

## DRAFT RESPONSE

February 22, 1990

Larry Brubaker  
1102 North Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61103

Dear Larry,

Thank you for sending the WSO the copy of the policies for your group. While it is unusual for a group to develop a set of policies, we appreciate you sending them for review. Usually group decisions are passed on to the newer group members by word of mouth during the group business meetings, instead of being printed, copied and distributed.

None the less, these policies have been reviewed by the Board of Trustees, and while there are some questionable areas, there do not seem to be any tradition violations. We assume that the policies have been discussed and approved for use in your group by the group members, in accordance with our Fourth Tradition, which states "*Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole.*" While the Board of Trustees does not wish to become involved in internal group decisions, we are concerned with the name of the group and the image this could present to the general public if it is listed in the local meeting directory.

Best wishes in the continued success of your group. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Your in Service,

Jack Bernstein, Chairman  
Board of Trustees



WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.  
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409  
(818) 780-3951

February 9, 1990

K.I.S.S. A.S.S.  
301 B 7th St.  
Rockford, IL 61104

Dear friends,

Your letter has been received and forwarded to the Board of Trustees as per your request. It will be read by each member of the Board and discussed.

A response will be prepared if appropriate and sent to you after it has been approved.

We appreciate your input and send you our best wishes in your continuing recovery.

In fellowship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Hollie Arnold'. The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Hollie Arnold  
WSO Coordinator

HA/jm





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In fellowship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Hollie Arnold'.

Hollie Arnold  
WSO Coordinator

HA/jm

FEB 5 1990

January 31, 1990

W.S.O.  
Narcotics Anonymous  
P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409

Gentlemen:

I would like to request a review of the attached policies in terms of any violation of the traditions.

We, as a group, have gone through a great deal of pain and growth to draft these policies. This past October we took a group inventory. Having located several (tradition) violations the policies were re-written. If any other departments or Ad Hoc committees need to review these documents, please feel free to have them do so.

We are neither asking nor seek endorsement from W.S.O. as a "valid" N.A. group. As of November 7, 1989 we, as a group, celebrated our 3rd birthday. There are eighteen meetings per week with an average monthly attendance of approximately 1000 people. Major monthly expenditures including rent, utilities, literature, coffee and pop run approximately \$800.00.

Honesty, openmindedness, and willingness are not just words at our group - they're an attitude.

Please be direct in your feedback to us. If violations do exist please reference the specific text of the tradition(s) and suggestions for changes.

Enclosed please find two return envelopes as well as our own flyer. The other flyer we provide to encourage attendance at other N.A. meetings in Rockford. If you have any questions, please contact me Monday - Friday, 8:00a/5:00p (815)987-6749, or nights (815)964-4343. I will be out of the country on business the first two weeks of February.

Yours in Service,



Larry Brubaker  
Chairman, K.I.S.S. A.S.S.  
Business Committee

P.S. It stands for Keep It Simple Stupid And Stay Straight

enclosure

## **POLICIES**

### **K.I.S.S. A.S.S. GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

We the undersigned, in the interest of carrying the message hereby establish and define the following.

We base our policies on the 12 Traditions of N.A., which are the structure which defines our fellowship. All policies are to be passed by a 2/3 vote with the policy to be posted or announced one month prior to the vote.

#### **Meeting Environment**

- No music of any form before, during, or after regularly scheduled meetings.
- What a person labels him/herself is a decision that person makes. Based on the 3rd Tradition, if that person is staying clean, going to meetings, and living in today what label they choose is not to be judged as either wrong or right by the Group.
- If an individuals recovery program includes medically supervised use of specific chemicals (i.e. methadone), they still have the right to freely speak at a Group meeting or function.
- The meeting length shall not exceed one (1) hour in length.
- When the group has gained its own residence and is self-supporting the following will apply -
  1. The 12 Traditions shall be adhered to.
  2. The meeting room(s) will only be used for -
    - a. regularly scheduled meetings
    - b. speaker meetings
    - c. fund raiser sponsored by and for the benefit of K.I.S.S. A.S.S. Group and Narcotics Anonymous
    - d. 5th steps
  3. The meeting room(s) shall not be used for -
    - a. storage of personal belongings
    - b. private parties
    - c. a place to "crash"
    - d. for any personal activities not directly related to N.A.
- No "specialty" meeting for specific sub-groups (i.e. men, women, gays, etc.) will be scheduled.

## **POLICIES**

### **K.I.S.S. A.S.S. GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

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- The meeting format will be taken from the Basic Text of N.A. and is to be the only reading at the beginning of each regularly scheduled meeting.
- All announcements external to the Group and N.A. Service will be posted - not read.
- It shall be each person's responsibility for the quality of the recovery environment.

#### **Business Committee**

- It is the responsibility of the business committee:
  1. To post minutes from monthly meeting.
  2. Clearly indicated (monthly) expenditures.
  3. Maintain security.
  4. Take such steps necessary to ensure the smooth running of the Group.

#### **Chairperson**

- Each chairperson shall have at least 90 days clean.
- The chairperson is responsible to see that the meeting place is cleaned up after each meeting.
- Each chairperson is responsible to find his/her own replacement.
- The chairperson will open the meeting one (1) hour before and close no later than one (1) hour after regularly scheduled meeting times.
- Each chairperson is responsible to ensure the next chairperson (replacing them) knows the proper meeting format and understands all the responsibilities it entails.
- Each chairperson is responsible to keep coffee going before and during meetings.

**DRAFT RESPONSE**

February 22, 1990

Ralph Kruger  
Morgensternstrasse 38  
600 Frankfort/M 70  
WEST GERMANY

Dear Ralph,

We apologize for the length of time it has taken to respond to your letter of Nov. 19, 1989. Responses from the Board of Trustees tend to take more time than usual due to the necessity of having them reviewed by the entire Board prior to responding.

We have been given copies of the letter from Bob Stone with his response to your concerns about Naranon. His answers about how the World Convention handles it's relationship with Naranon seems very comprehensive, and we don't feel we can expand any on that issue. We are enclosing a copy of an article that was written in 1987 and published in the *Newsline*. The issue of our relationship to Naranon has not been discussed at length by the Board since that time. We hope that this information is helpful to you and your regional service committee.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the World Service Conference in April.

Yours in Service,

Jack Bernstein, Chairman  
Board of Trustees

enc: Trustee Article

I:\bot\kruger



## THE RELATIONSHIP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS TO NAR-ANON AND FAMILIES ANONYMOUS:

*This article was generated by the Board of Trustees in August, 1987 in response to the needs of the Fellowship. It represents the views of the Board of Trustees at the time of writing.*

The Board of Trustees has received many inquiries during the past few years which have asked specific questions about how to go about cooperating without affiliating when it comes to Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous. The need to address this issue arose from a confusion between the letter of our Twelve Traditions, and the spirit of love, understanding, and caring which we all feel as individuals.

It has become clear to us that the phrase "cooperation not affiliation" is no longer suitable for Narcotics Anonymous. Undoubtedly this attitude and these words have served us over many years, but it appears that the growth and development of our Fellowship demands a revised expression. In consulting the dictionary, "cooperation" means "the act of working together to a common end or the association of a number of people together in an enterprise, the benefits of which are shared." This definition can present a problem in addressing our relationship with any other organization, including Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous. Strictly speaking, the object or goal of our Fellowship is not the same as any other fellowship. In this respect, it is impossible to cooperate without also endorsing or affiliating.

The Board of Trustees believes that a policy, or attitude, or phrase which serves our purpose best and guides our Fellowship well is "a policy of non-affiliation." This clearly conveys the fact that we do not associate with, connect with, or adopt any other organization or purpose. Traditions Six ("*An N.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the N.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose*") and Ten ("*N.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy*") refer to these issues, and there can never be any formal relationship between Narcotics Anonymous and any other Fellowship or organization.

As individuals, we have tremendous respect for these other Fellowships and support the need for them. As grateful recovering addicts, we carry

intense and genuine love and understanding in our hearts.

Adherence to our Twelve Traditions does not preclude or negate these feelings. We must remember, however, that Narcotics Anonymous, Nar-Anon, and Families Anonymous are separate Fellowships, each with its own purpose. These organizations are not enmeshed with each other nor are they interdependent.

We believe that by reflecting back upon our own paths, we can find the way to convey this respect, love, and support, without endorsing or affiliating with other Fellowships. Our family members and loved ones were often instrumental in allowing us to face the consequences of our addiction by not helping us! We now have the opportunity to support them by not interfering and also by simply pursuing our own purpose as guided by the spiritual principles of Narcotics Anonymous. While we all may have our own way of supporting our loved ones, N.A. can only remain true to our primary purpose (Tradition Five: "*Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry the message to the addict who still suffers*") and the guidance provided in Traditions Six ("*An N.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the N.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose*") and Ten ("*N.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy*"). Consistent Fellowship action which is guided by these principles is the kindest and most loving path for us to follow, both for ourselves and our family members and loved ones. This helps these other Fellowships to address their own needs in a sensible, appropriate, and non-dependent manner.

Our relationship as a Fellowship with Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous, as with treatment centers, clubhouses or any other organization or enterprise can then be simply and clearly defined as one of providing information. We do, and are willing to, provide information about what we do, where we do it, where our meetings are held, where our conventions are held, etc. We are pleased to provide this information to anyone or everyone who requests it, while at the same time avoiding any type of affiliation or special treatment for any people or organization outside of Narcotics Anonymous.

The Board of Trustees believes that many of the practices which we have engaged in as a Fellowship do not constitute adherence to our Traditions. The intent of these actions was usually sound and it has taken many years of experience and study to



evaluate them with respect to our Twelve Traditions. These include listing Families Anonymous and Nar-Anon meetings in N.A. directories, on flyers for N.A. conventions, or in N.A. registration forms, and the practice of obtaining meeting places for these other Fellowship at conventions or other N.A. activities. Additionally, utilizing speakers from the Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous Fellowships is a practice which does not adhere to our Traditions. However, we encourage phonline workers to use common sense and good judgement in making known to family members that N.A. is for the drug addict and that family members may find family oriented recovery fellowships to be beneficial.

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BTNL14

WSO  
P.O. BOX 9999  
VAN NUYS, CA 91409  
USA

November 19, 1989

TO: Bob Stone

FROM: Ralph Krüger

Dear Bob,

I have several points of information, requests and questions today. They do relate to questions about the traditions, licensing agreement, new group registration, tape review committee and new members in our RSC.

TRADITIONS:

At our last RSC meeting we had a long discussion about our relationship to NARANON. The discussion was controversial and brought about no consensus. The center of our attention was especially Tradition Six. The conclusion was to ask the BOT for guidance. In general we agreed that we are two independent fellowships. Questions were raised whether we would allow NARANON to hold meetings at our annual convention or list their meetings in our directory. We also would appreciate to get in print the statements of the BOT concerning the Traditions (answers and guidance they have given in the past until today).

LICENSING AGREEMENT:

Silvia M. reported to the RSC about a conversation she had with you during this year's world convention. You mentioned that the WSO wanted to sign a new licensing agreement sometime in the first quarter of 1990. We formed an ad hoc committee that will represent the German Speaking Region. Members are: Silvia Mack (chair Basic Text Translation Committee), Günter Maisch (Regional Lit. Chair), Hans-Jörg R. (NA member with experience in international contracts) and myself. The best place for a meeting would be Frankfurt.

NEW GROUPS:

Enclosed you will find a group update and new group registration. Also a copy of a letter that I received recently. The funny thing about it was that it informed me of a group (actually it was an update), that I had registered myself.

TAPE REVIEW:

A few month ago I had written to the WSC Tape Review Committee. I wanted to know how this committee works and if they had any standards by which they made their choices. So far I have not received an answer. We are still interested in this information, since we are in the process of selecting German speaker tapes

that will be for sale .

NEW RSC MEMBERS:

Volker Vitt's term as RSR ended and I was elected RSR. As RSR Alt. we elected Uli Zilz. He has the following adress:

ULI ZILZ

MÜLLERSTR.38

6100 DARMSTADT

PHONE # 06151/716615

Both Uli and I will attend the WSC in April 1990.

Please pass on the information and questions. I wrote all this in one letter since it was the most simple way of doing it. One more information before closing this letter: THE 7th. ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE GERMAN SPEAKING REGION WILL TAKE PLACE IN MUNICH JUNE 8/9/10 1990. We will provide you with further information asap.

In fellowship

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ralph Krüger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ralph Krüger (RSR)



**WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.  
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409  
(818) 780-3951

October 11, 1989

Friday Night Group  
c/o Ralph Kouger  
Morgenstemstr.30  
6000 Frankfurt/M70 6000 GERMANY

**CONFIRMATION OF GROUP REGISTRATION**

Information has been received about your group and added to our records. This sheet contains information that may prove useful for your group, and will make any future communications you have with the World Service Office much easier for us to process. Please check it all over carefully. If your area is not listed below, or listed incorrectly, please insert any information which helps us to determine which area your group belongs to. Use the update form to report any information which is incorrect or missing. Keep this sheet with the important papers of your group, so that any trusted servant may refer to it.

**Group Code: GIIALR -- Number of meetings for your group: 1**

Refer to this code in any communications you have with the World Service Office.

**Group Location Information:**

Our records indicate that your group is located in the Germany Region (West) We do not know which area you are in. Your groups meets in the city of FRANKFURT.

**Contacts:**

RSR  
Volker Vitt  
Klauer Str. #7  
6000 Frankfurt 50 W. GERMANY

RSR Alt.  
Ralph Kruger  
Morgensternstrasse 38  
6000 Frankfurt/M 70  
W. GERMANY

49-69-528778

49-69-623456

A copy of your group registration form has been sent to the RSR and RSR Alternate or the contact(s) listed above. We suggest that you contact them for assistance and information.

Encl: *N.A. Way*  
*Newsline*  
Group Update Form  
Order Form



WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.  
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409

January 24, 1990

(818) 780-3951

Ralph Kruger  
Mogensternstrasse 38  
6000 Frankfurt/M 70  
W. Germany

Dear Ralph,

We were pleased to receive your November 1989 letter and have recorded the necessary information about Volker's term having expired and your election along with Uli as the RSR Alternate. We offer our congratulations and have changed our mail lists accordingly. We have also forwarded the information to the N.A. Way Magazine about your next German Speaking Region convention. We are hopeful that the attendance will be greater than your expectations.

I have included in this letter additional information about each of the items contained in your letter.

Concerning the License Agreement, we are pleased that you have formed a committee and would like to come visit to discuss and resolve these matters. We are scheduling a visit to several places in Europe in early March and intend to include visiting with your committee. Our current plan would be for our arrival in Frankfurt near mid-day on Friday, March 9th. If we could arrange for the committee to meet with us on Friday or Saturday it would be very helpful. We expect to be departing Frankfurt for Stockholm on Sunday, March 11th about mid-day. If this would be a practical schedule, please let me know and we will make specific travel arrangements.

When the license agreement drafts were written several years ago they were worded in such a way that each would expire at the end of December, 1989. Re-negotiation would be required at that time to determine details of future agreements. For the last year the Board of Directors has been thoroughly reviewing the license agreements. Frankly, we are less knowledgeable about how the agreement has worked for the German Speaking Region than we are about the other three agreements.

In evaluating the effectiveness and the necessity for the agreement, we've discovered some fairly interesting things. Overall, the other three agreements have not proven to be satisfactory. They were more technical and detailed than appears to have been necessary. At the same time, the agreements covered broad areas of responsibility and required the host committee to exercise a considerable level of administrative skill, knowledge of the law and supervision of activities inside and outside the fellowship.

In examining the performance by the Irish, United Kingdom and Australian fellowships, we have discovered that the agreements were not followed very closely and may have been impractical from the very beginning. It is also true that WSO performance was not adequate. As a result of this discovery, it has been the decision of the Board to revise the scope of the agreements. The direction of the Boards thinking would change



the focus of the agreement from a license agreement to a more specific sales agreement.

The license agreement included the responsibility and authority of the host fellowship to exercise legal duties and responsibilities for protection of the trademark and copyright of N.A. literature in that particular country. In the three that we are familiar, the committees were unable to fulfill most of these tasks.

A requirement of the agreement was the formation of a corporation to exist and operate in good standing with the government. In the three examined so far, that has not been achieved appropriately. In the United Kingdom there is a corporation, but it did not obtain tax exempt determination by the government and only recently was able to discover that they may not be eligible for tax exemption. The Irish fellowship was unable to form a committee and retain enough administrative skill to even apply for corporate status. The Australian fellowship has formed a corporation, but operates in a fairly low key manner which makes the discharge of its duties very difficult. As you can see from these examples, there is grounds for changing the nature of the agreements.

Inasmuch as we have not had sufficient first hand work with these matters and the German Speaking Region, we are uncertain of the level of accomplishment of duties outlined in the existing agreement. We believe that through an open and frank discussion of these matters, that determination can be reached. Renewal of the agreement and what types of changes should be incorporated into the agreement can be reached, with the understanding that those decisions are, of course, by mutual consent. We look forward to a cooperative and positive meeting.

The question raised in your letter concerning Naranon has been one that has been raised again and again. We have forwarded that portion of your letter to the the Board of Trustees for their input and consideration of the question you proposed. I do not believe that the Trustee response will be provided very quickly as their communications usually take a few months to develop. The procedure they go through is: a draft is prepared by a staff member, sent to the Chairperson of the Board for their first review, revisions are frequently then made to the draft, it is then sent to the full Board for review, after which a final letter is then sent. This does take time, but I can assure you that you will get a response.

I could relate to you the experience that we have had with the World Convention on this subject. It is a subject that has had continuing discussion and may from time to time be looked at differently. Indeed, the thinking on this issue may change at some time in the future. The policy currently followed by the World Convention has been in effect for approximately six years. That policy generally recognizes that there are people who attend the World Convention who are related by marriage, or other similar relationships, to members of the fellowship. Frequently they do attend, along with a person who is a member, and would like to participate in activities of their own. Many of these people do belong to Naranon and as a result, for the last six years, Naranon has had some activity at or near the World Convention site. Our policy for the last six years has been to inform the Naranon organization where our convention was to be held, the dates of the event and to provide contacts for them to communicate to appropriate hotels on their own. This way Naranon has hosted their own event simultaneous to our World Conventions. We have not signed agreements for them, nor do we presently have agreements between us and Naranon. We essentially co-exist in the same general area



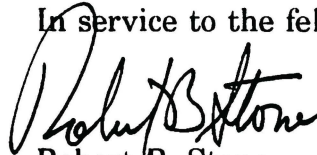
at the same time. We do not identify their meetings or activities in the list of meetings of the World Convention. We have traditionally, however, placed a sign in the N.A. registration area that indicates a Naranon registration area is in another location and giving directions to find that location. This is as close as we have actually come to having an official relationship at the time of the World Convention.

Concerning the matter you raised about new group registrations, I actually did find it sadly humorous that as RSR, you had received a confirmation of the group that you had registered. That may occur from time to time throughout the fellowship. We think that the staff acted correctly by informing a trusted servant of the fellowship in Germany of the registration of a new group. It does seem a bit unnecessary to inform the registering individual of the group he registered, but policy was followed sending that information on to the key contact person in the country. In the future, of course, we will be doing much of this through the office in London. Some of these procedures may change as a result of that switch of assignments.

In reference to your questions regarding tape review; at the time your letter was received, the tape review process was undergoing a dramatic change and as a result, your letter was placed in a folder for later response awaiting the outcome of those changes. We regret we did not respond immediately after some of the changes were implemented. The World Service Office, as a result of previous Conference decisions, has been the only place where approved N.A. tapes are sold. As a result of the interest expressed by you and several other non-English speaking N.A. communities, WSO is currently in the process of establishing tape review advisory committees in these countries. The purpose of these advisory bodies will be to evaluate a tapes suitability for sale. I have enclosed a copy of the tape policy that fundamentally outlines the parameters of operation for the tape review committee. We would like to encourage that you assist us with the formation of an advisory panel for German language tapes that may be submitted. If you have any other questions about this issue, please do not hesitate to address them directly to Anthony Edmondson here at the office.

If there are other things that we can do to assist you, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you at the World Service Conference this coming Spring.

In service to the fellowship,



Robert B. Stone  
Executive Director

Enclosure

RBS/ch

548 W. Evans  
San Bernadino, CA 92405

Feb. 21, 1990

Internal/External Committee of the  
World Service Board of Trustees  
P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409

Re: Draft Minutes of the Oct 13 - 14, 1989 Meeting

Dear Stu T.,

I am having difficulty understanding the primary purpose and it's relationship to (1) NA's image. I have been taught to live the program and my 'image' will take care of itself.

I have been told not to try to be 'hip slick and cool' and yet I feel that too much NA. time, energy and money is being spent on us looking 'hip slick and cool' to professional agencies, etc.

I can understand the people pleasers that we all wanting to be accepted by the community but I would have thought somebody would have brought up the NA way that comes from living the program. Needless to say, I am strongly opposed to a 5 year national plan to see what people think of us and the money being spent to ask professionals what they think of NA.

I am a professional and I feel like we are going to have problems of money, property and prestige if we continue (2) this trend. I am a member of the 'target audience' and I have found through the fellowship of NA that I no longer have to continue old behavior. Worrying about my image was what got me loaded and kept me that way. I no longer have to ask 'other' people to ask somebody how they think I measure up.

I was taught to carry the message to the addict not the (3) non-addict professional. Do we really want to concern ourselves with pleasing non-addicts? It seems to me the primary purpose has become a secondary interest. If we have the measure up in order for addicts to be referred to NA then I feel that we will lose the therapeutic value of one addict helping another.



I also strongly opposed the (4) use of our 7th Tradition to hire a professional survey company to assist us in this endeavor.

Quite frankly, I am very concerned with the (5) direction of our Fellowship recently. I'm not sure what has happened within the last year or so but there seems to be a strong movement against our 2nd, 4th and 9th Tradition. Citing examples of the (6) Commemorative Text, the (7) 12 Concepts of Service and now our image. I strongly support the intent in all of these projects but I don't think it's appropriate to lean so far into (8) self-governing 'trusted servants.'

It pains me to think that our region just donated \$22,000 to provide a Gallup poll NA style. I agree it's time to focus our efforts on providing positive direction for the fellowship. I also feel that we need to take the fellowship with us willingly. The ties that would tear us apart are getting very strong and very autonomous in spite of the fellowship being affected as a whole.

My experiences in service teach me that there are servants who lean towards self-will while there is a balance of servants who believe in group conscience. Usually, it affords a significant balance. However, I see that balance shifting at a World Level.

I am also very interested in being more informed on the process of the 12 Concepts. I don't feel that it is wise to hire a professional non-addict before considering the (9) writers in the fellowship. Generalizing that addicts become too attached to their work is prejudicial. How is the literature normally written? To my knowledge, the Basic Text was written for addicts by addicts. It is my understanding that the text was edited by professional non-addicts. I am not real sure on what actually occurred. However, I would like to know more about what is happening. and (10) the suggestion that interested members be directed to RSR and RSR-alternate is offensive.

I am in agreement of changing God to Higher Power and personally was encouraged greatly by my first reading of the last story in the Basic Text. I would like to see the (11) Scandinavian request permitted to change the word god to Higher Power.

Steff (714) 889-0562

P.S. I am withholding potential funds for the 7th Tradition and I will be voting against world donations until the fellowship is permitted to become more involved in decisions that affect NA as a whole.

I also feel that World level trusted servants may need to (12) write out a service inventory like we do at area and regional levels.

I implore those servants who are having (13) ego-problems to consider the effects it is having on the fellowship as a whole. The majority of the times I applaud the intents of the World. However, lately the ways and means of accomplishing these projects differ with the NA philosophy.

On a personal level, I'm wondering if our non-addict members are too involved in the direction of NA. NA will survive without an endorsement from the professional community. (Throughout the So. Calif. region, we have a number of addicts who are professionals.) But I'm not sure if some of the committee members will be able to survive this new direction. I have been shown to lead by example. Sometimes, it's very difficult for me not to pound the proverbial clinched fist and I apologize for the tone of this communication. I have difficulty expressing myself in the NA way regarding these core issues that I hold dear to my heart. I have a lot of gratitude for NA but I can 'feel' that (14) powerful influences are negatively changing the meaning of Narcotics Anonymous.

It is important to be directly responsible for those you serve. I know from experience how easy it is to become engulfed in the service committees and neglect to attend & listen in Narcotics Anonymous meetings. But those meetings were what has helped me keep in touch with the fellowship. In fact, I would like to see the TWGGS (15) require world level trusted servants to attend Narcotics Anonymous meetings on a 'regular basis.' A regular basis being left for the individual's conscience to determine.

AD-HOC COM.ON  
THE TRADITIONS  
C/O WSO INC.  
PO# 9999  
VAN NUYS,CA  
91409

MAKE YOUR CARE AND GUIDANCE A REALITY TO ME.  
GRANT ME FAITH TO BECOME A MESSAGE OF YOUR WILL;  
YOUR LOVE AND YOUR PEACE.  
MAKE ME YOUR TRUE CHILD;  
HELP ME TO SEEK A MORE YEARNING SPIRIT,  
AND A DEEPER LONGING FOR THE TRUTH.  
REMOVE THE SELF THAT BINDS ME TO MY IGNORANCE,  
SO I MAY SURRENDER AND BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

MAC MC FADDEN  
31 GRAND ST.  
MIDDLETOWN CT.  
06457

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW ADDICTS,  
RECOVERY IS BEING AND BECOMING.THERE IS ONLY ONE ABSOLUTE AND WE  
AS HUMANS ARE POWERLESS TO PLACE ANY FINALITY UPON THAT NATURE.  
TRUTH IS THAT WHICH DOES NOT CHANGE,YET WORDS COME TO MIND AND  
WE TRY VAINLY TO EXPRESS WHAT TRUTH IS.IT IS THAT ALONE WHICH IS  
UNPOLLUTED AND NO HUMAN TONGUE OR WRITING HAS BEEN ABLE TO DISCRIBE  
FULLY WHAT IT IS. ONLY THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH IT  
IS AVAILABLE TO US.

WHAT IS THAT RELATIONSHIP?THIS IS THE MOOT QUESTION OF RECOVERY  
AND WHAT WE ALL,IN RECOVERY,,ARE TRYING TO SHARE.OUR SUCCESS IN  
SHARING IN THE MEETING,AT THE PODIUM,AND THROUGH OUR LITERATURE IS  
DIRECTLY DEPENDENT ON OUR ABILITY TO COME TO TERMS WITH THIS.

RECOVERY IS AN EXPERIMENT,AND THE SUCCESS OF ANY EXPERIMENT DEPENDS  
ON THE SCRUPULOUS OBSERVANCE OF ITS LAWS.THE QUALITY AND EXAMPLE OF  
OUR RECOVERY IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE DEPTH OF OUR RESIGNATION  
AND SELF SURRENDER TO THESE,AND TO THAT WHICH THEY REPRESENT,A  
HIGHER POWER WHO IS EVER LOVING AND CARING OF OUR NEEDS.

IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS CONFUSION OR MISPLACEMENT OF  
PRIORITYS IN THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR "STATEMENT OF PURPOSE",  
BROUGHT ON BY A FAILURE IN THE ABILITY TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN  
WHAT IS REAL,OUR PRINCIPLES,AND WHAT IS APPARENT,OUR ATTITUDES  
TOWARD THEM BEST EXEMPLIFIED IN THE METHOD OF APPLICATION WE  
CHOOSE TO BRING TO THEM.

OUR TWELFT TRADITION,IN SUMMING UP,TELLS US THIS SUCCESS IS  
DEPENDENT ON OUR ABILTY TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITYS.  
(I WOULD VENTURE TO SAY THESE PRINCIPLES,OUR TRADITIONS.)NOW HOW  
ARE WE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WITHOUT A DEEP AND PERSONAL WORKING  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM?



OUR TWELFT STEP AND ITS EXERCISE,(AND I THINK ONE COULD SAFELY SAY, THROUGH THE GENERAL CONSCIENCE OF THE FELLOWSHIP),RELIES IN ITS WORKING ENTIRELY ON EXPERIENCE,STREGNTH, AND HOPE.OUR RECOVERY,WHICH IS TO BE REFLECTED IN YOUR EFFORTS,IS A PROCESS,AND SO OUR LITERATURE, IN ORDER TO REFLECT IT,SHOULD BE DRAWN BY A PROCESS THAT MOST EFFECTIVELY REFLECTS THE RECOVERY PROCESS.

IT SEEMS TO ME,FROM YOUR REPORT IN 'NEWSLINE',THAT YOUR MAIN CONCERN IS HOW YOU ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL THAT PROCESS,RATHER THAN ALLOW IT THE FREEDOM TO CREATE THAT IS THE INHERENT FUNCTION OF THE RECOVERY PROCESS.THIS IS A FACT PROVEN BY OUR INARGUABLY SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE WITH THE DRAUGHT OF OUR BASIC RECOVERY TEXT.

THE STATEMENT YOU HAVE MADE WITHIN YOUR "STATEMENT OF PURPOSE";"TO, 2.ENGAGE MEMBERS IN THE SPIRIT-NOT THE LAW-OF THE TRADITIONS", SEEMS AT BEST STANDOFFISH IN REGARD TO THE ABOVE AND A REACTION TO WHAT YOU HAVE FOUND DISTASTEFUL IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE PRACTICE OF THESE PRINCIPLES.BOTH EXAMPLES,IN THEMSELVES,REPRESENT PERSONALITY, NOT ONLY IN PRACTICE AND REACTION,BUT IN THE PRACTICE OF THAT REACTION.THIS MAY BEST BE OVERCOME BY THE REALIZATION THAT THE SPIRIT IS THAT OF DEVINE LAW AND NOT POLICE MENTALITY.


PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES HAVE NO PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO THE RECOVERING ADDICT,AND THE TRUTH,WHICH IS WHAT RECOVERY IS IN SEARCH OF,AND WHICH THE SEARCH ITSELF GIVES US A DEEPER AND MORE PROFOUND RELATIONSHIP WITH,IS BEING MISREPRESENTED BY AN IMPLIED DISCLAIMER. WE MUST HAVE A PROCESS WHICH IS HONESTLY INVOLVED IN A RIGOROUS SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH.

I FIND IN MYSELF,AFTER MUCH THOUGHT AND SEARCHING,A NEED TO SHARE WITH YOU WHAT I HAVE FOUND.THIS IS;YOU,WHO ARE LEADERS THROUGH THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN YOU BY THE W.S.C. AND THE SECOND TRADITION AS RELATED TO SERVICE,ARE DEALING WITH THE CREATION OF LITERATURE THAT IS INTENDED TO BECOME THE REPRESENTATIVE AUTHORITY OF OUR RECOVERY. A POWER OF EXAMPLE IN THE WRITTEN WORD.FOR WHATEVER REASON YOU HAVE FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THIS,AND YOUR GOALS FALL SHORT OF OUR REALITY. RECOVERY IS NOT OCCULTISM OR MYSTICISM OR JUST A WAY OF LIFE.THE ATTRACTION IS NOT MEDIOCRITY.RECOVERY IS A HIGHER WAY OF LIFE. OUR GOALS MUST BE HIGHLY CONCIEVED,NOT CHOSEN OR EVEN INFLUENCED BY ADDICT REACTION.



PERHAPS THE GRANTING OF THAT AUTHORITY WAS TOO MUCH.KNOWING SOME  
OF YOU IT SHOULDN'T BE.AFTER ALL,THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY TRUSTED  
SERVANT IS TO THE GROUP AND ITS PRINCIPLES.

LOVE IS ONLY OBVIOUS IN EFFORT.LOVING GRATITUDE SERVES.

YOUR SERVANT,  
  
MAC MC FADDEN  
KEEPING IT GREEN NA

C.C.,B.O.T.

GREG PIERCE

## TRUSTEES COMMUNICATIONS REGISTER

3

All communications dated prior to November 1, 1989 have been deleted from the active register. Members desiring reprints of that information can obtain it from the WSO staff.

Nov 7--Meeting held between Jack, Steve S. and Hollie at Cri-Help. Items discussed included the letter regarding BOT meeting minutes and minutes approval process, letter to the Additional Needs Advisory Panel members, the Fellowship Report and the BOT budget (due Dec. 1), the proposed motion to amend the Traditions proposal adopted at WSC '89, Tom M's report on Rotation and Continuity, letter to Trad Ad Hoc from John F., and letter from Danette that she requested Jack's review on prior to mailing.

Nov 13--Regular monthly mailing sent to all BOT members.

Nov 14--Spoke to Kim J. She will be here this next weekend to participate in the Traditions Ad Hoc. Will also be spending some time here next week to work on I/E assignments. (Kim did not make it in to the WSO as she had planned.)

Nov 16--Spoke with Mario. Discussed items included in mailing, which he has not yet received. Advised me that he will begin work on his I/E assignment next week, and will communicate by FAX.

Nov 17--Meeting at Cri-Help between Jack, Hollie and George. Discussed the Fellowship Report draft, proposed budget, proposal for removal of internal committee guidelines from TWGSS (Jack to do), draft letter responses to send to Board members for review, and the proposed trip to India which needs to either be done in February 1990 or will have to wait till next conference year. Also discussed sending a member of the Board to the Spanish Basic Text meeting in Miami the first weekend in December.

Nov 20--Letter of thanks from Gordon Page about his appointment to the Additional Needs Advisory Panel. Will file after seen by Jack. **Filed in 2-1-9.**

Nov 20--Spoke with Mario about going to India. He states that February is the worst month to travel there, due to extreme heat and humidity. Suggested that the trip be scheduled for March instead. Will discuss with his wife and we will contact him again early next week.

Nov 21--FAX'ed a packet of notes from Ad Hoc Traditions group and copy of proposed motion to Jack, concerning the motion adopted at WSC '89 about the Traditions. He will work on drafting a substitute motion to be sent to all the Board for review.

Trustees Communications Register--Page 4

Nov 27--Letter from the Boulder CO Lit. committee regarding changing the word "God" to "Higher Power" in all our literature, as well as changing all gender-specific pronouns to gender-neutral pronouns. Response will be drafted. 1/4/90--Response signed and mailed after review by all BOT members. Filed in 1-1-1.

Nov 30--Scheduled to meet with Jack at Cri-Help tomorrow. Overnight package is being sent to all BOT members with two proposed motions on the Traditions proposal, several items from the WSC Lit. Committee and a memo/letter from Steve S.

Nov 30--Spoke with Mario concerning India trip. He can go anytime in March for one week. Will discuss with George as soon as he returns to WSO from Miami Spanish translation meeting.

Dec 1--Meeting at Cri-Help with Jack, Steve S. and Hollie A. Items discussed included Jack's draft report to be incorporated into the Fellowship Report regarding the WSC in St. Louis, the input received from Garth and Danette on the minutes of Oct. meeting, letter from Bronx, NY about tape pirating, Mario and India trip, Consultants visit at the next Traditions Ad Hoc and Danette's concern about polling the Board about hiring a consultant.

Dec 5--Spoke with Garth, Danette, and Stretch about the substitute motions. All three prefer motion #2 with some minor modifications. Will advise Jack of input received.

Dec 6--Spoke with Mario and Tom about substitute motions. Both prefer motion #2 with very little input on either.

Dec 7--Spoke with Chuck. He prefers motion #1. Also is not very happy with approving motions by phone ballot. Plans to talk with Jack concerning the possibility of having a conference call with all Board members to discuss the motions.

Dec 8--Was given a copy of a letter from a concerned member who relates that the GSR of group in her area has informed the members of group, who are also patients at local psychiatric facility, that if they are taking any medications, they are not supposed to share. Will draft a response. Draft response mailed to all BOT members on 1/22/90. Response signed and mailed on Feb 20. Filed in BOT 1-1-1.

Dec 8--Meeting at WSO between Jack, Hollie, George, and Bob. Topics discussed were the Traditions motion input with a decision made to have a conference call the weekend of Dec 16/17. Also discussed the Arabic Basic Text and proposed trip to Cairo, Egypt, letter from group member concerning the GSR discouraging members who are clients at a psychiatric facility from sharing at a meeting, draft response about tape piracy in the Bronx, and changes to a draft response to letter regarding gender specific language and changing the Steps/Traditions regarding the word "God." Also gave Jack a copy of the preliminary Conference Agenda Report for his review.

Dec 13--Conference call held between Jack, Bob H., and Stu T. to discuss the requested special meeting of the Ad Hoc on N.A. Service.



Dec 13--Letter received from member in Utah regarding the use of the word "sober" in meetings. Has concerns that members are being shunned when they do not use N.A. approved language. Will draft a response. Draft response mailed to all BOT members on 1/22/90. **Response signed by Jack and mailed on Feb 20. Filed in BOT 1-1-1.**

Dec 14--Have contacted all of the Trustees except for Stretch to set up conference call on Dec. 17 at 4:00PM PST.

Dec 17--Conference call held with all members of the board included except for Mario and Kim (who was inadvertently dropped from the call by the operator and could not get reconnected). Main item of discussion was the motion to be included in the Agenda Report regarding the Traditions development time frame and review process. Decision was made to delete the second sentence from the first motion, add a sentence stating that adoption of this motion will supercede the motion adopted at WSC '89, and add language from second motion to the intent of the first motion which will further describe the process to be used. This will be drafted and reviewed by Jack prior to sending out in the JAC review packet. Also discussed were the proposed letter from the Traditions Ad Hoc to the RSRs and the scheduled meeting of the expanded Ad Hoc on N.A. Service to be held in Albuquerque, NM. Minutes from this call will be sent out with the regular mailing the first of next month.

Dec 18--Letter received from a member in Durban, South Africa concerning the Seventh Tradition and paying rent for meeting space. Reply will be drafted. **Response filed in 1-1-1.**

Dec 18--Revised motion and report for CAR sent to Jack for his review. Advised him that if he is unable to get back to Hollie prior to Dec 19, that he will then need to speak with Steve S. as Hollie will not be in the office until after the first of the year.

Dec 28--Hollie attempted to contact Jack, as has Steve S. several times, without success. The JAC package including the revised motion is to be sent out overnight today, so will include the report and motion, as drafted.

Jan 2, 1990--Received letter requesting copy of article on "Some thoughts on the relationship between AA and NA" as this member is having some difficulties with this issue after moving to a new state. **Will mail out with letter of thanks for the request. Response filed in 1-1-1.**

Jan 3--Mailed out the regular monthly packet including the communications register, updated international register, conference call minutes and a request from a group called MEDA to allow them to use excerpts from our literature.

Jan 5-7--JAC Meeting held. Both Jack and Becky attended.

Trustees Communications Register--Page 6

Jan 9--Copies of Bryce's letter to Jack, draft response to letter about tapes being sold at meetings in NY, and the new reimbursement policy that was handed out during the JAC meeting were sent to each BOT member.

Jan 9--Received a FAX from Kim with input about the conference call minutes, draft BOT minutes, review packets for Alb. meeting and contacting a professional survey organization.

Jan 12--Meeting at WSO between Jack, Steve S., George and Bob S. Topics discussed included the Hebrew translation problem, Bob's request for time on the BOT agenda, Kim's request concerning contacting a professional survey organization, P.I. Event in Berlin, W. Germany next summer, changing the dates for the BOT meetings next year due to decrease in the BOT budget, tentative agenda for the BOT meeting, European Service Conference, Brazil Report from Chuck and Becky, draft responses to letters, and trustee attendance at WSC agenda workshops.

Jan 17--Spoke with Jack to determine whether he has any input on the guideline motion that was sent to him last week. Also informed him of receiving a memo from Reuben advising Jack that he will be attending the BOT meeting on Feb 3 & 4. Also discussed changes to the draft responses that were discussed last week.

Jan 19--Meeting at WSO between Jack B., Hollie A. and George H. Several items were discussed including the C & P minutes from the multi-regional meeting, N.A. history search memo from Steve L., input on the letter from N.Y on speaker tapes from Danette (minor revisions to letter were made), revised draft responses to letters discussed last week, and the revised agenda for the BOT meeting in Feb. Also called Kim J. to discuss how to proceed with obtaining statistical information about how N.A. is perceived in the professional community as well as in the general public. She then sent a five page FAX with a variety of suggestions and questions that will need discussion before embarking on this "fact finding mission."

Jan 22--Revised draft responses and memo from Steve L. on his N.A. history search were sent to each BOT member. BOT info packets are being put together to take to Alb. NM for distribution so that all members will have ample time to review prior to the meeting Feb 2-4, 1990.

Jan 26-28--Combined meeting held in Albuquerque, NM to discuss the second part of the *Guide to Service*. All BOT members were in attendance except for Danette C. and Donna M. Packages with the information that needs review prior to next weekends meeting were given to each of the BOT members.

Jan 25--A copy of a letter that has been sent to the *Clean Times* in the U.K. was sent to the WSO for the BOT. It concerns the dissatisfaction the writer felt when he read the article on "What is Addiction" that was printed in the *Clean Times*. The note requests that the Trustees accept this letter as his "humble contribution to the debate." Will give to Jack to read and for determination as to whether it necessitates a response. Copy of letter mailed to all BOT members in the Feb 5 package with the approved minutes.



Trustees Communications Register--Page 7

Jan 29--Received a letter from the host committee for the ESC in Lisbon, Portugal which requests the attendance of one or more Trustees at the ESC next summer. Will copy to Jack for his info.

Jan 30--Letter received from Carolina Regional Lit. Review Committee and their desire to review traditions material on a chapter-by-chapter basis. Will copy to Jack and Danette.

Feb 1--Meeting at WSO between Kim J., Bob S., Steve S., Steve L., Vandy A. and Hollie A. to discuss the agenda for the Internal/External committee the weekend. The main focus of the discussion was on the direction that will need to be taken to collect information on our image and the possibility of utilizing the WSC P.I. and H&I Committee members in assisting in these efforts.

Feb 2-4--Board of Trustees meeting held at the WSO in Van Nuys. Please see minutes for details.

Feb 5--Approved minutes of the October BOT meeting were mailed, along with committee minutes, to all RSR's, RSR-A's, BOD and JAC, as directed by the 1988 WSC.

Feb 5--Letter received from the K.I.S.S. A.S.S. group in Rockford, Illinois with copies of their group policies. They have asked that these policies be reviewed for any tradition violation. Will discuss with Jack then draft a response. Acknowledgment of receipt letter sent on 2/6.

Feb 16--Meeting with Jack, Hollie, Steve S. and George at WSO. Items discussed included the upcoming Fellowship Report for March, the Conference Report for WSC, tentative agenda items for the April WSC BOT meeting, the draft minutes, enclosures for the next BOT mailing, and an upcoming P.I. event (June 1991) in Helsinki, Finland. Jack was also given a copy of the election process that will be used at the WSC for his review. Also informed him that there has not been any input yet for the letter from the USSR.

Feb 17--Garth called with further input on the draft BOT policy. Will advise Becky and Chuck this weekend while they are here for the AHNAS meeting.

Feb 20--Letter from Shannon Lynagh concerning some issues he would like to see the Board consider in the future. Will include in next mailing to BOT.

Feb 21--Mailing of draft minutes to all BOT members, along with the BOT purpose package, Barbara Jorgensen's letter, Stretch's letter and Jack's response, Shannon Lynagh's letter and report, and the minutes from the Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service.

Feb 23--Spoke with Jack concerning Judy Yount and her concerns with the response to her letter. He related that he has already spoken with her and want to send her a short letter stating that he will be unable to send the article he alluded to in their conversation as it has not been approved. He will FAX his draft of the Fellowship Report on Monday, Feb 26 and plans to come to the WSO on Feb 28.



March 1--Meeting held at WSO between Becky M., George H., Hollie A. and Ann R. to discuss the BOT guidelines. There was discussion on what should be included in the guidelines with no specific decisions made. Becky will prepare a report to the Board with more details.

March 2--Letter received from a member in San Bernadino to the I/E committee. Will have typed for review by Jack and Kim prior to drafting a response.

March 2--Meeting at WSO with Jack B., George H., Steve S. and Hollie A. Items discussed were draft letters for review, the agenda for the meeting next weekend, the fellowship report, the P.I. event in June in Berlin and possibilities for who could attend, the international meeting in Sept. in Athens of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities and does this warrant pursuing as we were supposed to do a presentation in Buenos Aires for them last year, developing a response to the letter from Russia as there has been no input from members of the Board, and possible staff reassignments after the Conference.

March 5--Letter addressed to the Traditions Ad Hoc. Will copy to Jack and Danette.

**Most recent print out 3/02/90--1/22/90--1/02/90**

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**DRAFT RESPONSE**

February 28, 1990

Judy Yount  
23701 East Fork Road  
Azusa, CA 91702

Dear Judy,

Due to a misunderstanding on my part, I will be unable to send you the report I referred to during our recent phone call. I was under the impression that the report had been approved by the World Service Conference in 1987 when, in fact, it was not approved. Please accept my apology about this matter.

Yours in Service,

Jack Bernstein, Chairman  
Board of Trustees

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**DRAFT RESPONSE**

February 22, 1990

Henry Dietz, Chairperson  
4605 Hedge Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19124

Dear Henry,

The Traditions Ad Hoc committee has received your input on Tradition Six. Unfortunately, we will not be able to use your material. Any material we receive must be free and clear of any obligation, such as copyright, so that it may be used in the development process without any restrictions. We will be glad to accept the input from your regional committee if it is released to our committee without conditions.

We also have hopes that the seeming controversy you alluded to in your letter will be fully discussed and receive the consideration it deserves at this years World Service Conference.

Yours in Service,

Jack Bernstein, Chairman  
Board of Trustees

cc: WSCLC  
Joint Administrative Committee  
Board of Directors  
RSR, Greater Philadelphia RSC  
Greater Philadelphia RSC Chairperson

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January 31, 1990

To: W.S.O., W.S.B., W.L.C., J.A.C.

From: Greater Philadelphia Region Literature Committee

The attached material is copyrighted by the Greater Philadelphia Region. Any unauthorized use of this material will be looked upon by this region as disregarding the unanimous decision of all nine areas of the region.

We are happy to release this material to the proper parties, providing that no professionals or paid addicts are used in the preparation of this material into a manuscript for review or approval by the entire Fellowship.

The Greater Philadelphia Region seeks a return of literature writing to the N.A. Fellowship as a whole and supports the concept that "N.A. literature is to be written by addicts, for addicts and that special workers, staff teams and paid workers of any kind are a direct contradiction to our traditions".

Our literature is not a "service center", and therefore we cannot support the ideology that the current proposals have any foundation in our accepted Spiritual Principles.

The L.C. is a service board/committee and as such is directly responsible to the Fellowship they are used to serve, as is the World Service Conference.

We are deeply concerned with N.A. unity and our common welfare based in the principles of anonymity and being completely self-supporting declining outside contributions. We see the current trends of our World Service Center, boards and committees as compromising to our traditions. These recent prudent actions are directly affecting the unity of our Fellowship as a whole. We hope to return to the Fellowship-approved processes that have resulted in all our current literature.

We sincerely desire to continue serving N.A. as an anonymous part of the whole and to recede in our necessity to remind us all of the importance of following our Steps, Traditions, and Fellowship-approved processes.

As a region we support the motions by the C&P region and have high hopes that the controversy surrounding our literature development process will be finally put to rest at W.S.C. 30.

The Greater Philadelphia Region Literature Committee

For further information or clarification please contact:

Henry Metz, Chairperson  
460 Hedge Street  
Philadelphia, Pa 19124  
215-533-0389

## **TRADITION SIX INPUT - GREATER PHILADELPHIA REGION**

### **TRADITION SIX**

**AN N.A. GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE, OR LEND  
THE N.A. NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE  
ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY OR  
PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.**

The Fifth Tradition spells out our primary purpose. The Sixth Tradition tells us how to preserve and protect our groups in important ways so that they will be able to fulfill that purpose. In carrying the message of recovery, we must be careful to keep it simple and within the framework of N.A. This tradition sets up some guidelines to protect N.A. as a whole and its' individual members. It helps to preserve and ensure that our primary purpose is fulfilled, which is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. When members endorse or announce outside enterprises in our meetings, controversy arises and our atmosphere of recovery is adversely affected. Financing, endorsing or lending our name to outside facilities or enterprises also exposes N.A. to legal and financial problems.

An outside enterprise is an agency, business venture, religion, society, organization, other fellowship or related activity. Most of these are easy to identify, except for other fellowships. Narcotics Anonymous is a separate and distinct fellowship. Our purpose is recovery from the disease of addiction. The other twelve step fellowships specialize in other problems, and our relationship with them is not one of affiliation.

The N.A. Basic Text says that our relationship to all of these other entities "is one of cooperation, not affiliation". Upon closer examination of this statement in a dictionary we find that we must redefine the preceding misstatement.

In consulting the dictionary, "cooperation" means "the act of working together to a common end or the association of a number of people together in an enterprise, the benefits of which are shared". This definition can present a problem in addressing our relationship with other organizations. Strictly speaking, the object or goal of our fellowship is not the same as any other fellowships. In this respect, it is impossible to cooperate without also endorsing or affiliating. This clearly conveys the fact that we do not associate with any other organization or adopt their purpose.

"Non-affiliation" with other fellowships needs to be stressed. Affiliation with other fellowships would dilute our message and make our purpose unclear. This would be disastrous to both the group and the individual member. We need to be able to keep it simple and strive to carry a clear N.A. message to the still suffering addict.

It is essential that we adhere to our traditions, including Tradition Six. Our survival is dependent upon our standing on our own and not affiliating with other organizations, societies, enterprises, or fellowships. We must avoid any action that can compromise the integrity of Narcotics Anonymous.

The Sixth Tradition is one statement of our independence. We have no ties to any other organizations. Groups enjoy freedom through the practice of this tradition. There is freedom to grow and experience our own independence. Although the fellowship is independent of any outside organizations we can still respect what these institutions are doing to help the still suffering addict. Their goals may even be similar to ours, to help someone get clean and be a part of the recovery process. Although they may seem to use some of our methods of recovery, they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous and should not be recognized as such.

Narcotics Anonymous does not own or endorse any related facilities, nor finance enterprises of any nature or lend our name to these endeavors. Ownership of anything creates influence, which in turn fosters the very self-serving instincts which are contradictory to the philosophy of our program.

The Sixth Tradition tells us to avoid the struggles associated with endorsement. The underlying principle is letting go of our old ideas of money, property and prestige and grasping proven principles for spiritual and emotional growth. It is best for N.A. not to be involved with outside functions because many problems can arise. We choose not to participate in conflicts for power and influence. We have seen that the best way to avoid these problems is to stay clear of any situation which may distract us from our primary purpose. Our purpose is not to become rich or influential, but to stay clean and help the addict who still suffers. Lending the N.A. name or financial resources to other organizations defeats our primary purpose and will divide us. N.A. is a separate entity, a safe place for addicts to be with other addicts, learning the process of recovery free from outside influences.



Let us take a closer look at what this tradition really says. First, a group ought never endorse. To endorse is to sanction, approve or recommend. These endorsements can either be direct or implied. We see endorsements everyday, for example, advertisements, magazines or television commercials.

A direct endorsement is often used to persuade someone to do something, such as; use a certain product because a famous actor or sports figure tells us how good that product is. An implied endorsement is harder to define because it is not specifically stated and is a form of indirect persuasion.

In some commercials nobody directly says, "Buy this product". Instead, we see somebody glamorous or famous using it, which implies that anybody who uses this product will also be glamorous and famous. Another example: sports equipment and apparel manufacturers sometimes give professional athletes their products to use. The very fact that the athletes use those products in public constitutes an implied endorsement. It tells us that the athletes really like the equipment or apparel, which leads us to believe it is the best. We are a program of attraction, not promotion.

Our experience has shown that sharing an unclear message by referring to outside enterprises can be detrimental to our recovery and results in confusion. "The use of literature, speakers and announcements of other fellowships in our meetings constitutes an implied endorsement of an outside enterprise". The conscience of N.A. has consistently stated that at N.A. meetings, the use of literature and speakers other than N.A. is not consistent with our traditions.

Individuals who base their recovery in our fellowship and use a sponsor who does the same, carry an N.A. message that is not clouded by any other ideas or issues. We need to keep in mind that hearing about how to recover in another twelve step program can result in confusion for the newcomer attending an N.A. meeting. When speaking in Narcotics Anonymous he or she needs to be able to talk about their N.A. experience, steps, traditions, and recovery using language consistent with our N.A.-approved literature.

Our Sixth Tradition tells us some of the things we must do to preserve and protect our primary purpose. By not adhering to this tradition we could cause our members to feel uncomfortable, unwanted, or different. N.A. is a separate and distinct fellowship in its own right, our common purpose is recovery from the disease of addiction. We should also be aware of how our members and the outside world will perceive us. How well we live our principles says a lot to members and non-members alike.

Endorsements, financial issues, property, and prestige have no place in our meetings. These diversions would only cloud our message, causing disunity. Members talking about non-N.A. literature, a particular church, religion, treatment center, detox or rehab, or other 12 step fellowships at our meetings are all examples of outside endorsements. By not endorsing anything, anyone or any ideas other than recovery from addiction, we eliminate the confusion of outside influences. This confusion could alienate members and they would stop coming to our meetings. Our spiritual program would be lost to them. Whenever we read, pass out unapproved literature or use speakers from another fellowship in our meetings we put N.A. in the position of endorsing and promoting an outside organization or enterprise.

Clubhouses have a tendency to call themselves "Narcotics Anonymous" clubhouses. This gives the impression that N.A. has lent its name to those clubhouses when it has not. More complications occur when in the minds of some members the clubhouse and Narcotics Anonymous become one and the same. Since clubhouses are for and usually run by N.A. members, what difference does it make if they use the N.A. name? The difference is that if they do so, our entire fellowship assumes some responsibility for what goes on there. If a problem occurs, N.A. gets the blame, the bad publicity and our fellowship suffers. For instance, in one community a clubhouse was cited for health department violations and the local newspaper reported the "Narcotics Anonymous Clubhouse" had done the violating. In another community, a fight broke out between two clubhouses and when the incident appeared in the paper this clubhouse was also called by the name it called itself...."Narcotics Anonymous Clubhouse". Such newspaper accounts do harm to our reputation, to the addict who might want to come to N.A. who may now have second thoughts about doing so.

Members on the phonelines must sometimes use their own judgement, especially if it is a life or death situation. As a rule we should not make specific referrals, but in certain situations it is warranted. However, we must carefully explain that N.A. endorses none of them.

Our phonelines are an important way in which we carry our message to the addict who still suffers. We use phonelines for addicts who want information about N.A. Such contact often leads to a Twelve Step call. Some phoneline callers want specific referrals to a hospital or detox center. The problem is obvious. Those of us taking calls want to help the addict but don't want to make a specific referral because that would constitute an endorsement of the



facility and create potentially serious difficulties for N.A. For example, if we made a referral and the addict's experience at that treatment center was poor we might be held morally and even legally responsible.

Many of the "related facilities" we deal with: hospitals, recovery houses, probation and parole offices, would like to use the Narcotics Anonymous name in connection with their services. They think it's good advertising. To let them use our name amounts to an implied endorsement. Endorsing any facility, no matter how good, invites many problems. If we as an N.A. group or fellowship as a whole, endorsed one facility, other facilities could judge us. This would cause unnecessary dissension and controversy which would damage our reputation in the eyes of both the public and addict alike.

Many organizations wish to use the N.A. name in connection with their services. Allowing this would imply endorsement and therefore violate our Sixth Tradition. These facilities treat addicts and often refer them to N.A. Some of us may have undergone and benefited from treatment, but we are careful that if we recommend a facility to someone, we make it clear that we do so personally and not as a member of N.A. We must be careful that when we are in any way dealing with these organizations, we clearly state our policy of non-affiliation to everyone concerned. We are a separate entity, and we do not wish to be associated with any related facility.

What about our service boards/committees, our offices, recovery houses, related activities such as conventions, dances, picnics, fund raisers, clubhouses, other fellowships, detoxes, treatment centers and any other organization? All the other things that go on in and around N.A.? The answer is that these things are not N.A. They are services, related facilities and activities that sometimes help us in recovery and may further the primary purpose of our groups. Narcotics Anonymous is ONLY a Fellowship of men and women; addicts meeting in groups, using a given set of spiritual principles to find freedom from addiction and a new way to live. All else is not N.A. Those things we mentioned are the result of members, society and other organizations or facilities that care enough to reach out and offer their help, services and experience.

If we were to endorse a facility we would be tied to the success or failure of that facility. If something went wrong, it would reflect on N.A. as a whole. Each facility has its own successes and failures. We do not wish to be applauded or criticized based on someone else's actions. It is our experience that only through God's help are we able to help each other recover from the disease of addiction. Experience shows that it takes some members a long time to resist the temptations offered by money, property or prestige. We had best avoid such temptations as we work on our personal recovery. If we specifically referred callers to hospitals and treatment centers, some addicts are at risk of diversion by offers of money to steer addicts to a particular facility, and might be tempted to make a deal for personal gain.

In resolving conflicts with the traditions, it helps to keep in mind that none of us sets out to intentionally harm the fellowship. Most of us do not consciously choose to create disunity in N.A. When we become aware of a member or a group acting in a way that is contrary to the traditions, we should offer a solution to help those individuals or groups live within the spiritual principles of the 12 Traditions. After coming to N.A. and participating in the process of recovery we realize the importance of our unity. Members who choose to participate in activities other than N.A. should feel free to do so outside the N.A. setting. Our 10th Tradition states "N.A. has no opinion on outside issues hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy", nor do we need internal strife that can result from the compromising of any of our traditions.

Standing firmly on the principals of the 12 Traditions and surrendering to group conscience becomes a valuable recovery experience for us. This must be learned by open discussion with a loving and caring attitude, accepting our responsibility for our recovery and for our actions. We practice the traditions for our personal and common welfare, and for the protection of N.A. as a whole.

One way we can approach the problems that arise when the traditions are inadvertently compromised, is to share our perception of the problem with our sponsor or other experienced members. We can seek direction, experience, strength, and hope so that we do not carelessly attack or cause controversy to an individual member or group of members through self will. Having been wrong so often in our lives, when we spot a compromise of our traditions, it feels good to be "right". Being "right," can trap us into self-righteousness which leads to anger, accusations and attacks.

Our members have often slipped into compromising situations without being aware that they were doing so. How we resolve them says much about our own spiritual development. We should approach the individual member privately, after consultation, expressing the awareness that could be helpful for that person or persons' spiritual growth and well being.

If the perceived problem is with an N.A. meeting, after following the above procedure we should approach the group during the group conscience/business meeting. We can share the problem and possible solutions in a way that will not disrupt their atmosphere of recovery. If the problem still exists after sharing with the group and giving them time to seek a solution, we may feel that it is seriously affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole. We should then go to our home groups and

discuss bringing a motion or request to the other groups through the area service committee. This allows the issue that affects N.A. as a whole to be discussed by the groups.

As we learn to live in harmony with our traditions we become able to disagree with out being disagreeable. We have found through our experience that these principles also help us in our outside business and personal relations.

Our groups should focus on gratitude rather than pride. Striving for prestige can be disastrous. Our purpose is not to get rich, be the best or most important group. Our primary purpose is, and can only be, to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

On a personal level material things that seemed unachievable often become a reality in recovery. If we look at these things in the same light as our clean time, we must realize that these gifts are a natural result of living the N.A. program, rather than anything we have earned. If we choose to focus on material possessions it can lead to substitution as a form of personal gain to feed our egos. All we are really doing is replacing the drug with the dollar. At this point we will have lost sight of what is really important: our personal recovery and our responsibilities to Narcotics Anonymous. Let us never lose sight of this. Let us strive to keep the principles of the program foremost in mind, so that the many addicts who need and want this new way of life will have a chance to recover.

Tradition Six points out a dangerous pitfall for groups and N.A. as a whole. Namely, that money or outside enterprises can easily become obsessions that can direct our attention away from carrying our message of recovery to other addicts. To endorse is to sanction, approve or recommend anything other than Narcotics Anonymous which would detract from the message of hope and the promise of freedom. When it is said and done, our primary purpose can only be to carry the message to the addict who still suffers, because that is all we have to give.