

Why is it we are so incapable of making a service board or committee hold to their obligation of direct responsibility? Could it be an extension of our convoluted notion that we are doing an addict a favor by forgiving them when they steal money from the Group, Area, Region, or Convention? (They said they were Sorry) Or is it rooted in the need to be liked?

I always felt different from everyone else when I was using so I suppose it shouldn't be a big surprise to me in my recovery. I'm not of the opinion that we should simply let an addict escape the ramifications of being a detected thief, nor will I not say something out of the fear of being disliked.

My Basic Text tells me that "The sooner we face our problems in everyday living then it's that much quicker we become acceptable, responsible, and productive member of that society". It's time to face a big problem, with our eyes wide open, not with our blinders of fear on. That problem is DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY or lack of it by many of our Boards and Committees at the World level. Maybe it's just a mix-up on how the 9th Tradition is interpreted. My interpretation is that every NA Group has but one primary purpose to carry the message to the addict who still suffers and any Board or Committee we create should be helping us to carry out that purpose. The interpretation I see being followed by the WSO BOD, BOT, and the WCC BOD is direct responsibility to self glorification and preservation of themselves and their self anointed purpose.

Let me give you a few examples of what I mean. An ASC in my Region wrote to the WSO BOD in 1993 to inquire how the WSO could continue to provide a Hazelton with a 40% discount on literature and not be in violation of our 6th Tradition. It was seen as being in violation of the 6th Tradition because in essence we are lending them our name and endorsing them, by allowing them to put our literature in their catalogs, and financing them by letting them make 40% profit on the sale of our literature. I think we can easily recognize Hazelton as being an outside enterprise, right. Well the WSO BOD has still not responded to that inquiry verbally or in writing yet a BOD member did verify they received the letter. Also the WSO BOD takes it upon themselves to approve literature and merchandise without the fellowships approval (Eg. Commemorative Edition Basic Text, Slug Mug, NA Calendar) and ignores the Group Conscience decision on making jewelry available through the Office. It seems that the WSO BOD is extremely reluctant of having an outside Audit done of the WSO Books too. Are they afraid of something?

The BOT's primary aim as a board is "to ensure the maintenance of the Twelve Traditions". This committee has a budget that is very much larger then most WSC Sub-Comm.'s, if not all, yet their primary aim is to maintain the Traditions.

The BOT devised a subcommittee system for themselves which includes Internal Affairs (FBI), External Affairs (CIA), Policy and Structure (KAOS), Training and Education (SOP) and Literature Review (Censorship). How many of you even know about these BOT Sub-Comm.'s? This must be where they spend all that money because to "ensure the maintenance of the Traditions" shouldn't take Tens of Thousands of dollars per year. If you write to the BOT and ask them what you should do about a possible tradition violation you will get some type of answer like "you should pray to your Higher Power about it" or "we feel that this is a problem your Area or Region can resolve without our help" in other words they don't have the guts to make a stand. And right now we need some people with guts to "Ensure the Maintenance of our Traditions". What are they afraid of? The WCC will look you in the face

and tell you they don't have to tell you anything about their finances because they are not responsible to anyone but themselves (Separate Corporation). They made a motion a few years ago to only have a World Convention every 2 years. This is crazy. We could be paying for the annual WSC with profits from the World Convention, yet the money generated from each years convention goes nowhere. The WCC has decided they are going to lose money every other convention and so they need a big stash to waste between profitable World Conventions. These people are not afraid of anyone I'd say their only fear is in being exposed.

My eyes are wide open and I think it's time we stood up and said "The Emperor is wearing no pants". Let's make our service boards and committees realize the fact that they are responsible to us to help us carry the message to the addict who still suffers. I'd invite any kind of response from any of the Boards I've mentioned about how they are interpreting the Ninth Tradition and our primary purpose, or about how they see things.