

November 14, 1982

Daer Steve:

We're in the process of moving and totally redoing my screen printing business, so that's the only reason I didn't immediately reply to your notes. Steve, they're the best thing I've seen on doing conventions. I really, really appreciate your writing and sending them to me. I'm sure they will help us get a grip on some of the language and specific areas of concern to focus our effort.

You know, one of the things it seems to me was in the motion which formed the Ad-Hoc Committee for Convention Guidelines was to get a set for the World Convention itself. It is interesting that you and I have both been Chairpersons four years apart. I want to share a few things now and if you would get your feedback and keep swapping letters to work up this material into a suitable form. Are you game?

One thing, I reckon that the minutes of the Convention will come to you at some point, probably when God wants them to, send them along to double check by.

The Traditions thing you mentioned is a bother some times. We need a lot of written material on the Traditions because when violations actually occur it seems like the solutions get lost in the shuffle and we have to go through the same shit over and over. I still do not see why some of our members feel that conventions should be totally separated from NA. They don't seem to think that the service structure can support them, for instance the bigger regional conventions (I chaired our last Georgia Regional Convention which hosted over five hundred members) although the service manual clearly states that the regions should hold at least one major convention a year. See the contradiction. Next, there is a lot of concern that NA could be vulnerable to financial liability. Therefore they would have the conventions separate so that if there was any trouble, NA will stand free of it. Also there is a general feeling that anything concerning a lot of money or organization can't be NA. Next, there is the old "convention for NA" syndrome which sounds like a implied loophole so that a convention would not necessarily have to abide by any of the Twelve Traditions. Usually people who people who advocate the "for" concept talk real fast and sound like they've gotten out of something. More written material would clarify the how and why of our Traditions so that our members could understand them rather than just calling California. Nobody seems to have any real clear answers which makes me think there's nothing to guide us at this point. I would like to propose the method we used to gather material for our basic text which can best be described as the survey method. It simply involves collecting as many minutes, current notes, possibly area or regional minutes and any archives material we can to serve as a definite guide as to what successful practice has been. I feel that any guidelines adequate to meet with Fellowship approval would have to be supported in this manner before they would have even a chance of making it.

I prepared a packet of minutes and guidelines right before the World Convention. I can't find them but do not recollect mailing them. Did you receive them? If not I'll just prepare some more and send them out.

I think all your material on the general activity and composition of sub-committees is right on. More detail may come out in your minutes.

I don't think that our efforts should be too complex but only simply things and carry a certain "benefit by design" factor. I've just been trying to pray and meditate a lot on these things. I started some work back last summer but as usual there was little response in the period right after the WSC.

I want to say some other things which are more personal to you and I. I feel like you got shafted by the current strain placed on our service structure by the general changes. You did a hell of a good job and seemed to have a fine committee in which members were able to speak their mind and share in the work. I respect that, especially in a Chair who had to go in and do the best job they could without any guidelines like I did four years back. Give my love to the people up there. God Bless!

In Loving Service,

BD

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NO SUCH NUMBER

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