

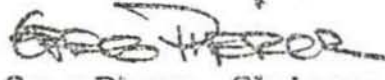
Dear Friends,

In the last two years N. A. has grown like never before. Groups are springing up in all parts of the country; we now have active meetings in 42 states and in several foreign countries. Many areas where there used to be only one or two groups now boast five or ten meetings each week. Many of us have waited for this kind of growth for a long time and are excited to see it finally happening. It's a Godsend. We don't see any indication that this kind of growth is slowing down, on the contrary, it seems to be accelerating. Many factors including the development of our service structure, better communications, and an N. A. book (which is currently being worked on in various places) will contribute to our future growth. We feel privileged to be a part of this very exciting period in the growth of N. A.

The increase and growth of our fellowship is a wonderful thing but inherent in that growth there are many problems which we must face. We must be prepared and must respond to the needs of the fellowship. One such problem which we are seeing in some areas is a lack of qualified group officers. We strongly urge each Area Committee to start educating existing and potential officers. We need to stress the importance of Officer responsibilities, communications, documentation, and service; as well as become more familiar with the service structure as a whole. This information is available in the Starter Kit, the complete Group Kit, the N. A. Tree, and proposed new editions of our service structure manual. Encourage interested group members to become more familiar with these resources. Another possible approach is to have periodic study groups concerning N. A. business and our service structure. There are any number of ways we can approach this type of problem. The important thing is that those areas who are now suffering from poorly trained officers need to take some action to solve the problem; and all areas should take action to help prevent future problems. Each time a new group is formed the need for good officers increases too. If we want to continue to see a doubling or tripling of the number of N. A. groups each year, we must start preparing now. If we want there to be good, strong groups for the future newcomers we need to start preparing now.

I sincerely hope that the groups in your area aren't having these types of problems and that this letter is wasted on you. However, for those of you to whom it applies, please try to help your groups as much as possible. I hope to meet some of you next month in Houston. Until then-----

Love & God Bless,

  
Greg Pierce, Chairman  
Board of Trustees