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August 5, 1992

Carol Kenney
c/o Michigan Service Office
407 E. Nine Mile
Ferndale MI 48220

Carol:

As a member of the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, residing in the state (region) of Michigan, it is with great concern that I write you regarding your recent conduct.

On July 21, I called you at your home and asked you if you would attend the Input Workshop scheduled for August 1 at the Lansing Holiday Inn South. You said that you would be unable to attend, since you had another workshop to be in at that time. You also asked who was sponsoring the workshop, and I said I would be chairing it, that it was N.A. members "sponsoring" it.

I asked you what new information you had from or about the RSR working group assigned to "solicit, review, and factor in (where appropriate) input for the "lit trust." You told me that there had been a conference call, that there would be a meeting at WSO the second weekend in October, and that you would give a report about this to the RSC on August 2.

I asked you for a copy of that report, preferably by mail, but definitely by August 1 so the participants at the Input Workshop would be able to go over it. You replied that you were/ had been extremely busy and your target date for completion of that report was August 2.

On August 1, the Input Workshop began at 1:15 p.m. There were regionally-elected trusted servants, area-elected trusted servants, non-elected trusted servants, and even one newcomer present. It's a shame you wouldn't join us.

I estimate that you spent approximately one and one half hours not more than 30 yards from where we met. During that time, I approached you directly and asked you to join us inside and give us any additional information you might have. You just sort of non-committedly nodded at me. I watched you wander around to the Public Information committee meeting as they broke up around 3:00. In fact, the chairperson later told me that you had repeatedly interrupted the meeting in progress. How ironic that as you sat in the sun in the courtyard with Ronnie H., we were within eyeshot of each other, if you'd but bothered to look our way.

As the Input Workshop ended, I approached you and asked you for a moment of your time for a brief comment. I'm not going to quote everything that you and I said; paraphrasing should cover most of it.

Given that you were also unwilling to set aside for a conversation with me, I stated in front of Mike W, Linda R, and Ronnie H my displeasure with your unwillingness to even step aside and address the workshop participants. To reiterate the conversation:

1. I repeat my initial statement to you one more time, as you seemed to have difficulty understanding what I said: Your unwillingness to address the Input Workshop was real shitty - not I felt shitty, nor were you, personally shitty. I have learned how to separate the action from the person.
2. Yes, it is true that the other committees were meeting at the same time. You however were not in any of them, thus nothing was preventing you from joining us, even though I had come out to you and asked you directly to join us to give us information.
3. No the RSC is not paying for meeting room rental the day before the RSC meets. Room space is given complimentary to the Unity III Committee. I know - I negotiated that contract with the Holiday Inn, along with the contracts for 1990, 1993, and 1994.
4. If the region were paying for meeting space, I submit to you that whatever meeting you were having there with Ronnie, Public Information, Ad Hoc Convention Guidelines, Policy, Filing Board, Literature, and Ad Hoc Guide to Service committee meetings were also taking advantage of the hospitality of the hotel, as you accused the Input Workshop of doing.
5. I understood you to say, among other things, that you are responsible to the (Michigan) region, by way of the ASRs, and that you report to them - that's who pays you (to make copies and distribute). I understood you also to say that if the workshop weren't area or regionally-sponsored, that you were not responsible to "you people in there."
6. No, the Input Workshop was not sponsored by any service committee. But given the fact that at the June RSC you had no idea how input would be solicited, nor what the process or procedure would be, what would you have responsible, concerned members do? Wait two or three more months until you and/or the RSR working group come up with a plan?

Carol, I don't like writing this kind of letter. In fact, thinking about it is completely distasteful to me. But you, and others, must be held accountable for that kind of spirit-killing attitude and inexcusable behavior.

I felt that you and I had managed to reach some kind of tenuous relationship, and you had told me some time back that you had been real remiss in your close-mindedness of two years ago. It appears that that wasn't an amends, but a placating apology.

I can handle that kind of personal disappointment, but this time your behavior may affect N.A. as a whole. Part of my ninth step is not enabling you in your disease.

Your action while serving on the RSR working group has serious far-reaching implications for the fellowship. You were assigned by the WSC, therefore, you are responsible to the entire fellowship, including participants of that Input Workshop, not just bodies whose initials end in "SCNA."

I wonder how regions who don't have an RSR of their own on the RSR working group are supposed to get information. It's clear that the WSC and Board of Trustees has done nothing to let the fellowship know of its opportunity to make this document truly a "Fellowship" Intellectual Property Trust Document.

I think it's ironic that you're willing, at fellowship expense, to fly to California to discuss this, but you wouldn't walk 60 feet to do the same with members from your own region. Shame on you.

I find your actions inconsistent with your report to the RSC on August 2 (I'm sorry you were not there to answer questions. Additionally, since your type-written report was read by someone else, it was obviously completed before August 1, in time to give to the Input Workshop), in which you stated: "Please send any input you may have now and in the future. We need your input by October, so it can be factored in and ready for inclusion in the document. I am hoping that our fellowship will participate (emphasis mine) in this process and that our region will have an informed vote in April '93."

You say "our fellowship," not group, area, service committee or board. "Our fellowship" includes me and the other people that were at that Workshop. You did "our fellowship" a great dis-service that day.

I was also disappointed that you did not mention that there had been an Input Workshop the day before. Do you think that if you ignore us, that we'll just go away? That if you censor us, that other people will pick up your cue and do the same thing? Is that your intention?

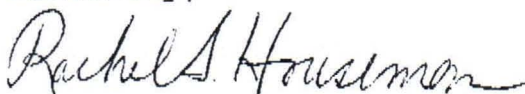
Present at that Input Workshop were two people who have more knowledge about the Lit Trust, its history, purpose, and process than anyone else in the state. There are only a handful of members, outside the Board of Trustees and Wagner and Middlebrook who have more knowledge and documentation that we do. I have offered you minutes, transcripts, tape recordings, reports, documents, letters, original input, etc., over the past several months, and you've never once wanted to look at any of it. You have said in almost all your reports about the Lit Trust that you really don't know anything about it. Why are you choosing to remain ignorant? What are you afraid of?

I know that things are difficult for you and Bud right now, and I pray that his health improves and that God comforts both of you. I know that your time is consumed by service, and I respect your commitment. But Carol, you are MSO office manager, regional literature chairperson, and regional service representative (I won't even go into those conflicts of time/interest). Isn't it obvious that "those you serve" are getting shorted?

I ask that you consider resigning from the RSR working group. Step aside and let someone who has more time and willingness to practice spiritual principles serve the fellowship. We need servants who: 1) Remember to whom they are responsible; 2) Are willing, able, and have the resources, including time; 3) Open-mindedness to put aside differences of personality and live the spiritual principle of selfless service. Please take this under serious consideration; it is offered in the spirit of love for you and the fellowship.

Copies of this letter will be sent to Barbara J., Stu T., and Gregg E. I am requesting that you send me a copy of the minutes from the July conference call, and other knowledge you have of efforts to solicit input by the WSC, its boards or committees, and/or the RSR working group. I further request that any communication from you be in writing.

Sincerely,



Rachel Houseman

cc: Barbara J.
Stu T.
Gregg E.