

Tradition Seven

This article was written by Bob B., a member of the World Service Board of Trustees, in May 1985. It represents his views at the time of writing.

"Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." Not only is there an obligation but a duty of every recovering addict to support both through effort and monies the things that will help NA grow.

It is sad that in our efforts to recover we take great reversals of attitudes and actions, from high-rolling, grandiose, free-spending people to tight, selfish individuals with great rationalization and justification for our actions.

With this pious and noble attitude, we point at others or say "let George do it, he is more qualified and has more money."

We forget that every one of us had to support our own habits by whatever means we could find. If we could give just a small percentage of the monies or efforts we spent for drugs, how well we would be able to carry the message of recovery to those many unfortunate addicts who have not yet found NA.

Just think for a moment how much could be accomplished if every addict in NA would pledge one cent a day to one service arm of NA. Greater numbers of people would hear the message of NA and be given a chance of recovery.

It seems that in our recovery, memory returns very slowly. We forget where we came from, the way it was, and how we obtained the message of recovery. It was freely given, but there was work and money involved that came from somewhere.

There is work being performed by people who feel that sense of responsibility to their fellows. Phone calls cost money, the printed material that is given away for free costs money, the rent must be paid at a central location so we may be located by those seeking recovery. When the phone rings we want someone to be at the other end; they must be paid. The postage for the letters you write and responses to those letters also cost money.

Remember the work you don't see being done is usually being accomplished by a mere few who ask very little in return. Those few cannot do it alone, without the help of all members in the fellowship in some small part, contributing towards their recovery and the recovery of those to come.

The survival of NA depends on us all. That little something we don't give might be the difference between one addict dying or surviving. That addict could be you.

(Reprinted from Newsline, Vol. 2, No. 3.)