

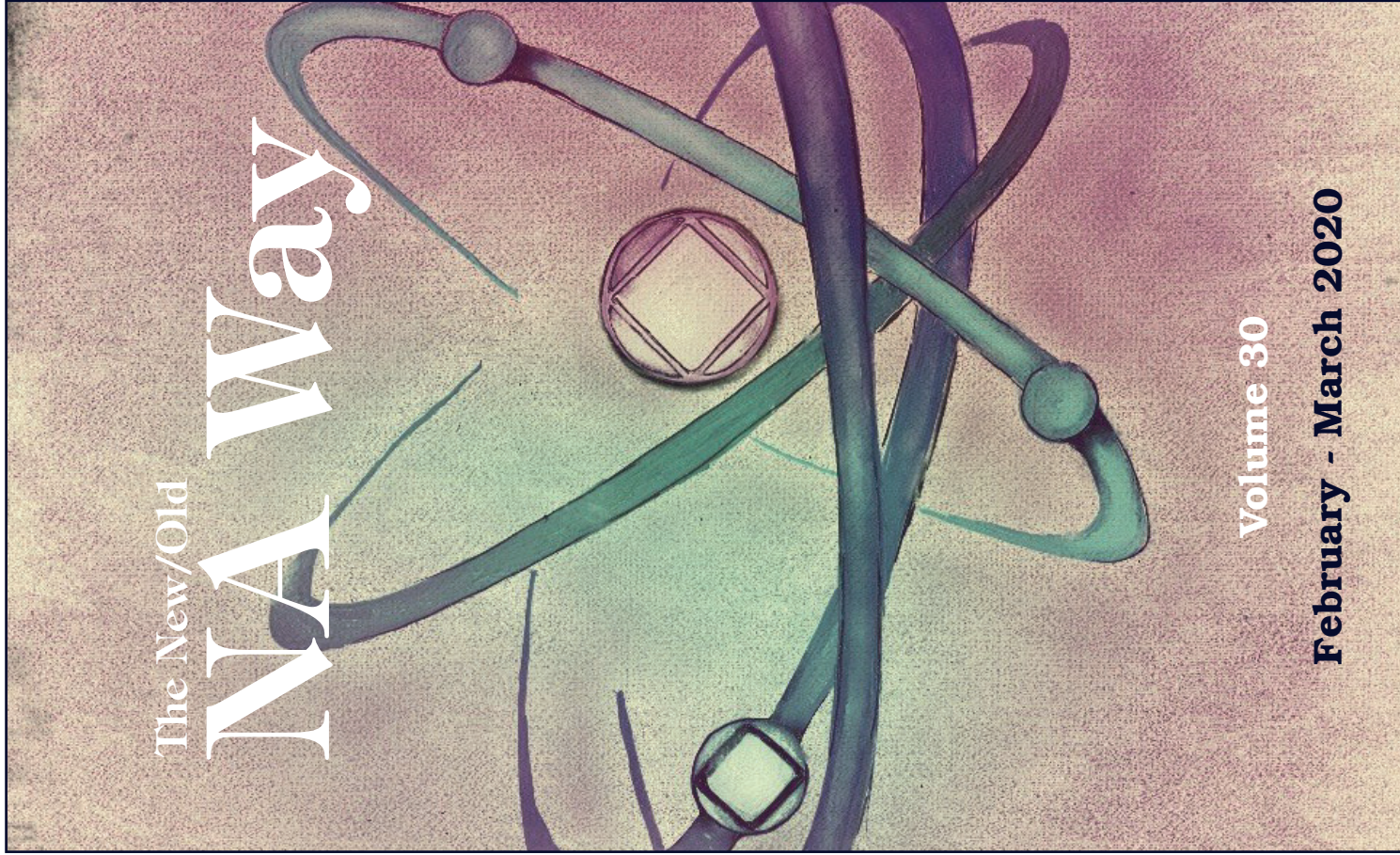
Your Fellowship Magazine  
Share...  
and be shared with..

Like it was when NA was new and young and life or death  
intense:  
You matter to us so we will tell you the truth as we know it  
with nothing held back.

THE  
NEW/OLD  
**NEW/OLD**  
WAY

“... so that no addict seeking recovery need ever die...”

We publish your input -- the opinions presented are not  
necessarily those of the New/Old NA Way  
or Anonymi Foundation



Volume 30

February - March 2020



The New/Old NA WAF Magazine

Volume 30

February - March 2020

This magazine was written in open participation by members of the Groups of The Anonymity Foundation and members of the Groups who participate in the Fellowship Service Conference and the European Fellowship Service Conference

**GET  
INVOLVED!**

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

Please send your articles, event information, comics or other input to  
[nahelp.org@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.org@gmail.com)

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## Upcoming Events

### ANNUAL 12 STEP RETREAT

Date: February 21st thru February 23rd, 2020  
Columbiana, Ohio

### HISTORY OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Date: March 21st, 2020  
Woodstown, NJ

### 14TH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP SERVICE CONFERENCE FOR N.A.

Date: June 26th thru June 28th, 2020  
Hamburg, PA

### 1ST ANNUAL NORTH EASTERN COAST TRADITIONALIST GATHERING

Date: July 11th, 2020  
Pennsville, NJ

### 5TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP SERVICE CONFERENCE FOR N.A.

Date: September 17th thru September 20th, 2020  
Ambt Delden, The Netherlands

Your event here? Send information to [nahelp.org@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.org@gmail.com)

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## Weblinks

[www.nahelp.org](http://www.nahelp.org)

Contact:  
[nahelp.org@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.org@gmail.com)  
USA

[www.freerecovery.org.uk](http://www.freerecovery.org.uk)

United Kingdom

[www.nahelp.se](http://www.nahelp.se)

Contact:  
[antigenfriana@gmail.com](mailto:antigenfriana@gmail.com)  
Sweden

[www.nahelp.nl](http://www.nahelp.nl)

Contact:  
[nahelp.nl@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.nl@gmail.com)  
The Netherlands

# The New/Old NA Way

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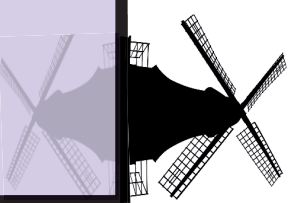
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My Gratitude Speaks  
When I Care  
And When I Share  
With Others  
The NA Way

17th - 20th September

**2020**



**Location:**

Kroeze Danne, Kappelhofsweg 14  
Ambt Delden, the Netherlands

Price: € 125,- (All-Inclusive)  
Possible to pay in terms

**Register at [www.nahelp.nl](http://www.nahelp.nl)**  
or email to [nahelp.nl@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.nl@gmail.com)

Contact: 0031642091629

## Bridging Two Worlds

balance ourselves fully between the two worlds.

Alienation from those who are not in the program is not a good idea or feeling either. Because they too have shown me love, forgiveness, understand, and patience. Which has also played a part in my life and my recovery.


Let me share some of personal experiences. If 30 minutes is spent doing our daily writing. So, then we should spend 30 minutes helping my kids with their homework or helping out our community for 30 mins. When we spend 30 minutes a day communicating with other addicts. So, then we spend 30 minutes a day talking to my kids, wife, loved one or co-workers. We go to 4 meetings a week. So, then I spend 4 hours a week doing activities with the family, P.I. work or giving ourselves back in some way. When we go spend time with a spouse. Then we make sure we go out to spend time with the significant other or go help out my brother or someone else. (Which we need not to lie to ourselves about this, because we will fall short on the things outside our daily recovery program)

So, then we should start praying to our God to help us with his will and not for us to doing our will. And to start putting in action into our balance to bridge our spirituality between the two worlds. Because we may not be seeing where our strengths and weaknesses are, but another can,

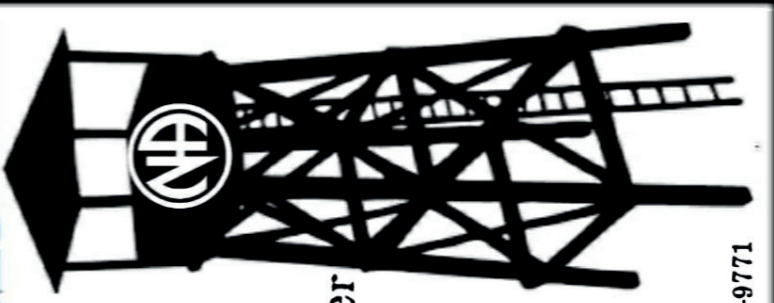
One addict understanding another is truly unparalleled. Is so true, yet how is that we overcome and become acceptable responsible and productive members of society, our families, our loved ones and anyone else that is not a member of narcotics anonymous? We feel it's when we surrender, forgive ourselves, learn on how to communicate and listen, being selfless, and have a relationship with your God. Yet none of these will bridge the two worlds together unless you're fully willing to apply them.

Not saying that we are perfect at this; far from it. But we are more and more willing to try every day. It has been my experience, that my understanding, empathy, selflessness, love, communication, forgiveness, and all away around spirituality has been given to us from the membership and the program of narcotics anonymous. So, it just more natural to be able to give it back to fellow addict and the program.

Well that's not what exactly the full extent of the program. I feel that, we need to have balance with our spirituality. Not only with the program and members. But also, with our family, loved ones, co-workers or anyone else who is not a member. Because we are not recovering if we are not, handling responsibilities, growing, asking my God for help, and deepening our surrender, if we are equaling



**1st Annual North Eastern Coast  
TRADITIONALIST  
Gathering  
July 11, 2020**



**454 Fort Mott Road,  
Pennsville NJ 08070  
Fort Mott State Park  
{Pavilion 2}  
9:00am - 7:00pm  
Potluck Lunch & Dinner  
Grey Book Reflection  
Meeting, Speakers,  
Fellowship, & BBQ**

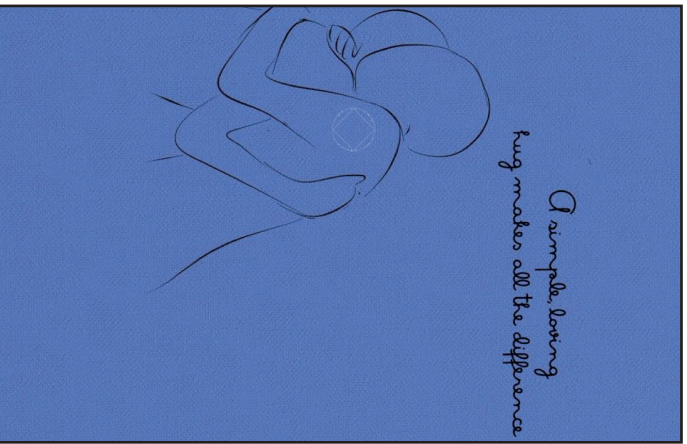
Hosted by  
The Historical Perspective Group  
The Most Perfect Vehicle Group  
The Rabbit Meeting  
A Different Look Group  
Spiritual Solution Group  
Matt F (856) 803-8857 Bill C (610) 809-9771

both in the program and outside the program. And all they are trying to do is help guide us.

**Written By: Anonymous**  
**Member From: Nebraska**  
**USA**

## All Else Is Not NA

By the early 1980's, Narcotics Anonymous was starting to become a recognized solution for people who suffered from the disease of addiction. There were over 1000 groups worldwide predominantly in the United States but also spreading to other parts of the world. A man known to many as 'Bo S.' rose to prominence within the Fellowship and with the support of many became the World Literature Chair. Bo worked tirelessly and with great personal sacrifice to help the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous distill the combined knowledge of the time into what could be the most significant piece of literature ever in the fight against the disease of addiction known as the "Basic Text". The effect was like a drop of blood hitting a pool of water; nothing would ever be the same again in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. By the end of the 1980's Narcotics Anonymous had grown to over 10,000 groups, and there were many different versions of the Basic Text in circulation. A struggling corporation that would become Narcotics Anonymous World Services Inc. (NAWS for short) had formed and sought to take control of the literature production and rights. Several of the original paragraphs that was reviewed and approved by the groups for printing became contentious and included this one; (Basic Text, "TRADITION FOUR-



## 15th Annual Fellowship Service Conference for N.A.

When: June 26th thru June 28th, 2020 Where:

Hamburg, PA Place: Olivet Mountain Camp 1540

Mountain Ave. Hamburg, Pa 19526

**Cost: \$100.00 per person**

Price includes all meals (and lodging if needed)

There is no registration fee all money goes directly to pay for the facility and food Write checks payable to Historical Perspective Group

For More Information: Contact Historical Perspective Group

(610) 428-9923 Ask for Ray: or e-mail — [matrxmatclub@yahoo.com](mailto:matrxmatclub@yahoo.com)

Check Out Our Web [www.nahelp.org/](http://www.nahelp.org/) Send check to: A.S.I.S. For NA

**P.O. Box 4404 Allentown, Pa 18105 Write checks payable to Historical Perspective Group of NA (Bring sheets, pillows, Towels and soap everything else provided)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E - Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Register by June 1, 2020**

**Amount \$100.00** Check NO. \_\_\_\_\_

(Adversity does not build character, it Reveals it.) More Will Be Revealed.....



# History

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



Hosted by The Historical Perspective  
Group & The Most Perfect Vehicle Group  
of Narcotics Anonymous

**MARCH 21, 2020**  
**8:00 AM - 10:00 PM**

**149 SOUTH MAIN STREET**  
**WOODSTOWN NJ, 08098**

**Potluck Lunch & Dinner**

"We are not giving up.  
We are sitting here for the ones  
coming after us. We are sitting here  
for the addicts not born yet. We must  
keep these doors open." Jimmy K



MATT F (856) 803 - 8857

[SOUTHJERSEYNARCOTICSANONYMOUS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SOUTHJERSEYNARCOTICSANONYMOUS@GMAIL.COM)

RAY D (610) 428 - 9923

Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups, or N.A. as a whole." Approval Draft, published 1981)

One might ask: Is this really true, are we truly autonomous, what about our service committees, our offices, our activities, our hotlines, and all the other things that go on in N.A.? The answer, of course, is that these things are not N.A. They are services that we can utilize to help us in our recovery and to further the primary purpose of our groups. Narcotics Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women, addicts, meeting together in groups, and 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 other things we mentioned are the result of members caring enough to reach out and offer their help and experience so that our road may be easier. Whether or not we choose to utilize these services for the benefit of a group is up to us, they are not thrust down our throats.

In March of 1983 Sally Evans, chair of the World Service Board issued a letter;

...fact that the book as approved by the 1982 World Service Conference contain the following inaccuracies: In tradition four the book states that SERVICE COMMITTEES ARE NOT NA and later in the same paragraph states "ALL ELSE IS NOT NA" clearly indicating that they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous. The book

further states "whether to utilize these services is up to the group." This would allow any group to do whatever the group chose to do and continue to call themselves an NA Group, leaving the fellowship no recourse but to allow them to do so. Any group could use any literature they choose to use in meetings. The use of literature other than NA literature in meetings has been a problem in the past. This is but one of many problems that could surface in the future should the book be printed as approved.

The World Literature Committee were shocked at the unauthorized changes and revoked the rights of the service structure to print the Basic Text. What happened after is open to speculation and conjecture. There are a lot of opinions on what transpired over the next several years. Some experienced members simply walked away and returned to the roots of their recovery by supporting groups and local service efforts. Manipulation and control will always defeat kindness and generosity, but nothing is gained in the end. This is evident in the fact that NAWIS Inc has seen zero growth in 30 years beyond the ever-increasing price of the literature they control. The significant international growth of the fellowship has come about because of the kindness and generosity of thousands of members like Bo S.

The question that never seems to get asked is why the groups

approved the literature with the phrase "all else is not N.A." This was no random mistake or inaccuracies in transcription. Thousands of addicts wrote, reviewed and approved the original literature. A small group of individuals modified the literature. Perhaps one answer is to go back further, to the Little White Book, published in 1966 by Early Narcotics Anonymous groups; "This is a simple spiritual -not religious--program, known as Narcotics Anonymous." from the section titled "We Do Recover".

a website offered this interesting explanation;

"Religion is a set of texts, practices and beliefs about the transcendent shared by a community and involves a relationship with God. Spirituality on the other hand is about a person's relationship with the transcendent questions that confront one as a human being. This may or may not involve relationships with God." [Transcendent - beyond or above the range of normal or merely physical human experience.]

Tradition 1 tells us that "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity" which I have always believed was the Fellowship's welfare is ahead of my personal welfare and recovery involves sacrifices. Those sacrifices I make are not about loss or suffering, but about generosity and kindness. These are some of

the spiritual principles I practice in all my affairs. If self-obsession is the core of the disease of addiction, then it would make sense that I adopt spiritual principles that defy that behavior. My desire is to stop using not just drugs but anything that can be addictive including money and control. The relationship I maintain with a power greater than myself is my source of strength. No service body can define what sacrifices I choose to make at any moment. The responsibility for my recovery lies within myself. The choices I make do not exclude me from membership and the sacrifices I make become the help I offer. "We meet regularly to help each other stay clean" and all else is not N.A. Narcotics Anonymous is a Fellowship and not a religion.

**Written By: An Anonymous Member From : Canada**

## **Don't Take Your Home Group for Granted**

The things we take for granted are usually the things we lose to the disease of addiction. The home group we belong to is no exception.

We should let our fellow members know how much they mean to us; anything can happen in

The Groups of Northern Columbiana County Area of Narcotics Anonymous present...

# **Annual 12 Step Retreat**

February 21, 22, and 23, 2020

Das Dutch Village Inn  
150 East state Route 14  
Columbiana, Ohio 44408

What to expect: Speakers, Discussion, Coffee,  
**Real NA Old School Recovery!**

only \$5.00 for the weekend if you pre-register -  
\$10.00 at the door

Pre-Register by Emailing [stepretreat@yahoo.com](mailto:stepretreat@yahoo.com)

## **NO addict EVER turned away!**

Rooms start at \$94 per night for 2 adults  
(\$10.00 additional for each adult)

Prices are subject to change

Reserve your room by January 1, 2020 mention you are

with the

NA retreat to get the discounted price

Call Hotel @ 330-4825050



## Update Stockpile Report: 2020 January Netherlands

Original Stockpile amount:

Grey Book x 700  
(€1,50 price ex-shipping)

BabyBlue x 700  
(€0,75 price ex-shipping)

Total start worth: €1050 GreyBooks

Total start worth: €525 BabyBlues

Orders got shipped GreyBook

28x1,50=€42,00

28x1,50=€42,00

28x1,50=€42,00

Orders got shipped BabyBlues

50x0,75=€37,50

10x0,75=€7,50

Totaal: left Stockpile worth

Grey: €1050 - €126 = Euro 924 (616x Grey left)

Blue: €525 - €45 = Euro 480 (660x Blue left)

Total: cash in account (sales) from Stockpile

Grey: €126

Blue: €45

\*\*\*\*\*

•Totaal: Dutch Cash in Account €442, 49 (included: €171 Euro from sales Stockpile USA/HistoricalPerspective)

•Totaal: Cash Dutch Translation print-order\* (reserved): €100 Euro from Members + €50 Euro donation from Hengelo Homegroup

\*Earmarked: (not part of stockpile)

Contact: orderbookseurope@yahoo.com

**Note:**

*Mailing/shipping of parcels in/from the USA has a set price in the lower 48*

*In/from the Netherlands the transporter calculate for parcels by Weight and destination country*

*This gives us slightly different prices but the initial cost-price of the books is equal (the Dollar/Euro rate may vary) in Europe and USA*

life. We might lose our friends to the disease, or any other illness for that matter. Some members might choose another path, or some just disappear without a trace or explanation.

How does your gratitude show itself in how you live today? Have you told anyone that you love them today? Have you helped anyone? These are important questions to ask ourselves on a daily basis if our aim is to grow spiritually.

Just as our personal recovery our home group needs spiritual maintenance. We have a set of principles to make sure that ties that binds us together are stronger than those who could tear us apart. We really need to apply them so that our home group isn't lost to powerful and deranged egos. Our atmosphere of recovery is what makes people come back, so take really care about it.

As been said so many times before, communication is so important to both our personal and our Groups growth. I sincerely hope that the members of the home group I belong to doesn't sit in silence if I'm on my way out the door, but it's a two-way street, it's our responsibility to make use of the eyes and ears in our home group.

Here I am taking for granted that everyone have an experience and understanding of a home group.

Here's mine.

A home group is where I feel at home, where I can be "raised up" with spiritual principles. In a home group I know most of the people by heart.

The home group have members and are run by a loving power that's being expressed in a Group Conscience.

For the home group I belong to total abstinence is very important to secure a safe environment for the addict looking for recovery.

Most of the time we love each other better. We are doing all our services ourselves, such as PI and all other "high level" services within a Group setting.

It's not just an address, it's family.

Our level of commitment to our home group will be encompassed by our gratitude for this new way of life.

We should treat one another with unconditional empathy and acceptance. We are One, without the One we have no one.

So, make sure to tell your home group how much they mean to you as often you can, and if you haven't found a place to call home yet, you're always welcome to the home group I belong to.

We are waiting for you. We love you.

**Anonymous member From Sweden**

## **CAGED BIRDS DON'T KNOW THEY CAN FLY**

I went to the zoo one time and saw a Eagle that was crippled and in a cage. The zookeeper said he had been swatted out of the air while trying to swoop in on some salmon that some Bears were eating and got too close. His wing was clipped, and they were trying to help him get his health back.

This got me thinking how difficult that must have been for that Eagle to have one time flown high above the clouds soaring on Eagles wings only to be humbled by that Bear that day. That Eagle knew what it was like to fly. Now he was stuck in a cage and I thought for sure I could see the sadness in its eyes that it couldn't fly anymore.

There was another Eagle with a birth defect in the cage also that kept it from flying. He seemed happier than the other Eagle with a little more spunk. That Eagle had never flown. He had never known what it was like to soar above the clouds looking down on everything. He didn't even know what he was missing. He had been caged up his whole life and it appeared he was accepting of his situation much more than the other Eagle.

How does this relate to addicts you might ask? Addicts normally have never lived a life of freedom when they get to the rooms of NA. Our disease keeps us from know-

ing life has so much to give. We were born in a cage, so it seems that keeps us from knowing what we are missing out on. So, when we get some freedom many get complacent and think that is all that there is for us. They think they already have had more than they thought would be possible in life and it stunts their growth. When a service structure keeps them in a cage that was bigger than the one, they were in they don't even realize they are still in a cage. Of course, the service structure says they are helping the addicts grow but the addicts don't know they are being fed just enough to be used instead of being taught how to fly. They eventually get sick of the bigger cage and return to the smaller cage because they still haven't truly experienced freedom. They return to what is familiar and the cycle keeps repeating itself over and over again.

Thank God some of us have found a structure that believes in the freedom our Traditions give us that lets us soar. It has been a gift to be involved in some open participation literature writing. To see the creative freedom that we truly have with carrying our message is amazing and the flying seems to be getting more and more closer to being above the clouds. It takes facing things rather than being protected from them. Our Traditions protect us from ourselves so we can fly. Group conscience is one of the most beautiful things many of us

## **Update Stockpile Historical Perspective Group**

Update on Book Fund 11/06/2019 the account up to \$11,554.

Baby Blues Ordered 6800 Books  
Netherlands Received 700 Baby Blues  
Historical Perspective Group Received 6100

Grey Book Ordered - 4200 Books  
Netherlands Received-700Grey Books  
Historical Perspective Group - 3500 Grey Books

Update on 1/29/2020 Book Fund Account

Paid \$10,725.88 for Books  
Paid:

Wire transfer from Historical Perspective Group Bank to Bank who handled the Transfer of Funds to the Print Shop \$40.00

Fee for transfer of funds 54.43 from Bank to Bank from USA to Print Company

\$415.58 made to custom agent should be a credit by Book company

After Payments it left us with a total of: Credit \$415.58

\$318.11

Baby Blues: \$840.00

Grey Books: \$244.80

Shipping cost: \$397.00

Total In account: \$1105.91 + Credit \$415.58 Equals \$ 1521.49Total

Baby Blues: Back Orders - Groups ordered -Total in stock

Beginning Stock 6,100    Back Orders 1,150    New Orders 700    Total  
Left in Stock 4250

Grey Books Back Ordered New Orders Total in Stock

Beginning n Stock 3,500    Back Orders 120 New Orders 136    Book  
left Stock 3244

In Service

Historical Perspective Group

Contact: matrixmatchclub@yahoo.com

## MY Experience Looking at The Service In NA

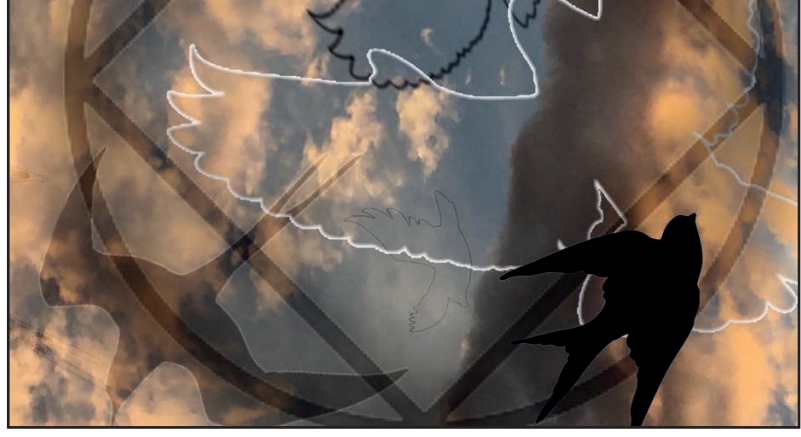
My experience is that some addicts believe that attending meetings, participating in service structures or going to conventions makes them a member. That doesn't make any sense at all. Going to a Christian church or helping at the church run food bank doesn't make you a Christian. Many service bodies for Narcotics Anonymous struggle to find people willing to participate and I'm not surprised. Some of these service bodies are unsupported by many of the groups they are servants for because they are self-serving. Servants fully participate in the disbursement of travel funds with no regard of how that money was spent. Worst still are the behaviors of members who feel entitled to behave any way they like in service positions without accountability. Long-term members are coming to recognize that service is an outside issue and they eagerly participate in service bodies that have nothing to do with NA. Being of service is critical to our success as recovered addicts and that often means leaving toxic service structures that label themselves as NA. Today I believe in finding a balance of learning about spiritual principles and the practical application of them in all my affairs from many sources.

Alcoholics Anonymous has service corporations with the groups serving as members. They are largely self-supporting from contributions from those groups and the servants who serve on the boards of those corporations are a mixture of alcoholic members and non-members alike so that they can draw on the best talent available. Groups participate in the nomination of board members at a grass roots level. AA's world service body is 80% self-supporting from the groups they are accountable to and the unfortunately named Narcotics Anonymous World Services Corporation could clearly learn a lesson from this as they are less than 20% self-supporting, a board entirely made of addicts and are not accountable to any groups as members.

**Written By: Anonymous  
Member  
Form Canada**

have ever been a part of. It isn't just giving our opinion but learning how to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Learning how to take those small flights until we can take the longer ones. Learning we can fly with God's help and no one will ever cage us up again. We will stand for the Autonomy of our Home Groups because we now know what it is like to fly!!!!

**Written By:  
Anonymous Member From:  
Nebraska USA**



## Greg Story

*Clean Date 10/25/70  
Died 4/29/99*

Greg's story is in the little white book and the Basic Text, "I Was Different". He told me he was one of the first people to identify as simply an addict. Greg had a lot of organizational skills and became fast friends with his sponsor Jimmy K.

Together they shaped a course for this fellowship. Greg wrote the NA Tree, which was our very first service structure. He had a vision of linking all the NA groups in the world in a structure like a Willow Tree who's branches all hang to the same level of service. He got to sit in the very first Area Service Meeting in California and watch the dream become a reality.

One day when he was self-obsessed, he sat and wrote the triangle of self-obsession, wow! How many of us have taken great solace and peace from this little IP. On a road trip from Oregon to Pennsylvania to speak at an early East Coast Convention, Greg stopped in Tennessee to see the World Literature Treasurer Joseph P. Greg had been writing along the way on a draft for a guide to step 4 in Narcotics Anonymous.

Joseph asked if he could borrow it and Greg said sure.

Joseph arrived at the Convention with a box of several hundred copies marked, A Guide to Step 4 in Narcotics Anonymous, Review

Draft: This became our 1st 4th step guide in NA. Greg's other works include, Living the Program, the daily inventory IP with questions you can answer each day to do a simple 10th step. His work on the Basic Text was invaluable, in that we might still be working on it if it hadn't been for Greg's dedication and being at the center of power when the book was being written.

Greg's presence gave the book it's full legitimacy. He also sponsored several of the key players so his spiritual guidance was behind the project in ways we will never ever see.

Greg wrote the entire Tradition portion of the Basic Text of Narcotics Anonymous! He also wrote our Symbol part in our Basic Text. When the Literature Committee was finishing the Grey Book rough draft of the Basic Text, they only needed the Tradition Portion to complete it. Greg was in Oregon and they were in Memphis, Tennessee! They chose to get a woman who typed really fast and they held a phone to her ear as she typed out the entire tradition portion from Greg's notes and editing as he shared it to her. The phone call took 9 hours!!! When it was over, the Lit Committee voted to turn that portion over to the Board of Trustees, as Guardians of the Traditions, to review and approve. The section came back with barely a single change. It was the least edited portion of the Basic Text of Narcotics Anonymous Wow! The way it came out

of Greg's mind is basically the way you read it today.

### **Written By: An Anonymous Member**

### **In Remembrance of Greg P.**

#### **From the USA**

### **From Peru**

July 2016 I Paul H. went with my wife and niece to a meeting in Peru South America. No one was there for the advertised meeting; a beautiful NA sign in front of the building; after about 30 minutes a young member showed up and he said addicts would show up later maybe he usually got 5 – 8 members. My wife translated for me and ask if he would like some 3rd edition basic texts in Spanish to give away for free. He said the World Rep out of Lima had told them that this was unlawful, and all books had to be bought through the NAW's cooperation. My wife asked him how many texts he had that we would buy what he had to give out then? He said the basic text was more than 8 dollars American. They had no texts at all, no NA literature at all as could not afford to buy any. We talked some more about beautiful recovery it was getting late. We hugged; thanked our brother and left.

We called the Prison there and they said they had never heard of NA. We asked if we could donate

shortcomings. This allowed me to continue to practice spiritual principles in all my affairs. Being honest with myself and the NA group I was a member of became critically important. The LWB reminded me of what happens if I did not; (LWB, page 8) "Yet there are others, completely abstinent, whose dishonesties and self-deceits still prevent them from enjoying complete recovery and acceptance within society." Seeing myself as I truly was and being accepted in Narcotics Anonymous as a member was critical to my ongoing success as a recovered addict. I realized that I need to continue to practice living by spiritual principles on an ongoing basis. The freedom I achieved increased as I worked with other members of my group to carry the message to the still suffering addict. Each new member of my group increased my freedom.

Unfortunately, at a critical time in the growth of the Fellowship, a small group of individuals changed the entire fabric of what was working for so many. I've discussed this with members, who believe that critical concepts were altered in Tradition 4 and 9. The original material which was removed that was created and approved by the groups is underlined below (Basic Text, published 1983):

Tradition 4: They are services we utilize to help us in our recovery and to further the primary purpose of our groups. Narcotics

Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women; addicts meeting in groups and 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 caring enough to reach out and offer their help and experience so that our road might be easier. Whether we choose to utilize these services is up to the group.

Tradition 9: The Ninth Tradition goes on to define the nature of the things that we can do to help N.A. It says that we may create service boards or committees to serve the needs of the Fellowship. None of them has the power to rule, censor, decide, or dictate. They exist solely to serve the Fellowship, but they are not part of Narcotics Anonymous.

### **By an Anonymous Addict**

early 1980's the Fellowship had grown to a size where many thousands of addicts in a thousand groups were getting and staying clean. Those early ideas captured in the LWB were carried over to the Basic Text. I read the Basic Text of Narcotics Anonymous three times the first two years. The book profoundly shaped my ideas of what it meant to recover but how I was going to recover. In the beginning of the Basic Text (Grey book, published 1983, 'Our Symbol')

All parts thus far are closely related to the needs and aims of the addict seeking recovery and the purpose of the fellowship seeking to make recovery available to all. The greater the base,

as we grow in unity in numbers and in Fellowship, the broader the sides and the higher the point of freedom. Probably the last to be lost to freedom will be the stigma of being an addict. Goodwill is best exemplified in service and proper service is "Doing the right thing for the right reason." When this supports and motivates both the individual and the Fellowship, we are fully whole and wholly free.

This idea of freedom and being tied to a fellowship was difficult to manage. I was quick to judge others and found myself sometimes manipulating the program to suit my needs. It was good to have an awareness of my defects and

some basic texts, the Director said yes; he asked if we could bring enough for men's and women prison. The day we went to donate they had a problem and we were only allowed to leave a text at the front gate. We were told to come back tomorrow but were leaving for America the next day.

July 2019 my sister has an appointment with the director of corrections for us. He said he had received the Basic Text, and could I train some of his officers to bring NA into the prison. Through my wife as our outstanding translator we explained about our traditions. But said our group would like to donate basic texts, step working guides, meeting formants for inmates etc.; in Spanish. The director went on to give my PI presentation for me, that he was tired of inmates dying of drugs that his County had a hell of a problem and nothing ever worked. I told him I worked in corrections in the USA and NA saved my life. That all over the World we NA was saving lives and giving miserable addict's new lives worth living. That we were trying to get inmates to have their own meetings inside institution's, and the literature we would donate would hopefully start effective change in Peru & give using addicts relief. The director a huge man hugged us when we left.

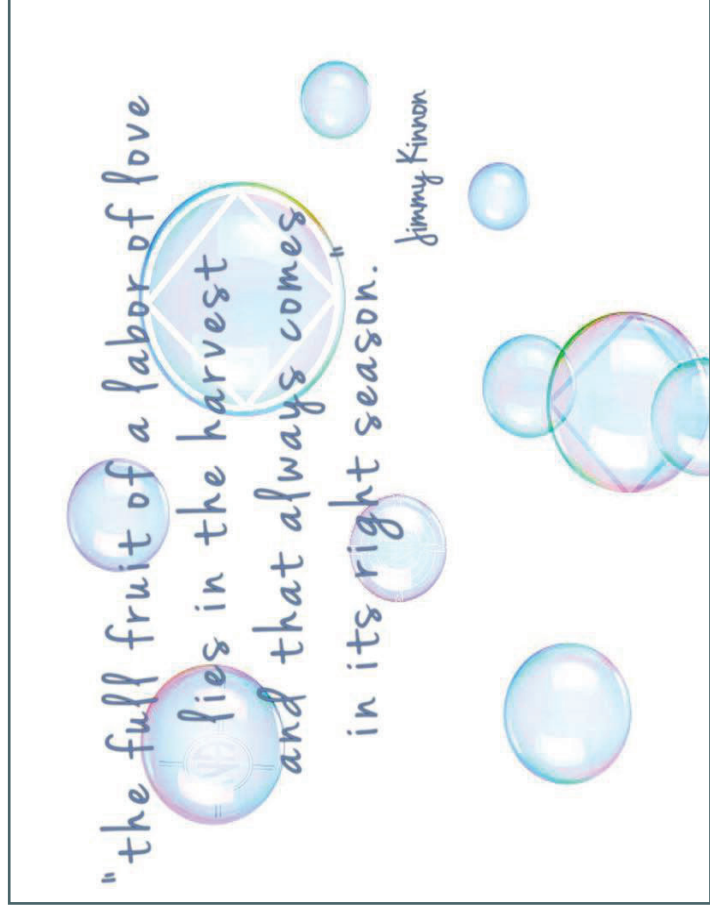
We had hundreds of our basic texts printed in Peru for around 1\$ each without having to do much negating and we donated all of

them to the prison. The director was extremely appreciative of this and we will visit and hopefully do a H&I presentation for the inmates on our next visit. Higher power was with us and it was so satisfying to do H&I in this manner, would hope all our NA brothers and sisters get to experience this type of H&I rush better than any drug.

We went back to the same place for the NA meeting in July 2016 as the number for NA in Peru was not working. We checked the computer and all the area numbers were shut off. We never got a response back from the World Lima office.

Conclusion; if our NA literature can save one addict's life and we can get it to where miserable suffering addicts are dying, why would anyone care which edition and why would anyone one to stop someone. We should be encouraging printing and giving of our NA literature written freely by addicts to give freely. Think if we all did this how many lives could be saved and how our fellowship could grow without division?

The name of the city was left out purposely so NAW's cannot send a non-legal binding cease and desist letter to the prison trying to kill our members telling institutions they cannot use our life saving literature. NAW's has done this in the past which is not the purpose of a 501c nonprofit in the United States of America &



tramples all over our traditions. Thank you so much all our love from your fellow member.

### **From Anonymous Member Form Nebraska, USA**

## **One Addicts**

## **Experience with**

## **Becoming Totally**

## **Abstinent**

I was late September. I had just driven 12 hours with my 6-month-old and all my belongings back to my hometown. I had left everything behind that I had known for the last 15 years. My life was a mess and I didn't know how I was going to clean it up. I had only been back in town for 2 hours when I walked into my 1st Narcotics Anonymous meeting. I was desperate and afraid, and I didn't know anyone. A woman greeted me at the door and gave me a hug which confused me, but I gave one back. I didn't like to be touched, but it felt good. I sat through the meeting crying quietly and at the end I asked the woman who had hugged me at the door to sponsor me. I made that meeting my home group and those people who looked like me and talked like me became my friends. I went to meetings with them, I ate dinner with them, I talked with them on the phone. In the beginning this whole world seemed new and fascinating

and these people were like royalty. About 10 months in I had a relapse. My sponsor had asked me if I was taking my medicine for my Bipolar. I told her I missed a few doses. She said I needed to take my medicine on a daily basis to prevent my bad feelings from bringing me to a relapse. She called it "self-care."

I had mixed emotions about the medicine I had been on it for over 20 years, since I was 5 years old. When I was younger my mother would always hound me about taking it on time and it would cause arguments between us. The medicine always made me feel different from other kids. So, when people asked me "Did you take your medicine today?" I would get angry. There was a resentment that built up in me because I was different, and I had to take something every day to make me normal. The truth was even on the medicine I never felt normal. I didn't know who I was or why I felt the way I felt. The doctor could prescribe me pills but he couldn't tell me why I felt that way to begin with.

I met someone about 6 months after my relapse and we started seeing each other romantically. I started spending all my time with him and even though he was working his program I became so consumed I stopped working mine. I was running on impulses and I was not making meetings, calling my sponsor, or taking my medicine regularly. My life was

## **"Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reason"**

My life prior to recovery didn't seem like the nightmare that is often portrayed as 'active addiction' as seen on TV. There were lots of times where my life was peaceful. I never made the connection between the declines in my standard of living and the use or abuse of drugs. Drug use was what kept me from struggling with life sometimes. Impaired driving is a much easier decision to make when once you are loaded. When I wasn't high, my thoughts were wallowing in self-obsession, focused on obsessive thinking until I could numb my feelings by getting loaded again. I had principles that I lived by, and some of them were likely considered spiritual. I didn't believe it was ok to kill anyone, but I had made some sort of peace with impaired driving. Spiritual principles seemed to be in a grey area, and some areas of my life were lived completely without principles at all, and all my principles were negotiable depending on how loaded I was. When I made the decision to get into recovery I was at a new bottom in my life. For the first time I was forced to confront some of the decisions I made, and I clearly needed a new way to live. In Narcotics Anonymous, in the Little White Book (first published 1966, "How it Works, page

5), there is a line; "There is one thing more than anything else that will defeat us in our recovery, this is an attitude of indifference or intolerance toward spiritual principles." It turned out for me that learning about those spiritual principles was only half of a life-long commitment.

I was under the impression that NA was a self-help program when I first started attending NA meetings. Every meeting I went to seemed to have two posters up, one with the 12 Steps and one with the 12 Traditions. I took some suggestions and joined a group, found a sponsor and started working on the steps. (LWB, page 4) "These are suggested only, but they are the principles that made our recovery possible."

I decided to get a better understanding of the importance of the traditions as I worked thru the steps. The traditions were discussed as topics at meetings. Many of the meetings I attended did a Traditions reading that begins with; (LWB, page 8)

We keep what we have only with vigilance and just as freedom for the individual comes from the Twelve Steps so freedom for the groups springs from our traditions.

As long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well.

The Little White Book was the foundation for the Basic Text of Narcotics Anonymous. By the

funds” and even create more funds, often without asking the Groups about putting on a fundraiser or by selling marked-up literature to the Groups – literature the Groups already own! What we should be doing is directly funding the services we ask for on a line-time basis and reviewing those services regularly (yearly at a minimum). Groups drive the primary purpose, are autonomous, and are self-supporting. Services are none of these things. They rely on the Groups. How often is it said, “services are self-supporting?” This only happens through the Concepts. When services are self-supporting rather than relying on the Groups, they become autonomous and can no longer be effectively directed by the Groups. Why do you think it is now so common for world, regions, and sometimes even areas to have the audacity to dictate to the Groups? They have taken the primary purpose of the Groups unto themselves via this Concept. They view the Groups as needing them, rather than them needing and serving the Groups.

*12. In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government.*

This statement would not even be necessary if the preceding Concepts did not create government. In effect, we are going to govern the Fellowship, but we're

not going to call it that. You can sprinkle all the sugar on it you want, but when you delegate the authority of the Groups to the services to act for, maintain, and develop services on behalf of NA as a whole, government is exactly what you have created.

An old timer once wrote “NA should never be run by bureaucracy or management nor controlled by individuals within an administrative structure. If we were to allow this, NA would surely lose the best it has to offer and choke to death on our instantiates.” Sounds a lot like the service structure the Concepts have given us.

**Written by an Anonymous Member**

**From: Utah USA**

starting to become unmanageable. My sponsor came to my job one day when I hadn't called her in a week, she began yelling at me and, again, asked me “Are you acting like this because you haven't been taking your medicine?” Why? Why did having a successful and productive life rest on taking pills. Isn't that what I did in active addiction with street drugs? The conversation I had with her led me to break off my sponsorship relationship. I immediately jumped into sponsorship with a woman I didn't know well, which caused that to end quite quickly.

Meanwhile, I was still in a relationship with another recovering addict and I was finding that he did things differently than I had been taught. He read a different basic text, he hung out with people who had decades clean, he knew all about the traditions. He introduced me to some people who thought the same way he did, worked a vigorous program like he did, even wrote literature like he did. In between sponsors, I reached out to one of the women he had introduced me to. I asked her to sponsor me but when I told her I took medicine for my Bipolar she said she couldn't take me through the steps until I stopped taking the medicine. “Why?” I asked. It sounded so absurd, I had been conditioned that I had a “forever illness” that needed constant monitoring and medication to keep it under control. If I thought that was absurd, I couldn't believe

what she said next. “Those medicines are mind- and mood-altering chemicals, if you are on those you aren't clean. I can't take you through the steps unless you are clean, but you can call me every day.” I was blown away and I thought that is ridiculous. It also made me angry. I have a mental illness! I have to take medicine! Do you know what will happen if I don't? I will kill my children, I will kill myself, I will end up that crazy homeless person talking to themselves! These were all the things that ran through my head, all the things my mother would tell me when I wanted to stop taking the medicine.

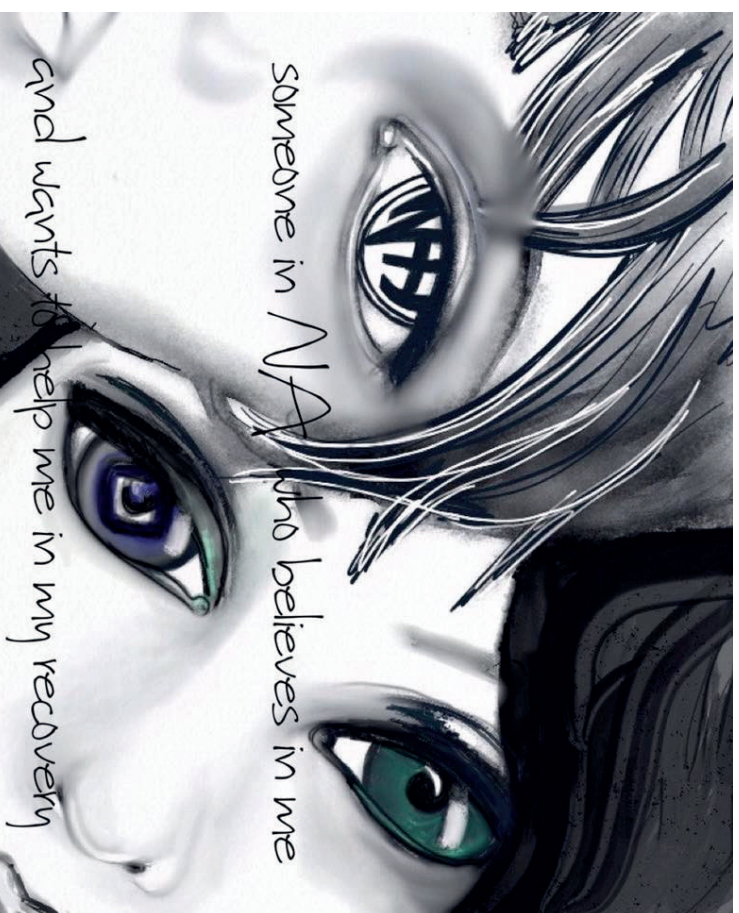
I didn't call her again; I was angry, and I decided to just shut those people out. A few months later I found myself pregnant with twins. I had to switch to a different medication for the pregnancy because the ones I was on caused birth defects. At my 3rd trimester my doctor took me off everything until the end of the pregnancy. I began talking to another addict my boyfriend had introduced me to, he had many years in the program and he told me the same thing, “get off the medicine and stay off the medicine” I didn't think I could do it, I was so scared. He said, “I will help you, call me every day, drink tea, pray.”

I began backing away from everyone in my network, I had lost people who I thought were my friends when I broke with my first sponsor. My resistance to



getting off medication made me isolate with the new connections I had made. I called my mother and told her I was thinking about getting off all my medications. Again, I was showered with what will happen to me if I stop taking them. I called the member who was helping me deal with stopping the medication. I told him, "I can't, I need them, I will kill myself, I will kill my children," he said, "That's fear, you need to surrender and let God take that fear from you." I was confused and angry, I stopped calling him and

I tried to make my boyfriend stop talking to "those people." Fear and anger were controlling me, my disease was filling my head. I gave birth to my children and immediately went back on the medicine. I asked my only friend left from when I first started going to meetings to sponsor me. She took medicine for depression and we got along great. Three months after having the babies my boyfriend and I went to a gathering where all the people who had tried to help me come off medicine would be. I didn't want to go,



is neatly avoided all throughout the Concepts.

9. All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.

Once again, the only decision-making process defined by our Traditions is Group conscience. NA, as such creates and directs services. No mention is made of services making decisions on behalf of the Fellowship (the Groups). This again takes the decision-making out of the hands of the Groups and makes real GROUP conscience, merely a viewpoint to consider. It also elevates the viewpoints of individuals (usually shining stars and effective leaders who are present or members of the committee) to the level of the conscience of the Groups and creates a mechanism for manipulation and control below the Group level. When a committee member has their viewpoint considered in their Home Group (if the Groups are consulted at all), they again have it considered when the service body decides on behalf of the Groups or NA as a whole.

10. Any member of a service body can petition that body for the redress of a personal grievance, without fear of reprisal.

Sounds good, but what about the members of the Fellowship who are not members of the ser-

vice body that these effective leaders have taken upon themselves to make decisions for? It is not surprising that a philosophy that values effective leadership over humility and service would focus on the grievances of the individuals, and then only those who are members of that body—you know the important people. Again, this flies in the face of anonymity. More so, by implying an authority inherent in services which should not be there to begin with. Further, why is there no mention of a "Right Of Decision" of any individual Group? This cleverly replaces the right of any Group to accept or reject decisions supposedly made in their behalf with a redress of personal grievance which does not guarantee Group autonomy or the complete creative freedom of the individual Na member.

11. NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose and must be managed responsibly.

NA funds are the property of the Groups, whose primary purpose it is to carry the message. The Groups should instruct all spending based on the primary purpose of the GROUPS. The purpose of services is to be directly responsible to (follow the will and instructions of) the Groups. No wonder so much spending goes on at all levels of service without consulting the Groups at all. We should not be "donating" to services who then "manage" "NA



decide, or dictate.”

6. *Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.*

GROUP conscience takes place in an actual GROUP. That is why it is called Group conscience in Tradition Two and not “service body conscience”. The author of our original service structure wrote, “A loving God as He may express himself in our Group conscience would find no place in an administrative structure.” Again, our original Tradition Nine essay said services cannot “rule, censor, decide, or dictate.” In longer writings published by NAWS on this subject they actually go on to say group conscience is not our only decision-making process. Really? According to Tradition Two it most certainly is.

7. *All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.*

How many times do we have to beat this dead horse? Service bodies express Group conscience – the decisions made by THE GROUPS. Votes of confidence and consensus-based decision making below the Group level annihilates Group conscience. GSRs, etc. should carry the decisions of the Groups. According to this Concept the Groups become mere consultants. Not only that, but

when someone who is not a GSR votes simply because they are a member of the committee, they get a vote in their Home Group and another vote on the committee. From all angles this Concept makes the opinions of a few, select “effective leaders” more important than the conscience of the Groups (the instructions God has given the Groups). When some members are more important than others, the anonymity of Tradition Twelve is not present in any form.

8. *Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communication.*

This is a partial truth. As these Concepts are actually corporate principles, not spiritual principles this would be true if NA were a business. Sadly, many addicts (even some Oldtimers) say just that as a result of this conceptual mentality. If you have discussed the current state of service with many people at all you have likely heard some justification at some point that goes something like this: “Like it or not NA is a business”; or “We are in the business of recovery.” We are not a business. We are a spiritual fellowship that sometimes conducts business and we need to make sure the tools we utilize in that regard stay in line with our spiritual nature. The TRUTH is that our services depend on how well we follow our Traditions. Odd how mention of the Traditions themselves

but I had started to think about what they had been saying to me. Weeks before we left for the gathering, I talked with my boyfriend about all these “What ifs” What if I go off my medicine and become suicidal, what if I hurt someone else. I started to realize what they had been saying. I was living in fear of what “could” happen. But what if it didn’t? What if I was afraid of something that wouldn’t even come to pass? At that gathering I apologized for my behavior and said I wanted to a try. I spent two days talking to a woman, around my age, who I felt a connection to who had taken a leap of faith and gone off all her medications. She explained that it was hard, that it was scary, but it was worth it.

I went home and I stopped taking my Bipolar medications. It was suggested to me that I taper off, but I just stopped. I told my sponsor what I was doing, and she acted like I had kicked a puppy. She tried to tell me not to listen to them, that I needed those medications and I was clean on them. I explained to her that those medications gave us the feelings that we are supposed to have or that we want to have. I asked her, how will I ever know how to deal with negative feelings if I am taking something, so I don’t get them. That’s what I did with my drug of choice, I used it to numb all the bad feelings and to achieve a feeling of nothingness or euphoria. Life isn’t about just feeling

the good feelings. She refused to hear me, and we ended up parting ways. She was afraid of me stopping the medicine because that meant she was doing something wrong by taking them. She even told me, well if you come off of them that’s fine, you shouldn’t change your clean date.

I did change my clean date; I wasn’t clean because I was using chemicals in the form of a pill to alter my thoughts and feelings. It only seemed like a big decision because I was giving up my “clean time” which I felt I had worked so hard to achieve. I had come to the understanding that I could not work a program or have a connection to my Higher Power on antidepressants or mood stabilizers. Finally, I was in my natural state and I could start finding out who I really was.

Being on the medication for so long the withdrawal process, while not a physical process, is physically and emotionally draining. In the first few weeks it was a constant mental back and forth between deep depression and super high mania. I had pressured speech and would start something without finishing the last thing. Every week there was a span of a few hours where I wanted to commit suicide, that I couldn’t handle this. I got angry at everyone and my anger was inappropriate for the situation. When things got bad. I called my sponsor or someone in my network, I told them this was a stupid

decision, you guys made me do this and it is horrible. They would say so calmly, "Just give it some more time, it is okay to feel like this. You are going through withdrawal, it will break. Just give it time and pray." So. I would hang up the phone and pray and so it went for weeks.

One day I had a really good day. I didn't feel overly happy or overly sad and I thought "is this what normal feels like?" I had a few days like this and then I went right back into depression, but it wasn't like the weeks before. I wasn't totally out of control or suicidal. Same thing with my mania, it started to feel less intense as the days went on. I started making better decisions, my ability to think before acting started to get easier.

Making the decision to become totally abstinent was not easy. I was preconditioned to believe that I couldn't live a productive life without chemicals. That it was okay because a doctor prescribed them to me and all the other things, I tried to say to make myself feel better. I am an addict and I used drugs to catch or lose a feeling, to make myself feel okay with myself, or make me feel nothing at all. I can find those drugs on a street corner or I can go into a psychiatrist's office, there isn't a difference. I had all this fear about what would happen if I stopped taking medicine for my mental illness when I all I had to do was practice the First

Step and surrender. If I didn't surrender that fear I could never get to the Second Step or the Third.

All these fears and doubts that kept me from stopping my medication have yet to become a reality. I get up every day and go to work, I take care of three children, I manage a household and finances. I am an active member of my homegroup. I am a productive member of society today, with no limitations. Yes, I have strong emotions and sometimes I have hard time analyzing them, but I'm an addict. This is my normal and everyday and I feel like I am getting closer to who I really am. My children are alive, I am alive, and I have a freedom today that I wouldn't give up for any pill. Guided by my Higher Power and other recovering addicts I am clean today. So, I ask them: take my will and my life, guide me in my recovery and show me how to live.

**Written by: An Anonymous Addict**  
**From: NJ USA**

4. *Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.*

Does anyone really need to read beyond the first two words of this Concept to see how out of line it is with the spirit and letter of Tradition Two? When the trustees removed the phrase "We have no leaders" from the "What is The Narcotics Anonymous Program" reading in the mid-eighties, they explained that the Second Tradition tells us we have leaders. Perhaps they did not read the two words following the word "leaders" in that Tradition: "are but..." If "Our leaders are but trusted servants" (look up the word "but" in this context in any dictionary and you will see it means "only") how is "effective leadership" at all compatible with this Tradition? Effective leadership is an ego statement. Have you ever heard this phrase in any context other than the corporate ideal of leadership? Is the Fellowship not lead by a Loving God as our one, ultimate authority? Leadership in NA and for NA has always been about trust, humility, and being a servant. Would a waiter or maid exercise "effective leadership" when serving you? The notion that "Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous" was completely foreign to any literature or understanding of our Traditions prior

to the introduction on this Concept. Jimmy Kinnon constantly told us, "There are no big shots in NA. We have no gurus." There is a reason our earliest members wrote the words "We have no leaders" into our readings; they had experienced first-hand what "effective leadership" does to a fellowship in the 1950s – it kills it! The uncomfortable truth is that the people who wrote these words were self-appointed "effective leaders." When the author of the NA Tree (our original service structure) wrote about Tradition Nine he said, "How could a trusted servant manage and control? Service and management are contradictory." The fact is this Concept turns the foundation of our Traditions (anonymity) completely upside-down. Were it in line with our Traditions, it would read something like, "Trusted service is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. The quality of humility should be carefully considered when rotating leadership."

5. *For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.*

Any decisions of significance should be made by the Groups beforehand as is mandated by the Traditions. Defining points of accountability is fine. Our Traditions tell us major decisions are made by the Groups. In fact, our original Tradition Nine essay said services cannot "rule, censor,

respond to the immediate needs and directives of the Groups they serve!

2. *The final responsibility and authority for NA services rests with the NA groups.*

The primary purpose of the GROUPS is to carry the message. Groups do not have final authority for NA services, they have PRIMARY authority, according to Tradition Five. Tradition Two makes clear that "ultimate authority" for all things NA is a Loving God who rests that authority in the Groups, themselves and Who communicates directly with each individual Group when they seek that direction. Groups have primary and ultimate authority – the alpha

and the omega; the beginning, middle, and end. In fact, the Traditions that the Groups adopted as our long form in 1981 (the original essays in the Basic Text) tell us in Tradition Four that NA is addicts meeting in Groups and, in fact, "All else is not NA." The man who wrote this phrase (Greg P) later went on to explain in Precepts of Service (precepts the office refused to ever let the Fellowship consider or see) that the services we create are tools in the hands of the Groups.

3. *The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.*

Who assigns the responsibilities? When we used the Traditions, before world services told us the Traditions alone were insufficient for them to be able to achieve their long-term vision and implemented the Concepts, responsibilities were assigned and appropriate authority temporarily delegated on a case-by-case basis. The 1989 ADHOC report which was mentioned earlier also tacitly admits that the "servants" who wrote the Concepts did not want to consult the Groups on a case-by-case basis. They stated that their authority was often unclear. Well, that is usually the result of 1) Not asking for direction, or 2) Not being willing to accept the limits a SERVANT must adhere to. Which, brings us to Concept 4...

## How We Carry Our Purpose

How do we best carry our message of hope and promise of freedom?

We stay totally abstinent from all mind altering and mood changing chemicals.

**We give.**

**We love.**

**We share.**

**We inform.**

**We pray.**

**We listen.**

**We hug.**

**We stay.**

**We live it.**

We stay totally abstinent from all mind altering and mood changing chemicals.

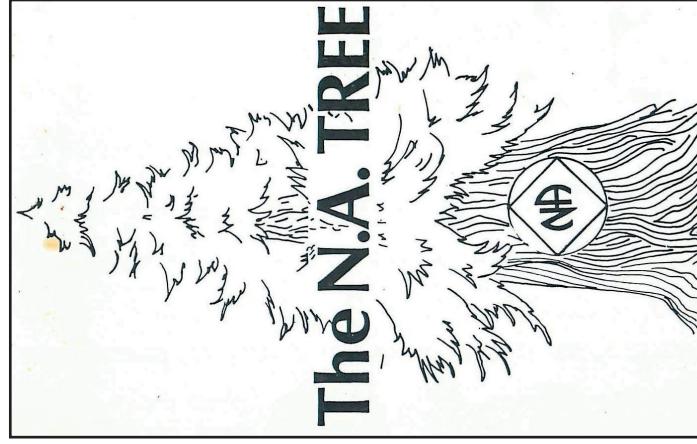
We came to NA because we were beaten by the disease of addiction, we wanted out. When we used, we couldn't shut down our feelings anymore? We needed to stop or die. Was it possible to live without drugs? People we met in Narcotics Anonymous said that it was, just for today you don't ever have to use again, they had a glow in their eyes and they even seemed to enjoy living without using. The program of Narcotics Anonymous works, but ONLY if we're totally abstinent from ALL mind altering and mood changing chemicals. We have a spiritual

program and a Higher Power of our own understanding that will replace ALL drugs. If we think we need some sort of medication to help us to live we haven't really tried our program for real, or maybe Narcotics Anonymous isn't something for us.

We share.

In order to further our primary purpose do we share our experience, strength and hope to the still suffering addicts, we have been exactly where they are. We have experienced the pain that addiction caused us, but we also experienced freedom by following the examples of those who walks before us and the experience, strength and hope they shared with us. We have the solution and by sharing it we save lives, including our own.

Because these addicts know our disease and see how it is acting in our lives, they show love by sharing honestly with us. Sometimes this can seem harsh because that is the only way we can hear the message. We need those who have gone before us to share our message in a way that we will hear it. We are stubborn individuals and sometimes we need blunt words to help us see our disease for what it truly is. Many have stayed around long enough to appreciate the blunt honesty that was shared with us at times. It shows we care enough to share honestly with the addicts rather than being concerned about their feelings.



Our feelings are temporary and those who care enough to share the things that we are hesitant to hear often are those we appreciate the most-later in our recovery. That tough love is something many of us never experienced before as many of us were enabled and told it was everyone or everything else's fault rather than taking responsibility for our actions. Addicts risking their own popularity and sharing the things we don't want to hear also show us how it is possible for addicts to love us until we can love ourselves. We might tear each other down showing the disease of addiction exactly for what it is, and then later build that person back up helping them know we truly do care.

#### "We Love"

When we are new at NA, we didn't know so much about love, we have been completely in the hands of the disease of addiction, a destructive power greater than ourselves. Many of us could not stand ourselves because of all the things we have done when using. But when we walked into the rooms of NA, we met other recovering addicts who have been where we have been, who understands, who have met a loving and caring power instead of the destructive one, who can love us till we can love ourselves.

#### We inform.

We need to be known, be on the map so addicts know where to find us. We are anonymous not

secret. We can do this in different ways, how is up to the groups. We may put up flyers, send letters to institutions that deal with addicts and go there to inform what NA is, make ourselves available for those who needs and wants our way of life.

#### We pray.

#### We listen.

God works through people, places and things. By keeping an open mind and listen we can get knowledge of Gods will for us. By listening to one another we show that we care and understand what we are going through. It is a powerful experience to just have someone who listen to what we actually say, because that someone have been there too.

#### We live it.

We need to live the program for it to work and when we do that, we are examples for people to see, "if he/she can, so can I". It's not just what we say that matters it's what we do. We can sit and sound really good at a meeting but outside of the meeting we don't apply any of what we just shared on, it was just empty words, and people see that. So, to best carry our message we need to apply the message.

#### Input and Review

### **Material Written by**

### **Anonymous Addicts From**

### **Sweden**

### **Input from Addicts around**

### **the World Included**

## **Concepts Vs Con-Traditions**

If we do not rescind or rewrite the Concepts immediately, the Fellowship will one day take them seriously by default

-A former trustee warning the Fellowship that they had better take world and the Concepts seriously and warning of a future we are now living.

*1. To fulfill our fellowship's primary purpose, the NA groups have joined together to create a structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole.*

When did your Group vote on this? The vast majority of NA Groups were not in existence when the Concepts were "adopted" by the WSC (not by the Fellowship as the Fellowship did not take them seriously at that time). Even if the Groups had legitimately adopted them, what Traditions gave the Groups at the time the right to delegate away the authority and right to administer services of all future Groups? Who decided the phrase "may create" in Tradition Nine was no longer valid? According to this Concept, as far as NA as a whole is concerned it appears as though Groups "must subscribe to" an preordained service structure rather than having the ability to create or subscribe to services of their choosing. According to

Tradition Four Groups should consult one another in matters affecting other Groups or NA as a whole. There is no "majority rule" mechanism in this Tradition and, in fact, services below the Group level are not even mentioned until Tradition Nine. Tradition Two mandates God direct NA at the Group level. Tradition Four guarantees Group autonomy and makes Groups responsible for driving all things NA with a mandate to consult with one another and not speak for each other. Developing a service structure that acts on behalf of NA as a whole goes well beyond the mandate of the Groups and delegated authority to a structure which is to be directly responsible to the Groups (should they choose to create or participate in such a structure at all). Tradition Five makes clear that Groups are responsible for carrying the message. According to Tradition Nine the purpose of any service board, committee (or structure) is to take direction from the Groups. This Concept creates a service body which acts independently "on behalf of" the Groups. Even the 1989 ADHOC Committee on Service Structure report to WSC in 1989 (which introduced the Concepts) admits this. That report states that without the Concepts services are only able to respond to the immediate needs of the Fellowship and cannot look ahead and develop their own agendas. No kidding?! That's all services are supposed to do