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VOLUME 4

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PUBLIC INFORMATION A REPRINT

The following is a revised reprint of an article entitled "Do Not Panic" which was first printed in the September issue of the *Newsline*. Because of the response generated by that printing we felt it appropriate to provide it again for those who may have missed it previously. The changes which have been made to the article are based primarily on input from a member in Arizona.

A question was raised about why P.I. information is contained in the *Newsline* rather than only in the P.I. Newsletter or correspondence to P.I. chairpersons. There are two important reasons for including various types of service committee information (not just P.I.) in the *Newsline*. One is because the *Newsline* reaches more of our members than any other publication and there are still many service subcommittees, H&I, P.I., etc., for whom we have no individual mailing address. Another reason is because many members live in areas where no P.I. subcommittee is available and yet are contacted for information about Narcotics Anonymous. We hope and believe (as the majority of input indicates) that utilizing this publication for important service committee announcements provides dissemination of information to the greatest number of N.A. members possible.

The article was written, as you will see, in response to the increased media attention which N.A. as a whole began facing during the recent "war on drugs" campaign. Although that particular emphasis has somewhat waned, we will continue to receive increased numbers of P.I. related requests about the Fellowship from media sources. We know that there is no cure for drug addiction. It will continue to spread and the number of drug addicts will grow in proportion to the overall population. Even though it may not be the "hot" media item of the month, treatment professionals, as well as the general population, will continue to seek out information on various methods of treating addiction.

Those requests are going to continue probably until the public hears so much about Narcotics Anonymous that it becomes almost a household word. So, the following article will be as timely during the next several years as it was during the recent media blitz.

DO NOT PANIC

Do not panic! This advice has been found helpful when we face pressures from outside of N.A. to join in the public war against drug abuse. While it can be said that we, of all people, know of the horrors of drug addiction, we must remain true to our purpose and our Twelve Traditions. The traditions allow us to work with non-member organizations, but that cooperation must be kept within the scope of all the traditions.

The current wave of media and public official interest in drug prevention, prosecution for possession, selling and transportation, and even the increase in the numbers of addicts seeking help, has created a wave of new public information. Unfortunately this has also resulted in tradition violations by many members. We are and must remain dedicated to carrying the message of recovery to all addicts, but we can do it without violating our traditions.

Phonelines are ringing more now than ever. These new calls are from family members, friends, governmental agencies, media people and even more addicts. We work best with addicts--our concept of one addict working with another addict is how we proved that N.A. works. But what about all those other calls?

They have their positive and their negative aspects. If this new interest is handled incorrectly we can get diverted from our purpose, and the addicts we need to reach might not get the message. It is real tempting to jump right in with each of these other phone calls and get involved responding to the questions posed.

The media people, for example, want heart rending stories, stories that carry suspense and are exciting. Almost always they want a face and a name and clear opinions about enforcement or

testing or treatment or any of a long list of items. Frequently we find that they lose much of their interest in N.A. when we stick to the Twelve Traditions and the issues related to the N.A. Program of recovery. That doesn't seem very heart rendering, suspenseful or exciting.

It is sometimes easy for us to be drawn further into the media trap if we view these opportunities as a method to get the message to other addicts. We may think that we are clever enough to avoid tradition violations and can meet the media people head on and have things go our way. Unfortunately this recent rash of media contacts has brought with it some negative, unattractive and sometimes simply embarrassing situations.

When we add to this the fact that many of our members are also employed in the field of treatment as drug counselors or administrators in treatment programs, the situation becomes more complex. Many programs would find it unthinkable to refuse to participate in a TV, radio or newspaper interview--this is a golden chance to get the name of the organization in the public eye in a good light. It's free publicity! When our members find themselves in this conflicting situation, danger lurks on all sides.

Failure to grant such an interview may be viewed by the employer as unacceptable. But destroying the member's anonymity might be worse for the member's recovery. It would certainly cause injury to the Fellowship.

Embedded in this new interest is a considerable amount of sincere interest by government officials. Unfortunately, few really understand the nature of addiction and the program of recovery that N.A. has spent over thirty years developing. Their interest frequently depends on their political philosophy, or that of their party. It is easy for our members to unwittingly end up commenting on proposals from one official or another.

Some of the questions are easy for us to avoid because they are really far away from recovery: Is crack really more dangerous? Is junior high school prevention counselling really effective? Isn't it really better to support sending dealers to jail? But many of the questions are difficult to pass up, because we think that we can answer them with a twist that mentions N.A. Unfortunately, editors have a way of reducing whole hours of interviews to a second or two taken out of context. When this happens the reasonable answer to a political question can easily be brandished as support or opposition of some politician's project.

Here are but a few of the recent problems brought to our attention. In one town a member, involved in the treatment field, took a phone call

from a reporter who was attempting to reach the P.I. Chairperson and provided the opinion that addicts' attempts at recovery in N.A. are seriously hampered unless they participate in other treatment first. This member's statements were quoted in the final article as being from an N.A. member. In another situation a member voluntarily appeared in testimony before a legislative committee. In numerous evening news programs, addicts--many of them members of N.A.--appeared with full-face camera shots discussing one drug or another or their using days or dealing days.

Regardless of how well-intentioned these members were when they agreed to these activities, the result has usually been disastrous.

Back in the days when the government and media paid little attention to addicts (except when we broke the law) N.A. members were more easily able to avoid public controversy and concentrate on recovery. The unfortunate aspect of those days was not the lack of media or governmental attention, it was that we had not found the appropriate way to make sure that every addict who wanted to recover knew about N.A. and how to find us.

The key to these new times is to encourage dissemination of information about N.A. in a way that permits every addict to find out about N.A., that it works and how to reach us, while avoiding tradition violations. The current media attention renews the dangers of association with outside agencies, political causes, rehabilitation or prevention programs and more. If we are publicly linked with these or other outside things it may prevent some addicts from coming to N.A. when they are in so desperate need of us.

We must avoid violating the Twelve Traditions, not just for the sake of not violating them, but because they have proven to be the foundation upon which the program rests. When we undermine or ignore the traditions--avoiding problems of money, property or prestige, avoiding outside issues and public controversy, and always maintaining our anonymity--we set the stage for failure in our own personal recovery and that of others.

We have not conducted scientific studies on this subject, but we have more than ample personal evidence from members of the Fellowship who, because of their profession or circumstances, lost their anonymity and never fully recovered, or took many hard years of relapse before they made it. We have sports figures, entertainment personalities and even some in other walks of life where this

has happened. It is a personal tragedy when this happens to anyone, but their tragedy was made worse when the media refused to let them recover in anonymity. There are a few well-known cases when death was the result.

The purpose of this article is not to take a position that all of this new attention should be avoided. The purpose is to reinforce the need to adhere to the concepts that N.A. is founded on in addressing these situations. During the past two years the WSC P.I. Committee has moved with considerable effort toward developing the tools the Fellowship might effectively use when this attention accelerated. One of the most important of these tools is the P.I. subcommittee list, which is continually being upgraded and expanded. With continued support of P.I. committees around the world, we will have a communications network within the Fellowship which will enable every member involved with P.I. the benefit of worldwide experience.

It is of utmost importance that P.I. committees handle these new media and governmental contacts. The committees must work together within the Twelve Traditions to serve the interests of recovering addicts in the Fellowship. When there is doubt about one situation or another within an area committee, there are always regional P.I. committees available for help, there is always the WSC P.I. Committee and always there is the WSO P.I. Coordinator.

All of these resources have been developed during the past few years in order to be of service. Take advantage of them and avoid the pain and problems that violating the Twelve Traditions brings to us all.

MORE ON SPEAKING TO NON-N.A.'S

The above article touches briefly on the topic of members employed by treatment centers whose anonymity is compromised when asked to do interviews about the treatment center. This can also be a problem even if the media is not involved. A number of calls and letters have been received about the problems resulting from individual members being contacted by non-N.A. organizations and facilities requesting speaking engagements. Sometimes this happens when a treatment center wants one of their graduates to talk about the T.C. in relation to the person's ongoing recovery. Other times it occurs because a non-N.A. person happens to know some clean addicts and wants them to share with an

organization about their personal story of addiction and how they're staying clean.

If N.A. members don't know about P.I., they are apt to respond to these types of requests without the benefit of the service structure. If a member agrees to participate in these speaking engagements and talks about staying clean and about recovery, it is almost inevitable that Narcotics Anonymous will be mentioned. At that point, the presentation has become of concern to other groups and possibly N.A. as a whole. We see, then, why it is so important to saturate each of our N.A. communities with information about the service structure and the existence of a P.I. subcommittee. Many members, with the best of intentions, find themselves caught in the position of doing P.I. work without support and guidance.

If this has happened in your community, you probably know the types of problems that arise. That member may suffer attack by others who feel the situation was handled incorrectly. The non-N.A.'s may have received wrong information. In any event, there are some basic responses that have been used and found to work. First, you obviously have a member that is willing to carry the message. So, get him or her involved in the P.I. subcommittee. If the member isn't interested, share the subcommittee's experience on the benefits of group conscience and doing service work through committee. Ask that future requests which might lead into P.I. type activities be forwarded on to the appropriate sub-committee. Secondly, if the non-N.A. organization has asked an individual for help, there's a good chance that they are unaware of the P.I. committee's existence. So, you may need to do a mailing with an informational letter and a contact name and address for the next time that organization needs speakers.

Be assured, these things happen. We all learn from our mistakes. We're all responsible to the newcomer and part of that responsibility includes providing information about handling P.I. requests. Every member walking in the doors of Narcotics Anonymous should hear information about how to contact members of their local service committees, if they are approached for information about N.A.

IT WORKS!

We all know N.A. works when we work it, right? Well, P.I. contingency plans also work, when we work them! The office receives phone calls daily from P.I. members who are reacting to P.I. requests both from the media and other non-N.A. professionals. What has been really encouraging

about many of these calls is the fact that they are the results of working within a prearranged P.I. contingency plan at a group, area or regional level!

After discussing these calls with the local P.I. members, many of the inquiries are then quickly handled by the local P.I. subcommittees. Sometimes this has meant declining to provide the kind of assistance that is requested because it was not in keeping with our Twelve Traditions. What's important is the fact that when there was doubt about how to handle a matter, people called to discuss the matter before moving into action. This has and will continue to prevent many problems which might otherwise have occurred. Examples are: national TV requests which need to have input from the Board of Trustees prior to response; media requests which focus on drug related topics but will not result in a clear N.A. message; the treatment center and professional organizations requests mentioned in the previous article which also will not present a clear N.A. message, or have affiliation implications; requests which may affect a member's anonymity even though filming is not an issue. All of these types of requests can usually be handled in a manner consistent with the Twelve Traditions if a conscientious effort is made by the members involved to gather sufficient information and experience before responding.

It seems that P.I. subcommittees around the world are responding to more non-N.A. requests in a timely and consistent manner than ever before. The amount of media exposure being requested and the general public's interest in drug addiction can be utilized in a positive way through P.I. service work. That service work, which must always be aimed towards carrying the message to other addicts, can and must use these opportunities just as we would utilize the opportunity to start new H&I meetings or talk to a friend about what N.A. is and how it works. As long as we remember what our primary purpose is and how P.I. service work can enhance that purpose, responses to every type of P.I. request can be handled in keeping with the Twelve Traditions.

Keep those contingency plans working, utilize the service structure and let us know when something works or doesn't work. The WSO P.I. Department and WSC P.I. Committee need your experience to share with others.

EVERYDAY P.I. WHAT EVERY MEMBER CAN DO

An interesting concept was mentioned in some recent correspondence from a P.I. subcommittee

regarding P.I. and the individual member. It pointed out that many members do P.I. type work in the course of their day-to-day recovery without even knowing it. For instance, the member who works in treatment with non-N.A. professionals has a daily opportunity to talk to those professionals about N.A.'s recovery program. The member making visits or phone calls, while looking for a new meeting place, has the opportunity to make a positive impression on the people contacted, thereby being an attractive representation of the N.A. way. Members' experience may be useful at their work place also. Many companies currently have or are establishing employee assistance programs and we know of some members who have been very helpful in creating the structure of those programs, incorporating Narcotics Anonymous as part of the treatment. Other members, who belong to various civic, social or religious groups, may be able to help a still-suffering addict by telling their friends in those organizations about the N.A. Fellowship. Many of these types of activities can be done with or without admitting membership. Remember that the decision to keep personal anonymity is up to each member, as long as it doesn't involve press, media or film.

It is, of course, imperative that every member knows how to handle a request for information when it gets to the point of requiring a presentation or panel. All GSR's should provide information for their groups on a regular basis directing members to their local P.I. and H&I contact.

CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT

The Conference Agenda Report will be mailed to World Service Conference participants on January 26th, 1987. Copies that have been ordered by other members, groups, areas or committees will be mailed on that day or the following day. If your committee or group desires to obtain a copy of the report, you may use the lower portion of the last page of this *Newsline* as an order form. The Agenda Report is published by the Office as a service to the Conference. It costs more to produce and mail the report than we charge for it, but it facilitates the widest possible circulation of the material.

In recent years there has been confusion about the Conference Agenda material and what can or should be done about it. There is no requirement that every member or every group read, discuss or vote on matters contained in the Agenda Report. However, it should be every member's right to have

the opportunity to read, discuss and voice his or her opinion on the material.

This is a valuable element of the worldwide group conscience process and needs to be reflected in the actions of the World Service Conference. During the past year, for example, some conflict has arisen over actions taken at the Conference because members of some areas and groups did not either have the opportunity or take advantage of the opportunity to review the material.

In order to avoid this problem, some area and regional committees have initiated week-end workshops on the Agenda Report. Frequently the committee organizing the workshops has asked the World Service Office or the World Service Conference Officers or Committee members to assist by being there as a resource.

REVIEWING AND UTILIZING THE CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT

As area and regional service committees undertake the project of disseminating information from the Conference Agenda Report to groups and members, it may be helpful to consider some of the experience which has been shared with the WSO. It seems that each year, there are many different approaches used. Some of these have met with great success, while others have resulted in valuable learning experiences for everyone involved.

Special Conference Agenda meetings, or service conferences, have been utilized each year for this purpose. In general, the experience of the Fellowship suggests that attempting lengthy discussions of this material during regular ASC or RSC meetings can be nonproductive because there usually is not sufficient time to adequately review and understand the amount of information presented.

There are several approaches which have been reported to be productive and beneficial. Each of these is dependent upon communication between the regional service committee, the area service committees, and the groups involved.

For instance, if a regional committee plans a service conference for the sole purpose of gathering or tallying group conscience votes from the ASC's, it may be best to hold area service conferences 4 to 6 weeks before this event. This allows enough time for the area conferences to discuss, examine, and even workshop the material if necessary. Then, there is still enough time for follow-up conferences, if appropriate, before sending the ASR to the regional conference. Also,

this timing is conducive to scheduling on behalf of the regional trusted servants, thus providing the opportunity for them to be present at the area conferences.

A different situation exists in some regions where the regional service conference is held for the purpose of providing a discussion forum. Under these circumstances, it may be wise to hold the regional conference immediately following release of the report, and then hold the area conferences after this event. Under these circumstances, the regional forum can possibly provide input for the areas and groups to consider.

Some regions which are very small (in terms of number of meetings), or don't have many area committees, or have a relatively young service structure, or have meetings which are geographically isolated from one another, have improvised. In order to meet their communication needs, many of these have simply held an event which includes all interested N.A. members, and serves the combined functions of discussing the material and also gathering a conscience of the N.A. membership.

In any case, there are several fundamental considerations which are important to the goal of providing every N.A. member the opportunity to be involved:

1. The Conference Agenda Report is published at the end of January and is sent to each region. It is available to any N.A. member, group, or service committee for \$5.00 and may be ordered now.
2. Communication between the RSC, ASC's, and groups is essential in planning for service conferences.
3. Regardless of the specific approach which is used, every effort should be made to provide advance notification to all members and groups.
4. The timing and sequence of service conferences is a primary concern.
5. Additionally, scheduling should be arranged to best accommodate the area and regional trusted servants who might have the most experience to share regarding some of the items discussed in the Conference Agenda Report.
6. In some cases, RSR's and RSR-alternates have found it beneficial to attend the special area conferences. That enables them to share their understanding and experience about the agenda items and also allows them to get a first hand

feeling for the group conscience in each of their areas.

7. Our service committees have the responsibility to provide the opportunity for all N.A. members to communicate their input and thereby take an active part in the policies, philosophies and literature which will affect N.A. as a whole.
8. By communicating that input to the RSR, every member can participate in decisions made at the World Service Conference.
9. RSR's can represent their region with confidence when they have had the chance to hear input from every group and area.

The WSC Administrative Committee and the World Service Office staff are available to help in any way possible as the Fellowship prepares for WSC '87. We hope that this information will help service committees to meet the needs of their membership.

STAFF CHANGES

Last summer, Bob Stewart, our Hospital and Institutions Coordinator, was promoted to another area of responsibility within the Office. Bob assumed responsibility for our Shipping and Receiving Department.

This new duty involves managing all staff members associated with the production, inventory and shipping of orders around the world. It includes managing our inventory levels, ordering publications when necessary and managing our accounts receivable system. Bob's prior experience has proved to be a great asset in this new position.

His positive management has already provided many improvements in our efficiency and productivity. He continued to handle the H&I Coordinator duties while we conducted a search to find a replacement.

NEW H&I COORDINATOR

When Bob Stewart was promoted to his new responsibility, we initiated a search for a replacement H & I Coordinator by seeking the assistance of WSC H&I Committee members. A great number of candidates were considered, resumes were submitted and interviews conducted. After four months a member from the Washington, D.C. area was selected as the new H&I Coordinator.

The person selected is Anthony Edmondson, a member with over 8 years recovery in N.A. Anthony has been active in numerous activities in the D.C. area and was particularly involved in the World Convention held in 1985. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of WCCNA and has just arrived from D.C. to begin work. He has already spent a considerable amount of time with the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the WSC H&I in preparation for his new assignment.

The Office and the Fellowship will greatly benefit from his experience, strength and hope.

LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

A service committee in Texas recently conveyed to us their side of a problem we inadvertently created. After understanding the problem from them more clearly it may help us avoid the problem in the future.

We have used the pages of the *Newsline* to give advance notice of when new or revised publications will be ready and in stock. These reports are more often printed in the months following the Conference and taper off by September. We have consistently done this in an effort to keep you advised of progress. We have wanted you to know that we were working on the changes and printings that were decided by the Conference.

Unfortunately, the Texans inform us, this creates a problem with the area literature committees and groups they serve. If, for example, they had recently purchased a sizable quantity of an item that was being changed, they discovered their groups and areas would not accept delivery of an old copy of the item if they read in the *Newsline* that the new one was available. This then placed the service committee in the position of having literature available that no one would accept.

We explained that the Conference was made aware of this difficulty each time an item was changed. The Conference is advised that we have a quantity of the existing item in stock and it will take time to prepare and print the new edition. Each time this has happened, the Conference has understood and consented to having the WSO continue to produce and sell the old version until the new one was ready.

The Conference will probably continue that policy. What we can learn from that problem is to avoid giving advance notice of when the new items will be available. In this manner, service

committees will sell their on hand stock before using revised literature.

The alternative is to destroy the old version when the new one is ready. This would, in fact, mean destroying literature that is a result of members' Seventh Tradition contributions. The consensus so far has been that unless the literature item was manifestly incorrect in its language, that it was more reasonable to continue to use the outdated edition until the new one was available.

The purpose of this article is to share this minor but irritating matter and present the current policy so that it can be changed if the Conference desires it to be changed.

CHANGES IN SHIPPING DOCUMENTS

We began, as of January 3rd, to utilize the computer for data preparation of all orders. This long-awaited development needs a little explanation.

For more than a year we have been working toward the day when we could use the computer to record every order. Every order is now entered into the computer on the day it is received. The computer prints a shipping document that is used by our shippers to assemble the order. A copy of the document is included with the order when it is sent.

Until now we made a copy of the order and used that as the shipping document. Copies of the order will no longer be made and returned with the order. Only the shipping document will be sent.

In order to avoid confusion, we encourage you to make a copy of your completed order form before you send it to us. This will enable you to compare the order with the shipping document to verify its accuracy.

We will continue to keep each order form received. These are stapled to a copy of the shipping document that we keep. If you believe the shipment to be incorrect, *Please call to discuss it* with our shipping personnel.

This change has significant affects on the rest of our office administration. When the data of each order is entered, it automatically adjusts all of the related financial records of the Office. It also changes the computer managed inventory control system. With the introduction of this system we can speedily and more accurately maintain our financial records and hopefully improve the accuracy of our order processing.

This change is also essential as part of the pending conversion to using a new order form that has a different system for identifying each item. The change in order numbers for inventory items will be explained in the next *Newsline*.

FROM BOB STONE

An article appeared in the November/December issue of the *Newsline* entitled "It Works: How and Why." The article discussed some options available to the Fellowship for approving or revising this new book prior to approval. In discussions which have taken place since that article appeared, it has become apparent that some confusion has resulted from that article. Therefore, I hope the following information will clear up any confusion you may have.

One reason I feel the article may have been confusing is that I made the mistake of printing it prematurely. The article was intended to be a follow-up to a report to the worldwide fellowship from the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the world service arms (World Service Conference, World Literature Committee, World Service Office Board of Directors, and World Service Board of Trustees). Both the report and *Newsline* were being worked on simultaneously and, as we frequently do, the report was going to be included in the *Newsline*. At the draft stage of the development of the *Newsline* the report was inserted. Unfortunately, when the rest of the *Newsline* was completed, I had it printed and it was immediately mailed. At the time the *Newsline* was mailed, the exact language of the report had not been finalized. The trusted servants involved in writing the report were still discussing its content at the time and hadn't yet reached consensus. I was wrong to have published the report in the *Newsline* before its content was finalized or distributed. Furthermore, the article appeared without any reference made to who wrote it. So, I understand why this article may have caused some confusion, and for that, I apologize.

There is one other point to understand with regard to the "It Works: How and Why" article. The article devoted a substantial amount of space discussing Option One. It is important to understand that there was no intention to "slant" the article or persuade readers to select any particular option over any other. The reason that a large amount of space was spent discussing Option One is that if this alternative is selected, it requires action now. The discussion therefore was necessary in order to prepare readers to take action

now if they choose to participate in the plan outlined in Option One.

I hope this information is helpful in clearing up any confusion which you may have had concerning that article. I apologize for the error.

The *Newsline* has been published on a periodic basis (not always each month) since July, 1983. During that time the content has varied, depending on the need of other service committees (the Trustees and the Conference Officers or Committees) and upon problems or issues that were being discussed or worked on here at the WSO. The original purpose for printing the *Newsline* was to inform the Fellowship about what was going on within the Office.

Throughout that time, a great number and variety of matters concerning what the Office was doing have been presented in the *Newsline*. The Fellowship at large is affected by many of the things the Office does, so we felt that it was appropriate to keep you informed about those items. Sometimes articles have discussed ideas and sought input. Sometimes articles discussed actions taken by staff or by the Board of Directors. Sometimes articles were progress reports on projects or publications.

Important articles have conveyed informative advice about specific subjects. The article reprinted in this issue entitled "Do Not Panic" is a good example. We attempt in these types of articles to convey what we believe to be positive experience that we have recently lived through. Sometimes these articles contain my opinion or observations. I have attempted to keep my observations within the article that bears my name so there is a distinction between factual material and what may be more personal observations.

In an article printed under my name in the August *Newsline* I ventured an opinion on problem solving and conflicts that find their way to our Office. Frequently World Services are asked to enter the conflicts and my article conveyed my frustration. I received more input on that article than from all of the other articles ever published under my name.

All but two of those responses were positive. I do believe, however, that the criticism from these two members was fair and reasonable. I will attempt to avoid expression of frustration in future articles and avoid as much as possible observations that can be interpreted to be critical of how some members work the Twelve Steps.

This, however, leads me into another periodic and related subject. There have been requests from members and service committees to have the

opportunity to have articles on different subjects put in the *Newsline*. We have not consented to such requests as we have not had a procedure for an editorial policy on submitted material.

Articles generated within the staff or from WSC Committees or officers are studied, discussed and sometimes they are changed after discussion with the authors' knowledge and consent. Without first establishing some mechanism for being able to effectuate changes in an article submitted, or for selection and rejection of articles altogether, we have not wanted to embark on printing such articles.

However, there seems to be a growing number of people who want some system for such articles to be presented. This was part of the matter that has been discussed concerning possible changes to the *N.A. Way* magazine. As part of that discussion, we felt it desirable to experiment and include in this issue an example of the type of articles that members have wanted to include and that could easily be placed into the Magazine if the Fellowship selects that option.

The following article is a letter from one member on the subject of using Seventh Tradition funds to finance the costs of another members' participation at a World Service Conference workshop. There is certainly another side to this issue. We will print in the February *Newsline* a rebuttal if one is received by February 10th. We will use the existing *N.A. Way* editorial Board process to review and select one article to print if more than one is sent. No change will be made in the rebuttal article without the author's consent. No change was made or suggested by us on this article. It contains the necessary clarity of purpose, is concise and well written. This letter is used as an example. The WSO does not endorse nor oppose its content.

A LETTER FROM A MEMBER

Some regional service committees are now paying travel and hotel expenses for their members who are active participants on World Service Conference Committees. I've been asked to write on this topic and would like to give a "pro" to this concept.

I can remember a time when our region didn't have enough funds to send our RSR to the World Service Conference. That was five years ago and since then our growth in size and membership has been typical of N.A.--tremendous! The fund flow started working and we began to contribute to the Conference financially. We have taken that

concept a step further today. We feel that sending members to WSC quarterly workshops is not only a financial contribution to the Conference but also a spiritual and physical one as well. Our world committees need active, informed, regularly attending members to effectively deal with the tremendous work load our Fellowship is experiencing today.

Our region has set some guidelines on this. The members we send, and pay expenses for, must be active members on our regional subcommittees and must report on their activities. As a result of this we are now more in touch with and a part of the WSC than ever before. We have better informed members and committees.

One of the most consistent problems I've observed in our WSC committees is the lack of regular, active members. This affects the amount and quality of the work that can be done by these committees which, in turn, affects our primary purpose and N.A. as a whole. The main reason for consistent lack of attendance does not seem to be due to our members' unwillingness to participate, but due to their financial inability to serve. Our Seventh Tradition states "Every N.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." Self-supporting to me in this context means individual members should not suffer financial hardship to serve, the N.A. Fellowship is responsible for these expenses. Probably all of us have spent a lot of our hard earned pay in service and have experienced the principle of giving, expecting nothing in return, out of our gratitude for being clean. What I'm trying to say is that when our service committees are self-supporting and there is an excess of funds, we should, if possible, try to eliminate financial hardship from our trusted servants.

Remember, they have to take time off from work and family and spend it in conference rooms working all day. This type of travel is not "fun" vacation travel. Most committee meetings go from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. or later. I've visited many cities for service activities, but can tell you nothing about those cities because there was no time to "sight see." If our RSC's saw the value of this practice, and made a commitment to send one member to the WSC quarterly workshops the quality of work and attendance on WSC committees would be greatly improved. This type of giving has its good, positive, spiritual kickbacks. Our experience is that it costs \$400 to \$500 a year to send a member to both quarterly workshops. This article is not an attempt to divert funds from the WSC which is in great need of all the financial

support we can give. Also, regions that cannot contribute financially at all should not feel "put down" by this article because we've all been there and the spirit of N.A. is one addict helping another. Rather, this is for regions that can afford to, but may not have been aware of this situation, to consider this practice. Hopefully, one day in the future, we as a fellowship will be truly self-supporting. In the meantime, we do the best we can.

COMING EVENTS

This space has been reserved for coming events anywhere in N.A. If you wish to list an event, send us a flier or note at least two months in advance. Include title, location, dates, contacts.

ARIZONA: May 30-31, 1987; Arizonal Regional Convention; Doubletree Inn, Tucson, AZ; Jeff 841-0046; Rosemary 293-3706; Connie 398-9442

AUSTRALIA: Apr 17-20, 1987; 3rd Australasian Convention Easter '87; Glenelg Town Hall, Moseley Square Glenelg; Tony M. 085-366124

CALIFORNIA: Feb 21, 1987; B.C.A.S.C. 2nd Annual "Serenity Day Conference"; United Methodist Church, 1020 Victoria Avenue, Venice, California

2) Mar 27-29, 1987; 9th NCCNA; Marriott Hotel, Burlingame, CA; 9th NCCNA, Box 6323, San Mateo, CA 94403; Todd (415) 347-3296; Joe (408) 296-4833

CANADA: Apr 10-12 1987; 1st Annl Ontario Reg Conf; Windsor NA, Box 175, 2890 Dougall Ave, Windsor, Ontario N9E 1R9; (519) Bob 977-1743; John 255-7318 (CANCELED)

FLORIDA: July 2-5, 1987; FRCNA 6; Diplomat Hotel, 3515 South Ocean Dr., Hollywood, FL 33019, (305) 457-8111,

GEORGIA: Feb 19-22 1987; GRCNA VI; Box 678, Riverdale, GA 30274-0678, (800) 228-9898, Frances (404) 589-0697

ILLINOIS: July 24-26, 1987; 3rd Mid-Coast Convention; Holiday Inn, 7550 E State St., Rockford, Ill 61107; (815)398-2200; Greg 963-5811

2)Feb 14-15, 1987; 2nd Kentuckiana Reg Tradition Learning Day; (502) Ro 935-2481; Betsy 267-9410

3)April 10-12, 1987; KRCNAI; Ramada Inn, 4767 Scottsville Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101; Deanie (502)843-8209

LOUISIANA: March 6-8, 1987; LPRCNAV; Palace Suite Hotel, 2211 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA; (318)443-2561 2) Sept. 3-7, 1987; World Convention; WCNA 17; Sheraton New Orleans Hotel & Towers, 500 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70130; (504)525-2500

MARYLAND: Feb 27-Mar 1, 1987; 1st Annl Ches/Pot Reg Conv; Ramada Inn, Annapolis, MD 21401; (301) Len 787-1273; Steve 269-6741

MASSCHUSETTES: Apr 17-19, 1987; 2nd New England Reg Conv; Marriott Hotel, Springfield, MA; NERC II, Box 422, Chicopee, MA 01021; (413) Steve 736-3979; Nancy 593-3809

MICHIGAN: Jul 3-5 1987; Freedom III RCNA of MI; Interested Speakers should submit tapes A.S.A.P. for review to Program Committee, P.O. Box 770, Flint, MI 48501

MISSISSIPPI: April 3-5, 1987; MRCNAV; Best Western Trace Inn; (Hwy 6 & Natchez Trace) Tupelo, MS; Allen (601)862-7334

MISSOURI: 2nd Annual Show-Me Regional Convention; Ramada Hotel, 2431 N. Glenstone, Springfield, MO; (800)781-0500

NEW JERSEY: May 8-10, 1987; 2nd NJRCNA; P.O.Box 597; Manasquan, NJ 08736; (201) Nancy 223-2909; Karin 483-0310; Interested Speakers submit tapes to Program Comm, Rd 1, Box 222, Pennington-Mt. Rose Rd., Pennington, NJ 08534, Tom (609) 737-8791

NEW MEXICO: July 3-5,1987; WSUC IV; Box 37558, Albuquerque, NM 87176; Susan (505) 984-2305, Debra (505) 982-8650, Bill (505) 984-1469

OKLAHOMA: March 27-29, 1987; 1st Annual Oklahoma Regional Convention; Central Plaza Hotel, 112 N. Eastern Ave., OK City, OK 73117; (800) 522-4383, Leo (918) 747-4556

OHIO: May 22-24, 1987; Ohio Reg Conv; Holiday Inn Cascade Plaza, Akron, OH 44372; Please submit speaker tapes for consideration to ORCNA V; Box 5837, Akron, OH 44372

PENNSYLVANIA: Feb 27-Mar 1, 1987; Mid-Atlantic Reg Learning Conference III; George Washington Lodge, Allentown, PA; (215) Bill 398-8438; Bob 432-1037;

2) Mar 6-8, 1987; Central PA Convention NA; Holiday Inn-Center City, Harrisburg, PA; 717/234-0193:

3) Mar 27-29, 1987; 5th GPRCNA; Dunfey Hotel, Philadelphia; GPRCNA, PO Box 42628, Philadelphia PA 19101-2628; (215) Steve S. 925-7766; Marge 534-2887

TEXAS: Mar 27-29, 1987; LSRCNA II; LSRCNA II Pro Subcom, PO Box 300794, Houston, TX 77230-0794; (713) Rick 531-6734; Janie Rae 973-7002

WASHINGTON: Mar 27-29, 1987; Washington, Northen Idaho 2nd Annual Reg Convention; Vance Tyee, Olympia, WA

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