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VOLUME 1 WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC. (818) 780-3951
NR. 6 16155 WYANDOTTE STREET, VAN NUYS, CA 91406

THE NEWSLINE AND WORLD SERVICE OFFICE MOVES

The NEWSLINE is a monthly publication of the World Service Office of Narcotics Anonymous. The NEWSLINE is usually sent to about 1,200 people associated with the Fellowship (group representatives, and other trusted servants of the Fellowship). All of those regular readers have received this issue. But this issue has also been sent to over 2,500 other individuals that have not previously been on our mail list. The reason for this expanded mailing and for this notice at the beginning, is to advise everyone of our new address and phone number. The additional recipients have each been customers (purchased N.A. literature from WSO), or for some other reason wrote to WSO during the past eleven months. At the end of this issue of the NEWSLINE, is a small form that you can complete and return to us if you are not already a regular recipient of the NEWSLINE and desire to receive the NEWSLINE each month. There is not currently a subscription fee for the NEWSLINE.

Now, about that move.

Our new address is 16155 Wyandotte Street, Van Nuys, California, 91406-3423. The telephone number is 780-3951. The area code until January 4, 1984 is (213), but after January 4, 1984, the area code changes to (818). We maintain regular business hours, and after January 1, 1984, we will be open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Our new home is terrific, it is large enough and will meet our needs for growth for some time. We did have additional office space built in an area that had been used by the previous tenant for warehouse space. The construction has been done by people in the Fellowship and the cost was reduced considerably because of their dedication to the program. The new office construction has caused more disruption than the move made. We have been a little slower responding to regular office duties because of the confusion. The last of this disruption will be over in the next few days, hopefully by the time this is received.

An OPEN HOUSE to celebrate our new office, with coffee and tea has been scheduled for January 14, 1984 between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Although it will not be practical for most of our NEWSLINE readers to be with us, it will provide the opportunity for the Fellowship in the general area to visit and share the enthusiasm our move has generated.

But regardless of the open house, we always keep a pot of coffee brewing for anyone that comes by and visitors are certainly always welcome.

MORE N.A. TEXTS ARRIVE...

WE HAVE BOOKS AGAIN !!! After being out of books for about four weeks, the next shipment of the books arrived. The shipment included 10,000 copies and the first part of the back orders of the book were sent on the day the shipment arrived. There were over 2,000 orders for the book on hand. The remaining 8,000 copies of the book will go pretty fast. However, we have already ordered another 10,000 from the printer. The next shipment of 10,000 will arrive in late December. We do not expect to have shortages of the book again.

N.A. Way Magazine

The September issue of the magazine has been sent to the printer and will be in the mail to the subscribers within a few days. The October issue of the magazine will be in production for printing and mailing very soon. The number of subscribers has continued to increase at a steady rate.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Board of Directors of WSO wanted to use this opportunity to convey to the Fellowship their desire for everyone to have a joyful holiday season and express their hope that these holidays will bring happiness and peace to you all. Your office staff joins the Board in sharing these sentiments.

T-SHIRTS AND OTHER THINGS

The response to my notice in the last NEWSLINE, about these non-literature items has produced a slow but steady request. However, the Board of WSO at their November meeting reconsidered the matter and directed that a letter be sent to the WSC leadership and to the RSR's asking for their specific input to this matter. A letter for this purpose has been drafted and will be sent in the early part of December.

N.A. GROWS

Several months ago we instituted a policy of sending letters to each new group registration that we receive and sending a copy of the new group registration form to the RSR of the area in which the group is located. During the last 60 days, since this was started, we have sent over 35 letters. The number of new groups is fairly well spread over the country and also from meetings in Canada. We have recently started a Followup program to inquire if the new group needs further assistance, after 60 days from our receipt of the registration. Additionally, we have put each new group on our NEWSLINE mail list along with sending a complimentary copy of the N.A. Way Magazine. Hopefully these new practices will be of assistance to the stability and growth of each new group.

In concert with the WSC Administrative Committee, our office is beginning to compile and index a folder containing policies that area committees use for administration of their activities. If your area has written policies that you would care to share with us, please send them to us. As more groups form and areas separate from one another or when area committees are formed where there have been none, these guidelines may be of great value.

Our intent is not to create and distribute as policy these items, but to begin to form a library of them from which the Fellowship may draw when there is a need.

NOTES FROM FAR AWAY PLACES

The Fellowship in Australia has established a firm communications arrangement with WSO. We have received regular written and telephonic contact from them. They are doing well and growing. Several new meetings have been formed since the Convention in NY. At the Convention, Australia was well represented and greatly welcomed. They are beginning to make arrangements for the printing of some N.A. literature in Australia because of the great expense to have it shipped.

The printing of literature in such remote places, as a practical matter is imperative. This should not be confused with the point raised in the last NEWSLINE, about the unauthorized printing of literature in this country. It is practical to produce approved literature in this country from a single publishing source (WSO) and have it distributed within this country and Canada at a reasonable cost. There is therefore no reasonable excuse for the unauthorized printing of literature in this country.

We have learned from the experience of sales this year, that the cost of literature to the Fellowship in Australia is much more than purchases from this country or Canada. A \$100.00 order for Australia may cost \$40.00 or more to ship by regular mail and it takes 10 to 12 weeks.

November 1983

TO: The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous
FROM: Chuck S.

"AS I SEE N.A. SIX MONTHS LATER"

For many years Narcotics Anonymous was served by a few devoted and dedicated persons. We have progressed in growth at a tremendous rate which has been almost overwhelming at times.

Today, we have "trusted servants", on the Board of Trustees and the World Service Office Board of Directors working hard towards the continuing effort of meeting the needs of the Fellowship as a whole. The W.S.O. is becoming more efficient and more expediant with regards to handling inquiries, mailing packets, etc.

In now appears that all persons involved are working towards a common goal and are pulling together rather than apart. Ofcourse, as in all things, those persons who lag behind in meeting the Fellowship needs will be "weeded out".

There is not, and never has been, any "hidden power" in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. As experience has shown us, those persons who look for anything along these lines fizzle out like a shooting star: a burst of multicolors which then vanish from the sky. It is the person who continuously carries the message to the addict who still suffers, wherever and whenever, who is the one with any so-called "hidden power".

It is with much gratitude that I have lived long enough to see my dream come true; "That no addict need die who truly wants to recover". This because the message is now world-wide.

While there is still much to be done, the sense of urgency has finally vanished. I feel and see that, you the Fellowship, will now more logically and reasonably continue to build and support the services necessary, and, to increase our efficiency in a more business-like manner rather than an emotional frenzy which has been prevalent over the past few years.

There is a great need for more literature to inform our Fellowship, our H&I Groups, new Groups in general, Public Information guidelines, etc., as there always will be in any new growth. Everything is subject to change and there is no decision reached thus far that cannot be changed for the improvement and betterment of the Fellowship as a whole.

My heartfelt thanks to those in the past and those in the future who have and will devote their time and energies to the growth of Narcotics Anonymous.

In Love and Fellowship,
Past Board of Trustees Chairman

/s/
Chuck S.

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Questions regarding Tradition violations arise most frequently over the use of literature and speakers from other twelve step fellowships. A rereading of our Tradition number Six and the following words of experience may be helpful in resolving these problems before they start.

Tradition Six: "An NA Group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose".

Narcotics Anonymous as we know it today evolved out of a group called AA for Addicts which met in the San Fernando Valley. In 1953 the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous informed this group that they were in violation of the Traditions of AA and that AA was for alcoholics. This group formed the first meeting of Narcotics Anonymous and since then we have grown from one small meeting in Southern California to a world wide fellowship.

We are deeply grateful to AA for granting us permission to adapt their Twelve Steps and Traditions to our program. We have gained much from AA and wish to maintain a spirit of "Cooperation, but not Affiliation" with AA.

The World Service Board of Trustees of NA has consistently held that at NA meetings that the use of Literature other than NA approved literature constitutes a violation of the Traditions. Further that speakers need to talk about the NA Steps, the NA Traditions and NA recovery. We need to keep in mind the confusion that can result for the newcomer in attendance at an NA meeting hearing about how to recover in another 12 step fellowship. Any member may attend another 12 step fellowship as part of his or her personal program, but when speaking in Narcotics Anonymous he or she needs to be able to talk about their NA experience. We are a separate fellowship in our own right. Under the guidance of a Higher Power, we are growing, we are getting better; we have our own literature and our own experience of recovery. We need to have pride in ourselves as such. It is essential that we adhere to our Traditions including Tradition six; our survival is dependant upon our standing on our own and not affiliating with another 12 step program.

There is much available in the nature of self help literature, literature from other 12 step programs and inspirational reading which can be helpful to the individual personally and can be incorporated into that persons recovery. However, there is a vast difference between reading and benefitting from a variety of sources and bringing them into an NA meeting for others to read or listen to.

The use of literature other than NA approved literature constitutes a violation of the Traditions, Speakers for NA meetings, Conventions, functions etc. need to talk about the NA Steps, the NA Traditions and NA recovery in order to avoid confusion and not be in violation of Traditions.

If you are concerned about a violation of traditions in your group, area or region, we suggest that you approach the individual, or individuals involved, with a positive and friendly attitude. Every effort should be made to discuss and resolve possible violations at the time and place they appear to be generated.

In a future article, we will provide guidance on the correct procedure to follow when a suspected violation cannot be avoided or stoped by direct and immediate discussion.

Yours in service
Board of Trustees

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CLOSING COMMENTS

We have received many letters in support of the expansion of the NEWSLINE and we appreciate them. We will also welcome suggestions that you feel would be helpful to you.

Yours in service to the Fellowship

Bob Stone

YES, I want to receive the NEWSLINE each month.

PLEASE PRINT

Name (Last)	First	Initial
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Group Name or Company Name		
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Street Address	City	State
		Zip Code
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