



Narcotics Anonymous Purist Newsletter

The Purist Newsletter
where every voice counts

Notes from the editor

Hello again brothers and sisters in recovery!

Along with a new year comes a new look. I hope you all enjoy!!!

This month we picked the 4th Tradition because our home group just went through a major ordeal with the area we use to belong to. The area wanted to dictate to our group what we needed to do in order to belong to the area... can you believe that?

Through this we found out that other areas in our region do the same thing. They tell groups they HAVE TO send funds to area and HAVE TO read current Literature at the group and HAVE TO send a GSR to area or they CANT be a part of area!!!! What ever happen to the 4th Tradition?

Jeff

4th Tradition

Each Group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other Groups, or N.A. as a whole.

Autonomy protects our fellowship and our groups, it means to be independent and free from outside influences or entanglements. Each N.A. group is a unit unto itself, and can survive on its own. The problems that face one group should not be a threat to, or have a major impact on, other groups. A group should exercise their autonomy by seeking ways to better fulfill their primary purpose, but not as an excuse to do whatever we want. There are limits to our autonomy, it is not a license to deviate from the principles of Narcotics Anonymous; any actions that compromise our Traditions affect the rest of our Fellowship. We are linked together by principles; autonomy is the basis for creative freedom, it should never be used to separate us from each other.

"Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole."

For the purpose of this tradition, "autonomy" can be thought of as a group's right to independence and self-government - with respect to its own affairs. Just as there is no human authority to govern our membership, neither is there a bureaucracy to supervise our groups. Group autonomy is an extension of the freedoms offered us in NA. The Twelve Steps help us gain freedom from the horrors of our addiction, the perils of our past, and the defects of our character. Autonomy, united with other traditions, helps us maintain our freedoms of membership and expression, collective diversity, and spiritual independence.

So long as we continue to rely on the power of a loving God to influence our decisions and their outcomes, we need not establish any codes of conduct for either our groups or our members. This is where the spiritual conscience of a group becomes indispensable. Group conscience authenticates true autonomy, and autonomy works most efficiently when this principle is inclusive to the spirit of our collective Steps and Traditions. Experience has shown us that when adversity strikes a group, and our focus is placed on the solution of our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the problems solve themselves. In this way, we express our faith in NA as a self-correcting program.

Though group autonomy does not justify a disregard for other traditions, neither does it justify retaliation, if perceived that the group has deviated. In this instance, it is imperative that we understand this important concept - complimenting each groups' autonomy, is each groups' *right to be wrong*. If our traditions were enforceable, they would no longer say we "ought," they would say you "must." There are no musts in NA, in any absolute sense of the word. Even our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are only suggestions that neither the individual nor the group must strictly adhere too.

Many have argued that this philosophy may spell disaster for both the group and even NA as a whole, but they are later astonished when this was not the case. Though some groups have strayed from NA tradition over time, once it begins to affect their members' personal recovery or NA as a whole, either the group will wither and die, or group opinion will snap it back in line. Even in such a case, a groups' autonomy is held inviolate.

"So then," you might ask, "can a group decide to do absolutely anything they please?" The answer is, restrictively, "Yes, as long as it is in respect to its *own* affairs." There is only one exception to the near unlimited liberty afforded a group through our tradition of autonomy. The exception is, that their liberty may not be exercised at the expense of severe consequences to any other groups or NA as a whole. It is for this reason that we have developed a service structure encompassing the principle of consultation. Such consultation will often consist of a discussion encompassing all involved, in order to solicit other opinions and reach a fellowship conscience, a conscience which supports both our unity and our primary purpose.

The spirit of consultation is not meant to undermine the principle of autonomy, but to be a safeguard against its misuse. If we invite the guidance of a greater consciousness, check to ensure our motives are inventoried, and strive to maintain open-mindedness as both autonomous groups and consulted service bodies, we believe we can then place our trust in the process as we seek viable solutions. Consultation is a method by which we cultivate new thoughts and ideas which can compliment our enthusiasm for helping others.

Questions have arisen with respect to how far the principle of autonomy can be exercised in our fellowship. The answer is simple, it is expressed in the wording of this tradition; the freedom of autonomy is limited only to the groups. Our groups, however, have organized service boards and committees to facilitate tasks, which intern frees them to carry the message directly to the addict. These service boards and committees are not NA, as such. They exist solely to serve the groups and neither do they derive authority from their service, nor do they inherit the sovereignty of the groups' autonomy.

In the end, so long as the autonomy of our groups is focused on carrying the message of hope and freedom found in Narcotics Anonymous and our efforts are exercised within the boundaries of our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the spirit of this tradition will always ring true. As our groups grow and find new and effective ways of helping others, our diversity is then strengthened, broadening our base, and raising our point of our freedom.



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TRADITION FOUR

"Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole."

- 1) Define "autonomous" via the Basic Text.
- 2) Has my home group been influenced by any form of outside control inside or outside of NA? Does it serve any spiritual purpose?
- 3) Is a group's right to be wrong held true even when straying from spiritual principals?
- 4) When participating in a decision making process do I always consider how it will affect other groups or NA as a whole?
- 5) While exercising autonomy have I made sure that all actions are clearly within the bounds of other traditions?
- 6) Which spiritual principals can I apply to an autonomous group even when I feel there in the wrong?

What is the Narcotics Anonymous program? My home group has been contemplating this simple Question for a time now and we are not so sure that we like what we have witnessed being dubbed as NA. We have witnessed the black listing of members from our home group, character assassination of our home group members, blatant lies about us not following traditions and blatant lies about us scaring away newcomers. There are people within this area body that have even gone as far as use propaganda to keep newcomers from coming to our home group. My home group members would like to know which spiritual principles are these following and where does this all fit in with the traditions?

My home group believes that this area is void of knowledge of the traditions and what Narcotics Anonymous is really all about. There are groups that have a problem with the "Complete Abstinence" IP my home group is working on because they believe that prescription medication is a outside issue yet in the 6th edition of the Basic Text it says "Many of us ended up in jail, or sought help through medicine, religion and psychiatry. None of these methods was sufficient for us" it also says "We sought help and found none. Often doctors didn't understand our dilemma. They tried to help by giving us medication". In a few states Medical Marijuana is now legal, if we say as long as it is prescribed by a doctor its ok are we saying that you can be clean and smoke marijuana??? If this is this area's belief then how could you call this "a program of complete abstinence from ALL mind and mood altering substances" which is what the 6th edition of the basic text calls NA!!! Since when are drugs an outside issue in NA?

In regard to us not following Traditions it is pretty obvious that this area has no idea what they are talking about. My home group is the most unified group I have ever had the honor of being a part of. Everyone's voice is heard and if anyone is unsure of what is going on we take the time to explain in a non bias way so that they can form their own idea and belief on the topic at hand. We in no way shape or form try to sway anyone from having their own opinions. What does this area know about unity anyway? I have gone to and spoke at events that groups within this area put on and watched with sadness in my eyes the lack of unity. This body itself knows they have no idea about unity, just last month the area chair had to form a adhoc committee about unity... Until this area finds the unity they have been seeking so hard to find they are in no way helping anyone recover!!! Because like our first tradition states "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity"

My home group at this time would like to inform the area body that as of today we no longer can continue to be a part of what you have all dubbed NA. The Spiritual Solutions group of Narcotics Anonymous will continue to meet at our regular time and at our regular place. We have already talked to the Father and the secretary of the church about us no longer being a part of this area and how some might come to them and say we are no longer a NA meeting. They have assured us that this is our home. The Father himself has said the Monday and Thursday night meetings are very supportive to him and he loves having us there.

The Spiritual Solutions group of Narcotics Anonymous believes that we will survive and grow stronger as a group because we will no longer have to deal with the unspiritual nature of the corrupted politics of the Beehive area.

2011 12 Step Retreat

Feb. 18-19-20, 2011

Hosted by the Northern Columbiana County NA Groups

How Recovery Works

East Liverpool Motor Lodge

East Liverpool, Ohio

*A Great place to stay - bring your family and your favorite
Newcomers*

Retreat Registration = Still only \$5.00

Rooms (Be Sure to mention you are with the 12-Step Retreat!) **are still \$69.00** (for up to 4 people)

Order your room directly from the motel

330-386-5858 – 330-386-5858 – 330-386-5858

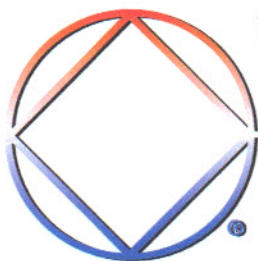
Directions

1. Look on a map!

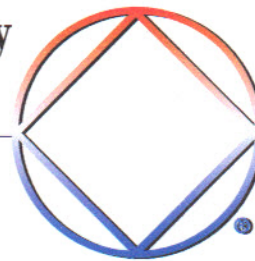
**2. Just East of Route 11, North of East Liverpool, OH
Off the Calcutta Exit on Dresden Avenue**

Contact us: eofin@comcast.net ASISFNA@yahoo.com

330.853.2996



United States Fellowship Assembly March 4,5&6, 2011



Statement of Purpose United States Fellowship Assembly

Our earliest NA service material told us that "everything that occurs in the course of NA service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers". It is for this reason that we begin this work. In the years since we have continued this work with that same motivation first and foremost.

There have been many changes that have created a "disconnect" between our members and all levels of NA service.

As the World Service model developed to reach out across the oceans and touch the lives of addicts suffering abroad, less energy was felt being utilized for the needs of members in the United States, where this life giving fellowship began. Reformation movements rightly follow great expansion and keep alive the vital elements that made our Fellowship attractive and effective.

We propose to offer the Fellowship the opportunity to establish a United States Service Conference that can meet the needs of the US Fellowship, based on the spiritual principles of the 12 Traditions, primarily group conscience.

Mission Statement of the United States Fellowship Assembly

The Mission of the US Fellowship Assembly is to hold a forum to help the NA Fellowship have the opportunity to create a new service structure. In accord with our NA Twelve Traditions the new Service Conference will be designed to be directly responsible and accountable to the NA members and groups within the United States. We pray for a loving God to guide us past the obstacles of money, property and prestige and allow us to bring to bear our many resources to benefit addicts seeking recovery in NA.

Join us in Wichita for this Monumental Event

For hotel reservations call: The Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W. Waterman, Wichita, KS 67202, Phone (316) 293-1234. Mention "The United States Conference" when registering and members get a \$95.00 room rate plus free airport shuttle. Last day for this room rate is February 15, 2011.

United States Fellowship Assembly Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Suggested Registration

Donation: \$15

No. ☐ X \$15 _____

Other Donation _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to:

United States Fellowship Assembly
P.O. Box 17633
Wichita, KS 67217

Pure Spirit Traditionalist Gathering

When: June 24 thru June 26, 2011

Where: Hamburg, PA

Place: Olivet Mountain Camp

1540 Mountain Rd.

Hamburg, Pa 19526

Cost: \$85.00 per person

Price include all meals and {lodging if needed}

There is no registration fee all money go directly to pay for the facility and food

Write checks payable to Historical Perspective Group NA

A.S.I.S. for N.A. 6 Th. Annual Conference

How to get involved:

Input what you want on the agenda

Projected Agenda:

History, Traditions, Writing Literature through Group
Conscience, and Setting up services directly accountable
to the groups through the traditions.

{Setting up A.S.I.S. of N.A.}

For More Information: Contact Historical Perspective Group

(610) 428-9923 Ask for Ray: or e-mail – BillAlln9@aol.com - or check or web
page out <http://www.anonymi.info/> Send check to Historical Perspective group

3546 Broadway Allentown, Pa 18104 Write checks payable to [Historical](#)

[Perspective Group](#) { Bring sheets, pillows, Towels and soap everything else provided }

Name: _____ E - Mail _____

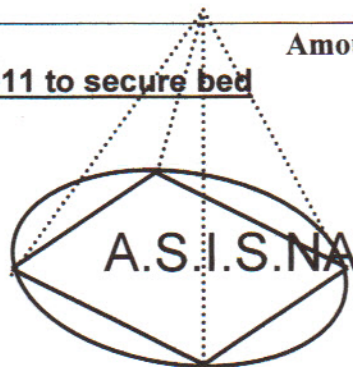
Address: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone () _____

Group: _____

Check No. _____ Amount \$85.00 _____

Send Check by June 6, 2011 to secure bed



{Adversity does not build character, it reveals it.}

More Will Be Revealed

I Can't We Can ♦♦♦♦

Alternate Service Informational Structure