



No. 21 Jan./Feb.2000

New Attitudes-Is There A Need?

Hello all, as you have noticed there has not been a New Attitudes appear in your mailbox for quite a while. The reason is the same as it has been for the other late issues in the past year-NO ARTICLES.

This continuing lack of articles has made me ask the question, "Is there a need for New Attitudes to continue?" Are you, the subscribers, telling us that you don't care anymore?

The last three years of New Attitudes have been quite fulfilling. There has been a long history of newsletters of the type of New Attitudes over the years. Some that come to mind are; New Awakenings, SOS, The Purist, O.D.O.P., and A Fellowship Review. Members have felt for a long time that there needed to be a newsletter that was free from censorship--free to print the things going on in Narcotics Anonymous that would not be printed anywhere else--a national newsletter that could let addicts all over the world know what was going on without the politically correct bullshit.

Is that time done? There is still much going on in the service structure that is not spiritual or above board. The World Board is working even now to tighten their grip on all decision making, further taking the Groups away from any say as to what goes on in NA. Group Conscience for all practical purposes is already dead.

Do we care? Or are we just too tired of the fight anymore. Maybe we've just gotten a life and it all doesn't seem so important at this time. I don't know.

I will be filling this issue with archival materials from some of the old newsletters listed above.

Will New Attitudes continue? It's up to you. If you want to see more of this newsletter, write something, send your thoughts. Let us know. Do you want it to continue? Do you want it to stop? Do you care? Write something and send it to the return address on this issue.

If nothing comes in, this might be the last issue of New Attitudes. If New Attitudes ends, I hope someone, somewhere, will take the ball and keep a newsletter of this type alive. I, for one, think NA needs it.

The Editor

HOW IT SHOULD WORK AND WHY NOT ?

(reprinted from "A Fellowship Review, Volume 85.2")

Imagine if you will what it would be like to attend and participate in a conference filled with the serene spirituality that you thought was going to be there. This can be a reality! All we have to do is to let go of self seeking actions and suspicions.

Fantasy ? Wishful thinking? Or can we actually realize a HOPE?(OUR RECOVERY EXPERIENCE SAYS YES!)

DAY I

Session I

1:00PM to completion (5:00PM)

A. Opening - Chair, "Welcome"

B. Secretary - Role call and minutes

C. Chair - Polling of group conscience. Not amendable, not debatable.

DAY II

Session 2

9:00AM The Service Boards and Committees report to the Regions. (written reports having been distributed 30 days prior -answer questions.)

11:30AM Break for lunch

1:00PM Your Region addresses the conference (written detailed report having been submitted 30 days prior). At this point your region takes an opportunity to discuss the reactions of N.A. to information distributed during the Post 30 days. The Region presents accomplishments, problems and needs of the N.A. Groups in that Region. Recommendations (if any) for having those needs filled - motion(s) presented in the form of recommended action to be considered in the coming year - to the conference as a committee of the whole (amendable, debatable, and a resulting vote of approval would be to mandate a committee, standing or special. to prepare this for fellowship consideration, review or approval.)

6:00PM Dinner recess

7:30PM Resume and continue with Region Addresses.

Recess for the day when complete

DAY III

11:00AM Open with brunch

The Regions select new members (as needed) for service boards and committees. Recess when complete.

7:00PM Service Boards and Committees meet to formulate approaches to their ongoing responsibilities as well as special projects mandated, projection of work shops and formal meetings (date, location and duration) necessary to accomplish the tasks and the required progress reports to the Regions - cost estimates - and to prepare a summary report of these plans along with a line itemized budget for the Regions for consideration, amendment as needed, and approval. (These summary plans and budgets are to be submitted to the steno pool for typing and distribution to the Regions - allowing a minimum of 4 business hours for consideration by the Regions before formal consideration in full assembly.)

Recess for evening and reconvene In the morning.

DAY IV

8:00AM 'til Continue board and committee planning

12:00N

12:00N All service board and committee summary plans and budget Proposals must be submitted to the steno pool no later than noon, and a detailed budget proposal submitted to the Finance Committee.

7:00PM Banquet -- speaker meeting -- dances and social sharing.

DAY V

9:00AM Assembly seats to review service board and committee plans and budgets. One by one, a panel from each board and committee (consisting of 3 members - 1- current conference chair, 2- incoming chair, and 3- incoming vice-chair) responds to questions from the regions (and the Finance Committee if necessary). The Regions may offer amendment(s) to the plan and budget In the form of a motion - amendable and debatable.

11:30AM Recess for lunch

1:00PM Continue 'til complete (Recess 2 hours for dinner If necessary)

The Regions will establish the next date, time and place of (1) the next assembly - if desired, and (2) the next annual conference.

Close.

Note: Meeting space will be provided throughout the next day for any service board and committee requesting it, also meeting space day before next meeting.

Guest Speakers

Does anyone ever attend those group meetings that have arranged for "out of town" "special" "guest" speakers?

Shame of the matter is that some addicts find convention based recovery as their way for staying clean. They forget about the steps for themselves and the people they sponsor (this is the shame I refer to). But they can site nice little quips like "Live the steps or DIE" (Let's just scare the shit out of all the newcomers we can)

Have we created a subculture in NA (like deadheads) that follow their favorite speakers around the world? Do they attain greatness as a result?

Unravel this mysterious cult and you may find it even affects your local area service. They may even decide to have a convention to bring recovery to the newcomer. The price your area may pay is small. Your area may discontinue less important services like H&I or PI.

Once rooted in your area it (the convention) will take over. It may provide any funding for itself and then the otherwise meager services. If it develops excess funds once during the year these will be squandered. The area will hoard all funds until every minute detailed, unplanned aspect of area service is tended to. If anything is then left your area

may donate to the service structure. Your area may even pay all the bills it can one year in ADVANCE. This is done to discourage the need for groups and their contributions. Your area will no longer need the groups. What a relief for the groups. Now the attendance for those irritable area meetings can dwindle to the core groups who just want the convention.

Have I mentioned the associated business we have developed for individuals. Merchandise, merchandise, and yet more merchandise. Sell. Sell. Sell. How about speaker tape manufacturing? We indeed must have a good product to sell. So all you "Circuit speakers" face the mirror and practice, practice, practice.

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 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

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 Z51 printer

Awareness and the Courage to Change the Things I Can"

or

"Of Ostriches and Mushrooms"

(reprinted from SOS - Speaking of Service Volume 1, Number 4)

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.

I've been an "ostrich" lately - I've kept my head in the sand. I've tried to ignore what's been going on. By doing that I've given the people who trust me "the mushroom treatment" - mushrooms are kept in the dark and fed manure.

Some of the things that have been going on in N.A. service the past year or two are good. I've told everybody about them. Other things that are going on aren't so good. I see them going on: I read about them going on: I know in my heart the devastating, negative effect these things are having on our Fellowship, yet I haven't shared what I see and hear and feel because it's negative.

I want everybody to think that N.A. is O.K. So I tell those who trust me about the positive stuff going on in N.A. service

and just shut up about the negative stuff. This kind of dishonesty makes me sick of myself. My personal recovery demands that I get honest and share the whole truth to the best of my ability.

My recovery and service experience will help qualify the following. The Narcotics Anonymous program allowed me to stop using drugs. I surrendered to powerlessness over addiction and am recovering on that basis. There are no ties in my recovery to any fellowship or program except Narcotics Anonymous.

I attended our World Service Conference first in 1980, participated as a state representative in '81, observed in '82, and participated as a WSC sub-committee chairperson in '83. Personal service (sponsorship) and group service have been the focus of my recent service participation.

Throughout all of this experience one thing has become very clear to me - the validity of the principles in the Steps and Traditions of N.A. When these principles are compromised personally the eventual result is relapse. When these principles are compromised in service to N.A. as a whole ... I'm not sure what the result will be ... I don't want to find out ... so, now I must get honest and share what I'm seeing, hearing, and feeling.

In 1982 the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous instructed the World Service Conference Administrative Sub-committee, through a motion passed at WSC '82, to publish a "Quarterly Fellowship Report" to the entire fellowship. In my opinion the first couple of "Fellowship Reports" distributed prior to WSC '82 were one of the best examples of a service committee being directly responsible to those they serve in the history of N.A. They were simple, accurate, and informative. They worked to produce probably the first informed, unmanipulated Group Conscience of N.A. as a whole. The tone of these reports inclusive - N.A. members were encouraged to participate in N.A. world services. One result was that a very large number of N.A. members attended WSC'82 to observe and help with sub-committee work.

During 1982 and 1983 Fellowship Reports were not published quarterly nor were they distributed on time. The reports themselves became excessively detailed and wordy, and WSC trusted servants began using them as a vehicle to express their personal ideas. The tone of these reports, particularly introductory portions, became increasingly more exclusive - it seemed that members were being discouraged from participating in N.A. world services, maybe even more discouraged from reading the reports at all.

Following WSC '83 more reports were produced and they were more nearly on time, however, the reports became even more wordy, exclusive in tone, and were used as a vehicle for personal expression more frequently. The "Fellowship Report" just previous to WSC '84 included a massive discussion of our service structure misrepresented as a proposal for adoption from WSC Policy sub-committee. Many N.A. Groups, ASC's, and RSC's spent many hours studying this single "proposal" in vain. Because this discussion of our structure was not in reality the proposal of our WSC Policy sub-committee, the whole "proposal" was withdrawn from consideration at WSC '84.

This abuse is clear illustration of the warnings we were given in the discussion of Tradition Nine published in the Review form of our basic text ... " ... For the purpose of this Tradition, organized means having an administrative structure, and this implies management and control. On this basis, the meaning of Tradition Nine is clear; N.A. should never be run by bureaucracy or management nor controlled by individuals within an administrative structure. If we were to allow this, N.A. would surely lose the best it has to offer and choke -to death on our insanities.

Even without this Tradition, organization such as this would be in opposition to our spiritual principles. A loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience would find no place in an administrative structure. How could a trusted servant manage and control? Service and management are contradictory. Government implies control, but our leaders do not govern. How could autonomy exist in an administrative structure? Specialization and professionalism are the basis of any management scheme. Any administrative structure, by its very nature, eliminates the possibility of autonomy. An organized N.A. is a contradiction in terms and any attempt to force organization on us would destroy us..."

Evidence of the exclusive tone of Fellowship Reports, was that very, very few N.A. members attended WSC '84 just to observe and help out with sub-committee work. Following WSC '84 the Fellowship Report became increasingly burdensome, exclusive, and personal. We have been arbitrarily informed that there will be no more quarterly Fellowship Reports, furthermore, we have been told that the N.A. Fellowship should invest world level trusted servants with the 'authorities to make routine business decisions' - just as a large corporation would assign to corporate officers or chief employees.

We are further informed that equivalent communication will be sent to the fellowship through the WSO Inc. Newslines. Our World Service Office Inc. is a business. Businesses advertise goods and services for sale. Our business - WSO Inc. advertises the goods and

services they have for sale to us, their primary customer, through the Newslines. It is good business for our WSO Inc. - to do this and by the nature of WSO Inc. this advertisement sheet called Newslines is very informative and service oriented. But it is an advertisement from a business all the same.

My questions about N.A. world services are really very simple. Do we really want the administrative structure we've allowed to develop or do we want honest, open communication in our fellowship? Do we believe in our principles or not? Are we willing to find out what's really going on or do we want to keep our heads buried in the sand? Can we afford to continue to keep each other in the dark and feed manure to those who trust us?

Addiction is an insidious disease. It often tells us that the most self-destructive of activities are good for us. We carry addiction with us into our service. It leads us to deceive and manipulate. I'm not accusing any individual or group of individuals. This is not 'their' problem, it is our problem. I have no personal enemies or adversaries in service to N.A. My only enemy is addiction, my only adversary is denial. Recovery from addiction is the answer to all of our problems in N.A. service. Honesty, openmindedness, and willingness to try will start us on our way and keep us on our way.

Unity does not mean that we hide our heads in the sand and ignore the fact that our principles are being compromised. Let's face reality and take the obvious steps needed.

1.If we want Directly Responsible Trusted Servants in world service then we need to elect members who have been responsible.

2.If we believe in our Second Tradition we need to change the voting procedure at our World Service Conference.

3.If we believe in our Ninth Tradition then we will not allow this administrative structure that has developed to manage and control our fellowship into oblivion. If we believe in direct responsibility we won't allow ourselves to be further deceived and manipulated.

The choice is ours. N.A. Groups have already splintered off - disillusioned with recent world level service activities. More will follow unless those of us who are aware of what's going on get our heads out of the sand and stop keeping our fellow members in the dark, feeding them manure.

It really is as simple as that.

The Voice of a Member...

(reprinted from New Awakenings December 1993)

What Is the Narcotics Anonymous program???... I've been contemplating this simple question for a time now and I'm not so sure that I like what I have witnessed being dubbed NA. Ideally, the NA program is the activities associated with our recovery meetings. What Narcotics Anonymous is to me is the recovery that is found at our meetings through the process of working the 12 steps in our lives and applying the 12 traditions to our groups. Anything else Is not NA.

Our groups have joined collectively since the formation of NA and created, "service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve", as the ninth tradition suggests we may do. The concept of creating these service boards or committees is directly related to providing some service that the groups have asked for and need. The simple fact is, that the service structure is not Narcotics Anonymous, but the groups are. The service structure is the creation of the groups, and is directly responsible to them - period. The service structure is not the conscience of the fellowship. It has evolved to be the conscience of a small percentage of NA members that act on behalf of NA as a whole. The day is drawing near when an NA group (which is the primary entity of the fellowship) will have to comply to the direction of a service committee (which is a secondary entity). When that day arrives, we may as well burn the traditions, the basic text, and everything else.

One of the factors that will facilitate this dictatorship Is the seventh concept for service, which talks about "full participation" of all members of a service committee. I have heard many discussions of this "full participation" and what is being said is that the people with the most experience can't vote, and that isn't right because after all, with all of their experience they have a better understanding of what is right for the fellowship. Well thank you for carrying the burden of the fellowship, but WE could survive without your vote. YOU were elected to serve, which means help, not dictate. The groups are NA not the service structure, I am sick and tired of career service Junkies acting like they are doing the fellowship some big favor by gracing us with their time. There is only one pure motive to give of yourself to NA, to serve, and that is because you are grateful for the life you have found and you want to share that with others. Not because you have the most experience or wish to enrich us with your privileged views. If that is the case, stay home on Sundays, we don't need that type of "service". What we do need is members of NA that are willing to serve the groups as the groups direct them to.

Some trusted servants will say, "But the groups don't participate, what are we supposed to do, stop conducting business?" The answer is YES. If there is a lack of group, and member involvement, that may mean that the fellowship feels certain services are not necessary or less important than the facilitator of such services would like to think... If you are a member of Narcotics Anonymous, and feel that the most valuable means of making decisions that affect your fellowship is the "Ultimate Authority of a loving god as expressed in OUR group conscience", then oppose any form of resistance to that ultimate authority. Giving votes to trusted servants at the area and regional levels of service only serves to take away from the final word of group conscience. When listening to those that would oppose these views, look at their motives, and what they might have to gain or lose.

LIMITED PUBLIC DOMAIN:

THE FUTURE OF NA

(reprinted from New Awakenings February-March 1995)

It was great to receive New Awakenings today for the first time in a -year. The fact it's still here and is still vital reflects its firm spiritual foundation. I know, for I was chosen by God to be an integral part of its birth, emotional support and sending material so the newsletter would flourish. Today I know I was used as an instrument throughout the whole process of saving our copyrights from those who still believe, smugly, that they, have usurped them. Countless hours were spent buried in historical documents and devouring all of the legal information about United States copyright law. It was an energy not my own and I'm not bashful to say God led me to a breakthrough, a portion of the law called "Limited Public Domain".

No lengthy dissertation is needed to explain the term; simply, it's the portion of the law which absolutely and legally justifies the right of any NA Member or Group to print literature, at cost, while at the same time preventing any other publishing houses from printing our literature.

I'm writing this, as many of our Members and Groups are confused by the "Trust Document", a document which still contains legal fallacies. If you remember the campaign of fear perpetrated on the Fellowship in 1990, the biggest lie, or possibly the highest ignorance, was that if we were allowed to print unchallenged by the WSO, anybody, any enterprise in the world could print our literature. We did get somewhat beyond that when the conference passed a document which gave restricted, limited "authority" for Groups to publish literature. I've been gone a year, so have no idea how this is working. However, am sure there is still confusion everywhere, as recently I spoke to someone who wanted me to send him an approved F.I.P.T. (Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust) because his Area was afraid of printing. Obviously there are more out there who lack the "security" to do the right thing.

For those who are still unsure, just do it! You don't have to take my authority on it; I'm only an equal Member. You could verify my research by reading the laws and the court transcripts. All I can say is, irregardless of who is the "author" or "owner", the fact is you are protected by copyright law and jurisdiction is still in a US Federal Court. The needs of society at large, the still suffering masses of Addicts, overrides the rights or imagined rights of anyone who claims ownership. If printing cheaper literature reaches many more newcomers, how in the world will any court of law, seeing the benefit to society, rule against those who print and distribute free of cost?