



Speaking Of Service

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WSO, Inc. Fired Committee and Hired Professional To Get Castillian Spanish Text On The Market

"One Addict's Experience and Opinion On The Spanish Basic Text"

(LETTER DATED 10/91)

In the very near future, November or December, the World Service Office Incorporated, will come out with their newest product, the Spanish Basic Text.

This news fills me with mixed feelings because, although at long last we will finally have a Spanish Text, and in a way that makes my heart very glad, the inescapable fact remains that this translated book has not been written for addicts by addicts. Instead this is a translation of the Fifth Edition done by a professional translator from Spain which will not go through any kind of review and approval process when finished.

The real sad part about this is that, in my opinion, we could have had a Spanish Text that was created through the Group Conscience process, the way all our literature should. Instead, what we will get will be a book which was principally motivated by the World Service Office Incorporated's need for a new money-making product.

Let me give you a bit of history on this project so that you may better understand my feelings on this matter.

In early 1988 a motion was passed

unanimously through the South Dade Area Service Committee and then in turn through the Florida Region Service Committee. This motion was then entered as motion number 1 in the Regional Motions section of the 1988-89 World Service Conference Agenda. The motion read as follows: That the WSC ask the WSO to make the translation and publication of a Spanish edition of the basic text into a top priority.

All of us in our Area and Region were sure that this motion would pass the conference that year. The WSO would have been responsible to the WSC for the quick translation and publication of the Spanish Text. We were all extremely happy. However, before this motion even had a chance to come on the floor of the Conference the then RSR for the Florida Region was pulled aside by Bob Stone, the then Executive Director of the World Service Office Incorporated. Bob Stone then proceeded to convince (we never found out how) our RSR to withdraw that motion because the WSO was already taking care of this matter. This RSR not only betrayed the Group Conscience of his whole Region by pulling this motion but in my opinion he made it impossible for the suffering Spanish speaking addicts in more than twenty Spanish speaking countries

Continued on Page 2 (Spanish Text)

SOS - Want It?

We are going to try getting this publication out again. It is really up to the readers. Send letters with your experience, strength and hope about service related issues facing N.A. today and SOS will publish them. We will go to press whenever there are seven pages to print.

Further, I will add that if you want to insure that you receive a copy of SOS, write, tell us you continue to want one. You should include a letter about service. If you don't receive any more issues, you know that no one wrote letters.

We did our best to provide regular publication, but it obviously wasn't meant to be. We are trying again. We need your help. New subscribers will have to take a chance on how many issues they will receive during the year they pay for. We will do our best to provide old subscribers with the 12 issues they paid for whenever we can. If old subscribers are of a mind to take a chance and help financially, please do. SOS did not pay for itself. We used all money received for stamps. No printing was ever paid by subscription money. SOS received 72 checks for \$6 to \$12 each. Fourteen checks bounced (our bank charges \$20 per check) and three people made up for their checks. We mailed 3000 plus copies, including this issue, to anyone who asked for one.

Even though many called to support SOS, even though our Editor was told personally many times by phone or in person that SOS was liked and needed, we received few letters. Maybe SOS is not needed or wanted. We don't know. Many addicts asked to see another issue, so here it is. We will see if another is wanted by the response in letters and subscriptions.

Hoping to hear from you,

SOS EDITORS

SPANISH TEXT (From Page 1)

throughout the World and in the U.S. to have the benefit of a Basic Text that carries the Spirit of Recovery from the disease of addiction.

What they will get instead will be a book geared for maximum possible sales to Compcare and Hazelden. I was taught by all of you that the Gift of Recovery is granted us by A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE, not in one-person translation (personal opinion). All who familiar with the Spanish language know well that the Spanish that is spoken in Peru is different in many ways from the Spanish spoken in Colombia, Argentina or the Philippines. The Cuban-Americans in Miami speak a different dialect than that spoken in California or Texas by the Mexican-Americans or by the Puerto Rican-Americans in N.Y. or New Jersey. The professional translator hired by the World Service Office Incorporated lives in Barcelona, Spain. The Spanish Text will be done in *Castillian Spanish*.

In my opinion, there are only two possible ways to logically handle this project:

- 1) Every Spanish speaking country's fellowship should produce their own translation in their very own dialect, with their own street slang, like Panama and Colombia have already done (The WSO has had to approve these two books, but they have done so only for use in the respective countries only).
- 2) We try to get as many as possible bilingual addicts (English-Spanish of course) to form a committee to do the actual work of translating and when finished or in sections get it to as many as possible countries, regions, groups, or individual addicts for review and approval.

Only these two options would abide by our Tradition of using literature written by addicts for addicts and only these two options would make sure that the Loving God in our Group Conscience can speak to us through our literature.

The first option mentioned has no appeal to the World Service Office Incorporated simply because they can not make any money from it!

It looked for awhile like the WSO would do the right thing and attempt to obtain a Spanish Translation through the process of Group conscience. Let me explain.

After the 1988-89 conference was over and the word started to spread of what had happened

to the Spanish addicts around the U.S. and the World, the WSO started to feel the pressure from many different quarters. Spanish addicts from everywhere started to inquire why the motion that would have finally produced the long overdue Spanish Text had been so skillfully killed by the WSO.

As mentioned before, two of those Spanish countries with the largest fellowships (Columbia and Panama) had already gotten tired of waiting for the WSO and were producing and distributing their own version of the Basic Text at no profit to the WSO. At the same time Spain was translating the I.P.s because they were not happy with the translations that the WSO was selling them, and they were planning to start their own translation of the text after finishing with the I.P.s.

But the most important factor was that the sales of the English Basic Text, which had soared for years at tremendous profit to the WSO, had been dropping fast due in great part by the Fourth Edition fiasco controversy and then the availability of the *Baby Blue Free Basic Text*.

The WSO went about this by contacting some of the members who had shown interest in working on such a project (I was one of those members from the very start of the committee). Thus in September 1989 was born the "WSO Spanish Basic Text Translation Committee."

At first all the Committee members were very excited because we had been led to believe by the WSO that this was a project in which as wide as possible Group Conscience would be sought. But, alas, this was not to be. This committee met only five times, December 1989 and March 1990 in Miami, May 1990 in Houston, August 1990 in New York, and lastly, December 1990 in Los Angeles. At this last meeting in Los Angeles, without any previous indication or warning we were informed that the committee was no longer in existence and that the World Service Office Incorporated had decided to hire a Professional Translator from Spain to work on the translation.

In needs mentioning that at this time we were more than half way finished and that our greater committee was formed by Regional committees from Florida, Texas, New York, Southern California, San Diego, Puerto Rico. Within these committees there were addicts representing the cultures of many different countries like: Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Panama, Spain, Ecuador, etc.

The reasons they gave us at the time were that we were taking too long and that there were many Spanish addicts dying out there. They said that the committee was spending too much money and that they could not afford it, even though they World Service Office Incorporated was the only paying for the hotel rooms and the meeting rooms. All the other expenses were being covered by donations from Areas and Regions and from the committee member's own pockets.

But, the worst insult was that they told us that, in effect, we did not really know what we were doing and that we were screwing the project up.

All the love, the Experience, Strength and Hope, the Faith, the Caring, the Spirit of Recovery, that we had been so carefully and lovingly been distilling from the Basic Text and putting in the Spanish version so that the suffering Spanish-speaking addicts could have the same wonderful text, written by addicts for addicts message of recovery; that those of us lucky enough to read English have. This was not good enough for the World Service Office Incorporated. They wanted a professionally done, cheaper and faster product.

The book will be out soon and the WSO will sell thousands of copies at once to their best customers, Compcare and Hazelden, and surely the WSO will make lots of money. But I wonder, what will happen to those Spanish addicts who are dying!

Joe M., Miami

The 55 Cent Basic Text How We Could Make It Happen

Do you or your group have an IBM compatible computer, with at least a 20MB hard drive, Word Perfect 5.1, and a near letter quality dot matrix printer? If you do - informational copies of the Second Edition with the White Book revisions can be produced for about 55 cents. The book could be made available on floppy disks (any type) and ready to print. First print on one side of a \$18 dollar, 5500 sheet, box of tractor paper, then print on the other side. One box of paper will make about 55 books. It would probably take a couple of \$6 ribbons. Ask and a draft Spanish version of the book could be made available. A program like this would be free. For more information about how we could make cheap books write: "Making A Cheap Book," 318 Hobart Ave., Daytona Beach, FL, 32114. Let's try to carry the message free for the asking. What a concept!

Fellowship Report: April 92

"Unauthorized Basic Text distribution

"Despite settlement of one major lawsuit last January (1992), a number of members continue to print and distribute their own version of your Basic Text without the fellowship's authorization. Unauthorized publication of your literature threatens the fellowship's copyright on the Basic Text, thus compromising our common welfare. We believe the only sure way to stop the unauthorized production of NA literature is for NA members to stop *buying it*. We encourage our fellow members to examine their conscience and consider the common welfare of *all* members before buying unauthorized Basic Texts."

The "fellowship" was informed by the Federal Court that if it did not stop trying to create a "literature trust document and policy," the court would shut down the conference. The WSO, Inc. and the "fellowship" it represents is not going to sue anyone for printing literature. The court has yet to see any "proof" that WSO owns any literature. Besides the "fellowship" has not complied with the agreement it signed and could soon be judged to be in "civil contempt."

DID THE WSO TELL YOU ABOUT
RECEIVING AN INJUNCTION?
NO? WHY NOT?

TIRED OF THE LIES

KANSAS: World Service Office, Inc. reports in the January 1992 NA *Newsline* that many members are upset about unauthorized literature being printed and distributed by members, groups and areas.

According to WSO, "The matter of literature production and distribution was presented to the fellowship and voted on at the WSC. The fellowship expressed its collective view on this issue, and it's time we all respected that decision."

The WSO said two years ago that the fellowship wanted them to sue David Morehead in Federal Court and uphold the fellowship's intellectual property and literature. They submitted documents in evidence that supported

their contention that they were the exclusive owners of that material. During the trial, according to the transcript of that trial, they withdrew that evidence because of technical problems. WSO, Inc. has not re-submitted that material in court. Legally there are no copyrights at this time. There won't ever be unless WSO re-submits that evidence.

They say in NA *Newsline*, "We do not seek to render judgements about those members who are still involved in this activity..." No kidding. They can't get a judgement until they win their case in Federal Court. They do not own the material.

The "fellowship" cannot now make a "Literature Trust." It has given WSO exclusive right to represent it in Federal Court and therefore must wait until that case is concluded before any other decision can be made.

WSO said the fellowship asked them to represent it in court. They signed an agreement in the fellowship's name to do certain things. These things have not been done. Now they say the fellowship voted at the last WSC no to follow the agreement's conditions. The fellowship has no legal right to change its mind. If WSO signed in their name, they must do what was agreed to do or they are in contempt. If they did not act as the fellowship's agent, as they stated in the court record, then they will lose the case due to fraud.

At the end of the article WSO, Inc. says, "The WSO will live up to its responsibility regarding the protection of NA literature; but until the fellowship itself no longer tolerates this activity, the activity will likely continue." The WSO's responsibility is to re-submit evidence in court that will allow the judge to render a decision. The WSO's responsibility is still to fulfill the terms of the agreement it signed in the fellowship's name. If the fellowship sees the WSO as its agent and protector it should make sure the agreement signed in court is carried out. And everyone should remember that part of the agreement was to stop the persecution of NA members, to be tolerant.

Keith R.

WORLD FULL OF SHIT

FLORIDA: World Service Office, Inc. says in the January issue of NA *Newsline* that it will "...live up to its responsibility regarding the protection of NA literature; but until the fellowship itself no longer tolerates this activity, the activity will likely continue."

The "activity" they speak of is NA groups and areas reproducing our fellowship's literature for their own use. It was made clear from Federal Court transcripts that no NA group, area, or member was making profit from the production and distribution of literature.

Copyrights offered as evidence of ownership to the Federal Court were withdrawn by WSO, Inc. lawyers because they were shown to be possibly altered, erroneous in content and erroneous in federal copyright compliance laws.

Newly WSO, Inc. rewritten copyrights have not been entered into Federal Court, so there is presently no "owner" or "holder" of literature

produced over the last 40 years by NA members and committees. Much of the literature, logos, symbols, etc., that NA uses was in use before the WSO, Inc. and the World Service Conference, and even the first area service committee, were established. Obviously those items, legally, are in the Public Domain. Ownership of literature produced since the creation of the current service structure and the WSO, Inc. has always been a hotly contested item. There has never been a group by group tally of the wishes of the fellowship, even though the WSO, Inc. agreed in Federal Court to hold such a tally as a condition in its legal agreement with David Morehead.

Much of the fellowship does not think the current service structure reflects the thinking or more importantly, the "group conscience" of NA. The service structure is run like any common political structure. It is based on levels of representation that abide by rules which have no basis in the 12 Traditions. It considers itself more important than groups.

The WSO, Inc., WSC, the trustees will not "...live up to its responsibility to protect NA literature." in any legal way. It is not the legal holder of NA intellectual property. It can't even hope to be the legal holder of that property until it reenters Federal Court with its new evidence and that Court upholds it. They won't be going into court though, even their lawyers can easily predict the legal future of that court battle—NA literature and intellectual property will be placed in Public Domain.

The court does not "respect" those decisions. It is waiting for the evidence to be resubmitted.

The "decision reached" was not done by the methods the WSO, Inc. said would be used in its agreement.

The "fellowship" (as described by WSO) can make all the "decisions" it wants concerning literature. That WSO described fellowship gave them permission to represent them in court so they are bound by any action that court may take, it was, and continues to be, bound by the agreement signed by Toordeman and Hollihan in the name of the described fellowship. It has not lived up to that agreement and could be open to contempt charges if they were asked for by the litigee.

What does the WSO mean by saying "The WSO will live up to its responsibility regarding the protection of NA literature; but until the fellowship itself no longer tolerates this activity, the activity will likely continue." Their responsibility is to continue with the court case, to see it to its conclusion. They have stated, in their press and in federal court, that the fellowship said that's what it wanted. They said in press and in court that they wanted all recriminations to other members stopped.

So what does it mean "...until the fellowship itself no longer tolerates this activity." Is that some call to arms, to return to the shunning of the past, to the complete intolerance of the past? Maybe its a call for the money to pay those incredibly expensive Philadelphia copyright attorneys to get back in court and uphold the WSO vision of "exclusive publisher."

Craig, 9 Years Clean

Narcotics Anonymous Can Die!

Two Letters From The SOS Editor About Bigotry And Business

BIGOTRY: Hundreds of addicts are recovering here in the Daytona Area. Forty to 50 of them are attending Narcotics Anonymous meetings. The rest attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Almost all local A.A. meetings are overwhelmingly populated with addicts who used all drugs as opposed to those who only used one drug: alcohol.

The number of addicts attending Daytona N.A. now is no more than when I picked up my white fob in March 1986. More than half of our 22 meetings struggle for attendance and trusted servants. There are less members willing to participate in the Daytona ASC now than there were in 1986. All of us here in the Daytona Area N.A. agree on these facts.

Why don't N.A. meetings get more addicts with a desire to recover from addiction rather than alcoholism? I've been going around asking and I hear the same thing: "I don't want to listen to that shit!" What shit? Anti-A.A. shit. (Most of the members of N.A. here are full of hatred and contempt for A.A.) Many times I heard that N.A. is too cliquish. Some I heard from sound even more pessimistic, they say there are no solutions in N.A., only disease, and the only thing discussed is who's fucking who.

If we get an addict coming into the room from a crack house saying they have to attend a meeting to satisfy their probation requirements, we, of course, open our arms. But, if an addict comes into the room saying they came from an A.A. meeting they are usually met with open hostility. Any addict, coming to a meeting regularly, that admits to also attending A.A. meetings is set upon for being unspiritual. They are accused of carrying a mixed message that will hurt N.A. and kill addicts that listen to them.

How can any N.A. member who believes we have a spiritually correct recovery program be worried about any

other program's message. And who is really carrying the mixed message? Every night, in every N.A. meeting, we read all about how, in N.A., we don't care what you have done, how much or how little...how we don't ask anyone to make any promises or sign any pledges...how we don't care what creed you adhere to, our reading says: "We just want to know how we can help!" Do we really? Is that the program we practice? Not here. Not in most meetings I've attended outside the Daytona Area.

Every night in our meetings we read: "We cannot afford to be confused about this, alcohol is a drug." Can a newcomer to N.A. be confused? Of course, we all were confused about something, probably everything. Is a newcomer supposed to somehow divine the proper language when they walk in the door? Are they supposed to instantly know the difference between N.A.'s message and others?

When "We" is read, what is meant is the Group, Narcotics Anonymous, As A Whole. "We," our groups, and those of us in service to Narcotics Anonymous, are duty bound to keep from being confused. If a newcomer calls themselves an alcoholic, we know, or should know, that they have the disease of addiction and try to carry our message to them. My experience is that newcomers care a lot about how much they used and what they used and where they used. So the newcomer may believe there is difference between alcohol and other drugs, but "we" need to remember there is not. We need to demonstrate our belief in our program by leading with "example rather than direction and manipulation," which, in our book, we agreed will always fail.

Newcomers must be shown by our example that we really believe our basic text when it says clearly: "All addicted persons are welcome and equal in obtaining the relief they are seeking from their addiction: every

addict can recover in this program on an equal basis." Do you know any member in the service structure that believes in that spiritual principle? Do you know any service committee, board, or corporation that believes in it?

Newcomers can and do think all kinds of things. "We," Narcotics Anonymous, have agreed in our Basic Text on our hope each newcomer finds a new way life and becomes a responsible member of society. Surely "we" can give "time," time, to let newcomers learn by our example, rather than from imposing dictated policies concerning proper language and what members should, or should not do, outside of N.A. The service structure in N.A. has a history of not letting things happen in God's time.

Narcotics Anonymous can die! If addicts continue to let our message be carried by members with unresolved resentments, problems with their self esteem, an urge to control and manipulate, and the desire to prove they are OK by making others seem not OK, then we will perish as a fellowship.

Our service structure, from bottom (groups now) to top is filled with this kind of member. Those of us who want our message carried according to the tenets of our Basic Text need to be more assertive in our Home Groups. Every addict that comes to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting needs to hear they are welcome, no matter what, or our fellowship just may die.

Ray U., Addict

NOTE: A friend/customer just stopped by to get some typing done (it's my business), saw this letter, and told me that a national treatment company is telling their patients not to attend Narcotics Anonymous because the Fellowship is: "...cliquish, cultist, immature, exclusionary, and focuses on the "problem" rather than the "solution."

Maybe, if everyone says you're acting like an ass, you probably should start braying for help!

BUSINESS: Our Traditions speak clearly to problems created by addicts and groups that pursue money, property and prestige. They forget their primary purpose. If you have a region that ever welcomes newcomers to their meetings or ever talks about anything but money, property or service structure prestige, please write and tell me where you are. I haven't seen my region or area service welcome a newcomer to their committee meetings in six years. Mostly the mucky-mucks in my region and area don't even say "hi" to members without service positions.

I been fighting this concern for money for awhile, and got into the fight over property and prestige in the last four years. I became part of the problem. I was fighting the disease. I should have learned from addiction that I had to surrender, not fight. And soon after quitting the fighting I began to have revelations about this whole NA money thing.

When the Basic Text was approved by all the groups and printing was first discussed - everyone - members, the World Literature Committee, the World Service Office, the trustees, the World Service Conference - everyone agreed to factor in profit to the cost of the book *Narcotics Anonymous*. I repeat, for emphasis: They all agreed to sell the book above cost.

The reasons to raise money through sales of the Basic Text were different, but all agreed it was a good idea to make money selling the book. They agreed it was a good idea to make money from Basic Text sales to do other things that each said would help carry the message.

The Fellowship was doomed by that decision to end up fighting for every year since and possibly to our end over that money, all the things that money made possible and all the resentments caused by who handles that money and how they do it and what they spend it on. A fight that continue to plague us - and this fight has cost us our dignity in federal court and our maturity and our recovery. If it continues we will lose our fellowship to the disease so eloquently defined by our Basic Text. How ironic that the very book that tells us about our pitfalls and how we can recover from them, may end up being the cause of our demise.

I've been fighting against this profit-taking for some time now - to no noticeable effect. I have also found out something else since surrendering to the dysfunctional and diseased service structure; I realize that if the groups are, *really* are, *Narcotics Anonymous*, then I need to be working within the group, not joining in combat with or being in the service structure. The answer to all NA's problems lie within the group. I and other members of our home group believe that the environmentalists are right: "Think globally, act locally!"

Our home group now adheres to a strict adherence to the 12 Traditions. We do not support any committee or board that is not directly responsible to those they serve. We no longer use any literature that has profit attached to it. We buy all literature, fobs, and medallions from the cheapest source. We use all money not needed to rent our meeting space and buy

supplies to provide literature to any addict that asks for it. We help other groups and addicts to buy that cheap literature so they can get it to still suffering addicts they come in contact with. We, along with another local group, started a monthly dance beginning in January 1992, that is devoted to carrying the message and is not a money-making venture. For the dance, we have flyers that state clearly that the three dollar donation is "suggested only" and that any addict can attend whether they have money or not. We are not going sell N.A. paraphernalia. We aren't creating a new committee to do the work. The money for the dance comes from each group each month and any excess money is divided between them at the end of the dance. We don't want a new service committee that becomes worried about money and forgets the dance's purpose of carrying the message. So any extra money will be immediately returned to the two home groups whose primary purpose is to carry the message.

With less than \$25.00 a week in donations our home group has been able to give over \$300.00 in literature directly to addicts in need during the last five months.

Our home group, "Against All Odds," is no longer automatically giving up its responsibility to carry the message to service committees. We offer financial and other assistance to groups or committees that can show us that our participation will help carry N.A.'s message directly to addicts that still suffer. What little money we have is to be spent on only the primary purpose. We will no longer just assume that we cannot do things ourselves.

I've just returned to writing this letter after a three week absence. Last week in my home group we celebrated a member's 14th anniversary. He was clean before there was a Daytona Area, before there was a Florida Region, before there was a basic text. Because he and others like him were clean we have NA in this area.

He is not appreciated by local and regional and world service committee members. He sometimes uses the word "sober." He sometimes forgets that we only use the word "clean." He sometimes forgets that nowadays we don't use the words "alcohol and drugs" any more. He still attends some AA meetings, just like he had to when he wanted to get clean and there was no NA here. He doesn't forget where he came from. So, newer members, now in service and feeling that they have the power to decide who is a "good" and "bad" NA member and how "good" and "bad" members talk, don't like this guy to come around.

During the short talk he gave at his anniversary he won over the hearts of many addicts around the table. His message was one of hope and recovery from addiction. His dedication to carrying the message to others in 12th Step work is esteemed in this area, not by those in the area service committee, but by the many who were introduced to N.A. through his service work in treatment centers.

He demonstrates to me that he has no resentment towards those addicts that reject him, he prays for them. I do fall into resentful feelings

sometimes, it takes step work to keep myself out of resentments. But resentful or not, groups, committees or boards that don't adhere to the 12 Traditions, and any group, committee or board that thinks some addicts are "good" and some are "bad" will not get my support. The Traditions tell us that all addicts are equal.

The dances have been successful. We have a DJ that played the songs dancers wanted to hear. Most of the crowd were newcomers and from half-way houses. Smiles were everywhere. Enough addicts attended that the first dance only cost the two groups \$30.00, \$15.00 each to carry the message of having a good time without the use of drugs. Less than a fifth attending paid the full suggested price of \$3.00, some gave \$2.00, some a dollar, and most nothing at all. The second dance had an excess of \$66.00. The groups split it. Revenue from the third dance was light \$50.00. The fourth dance was held within days of the L.A. riots and was lightly attended. It lost \$70.00. Our two groups are definitely having the dance again next month. We are sure the money to pay for it will come as needed.

Most of the Area Service Mucky-Mucks do not attend these dances. They are calling us a "renegade" dance committee. They won't attend a dance not approved by Area Service, they try to discourage attendance. I guess they haven't taken time to actually read the Basic Text they talk about so much. It says (any edition) that groups "...may from time to time put on activities." Well, they only lose when they can't put principles before personalities. They aren't in charge so they don't come. Oh, well.

As far as I'm concerned their actions and rap speak to the major problems in *Narcotics Anonymous* today. So many members, especially those in the existing service structure, are caught up in "money, property, and prestige." I believe that N.A. should get out of business, all business, and leave profit to the private sector.

Our dance will not make a "T-shirt." Any money over the cost of the dance will go back to the groups to carry the message. That extra money, if it ever comes, will not be used to think up some way to justify having a committee set up a bank account and begin the process of obsessing over how and what to spend it on.

"Think globally, act locally," means we can do what is right in our home groups, according to the 12 Traditions of N.A. and group conscience. We may not be able to stop ambitious and greedy trusted servants from abusing their lofty positions of trust. We may not be able to stop the organized and incorporated N.A. from selling recovery for inflated prices and using the money to further their own interests. However, we can, with the help of other concerned members, make sure our home groups strictly adhere to the principles found in our Basic Text. And our groups can ally with other groups of like nature to carry the message of recovery. We, the groups we belong to, the groups we become involved with, can, constantly, take a fourth step assessment by calling each other on our bullshit. The Basic Text says we can learn to "disagree without being disagreeable." I rambled, write SOS and you can too. Ray U., Florida

"SHARED SERVICES" VISCIOUS ASSAULT ON OUR TRADITIONS

CALIFORNIA: High-quality fliers being distributed in Northern California Region in numbers a hundred times greater than conceivable interest level announce a February "WSC Committee on NA Service Workshop on Metropolitan Services" to be held in San Francisco "25-35 minutes from San Francisco International and Oakland International Airports." Among other things it states "The purpose of this workshop is to exchange information about shared services in a metropolitan setting." The Regional grapevine has it that this Workshop was meant to come to Oakland because of the shared service experience here, but that the local Hilton was all booked up for the desired weekend.

A phone call to Steve L. at the WSO number printed on the flier reveals that shared services exist in several metropolitan areas of the U.S. I didn't know that. I do have considerable knowledge of the experience in this East Bay Area. I was the last East Bay Central ASC H&I "Liaison Person", sometimes called "H&I Chair". In 1990 I was an active participant in the Ad-Hoc Committee who's work led to one Area becoming three, thus giving rise to "shared services" in the first place.

I am arguably the person most intimately familiar with the situation here and since I have not yet received an invitation to speak at this workshop am growing concerned that once again the truth and the membership will be swept aside in the self-interested rush of a service structure become government. By the grace of God and the existence of SOS you can read the following.

Dec. 1990 this Area split into the East Bay North, East Bay Central, and Mission Peak Areas. The number of meetings had grown to about 120 while GSR attendance at ASC was running somewhere about 15%. There was certainly a deep alienation from service in general and from the ASC in particular. It was intended that 3 smaller Areas would reduce that alienation and the "birth" a year ago was indeed accompanied by great optimism, at least in this Central Area.

There was and still is here a mostly unspoken sensitivity to an unprovable domination by trusted servants unknown in our Groups. The last ASC meeting of the old Area approved the split with a two-thirds vote and with the provision that the H&I Subcommittee continue as a subcommittee of all three Areas for one (1) year, to be financed by a number-of-Groups proportioned formula (20% North Area, 50% Central, 30% Mission Peak). There was an

agreement at that time that before the year was over the 3 Area Chairs would meet to discuss the possible extension of shared services.

Unfortunately, as the year drew to a close there were few H&I members around who had any memory of the agreement under which H&I had been operating. Fewer still cared. The Area Chairs never met. The H&I Chair never attended Central ASC nor did any other administrative officers of the Subcommittee. ASC guidelines were neither observed nor modified to reflect this shared situation. The shared H&I Chair WAS elected by Central ASC as required but in absentia. The H&I Chair is probably unaware of this to this day. Existing Area guidelines, copied by the new Area stipulate Subcommittee Chairs to be elected by ASC, "however, serious consideration should be given to the subcommittee's nominee, should there be one."

I took care that the Subcommittee's Chair was confirmed by my ASC, in a move I now regret, over some grumbled objections ("He didn't even have the respect to come down here!"). Had he not been "confirmed" though, a "constitutional crisis" would have ensued. A self-interested, self-perpetuating and wholly unaccountable bureaucracy had been born and was growing stronger and more capable of defending itself.

The new Central Area began life by electing "liaison" persons to the other two ASC's and to each of the shared subcommittees. I became "H&I Liaison" when the first occupant of the non-existent position got loaded (wonder if there's a connection). Non-position because it did not exist on paper, had no guidelines or requirements. Because I gave a monthly report, answered ASC questions, and was generally known and available, many in this Area took to calling me "our H&I Chair". Also named from the beginning was a Tri-Area Unity Day Chair who showed up once toward the end of the year when that Committee needed additional funding.

Finally in November a Tri-Area meeting was held to discuss the future of shared services. Presided over by the last Chair of the old ASC, I was dismayed to discover that I was the only Central ASC representative present and that the proceedings were well under way in my absence. The meeting did produce a recommendation that H&I divide, among other things. This printed recommendation disappeared and other participants became unavailable for talking.

It was at this point that I recommended to my ASC that it not extend the shared H&I agreement. My reason for abandoning neutrality on the issue was simply that sharing required communication and that current events must have been confirmation that many people were indeed contemptuous of my Area. What I did not know then was that the Regional H&I Chair was employing the full weight of his position and personality behind the scenes to keep the Subcommittee as is.

At the end of November some of the H&I members met in special session to discuss not the end of the years agreement but internal modifications of its own guide-lines! Inexplicably, some members from Central Area showed up at the wrong location and never did find the meeting. I brought up the issue of the end of the years agreement and was then received the full attention of those present in a manner I can only describe as a gang-rape - a restaurant table surrounded by caucasian faces cruelly twisted in paroxysms of self-righteous rage. One member even brought his non-member wife who took a turn heaping ridicule on me. A self-important, self-perpetuating bureaucratic organism had turned from able to defend its "proprietary" interests to being able to launch viscous attacks in its own perceived defense.

It was stated at this time that an H&I subcommittee need be directly responsible only to Regional H&I.

At the regular H&I Subcommittee meeting in December the Regional H&I Chair appeared and suggested that "the Subcommittee use its Subcommittee Group Conscience (sic) to force the Central Area Liaison Person to retract his recommendation to Central ASC".

As the Central ASC met on December 28 to address the shared service situation and to hold its own annual elections, in came a gang of strangers made up largely of H&I executives who proceeded to nominate and elect each other to Area positions with the assistance of two or three regular members. Guidelines were ignored. It is now known that our Central Area elections were being announced in North Area recovery meetings prior to December 28. Even a relatively new GSR says it was apparent that something prearranged was going down.

In fact what has gone down here is but a microcosm of NA service everywhere. Service boards or committees will develop egos, or lives-of-their-own. Our disease kicks in where Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are not applied. To the extent that the Ultimate Authority is not deferred to and "directly responsible" has come to mean "let the administrative officers vote too" we have created a monster.

Here we must now consider the possibility that a committee once "shared" can never be got back. Here we have heard a great deal lately about unity. Here we have heard a great deal lately the ultimate justification, "But we're just doing good work - carrying the message. I know it will outrage some and I am sorry, but I cannot get one thought out of my head. Hitler had a program of recovery for the German people.

Oh, did I mention this Central Area is mostly Black?

Fred S.

WORLD USURPS NA AUTHORITY

COLORADO: We do recover! We are a small group. We are not recognized by any current service organization. We don't recognize the current service arm as a "part of NA," only a service arm as per fourth and ninth traditions.

Our members have all, for one reason or another, stood up in meetings and in the service structure for the upholding of the "non-negotiability" of the 12 traditions and have spoken out at the apparent abuses/misuses of the traditions.

We are not angels and still have much to learn about ourselves and how we can cooperate with God in our own lives, and societies, and then bring that individual experience to a collective group God conscience. Even so, some things go past common acceptable limits of reality.

The traditions provide for the groups a direct and simple set of instructions for furthering the primary purpose of groups in ways which the meetings of NA are not set up for. PI, H&I, literature, etc. are to serve, as with open arms, the fellowship and the public in order for the dissemination of information in an orderly and timely fashion.

Something is seriously wrong when the world service structure feels it can say "heel" or else get out! Only the groups can decide what is NA and what is not, just as only an addict can decide if they are a member or not. This is Narcotics Anonymous, not the U.S. government. Neither is it the ruling board of the International Boxing Federation.

Why now does the world service structure feel it can usurp the authority of Narcotics Anonymous.

Number 38

"LITTLE RED" TEXT STUDY GUIDES

As I told you the last time we talked I have withdrawn almost completely from local N.A., and have absolutely nothing to do with any service committee's from area to the world. However, I have over 400 copy's of the Little Red Basic Study Guides for resale, at \$1.50 each x 400 plus postage, I will sell in 100 lots for \$1.65 each plus postage all others at \$2.00 each plus postage. Send your order to: Char-lee Dunlap, 123 Sheridan, Grover, Colorado, 80729.

Oh, by the way, since I talked with SOS, I talked with the Printer who says he'll make a deal on the remaining 10 thousand books for \$12,000 or will piece them off in 2500 lots for \$3,750. So much for the business of the books, other than to say that if the world doubts that they exist, order a bunch and see what happens. That goes double for Stew No-Red-Man of Van Nuys, as well as the rest of the self appointed world Frauds. To which all I have to say is: I am still waiting to lose all I own.

To all those who have been watching this crap from the side lines, thinking that there is nothing that they can do about all of this raping of their fellowship, they are right. There is nothing that should be done about it, at the same time what they should be doing is not sending money to the world in any form. Meaning: Stop buying literature in any form from the world. Stop any and all communication with the Bandits at the world. Stop supporting any and all service committee's who have anything to do with the world in anyway. (If you don't buy their crap, they wont have any place to sell it!)

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAVE N.A.??? To begin with N.A. is the recovery meetings that you attend and nothing more, all else is not N.A. How can you save the very thing that is saving you? Easy, Stop trying to make it something else. Where is N.A.? Well first it's in the Basic Text, then it's in the Home Group where you have sanctioned others to get to know you, then it's in

those others who have been learning from you, then in you, who have been learning from them!! So what can you do to save N.A.? Nothing, N.A. exists to extricate you from yourself. N.A. is not the world or any other service! [although they would have you swallow otherwise! Trust me they will not respect you in the morning!]

So then, what can we do to extricate the world from it's self? That question would better be asked of those attempting to destroy it! However the answer to that is rather simple, its not our job, the world like us, are a lot of still suffering Addicts who need to seek the same thing we do. RECOVERY!! The cure seems to be much the same as when we arrived, just a lot of things that we need to stop doing! Then to start seeking things that we either didn't know about, or have been overlooking! The one thing that never changes around here is the fact that, all any of us can really do is work on ourselves. We need each other much the same as we need a mirror each morning, to see those things in ourselves that we won't see on our own! With a Mirror if you don't like what you see you can always break it, and end up with seven years bad luck. With the Recovery process you can always stop seeking it, and end up with no luck at all!

Your Friend In Recovery, Char-Lee



These lips are just a "grabber" to make you look at this part of the page.

We just wanted to say: "The only pot these world guys have to piss in belongs to you."

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