World Board) and the WSO Board of Directors in 1990 09 A report on the NA literature trust

This article was generated jointly by the World Service Board of Trustees and the WSO Board of Directors in September 1990 in response to the needs of the fellowship. It represents the views of those two boards at the time of its writing.

The substance of NA's recovery message appears in its literature. There's a process that exists to allow that literature to be available to the NA Fellowship. Our adherence to this process assures the consistency of our message.

After a piece of literature is approved by our World Service Conference, it is copyrighted and published by NA's world service corporation, World Service Office, Inc. Once copyrighted, no one may publish NA literature--altered or unaltered--without the permission of WSO, Inc. Not only is this a legal condition, but it also reflects the instructions of the World Service Conference. This copyright protects our printed message, both in English and in translation, from distortion.

From time to time, questions about NA's literature copyrights are asked by members of the fellowship. Questions commonly asked to include, What authority has the World Service Conference given to World Service Office, Inc., to protect our copyrights? How were the rights to NA's Basic Text initially transferred to WSO, Inc.? Why has the World Service Conference produced five editions of the Basic Text? Can NA members or groups reprint NA literature? This report serves to answer those questions.

### **NA'S LITERATURE TRUST**

Narcotics Anonymous, as we know it today, began in 1953 in Southern California. For many years, the fellowship grew very slowly, and had little organization. In 1971, a membership business meeting at our first world convention decided that the fellowship should open a World Service Office. This office would publish NA literature, and serve as an information clearinghouse for new groups. At a similar meeting held at our fourth world convention in 1974, officers were elected to a board of directors for this office; these officers were directed to incorporate the WSO. On January 25, 1977, the corporate charter and bylaws were filed with the



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State of California. The World Service Office became a legal entity.

During the 1982 meeting of the World Service Conference, participants discussed the office's place in the NA service structure. Participants found one article of WSO's bylaws particularly troubling. Though that article clearly stated that WSO, Inc. "operates under the guidelines of the Twelve Traditions," it also asserted that WSO was "fully independent of... the Narcotics Anonymous Society." A motion was passed which directed WSO to amend its bylaws by deleting language that made WSO completely independent from NA, and incorporating in its place the following language:

That the WSO, all members, directors, and officers shall be and are subject to, and will abide by, motions adopted at each WSC meeting and implement decisions reached by the WSC as they pertain to the operation of the WSO. [See Note #1 at the end of this bulletin.

The 1982 World Service Conference participants also discussed the need to clarify WSO's role in the publication of NA literature. Another recommendation, approved as part of the motion already referred to, stated that "the WSO was legally created to be the publishing arm of Narcotics Anonymous as a means of accurately reproducing the message of recovery. It is appropriate and essential that all publications used by NA be [reproduced] under the direct control of WSO." When approving these and other recommendations affecting WSO's bylaws, the 1982 conference provided that "these changes [be held] in abeyance... [for] a period not to exceed one year. We, [the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous], will at that time vote to reaffirm same."

At the 1983 World Service Conference, the chairperson of the WSO Board of Directors presented participants with revised WSO bylaws. "We at the World Service Office board have voted on these changes," the board chairperson related in his report, "and we would like the approval of the World Service Conference." (See Note #2.) The WSO board chair then proceeded to read aloud every section of the 1982 bylaws which had been revised, referring participants to printed copies of the new bylaws. The conference offered no objection to the revised bylaws.

Section 15.02 of the 1983 bylaws directly addressed some of the 1982 conference's primary concerns:

15.02. All members, Directors and officers of this corporation shall be, and are, subject to, and will abide by, the principals of the "Twelve Traditions" of Narcotics Anonymous Society as set forth in the pamphlet identified and entitled as "Narcotics Anonymous" and shall further abide by, motions adopted, at each WSC meeting and implement decisions reached by the WSC as they pertain to operation of WSO. It is herein specifically acknowledged that WSO acts as a fiduciary [see Note #3] in its dealings with WSC and the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous and that the net proceeds resulting from the sale and distribution of any literature and/or other materials for WSC and the fellowship is received by WSO.

On August 15, 1987, the World Service Office Board of Directors adopted new bylaws. Those new bylaws reflected the intent of 1983's section 15.02, while providing additional detail concerning protection of NA literature and trademarks.

Article 2. Objectives and Purposes.

...A specific purpose of the corporation shall be to hold in a fiduciary capacity the rights to, by license agreement from Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office, the use, control, publication and management of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as Adapted by Narcotics Anonymous.

A specific purpose of the corporation shall be to hold in a fiduciary capacity the ownership rights to the control, use, printing, duplicating, sales, distribution, licensing for production, printing, duplicating, sales and use of all of the intellectual properties, logos, trademarks, copyrighted materials, emblems or other intellectual and physical properties of Narcotics Anonymous, the spiritual fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole and such boards and committees of the World Service Conference as may be directed by the World Service Conference.

A specific purpose of the corporation shall be to control and manage the production, printing, manufacturing of the properties of the spiritual fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous and offer said properties for sale to the fellowship and general public...

A specific purpose of the corporation shall be to publish and distribute periodicals written or prepared by and for the fellowship of



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Narcotics Anonymous as the corporation may be directed to by the World Service Conference...

The WSO corporate bylaws adopted in 1987 continue in force as of this writing. In accordance with the direction of NA's World Service Conference, the World Service Office Corporation holds the copyrights to all NA literature in a charitable trust (see Note #4) on behalf of the entire Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

## SUMMARY: GENERAL TRUST FOR NA LITERATURE

In 1971, the NA Fellowship officially designated the World Service Office as its publishing house. In 1974, the fellowship directed the World Service Office to become a corporation. In 1982 and 1983, the World Service Office Corporation's role as NA's literary trustee was clarified by the World Service Conference. The corporate bylaws of 1983 reflect the conference's specific intention. They state that "WSO acts as a fiduciary"--that is, someone who is given something, subject to the direction of the party who has given the thing--"in its dealings with WSC and the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous." NA books, pamphlets, and service guides are developed and approved by the World Service Conference. Then, they are given to WSO, Inc., to be published for the fellowship, and to be legally protected on the fellowship's behalf from expropriation or distortion by unauthorized parties, subject to the direction of the World Service Conference.

## BASIC TEXT TRUST

As for all NA literature, the copyright for our Basic Text is held in a charitable trust by World Service Office, Inc., which acts at the direction of the World Service Conference. After three years of work by the WSC Literature Committee, the text, formally titled Narcotics Anonymous, was approved by the World Service Conference in May 1982.

On September 15, 1982, the chairman of the World Service Conference Literature Committee executed the following document (see Note #5):

As of September 15, 1982, the World Literature Committee of Narcotics Anonymous, 890 Atlanta Road, Marietta, Ga., 30060, by authorization of [the] chairman thereof, release in full and turns over all release forms, copy wrights, and any and all material contained in pertinent to the Narcotics Anonymous Book and the stories of Narcotics Anonymous Members to be included in the Narcotics Anonymous Book, to the World Service Office of Narcotics Anonymous, Inc., Box 622, Sun Valley, Ca., 91352, ...to be used as directed by the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous in session May 5 through May 9, 1982. [Sic]

This document does two things. First, it satisfies the requirement of the United States Copyright Law for transfer of copyright. (See Note #6.) Second, it creates a charitable trust under California law (see Note #7), where the World Service Office is the "trustee," the WSC Literature Committee is the "trustor" or "grantor," and the members-at-large of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous are the "beneficiaries."

This charitable trust, including both its trustee (WSO, Inc.) and its beneficiaries (the members of the NA Fellowship), is subject to the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of the State of California. (See Note #8.) The trust obligations of the WSO have been set forth at the World Service Conference that was held in Santa Monica in May 1982. **[This is a 'spin statement.' The members of the NA Fellowship are the trustors, because the members OWN the literature. Sadly misleading. Perhaps the person who wrote the 'Summary' did not ever know or understand but there was plenty, plenty of discussion at the time! – Bo S.]**

## BASIC TEXT -- FIRST THROUGH FIFTH EDITIONS

### Approval form

In November 1981, the approval form of Chapters One through Ten of the Basic Text were released to the fellowship. In February 1982, the approval form of forty-seven personal stories intended for publication in the Basic Text were released to the fellowship. At the May 1982 meeting of NA's World Service Conference, the entire Basic Text was approved. (See Notes #9, #10.)  
First Edition



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Having no experience in publishing a full-length book, publication of the First Edition was a very difficult job for the World Service Office. In addition to major problems with the printer initially chosen to publish the book, conceptual problems arose. In the course of preparing the approval-form book for publication, it was noted that portions of the essays on Traditions Four and Nine made it appear that the NA service structure should not be considered a part of Narcotics Anonymous. The following are the two paragraphs in question; note especially the italicized text.

From the essay on Tradition Four: "Are we truly autonomous? What about our service committees, our offices, activities, hot-lines, and all the other things that go on in NA? The answer is that these things are not NA. They are services we utilize to help us in our recovery and to further the primary purpose of our groups. Narcotics Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women, addicts meeting in groups and using a given set of spiritual principles to find freedom from addiction and a new way to live. All else is not NA. Those things we mentioned are the result of members caring enough to reach out and offer their help and experience so that our road might be easier. Whether we choose to utilize these services is up to the group."

From the essay on Tradition Nine: "The Ninth Tradition goes on to define the nature of the things that we can do to help NA. It says that we may create service boards or committees to serve the needs of the fellowship. None of them has the power to rule, censor, decide, or dictate. They exist solely to serve the Fellowship, but they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous. This is the nature of our service structure as it has evolved and been defined in the NA service manual."

After much discussion, the WSO Board of Directors and the World Service Board of Trustees agreed that the portions appearing above in italics should be removed from the book before publication of the First Edition. In response, the chairperson of the WSC Literature Committee attempted to revoke the earlier release of rights to the Basic Text. However, when the World Service Conference met in May 1983, no motion was made to uphold the literature chairperson's action. On the contrary, new WSO bylaws were accepted, clearly stating that NA literature should be held in a charitable trust by the corporation. The WSO-copyrighted First Edition was officially released on April 27, 1983 by the World Service Office, using the fictitious business name of CARENA Publishing Company.

### Second Edition

**Conference minutes of 1983 reflect that an amended motion was passed, directing "that our book be completely returned to its [original] approved form in subsequent printings." [I think any reader would imagine this means the original form approved by the general membership. Instead, it is taken to mean the First Edition as printed by WSO with the unauthorized changes in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Traditions. This is an excellent sample of the devices and abuses that caused many members to leave the NA fellowship since the evidence pointed to a service structure no longer representing the fellowship's considered voting response. The failure to follow the fellowships will surely resulted in many addicts dying in active addiction. Surely it is not improper to bring this sad element into the realm of consideration because sometimes impropriety kills people. There is no other way to honor their deaths but this. – Bo S]**

(See Notes #11, #12.) The Second Edition of the Basic Text was released on September 28, 1983, with the missing lines reinserted. The copyright holder was again listed as CARENA Publishing Co., a fictitious business name of World Service Office, Inc.

### Third Edition

One year after the conference directed WSO to reinsert the missing lines, the WSC decided that the issue should ultimately be settled directly by the membership of Narcotics Anonymous. In 1984, regional service representatives were asked to poll their groups on the following question: Should the wording of the essays on the Fourth and Ninth Traditions be as reflected in both the original approval form and the Second Edition, or as reflected in the First Edition? Their responses were to be mailed to the conference chairperson within sixty days of the end of the conference, and prior to the printing of any more books by the World Service Office. A change from the language of the Second Edition was to require a two-thirds vote. The results were to be published in the *Newsline*. (See Note #13.)

The question was submitted to the fellowship in a seven-page document which included the proposed changes, plus the reasons both for making the change and for keeping the text as approved. The response was thirty-six votes in favor of changing the text,



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and eight against changing the text.

Therefore, at the next printing--the Third Edition--the words originally deleted in the First Edition were again deleted, this time in response to a direct vote of the fellowship. The Third Edition was formally released on October 20, 1984.

Editing ordered which ultimately resulted in Fourth Edition

On May 3, 1985, the WSC approved a motion "that the WSO be instructed to have the Basic Text professionally edited to ensure consistent and correct use of capitalization, verb tenses, gender, singular/plural endings, and other grammatical errors and that the edited text be returned to the Literature Review Committee [at the time, a division of the WSC Literature Committee] for acceptance and approval prior to printing and distribution." (See Note #14.)

One RSR suggested that, once the edit was completed, the text should be sent out for a fellowship wide review prior to publication. The conference engaged in heated discussion of this suggestion. However, because the required editing would affect only matters of grammar, not conceptual issues, the discussion ended with the WSC strongly in favor of allowing publication of the edited text after review only by the Literature Review Committee. (See Note #15.)

Work on the editing project was begun late in 1985, but was not completed before the 1986 annual meeting of the World Service Conference.

Third Edition, Revised

At the 1986 WSC meeting, a substantially revised version of NA's Little White Booklet, developed by the World Service Board of Trustees, was approved by the conference. (See Note #16.) The motion to approve the revised White Booklet stated specifically that the Basic Text should also be revised to reflect the changes in the White Booklet. The revised text, known as the Third Edition, Revised, was released in November 1986.

Fourth Edition

While the Third Edition, Revised, was being put into production, the edit mandated by the WSC in 1985 continued. The editor, working from a typescript of the Third Edition, completed his work in mid-1986. **[What is left out here is first of all, it took three years to find an editor, who I heard was a college student in Austin, TX. He was also an ardent NA member. So for the same \$3,000 he offered to do either a light edit or a deep edit. The offer was well intended but the 1985 motion enabling the edit contained exact language like, 'typos, tense, gender, person, etc.' in other words, a light edit only. No paragraph relocation, no sentences deleted or rewritten. Deep edits are anything from a typo correction to rewriting and restricting paragraphs. This was an important item when the motion was written and the word 'grammar' was removed from the motion to prevent over doing the edit. Also, the entire edit was done in a series of two hour teleconference calls. I asked one of the committee members who participated when they got together to review the manuscript to make sure the changes they discussed were accurately reflected in the final draft. No one noticed they were working from the wrong version of the Basic Text instead of the Third Revised. It was a closed edit. This also took place where the members on the committee missed the point that they were editing a deep edit instead of a light edit, as authorized. This is a serious problem with our literature being handled by professionals in absence of our ardent members. These members were left out because they were regarded as 'trouble makers' even though many had actually written the book being edited. No senior literature workers were included. I guess the idea was they would be 'personally' attached to the material. This is not an uncommon problem with fledgling bureaucracies. It is important that we make it clear that even though we have found and reporting our findings, it is not out of mean spirit or some sick idea of revenge. It is, after all, our book because we wrote it. Competition and bad blood between office workers and volunteer workers should not be allowed to hinder doing a good and proper job. – Ed]** On July 30, 1986, the WSC Literature Committee chairperson mailed the edited version to members of the Literature Review Committee. **[Again, the lack of critical thinking is a real problem because the sentence says the material was approved. Another way of saying it is that no one on the committee was sharp enough to catch the errors and lack of adherence to the enabling motion! – Ed]** The edit was approved by the Literature Review Committee at its October 1986 meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina.



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The original 1985 motion which mandated the editing of the Basic Text required only that the Literature Review Committee approve the edit prior to publication of the Fourth Edition. The conference had not asked the WSC Literature Committee to return the edited book to the World Service Conference, nor had the WSC directed the committee to send the edited text out for fellowship wide review prior to publication. [This reads like it justifies the lack of attention and good workmanship. – Ed]

However, in the November 1986 Fellowship Report, the committee chairperson wrote, "During the course of their review, the Literature Review Committee came across six sentences which are... inconsistent with the Newly Revised White Book," approved by the WSC in April 1986. Those six sentences were not found in the portions of the Basic Text drawn directly from the White Booklet. However, they conflicted with the conceptual spirit behind the changes that had been made in the booklet.

Literature Review Committee minutes relate that the committee "was in favor of making these additional changes, however, the Literature Review Committee decided to request a broader group conscience by referring the matter to the World Service Office Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees. The Literature Review Committee had decided that if the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees were also unanimously in agreement, the Fourth Edition would then be printed."

Following discussions with the directors and trustees, a decision was made to defer publication of the Fourth Edition until the World Service Conference could consider the additional changes necessary to bring the text in line with the revised White Booklet. On April 28, 1987, in his report at the World Service Conference annual meeting, the WSC Literature Committee chairperson stated that, "pending Conference action on the white book consistency motion... the World Service Office will be able to proceed with the printing of the Fourth Edition." (See Note #17.) On April 29, the World Service Conference voted to make the five suggested changes in Book One of the Basic Text, but did not approve the sixth change, which would have altered one of the personal stories in Book Two. (See Note #18.)

The edited Basic Text, incorporating the 1986 revision of the Little White Booklet and the five changes authorized in 1987 by the World Service Conference, was published as the Fourth Edition on October 27, 1987, two and a half years after the original motion to edit the Basic Text was passed by the World Service Conference.

### Fifth Edition

The edited Fourth Edition text differed significantly from both the Third Edition and the Third Edition, Revised. This was due partly to the editing (which was intentional), and partly to a series of WSO production errors (which were unintentional). When the typescript of the Third Edition, from which the Fourth Edition editor worked, was created, the transcriptionist skipped a number of lines of text at a time, in twenty-five separate locations throughout the book. At no time prior to publication of the Fourth Edition was the editor's typescript proofread against the published Third Edition text; hence, the original transcription errors went unchecked.

Early in the winter of 1988, the World Service Office and the WSC Literature Committee began hearing complaints about the differences between the Third Edition, Revised, and the Fourth Edition. Early in April 1988, the entire WSO staff was diverted from its routine work to conduct three separate rounds of line-by-line comparisons between the Third Edition, the Fourth Edition editor's typescript, and the published Fourth Edition. The findings of the WSO staff were reported in full to the World Service Conference. Following a meeting of the conference as a committee of the whole to discuss a variety of possible remedies, the WSC approved a motion to reinsert the missing lines from the Third Edition back into the Basic Text. In the meantime, "the Fourth Edition, with current errors, [was to] continue to be sold as Conference-approved literature until such time as the corrected Fifth Edition [was] ready." The conference passed an amendment to the motion which specified that the resulting Fifth Edition could not be revised any further for five years. (See Note #19.) **[No one seemed to notice among those working on the project that the many other unwanted and unauthorized changes were allowed to remain in place even though everyone seemed to agree that something bad had happened and expected the material to be returned to the proper Third Revised version. The only way to avoid this is to get really good people as defined by experience and background adequate to insure a good and proper result. No one expected the improper changes to be left in as an oversight. – Ed]**

In the course of considering the motion which created the Fifth Edition, an amendment was proposed which would have specified that "this motion would be acted upon following a special ballot sent to RSCs... The RSCs would be requested to reply in 30-60 days...



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Intent: To collect a Fellowship-wide group conscience and unify this Fellowship [behind the] WSC decision." So great was the desire to put the Fourth Edition controversy in the past, the conference voted not to even consider this amendment. (See Note #20.)

Immediately following the passage of the motion creating the Fifth Edition, the conference considered--and defeated--two additional motions. Both were very similar in language, the major difference being that the second stated its intent. The motions sought to direct the World Service Office to publish the Third Edition, Revised, rather than the corrected Fourth Edition (or, as it was known, the Fifth Edition). **[Of course, WSO was trusted to do a good and proper job even after their horrible performance with the Fourth Edition. WSC oversight and letting the World Service Board of Trustees carefully review the material would have been a better way of ensuring the errors and poor judgement by unqualified employees would not repeat itself. – Ed]**

The second motion read: "That the World Service Conference direct the World Service Office to immediately cease the publication and sale of the fourth edition of our Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous, and immediately begin publication and sale of the third edition revised of our Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous. Intent: To prevent the sale of unapproved literature by the WSO. The editing of our Basic Text and subsequent approval by the LRC so far exceeded any reasonable interpretation of the authority granted by the motion to edit the Basic Text as to require that the fourth edition be treated as new literature, and as such, be subject to the standard review and approval process." Both motions were defeated by overwhelming majorities. (See Note #21.)

### SUMMARY:

#### THE BASIC TEXT CHARITABLE TRUST

In 1982, trust rights to the Basic Text were given unconditionally to World Service Office, Inc., to be held by the corporation in a charitable trust on behalf of the NA Fellowship, subject to the direction of the World Service Conference. Though a challenge to that trust was raised by the WSC Literature Committee chairperson early in 1983 that challenge was not placed on the agenda of the 1983 meeting of the World Service Conference, and fell moot. Successive editions have been created as the direct result of action taken by the World Service Conference to revise the original version. Those editions have also been copyrighted by the World Service Office Corporation, and the Basic Text continues to be held in a charitable trust by the corporation on behalf of the members of the NA Fellowship.

#### CAN NA MEMBERS OR GROUPS REPRINT NA LITERATURE?

The most commonly asked question is whether members or groups of members of the fellowship at large have the right to translate, edit, and reprint the Basic Text or other NA literature on their own. The answer is "no." First of all, NA literature--including the Basic Text--is the copyrighted property of World Service Office, Inc.

Under United States copyright law, only the World Service Office has the right to reproduce, translate, or prepare new versions of NA literature. (See Note #22.) Because of the international copyright protection afforded by the Berne Copyright Convention, the World Service Office has the same rights in eighty other countries around the world. (See Note #23.)

The World Service Office Corporation holds these copyrights in trust on behalf of the NA Fellowship, subject to the direction of the World Service Conference. To date, the World Service Conference has not directed the World Service Office to grant permission either to individual members or groups of members of the fellowship at large who request to reproduce the text. (See Note #24.) In fact, the most recent directive from the World Service Conference has been that the World Service Office was to prosecute a party which had infringed the fellowship's rights. In 1989, a trustee from Philadelphia "requested that the Conference give general consent to the WSO Executive Director and its Board of Directors to proceed with the legal matter relating to the illegal production of NA materials or any extralegal matter relating to the situation, as they see fit. [The request was] approved by unanimous consent." (See Note #25.) While the consent given by the conference in this instance related to one particular case at hand, it also established a precedent for the kind of principles to be applied in similar cases.





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If the members of the fellowship feel that their rights are being violated by the "trustee" WSO, they have the right to request that the protector of charitable trusts in California, the California Attorney General, investigate and, if appropriate, file an action to prevent the misuse of trust property. They cannot resort to simply taking the property and using it themselves. In fact, WSO has an affirmative duty to take steps that will stop actions that will result in a loss to the trust. (See Note #26.)

Therefore, under United States copyright law, only the World Service Office has the right to reproduce the Basic Text or prepare new versions of the Basic Text. (See Note #27.)

The fact that the copyrights may be held in trust does not affect the legal right and responsibility of WSO to enforce the copyrights on behalf of the fellowship.

### NOTES

1 Minutes, WSC'82, pp. 59-64. The published minutes of the 1982 meeting of the World Service Conference do not bear printed page numbers. For the purpose of these references, page numbers in the WSC'82 minutes have been counted from the first page of recorded proceedings. That page bears the legend, "Wednesday evening, May 5, 1982," at the top. In counting page numbers, blank pages within the body of the published minutes were also counted.

2 From a transcript of WSC'83 proceedings.

3 Fiduciary, as defined in the 1971 edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (Unabridged Version): "In Rom. Law fiducia denoted the transfer of a right to a person subject to the obligation to transfer it again at some future time or on some condition being fulfilled. Adj.

- "1b. Of or pertaining to a trustee; pertaining to or of the nature of a trusteeship.
- "2a. Of a thing: In trust of a person; held or given in trust.
- "2b. Of or pertaining to something held in trust.
- "Cf. fiducial, f. fiducia trust, confidence.
- "1. Theol. Of or pertaining to, or of the nature of, trust or reliance."

4 Restatement of Trusts, 2d, Sec.s 348, 349.

5 This document is on file at the WSO and bears a notary's seal adjacent to the signature.

6 17 U.S. Code, Sec. 204[a].

7 California Probate Code, Sec. 15200 (b) and/or (e).

8 California Probate Code, Sec. 17003, 17004.

9 Record of the approval of the first ten chapters of the Basic Text appears in the minutes of WSC'82, pp. 65-67. The stories were approved separately.

10 Record of the approval of various personal stories for publication in the Basic Text appears on page 4 of the corrections to the minutes of WSC'82, published as an addendum to the minutes of WSC'83.

11 Minutes, WSC'83, pp. 14-15. The amended motion carried, 24 in favor, 15 against, 5 abstaining.

12 A later motion gave "a [vote] of confidence to WSO and WSB by approving the basic text with changes suggested by WSB and carried out by WSO as NA approved literature." The motion carried, 23 in favor, 0 against, 9 abstaining. (Minutes, WSC'83, p. 36.) According to the maker, this motion was made to insure that the First Edition would be considered conference-approved literature and, thus, appropriate **for use in NA meetings**.

13 Revised minutes, WSC'84, pp. 32 and 33.



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14 Minutes, WSC'85, p. 36. The motion carried, 47 in favor, 1 against, 3 abstaining.

15 From a transcript of WSC'85 proceedings.

16 Minutes, WSC'86, pp. 12-17, and pp. 37-38.

17 Report of the WSC Literature Committee to the 1987 World Service Conference, April 28, 1987, page 6.

18 Minutes, WSC'87, pp. 20-21. The motion to make the five proposed changes in Book One carried, 64 in favor, 4 against, 5 abstaining. The motion to make the single change in Book Two was defeated for lack of a two-thirds majority, with 34 in favor, 25 against, 12 abstaining.

19 Minutes, WSC'88, pp. 17-20. On a roll call vote, the amended motion carried, 56 in favor, 12 against, 8 abstaining.

20 Minutes, WSC'88, p. 19. The motion to object to consideration was carried, 49 in favor, 18 against, 7 abstentions.

21 Minutes, WSC'88, p. 20. The first motion was defeated, 4 in favor, 51 against, 8 abstaining; the second was defeated, 5 in favor, 60 against, 6 abstaining.

22 17 U.S. Code, Sec. 106.

23 The Berne Convention (Paris Text, July 24, 1971), Article 5, Paragraph 1, reads, "Authors shall enjoy, in respect of works for which they are protected under this Convention, in countries of the Union other than the country of origin, the rights which their respective laws do now or may hereafter grant to their nationals, as well as the rights specially granted by this Convention."

24 It is true that, in the past, the World Service Conference has given assent to license agreements between the WSO and the boards of four national service offices, allowing those national offices to reprint White Booklets and information pamphlets for distribution only in their own countries. Those agreements were made to make NA literature more readily available in Europe and the South Pacific at a time when the WSO was less prepared to distribute literature to those parts of the world than it is now. Those license agreements are not currently in force, were never signed, and only certain sections have ever been implemented.

However, it is important to note that those agreements were made with national service offices outside the United States--not with individuals or groups of members, nor with any American service board--to provide for the distribution of NA literature in territory the WSO itself could not serve at the time the agreements were made.

25 Minutes, WSC'89, p. 25.

26 California Probate Code, Sec.s 16010, 16011 (Deering 1990).

27 17 U.S. Code, Sec. 106.

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**WHAT IS UNITY?**

What is unity anyway? What is it for and why bother about it?

The dictionary says that unity is a state of being united as a whole, the different parts in harmony or agreement. This cohesion is not possible without a common goal or purpose.

Does this mean that we need to find some rules that we all act by so that we don't annoy each other? Does it mean that we are being told to conform to some behavior and thinking for the sake of everyone else just as we were told to do in school? Does it mean that we need to be like others like the way we copied our friends so that we would be accepted and feel like we



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belonged? And who sets the rules of this thinking, feeling, and acting?

Tradition One tells us that the common purpose of our unity is our common welfare. Tradition 5 tells us that purpose is to carry the message to the still-suffering addict. These two overlap because our recovery is contingent on helping others. But It Works How and Why (IWHW) says on p. 127 that this unity is not the same thing as uniformity. It goes on to say, "Encouraging each member to speak openly from the heart enhances our ability to work together." Are we sometimes afraid of taking the reins off of members and by various means pour cold water on them? Isn't that a fearful attempt at control, a lack of faith?

The Traditions are not man made laws for certain purposes. They contain eternal spiritual principles which are not dented by time, place, venue, or situation. They were discovered by many others as well as Bill Wilson and the members of AA.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy said, "The unity of freedom has never relied on uniformity of opinion."

Herbert Clark Hoover said, "Honest differences of views and honest debate are not disunity. They are the vital process of policy making among free men."

Louis D. Brandeis said, "America has believed that in differentiation, not in uniformity, lies the path of progress. It acted on this belief; it has advanced human happiness, and it has prospered."

Dogen, a Japanese Buddhist monk and philosopher, said in the 13th century, "Do not follow the ideas of others, but learn to listen to the voice within yourself. Your body and mind will become clear and you will realize the unity of all things."

NA was born in 1953 but it all but died during the late 50's. Our Founder, Jimmy Kinnon, latched onto the Traditions which were made in 1946 but adopted by AA in 1953. He said that the reason NA had gone down was from not following the Traditions. It appears that the Traditions are necessary for our unity.

IWHW says in Tradition 12 that anonymity in its full sense is the foundation of our unity. In other words, "Principles before personalities." IWHW goes on to say, "We pray that Narcotics Anonymous never becomes a gray, faceless collection of addicts without personalities. We enjoy the color, the compassion, the initiative, the rough-and-tumble liveliness that arises from the diverse personalities of our members. In fact, our diversity is our strength. We find that the stronger our individual members are, the more strongly united our fellowship becomes. This is a great paradox of NA recovery: In joining together in a commitment to the greater good of Narcotics Anonymous, our own welfare is enhanced beyond measure."

If we are to be unified don't we need to determine what our motivation for each action in NA is? Can we discern who or what is making the rules and agenda? Is it strong personalities? Is it an accepted notion from some mysterious source? Is it the ways of the world that we have learned so well? Is it habitual thinking such as collecting resentments or taking revenge as in Hollywood movies? Is it custom? Is it fear? Or do we judge by the spiritual principles in the Traditions?

"Let a difference be observed between "unity" and uniformity. The one is a Divine, the other a human thing. Acts of uniformity are the product of man. God only can make us the subjects of sacred 'unity.' Uniformity we get in trees and hedges hacked, cut, and clipped, so as to reduce them to a common size and shape. 'Unity' without uniformity we get in the trees of the forest, all growing according to the course of nature, of diverse shape, and size, and worth, but dependent for their wild strength and beauty on the same genial influences of nature, as they stretch out their thousand branches and myriad leaves to catch the light, and air, and dew, and showers of heaven. . . . Who ever knew two human faces alike, or two voices with precisely the same cadence, or two human forms identical in every particular? Is it, then, a thing of astonishment that in the mental and moral world there should be differences of thought, and judgment, and feelings? 'One star differed from another star in glory,' but amid all the varied glories of the 'heavens' there is no want of 'unity.'" Anon.

"Only in love are unity and duality not in conflict." Rabindranath Tagore

"The human race is a herd. Here we are, unique, eternal aspects of consciousness with an infinity of potential, and we have allowed ourselves to become an unthinking, unquestioning blob of conformity and uniformity. A herd. Once we concede to the herd mentality, we can be controlled and directed by a tiny few. And we are." David Icke

"We have the universe to roam in in imagination. It is our virtue to be infinitely varied. The worst tyranny is uniformity." George William Russell



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"Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God...Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? . . .each of us will be accountable to God." Romans 14:1-6, 10

"Unity not uniformity must be our aim. We attain unity only through variety. Differences must be integrated not annihilated not absorbed." Mary Parker Follett (An American social worker, management consultant and pioneer in the fields of organizational theory and organizational behavior.)

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." Eleanor Roosevelt

"Individuality or Unity? I saw there's room for both." Brian Celio

"Yet God is so one that He admits of distinction, and so admits of distinction that He still remains unity." John Hales

"Seeking diversity automatically leads us to excellence, just as focusing on excellence inevitably leads us to diversity." William C. Steere

"At bottom everyone knows well enough that he or she is a unique being, only once on this earth; and by no extraordinary chance will such a marvelously picturesque piece of diversity in unity ever be put together a second time." Friedrich Nietzsche

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." Bernard M. Baruch

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." Mark Twain

"The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud." Coco Chanel

"The most important kind of freedom is to be what you really are. You trade in your reality for a role. You trade in your sense for an act. You give up your ability to feel, and in exchange, put on a mask. There can't be any large-scale revolution until there's a personal revolution, on an individual level. It's got to happen inside first." Jim Morrison

"I think the reward for conformity is that everyone likes you except yourself." Rita Mae Brown

"The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself." Friedrich Nietzsche

"I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet." Mahatma Gandhi

"Why are trying so hard to fit in, when you're born to stand out" Oliver James

"I like it when a flower or a little tuft of grass grows through a crack in the concrete. It's so fuckin' heroic." George Carlin



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“But society has now fairly got the better of individuality; and the danger which threatens human nature is not the excess, but the deficiency, of personal Impulses and preferences.” John Stuart Mill

“Resistance to the organized mass can be effected only by the man who is as well organized in his individuality as the mass itself.” Carl Jung

“The work of the individual still remains the spark that moves mankind forward.” Igor Sikorsky

“Whatever crushes individuality is despotism, by whatever name it may be called and whether it professes to be enforcing the will of God or the injunctions of men.” John Stuart Mill

“And just because God attains and wins and finds this uniqueness, all our lives win in our union with him the individuality which is essential to their true meaning.” Josiah Royce

“So, to relinquish our identity by following the crowd is to deny the world of our potentially unique contribution.” Chuck Gallozzi

“Every society honors its live conformists and its dead troublemakers.” Mignon McLaughlin

Perhaps open-mindedness, that is the willingness to give up on preconceived notions and self-assurance, to have an open-heart, that is the willingness to accept other persons just as they are, to have in humility the knowledge that nothing outside of oneself can take away one’s god-given core, are at least essential to unity. Perhaps unity is like honoring the wild flowers, clouds, and wind from we know not where.

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From the book a 'Matter of Principle'

"The BABY-BLUE

Bill wrote: "From 'A Matter of Principle' " What happens to the newcomer who comes around, gets clean, and begins to recover and wants to share, to be of service? At every meeting they attend (hopefully) they hear the 12 Traditions read. Being new and naïve, they believe what they hear. They really think that there is only one ultimate authority, one primary decision maker in NA; group conscience. They really believe the only thing stopping a group from expressing its autonomy is serious negative affect on the fellowship at large. They really believe we do not endorse or finance outside enterprise. They really believe we are self-supporting. They really believe our services are directly responsible. What sort of horrible disillusionment do you suppose happens to them when they begin attending structural service committee meetings and they discover that none of these are true? Imagine their disappointment when they attend that service committee meeting. They believed in Narcotics Anonymous, they felt that the principles they learned in recovery meetings would be honored in service meetings. After a short while they learned that area committees get their guidance from the region or district they belong to rather than the groups they are supposed to serve. And that regions or districts take their direction from NAWS rather than their member areas. They find something much more akin to government than service. Perhaps they see groups and members being chastised or censured because those members and groups are not conducting themselves “correctly” according the ‘party-line’. They hear certain truths discounted and marginalized under the bludgeon of disunity. They find massive and preemptory guidelines surrounding any service projects being considered and perhaps more concern for adherence to the guidelines than effort toward making the message more available. If they explore finances they find that huge percentages of profits are made on literature and conventions. These profits are spent on “services” controlled by NAWS “services” that have never been offered to NA groups for evaluation. And while some of these efforts seem worthwhile, they wonder where group conscience exists in all of this. When they explore finances in depth, they find that major book resellers like Hazelden receive substantial discounts, so the reseller can make a profit on the freely given labor and talent of our members. But all that, they find is in the process of change because currently NAWS itself is writing literature from the fellowship’s suggestions, and everyone involved must somehow be “for-hire”. If they want to help with some project being developed for the fellowship they find they must qualify to be a part of any committee of significance in NA beyond the local level. Perhaps they must even submit a resume. Willingness spirit and recovery are of limited usefulness, the requirements probably include educational or experiential parameters, even college degrees. Most will succumb to the “bigger-picture” syndrome and



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simply compromise their principles at the urging of other members and the instruction of the Twelve Concepts of service. Hopefully some who have gone this route are working a tenth step and open to suggestions. Repeated compromise of our Traditions can only eventually lead to death for addicts seeking recovery. Hopefully some will be open to change ... to a return to our principles.""

**Mark S**

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September 12 at 11:54pm

**Here's my latest rant ...**

No it does not fit well with the currently accepted, allegedly progressive, opinion that we must limit our identification as addicts only (with no variation) and that we must never be drug specific during our shares. While I understand the intent, I think the dictated "rules" are misguided at best.

That is not the NA I grew up in. Yes it was a while back but my soul was touched by the honest uncensored shares of addicts from all walks of life from all shallows and depths of sickness and depravity. It was real, it was in your face. It was totally honest and uninhibited. For those that hadn't yet gone to some lengths it showed them the probable roads ahead, for those that had gone farther it revealed the guiding points that tried to reach them that they had missed (for whatever reason).

So here's my Rant ...

Logical. There was a time when I would have agreed with you. There's one thing though.... given enough time, enough means, and a wide variety of circumstances & opportunities, (and enough secrecy to go to any lengths with little to no consequences) I believe there are no lines any of us addicts would not have crossed ... eventually.

This is certainly true in my case, but, once clean, I have never had an ego that would deny the depths that I would allow (invite?) the disease to drag me down to.... (willingly - yet resistant to admitting that willingness). To make more clear the perspective I own and am speaking of: any drugs we didn't do (yet), any means we did not stoop or rise to (yet) to access our substance(s), any ways we hadn't (yet) ingested them, any lines we did not cross (yet) are merely depths of our addiction we hadn't sank to (yet) by the time we got clean.

Many believe they would never cross those lines **\*\*they\*\*** hadn't crossed, but that assumes we had a set of principles that we adhered to, or that the disease has limits. Enough of my inventories have revealed to me that principles per se were one thing I was very busy dismissing and discarding in my attempt to feed the disease adequately. It was revealed that my disease had no limits **\*\*when nurtured and fed\*\***. The truth is that feeding my disease became so important to me that no taboo was reason to question my path or prevent me from continuing on. The only purpose of principles in my existence was to keep me from trying to adhere to them because I had already proven that I could not. Trying would only reveal insincerity and hypocrisy - so why even try?

Bottom line ... IMO it is an ego driven fallacy that any type of addict (based on substance, duration of use, or the ways and means to get them) is worse off, or beneath, any other type of addict. Personally, I see no separation by substance, depths of depravity, or "yet"s not visited yet. IMO the only separation is brought by ego.

Ego is a very big part of the disease of addiction; will always try to find a way to separate us no matter what language we do or don't use, what gender we are or aren't, what sexual orientation we have or have let go of, what religion we do or don't have, what race or races we claim to be. Shaming those who don't fall into lock step with the most popular current, local, seemingly progressive opinion is another example of vilifying and separating each other; no matter how that division is made, nor how spiritual or logical the arguments for those separations are, separations diminish our ability to carry the message.

I should have the freedom to identify as anything I honestly consider myself to be.... provided ... I make it clear that ... in spite of the surface level differences - all of you (each and every one of you) are exactly the same as I ... more alike than either one of us would want to admit ... that is ... until we've delved deep enough into principle to have the honesty and freedom from ego to make such an acknowledgment.



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So why do I cling to speaking both in generalities AND specifics? Because IMO both are relevant to us all, if we honestly look at our experience and our “yet”s. Because our disease is never done with us if we feed it, if we nurture it, if we provide safe harbor for it; it will bring us to greater depths of sickness and depravity if given the opportunity and we need to know what the consequences of choosing to feed, nurture, harbor or play with our disease are. Specifics shine a very bright light on that.

This perception can be unifying as well ... perceiving us all to be the same ... believing that only the details of our paths are different. I believe our strength does spring from our diversity and our sameness; I believe we need to embrace both to truly accept ourselves and each other as we truly are. Maybe you're not at a spot where you can appreciate or consider my perspective ... yet. I believe that you will have the opportunity at some point; I hope you don't (or won't) drive right by and miss the moment ... it is truly spectacular!

You want to consider me different because of that? You want to focus on the details of the path and point out the differences? You still want to claim I must limit how I identify myself, censor my shares, and muzzle my truth? I won't deny you the freedom to think you could or should or stifle your ability to try; at the same time though, I have my perceptions and no one will deny my freedoms, coerce me into silence or force me into some lock-step manner of speaking.

So ... That's the lake at the bottom of the rabbit hole that I have swan-dived into ... Come on in; join me; the water's deep, but the experience is freeing.

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Yours In Loving Service  
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