



Core Issues

Aug., 2016 Vol. 4 Issue 8
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.**

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Summary of Core Group Discussions for the Month of July, 2016



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July Group Discussions

July 5, 2016

Bo S 404 – John 707 – Lester 321 – Janice 321

Recording – 44479748 – 671992236.mp3

1. Nasalden is a project that comes out of our discussions, core group only reports and encourages members to do what they can to help. Yeah, complete, creative freedom!
 2. Clubhouses and meetings closing.
 3. We can create freedom by sharing, make more videos, complete Just for Tonight, start a WSO watch for those obsessed with what our 'Primary Service Center' is doing in our name. Thought revolution going on in NA right now. We need ideas for conducting NA Group conscience Meetings like "What does the Group Service Representative do?"
 4. The remainder of the Conference call many things were discussed such as Amy's letter, the growing number of complaints, Fellowship friendly Service Structure.
 5. John has researched when WSO opened an Office on the East Coast in Virginia, (equidistant among three of the largest Drug Court Offices.) They had equipment to print books cheaper. Believes deal struck between Drug Court and WSO. Then the East Coast Office was closed

10:00 Janice lead closing prayer "Third Step Prayer..."

Next meeting is on July 12, 2016

July 12, 2016

Bo S 404 – John 707 – Lester 321

Recording – 44479748 – 672011231.mp3

1. Bo – Mentioned Amy's Letter of Complaints (see Addendum for her letter)
2. We read and discussed the WB's Draft Letter to the Delegates concerning the FIPT and Illicit Literature. Believe that letter will in a negative response from the fellowship.
3. I talked about listening to the Newcomers when I go to meetings and how I get that feeling of Hope that I once had when I was a newcomer. I see involvement in H@I and I see Newcomers wanting to learn about NA. I think that the key ingredient is listening.



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4. I still see people who are not involved in the USSC or were never involved, talking about the USSC or concepts that came from it. So, we did make an impact and helped foster the worldwide spread of information and getting addicts to think about new possibilities. Don't talk about doing something, do it. We gave some examples of how we have seen meetings grow all because someone did something to start the action.
5. We talked about H&I and possibly getting court slippers to attend H&I meetings.
6. Bo mentioned about Nasalden advocating overseas members printing from our free digital downloads and how it could help in translations.
 - 10:00 John led us in closing prayer, "3rd Step Prayer..."

Next meeting is on July 19, 2016

July 19, 2016

Bo S 404 – Brian YE 540 – Lester 321

Recording – 44479748 – 672030030.mp3

Topics for Discussion: (1.) Just for Tonight, (2.) CoreIssues, (3.) Drug Court, (4.) Criminal Justice System, (5.) Homeland Security, (6.) Nasalden; (7.) Global Translation Project.

1. <http://www.eastcentralflorida.org/public-information/public-service-videos/>
We discussed P.I. and PSA's, their importance and the roles they play in the building of NA. Bo mentioned the writing of preface to Swahili Translation along with possible booklets and Free
2. Downloads on Nasalden.
3. We discussed information package on Drug Court and how to convince Drug courts and PO to introduce a system of Introductory Classes where clients could learn NA meeting etiquette, difference between open and closed meetings etc.
.Discussed Newsletter and possible changes in format. We also discussed finalizing the "Just for Tonight", Meditation Booklet Project. So that we could move on to other Projects
4. Brian mentioned doing a slight revision of Basic Text, clean up, and possibly restore some of what was taken out. Needs more discussion.

10:00 – Brian led the closing prayer: "Thanks for bringing us together..."

Next meeting is on July 26, 2016



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July 26, 2016

Bo S 404 – John 707 – Brian YE 540
Recording – 44479748 – 672048065.mp3

Meeting opened at 8:30 pm.

Bo found out about important changes in a Federal Bureaucracy that used to have respect for NA as a recovery program from addiction. Head's up about how we will maintain our 'atmosphere of recovery'. John F has patiently worked to show us the problem with these restructuring changes, bringing the issue into sharp focus. Because, then we would have to do something about it! Learning to learn is an important part of any program and it is extremely important. (This entry deliberately repeated)

Bo hope's we can discuss:

- Rules of Meetings – Meeting Etiquette
- Just for Tonight
- CoreIssues
- Drug Court under Public Information – Criminal Justice System – Homeland Security
- Nasalden – Upload available autobiographies
- Grey Book in Spanish
- Global NA and the Translation Project
- Ask people, "Do you want to be on core group?"
- Carrying our message to immigrant populations – Hispanic and Chinese
- The NA regions have taken NA funds and lavished your wealth on elaborate conventions for self-aggrandizement and to make money for a corporation.

Bo – Lots of good things coming together. Feels like the springtime of Global NA.

We talked about "*Just for Tonight*" and how it's coming along. Kermit is still doing excellent essays. The Atlanta Lit Committee did two hundred and fifty daily meditations input from a workshop at Lake Hartwell, Georgia and another workshop in NE Alabama. I think must of it was used.

Mitch is writing 4th Step on relationships and also picking up friend from San Diego for SFRSCNA in Miami. Bo suggested he take an inventory on "relationships" and replied that he needed more than that – personal interaction with all the people in my life."

Bo is looking to stay home more.



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Latest on NAWS is the sad letter to Area in Columbia –Cease and Desist or face the consequences.

Bo commented that the regions take your money and lavish it on elaborate conventions and send the profits to a corporation. This give prestige to regional officers and those who get a free ride to California the perceived center of property and money in NA. The members are the big deal, they are everything!

Bo suggest we do a “People’s Convention” and charge \$5.00 per member. John doesn’t do conventions because they charge for meetings. Bo suggested he find one that minimizes charges and doesn’t charge for meetings. Conventions are supposed to be carrying the message. Lester thinks that Young Addicts going to Area Convention seem to mostly go to party all weekend and Hang around the pool. I think that we need to find a hotel with no comedy show, no dance, no pool and less speakers and more workshops

Bo – How about meeting rules like we learned in early recovery “no cross talk, meetings on time – start and finish.

John agrees to work on that! Way to get clean is to deliver clear message of recovery, good meeting place, read literature, coffee, and schedule of meetings locally, good secretary, good format, readings, 60 to 90 minutes, peace and tranquility, not threatening. Like a business: keep bad employees, good employees leave the company. Not having good group secretary will shut down a meeting in six months.

From eMails:

“Fear makes us weak. Information makes us stronger.”

NOTE: Copy and paste website addresses in your browser window to view...

Bo S – Came up with a new meditation method. Sit alone and open your eyes as wide as possible. Use your fingers if necessary. Try to envision an NA world open to all addicts with vision and purpose for goodness to one another. Write down what comes to mind in your recovery journal. Dreams come true in recovery but we still have to water them...

It is up to us to look out for NA members! We need to pray for strength and guidance and all do what we can to help. Get back to ‘A Day at a Time.’

“The un-redacted court records show AmerisourceBergen distributed more than 140 million doses of controlled substances to West Virginia pharmacies between 2007 and 2012. About 90 million of those pills were prescription opioids, like Lortab, Vicodin and Oxycontin. The company shipped another 27.3 million tablets of Xanax, an anti-anxiety medication that addicts often take with painkillers...



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In Boone County, **AmerisourceBergen shipped 8,000 hydrocodone painkiller tablets to a drive-thru pharmacy over two days** in July 2012, according to the unsealed court records. **On those same two days, a competing drug wholesaler shipped 8,600 hydrocodone tablets to the same “pill mill” pharmacy.** AmerisourceBergen sold another 3,800 oxycodone pills to the Boone County pharmacy that month.”

Read more at <http://thefreethoughtproject.com/unsealed-docs-show-pharma-companies-fueling-opioid-epidemic-illegal-pill-mills/#E2CGScXVvy64PDd5.99>

Amy G

The following Motion was passed by the Show-Me Region in time for inclusion in the 2016 CAR. The Motion passed overwhelmingly on the Saturday of an RSC weekend. Somehow the next day the motion was rescinded, at the same meeting in which it was passed. I was told this was done because there was something about how it was a personal opinion or some other sort of made up excuse. These are just the tip of the spear regarding the how the 12 Conflicts negate our 12 Traditions. I hope it helps.

Motion Body:

That Narcotics Anonymous World Services submit a request to the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office for permission to adopt and amend their “Twelve Concepts for World Service” for use in Narcotics Anonymous literature. These would replace the current “Twelve Concepts for NA Service” which appear to have contradictions with our Twelve Traditions. Once permission is granted a Literature Committee will be developed to decide what if anything needs to be amended in the “Twelve Concepts for World Service,” as adapted from AA.

(82 words)

Motion Intent:

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions were adopted from Alcoholics Anonymous and amended to Narcotics Anonymous literature, and they have served us extremely well. Their Twelve Concepts should be utilized in the same way. The current “Twelve Concepts for NA Service” contradict themselves and the Spiritual Principles of our Traditions. As an example: Concept Three “The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.” Which is it? Are we maintaining our use of an ultimate authority, A Loving God as expressed in our Group Conscience through the Second Tradition, or are we delegating away our decision making process to the service structure? And Concept Six: “Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.” This seems to be a rewording of a portion of our Second Tradition. A Very important part that was left out is the part about how, “Our leaders are but Trusted Servants they do not govern.” You would think that portion would be the primary concern of our Concepts.

(180 words)



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Alaska Tim R

The some groups in area I seek recovery in, are upset that treatment centers are bringing clients to the meetings. They are upset about the cost. They are upset that the newcomers act like newcomers. They are upset that the newcomers want literature and that literature is expensive (now you understand how you allowed NAWS to charge you extra for that literature, really effects your home group)

They want area to write a letter to the treatment centers, admonishing them for doing what every group exists for (to carry the message) I think many people have forgot what NA wants, what NA does and what NA hopes for... I also think they have mistaken being powerless, with being helpless. I say to these groups be the example, you want to see. You want newcomers to sit through the meeting, keep your ass in the chair. If you go out to smoke and bullshit, so will they. You want newcomers to be quiet & listen, quit talking through the whole meeting. You want the newcomer to pay attention, put down you phone & pay attention. You want newcomers to be self-supporting, be self-supporting (if you can give them literature, please send them to my group, we will help them). You want newcomers to pick up after themselves, pick up after yourself.

I used to sit alone in meetings or in very small groups of 2 or 3 of us, dreaming of a day when we had tons of new people, to carry the message to.

To those groups who see this great thing as a burden, Please, PLEASE, think about what you are saying & doing....

James McF.

Human behavior repeats itself over and over again. In America we had the British and in support of the British were Loyalists. Loyalists did not form America, the Dissidents did. Those that spoke out about injustices and unfairness are the ones who shaped this land of the Free. Naws has Loyalists who are more loyal to Naws than even Naws wants them to be. Naws publishes its position on something like the BS known as SSP. The Loyalists take up the banners and standards and start the march to victory chanting all you need is Naws by the Beatles. Naws at some point changes direction a little on SSP but doesn't have an instantaneous way to tell all Loyalist to shift direction so there the do-dos go marching out in front of Naws and looking stupid because they didn't get the memo that the position changed...thus the statement "even more Loyal than Naws wants them to be."

Does Naws ever ask "does anyone one else have better or different ideas about how to proceed?" N O

Does Naws even want to hear any ideas other than theirs? N O

Dissidents voice the other ideas. This is healthy. This shapes the Fellowship. Even though much effort has been exerted over the years to paint any voice not in 100% agreement with corporate Naws/WB as being negative, destructive and needing to be silenced, the opposite is true. Dissidents carry the true positive changes in their



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voice. The Loyalist who think they are the positive are in actuality the darkness that the disease is said to grow in.

Blue Papers are again in order.

We must somehow create a viable channel of communication that rivals the one the Naws/WB owns. Just the act of years of trying to silence us is proof of guilt. Only 10% of NA votes and another 10% knows pretty much what is going on. We are called the Vocal Minority. That is another Service Myth. The other 80% are speaking up. We are the majority, even in Consensus Based Decision Making with 80% being the bar.

Naws/WB and their Loyalists are the tiny minority, they just have the process gamed. Do away with the WSC as a decision making body/event. Relegate the WB to just watch over the bookstore and have zero to do with the Fellowship. Stop trying to run the Fellowship like a business with Corporate Governance experts in your employ. You had to rewrite the Traditions to try and get away with it, please don't buy that garbage book.

Joy M - India

RDs are being asked to issue diktats to Groups and individuals, which actually is NA. Post of RD is not NA. Meanwhile, at Kolkata, India - eight big chapters of Baby Blue are translated in Bengali, a language spoken by 230 million - only two chapters to do. We are looking at complete book within 2016 calendar year language spoken by 230 million - only two chapters to do. We are looking at complete book within 2016 calendar year.

Anna Marie Jones RIP

'We don't know why it came to this': An American health crisis plaguing white women

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/wp/2016/04/08/2016/04/08/we-dont-know-why-it-came-to-this/...](http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/wp/2016/04/08/2016/04/08/we-dont-know-why-it-came-to-this/)

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

"Think so?"

<http://www.criticalthinking.org/files/SAM-Fallacies1.pdf>

"Non-addictive?"

<https://www.addictioncenter.com/painkillers/tramadol/>



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Finally: The thing wrong with an agentic state that views us as expendable is when there is a conflict of interest, they will 'expend' us. We are not expendable. We wrote our book. We people the Fellowship and bring to life the NA Program. Without us there is no NA. When we have needs that are not being met, we make arrangements to meet our needs. Money created the 'us and them' situation. Recovery and carrying our message is the important thing.

Important items from last five years.

USSC - Vito asked for plan of action. A gathering of members showed up at Wichita for Fellowship Assembly One. An Informational Book was constructed to put writings to help attending members understand to situation we face. The main result was a good set of minutes and the general idea of a "disconnect" between the general membership and world services. Nobody seems to realize that there was no announced 'us and them' until the Basic Text was written with those who supported or participated in the writing on one side and those who did not on the other. In general 'us' is still alive and well in NA and the 'them' keep working to control and attack what they see as the opposition. The original plan of action still exists in the IB and minutes of Wichita. The 'them' want to mash us all into the small tight box they experience as recovery. No one can control you if you free yourself of the bonds of addiction to things of the world. A really big existence with plenty of time and resources to pursue your dearest dreams in this life awaits those who surrender and seek their spiritual awakening. The idea of a USSC is an invisible, pervasive force now spreading through the NA world. All parts of our Fellowship should come together to speak the truth and share their dreams.

FA 1 – Wichita – 260 members showed up. They were the cream of the crop – the most informed members in the world at the time. Many were shocked to learn how much more was beyond their experience or informational base. They went home and constructed splinter groups that fit their level of understanding. The whole Fellowship benefitted because informal leaked out to more and more members.

Wichita Informational Booklet around 40 pages to inform attendance. Free download on core group NA. Think the WIB is a free download on FB core group NA. It was designed to give attending members a grip on the issues, suggestions, anything to help them participate fully. Thanks all the members who put it together!

Wichita FA 1 – Minutes – took 90 days to get minutes out. We still do not know reason for delay. Secretary posted they came out in three weeks. Free download on core group NA.

Disconnect – The huge gap between world services and General Membership was discussed and we realized a standalone United States Service Conference (USSC) would not be possible until the Fellowship found ways



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to restructure NAWS. The only 'US and THEM' we had was between NA members and members of other fellowships who went to our meetings. When WSO got the big bucks, anyone who could them what to do was seen as an obstacle. It is not that they forgot they work for the Fellowship, they never saw it that way and no one had yet corrected them.

Kansas City – Service Center planned but fell through. Planned central office in business incubator building with low cost and plenty of room to expand. Didn't do enough planning.

Jacksonville, Florida – Global NA planned to hold a convention in Jacksonville but the plan fell through. We are grateful for the energy and attention brought to bear. The more we think, pray and meditate, the quicker things will get better.

Grey Book with Stories – well received by membership and first 100 copies distributed. Still attracting members interesting in having their own hard back copy. Cost of soft covers reduced to \$10 since printer got more efficient equipment that lowers our cost. The Grey Book contains the early energy of the Fellowship where members were actually dying to have it written. So their spirit and devotion was evident in the work. Later editors stripped out things they didn't understand. This gives any member in the world a chance to get the real stuff for free. The quality really shows when read in a group setting.

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. First ninety days sent out to core group May 5th. Thanks Kermit and all who helped.

NOTE: Select and enlarge to read and review.

DRUG RELATED DEATH STATISTICS

http://www.drugwarfacts.org/cms/Causes_of_Death#sthash.1UGUdr7u.dpbs

From the Trenches...

Hello friends,

I have recently moved from Chicago 30 minutes south of Grand Rapids Michigan in August. I had gone to meetings and did a 30 and 30 in Grand Rapids. At my very first meeting I was greeted by young members that asked me if I'd like to join them in dinner. Mind you I'm 25 years old with six years clean. So I joined them for an evening after the meeting to Fellowship. I thought it was particularly odd because I noticed people that were with them that weren't in the meeting I'm sure they weren't in the meeting but where did they come from.

We arrived to the restaurant/bar. The guys that I notice that weren't in the NA meeting went to the bar. I asked "who are those guys" one of the young members replied "oh they came with us after their AA meeting at the end of the same time" I "asked are they are friends" he responded "yeah, they like to sit at the bar



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and pick up chicks". At this point I was really surprised I couldn't believe what I heard. It was only later I'd find out that the person that invited me out to dinner was in fact a member of AA who only attended NA meetings to support his sponsee's. I asked him if that was really necessary given there were members of NA to sponsor these men. He replied "my sponsor told me to sponsor anybody who suffers" I asked him "is your sponsor Mother Teresa?" A few months later one of the first people I came to meet in Grand Rapids had died of an overdose and the day before he died of an overdose he got in a serious car accident with the sponsor speeding through traffic.

This was my first encounter with Grand Rapids NA and I wasn't particularly happy. From that 30 and 30 I made I would come to realize NA in Grand Rapids was very different. I had called a member and asked him to pick me up from my hotel I was staying at until I found an apartment that was where I resided. We galloped making no haste to the meeting. When we arrived we are greeted by another member who seem to have some serious disagreement with my ride. It was only after the meeting that I find out that they would try to fight. My ride was about 70 years old celebrating around three months clean and the man who wanted to fight was about 40 years old. I remember having to break the fight up and talk about the third step in the principles of our ever so needed third step. I was beginning to feel very upset with moving here and not doing too much research. I remember one meeting in particular it was a question and answer meeting and you pick someone who you wanted to answer a question. One of the questions I asked one of their old-timers about I believe it was the eighth tradition. He really didn't know what the tradition was until being reminded and not only that what he had to say but let's put it this way if it were me I'd be embarrassed having said so little. Fast-forward a bit and I would travel to Lansing pawpaw Kalamazoo Battle Creek Hastings Allegan and many more it almost felt like what I was beginning to see was getting worse and worse I can tell the difference between my attitude or the meetings it seemed all the same to tell you the truth. I called my vast network and asked if anybody had a good lead on any members of your with good recovery experience. Although I didn't find anyone I kept trying. Then I began to tell myself we needed a huge regional inventory we needed to come up with workgroups to solve these issues because it seemed like recovery was really nonexistent the only thing that existed was the desire to stop using but not to find a new way to live sure I believe some members wanted a little more than not using but I just couldn't hear it I just couldn't see it. Most of the information I was getting at this point with her step work and out of town and country phone calls. Nothing too out of the ordinary for me but it was of lot more than I'd ever done it before I really had to supplement this lack of NA here. I decided I wanted to leave the Fellowship I shut my phone off and in return phone calls my sponsor and other members went looking for me. I began to realize that that wasn't going to work since I still wanted to talk to my NA friends I was just so upset with the Fellowship era didn't know what to do. Members had no concern whether they were involved in NA or AA it seemed all the same to them and now we seemed is the uptight and NA ass hole.

I met a friend named Paul G. he was my hope. I began to talk to Paul often and spend time with them. I was so glad he came when he did I do know what else I would do.



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All the people that I enjoyed hangout with asked me to sponsor them. Which was a bummer because I was hoping there be more friends. I'm glad to help others but I also need a social network of my own outside the realms of sponsorship sponsee relations.

And where I'm at today I just recently come back after not making a meeting for a month. I left out a very important part I had a profound spiritual awakening as a result of the shock I had undergone. I don't think I would have experienced what I've experienced without having been introduced to the stimuli. I'm grateful to be a member of NA and want to carry a progressive message of NA a refined and potent one so that all can get what they need when I share when I express myself with others in a way just as much as I want the same from them.

So that is my experience I don't feel too motivated to write unfortunately I feel I'm more motivated to write earlier in the day but anyhow I hope you enjoy love and light - Brennan M

From John F —

Now, NA is the one doing the surveilling. We are monitoring the disposition of criminal sentences by making sure people sit in the meeting for one full hour.

Sometimes they are ejected from the meetings if disruptive or loaded.

So therefore NA has become an arm of the police and prison system. In fact, the criminal justice system is so comfortable in our allegiance to them that they don't feel the need to even communicate with them. We are their jailers.

Our meetings are now all under video and audio surveillance, with facial recognition. Thus wanted fugitives can be identified and arrested if they show up at an NA meeting. Let's face it, we are now cops. We have completely and totally sold out to the man.

Come to NA and you can and will be identified and arrested.

We are fully onboard with this as no one is complaining.

Next meeting is on August 2, 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.”

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.





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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.

Addendum A

Draft Statement for delegate review by 1 September 2016

A statement from the WSC 2016 regarding NA intellectual property and the integrity of the NA message.

One of the most important topics we discussed at World Service Conference 2016 was the reproduction and use of NA literature as it relates to group registrations and local NA websites. Present were 215 Conference participants, including 16 World Board members, and Regional Delegates and Alternate Delegates from 112 regions, representing 40 countries and speaking 26 languages.

As a Conference we were able to find consensus when it comes to protecting our intellectual property and the availability of a low cost Basic Text.

- 95% of delegates believe the Fellowship still affirms the rules contained in the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust [FIPT].
- 86% of regional delegates did not support the CAR motion that asked for a low cost Basic Text (This is the tenth time the WSC has been asked and did not support this idea).
- 83% of Conference participants see earlier approved versions of our Basic Text as meaningfully different than hybrid versions that have never been Fellowship approved.

With strong support, we agreed on the fellowship:

- 74% of delegates believe that NA World Services should not register groups that clearly intend to use material that is not NA Fellowship-approved in their meetings.
- 71% of delegates believe that NA World Services should take action to remove NA recovery literature from ASC/RSC websites, even if it means shutting down the site.

And while there was support, the issue would benefit from more discussion:

- 63% of Conference participants want to say that NA groups use current editions of NA Fellowship-approved literature.



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The *FIPT* is clear::NA literature belongs to the Fellowship as a whole, the groups are given voice through their delegates at the WSC in any decisions regarding NA literature. NA recovery literature is copyright-protected and not available for editing. NA literature is not available for printing locally or for posting on local NA websites.

The Group Booklet is also clear that NA groups use only NA approved literature in their meetings. As a Conference, we agree that groups who choose to use unapproved NA literature (most commonly, the gray form or the baby blue) in their meetings are in conflict with the guidance in the booklet and the conscience of the Fellowship.

The NA program is one of honesty and integrity. At some point we must stand together as concerned members and insist that those who initiate and support these activities simply stop. As participants of WSC 2016, we agree that now is that time. There will likely never be unanimity on these issues, but it is our role to reflect the conscience of the Fellowship expressed at WSC 2016. We also believe this is echoed the ongoing commitment of the NA Fellowship to the guidance offered in the *FIPT*.

As the service body of NA to which is delegated the responsibility of reflecting the collective voice of the NA group, we make the following requests:

- NA group who are using literature in NA meetings that is not NA approved, please stop
- Individuals who are printing, posting and distributing NA literature (both approved and non-approved), please stop.
- Service committees who are posting NA recovery literature, please stop.

We ask this in the spirit of unity, and in support of our collective mission to carry the NA message to the addict who still suffers.

*The only thing
that can destroy
the Traditions is
COMPROMISE!*



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Addendum B

This will be interesting reading once things are better – and things will be better. Information is flowing out to the Fellowship as never before! Thanks to all who help in this struggle to clean up the mess. It is interesting that at the end of all this mish-mash, the Regional Delegate felt empty and unappreciated.

FIPT and NA Literature. Great Read here...

The Truth about NA Literature and Copyright Issues

The issue is not NA losing its copyrights; The NA Fellowship has already LOST THEM! A corporation that has usurped the NA name now controls (or claims to control) our literature. NA is the Fellowship - The addicts and Groups who comprise NA, as such. A corporation is a tool for NA and exists by virtue of Traditions Eight and Nine. There is a reason the corporation originally did not carry the NA name. A corporation is an entity unto itself with legal standing. Not lending the NA name to an entity that exists to separate the material from the spiritual by separately incorporating it prevents the misconception that the corporation is a part of "NA, as such" and prevents abuse of power based on this misconception.

The idea that the Fellowship is in danger of losing copyrights by virtue of the Groups printing it is fallacy. The OWNERS of our literature (The Groups) have every right to print their own literature. The only reason the literature was in danger of being declared public domain by Judge Pollack in 1991 was because WSO Inc. chose to sue an NA member, claiming that they, rather than the Groups that comprise our Fellowship, were the owners of the Basic Text. Without the corporate claim that the Groups were not the owners of the Basic Text there is no threat of losing copyrights because copyrights do not need to be protected from their owners. What WSO Inc. (the NAWS Inc. predecessor) was really protecting was their claim of ownership and control of the Fellowship literature. They were literally claiming the Basic Text was a "work for hire" rather than a "labor of love".

Even if some of our literature really were to become public domain, it would be a better situation than NAWS control. Our literature would become more available, not less. It would eliminate funding of corporate projects without direct Fellowship support as well as eliminate the practice of forcing Groups to fund undertakings they do not agree with whenever they purchase NA literature at a marked-up price. It would stop the NAWS stated goal of a "diverse mix of revenue streams" which is documented in the 2014 CAT. Such an agenda is out of line with Groups being self-supporting as well as services being directly funded by those self-supporting Groups. There would also be no barriers to addicts in non-English speaking countries making translations that best suit the needs and cultural nuances without waiting for NAWS, funding, approval, etc. There are an abundance of horror stories and scare tactics designed to protect the



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literature cash-cow. But the fact is history should be the indicator. Great literary works in the public domain stand the test of time. Changes to them may diminish them and the original work stands on its own merit or is replaced by a superior evolution. Versions of the Basic Text may or may not appear that have changes to them, but NA groups will likely continue to use the Sixth Edition and/or Baby Blue, predominantly. Any changes that are widely accepted would likely come from NA Groups themselves - as any changes should.

Besides, what incentive would a treatment center have to change our Basic Text? If they were to modify it to suit new ideas, why not just write their own book or pamphlet? Suppose a treatment center inserted wording like "alcoholic addict", etc. Never mind that some overzealous employee would need to be motivated to do it free of charge. If that did happen we would simply have addicts coming out of treatment centers using phrases like "alcoholic-addict" and assuming that NA and AA are intertwined. Kind of like what we already deal with. Groups would still need to educate newcomers to our Traditions and language, just like we do now. Inferior versions of a Basic Text with murky language would not stand the test of time and would fade away, much in the same way that NA literature naturally evolved away from an AA-type vocabulary.

If we truly believe that "the therapeutic value of one addict helping another is without parallel" then modifications of our Basic Text by non-addicts are not a threat as they will not be able to stand against literature "by addicts for addicts". If anything, NAWS control has made it possible for literature that cannot stand the test of time to remain in the NA mainstream; literature re-written by professional writers and revised to appeal to professionals rather than the still-suffering addict.

I beseech those who have not read the court documents and WSC minutes surrounding the Baby Blue and the changing of our literature to do so. Unbiased investigation is what made me a Baby-Blue-carrying Traditionalist. It is obvious to me that the 4th, 5th, and 6th editions do not happen (nor does the 3rd Edition pre-revision) without WSO Inc. and later NAWS corporate control and interference. Without this interference we likely end up with a book that in form (if not name) is a Second Edition, Revised. Not coincidentally, that happens to be EXACTLY what the Baby Blue is.

The fact that the Grey Book, Second Edition and Baby Blue are still used to the point that they are a NAWS concern is testimony of the fact that authentic "by addicts for addicts" literature stands the test of time. Despite slander campaigns, control tactics, and alternating attempts to ignore and destroy the Traditionalist Literature Movement those books are still with us. There is no question that from a grammatical standpoint that the Sixth Edition is a "superior" (for lack of a better term) volume. However, the professionally revised editions of our Basic Text and professionally written works since are inferior from a recovery standpoint. The Baby Blue, Grey Book, and Second Edition live on BECAUSE the therapeutic value of one addict helping another indeed is without parallel! Were these books not such, they would have faded into oblivion.



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The reasoning that these books are still around is because of thirty-year-old resentments is sheer fallacy. Thirty-year-old resentments cannot account for the WELL OVER 100,000 Baby Blues, Second Editions, and Grey Books being used across our Fellowship. The vast majority of those now in possession of and making use of Baby Blues were not members of NA during the original Baby Blue era, and certainly not during the era when the Basic text was written. The Baby Blue is going strong a quarter century later. Resentment is not that powerful.

The above essay is excerpted and adapted from a broader 2014 essay on the Baby Blue. The adaptation was performed by the author of the original essay. Anyone may reprint this essay on social media without modification.





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Excerpted From: The Impending Crisis Redux (July 14, 2011)

Narcotics Anonymous Continuum

Only a thief would take something leaving nothing in return.

- from Nick Verdi - fine art painter

The basics of recovery are the same today as they were fifty years ago. The basics of recovery will be the same fifty years from now and on into the future from there. Addicts discover it is the disease and taking away the illusions without replacing them with factual information would be a disservice. Once a newcomer starts asking good questions, there is no end to their potential for recovery. The acts associated with using are found to be causing the problems. For this to lead to recovery, you discover, and admit, that you are powerless over your addiction and that your life has become unmanageable. Pretty simple isn't it? But people die every day for the lack of this knowledge.

The way to peace in exploring and considering the many wonderful and exciting things that have happened to bring NA to the stage of today gradually gives you a rich field of ideas reflecting the diversity and ingenuity of our membership. If you were to list all the people, places and things associated with the idea of NA, it would fill volumes! Somehow our disease makes it seem possible that NA is just a big dream and that it could all suddenly go poof and be no more. Well, that is just impossible. Of course people kind of go nuts once in a while. Believe it or not it is normal! Everybody does it, even non-addicts. Our NA history shows that spiritual principles prevail.

In our NA history, we include diversity, not black list the people who see things differently. NA is for all addicts seeking recovery. We draw the line that they of their own volition must achieve cleanliness which is the real denominator of sincerity. We must stand apart from any organization that wishes to control us. The future is open to those who build on bed rock of total abstinence, a voice in NA and the sharing through gratitude that has characterized NA all along.



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For a spiritual Fellowship like ours to exist, we need to constantly bear in mind that our lives are at stake. While there may be pressures and adverse conditions we have to deal with, we have already dealt with worse - on many occasions. It used to be, not long ago, we were not welcome to hold a meeting in many places. Of course the big chemical companies are going to react to our path of total abstinence with horror! They believe everybody needs a few drugs. Whoop-ti-dew! Doesn't that just make your little heart jump and twist? One has to have survived our own insanity as well as the worlds. People in the business of selling drugs will always see us as customers.

The Basic Text employed a conference method wherein all members of NA were completely welcome and privy to any sort of information they desired. This proved to be highly productive and it was amazing how some of the newer members went straight to effective solutions and made many contributions. This is where our principle of inclusion first proved itself workable and practical, keeping faith with the democratic processes stressed in our early NA service writings. It was of course also very attractive and somewhat comforting to members with more clean time who could perhaps appreciate more fully the miracles they could see unfolding after thirty years of waiting for a Basic Text.

I first got into world services when I was five years clean in 1979. My perspective is probably very different from someone getting clean and into service after 1990. People with little clean time say there is no difference between someone with a little vs. someone with a lot of clean time. Those with clean time and recovery know better. Recovery teaches us the error of our ways and so long as we remember the lessons, we don't have to keep making the same mistakes. Also, many times we know what to do next. After many years in service and recovery, someone told me about the two NA's: the spiritual and the corporate. It made sense that some members would migrate to the business-like aspect of NA functions, events, logistics and similar concerns. Others were more interested in the spirituality of the program, personality change and learning the important lessons of living clean. The principles of honesty, open-mindedness and the willingness to try may seem general and vague but when applied to hundreds of daily situations, they become very pertinent and well defined. Each viewpoint created



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over time its own little world. The two were seen as complimentary while any conflicts were seen as poor understanding that would be corrected as an individual learned more about NA.

It may be important to realize that NA in America and more especially the growth of NA was related to other events taking place in society. It was not until 1964 that freedom of speech became a legal reality in the United States when the Supreme Court struck down the 1798 Sedition Act which forbade spoken or written criticism of the government, Congress, or the President. After the First World War. For example, Eugene Debs was arrested for making a pacifist speech [page 269, *Understanding Power*, Noam Chomsky]. He was a presidential candidate sent to prison for ten years because he gave a speech against making war. America is unique for its hard won freedom. Think about it. There was a reason no one would admit to being an addict in the early days. Suffice to say, people have been fighting for these rights for hundreds of years and NA is one of the blessings born out of their struggle.

The start point for the modern form of NA was the creation of a service structure in the mid 1970's. It took several years to partially implement the written service structure. It expanded NA on the principle that each and every member of NA has a say in their Fellowship. This healthy form of personal responsibility enhanced and ennobled the volition in each member that grants them membership identifying through aspiration and pain. All of NA rests on their shoulders.

At the point where the writing of the Basic Text was completed, there were only three Regional Service Committees fellowship-wide. With the creation of the Basic Text, a large number of participants got quite an education in NA, our 12 Steps and our 12 Traditions. With the Text done, we expanded our primary service center, WSO with a vastly increased cash flow. We went from three Regions to twenty-eight in one Conference year. Unfortunately, a sort of gulf grew between the volunteer service workers of NA and the paid WSO staff.

As one member put it succinctly:



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"Part of the Group's responsibility is to provide the service structure with direction as well as the human and financial resources to accomplish the expressed Will of the Groups. Our service committees and the service structure as a whole has a responsibility to carry out the will and spirit of the Groups. Only the Groups have a right to vote. All other votes must faithfully represent the expressed will of the Groups. Members vote according to their will or what they think best for themselves or the group in which their Fellowship GSR has already expressed their personal vote and must then carry the Group's conscience to the Area. ASRs (RCMs) must in turn carry their Area's position to the Region and so on down the service structure to the WSC who in turn have the responsibility to govern and direct world services in the name of the Groups. Our Second Tradition makes this clear.

"Sound like a pipe dream? _ It's what was promised to me when I came in."

A strange animosity grew between the two viewpoints. An example of this were the typos in the original printing of the Basic Text. The unpaid, grateful members who wrote the Text were blamed for the typos by the paid WSO staff. Nobody thought it through at the time that WSO was in charge of production and the literature service volunteers had no opportunity to proofread the document before WSO issued the print order. This type of confusion fueled the separation of the two classes of workers: the volunteer and the paid professionals. And of course the problem was never rectified or amended, with the knowledgeable members insulted and the WSO staff blithely unaware. The spiritual service volunteers are still active in NA today and do much needed work.

Cutting costs would seem a solution. Who would over-spend? Not our trusted servants, I hope. Are there any other people who have a say in NA? Are they subject to the 12 Traditions? If not, they are not NA. If they are not directly responsible, they are not NA. Fiscal responsibility with regard to our copyrighted materials requires prudence in spending. Nowhere in our service structure is there justification for excessive spending beyond our means. Should such spending occur, it might be an indication that someone within the system has other goals in mind than the Fellowship's welfare.



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God, like water, finds its own way. Where it is blocked, God will back up and move through every crack available. In time, God always wins. When our service structure became the play thing of a tiny group of people, the energy began to find other ways to flow and move into the lives of people who depend on it. Mentation or thought processes will never beat out the spiritual. Mentation is the tiny mind of man. Spirituality hooks us up to the universe. There is a *defacto* service structure already in place. Your reading this essay is an example. When structural service began to flop as the energy that comes from group conscience fell off, people in NA found new ways to meet their needs. The accumulation of information and contacts has resulted in an unexpected boon for Fellowship communications. We used to have to construct expensive and burdensome committees to collect, discuss and propose solutions.

Now we can just do what we are doing here: sort it all out on a big screen, worldwide Fellowship computer screens! In a few months, the Fellowship will begin reviewing just how much is being spent on the marketeering to change our service structure. Members in the NA Continuum are watching intently. They just haven't quite figured out that they are the ones really in charge.

Service in NA used to be great fun! The spirit of the thing, the newness, the feeling of doing something good and unique to addicts who were discovering how to live clean, help others and grow spiritually. Make the atmosphere stifling, attract officious types with delusions of management, create a jigsaw puzzle of policies that makes it hard for someone to get involved, and suddenly service isn't so much fun. We call the problems associated with conflicting policies "politics." The joy of giving rarely comes into play. Onerous rules outweigh the accomplishments. Any bureaucracy gets old. It takes a lot of talent and energy to keep it going. Our trusted servants in many; many cases have been subjected to hundreds of hours of listening to members who didn't take the time to study and ask endless questions they wouldn't have asked if they had attended one or more learning days before taking up the service committees time. The Regional servants who take time from work and family to spend long days away from home with no regional motions carried at the WSC. It is easy to see where they feel like a big rubber stamp for whatever the corp thinks is best that year. It is deadening to a person's spirit to have no say in things that directly affect your life and well-being.