

COMMENTS ON SERVICE IN N.A.  
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There are some very disturbing things going on with service in general and specifically World Services. I do not choose to participate in a spiritually bankrupt service structure that cares more about conventions, fund-raisers, politics, in looking good, sounding good, budgets, plane flights, positions, ego, etc..., than the primary purpose of Narcotics Anonymous.

It has been a long time since I've sat in a service meeting and heard any serious discussion about how best to fulfill our primary purpose, and seen any subsequent action taken as a result of those discussions.

In this package of papers that are being handed out to you, you will see a report from an RSR Alt. from the C&P Region that accurately describes the reality of our World Service Conference. You will see how different it is from the report we were given by our RSR, and Alternate. There are other reports that I could bore you with but I will let this one suffice. I was there at the conference, and my viewpoint is the same as the C&P report. Last region I communicated this to you verbally. It seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

It makes no sense to participate in service in a region that believes in Group Conscience, but will not act upon it. Our World Service Conference, World Service Office, and Board of Trustees, have no use for us, our beliefs, spiritual principles, or group conscience. The ideals, values and beliefs that our fellowship were founded upon have been rolled away into a dark closet that nobody dares to open for fear of having to examine themselves in the bright light of these truths.

Approximately 60 cents of every donated dollar in our home group is siphoned off and goes directly to a corporation called WSO, inc. This money, due to the nature of the corporation, never returns to the service structure to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. This total is approximately 5 million dollars. Along the east coast, the regions contribute 2 million dollars of that total. In the east coast regions there are approximately 4,000 meetings per week. That represents 25% of the fellowship worldwide. We have been ignored and were ridiculed for our beliefs and our group conscience on the floor of the WSC and in the N.A. media. Are we going to lay down and allow this to continue.

Due to the events at the Conference such as; the continuation of work on the Guide to Service, the continuation of the Trustees writing our Traditions, the approval of Behind the Walls as a piece of N.A. literature, the approval of the Group Booklet as a piece of N.A. literature, the passing of motions that took away the review and approval process of our literature and the approval of the motion to allow the WSD/WLC to hire professionals to draft (write) our literature. In World Service there is a general disdain for all things remotely connected to what we in this part of the world believe to be the spiritual principles of group conscience. It seems that we have to enter into discussions immediately upon what our relationship is to this World structure and whether we need it at all.

Part of that discussion should include options that we may want to pursue in the formation of a structure that more responsibly and correctly fulfills the mandates given to us by our Steps and Traditions. That structure should take on the task of carrying the message around the world to the addict who still suffers in place of our world service conference. It seems that our world services have been ineffective and inefficient in doing so. It is time to change!

In the pages attached you will see the lies, manipulation and total insanity of our current World Services. The letters from the trustees and the lawyers do not contain a single documentable fact or legal reality. The "little blue book" has sent them over the edge because they are not in total control any more.

If you think for one minute that most people in World Service really give a damn about carrying the message to the addict who still suffers, then you are wrong. They are more concerned with plane flights, budgets, prestige and what great new expensive useless project they can take credit for while they are in their positions. World H&I is the only remnant of the spirit left of service that made this fellowship grow.

Since approximately 80% of our fellowship has arrived here in the last 3 years, it is not so hard to understand why most of our fellowship has no conscience or understanding of the spirit and reality that formed and fed the great movement of growth in the 60's. That growth and that spirit was a result of the literature movement and an attempt on the part of many addicts to promote the growth of N.A. in the face of much controversy and resistance.

Our 9th Tradition states that we MAY create service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve. The flip side of this Tradition is that we MAY NOT CREATE or we MAY UNCREATE service boards and committees that have NOT been responsible to those they serve. The reason for the great growth of World Service has been directly attributable to the money generated by the sale of literature and the necessity for some type of structure within which to promulgate the sales and distribution.

World Level Committees of the World Service Conference used to be a place where people from different geographical locations came to share experience, strength and hope with one another in an atmosphere of love, respect and anonymity, taking what they learned and shared home with them for use in their respective service areas.

It would seem that N.A. as such, which is the groups of N.A., have very little use, in reality, for World Services. The only way that World Service interfaces at all into the group is in the sales of highly overpriced merchandise. This makes our home groups store fronts, franchises if you will, for WSO, Inc. We really do not need this type of commercialization and intrusion into the primary purpose of N.A. groups. We can do everything they do at much cheaper prices.

There is no reason to pay \$10 for a Basic Text when the groups can print one themselves for less than 1/10 the price. There is no reason to pay \$.30 for a keytag when they can be purchased for \$.02 each by the groups or a group of groups. There is no reason to pay \$.15-\$.20 for an I.P. when they can be purchased or printed by the groups for \$.01-\$.03 each. There is no reason to pay \$10 for a Basic Text when WSO pays \$1.47 for it. These are but a few examples of the exorbitant markups that make the average profit per item 4000%.

In the attached documents you will see letters from the Board of Trustees, from the lawyers Wagner and Middlebrook. You will also see some responses from other people in other places. You can draw your own conclusions. I am not alone. Obviously, there are other people who understand the truth of what I am saying and recognize the need for alternative behavior.



Some of you may not like my personality and some of you don't share my beliefs. Some of you are so paralyzed with fear because of the bullshit threats, lies and deceit that spring from the mouths of our world servants that you are playing right into their plans for you.

Whether or not you like my personality doesn't mean shit to me and whether you believe like I do doesn't mean shit to me either. All that is important is my relationship with myself, a loving God and my friends. The truth is the truth and whether or not you want to believe it doesn't matter either. One day you will wake up and wonder what happened to Narcotics Anonymous and the spirit that used to be here and you'll say, "Boy, Dave was an asshole but he was right!" Believe me I take no joy in being right. I would be very happy if none of the things that I know to be true were true!

Let me give you a few facts.

- (1) There was only one Basic Text that was ever approved by the groups. This was the approval copy of the Basic Text. It contained no stories.
- (2) The original 4th and 9th Tradition were in both the gray review form and the small white approval form.
- (3) The stories were never approved for use in N.A.
- (4) The Tradition language was deleted between the approval copy ~~by~~ WSO and the red special edition and the stories were added ~~by~~ No other Basic Text was ever voted on or approved. ~~By~~ the WSO.
- (5) 1986 World Service Conference approved by a vote of 72 - 0 the changes in the little white book recommended by the trustees. These changes were what later became changes to our Basic Text resulting in a 3rd Edition Revised text. A motion was made by the Literature Chair at the Conference (which was not a unanimous vote) to reflect the white book changes in all our literature.
- (6) 1985 Conference passed a motion to edit the Basic Text for grammar, punctuation, capitalization, single and plurals and syntax. This is generally the wording of the motion. An editor was hired and changes were made resulting in a 4th Edition that was in the process of being edited and changed during the 1986 conference year and after the publication and distribution of the 3rd Edition revised. In November, 1987, the 4th Edition was distributed without a review by the groups to approve changes. At the 1987-88 conference after much discussion, disunity and controversy resulting from the publication of the 4th Edition, the conference nor the fellowship accepted the 4th Edition as conference approved material. There were motions made that year by regions to "immediately return to the 3rd Edition Revised". Bob Stone made a plea, telling everyone it couldn't be done and that we should just "fix" the 4th Edition. A 5th Edition was never expected, approved or authorized by the World Service Conference. So, the Red Book, the 1st Edition, the 2nd Edition, the 3rd Edition, the 4th Edition and the 5th Edition were never group conscience approved.

The Trustees in their letter to the fellowship regarding the "illicit, illegal Basic Text" leave these facts and many others unstated. The Trustees are relying on your ignorance and your apathy and the unavailability of World Service Conference minutes for you to research the truth and, therefore, they used lies, fear and manipulation to justify their claims in these reports.

The letter from Wagner and Middlebrook, Attorneys, that appears to be a legal document is the most gross, blatant bunch of lies ever perpetrated upon members of Narcotics Anonymous. I would like to state a few more facts for you.

- (1) The members of N.A. own the World Service Office and, therefore, copyrights and all other intellectual and physical property. The claim by this law firm means that N.A. is suing itself which it cannot do.
- (2) In the facts given to you prior you will see why the "little blue book" says "Fellowship Approved". Conference approved is anything that the conference decides to stamp "Conference Approved" and bears no relationship to what we know as our fellowship approval processes.
- (3) There is some quote from Title 17 and Title 35 of the U.S. Code. And if you will not accept this letter and look at these titles you will see absolutely no relationship to literature written, produced and distributed within the context of a fellowship like ours.
- (4) Paragraph 3 says "you are hereby directed to cease and desist". ONLY A COURT CAN ISSUE A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER! Wagner and Middlebrook, Attorneys, know that and are in complicity with our World Service Office Directors and our Board of Trustees in perpetrating a hoax upon the membership.

At a cost of approximately \$50 per "legal letter" for postage, handling and legal fees, 150 of these letters were sent. Subsequent to the sending of these letters "apology letters" were sent by overnight mail at a cost of approximately \$12 each bringing the cost to between \$8000 and \$10,000 for the distribution of lies.

If it had been the purpose and intent of WSO to sue for remedy of this situation, they would have done that immediately and discretely. However, there is no body of law that would substantiate a claim to ownership of said copyrights conferred to the WSO. It is apparent to anyone who knows anything at all about law that this attempt on the part of WSO to control the thoughts and actions of members of Narcotics Anonymous has no basis in legal reality.

The truth is that the law firm of Wagner and Middlebrook advised WSO that to pursue this course of action for suit, would in fact be an expensive and possibly futile pursuit. In order to obtain a Cease and Desist from a court, much research, money and time would need to be expended. There is a distinct possibility that WSO would find itself powerless under law to substantiate the assertions claimed by Wagner and Middlebrook, Attorneys. In other words WSO is afraid that it will lose any legal action brought on by itself or members in regards to ownership of all intellectual and physical property.

In another interesting truth not being told, there is a "perjury statement" attached to the back of this letter. ONLY A COURT CAN DETERMINE PERJURY! So, what we have is a fear campaign being waged against defenseless groups, areas and members at great expense by people who are supposed to serve our wishes. Assertions in these letters have been made about unity and violation of traditions and other such good sounding bullshit which are fashioned specifically to intimidate through fear and guilt. If unity and traditions were actually anything that these people had any understanding of then they would not have pursued this damaging course of action in the first place.



When I came to N.A. service was something beautiful and open and lovely. There was never a moment in World Services or services at the area, group or regional level that felt like service "feels today". I have spent over 6 years involved in service to this fellowship from world level to the group level and all points in between. It is with great sadness and concern that I watch the de-evolution of what once was irrefutably a place where God could be felt and experienced. That is not the case in service today.

Only radical action could have brought about the growth and development of N.A. and only radical action will sustain that initial creative energy. This is a program of change and although fear plays a part we will never change if the fear is so overriding that it paralyzes us and makes us helpless. Change is doing something differently. We must do something differently today.

Our blind acceptance and trust of World Services has led us into a dead-end alley from which there will be no escape unless we forcefully and resolutely return up that blind alley onto a street that gives us choices and options for the directions that we need to take.

N.A. groups do not need World Services. N.A. groups can best fulfill their primary purpose with participation in an active, vital area service committee that does H&I, P.I., phone lines and prints its own literature and meeting lists.

We need to reevaluate our relationship with our World Services. If you seek to recover in an atmosphere where creative expression and availability of all information and points of view are gladly accepted then we must change the current atmosphere of lies, distortions, censorship and manipulation.

The current structure is set up and maintained for the self-aggrandisement of our members who chose to participate in money, property, positions and prestige. They will not relinquish their stranglehold on our service structure without a fight. We are capable of giving them that fight and we should carry the fight to them. If you haven't rolled over and become wimpy and weak then you can join me in the fight to retain Narcotics Anonymous for future generations.

If you want to purchase these "little illegal, illicit blue books", you can purchase them from me. As an agent of my home group I am the representative for sales and distribution of these Basic Texts. I have produced and distributed 7,000 of these books at the behest of my home group. World Services knew this fact long before the fear campaign of letters from the Trustees and the attorneys.

The current plans are to produce 50,000 Basic Texts and make them available to groups for \$.50 a book. Anyone wishing to donate money or to purchase books in advance, please write Grateful Dave at 1110 East Palmer Street, Philadelphia, PA 19125 or call 215-423-5175.

Please send a copy of this letter to WSD and to Wagner & Middlebrook, Attorneys so they do not waste their time and our money sending letters and threats to everyone else in the fellowship.

With great sadness,

Grateful Dave