

Please submit all articles to me at:
na_purest_newsletter@rocketmail.com.... If you find this newsletter and would like to get future issues just send your e-mail address to me at the above e-mail address and you will be placed on our list!

Notes from the editor

Greetings once again brothers and sisters in NA!

We are so grateful to be of service to the fellowship of NA by sending this newsletter out to you all. This Month I had the pleasure of meeting some of the fans of the newsletter at CPRCNA 24. I got to sit with a few of them and talk about what they see going on in the fellowship and this is how the next topic (the racial divide) was born. Thanks for sitting and talking with me guys (you know who you are!!!)

I am also sitting here thinking this couldn't be a better time to send out the Purist Newsletter as the conference is in session... hello to all you RD's that get the newsletter every month... Please find out why Anthony's salary is more important to save then selling the Narcotics Anonymous book (AKA Basic Text), to the fellowship that owns the book in the first place, at a lower rate. How do we as a fellowship justify Anthony's exuberant salary when there are groups that have to struggle just to pay rent in order to pursue our primary purpose of carrying the message? Can we say the fellowship chooses "not to adopt" a pay increase for any of the special workers???? NO... because like always, NAWS won't listen to the groups.

Then there is our prior World Board Chair who at MARLCNA told one of the Purist Newsletter staff that no where in our literature does it talk about NA having an inverted pyramid service structure... Well I hope one of you RD's or Alt RD's can point out to him the 9th tradition in "It Works How and Why " page 193 first paragraph... These guys kill me, they don't even know their own literature and have world board positions...

Jeff



The next topic is a mix between the 1st Tradition and a problem we face in NA more and more, a racial divide. The topic is "If unity is so important to our fellowship how can we afford to allow this racial divide in NA to continue?"

Narcotics Anonymous Purist Newsletter



May 2010

THE PURIST NEWSLETTER WHERE EVERY VOICE COUNTS Open Forum

Open letter to the purists

An open letter to fellow purists,

I think we would all agree that use of the Narcotics Anonymous name for personal profit is wrong. Many of us are aware of the growing trend out there which started among treatment centers to use the NA name in their advertising campaigns in order to legitimize what they do. As if that isn't bad enough, we now have actual NA members doing the same thing for profit via the internet. Possibly the worst offenders are the owners of a website called InTheRooms.com. What they do is pay all of the search engines i.e. Google, Ask.com, etc. to place their website at the top of the list when you search for Narcotics Anonymous. This is misleading to the newcomer who may be trying to get information about NA. We know addicts die and this is not a joke. InTheRooms.com paying to come up at the top of the list could prevent a newcomer from finding us. If you click there you end up at a social networking site that carries a mixed message from several fellowships as well as a slew of treatment center ads. If people that are unfamiliar with the NA program end up on this site they may never find the real NA and believe that the information here is representative of NA as a whole, or worse, they may think you can get recovery by participating in social networking, thus never showing up at an actual meeting and working a program. Did I mention addicts die?

I am located in the South Florida Region. The owners of this site are also from this Region and I am told have significant clean time. They should know better. "Iest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose" comes to mind here. The South Florida Region went through the proper channels and contacted the WSO who informed us that after making contact with the owners of the site they agreed to discontinue the practice. That lasted about two months. Their ad campaign not only has

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resumed, but it is just as strong as it ever was. Addicts should be helping other addicts stay clean, not capitalizing on the NA name to make money for themselves.

Here is a brief synopsis about how the cost factor for advertising works if they have secured the cost per click (CPC) method. They select search key words; such as "Narcotics Anonymous" and "Miami NA"; then they put in factors such as Maximum 'Bid' Per Click and Cost Per Day to show their ad. When the user searches the above keywords then the search engine calculates the position of the ad based on their 'bid'. If the user clicks on the advertisement then the company is charged for their 'bid'. If InTheRooms.com bid an average of .25 for each click and 1000 addicts clicked on the link then they would be charged \$250. If the 1000 addicts clicked on the link every day for a month they would be charged $30 \times 250 = \$7,500$. If the 1000 addicts woke up every morning (or after midnight) and opened the link 10 times (hit back and refresh the search [f5] between clicks or open in new window) it would take less than one minute per day and cost InTheRooms.com \$75,000 per month. No doubt they have set their Cost Per Day limit lower than that; which means their advertising budget would be used up in one minute each morning and the addict who still suffers could have a better chance of finding a clear NA message in a meeting near them. My personal best is 35 per day.

After researching it, the cost per click on Google is actually .40 per day, so do the math.

I am suggesting that anyone that thinks this is wrong simply click through every morning when you get up ten times. There is strength in numbers and we can easily succeed where the WSO has failed on this issue.

April
Delray Beach, FL

We need to band together and copy the literature for our homegroups so that we no longer feed the beast known as NAW\$

In response to the April Issue

Hello, My name is Christine and I was forwarded this newsletter from a friend in Alabama. Its the first time I have ever read it and I loved it. I was forwarded the email regarding the interview Jane K. did and was absolutely disgusted. I have been clean 2 and a half years and kicked 80 milligrams of methadone when I got here. It took me about 8 to 9 months to get one day clean. I have been doing PI work for the last 2 years and could not believe what she stated, with my 2 years of PI experience I knew she was completely out of her mind. If you could please send a copy of the newsletter Christine

Cell Phone Vs. Basic Text

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Basic Text, like we treat our cell phones.

- * What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- * What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- * What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- * What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- * What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- * What if we used it as we traveled?
- * What if we used it in case of emergency?
- * What if we had it set, so there is a special, spiritually awakening ring tone every time there was an incoming message?
- * Something to make you say hmmm, and where is my Basic Text?

The settlement in the Grateful Dave lawsuit made it crystal clear - the literature belongs to the members, not to the World Service Office (or its eventual successor NAW\$)

Support Your Home Group !

Print your own literature.

Don't listen to the bullies - they are lying or wrong - it is perfectly legal, and allowed under the terms of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust that so many members of narcotics anonymous fought for.

The settlement in the Grateful Dave lawsuit made it crystal clear - the literature belongs to the members, not to the World Service Office (or its eventual successor NAW\$), the World Board, or any of the other entities that are not - according to our traditions - Narcotics Anonymous.

Band together, pulling groups into one purchasing arm to keep the price down. The last quote I got for "real" baby blue type Basic Texts (leaving out the personal stories) was \$2.02. That was printed with a full color cover if desired, and "perfect bound" (like most paperbacks you see on the shelf at a bookstore).

Would you rather take \$200 and have almost 100 copies, knowing that none of the money went to support the corrupt NAW\$, or would you rather have 16 copies of the sixth edition, knowing that you padded the coffers of NAW\$ to the tune of somewhere around \$180 PROFIT to support the Travel Club ?

Printing your own literature, starving the beast that is NAW\$, solution based !

We as a fellowship need to stand up and say enough is enough!

7th Tradition

The dollar that you put in the basket is probably more important then you know for the group. The money that you put in the basket helps pay rent, coffee and literature. Do you know that the dollar you put in the basket rarely makes it past region and to the WSO if you copy your own literature?

NAW\$\$\$\$ gets funded by what literature we buy from them. If the groups went ahead and made copies of the pamphlets and basic text at print shops instead of buying them through the WSO they would no longer be able to fund salaries plus travel and lodging for the "SPECIAL WORKERS".

We as a fellowship need to stand up and say enough is enough!
We as a fellowship need to also worry about the survival of the groups and if we don't place a dollar (maybe more) in the basket for fear of supporting NAW\$ our groups will wither and die and how will that help the newcomer?

If your group feels that what you donate to area is not doing the greater good of helping the newcomer then by all means donate what is left to H&I by copying some more NA literature and giving it to them!

In 2010 we are going to try something new. We are going to convert pages 4 and 5 to "The Step of the month club". We feel that although traditions are great to talk about and discuss we need to also talk about steps for our personal recovery!

The Step of the Month club

THIS IS STEP 4 IN THE STEP OF THE MONTH CLUB. THE PERSON I HAVE ASKED THIS MONTH TO WRITE ON THE 4TH STEP IS SOMEONE I LOVE DEARLY AND AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE IN MY LIFE!!!!

4th Step

When I got to the rooms, I kept hearing about this 4th step as the scariest thing they had ever done or they relapsed while doing it. I couldn't imagine anything scarier than what I had already lived. My sponsor helped me through my 1st 3 steps & I knew she wasn't about to let me do the 4th without guidance. 1st she had me start with a assets & liabilities list. Anytime something in my inventory started the committee in my head talking, I would look over my assets list. I know I'm a good person who has done some pretty messed up stuff, so this inventory didn't scare me. If anything it was the best thing I could have done for myself. What I did in the past was the past. I can't change it. The thing that did get to me was I didn't realize the damage I had caused others. I learned in my 4th step that I never had to go through those things again. I have a choice today & I am more aware of my actions and how they affect others. I realized that I had resentments, but they were mainly with myself. I learned to love myself enough not to hide or have secrets as they keep me sick. I am no longer afraid of my past, it made me who I am today. I like who I am today & accept others for who they are, not who they were. I am so grateful to my sponsor for

always being there for me & loving me no matter what. I was so comfortable sharing my life with her, without the fear that she would judge me. She shared part of herself with me as well. I can share openly on just about anything that's in my 4th step. When I do, the burden of it is lifted & I allow others to get closer. The last time I used, over 6 years ago, I was alone because my addiction pushed everyone away. Today I look forward to meeting new people and whether they are in my life for a reason, a season or a lifetime, I'm ok with that. I trust my HP will always guide me as long as I let her.

Amanda R

