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Narcotics Anonymous Purist Newsletter



October 2010

Notes from the editor

Hello once again my Brothers and Sisters of recovery!

On September 24th -the 26th I had the honor of going to a history and traditions weekend in Ohio. It was great to get together with some old friend and make some new ones. I had the overwhelming honor of being asked to share my E,S&H on Saturday night and will be forever grateful to Jim and his home group for that. It was a really grate weekend. Jim's homegroup puts it on every year and I for one have put it on my list of events to make every year.

One of the things we talked about a lot this weekend was "total abstinence". The literature being put out by NAW\$ has started to take a stance that goes against what Narcotics Anonymous was founded on "total abstinence against all mind and mood altering chemicals". We believe a stance needs to be made NOW before it gets any worse. A few of the members from ASIS has asked me to reach out to the fellowship and ask for input on what they believe about "total abstinence", So I am doing just that... Please send me anything you like on the topic of "total abstinence" everyone has the right to be heard. Thank you!

I don't know about all of you but I'm getting sick of NAW\$ taking our message and watering it down to a state of nothing!!!

We need to make a stance and ASIS is that stance!!! come join us at nahelp.org start a graybook meeting and become a group of ASIS ...

Jeff



We will keep it a open forum due to the fact that I am now working 2 jobs and don't have the time I once had to do the newsletter. This is only for another few months and soon we will once again come up with topics! please remember send stuff on total abstinence too!!

THE PURIST NEWSLETTER WHERE EVERY VOICE COUNTS

Open Forum

TRADITION 12 - ANONYMITY

Anonymity is essential in preserving the stability of our fellowship, making personal recovery possible. Recovery is a delicate thing. It grows best in a stable, supportive environment. Each of us and each of our groups plays a part in maintaining that stability. Our unity is so precious that, given a choice between fulfilling our wishes and preserving our fellowship's common welfare, we put the best interests of NA first. We do this not only out of enlightened self-interest but out of our sense of responsibility to our fellow addicts. The principle of NA unity comes before the fulfillment of our personal wishes

JUST SOME NA HUMER

Some Newcomers, a few Oldtimers, and the boardmembers of NAWS are arguing about what is best for the future of NA. Jimmy K comes down from Heaven and decides to test them by letting a rabbit loose into a forest.

The Newcomers go in: Two weeks, no leads, they burn the forest, kill everything in it and make no apologies. They report to Jimmy that the rabbit had it coming.

The Oldtimers go in. Three hours later they drag this bear out. He's badly beaten, hands on his head, he's shouting, "Okay, okay, I'm a rabbit for God's sake... I'm a fucking rabbit."

Jimmy sends NAWS in next; They put animal informants throughout the forest. They question all plant and mineral witnesses, they interview and gather information. Three weeks later, utilization of eleven hundred operatives and four and a half million dollars in expenses, they file a seven hundred and fifty-five page report with conclusive and incontrovertible evidence that not only did the original rabbit never exist, there never was such a species in the first place

NAWSeous

[naw-shuh s, -zee-uh s]—adjective

1. The feeling of revulsion when one realizes what has been become of Narcotics Anonymous World Services.
2. That 'off' feeling you have when the Conference Agenda Report arrives and you wonder what 'they' have done this year.
3. The safety mechanism that prohibits good natured trusted servants from advancing to World level service.

My concerns have increased since this discussion because these two trusted servants just participated in the WSC and voted for this piece of literature. It seems they didn't take the time to read it through and voted solely on the recommendations of the WB. Here is my question to those on this e mail list: how do we insure that our trusted servants understand the importance of group conscience and the importance of researching issues they are asked to vote on so they can fully be informed before they make decisions"? It is becoming clearer that we are not teaching these young members these two important duties of service.

On a high note, I brought a close friend of mine with me to his first NA function. He is just short of his 28th anniversary "clean and sober" and he has been sitting on the clean/sober fence for many years. On the way home he informed me that he had never been anywhere in his recovery where he felt more loved and welcome than he had at this NA function. I could feel the tears well up in my eyes as I welcomed him home to Narcotics Anonymous. This is the NA I know and love!

My Experience at a speaker Jam

I had the opportunity to participate in the TUANA Speaker Jam this past weekend. It was one of the most spiritually moving NA functions I have been to in many years. This young committee invited 17 awesome speakers that shared from the heart and each of them gave a share deserving of the main banquet speaker of a World Convention. The most heartwarming of the whole event was that each speaker came on their own dime. The Committee offered a nights lodging to the out of town speakers but each one declined instead asking that the Committee use those funds to invite new comers in treatment or purchase literature for the new comers.

I had the opportunity to talk with the RD and RDA of this region. I had made short mention of my having concerns of the direction NA is heading in and they wanted to know what those concerns were. We began to discuss literature and the new IP "In Matters of Money" and I shared with them my thoughts on how it reminded me of organized religion's literature soliciting funds of their members. In particular how the solicitation of funds donated to NAWS as monthly electronic transfers and suggesting that members leave NAWS something in their wills when they die was not sitting well in my stomach. Both these trusted servants told me they didn't believe me and that this IP didn't contain those two items. Fortunately we had a copy of this new IP and when I showed it to them, they both immediately wanted to change the subject to literature in general.

I am a addict

I am an addict meaning I can not safely or without dire consequences use any mood or mind altering substance, including the liquid drug alcohol, successfully. I may be able to use it for a while and not go to jail or the asylum or get fired from my job or ruin my relationships or get sick or pick up on my drug of choice or die but maybe I can't even do it for a little while. I don't plan to find out as I take NA at its word that an addict can't use successfully. If someone can, then they must not be an addict. I used to go to meetings in New Orleans with a wonderful man, Bob.J, who came to NA from AA who used to share that he was addicted to marijuana and that he had never even smoked it. He died in 1990 with 24 years clean, and he helped me a lot. One of the few drugs I never used, not that I am aware of as I was mostly out of it for my using existence, is ecstasy but i do consider myself an ecstasy addict though. Glad for myself I got the concept of total abstinence clear right from the beginning and work a perfect first step otherwise I would be in big trouble or dead. Total abstinence is not a concept for us to not be clear on. In NA we are about the concept of addiction not a specific substance although we well understand the destructive nature of using any mind and mood altering substance and the totally destructive power that picking up any drug unleashes in us. If you want what we have to offer and are willing to make the effort to get itNA is there for everyone but not everyone wants it. Thanks.

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

We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

This is one of the Steps that we should not attempt alone; we have found that it is extremely important to get guidance before we make any amends. There are times when amends are inappropriate, there are times when they do additional harm, and there are times when an amends might be motivated by our own selfish needs rather than a desire to take responsibility for the harm that we have done. Amends can come in many forms, the most important of which is changing the way we live. With the advice of our sponsor, we attempt to make our most pressing amends first. If we

trust in God, opportunities will be given to us when we need them, and the results of our efforts will be fruitful. Amends are made in order to find freedom, not to make the person we have harmed feel better or so they will forgive us. Amends are not just words or deeds they represent an active Change in us and a commitment to recovery.

