



WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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August 16, 1983

TO THE FELLOWSHIP:

Enclosed is additional information that should be passed on to the Fellowship. The Literature Sub-committee letter on NA History should be forwarded to your Literature committees. The page with names and addresses should replace the similar page sent in the Fellowship report. There are some corrections, specifically the address of WSC-Chairman Bob R. and Ginni S.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

In service,

Carol Kindt

Carol Kindt, Secretary
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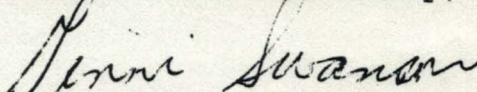
August 13, 1983

Dear fellow members,

This is just to let you all know that I have moved. My new address and phone number are listed below. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

3074 Collura Street
San Diego, CA 92105
(619)264-6066

Yours in the fellowship,


Ginni Swanson

REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
ATTN: REGIONAL & AREA LITERATURE COMMITTEES
Re: THE HISTORY OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Dear Fellow Members and Trusted Servants:

This year, 1983, is the 30th Anniversary of Narcotics Anonymous, to the best of our knowledge. (There has been recent discoveries which may lead to prove that we've been around even longer, but to date, 1953 is the year which is generally accepted as our first in existence.) It has only been in the past 4 or 5 years that we, as a Fellowship, have truly begun to become a worldwide vehicle of Recovery from Addiction. Up until this decade, N.A. existed only in several large, Metropolitan areas, such as California, Georgia, Philadelphia and several meetings in the Mid-west. Today it is becoming available to addicts, everywhere. Areas of N.A. meetings are springing up in such obscure, off-the-beaten-track places as Saudi Arabia, Iceland, the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and West Virginia, the Pocono Mountains, and Maine. For many of you, N.A. has only been available for 1 or 2 years. Yet, meetings of N.A. have been held for 30 or more years. We are truly grateful that it is finally putting the old lie to rest, all over the world!

We have been working at laying down our History as a Fellowship in writing for over a year and a half, now. We began our effort to do this by taking all of the basic information we could accumulate from the first 25 years and placing it into chronological order - what happened when, where it happened, and so on. This project was entitled "A Chronology of Significant Events." It can be found in the appendix section of the first draft of our then unapproved Basic Text, known at that time as "The Gray Book Review Form." It is still available to anyone interested. (The "Chronology of Significant Events").

The next step in compiling our History was to outline the beginnings and subsequent growth of N.A. in the various Areas and Regions throughout the Fellowship, starting from the first meeting, where and when it was held, and then following the progression of Recovery to the development of an Area, and then the formation of each Region, how it happened, when, what obstacles were overcome, and how it is functioning today. Many letters have been sent out to the Fellowship requesting details and information along these lines. Some of you have responded with beautiful, fully outlined and detailed accounts of your history. Others have sent us sketchy details, bits and pieces which we have worked hard at piecing together for a clear picture, and many of you have still not responded at all. It is to these latter two groups of Areas and Regions that this letter is actually being addressed.

We understand how difficult it is to sit down and figure out where we came from, when there is so much to be done to keep N.A. alive and growing today. However, just as in our personal recoveries, taking a 4th Step Inventory frees us to grow freely, unencumbered by our past mistakes and patterns, so it is in the ongoing growth of our Fellowship. The time has come for us to take the time to put our History down in writing so that we can learn from our mistakes, see what we have done right, and to use this as a tool for our continued growth and stability. For instance, if your Area or Region has had a particular difficulty or problem area which took months or years to overcome before you were able to grow, by writing your experience down for others to see, you may save another Area or Region just starting up a lot of pain and time. By reading about what you did right, what worked and what didn't for your Area or Region, they may see themselves and learn from your experience. So please don't hang on to your History - Give It Up! The growth of this Fellowship depends upon your response to the cry for History.

We suggest that you hold a weekend-long Conference, over the next 3 months, devoted to compiling a complete and accurate History of your Region and/or Area. For more information about how to do this, please contact Pete B. or Ginny S. or Denny S. (Names and numbers will be listed below.) There will be a WORLD HISTORY CONFERENCE held sometime in early Autumn of this year to compile the remainder of what you send in to us. There will also be HISTORY WORKSHOPS at the World Convention in New York City in September, and at the Volunteer Regional Convention in Nashville Tennessee in November. Finally, there will be a Mid-Year Service Conference somewhere on the East Coast in November, to approve the History of N.A. to go out to the Fellowship for Approval. So please, respond immediately to our need. We love you, and keep coming back!!

Yours in Fellowship and Service,

HISTORY WORKERS OF N.A.