



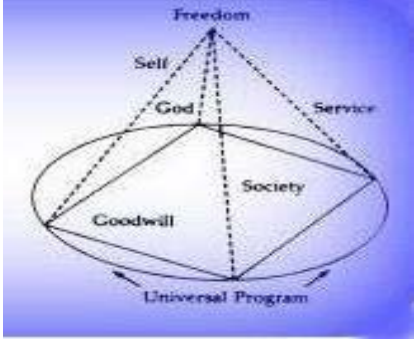
Core Issues

Dec., 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 12
By: Lester O.



Goals and Purposes

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

<p>We Believe that the Greater the Base (Global NA Society)</p>		<p>The Broader the sides and the Higher the point of freedom.</p>
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Email: lester7286@gmail.com
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 November, 2015



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SORRY NO CORE GROUP MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER 3rd AND 10th

Informal meeting on Nov. 10th between myself and John F.

Mostly we discussed the Issues of *Court slips*, *Meeting slips*, and Ankle Bracelets. We also talked about an article (see below) that I had written the day before for the Coregroup Facebook Page.

Some Observations about Treatment Center and Court Order Slips

I got clean in the Portland, Oregon. Sometime around 1987 Or 1988 I began to notice more and more treatment center clients coming to NA. At first there were not that many, maybe occasionally 2 or 3 at a meeting. At that time I was going to 2 or 3 meetings a day and I would see the treatment people at maybe 2 or 3 meetings a week. Most would ask to have papers signed to prove to the center that they were going to meetings. Then around 1988 I began to see short busses from a few centers arriving with 5 or 6 clients. By the mid 90's some busses would have up to 10 clients, all of which needed to get papers signed. I recall one meeting in which I was asked to sign 15 to 20 meeting slips after the meeting was over. We also began to get the occasional addict with court slips or slips for their PO. Court slip addicts were not that big of a problem. I knew of one PO who was in Recovery and rather than make his clients get slips signed he would just occasionally go to different meetings to see if his clients were where they were supposed to be Another problem we began to see was the treatment clients drinking lots of coffee and using lots of sugar and cream, taking lots of IPs and Little White Books and all the time not putting any money in the basket. Some of the treatment centers began to bus 10 to 20 clients to NA events (conventions etc.) expecting us to let them in for free. Between 1996 and 1998 I began to notice more of each.

I got my 1st computer in the fall of 1998 and my NA overview got much bigger. I began to hear of Court Slips becoming a big problem in different locales. It seemed to me that rather than court slips the treatment slips seemed to be a much larger problem at least where I lived. We had a large H&I. By 1996 we had 72 addicts taking 23 monthly meetings into 6 non clearance facilities (1 juvenile facility, 1 detox both men and women, 2 treatment centers and 3 hospitals both men and women. We also had 33 addicts taking 19 meetings into 6 clearance facilities, (3 County Jails, a county Farm, a restitution center, and a State minimum security Prison/treatment facility. We also did one on one visitations by request at the Justice center. Also, we had



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a speaker panel for low priority facilities (schools, treatment centers etc.) on request. Most were not allowed to go to outside meetings.

I noticed that the end results for both court slip and treatment center addicts needing slips signed was virtually the same. Both were outside enterprises. Both received funding from the Federal and/or State Governments and in both cases we were being used to verify attendance for outside entities that profited by sending clients to NA which we had verified. Some of them did get clean and stay clean and most of them were here on some kind of forced attendance and were not seeking recovery as far as I could tell.

The Law Offices of Marc G. Snyder
Client AA/NA Meeting Attendance Sheet

At the conclusion of the meeting, hand this form to the Secretary of the AA/NA meeting you are attending, and ask for his/her signature as verification of your attendance. You should make sure that all other parts of the form are filled out.

DATE	TIME	NAME OF MEETING	SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE

=





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Core Group Minutes

November 17, 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:

John B 318 – John F 707 – Lester 321 - Bo 404

Bo on Minutes

Recording 44479748-671303578.mp3

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

SORRY NO CORE GROUP MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER 3rd AND 10th

From emails:

Ankle Bracelets may be in meetings of NA!

If you go on the Internet and key in "ankle bracelets GPS" you will get an education. Some of these listen in frustrating defense attorneys talking with their clients. SCRAM Systems is a big producer of alcohol sniffing GPS bracelets. San Jauquine CA has 600 clients on ankle bracelets. This is the future, having our meetings being listened in on by Probation. Actually it's going on now. Don't say you were not forewarned. Whatever you say in a meeting can and may be held against you. - John F.

1st NA History Day on the West Coast

Hi everyone: Just a brief note to 'thank everyone' who participated in the **1st NA History Day on the West Coast**. As you may know, there have been many NA History Days on the East Coast and I think there have been about 5 this year specifically 'agenda' driven. Everyone I



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spoke with said this one was markedly different and more informational and more unifying. I'm sure WE hoped so.

I do want to mention something mentioned today by Liz, in that she had invited numerous people to this FINAL PLANNING MEETING, and was surprised at the low turnout. I wasn't surprised. At each of the prior Planning Meetings (12 in all I think) I personally invited upwards of 50/75 people to participate and the turnout was never any larger than 10/12. I wondered why too? I even tried to entice people by providing Free Pizza and drinks. Someone finally mentioned to me that those that are supposed to be there, are there.

Once again, thanks for those that did participate and I am hopeful that some of you will pick up the gauntlet and continue the fight. It was a great adventure. People showed up from numerous states and I think the total attendance was somewhere upwards of 400 people. Not bad for a 'grassroots' attempt.

Hugs and thanks again for allowing me to participate. - Bill F.

A GROWING PROBLEM

When I point out the damage being done by court slips, I get the response "no one should be denied access to NA". That is a non-answer. No one ever suggested that these people be banned from attending NA.

Since they have no valid response to our bulletproof argument, they answer a question that was never posed. And yet they will stand there hands on hips looking you directly in the eye with this non-response expecting you to cave in and agree. This is a very old trick. To answer a question with a non-answer and expect for it to stand.

The other interesting thing is that they will never admit that any damage is done by the court slippers. But as older people, we understand that there is a price to be paid for everything we do, no matter how lofty. Citing that one person out of a thousand gets clean does not consider that a thousand traipsing thru the program causes several old-timers to flee the chaos with their hands thrown up in the air.



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Another argument is that not only court slippers are the cause of tossed chairs and crosstalk but also are rank and file members coming under their own power. All of these arguments are aimed at winning the argument, not finding the truth of the matter. – John F.

Nadine Doubleu

Discussion:

9:00 Open conference call.

Opened late, sorry.

Bo – First West Coast NA History Conference went great! 400 attendance, no bad moments, great spirit and warmth. Thanks all concerned!

Lester – In Oregon, we had an H&I liaison who was an NA Member and also worked for the State Correctional Dept. He oversaw Clearances for State facilities and was our contact person to the State and its various facilities. Wonder if other States have or has had a similar set up.

John B – Heard David B say totally different here than other places.

Lester – That's why good PI sub-committee system should be in place.

Bo – I think it might help if we recommended Regional H&I sub-committees get together to compare notes, experience and ideas.

Lester – Some regions have H&I, others do not. On radiofree a member said that H&I and PI fall under group services. I think that it might not work at regional level.

I think area level subcommittees are a good idea, when I was in treatment, they let us go to an AA eye-opener meeting. At the end of the meeting somebody announced that they were taking a meeting to clients at a Damish (State mental Hospital and asked that anyone who wished to go Contact him. I was one who volunteered to go. I was still in treatment but was smoking pot on the side and taking an occasional drink when I thought I could get away with it. They let me go and I found the whole thing to be very disorganized and confusing. There were about eight addicts telling 4 or 5 mental patients their version of how to they could find recovery.

Then about a year later I found NA and got clean and after 90 days began doing H&I and had been given do's and Don'ts for H&I. and was extremely grateful that we were not nearly as disorganized as AA had been. A few months later we began taking meetings/presentations into the same facility.



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H&I was doing something and PI decided to do the same thing. Mixed message (drugs and alcohol) can be confusing and newcomers often wander off topic. People in treatment more likely to give treatment based talk because that's what they know.

ANKEL BRACELETS

John F – Different SCRAM system GPS devices that can sniff alcohol and listen in on parolees. Parole Officers can listen on parolees regarding their legal problems. A Defense Attorney complained clients “attorney/client” right being violated because PO can listen in on private consultations.

Have bracelets all over California and here in Missouri. Different functions not yet merged but expected to be in near future.

Lester – We are living in a police state. Camera in stores, sidewalks, front doors. This would also affect closed meetings, have to go back to rabbit meetings in people's homes.

John F – Can we continue reading ‘no surveillance at any time’ in meetings?

Bo – Could change group formats. Take out of readings.

Lester – could warn members not to share incriminating information.

John – Paper court slips out of style in two years.

Bo – I appreciate John's essays and would publish more but it would overwhelm the minutes!

John B and Lester expressed appreciation to John F!

Bo – The real problem is in the atmosphere of recovery.

Lester – 1st H&I mentor opened meeting with saying inmates should not say anything incriminating because we are under surveillance.

GREY BOOK CONFERENCE IN GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

Bo – David and John B coming, will probably stay with them.

John F – Had idea for core group medallions or chips. Made some “Big Lou” key tags. Group in Florida does medallions.

Bo – Privately working on project to do my autobiography and encourage others to help make recovery a household word in America and the World. Generally, addicts working program are invisible and not heard from because they don't make trouble!



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Core group NA – Facebook secret page, core group only, is now up with twenty-two free downloads. Contact David B, Lester O or myself to get on group. If you want to recommend someone for core group, they can get on secret group that way.

Closed at 10:00 – John F led us in Serenity Prayer...”God grant me ...”

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.”

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

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Fan Page – “coreIssues” on Face Book

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– Bo



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Core Group Minutes

November 24, 2015

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Bo on Minutes

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

From emails:

Nadine Doubleu

November 11 at 7:18am

What is this?? <http://na-pr.org/>

NA Public Relations Website

na-pr.org



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Nadine – I think the members who put this Public Relations Website were working in line with what a genuine WSC sub-committee would be doing to meet Fellowship needs. It would serve no purpose to criticize their brave effort to serve. It just shows what we are missing when we hobble such talented, dedicated members.

Mitch found this and it the first time I have seen it spelled out so clearly in print. It is cleverly worded. Check the original versions of our service structure in the days all you needed to serve was membership and a willingness to help. It didn't mean chaos and disorder but if you wanted to help, you could be heard and respected. – Bo

From Mitch G - Interesting as to the WSO's definition of the World Board.

Twelve Steps. One of three bodies of basic NA principle, the steps describe NA's regimen leading to personal recovery and a spiritual awakening.

Twelve Traditions. One of three bodies of basic NA principle, the traditions provide guidance for the behavior of NA groups, helping the groups maintain their independence while nurturing their unity.

World Board. The World Board is the service board of the World Service Conference. It provides support to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous in their efforts to provide the opportunity to recover from addiction; and oversees the activities of NA World Services, including our primary service center, the World Service Office. The board also holds in trust for the NA Fellowship the rights for all their physical and intellectual properties (which includes literature, logos, trademarks and copyrights) in accordance with the will of the WSC.

World Service Conference (WSC). A deliberative body composed of regional delegates and world-level trusted servants, the WSC provides an effective voice and active conscience for the worldwide NA Fellowship.

World Service Conference Report. The full reports of the World Service Conference and the World Board and its committees.

World Service Office (WSO). World Service Board headquarters (Los Angeles) and branch facilities (Canada, Europe).

WSC. See *World Service Conference*.

WSO. See *World Service Office*.

We need members to track exactly when the original service roles were changed, by whom and what process and why. I always thought the Fellowship did a good job of expressing their will and the directives to our World Service bodies.



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Control Issue

A few weeks ago, I had a conversation with an anonymous member working on the Daily Meditation book. They made a suggestion and I disagreed with changing the plan we had all agreed to when we started the project four or five months ago. I am bringing it up because I have heard a couple of times that I am hard to work with and controlling. While anyone has a right to their opinion when they start putting it on the streets, I have to answer it or let it stand. Well, I am not quite ok with this. Most of you know I am well known and there are good reasons for this. I helped produce the WSC approved Handbook for NA Literature Committees years ago. I benefitted from the discussions involving anonymous literature for our membership back in 1979. If someone unfamiliar with anonymous processes gets involved with a project I am helping with, they are going to hear from me if they go around telling people I am controlling.

We have the core group to allow for open discussions among ourselves. To go further, I might be guilty of spreading rumors or speaking ill of others. People cannot be blamed for not knowing what is not written and available to those seeking to learn about our ways and processes. I would appreciate forbearance and patience among our efforts for we all have lots to learn and no one knows it all. Don't repeat things unless you know them to be true for a fact. Yes, I am controlling. I can be hot about things that may benefit thousands of our members. Working anonymously requires a degree of control when honoring and abiding by our 12 Traditions. Certain things are 'ok' and other things are 'not.' It is impossible to proceed with an NA project without guidance and the benefit of experience, especially long term experience. Experience means a person has run into problems before and seen results that can be useful guides for current or future efforts. If everyone was blessed with intuitive, instant understanding of these things we could all go home and watch TV. Like Bob Dylan said in a song, "Ain't no sense in listening to me, just as well listen to you." But calling someone down and preventing a work of several months is not ok. Our disease insures we will have conflicts and disputes. We have worked hard on this project and plan to continue. I have contacted several of the people who have worked long and hard bringing us to where we are at and worked out a solution. More will be revealed.

One of the things we try to bear in mind is there should be no competition among those attempting to serve NA. We share common goals and don't try to take over a project others



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have begun. The evidence is there. I have noticed some times we in the core group come up with a good idea and begin work on it, only to find later on that someone copy cat's what we are doing and then claims we are being against NA unity because we don't jump on their bandwagon. Well, we started our on Just for Tonight as a Daily Meditation based on the Grey Book back in November of 2014 then I found myself at an event in Florida where they were working a Daily Meditation based on Grey Book, and again last weekend. One member thought we were supposed to work with them. Uh, if they wanted unity, why didn't they work with us? Oh well... You know some times you just got to let go and let God. Know what I mean? And sure enough one member was saying Bo is controlling. There is plenty of good stuff to work on. We have over 366 quotes and a yearlong calendar to enter essays, a third already started.

About core group NA on FaceBook...

[About](#) a recent intrusion on our 'secret' FB group:

What's missing here is acknowledgement of our existing and ongoing support of all efforts to help addicts the NA way. We don't endorse or defame others and our members have always been encourage and participate whosoever they choose. The core group is simply a discussion and reporting effort on core issues. The idea that other groups need our help as an 'entity' is a misnomer. Sorry for the confusion. If you look closely, we spawned some of the so called 'factions' but it is not our language or our demarcations. This is one of the reasons we don't elect or make motions. We are a non-structural service body. This is what gives us the freedom to check our rumors and gossip. Also. If you do not receive core group minutes you do not belong on this 'secret' group. This group is designated secret so we don't have to waste time endlessly explaining our purpose and function. Being a new FB entity a few of you may want to join core group and can do so by contacting David B, Lester O, or myself to get on the email list. Otherwise we will have good members here who do not understand and waste time trying to participate without knowing what is going on. Once you become a core group member, you are welcome to recommend other members by contacting one of us. The three of us notify one another to keep our list up to date.



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HELP NEEDED TO INVESTIGATE DEATH OF FORMER WSO MANGER (personal references removed)

Bob Stone owned a piece of land in Utah or Nevada. If we had a realtor in these states he might be able to do a search to find the land. This could be tracked to see who got the land and might have Bob Stone's address. We don't even have a Southern California address of his. If you know of such persons they could help.

It is believed that he owned an old van. A DMV or cop mole would help. And a mole inside of NAW\$ might be able to ferret out his address from internal records. Also a person on the ground near the sheriff could be helpful in getting the case reopened. And in looking thru records at the recorder's office.

If we keep digging, eventually we will get lucky. It's inevitable. One big question is why one hand was tied and the other loose with a leather strap on it. The sister cooperated to a point. Mr. Stone's ex-wife said we had the wrong person...after listening to us for say twenty minutes.

It a chance for me to have a new friend. I appreciate your bringing me into the loop. Papers on the building just reveal that the parties are big real estate companies. A para legal in Southern California could go to the recorder's office and pull up the escrow statements themselves. Unless the details were hidden within trusts we could see a lot of details. And a State Farm Agent mole could get on the computer and see if he had insurance with that company showing make model VIN number and Bob's address. If not found, try an Allstate Agent Etc.

From David B –

I ask a couple simple questions... Why did it cost so much for "literature translations" when local members do the work for free and then hand the finished work over to NAW\$ for printing? If NAW\$ sent over half a million in free literature overseas, who did they send it to? Every time we have spoken to members overseas, their requests for assistance have garnered an order form.

What is NAW\$ doing for groups overseas that those groups are not already doing for themselves (or should be)? When we print our own literature and write new literature our groups become fully self-supporting and our individual spirits take flight, lifted far above our former limitations.



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To those that have been hobbled by the corporate propaganda, this seems insane. Why do these things when the "machine" will gladly do them for you? Often they will say that relying on NAW\$, WSO, and WSC to do all these things frees the groups to carry the message. Is that true in our experience or have service committees faltered from laziness and lack of commitment from the general membership? In my Home group we come together in spirit, in a creative action of the spirit, in a way that raises our spirit when we practice Tradition Seven that we never achieve by allowing a committee or corporation to do for us what we can do for ourselves.

To do any less would ground our spirit in one manner or another and place us in the same predicament as those on the ground that view our soaring spirits as some sort of illness.

I have met many members in the past few years who will not be hobbled, that will not be grounded, and will not be intimidated by a corporation that seeks to profit from us by keeping the fellowship ignorant and compliant.

One of the recurring messages spoken at the GBSALC last week was that NO ONE would make a monetary profit from the work being done. Funny how that works, because that breeds an atmosphere where we all profit spiritually. When we are self-supporting, when we are not diverted by money, property, and prestige, we create an atmosphere of recovery.

The self-seekers will decry our efforts, but those seeking solutions that are truly spiritual in nature will be attracted to what we are doing. We will continue to commit acts of selfless service founded in unconditional love.

"Birds born in a cage think that flying is an illness." Take that thought and apply it to members who have never been involved with true "open participation" and blindly accept whatever comes out from behind the closed doors of the corporation...Thanks, David B



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Discussion:

9:00 Open conference call.

John B – Wish you had been at Literature Workshop in Gainesville, Georgia.

Bo – I was sick and tired of coming without being asked to do something. Hanging out makes me feel useless or – used. I have to trust that small inner voice.

John F. – I'm doing better, still problems with groups. Actually, I do better now NOT going to meetings here in Kansas City, MO. Impure message of recovery. A group told me recently I had to shut up and listen, go to a lot of meetings, had to qualify as an addict. Get there early.

John B – 3rd conference he's attended. 2 groups – one for Traditions Study guide, the other Daily Meditation. Traditions questions good, Helps to get yourself out of the picture. Plenty of Baby Blues on hand.

John F – Never understood why they needed to make the original changes in our Literature in 1983.

Bo – 1st Edition of Basic Text changed Traditions in from of happy, quiet Fellowship. It was like an explosion, really hurt people. Some of our finest service workers never got on their recovery feet again. If we have a moral problem, you could be cold blooded and conclude they were just mean spirited and should have knuckled under. If we have a disease called addiction, it might lead you to think it broke their hearts and demolished the gratitude and trust they have for their Fellowship. Plenty of people neither left NA, got loaded but still tried to work their program are now dead not of natural causes. It is mean spirited to imagine they had it coming. After, they are the ones who helped write the NA Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous. They deserve better than that.

John F – When 1st Edition came out, everybody was upset. Got clean on 1st, then 2nd, then 3rd was the same as the 1st with the illegal deletions maintained through manipulating the group conscience by making it appear 'go back to the original' which to most members meant the Approval Form that went out to every group in the world and received overwhelming approval.



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Yet good ol' WSO took it to mean the bastardized "First Edition" version. Always thought it was wrong, a few people making changes like that. Small group of people did the 3rd Revised which included sweeping changes. Layers were gone. Fellowship stopped trusting World Services.

Bo – Need to do an Assembly on the Daily Meditation Grey Book.

John B – Didn't attend the workshop on the Daily Meditation at Gainesville.

Bo – Mitch and I talked about the work we had done.

Mitch – Don't let interrupters control our core group. Remember what we learned from 2011!

John F – Sponsor always suggested he look for what he could do to improve his situation. Write down everything you spend. What if we all listed everything we were told when we were new? The Fellowship and Program were like Zen back then. Very spiritual. Drawn to Steve Jobs. Definitely in recovery. Stopped using drugs. Early Apple was a mess. 1984 they had an Apple ad that portrayed business people in grey uniforms, like prison guards – representing Microsoft!

Transcendental Meditation –free checking for rest of life.

Take sponsor a present every time you visit him. Like and apple. In Northern California you had ten years, gave sponsor a 100% cotton bed sheet. NA was a little more aware than AA.

Back then, recovery was about changing the world, lofty ideals. Exhilarating. WSO was an embarrassment to members. We could not understand how court slips were allowed.

Confusing that God wasn't leading us anymore. All of sudden God was replaced by courts.

Everyone who came in was a hippie.

Bo – How about "Rabbit Meetings?"

John F – Made up 100 flyers and put them on telephone poles in Kansas City, no takers.

Speaker for annual celebration in Kansas City same guy each year. Got some ostrich skin boots for myself.

Bo S – Paul S following up on investigation of Bob Stone death. Anybody know what kind of car he was driving when he died? Let me know and I will pass it along.



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Mitch – Happy Birthday Bo! 71 years, with 41 years clean!

John B – what were those things your sponsor told you again?

John F –

1. Use a Day-Timer to list my spending.
2. Will not perjure myself.
3. What can I do to improve my situation?
4. Don't see problems, see experiences.
5. Seem better men than me relapse.
6. All relapse based on justified resentments.
7. 1st 5 years are free – keeping working Program!
8. John, when they want to know, they'll ask for it.
9. Clean time isn't everything, it's the only thing.

Closed at 10:00 – Bo led is in prayer of gratitude for strength and guidance to keep trying to do God's Will on a daily basis.

Next meetings on December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 2015

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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“Nothing blinds a person like fanaticism
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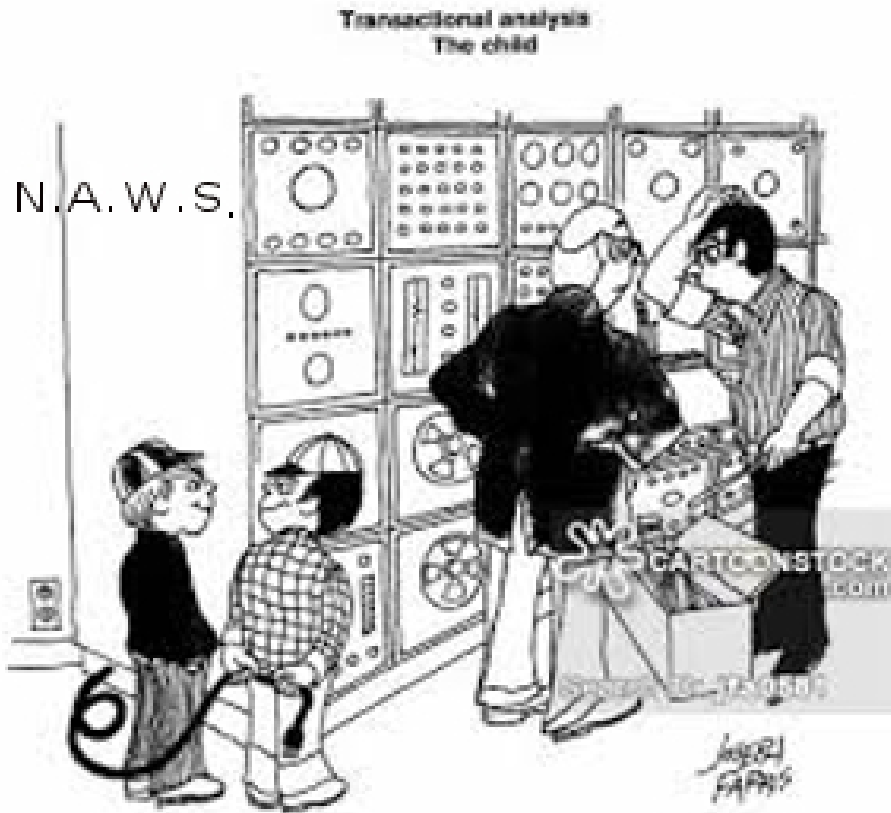
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- Bo



NA Members



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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:

Hello,

Patricia H. has just posted in the Miscellaneous forum of WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012) under the title of I'm still here!!.

This thread is located at <http://disc.na.org/wsc2012/showthread.php?459-I-m-still-here!!>

Here is the message that has just been posted:

Following traditions, concepts and my region's policy clearly delineate how I should and did communicate with my region. I provided full, complete and transparent reports, not so much with details but a general synopsis. I sent most emails from NAWS to my region or provided links in my reports on relevant information. It is also beneficial that my RSC is held monthly so that we avoided running on our own juice without direction or accountability for extended periods. Additionally, it helped that my region was actually interested in what we were doing. I know that prior to becoming RDA, it annoyed me to no end when our delegates were not forthcoming with information reporting out on ZFs, WSCs, etc.

The isolative nature that "delegation" without transparency afforded prior delegates was, in my view, counterproductive and a disservice to our region. I recall being an RCM and asking



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our delegate what he learned at ZFs, he was not able to explain it and his reports did not offer much in the way of information. I also asked about the 2012 WSC and got no response. He chose to wait until the WB provided a summary which became his report. This is what made me want run for the position, to be able to provide direct information when asked or even when it was not requested, the information was there. I took the role of conduit serious, I learned it as a GSR.

I do not know when it became fashionable to not have a self-prism through which information is received and processed. If I do not understand what I am talking about from my own perspective, there is just no way that I can explain it to others except by rote or reading off supplied PowerPoint presentations.

We are asked to not have an opinion on outside issues, but the inner workings of our service structure is not an outside issue. There is a difference between being objective and being a programmable robotic tape recorder on play mode. Being truly objective requires providing information from all sides, even sides I do not agree with.

I was more inclined to follow the representative mindset rather than the groupthink process that you get when you only talk to other delegates, the bubble effect, if you will. I think that the ZFs, this social media forum and MARLCNA type events, in small doses, offer enough interaction with other RDs, aside from the WSC. I also do not see added value or a region's bang for its buck in traversing across states and/or countries to acquire information that is repetitive and redundant, or readily available through WSO provided PowerPoint presentations or online. My personal view on this particular financial matter goes for RDs, workgroups and WB members.

Our primary purpose is the carry the message to the addict who still suffers, how we do that as individuals, groups, areas or regions can be and is different. I personally do not have a cookie cutter view of NA. I like that our predecessors saw fit to explain how it works and why it works (yes mainly through AA, but so what). I also like the power of choice and the ability to visit various groups. Not all groups are the same and I am grateful for that, neither are areas and regions. Our diversity is our strength. I like that the 12th Tradition talks about not wanting NA to be a gray faceless mass of a thing without diversity of personality and thought.



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Aside from that, our region has a website, we have an email list and we actually are small enough where we can easily attend ASC meetings without the need for overnight stays. This, even as we cross multiple state lines! Our self-determined geographical boundaries work for us. ABCD rocks!

It was wonderful seeing LA for the first but not the last time. That is not why I took the position as explained above. I do a lot of traveling on my own and prefer my vacation time be spent pleurably and productively, which is why I turned down the nomination for RD, also as explained above. I much prefer my new role as RSC secretary (I also do ASC and group service, always have), it feels more like selfless service, both positive and productive. I would much rather be closer to the final authority for NA services than so far away in WSC service.

Ahhhh, why do I bother?



“I did put together a questionnaire to assess board effectiveness, but I’m afraid I left it on the train.”