



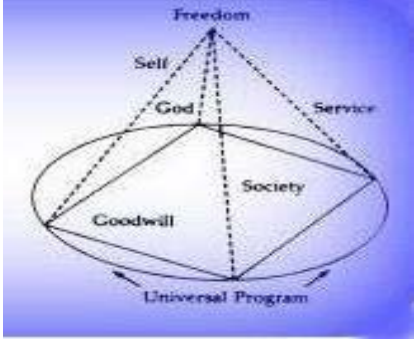
Core Issues

Jan., 2016 Vol. 4 Issue 1
By: Lester O.



Goals and Purposes

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

<p>We Believe that the Greater the Base (Global NA Society)</p>		<p>The Broader the sides and the Higher the point of freedom.</p>
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**Yours in Loving Service,
Lester O.**

Editor of Core Issues

(A non-profit Newsletter of the Core Group)



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Summary of Core Group Discussions for the *Core Group Minutes*

December 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:

John B 318 – John F 707 – David B 318 - Bo 404 – Brian T 859

Bo on Minutes

Recording 44479748-671339932.mp3

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

From Emails:

You are the answer, you are the problem. You are creating the reality we all live in. Fear of conflict has become a sort of concrete arresting the feet of people who see problems and never speak up. Are you passing on the love and recovery you were so freely given? Is the NA that brought recovery to a world of suffering addicts being passed on or passed over? We in the core group are doing the most radical thing in the world. We are entreating you to change what's between your ears and give voice to your concerns to the people around you. Don't be negative, just be honest. You'll feel better. And after a while our common reality will BE better. – Bo S.,

John F –

Sorry to be grumpy, but...what's going to happen is that as the NA meetings continue to get worse and worse and as the anti NAWS movement grows, more and more newer people are going to start checking us out. Since the fellowship is entirely polarized, they will show up and attempt to change us to their way of thinking as it's all that they know. Not following any type of spiritual program, they will be largely unteachable. Our biggest challenge will change from getting new members to holding onto our founding principles. Imagine ten members on the phone call explaining to us why following the traditions just really is not practical any more.



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At some point, people will begin fleeing the anti NAWs phone meetings as they will get tired of being corrected and bashed. Of course the new people will feel that they are doing us a huge favor by pointing out that this is the year 2016 and we must keep up with the times. The traditions are archaic and no longer applicable.

Because NA's leaders changed the traditions, this is all inevitable. We are on a runaway horse and simply must hang on till the horse dies from exhaustion...I guess.

It's exasperating. Every year, we get told that the fellowship is getting really fed up, but then it simply get worse.

I think the key is to live the good life and take on pet projects, however our best and highest use is to sponsor addicts and provide service in NA.

As for me, I have adopted a piece of pipe sticking up between the lanes near the I-35, 152 intersection. Formerly holding up a plastic pipe to separate the lanes near the exit, it now is there to tear up tires. I constantly send emails and call the Missouri Department of Transportation to get it removed. Occasionally they come out and place temporary orange plastic pipe with black rubber bases that last for a few days. I recently engaged a lawyer to help in the fight. I am afraid it will cause a wreck and someone will get hurt.

My dog is a lifesaver and I feed her Velveeta cheese and some of my chicken pot pies. She had a small mattress beside my couch and another by my bed. She kills varmints and "clucks" when I rub her.

I collect antiques and have some old vehicles too.

I fancy myself living in the sixties and back to say the 1920's. I just learned how to remove people from Facebook as I once got fired from friends of Grover Neely bombarding me with pictures of marijuana leaves. The boss thought I was getting loaded. What a dumb ass Grover was.

It is what it is. People think it will regenerate like a geckos toe, but Cocaine Anonymous never did, it simply died for the most part. And it used to be much bigger than NA.

The change is coming fast and it will be huge. When the technology allows a county to lease ankle bracelets with GPS and audio surveillance, the cops will be pulling folks out of our meetings if they mention their crimes.

Our meetings will explode in size and things will never be the same.

The goal will be to stay clean, to save our own asses.

(Note: John F writes lots of stuff and I don't include it all, you would be overwhelmed. But he started 17 NA meetings in Napa Valley, California and has over thirty years clean. I can identify with him. I am not afraid. I



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sleep from beautiful dream to beautiful dream all night long. Some of my days are even better! I want to do everything I can to pass on the loving care I received when I was new and work for the growth and continuance of NA. – Bo S)

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

I put this up last week for discussion. This is not our service structure. It is a corporate design to prevent creativity and freedom among our Fellowship. I has resulted from changes in our service structure in the late 1990's during a time when the sub-committees of the NA World Service Conference were completely dissolved to suit the power brokers who had gained control of our publications and used their power to eradicate opposition. You who study our NA history know this. The votes tallied among uninformed members are invalid. Most members are shocked when they read the following because the structure they signed up for was far different. I guess it is human nature to recall things are we would have them. But really, where is our representation? There is representation at the area and regional level. Why is that representation broken at the world level? Don't you know what happens when people lose their say? Their spirit dries up and blows away. Shall we substitute "NA is a corporate, not religious, program of recovery from addiction?" Well? – Bo S

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 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 gotta 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 year long calendar to enter essays, a third already started.



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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 NAWS 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



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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.

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 Homegroup 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.



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"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

Discussion:

9:00 Open conference call.

Brian T – (Please send us your email address and phone)

Bo – How about Mississippi having a get together to work on NA literature?

David – Members getting together. Spoke to a few people. Planning on event in McCan, MS co-hosted by Monroe, LA and Mississippi NA group sometime in early May 2016. There is an event planned in Longwood, FL Lot of spirit and fun! Negatives – don't show up. They stick to their own territory.

Bo – The best material comes from people who don't care about money, property or prestige. They care about sick and suffering addicts who turn to us for help.

David – Need for 'attention' among members seems to show up at the regional level. There is less at the area level. Joy in collaboration.

John F – Reading and studying – I am moved to tears when I read some of the original NA literature. It surprises me that the Baby Blue is based on the 3rd Revised and not the 2nd Edition (which is the original Narcotics Anonymous written by and approved by the general NA Fellowship between 1981 and 1982.) I make a joke that we need to dump some clean time medallions because no one gets over 3 years here in Kansas City, Missouri. Corrosion sets in and the medallions get blue mold around the edges...

Bo – Are you for real?

John F – No, being sarcastic. Everybody here is under 4 years! Except for some over 20! The convention committee is raising registration fee that other members have to pay. Of course, they get in for free.

Bo – Reading NA books John B? How's that going?

John B – I am reading NA history, looking for the parts where the 12 concepts came from. I have to re-read some sections. It is hard but I am getting there.

John F – I sponsored a doctor. He told me he had to read and read again, over and over! I commend and congratulate you John!

Lester – More and more hotels require a registration badge to track attendees. If members can't afford registration, they can be given an ID badge. About the Concepts? It is good to have some idea of what they



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are about but they just give world service and regions ways to manipulate you. That's why I don't like the Concepts. World cooked them up. They do not replace that 12 Traditions.

Brian T – How about the Concepts in the Paths of Recovery?

David B – Not clear about which concepts we are discussing...

John B – NAWS presents Traditions only for groups.

David B – People are taught Traditions are only for groups.

John B – 12 Concepts study at Learning Days are the NAWS ones.

Bo - Steps and Traditions are spiritual principles, the Concepts are corporate principles. This is what most members agree on.

David B – There is a lot of dis-information about the Concepts. I have noticed that country people are a little more pragmatic than city people.

Bo – Concepts were pushed through in late 1980's I opposed them then. Some people passing along the cool aid said they realized there were problems but they would be corrected in times ahead. I told them no, once stuff is approved it is almost impossible to change or correct. This has proven to be the case with the horrible concepts. They are the worst Traditions violation ever.

The documents we sent our last month about the memo in 1989 and 1992 show that there was a conspiracy to change our service structure at least eight years before it happened. Maybe some of you should make plans to change the structure starting now. Question is: do you really want the membership to have a voice or not?

David – Groups in Mississippi optimize, they don't know any better! They are naïve and gullible.

Lester – Radio Free – Traditions Wars being talked about currently.

Brian T – Live in Lexington, Kentucky now, from Memphis, Tennessee. Studied NA for 28 years, 21 years clean.

Lester – What's happening with the Concepts is members think they outweigh the Traditions. Think the Fellowship is NAWS.

Bo – I agree but it is depressing!

John F – NAWS has tiny problem: nobody is getting clean now. They blow out at two or three years. Their support is dying.

Close – 10:00 Brian T – “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”



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Next meetings on December 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
which is just an outward expression of obsession.”

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– Bo

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Experiment, try saying something nice about someone, see how that feels. – Bo S.

Recovery is about exploring feelings. Living in a shrinking world of addiction, certain good, sweet feelings drop away. We may miss them but can't recall exactly what we have forgotten. – Bo S, just thinking...

About core group NA on Facebook...

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

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Discussion:

9:00 Open conference call.

Bo – Hey Kermit! How many places have you spoken?

Kermit O – 25 countries, 35 states, 3 Canadian Provinces, talks on Intherooms.com

John F – Going good with me. Funny thing with so many members coming from TC's they are drinking up all



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the coffee, so the TC's are bringing their own.

Kermit – Coffee should be provided by the meeting but if large numbers of half-way house members are showing up and depleting group funds that needs to be addressed. .

Bo – Careful with John, he doesn't get to talk in KC meetings. Not used to our intense enthusiasm!

Kermit – Yeah, there is an anti-Kermit group made up of members' three to ten or thirteen years. Intimidated by clean time. I pissed off one of them by not bending over when local area H&I demanded that anyone who shares on panels must come to the H and I meeting first. After several years of folks frowning at me when I would show up at "their" meetings, I lambasted them at the open forum portion of our ASC. They wouldn't do local History of NA in Charlottesville 30 year celebration so my home group took it on, none of the weller-then-most showed up, nor most members in our area as it appears the entitled few made a point to down play it. Now, when I go back to some of the meetings where all this happened. The nay-sayers no longer there. It appears that arrogance is the spiritual principle they are living by, how sad.

John – Well, it's really gotten bad here. Nobody with over four years here. Ran off other oldtimers. It's just crazy. I never say anything. They seem to feel threatened. Some take meds. Surprised still going. Can't sponsor anyone because I won't go to conventions because they charge for meetings. Don't speak unless asked. Won't sign court slips.

John – In Napa Valley, California I was banned from starting any more meetings after I had started seventeen, some of which still meet. I said, "What about our founders? They started plenty of meetings." Response was, "We don't know nothing about that!" Like it was an answer...

Kermit – I shared that in dealing with members around the world on issues like pure NA message, etc, in the early days of N.A. I told them all not to bother wasting time trying to convince old timers who are stuck in their ways. Work with the newcomers as in a little over a year – they'll be secretaries and treasurers etc. and will vote all that stuff out. Another option, if court slip members who are not interested in being there, are running meetings and demanding things go their way, you can go see the Judge if meetings overrun by court-slippers. The judge will yank them by their short and curly's and the others will quickly get the word not to mess with NA formats, etc., etc., etc. There is a problem when NA is being run by folks who have no desire to be or act like members. Greg P. said, "You are a member when you act like one!"

Bo – What about Daily Meditation?

Kermit – I'm willing to start work again on the Just for Tonight book. I have been in severe pain and on medication so I did not feel it was right to create literature. I have written full pieces for 30 days for the book and have turned those over to Bo. They need to be group conscience, i.e. flow readings, etc. to see if everyone



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is in agreement with what they say. I am very good at writing sections and I am happy to turn them over for group conscience once they are written. I am also happy to work with people who wish to create full sections. I see we have more than enough quotes for a full year.

I Sent in January 1st to 31st. Can write. Don't mind turning material over to group conscience. Need working sessions. Flow readings.

John – Please text me, I do some email.

Bo – How about it? People who did show up dispersed. We achieved our first goal of quotes from Grey Book.

Kermit – Have one commitment on usually the last Thursday night of the month but free otherwise. Gave number to John on call.

Bo – Compiling minutes and essays from core group. Both would be good candidates for public domain.

Kermit - I have downloaded and printed the '16 CAR, was wondering if it is more of the same stuff we have been getting from WS.

Bo – Still doing new policy of sending minutes to members attending Tuesday night call for them to add or modify their statements prior to sending out to whole core group.

John – Any ankle bracelets showing up at meetings instead of court slips?

Kermit – Just one and that was a few years back.

Bo – Same with me but it was years ago. Member still clean in NA!

9:45 - Would you close with prayer John? – “God grant me . . . “

Close – 10:00 Brian T – “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

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JUST FOR TONIGHT





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December 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:

John F 707 - Bo 404 – Lester 3

Bo on Minutes

Recording 44479748-671383377.mp3

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

From Emails:

"Fear makes us weak. Information makes us stronger."

Discussion:

9:00 Open conference call.

John F – How much do ankle bracelets cost government?

Bo – SCRAM charges \$50 to \$100 to set up, then \$10 to \$15 per day. About \$450 a month. Can sniff alcohol, GPS, and hear conversations.

John – Had a mechanic work on my car who installed 'sniffers' that would prevent your car from starting if it sniffed alcohol. So backed up he couldn't work on my car. Went to full time installation of sniffers. Writing is my outlet!

Bo S – I think you do good writing. You're ahead of your time though. Need to state articles are just thought pieces to prevent confusion.

John – NAWS is going to make a mistake and members will shift overnight when they feel betrayed. People will say, "John's been right all along."



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By: Lester O.



Have you read the CAR? Can't bring myself to read it!

Bo – Me neither. It would bore me or make me angry.

John – Don't know what next step is.

Bo – What Step are you on now?

John – revisiting Step Three. My sponsor says it will come to me. Been reading the 2nd Edition.

Bo – Go to spiritual section in book stores. Look for one that excites you.

John – Had a four foot snake skin in basement. Thought of ways to kill it, then realized I had no rats!

Lester – 9:15 had a cow snake in a corn crib. It did a great job of eating rats.

Got a request for coreissues newsletter from Michigan. The guy had thirty years clean.

Bo – My ex-wife's Mom died last Saturday. Funeral tomorrow. She was a good woman. She was 94!

John – Hey Lester, I had a mechanic who stopped working on my car, went full time installing 'sniffers' that could detect alcohol, GPS and listen in on conversations. If they smell alcohol, car won't start.

Lester – He probably bid on installation contract.

Bo – Twenty-six cars in the lot at \$100 each is \$2600 installs per day.

John – It happened overnight, growth industry!

Bo – Bad comment on FB. You don't make yourself look good by trying to make someone else look bad. The nice thing about NA is we are all forced to admit we are imperfect to get into the Program! I was sick last weekend, not bad, just down a little. 100% now. How's things going?

Lester – Took couple of days to get focused, death of my good friend had me bothered some. Talking about it helped. Had been at loss for words. FB support helped. Friend was a great person, helped many people. No longer in pain – would wish this relief for everyone who suffer PTSD meeting at the Gathering in Gainesville surfaced some feelings about my daughter's death and cleared up some feelings about my friends' death.

Bo – What feelings?

Lester – Learned much of the pain I went through with my Step daughter's death was unnecessary, all I had to do was let go. I had been Bothered by baby daughter's death and took years grieving. Step daughter had time to learn to accept her own demise and make peace with a god of her understanding and those around her. Realized what worked for her would work for me. All that I had to do was to let go. By not doing so I had put



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myself through unnecessary pain.

Bo – Showed up for the viewing of my 94 year old Mother in law. This meant a lot to my Ex. Keep working on compilation. Support Kermit's work on Daily Meditation – Just for Tonight. Bill F put up excerpt from Jim M autobiography. I believe writing helps us more than we realize.

May use coreIssues for compilation. Are you cool with public domain?

10:00 – Lester led us in Serenity Prayer “God grant us....”

Next meetings on December 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,

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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Core Issues

Jan., 2016 Vol. 4 Issue 1
By: Lester O.



Core Group Minutes

December 22, 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 – Brian – John F – Lester - Mitch

Bo on Minutes

Recording 44479748-671408248.mp3

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

From Emails:

"Fear makes us weak. Information makes us stronger."

The only solution to the drug problem is hitting a bottom and receiving a clear message of recovery. We attempted doing this in the eighties with H and I. First the wardens kept NA out and then made it very difficult for us to get in. Then, once we were in, they began forcing people to attend by having their jackets signed increasing the chance of early release and in effect forcing them to attend.

Now we have Drug Court which was supposed to fix them, i.e., give them a clear Message of recovery. But by violating our traditions, it blurred the clear message of recovery. The reason that polio was cured was because he was left alone long enough to come up with the Salk vaccine. But NA was never left alone long enough to blossom. Someone always ran in and messed with it, clouding the clear message.

To see the effectiveness of unhampered power and profits for themselves. Had NA been left alone, by now most families would have someone successfully working the NA program and planting the seed in other family members who were practicing addicts. The drug problem would largely be solved by now. The frustrating part is that we seem no further enlightened now that we are further down the road. Very, very few people understand what the deal is. They are emotional about it all. But to me, NA is a very logical process with plenty of



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room for HP to function within it spiritually.

But I was fortunate. Living in my car behind the Alano Club I went to three meetings a day. Then, having my own business I continued to go to three meetings a day. I friggig attended 7,000 meetings in the eighties when the message was very pure. I continued three meetings a day for probably the next ten years. I was chosen to learn how NA is supposed to work. It was a gift given to me by HP. Now I sit in meetings where the people with twenty years get up and leave the room when it come to my turn to share. They don't want to hear it.

All of this is because the disease is cunning, baffling and powerful. The baffling part means people have no idea of what's going on here...and think they have it all figured out. So I am powerless of people with twenty years walking out of the room, conventions requiring newcomers to pay \$25 bucks to attend a marathon meeting and the Federal Government flooding our rooms with people who have no interest in stopping.

Galileo was accused of heresy.

They killed Jesus.

They shot Kennedy.

They shot MLK.

Society is not quick to accept radical ideas.

Ankle bracelets are the Federal just look at family units, extended families. So many time we see one brother getting clean in NA and then another brother gets clean. Or a child and then a parent. In fact, left alone, NA is so, so effective that soon someone rushes in to either force people to attend or to pluck the real Government using a bigger hammer. Suboxen is NAWS consingning the use of a bigger hammer. Antide-pressants are a bigger hammer. Now whenever it doesn't work they use a bigger hammer. But I was taught to surrender when it doesn't work. Perhaps in on the wrong path. I tried to rent a CPA office. I tried calling twice. No response. Perhaps that is not where I'm supposed to be. Perhaps HP has a better idea. - John F, Kansas City, MO

Discussion:

9:00 Open conference call.

Bo – Doesn't seem like Christmas to me...

Brian – Yeah, me too.

Bought a bookbinder machine at Goodwill, it works but only one book at a time. GBC.



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Bo – Got one at Office Depot. Feeling much better this week! Brian, you heard about ankle bracelets yet?

John – Can hear audio, sniff alcohol, and hear conversations. Defense Attorney filed complaint that it denied clients right to privacy. Can listen to an NA meeting. Lots of people sign court slips themselves. Ankle bracelets coming into use. More people killed by drugs than by auto accidents, sayeth President Obama recently. An electronics expert I used started installing sniffers in cars judge ordered and now does it full time. The sniffer won't let the car start if it smells alcohol. Wondering if ankle bracelets will come in overnight like the sniffers?

Bo – Ankle bracelets may come in quick. They have been around for a while.

Mitch and Lester both on call at 8:45.

Mitch – has a rabble rouser in Baltimore who worked on Basic Text.

Lester – Known the guy for decades. He also worked on H&I Handbook. Also know former WSC H&I Chair who also worked on NA Way of Life book.

Mitch – Big guy, crazy, cusses a lot, loud, strong, messenger overwhelms the message. Was he on World Lit?

Bo – We had an open door policy. We let any member participate. Two exceptions: had to be clean, could not break ashtrays.

Mitch – the guy has 31 years...

Bo – Feel down, no Christmas spirit.

Brian – Plenty up here in Virginia!

Lester – Clerks will say Merry Christmas, not people on the streets.

Mitch – out to four stores today, dry attitude, and poor atmosphere.

Bo – Population getting sick of serial wars to prop up economy. Lots of 24 hour rooms to help addicts get through holidays clean.

Brian – We used to have 24 hour rooms over Christmas and New Year's.

Mitch – 24 hour rooms in Baltimore over Christmas and New Year's.

Brian – We have a 52 hour teleconference meeting for holidays.

Bo – Still compiling minutes with Lester's help. Will use coreissues to help compile. Should have all 2013, 2014 and 2015. Lester put up free download on core issues NA FB page. We cultivate happiness, starting with little seeds, growing into huge trees of joy. Gotta work the Steps and follow the Traditions.



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By: Lester O.



Brian – Just bound an old H&I Handbook. It works good.

Mitch – Merry Xmas and Happy New Year everybody! What about H&I Handbook, has one blue cover in his archive. Went to meeting over weekend – chaired it. IFT on Sunday with sixty members there. One guy was texting, several others also. It is like using your cell phone to avoid hearing group discussion! “Isn’t texting disruptive during a recovery meeting? We have a 5th Tradition. Do cell phones carry a message during a meeting?” Looking at my life, inventory, tried to restore atmosphere of recovery. Went in fired up about recovery.

Brian – I leave my phone in my car. “What are we telling the newcomer?” In just one instant you can miss a lifesaving message.

Lester – Sunday meeting is going well. Friday is lit review, Monday is 30 with a half dozen having great recovery. Tuesday – Oldest meeting in Melbourne, 30 with a fair share of new comers. Thursday good meeting. Saturday – older meeting usually 50-60 attendance, 25 to 30 with over 20 years.

John – It’s about the same here in Kansas City, doesn’t go much anymore. Make two meetings on Sunday. Getting tired of being ostracized. If I go to more than four or five, I go nuts.

Bo – the malaise is heading East.

Brian – One man said he did not like Suboxone. A Judge also said he doesn’t like substitution of one drug for another.

Bo – One lady visited a nut house over the weekend and found they did not offer Suboxone therapy. Had tried it and the clients rejected it.

Brian – Had a group gang up on him, one was on methadone.

Bo – That’s like John in KC!

Brian – Went to NA meeting in Tennessee 110 miles each way. They mentioned NA and God in one sentence!

Lester – Young girl on methadone for two or three months. Docs told her she was clean... Talked about parent’s expectations, she drank a beer and her sponsor advised to get a white chip. Parents said NA doesn’t work or she would never have drank the beer! TC is trying to get her into Detox. Parents kicked her out of house, has to sleep on porch.

Bo – John told me about bureaucrats playing doctor.

John – Judges recommends DC. North Carolina report on effect of NA and TC’s. Some involved with DC think AA impractical and that alcoholics could be trained to drink normally.



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Bo – So what DC thinks overrides what 12 Steps say about recovery.

Mitch – Sixty Minutes (TV show) had Italian Drug Czar Interview about recovery. He is in AA. Doesn't believe in disease concept. Still a good interview.

Lester – 12 – 20 years ago in Oregon they had "Treatment on Demand." for street addicts. Doesn't agree sending addicts to prison. Doing long time for pot, etc.

Mitch – Decriminalizing would save dollars and help addicts. High murder rate in Chicago and Baltimore. Lots of shooting.

Bo – Decriminalize.

Mitch – In Europe they have places where you can smoke dope and shoot heroin legally, ever with support teams on hand if you OD!

Lester – Drugs should be legal – harm reduction.

Brian – hard to give answer on this question. Poor people have been lied to by people in power. Need to tell truth all the time! Truth not in society's box.

John – My sponsor had 40 years when he died. Hit bottom in prison. When he got out, slept on the California beach above San Francisco. Got into NA. I went to University of Missouri where plenty of heavy drinkers. Moved to Cal in 1967 and began to smoke pot. Prisons could be like farms, low cost, productive.

Lester – Alcohol is a drug. DUI cases where someone dies gets only seven years.

Bo – They are playing with human lives. Don't have final answers about addiction. Probably only cure will be nanites that prevent high!

John – The cure is a good message of recovery.

Lester – Knows a man now 26 years clean, originally on Methadone for around 16 years, he could work but not leave town. Had to stay in town to get daily prescription. He could not kick the Methadone so he used a bag of Heroin to kick the methadone and then got a bag of Marijuana and disappeared into the mountains so that he could kick the heroin and then started going to NA meetings and got clean. He died at 26 years clean.

Bo – God is preparing us for something, service in the future maybe.

10:00 John closed meeting with Serenity Prayer, "God grant me"

Next meeting on December 29, 2015

Other good closing prayers....



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

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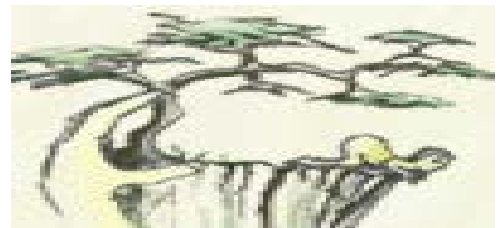
Meeting Chatter



13step dating Game



Meetings Life Story



Leap of Faith





Core Issues

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Core Group Minutes

December 29, 2015

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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 – John B 318

Bo on Minutes

Recording 44479748-671428778.mp3

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

From Emails:

"Fear makes us weak. Information makes us stronger."

[Bill Fritz](#)

3:17pm Dec 27

Why don't our Areas provide this?

<http://www.oppareanc.com/na-literature/>

[Our Primary Purpose Area of Narcotics Anonymous - NA in Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough, and...](#)

www.oppareanc.com

Narcotics Anonymous meetings, fellowship, and service functions in Orange and

Discussion:

8:30 Open conference call.

Bo – Let's list important items to review for last five years.

1. USSC - Vito asked for plan of action.
2. FA 1 – Wichita – 260 members showed up.
3. Wichita Informational Booklet around 40 pages to inform attendance.
4. Wichita FA 1 – Minutes – took 90 days to get minutes out. We still do not know reason for delay.



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5. Disconnect - gap between world services and Membership.
6. Kansas City – Service Center planned but fell through.
7. Jacksonville, Florida – Global NA planned but fell through.
8. Grey Book with Stories – well received by membership and first 100 copies distributed.
9. Just for Tonight – 400 quotations earmarked, many with essays. Calendar year developed and quotes assigned. Planning face to face to develop essays, daily prayer and thought for each day.

Bo – Each will be discussed and as much information noted in coming core group meetings.

John B – Have not read all the old stuff yet. Haven't read minutes. Kids are coming over for holidays.

John F – Addicts susceptible to disorientation by power. Confusion about how to form and organize as opposed to carrying the message. This has gone through cycle after cycle without resolution to general satisfaction. Resulting disunity not really dealt with, each of several sides insisting they are right. Traditions are always seen as inconvenient and pushed to the side by those who just want their way. Traditions slow things down so people try to barrel through.

Takes time to get everybody on board. Need to go to each person one by one. The fatal flaw seems to be getting big. Never time to do it right, always time to do it over. Warm bodies brought members together in ASIS. Standards are lowered to get participants.

Bo – Warm bodies, flaws in planning or performance, pitfalls due to lack of information, lack of agreement on basic principles. Attitude of 'wait and see' concerns about looking bad or sticking neck out on projects by some.

John F – Too big, too fast, "Get it done! And deal with details later"

Bo - Like bowling pins, don't even have to get hit by the ball, they hit each other!

John F – What happened with "In Times of Illness" – didn't ask for Fellowship input so left out membership "how to" information. Written for TC's and doctors.

Bo – Don't get ground up by the meat grinder our service structure has become with major efforts to direct and control from management system. Principle of direct responsibility is disregarded. Advise secretaries and treasurers to just serve groups and members.



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John B – No primary purpose. Don't want recovering addicts, just suffering addicts. Warm bodies, control, customers, afraid of oldtimers.

Bo – Should we have event just for recovering addicts seeking recovery? Members who have knowledge of our Program and concerns about our members and carrying the message. I believe we grow every time we help someone. Share spiritual principles and recovery information.

John B – Never know what will happen.

Bo – I believe in a stable structure with as few changes made only after prolonged consideration. A Fellowship which grew 300% and wrote their Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous, in a single year (1981) stopped growing in 2007 (NA growth flattened mentioned in the 2007 CAR). Obviously some that was working was re-routed by big shot-ism into something that lacked attraction and simplicity. Any working system can be altered into something that no longer works properly.

Being clean, grateful, and happy and looking for ways to help others – what more can we do? In early 1980's we wrote a Handbook for NA Literature Committees and followed it directly to the Basic Text, first as Review Form in wide distribution. Then held major Conferences with input based on same Review Form which resulted in the Approval Form. The original problem occurred when a few member took it on themselves to make changes in the Traditions without proper procedures. Rush to get the book out resulted in WSC, WSB and WSO going off halfcocked. Membership needs to review the facts.

10:00 John F closed meeting with Third Step Prayer, "God grant me"

Next meetings on January 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2016

Other good closing prayers....

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

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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.

Dear Fellow Members,

If there were a Membership Pledge of Allegiance, could you say this? "I pledge allegiance to the Society of Narcotics Anonymous, and to the Program for which it stands. I believe in total abstinence and surrender as the most powerful weapons against the disease of addiction. I will be loyal to the best of my ability pass on the Program I received when I first came to recovery. What has worked for others worked for me."

If you are not loyal and principled, you leave it to others to see to the growth and continuance of Narcotics Anonymous. Avoiding your personal responsibility and abandoning the Program that never abandoned you may create an injury to your Spirit.



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It is our hope that our discussions result in informing enough members to trigger positive change in NA. Of course, we realize many feel impotent and powerless but nothing could be further from the truth. First one or two speak up, then members realize what's happening like a light bulb lighting a previously dark stage and then it gets real easy. But first, you gotta wake up. If something really bad was going on, somebody would have said something, "Something."

In Loving Service,

Bo S.



Step Eleven