

## ***Did Ya Miss Us?***

***In case you may have noticed, you didn't get a New Attitudes this summer.***

***There was a reason for that – NO ARTICLES!!! Yes, that's right, not enough articles were sent in to even fill half an issue.***

***Do you know what that means? Please write and send articles. Please, please, pretty please :)***

***It also means that you didn't really lose an issue, all subscriptions will be moved ahead one issue so you will all get what you paid for.***

***Oh, did we mention - please send articles.***



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**No. 20 July /Aug.99**

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### **Jimmy Kinnon Notes for Trusteeship**

*editors note: This writing recently became available as a result of work currently being done with the archives of Greg P. Greg wanted the contents of his archives (arguably one of the largest in the fellowship, including what is owned by the WSO) to be made available to the fellowship as a whole. Dedicated members are working as you read this to make Greg's dream come true. If you have access to the internet, there is a web page with some of the materials there. The web page is growing as more and more of these papers are being digitized. The address for the page is:*  
<http://www.mwbr.net/narchive/index.html>

The NA fellowship's foundation is the spirit of service. Here service is not directed by any governing body but the trusted servants are governed by the service.

In the past we have had dedicated people in the fellowship who found it difficult not to govern. Because others were not encouraged to assume personal responsibilities, they found it more and more impossible not to be pushed into the position of being 'the leader' 'the authority' 'the indispensable father'. The end result was no chain of service and fewer and fewer recoveries. Few of us are strong enough to be free of ambition by ourselves. The temptation to lead, to advise and finally dictate is too much for most of us. Prudence dictates that we create our own safeguards against ourselves.

One of the purposes of a trustee board is to preserve balance in our thinking and save us from insular or sub-culture ambition.

One function is custodial in the sense that it is the caretaker of our traditions in the present. Future policy or tradition improvement ought to be that which they deem wise from experience. Any suggestions or modifications they offer for the fellowships scrutiny and approval ought to be made in the light of their (the memberships) experience.

The trustees should be our guides in improving our movement, our business affairs, our intergroup relations, our public relations, our literature output (future publishing company) and our world wide services: last but not least, to be responsible in expediting those affairs dictated by the group (overall) conscience.

The trustees should not now be, nor should they ever be, regardless of circumstances or conditions, even for any short-term emergency period, a governing body or a central government. We feel that our experience as expressed in Tradition 2 can be equally applied to the trustee board no matter what its size.

The board should always be composed of one non-addict member more than addict, regardless of what the future size may be. Ex. 1 to 2 - 2 to 3--3 to 4 etc.

Suggestion----

Although at present we have what are called 'By- Laws'/ and these are very simple, since we trimmed them to the bone and then only to cover those things necessary at the beginning/ May we suggest that these be among the first of things to be considered by the board, so that we can truly say that there are no rules in the fellowship. If our present groups and committees will inaugurate those methods that have been found to be most satisfactory in the past, since they are entirely sound, we will find that we should be able to, not amend or enlarge or strengthen them but eliminate any need for them entirely.

Other than our traditions, which are the voice of conscience and experience in the past, we have no need for rules or regulations within the body of NA itself. In associated services which do not use the NA name but are made up of our members, such as 'Institutional committee' etc. they will make their own rules to govern their own programs. We trust of course, that they are always mindful of their responsibilities and their group conscience. Since none of us can discipline or compel or force our opinions on another person or group of persons, we ought to often remind ourselves of the futility and hopelessness we each experienced in trying to go it alone in the past. If our movement as a whole is to survive, expand and grow then we will learn, as the individual does with the twelve steps, that the traditions will save us from headaches, heartaches, and assorted ills, that when our conscience and consciousness speaks, we will make our own musts in the name of unity of purpose so that not only we but those yet to come will find this way of life.

Although it may sound as though the board themselves have little or no power to act, in reality and in honesty we will find that if we do our job in the spirit of service to and for others, with no rewards or approvals anticipated, if we make whatever decisions we are faced with, not on the basis of what is good or not good, but on the foundation of what is

right, I think we will find in the end that the power and faith will be given freely where and when we deserve or need it to get a job done.

### Succession of Trustees

The trusteeship is at present a permanent post, it may however be necessary to make replacements for reasons of health business or death.

When a trustee is no longer able to serve, his or her successor should be chosen as follows---

In case of death or inability to be present--the remaining trustees and the chairman of the Fellowship body (General Service Conference- Central Committee- Steering Committee or whatever the name may then be.) acting for absent member shall choose a successor who in their opinion has the qualities in keeping with the post. They should accomplish this in any manner that the trustee body decides on, either by lot by vote or otherwise.

Where trustee is still present he or she shall act with the others, as above, in choice of successor.

Addict trustee as above shall apply regarding proxy for absent member.

Names of THREE(3) addict members of the fellowship chosen by Conference Committee or? With due regard for their length of abstinence and activity in our fellowship, shall be presented to the remaining trustees, with any recommendations necessary. Their choice, made in whatever manner they choose, should then be accepted by the fellowship as final.

### Our Purpose (General)

To broaden the scope of our fellowship, to add depth and breadth to the meaning and extent of our services, to represent the fellowship at the public level, to oversee all public relations to guide and advise us in financial matters, to be a guide in final choice of printed matter relating to the movement since this matter will be both our private and public voice, to offer to the fellowship through their representatives, any proposals relating to the fellowship as a whole, which will advance our main purpose. To act to the best of their abilities as servants of the fellowship and to carry out the movements wishes in the best manner possible within the framework of the traditions.

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This Newsletter is being provided to any and all interested members of N.A. at COST please feel free to copy and give out as many of these as you like. We will be printing bi-monthly. Our

## **New Attitudes...**

*We shall attempt to print all articles promoting a change in our intolerance and indifference towards spiritual principles. We seek any and all ideas for this publication to become a venue for change. All materials shall be printed in a spirit of anonymity. We encourage the use of humor and lampoon to stimulate thought and levity. Our hope is to find ways to transgress the perceived separation that exists amongst members of our society.*

cost is \$0.69 (includes postage) each so 1 yr, subscription would be \$4.14 (.69x6) Please send articles and newsletter money to:

**New Attitudes**

**P O Box 447**

**Vestaburg MI 48891**

please make checks payable to:

**New Attitudes/I Can't We Can**



e-mail: [frbeetz@nethawk.com](mailto:frbeetz@nethawk.com)

P.S. We also deal in the barter system if you would like to send supplies instead of \$, we need stamps, paper (#20 8 ½ x11), ink cartridges for Lexmark WinWriter 150C.

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**How can you tell if you suffer from service based recovery?**

Ask yourself some of these.....

- When is the last time you attended a recovery meeting out of town and during that trip you found yourself outside discussing some tradition, policy, or business related to NA?
- When you look at your calender (schedule) of 4 weekends per month how many days aren't service meetings?
- Have you taken time away from work to attend service meetings, and not taken time to attend recovery meetings? (Or did you become self employed so you could devote your time to service?)



- Can you recite the Concepts from memory, but have to look up on the wall to remember the 7th step wording?
- When was the last time you sat down with a newcomer and discussed anything without mentioning service?
- At the last election did you find yourself nervous and hopeful?
- When you have to decide an Issue for your (body you represent) Do you weigh the issue against the current way your committee does business, or did you just Know how to vote?
- Do you really believe you know what's best for the fellowship?
- Do you remember how you felt getting involved for the first time?
- Do you spend more of the fellowships \$\$ than you donate?
- Do you fear not being involved in service?

If you find that maybe you are stuck in recovery based service, get to a RECOVERY MEETING and share. I say also remember the position will get filled (you don't need to do it all).

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## A Concept?

Here's a concept for you: Fellowship Apathy. Encouraged by WS for many, many years now. Truth is, most of the Fellowship doesn't care, and therefore stood by, because WS stopped doing their job years ago. The increasing interest on the part of the WSO, the BoD, the BoT (yes, my friend, even them), and eventually the WSC has shifted entirely away from Group Conscience and spiritual service, and in the direction of money, property and prestige. Our new SuperBoard is the zenith of this ongoing process, and it comes at a high price to the Fellowship.

WS exists solely to provide services to the regions that they cannot do for themselves. That has been turned around completely, and they now try to dictate to the Fellowship what the Fellowship must do for them. Addicts, with solid recovery, have been so enmeshed in the process for so long, they fail to even see how much things have changed and how far away from the Traditions that they've wandered.

Group Conscience is dead at the World level. Thanks to the CONcepts, it's dying on the local levels as well. What's next? How can this Fellowship possibly continue to grow (and I DON'T mean profit margins), spiritually, from where we are? Continued exclusion? Continued misinformation? Continually shutting people out of the process?

Perhaps what I'm saying regarding as "extremist". Certainly, there are many who love to attempt to cast me, and others, in the light of "lunatic fringe". Many don't even pay attention. The herd is so busy trying to climb the ladder, they don't have the room (open-mindedness) to consider what's already been told to them as the "wrong answer".

How certain of itself can this NAW\$ Corporation fell, knowing that their "mandate" comes from less than 15% of the Fellowship?

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## *My experience in recovery*

*Recovery from addiction...a simple phrase, but so difficult to live.*

*I believe there's more to it than just abstaining from drugs or their substitutes. Not to minimize the need for abstinence; no recovery exists if using drugs is a option. Perhaps no real recovery exists if any known symptom*

*of the disease is an option. Most of my experience is with recognizing symptoms after the act. If some activity causes me to dislike myself, then it must be a symptom of addiction. Addiction is a disease of self-destruction. Abstinence permits recovery to begin.*

*Our basic text says "recovery begins with surrender", but I believe recovery begins with acceptance. My recovery sounds like this in terms of the order of active spiritual principles...acceptance, faith, commitment, obedience, introspection, disclosure, performance, surrender, humility, willingness, amendment, evaluation, guidance, sharing. I equate at least one active spiritual principle with each step.*

*Constant and primary, foundational to any recovery are honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness to*

*change. Before working any steps can have an effect on my personality, character or outlook on life, I must be honest about reality; I am an addict! I want to stop using; I want to stop doing those things that hurt me; and I will consider doing*



*those things that others have done to stop. My way doesn't work so I'll try doing what you have done. Even if it seems strange or unlikely to help I'm willing to change.*

*Acceptance (acknowledgment, recognition)*

*Faith (hope, trust, conviction, persuasion)*

*Commitment (decision, obligation, resolution, stand)/obedience (submission)*

*Introspection (self-analysis, examination/inventory)*

*Disclosure (expose, uncover, reveal)*

*Performance (action)*

*Surrender (resignation)/humility (modesty, simplicity - opposite of arrogance)*

*Willingness*

*Amendment (correction, change)*

*Evaluation (measure ,repair)*

*Guidance (direction, instruction, counsel)*

*Sharing (giving, contributing)*

*Sharing recovery from addiction. Purity is the key; principles of effective sharing reinforce principles of recovery from addiction.*

*In final analysis recovery is a gift. To keep the gift we give it to others.*

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## Letter to the editor

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: THE EDITOR, NEW ATTITUDES FROM: .....

SUBJECT: JAN/FEB 99 ISSUE DATE: 17 MARCH 1999

I've just finished reading your lead article A History of N.A. ? (sic) I'm Not So Sure, and I felt I had to offer a few comments on attitudes in general, yours in particular, and then search for something new. For starters, and just on a purely personal note, you really should have a copy edit done on any document you wish to print and actually call a Newsletter. On the second line of your feature you refer to Bob Stone as the Co-Executive Director of the World Service Office for about seven years. There was no such animal as Co-Executive Director of the WSO until well after Bob was released by the WSO Board of Directors. Succeeding Bob in his position as Executive Director after an interim period in which an extensive search and hiring process were conducted, was one Joe Gossett. Joe didn't last too long, and after his release George Hollahan and Anthony Edmondson who both served as Stone's two Division Heads for years, were named Co-Executive Directors (the first time this post was created). They both serve in this capacity today.

In the very next sentence when you begin to get nasty you say "In the spirit of stimulating discussion, and because I can, I have decided to right a brief report of my impressions of the book." Come on, right a brief report? I mean, in the very next sentence you are getting ready to tear into the editors of Stone's book for lack of editorial acumen, and you have the grit to write that you are going to right a brief report? My friend, to quote my old friends the pre-Socratics, Anaximander and Anaximenes "Thou should bolster thy own houses of glass before stones thy wish to heave at others."

Bob Stone as many NA members know was not an addict, ergo not- a member of NA (by definition). Bob was contacted by a woman, an educator, also an acquaintance of Jimmy K, and asked to help bail out this woefully young inexperienced Fellowship, Narcotics Anonymous, from the economical and parliamentary hole they were digging themselves into deeper and deeper. After a few fitful years of getting to know each other (Bob and Jimmy had an extremely intimate relationship for many years until one, and then the other, finally died) Bob was given the helm of the World Service Office to try and guide us into the modern era. This he certainly did, and don't you ever be mistaken or untruthful about it. He (Bob Stone) is the one who had the vision of where this fellowship could go and with the willing cooperation of Bob R, Gregg P, Bo S, and others, they forged NA into a force of recovery world wide. But it was Stone who saw the path and had the balls and the vision to work us onto it (frequently with 18 hour days stretching into late nights of correspondence and telephone calls). It was Stone who recruited George and Anthony and then proceeded to earn their respect and love by way of his work ethic and incredible leadership skills.



I won't comment on your impressions of Stone's writing style, choice of subject matter for (what is, after all) his autobiography, etc. Certainly I respect your right to like or dislike, agree or disagree with anything you please, but then you offer: "As much as I would like to, I won't use this as a sounding board for my opinion of Mr. Stone's actual job performance or beliefs, other than to say that there is some gut-level disagreement between him, and myself, on fundamental issues pertaining to NA." Give me a break. Do you even have a clue as to what Stone's views on fundamental issues were? Did you ever meet him? Were you clean and an NA member during the years that he was associated with Narcotics Anonymous? Have you ever stood in an auditorium and listened to him address the World Service Conference for two to three hours without a break and the room be so quiet you could hear a pin drop.

Do me a favor. You want to be a rebel? Fine. You want to be anti-establishment? Fine. If this makes you feel more vital, and more a part of NA recovery than just being a regular old recovering addict, fine. But please, before you do all of these things, get your head far enough out of your ass to see the sunlight. Look around and see how great and how strong and how growing NA is before you hurl your barbs.

I offer these comments to you with love, and hope that you'll publish them in your next issue.

In Fellowship.

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## RESERVATIONS

Websters defines reservations as the act of keeping back, withholding, or setting apart.

Until we took Step One, we were full of reservations.

The denial of our disease, or reservations, keep us sick.

We had reservations about anything which did not describe us to a tee and built these up until we thought we could use again.

Relapse is a sign we have had reservations in our program.

When we came into the Fellowship, one of our biggest reservations or fears was the thought of how boring life would be without drugs.

Eventually, as we confront our reservations, our minds begin to understand that we will not use under any and all circumstances.

We enjoy giving special attention and support to the special people in our lives without reservation or expectation.

Fear of honesty places many reservations in my program. Never knowing how to be honest was easier than wanting to learn how to be honest.