



Core Issues

Feb., 2016 Vol. 4 Issue 2
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 Month of January



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Core Group Minutes

January 5, 2016

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 – Lester 321 – Mitch 410

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."

Important items from last five years.

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2. FA 1 – Wichita – 260 members showed up.
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Discussion:

8:30 Open:

John F – I boycotted the Kansas City Convention this year. Don't feel it did much good to take the time and trouble.

Bo – Get tapes and audit the convention.

John – Planning to go to Chicago for a car show: Car Museum.

Bo – Did you all read the 2016 Essay?

Lester – I got the core Issues newsletter out.

Bo – Shipped ten Grey Book with Stories, ordered 100 more GBS. Have a good inventory on hand except for sold out GBS. The great thing is these books will be around to help members know their history and learn what happened in these years.

Lester – Unfortunately, local meetings don't even worry about NAWS or WSO. They can do some strange things and imagine the Fellowship supports them.

Bo – Don't want to read bad news. Members used to read, discuss and vote on issues prior to the annual WSC. Now, I don't think they care. This is the result of the 'disconnect' we discovered in 2011.

Lester – Most have bad feelings about service – our H&I committee here goes to one facility seven days a week. Can't get support for jail meeting. To get cleared to attend, members had to fill out more forms and paperwork than seems reasonable. One member said that it was easier to get a clearance at NASA than at the County Jail.

Bo – Why?

Lester – They don't want NA in the jail – Old Boy network OK with AA and church. Long time ago someone tried to smuggle in a couple of joints.

Bo – How do you all feel about last five years of core group?

Lester – We made some progress. People still want the newsletter and other core group material.



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John – Made lot of progress. Still going and it’s helped me stay clean and dedicated. Came in 1983, got clean on the White Booklet, then the 2nd Edition. Learned a lot. May have done more good than we know. Education always helps.

Bo – the 1970’s were a long period of preparation to get ready for big changes. Feel like that may be what is going on now.

Lester – 61,000 meetings now.

Bo – Are they really “NA” though? John says the KC convention went good.

Lester – – a lot of members kept coming back and get more clean time as they become intrigued or interested. There are lots of 35 and 40 years members now. 20 years ago, it was very different. Many got a good enough foundation to sustain them until now. I know people who got clean in the 90’s and are still clean now.

Bo – I think there is a principle in nature that things rise and fall, go up and down. The Treatment Center where DRT has been dropped is a positive sign. John said KC had a workshop on the merits of Suboxone.

John – They like it here!

Bo – With BT in 1990 and 91 we didn’t want to be subject to or follow treatment fads fostered by Big Pharma merchandizing drugs.

Mitch – I read the 2016 essay, hope people read it.

Bo – Tim H. working on a Handbook for Today’s NA. What is NA History, Grey Book groups in progress? Will send out another draft of the 2016 Essay.

Mitch – Grey Book group in Hollywood, Florida. Vitoville. They hand out Baby Blues.

Lester – Several groups are Baby Blue friendly in Florida.

Mitch – Took some into jail – doesn’t have stories.

Bo – Does anyone know where next ECCNA will be?

Mitch – Robert Morris near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. I’m on the Board of Directors. Disappointed about the price difference between Baby Blue and the Basic Text. Could give out a hundred times more books!



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Bo – Failure is our friend – it tells us when we are going at something wrong. That’s what’s wrong with using drugs, they lie to us. We can’t tell when we are f___ed up!

John – 2016 will be an interesting year.

Mitch – Got diagnosed with severe sleep apnea!

Bo – Keep me posted on ECCNA. 3rd weekend in July. My anniversary is on the 10th. Get us a room, please.

Lester – I have a \$2,000 CPAP machine for my apnea.

Bo – Do you have sleep apnea John?

John – No.

Lester – Had a friend die in sleep from chronic apnea a few weeks back. Wouldn’t wear the mask. Made him feel claustrophobic.

Mitch – 75 % O2 level.

Lester – After 6 months I had 85 % O2. When I asked what it was before she said it wasn't and that I would stop breathing quite often throughout the night.

Bo – Handbook could help. Updated on differences between open and closed meetings for instance has become quite clouded for many members.

Lester – Main reason given is lots of newcomers. Implication that newcomers couldn’t attend closed meetings.

Bo – Start a closed meeting.

Mitch – Feeling like John – feel like I am not a part of. Nobody gives me a hug. I hug others though.

Bo – John F and I predicate the malaise is moving East in the USA.

Lester – Something we need to hear: “The truth will set you free!”

10:00 Mitch led closing prayer: “Please help us with kindness and help us help others.”

Next meetings on January 19 and 26, 2016



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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.”

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

Recording 44479748 - 671428778.mp3

Transformation:

Back to the future



Empathy and Social Change within NA

I found the above Picture titled “Empathy and Social Change” in an Article about “Cultural Transformation.” I felt that it would be Suitable for what is going on Within the NA fellowship today. I added the Back to the future to representing using both parts of the old and the new in building our future.



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Discussion:

8:30 Open:

John B – Serenity Prayer.

Bo – worked on uploading core group archives and found myself in a process that would result in a 228 book that would cost under \$4. Will keep on working towards goal of having our stuff on Kindle free download.

Bo – discussed or delivered info on subjective versus objective. Look up in google and wiki.

Lester – I heard someone say that one of their sponsors turned out to be a DEA agent who had joined NA undercover to get info about addicts. When I first got clean, I thought NA would be a great place to get lost in or go underground.

Bo – I attended a big convention in Chicago where there was an old section and a new section. Elevators in old section got stuck between floors and would take up to an hour to get going again. An elevator got stuck with fifteen or so members and for an hour a cop doing surveillance listened to girls taking about Step work with their sponsors and guys had similar talks. Finally, the policeman broke down and apologized for being there and swore to go right back to the precinct and tell his Captain that NA is for real. The guy actually had on black leather shoes, you know, cop regalia.

John B – In my whole area there are two meetings and three members.

Bo – Share honestly and the truth will help you build the Fellowship.

Lester – I often hear people share that they don't want to hear about how good things are. Instead they want to hear about how people are using the program to get through the things that they are going through. I rarely feel like shit or have problems in my life today. Sometimes I don't want to share how good I feel because it might piss off others who are going through stuff. Most of the time I am perfectly content. Nothing bad to share.

Bo – May diminish what others have to share.



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Lester – Going to meeting is highlight of my day. I don't have to go to work now that I am re-tired. Just don't have bad days anymore. Feel like I might need to go create some problems juts so I would have something to share about.

Bo – I don't have negative interactions with others. Just amazed at how confused some of our members have become.

10:00 – John B gave us closing prayer. “Many of us have said, ... “

Next meetings on January 19 and 26, 2016

Other good closing prayers....

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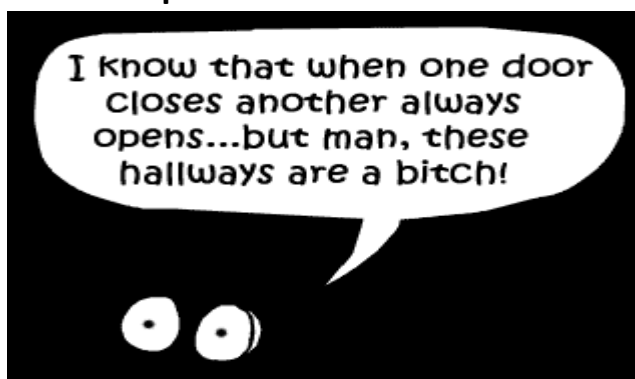
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[Alan Davis](#) One such game commonly used to engineer "consent" by certain leaders is known as the Delphi Technique and/or the Alinsky Method. If you've been broken into groups of 8 or so at any service forum, you have likely been manipulated by this. This video explains how it works from the manipulators side, and how to effectively combat it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpDrbYkgRng>

A core group member took on an experiment two and a half years ago and dedicated himself to getting God and group conscience back in a group. The meeting was attractive and grew to a hundred members. It eventually attracted attention at the regional level and eight or so regional committee people came in and started making changes in group. These changes were not attractive and attendance waned until the lost attendance. I asked him to write up a report for you to review and he will send it in for the minutes. – Bo

Discussion:

8:30 Open:

Bo – Getting tired of the pretense that if we only catch WS in some wrong doing and then put a stop to it! Going with my recovery. Enjoying long phone calls with NA members calling me. Guy called from Ohio and wants to work on NAWOL. Said there were still typos and he would send me list for correction. I thanked him and told him he made my day! It occurs to me that many members may be doing this.

Mitch – I don't bother with what WS is doing like I did. The Sponsorship book crashed. Workshops but no input appeared in final.

Lester – History tapes from Nashville NA History interesting. Sally, Mel H, others.

Mitch – I listened to some of those tapes. Interesting.

Mitch – Swapped some stuff with Mike R for Hardbound 6th Edition, purple with leather cover. WS has no Literature Committee, not valid processing for group conscience material. Good English and grammar seem to be more important than content directly from members. Idea is to keep coming out with new products to sell, especially to Treatment Centers.

Lester – Lots of people buy archival items and never take off the cellophane. Buy for eventual resale on eBay.



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Bo – Talk with new people and they are bright, informed and inspiring.

Mitch – Great 12 Step call he has going.

Lester – Has no new sponsees, youngest has 14 years clean.

Bo – Think about wasting 100 or 200 hours on going through NAWS publications following WSC...

Bo – Ideas under discussion:

- Linking quotes in Just for Tonight
- Planning face to face get together to work on Just for Tonight this summer.
- Working on uploading to Kindle and print core group archives – 228 pages
- Just ordered more Grey Book with Stories.

Think about metering our information on topical NA subjects to three hundred thousand NA's in different stages of recovery. Beginning with the effort for the USSC, we got lots of people thinking and asking good questions.

Brian – Policy overdone with the members working on USSC currently. We were writing to inform Fellowship on what they could do. Once areas and regions began to realize what they could do, some minds opened. Not us to us to create the new structure. Many didn't like the name 'core group.' Policy issues began to get so complex it would be hard to do service under their rules. The USSC group started to make their own rules without basis in group conscience.

Bo – Not letting WSO lead us by the nose.

Lester – Think of core group as a think tank where we review current situations and inform NA by publishing our findings.

Bo – Open-handed assessment, not doing hatchet jobs of constant criticism.

Mitch – Do today's members even care?

Bo – From the NA Tree onward, one constant is that 2 to 3 percent of membership does all the work. Working on positive projects keeps me immune to upsets.

Mitch – What about the book they put out, "Living Clean." Was it workshopped?



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Lester – Online document offered for viewing and input, but finalized by NAWS.

Brian – There are three drafts floating around, not a word of input in final. God mentioned six or seven times throughout book. We went through it Monday night. The Bob Rehmar family put it together.

Brian – April WSC '16. Bet the books will already be printed and ready for distribution.

Mitch – Why do they do a book on the 12 Traditions, they keep violating them right and left.

Lester – It is a snow job.

Brian – The introduction talks about the Traditions are suggested.

Bo – How about the line about our Traditions are not negotiable?

John – Depression. I hate to feel like this. The Traditions affect everything about NA.

Lester – Before I got clean thought God had a purpose for me. Missed getting my instruction manual. I figured God would let me know what my purpose in life was. So, I kept doing what I was doing and I kept getting what I was getting. When I got clean and I was told to change everything about me. So, I began telling myself that “God has a purpose for me and I am doing it.” That, Changed my entire attitude and outlook on life.

John – Member in KC told me, “You’re not doing anything for NA. Told me if I do not sign court clips I will get high!”

Bo – The value of the think tank is we can think outside the box and communicate to other members.

John – Had good experience. Mechanic told me he was closing shop because the work was not any fun anymore, no more challenges. Thought some of you might go through something like this. One thought I had was we have some good people in NA, do any of them realize what drug court is doing to NA? Are we so desperate we need drug court?

Bo – When non-voluntary attendance out numbers voluntary attendance it changes the nature of NA. Violations drive atmosphere of recovery down and negates the power of the meetings.

John – the rank and file has no opportunity to feedback to the drug court system.



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Bo – Member went to a Judge and went over a Basic Text with him and left it with him. The Judge stopped sending people to NA because he understood our voluntary effort for the first time.

John – I keep thinking, maybe I am just wrong about all this.

Lester – I remember when I had a lot of ‘What ifs...’ and I discovered I could “What if...” I right out of NA!

NA will always exist in my mind, two addicts talking about recovery constitute a meeting. There are other members who think similar thoughts about NA and that is the hope for the future.

NA will never die as long as addicts exist.

Bo – David Damrow in Appleton, WI said he invited some of the old timers who had stopped coming to NA to come to his home group. A group of five or six showed up, shared at the meeting and invited him to come to their meeting in a nearby town. That’s another sign of hope.

10:00 – Lester closed for us with the 3rd Step Prayer....

Next meeting on January 26, 2016

Other good closing prayers....

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John Ruben

2:01pm Jan 26

I remember reading first about the CON-cepts through Newsline articles and through certain WSC leadership reports that had opinions peppered throughout about how beneficial adoption of the CON-cepts would. The reports contained lots of references to how it would help newcomers because all our in-fighting at WSC distracted us from the newcomer and that "the doors of NA were covered in blood" and the rallying cry of "trust your trusted servants" blah, blah, blah. These reports were direct attempts to manipulate the Fellowship into supporting them. Greg P. had drafted an alternative to the CON-cepts, called the 12 Precepts of NA Service (pretty sure they were the Precepts, could have been Principles, but I think the original was Precepts). Those were largely ignored, but workshops were held all over the Fellowship to present and discuss the CON-cepts. I went to several that were in the Midwest at the time. The purpose of these "workshops" became immediately clear that it wasn't to workshop them at all, it was to tell us what they were and how it is, and they were not really open to feedback. But at the ones I went to there was a ton of feedback, whether the workshop presenters



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wanted to hear it or not, and almost all of it negative. It was clear to me that if the CON-cepts were approved it would allow WSC/WSO to do whatever they wanted regardless of fellowship input. I carried a No vote from my region to WSC 92, confident the CON-cepts would go down in flames. Then I met the "representatives" of the international fellowship that had been paid to be at WSC 92. They voted exactly how the bulk of WSC Admin and Chairs voted, and I was stunned when the CON-cepts passed overwhelmingly. Some RSRs had also changed their Region's vote based on "new information" during the discussion that happened before the vote. I know they tried to do the vote as a voice vote, but I believe a roll call vote was forced and passed, I'll have to check the minutes to be sure. It fucked me up, my heart and passion for service in NA has never been the same since then.

Discussion:

8:30 Open:

Bo – Don't get distracted – It's unrealistic to expect a casino to set odds against their favor. Recovery is exception to the rule. We have allow that opposition depends on our disease to make a living. Same as specialist go out of business if cancer goes away. Underlying fact. Need money to study to alleviate cancer but a real cure puts them out of business. Just so, WSO depends on making a case that we need them to survive. Classic double bind~! Preposterous to imagine WSO changing to be Fellowship supportive. They'll keep throwing the switch for personal benefit.

One called me and we talked about launching a project to request writings on gratitude to the NA members who helped them in the beginning of their recovery, sponsors, or just inspired them. Found another member who had been sabotaging me and projects in progress for years. All I can do is avoid them won't lower myself to defame. Controlling information is perverse. Truth is better in many ways. Surrender – creates benefits for others. God takes care of me. Staying positive is best route. WSO – argues that the Concepts replace the Traditions for World Services. So, it is important the Fellowship knows they do not have to use Concepts language or regard them as superior to Traditions. NA is Steps and Traditions.

John – Reading over the RICO Act, reviewing tax returns. Written to control the MOB. Makes it easier to prosecute criminals. More than once instance of crime makes it easier to detect. There are some problems with 990's regarding compliance to inform Fellowship of contributors where page to list has been deliberately blocked out by photo copy line 83-A. Conspiracy



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– involves more than one year in row. One member tried to get old 990's but IRS keeps only seven years. Articles of Incorporation include statement that they abide by the 12 Traditions.

Lester – Wondering, what if listing our contributing members of NA listing could violate someone's anonymity?

John – Seems like huge deal to blank out – Payroll figures and salaries with perks is more important to preparers. Look at 1999 to 2000

Lester – 1st year of NAWS Board/

John – this is what a real novice would go to cover up a potential issue. Very irregular in tax return business.

Mitch – Isn't it subject to statute of limitations?

John – no statute on tax evasion. Maybe got better accountant now ... Who does returns for Office now? Moved from North Hollywood to San Francisco. Most org's don't change in 20 years.

Mitch – What are the terms of World Board members?

Bo – They switch positions from Board to Staff and back again far as I know.

Lester – Bankruptcy laws have changed radically.

John – Really tightened them up.

Lester – There is a Grey Book meeting here 20 to 30 in attendance. Starting a new Grey Book group in Melbourne. Longwood event coming in March. Maybe more attendance.

Bo – We are too concerned about copyrights. Makes recovery writings convert to money value issues.

Lester – Thinks ASIS will wind up holding copyrights on material written at Longwood.

Bo – Our core group attitude is to support whatever is best for NA.



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Mitch – Spending time with member in the UK talking about Grey Book Step Working Guides. Material looks good. Divine intervention is a wonderful thing.

Bo – Let us know.

Mitch – can't get past 1.9 hours on my CPAP machine. Has apnea episodes five an hour.

Lester – I do mine at least 5 hours a night.

Mitch – talked to a girl about the work we do on core group. Interested.

Lester – Quote on Face Book – If people can't control you, they will try to control what others think of you.

Bo – Investigation done by more than one person can lead to global improvements for NA. Why is the WSO filing of tax returns always two years late?

John – I boycotted the Kansas City NA Convention because they charged for meetings. Went to AA young people's convention – they charged \$25 but had lots of 10 to 12 year people, good spirit. Speakers from Chicago who slept in car to save Convention dollars. Said several times from podium – We're not going to let this thing become a corporation. Several members friendly to me. Breath of fresh air after hostility in KC meetings.

10:00 John closed for us with prayer "God grant me...."

Next meeting on February 2, 9, 16 and 23rd, 2016

February 29th makes this a leap year!

Other good closing prayers....

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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.”

Recording 44479748 - 671428778.mp3

Fan Page – “coreIssues” on Face Book

*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.



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Addendum A

Repost From December 2013:

NA From 1977 to Now

Personal post and response:

NA from 1977 to now.

“I went to California for San Francisco WCNA in 1977 to find out who was working on Our Book. Told by Greg Pierce Chairman of the World Service Board that any member welcome to help. Two years later I was elected to Chair the World Service Conference Literature Committee.

“The period of writing started in 1979 at Wichita with the first World Literature Conference (WLC 1). Resulted in the “Handbook for NA Literature Committees.” Twenty-five members showed up from many different states. This ‘venue’ for members to get together in group settings allowed members to discuss NA business in open participatory fashion for the first time. Members went home with a feeling of being a part of world services.

“The 2nd WLC was held right after the World Convention 10 in Wichita two hundred miles north in Lincoln, Nebraska. Host committee gave blood to get money for postage to mail our flyers. None of the World Lit Conferences was funded by the WSC or the WSO because they had so little money. Now, our willingness to pay everything out of our own pocket is probably the origin of tension between the volunteer literature workers and the WSO workers. We worked as service and it seemed normal to pay for travel, meals and office supplies and mailing whatever was needed to help the dream of a Basic Text come true for the NA Fellowship. We treated it like an emergency where people were literally dying. Two World Service Board of Trustee members came to help at Lincoln. Trustees were guardians of the 12 Traditions in those days and they had suspended their sub-committee system to work with and assist the WSC sub-committees.

“The ninety day period for review of materials to be approved at the WSC in the spring, late April or early May, begins in late January or early February. The idea of waiting to hold another



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Conference before the WSC in 1981 seems foolish because we would be continuing what was begun at Lincoln, so we decided as a group to hold a winter conference in Memphis, Tennessee.

“The WLC 3 in Memphis went well and after a week of writing, review and discussion we realized we would have a review form ready to mail out to the Fellowship. We contacted the fourteen, or so, local Literature Committees and let them know we needed money to print and distribute the review form. Three weeks later we had brought in \$17,000. Growth of a WSC subcommittee was now larger than WSC and WSO and we did not realize how this growth would make the WSC members in various positions feel about what was happening.

“In Hollywood scripts, the actors take turns speaking and enjoying the attention of the audience. For an actor downstage to make noise or speak out of turn is called ‘upstaging’ and is frowned upon because it takes away from the proper speaker and sort of spoils the camera shot or stage scene. Two thirds of the population in Los Angeles works in the movie business, one way or the other. They are all sensitive to upstaging. And WSO was in Los Angeles.

“1981 was the year a different sort of NA was born. When members received their very own group and personal review forms, they could carry the message as never before. The WLC had funds and could do more in the way of printing and mailing. We never took anything for ourselves: travel, food, accommodations. The members involved continued to pay their way. While there were some improprieties later on, it involved only one member and was not approved by the WLC. We located every meeting on the face of the planet and sent them a review form at no cost so the groups could read, study, discuss and input to the writing. There was a special input form to go with the WLC Orientation Sheet. The Memphis Grey Form was line-numbered to facilitate specific input directly to improve, delete or add to topics and items.

“The three conferences later in 1981 were held in Santa Monica, California, Niles, Ohio, and Miami, Florida. We grew from 600 meetings in March when the Grey Forms went out to over 1800 in October or November when the White Approval Forms were mailed out, again from Memphis. Can you see how this looked to California? The esteemed old timers had missed the boat, by and large. Jimmy K and the WSO staff were increasingly occupied with the rapidly



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growing demands for literature and they did not attend the Lit Conferences. And we plunged right ahead. Do not dream that we did not ask for and welcome such help as we got. But the 'us and them' was set in motion by the success of our service.

"The prayer we used was "God, free me of my self-will and ego and give me the strength and guidance to do your footwork." This prayer, and I hope you believe prayer changes things, made NA members able to write. Before this, we had all been told, "Addicts in recovery can't write." Not only could those who made this prayer write, they could also start meetings, thousands of meetings.

"So we had a growing business Office on one hand and a growing Fellowship on the other. Over time, the paid staff and leadership at WSO became so intent on running a business and functioning as a corporation that their focus began to replace their personal experience with the general membership and recovery process as embodied in the NA 12 Steps. The 12 Traditions became a narrow band that seemed confining and inadequate to serve the needs of the corporation. While surely some WSO and World Board members recalled the 'NA member's viewpoint' repeated discussions from the confines of corporate functions and discussions took on a life of their own. These good members knew better yet had to go along with the corp to keep their jobs. The gap began to harden and widen as hard instances like the law suit against Grateful Dave, the World Service Inventory, the dissolution of the WSC as a representative body, changes in the service structure to allow for a World Board to replace the WSO Board of Directors and the World Service Board of Trustees and increased bureaucracy all around. Words like 'miracle,' 'drug-free,' and 'chemicals' fell into disuse.

"Members still worked their Steps, honored and followed the 12 Traditions without reading, understanding or agreeing with the publications put out by WSO to change and push the members into going along with them instead of following group conscience. To produce the Basic Text and spread our message world-wide we created in the late 1970's and early 1980's an integrated service system that gave every concerned member a chance to express their concerns and make suggestions through their group, their area, their region and their World Service Conference. This integrated service structure has been dis-integrated through the changes made and encouraged by the NAWS, Incorporation. An informed Fellowship is an ef-



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fective Fellowship. Surely there were some great acts of loyalty and honor in world services, but since we have been taken out of the loop, we'll never know.

“When world services throws out the numbers of gross income as \$12,000,000 from the treatment industry against only \$3,000,000 from the Fellowship, it seems to suggest that we are taken more seriously by the TC’s and the Fellowship is not really getting out the message of recovery. Might this same presentation of numbers indicate that by disregarding and leaving out natural leaders results in corporate policies undercutting the Fellowship? Celebrating NA recovery and spiritual principles that work for us when nothing else does, might reverse those figures and result in more recovery for the world’s population of sick and suffering addicts. Where is our focus going? We, Narcotics Anonymous, are not a corporation and do not depend on money to carry our message.

“While it may be easy for members to understand the various viewpoints in this essay, it is hard for me to believe the general Fellowship understands the implications of allowing the policies and focus of a mere corporation to take over the spiritual Fellowship of NA. Many times in writing comprehensive essays like this one, conclusions are based on information not commonly available. We are working to make the information available but have an uphill struggle to do so. We attempt to avoid being presumptuous or make unfounded statements. Please ask questions. Read on...

“Those who sought help in the days before we had a body of written recovery materials accurately concluded that the absence of writing on NA recovery meant not enough coherent and positive individuals existed to be capable of creating evidence that the recovery process actually worked. The absence was very telling. This is not to ignore or wave off those who worked hard to carry our message by attending and carrying an NA message as best they could. The saying up until the later 1970’s was, “Addicts in recovery cannot write.” Of course addicts could write in reality, the truth was they had not yet written. Once valuable material existed, those who see only the value and not the merit move in to take over. And then they want to write it to claim it for themselves.”



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The basic idea here is that NA had one culture that pushed to stay clean and help others. Another culture grew up preoccupied with who did it and how well they stayed within certain boundaries of thought and opinion. This bred competition and some very un-spiritual side effects. In a way, it created a division where the Office went one way and the Fellowship went another. Consideration, discussion and further research into what may help reconcile and re-join our frayed feelings is what we attempt to do in the core group.

Addendum B

My Personal Opinion:

Ed

Just over two years has passed since the article above was written, In NAWS speak, (A Full WSC Cycle). A WSC is quickly approaching. A lot has happened in two. NAWS is pushing forward with their plan to publish more Literature and their plans to disenfranchise and label as Darksiders those who choose to give away free literature. The printing of illicit literature is growing leaps and bounds and becoming a world-wide phenomenon. More and more Gray Book and Baby Blue or 2nd ed. meetings are popping up. Over all it looks to this writer as though NA is beginning to experience a renaissance of sorts highlighted by a return tour past Literature and our strong belief in ad hearing to our traditions. Change is in the air.

