

Motion 2: That Narcotics Anonymous World Services add the following Identity Statement as part of the Group Readings inventory item offered by the World Service Office.

IDENTITY STATEMENT

In Narcotics Anonymous, we are presented with a dilemma. When NA members identify themselves as “addicts and alcoholics,” “cross-addicted,” or talk about living “clean and sober,” the clarity of the NA message is blurred. To speak in this manner suggests that there are two diseases; that one drug is separate from the rest. Narcotics Anonymous makes no distinction between drugs. Our identification as addicts is all-inclusive, allowing us to concentrate on our similarities, not our differences.

The above statement is offered in the spirit of NA unity. Please remember this request is not made to rule, censor, or dictate behavior. We make this request in order to provide an atmosphere of recovery, where we can hear the simple, nonconfusing, and life-saving message of Narcotics Anonymous.

Maker: Carolina Region and North East Atlantic Region

Intent by Carolina Region: To provide NA groups with an approved piece of literature to use as a tool to foster unity of purpose in their meetings.

Intent by North East Atlantic Region: To help promote unity through a clear NA message.

Financial Impact: The typesetting of the changes to the new reading cards, the *Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*, and the *Group Booklet*.

Policy Affected: This motion would amend the following WSC policies:

Page 6

1999 Conference Agenda Report

A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous

The reading “Identity Statement” would be added to the following list of readings:

Page 43, Sample Meeting Format, 2nd section, Leader:

Select people before the meeting to read one or more of the following short pieces.

These readings can be found in our White Booklet, the Basic Text, IP No. 1, or the group reading cards.

- Who Is An Addict?
- What Is The NA Program?
- Why Are We Here?
- How It Works
- The Twelve Traditions
- Just For Today

The Group Booklet

The reading “Identity Statement” would be added to the following list of readings:

Page 25, Sample Meeting Format, 3rd section, Leader:

Select people before the meeting to read one or more of the following short pieces.

These readings can be found in our White Booklet, the Basic Text, IP No. 1, or the group reading cards.

- Who Is An Addict?
- What Is The NA Program?
- Why Are We Here?
- How It Works
- The Twelve Traditions
- Just For Today

World Board Recommendation: no consensus

The World Board could not reach consensus to oppose or support this motion, or what recommendation to make although a majority were in favor to oppose. Some of the points made during our discussion included: a) that the motion could help clarify our program for the newcomer and support our unity, b) that the motion could infringe upon

our groups' autonomy and should not become world services policy, c) that all of our current group readings come from approved recovery literature which has received extensive review, input, and approval by the fellowship, and d) that this is only one of many versions of this type of statement that are currently being used by our groups around the world. The World Board did agree that regardless of the action by the WSC that groups who choose to use this type of statement in their meetings should exercise their group autonomy and continue to do so. The board also believes that if the conference wants to pursue this idea, the statement should go through the input and review process used for recovery literature and be developed and approved as a piece of recovery literature.