



# WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.

P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409  
(818) 780-3951

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** WSO Board of Directors  
**From:** Stu Tooredman, Chairperson WSO BOD  
**Date:** September 26, 1990  
**Subject:** October 5th Meeting

This letter shall serve as a reminder that the October 5th meeting is tentatively scheduled to begin on Friday October 5, 1990 at 6:00pm. The meeting will continue at 9:00 am on Saturday October 6, 1990 until 11:30 am when there will be a lunch break. The combined board meeting will convene at 1:00 pm at the Airtel Plaza hotel and continue until approximately 6:00 pm. The WSO will reconvene at 9:00 am on Sunday October 7, 1990 at 16135 Wyandotte to complete it's agenda.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and desire to have your absence authorized, please send your written proxy to the Office as soon as possible.

We have enclosed a copy of the following documents in this package: August Financial Report, August Minutes, recent Chairperson's correspondence, N.A. Literature Trust, revised Personnel Policy, Travel-Translations-Budget Review & Utilization- and Unified Budget plans, as well as some additional relevant correspondence.

Please bring your copies of the material sent to you to the Board meeting so we don't have to make more copies.

See you next week .

Anthony



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See you next week .

Anthony



# WAGNER & MIDDLEBROOK

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JOHN E. WAGNER  
THERESA WAGNER MIDDLEBROOK

ROBERT C. SMITH  
REGISTERED PATENT ATTORNEY  
THEODORE H. LASSAGNE  
OF COUNSEL

October 5, 1990

PLEASE REPLY TO GLENDALE OFFICE

GLENDALE OFFICE  
3541 OCEAN VIEW BOULEVARD  
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA 91208  
TELEPHONE (818) 957-3340  
FAX (818) 957-8123

MOOREHEAD OFFICE  
P. O. BOX 201  
MOOREHEAD, CALIFORNIA 93020-0201  
TELEPHONE (805) 823-0819

Greg B. Emmons & Assoc.  
c/o Airtel Plaza Hotel  
Van Nuys CA.

Via Facsimile

Re: WORLD SERVICE OFFICE adv. MOOREHEAD et al.  
Docket No.: 03-9545-62

Dear Mr. Emmons:

I have received your facsimile correspondence of October 5, 1990, and I trust that you have had a comfortable trip to California. I am hopeful that with the recent opening of communications between our respective clients, a mutually acceptable settlement can be reached. As you have requested and confirmed in writing, we never intended to and will not utilize Mr. Moorehead's presence in California as an opportunity to serve a summons and complaint upon him.

I am somewhat concerned by your very broad statement in your letter that you do not want any "documentation, statements or recordings" of Mr. Moorehead's appearance in California "released, published, distributed, exhibited or in any other way be used against him". The WSC and WSO are required to report to the Fellowship both that the meeting has taken place (especially since Fellowship funds are being used to facilitate your and Mr. Moorehead's travel) as well as the results of tomorrow's meeting. I doubt if your rather broad statement was intended to preclude such disclosure. I suggest that your request be clarified tomorrow so that there is no misunderstanding.

With respect to tomorrow's discussions, pursuant to your request, such will be treated as inadmissible compromise negotiations in full accordance with Fed.R.Evid. 408. I am not quite clear as to the confirmation of limitation on personal liability that you have requested. I understand that you are appearing as an advocate on behalf of your clients, and nothing more. If you need any further assurances that this office or WSO may provide, please let me know.

\*Subject to reimbursement

- ① with anonymity
- ② untainted, fair and accurate subject to review and approval
- ③ and tribunals of jurisdiction as applicable
- ④ clients - only appearance approved to date is for Dave M
- ⑤ and as counsel to protect his constitutional and lesser rights to serve in capacity as facilitator of amicable resolution

Nata  
Client

"a recovering addict suspected of involvement"

OK

OK  
cf  
3-5

WAGNER & MIDDLEBROOK

Greg B. Emmons  
Page Two  
October 5, 1990

Enclosed for your review is a draft document. This form is still subject to completion and approval by the Boards of Directors and Trustees, but should give you a general overall view of WSO's <sup>6</sup> desires. I am scheduled to be at the meeting starting at 12:00 ~~PM~~, and therefore will expect to see you at that time.

Very truly yours,

WAGNER & MIDDLEBROOK



Theresa Wagner Middlebrook

TWM/ba

⑥ what about WSC



Telephone  
Area Code 215  
348-9815

Law Offices  
*Greg B. Emmons and Associates, P.C.*  
One Aldie Mansion  
85 Old Dublin Pike  
Doylestown, Pa. 18901

Telefax  
Area Code 215  
348-9817

October 6, 1990

Theresa Wagner Middlebrook, Esquire  
Wagner & Middlebrook  
3541 Ocean View Boulevard  
Glendale, California 91208

RE: Literature Trust Dispute

Dear Theresa:

In response to your letter of October 5, 1990, please be advised as follows:

1. As a requirement of anonymity, let's use references other than the use of the names such as reflected in your letter reference. Further, I question what the "Docket No." is. Has there been some legal action taken?

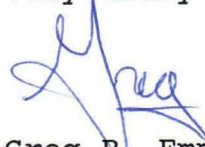
2. In reference to disclosure of the meeting, it is my understanding that we will meet prior to any appearances before the WSC and WSO and discuss a possible resolution of this dispute. I do not see that there need be any report that such a meeting has taken place in the minutes of the WSC or the WSO. If in the event there is an appearance before the WSC and/or the WSO, then, rather than using a name, perhaps instead a reference to "A recovering addict suspected of involvement" could be used.

3. So that there is no uncertainty, I am not appearing as an advocate on behalf of Dave M. nor any of the other individuals mentioned in your proposed Release Agreement. I am here solely in a professional capacity as a facilitator for an amicable resolution. I am not here as an advocate of any position nor as a Fellowship member with views to be given special attention to. I thought this was

made clear from the very beginning. I have not been retained as legal counsel for these individuals and therefore cannot consider them as clients nor are they considering me as their attorney.

I look forward to meeting you on October 6, 1990 and discussing the issues that exist in hopes that a compromise may be reached for the parties involved.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg B. Emmons", written over a horizontal line.

Greg B. Emmons  
GREG B. EMMONS AND ASSOCIATES

cc: Dave M.



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Telefax  
Area Code 215  
348-9817

October 5, 1990

Theresa Wagner Middlebrook  
Wagner & Middlebrook  
341 Ocean Blvd.  
Glendale, CA 91208

via Telefax

RE: A Literature Trust Dispute

Dear Theresa:

I look forward with pleasure the opportunity of meeting you at the scheduled Board Meeting for the weekend of October 5, 1990. I have received the agenda from Stu Tooredman and suspect it will be towards late afternoon Saturday, that the issue of the little blue book and other grievances pending throughout the fellowship will be reached. Prior thereto, perhaps we could meet to discuss the possibility of an amicable agreement between the WSO and the members of the fellowship who are currently aggrieved by the practices and procedures of the WSO, et al. I will be at the Airtel Plaza Hotel Saturday morning.

I would like to confirm by letter that I am appearing not in a capacity as a member of the fellowship, but solely in a professional capacity volunteering to assist Dave M. and other members of the fellowship who are currently concerned as above-stated. It is with my sincere expression of intent that we will be spiritually guided towards reaching an amicable resolution, albeit an initial resolution pending a final conclusion. The absolute desire of such would be to avoid the expensive, controversial, inconvenient and detrimental impact on all if litigation was commenced. Being involved in literary work, we both are certainly aware of the significant legal maneuvering, procedures and expenses involved and the end result where typically no one comes out pleased.

Further, I would like this letter to confirm that the appearance in California by Dave M. does not create jurisdiction upon him within the state of California as previously agreed nor shall any documentation, statements or recordings of the same be released, published, distributed, exhibited or in any other way be used against him or others in the fellowship sharing the concerns he has offered to bring to the attention of the WSO. It is further most important for us to proceed with negotiations, that it is understood that all stages of the negotiations are confidential and

shall be considered an attempt for settlement purposes only and therefore totally inadmissible in any court of law. Additionally, it is specifically required and must be agreed that my professional involvement does not directly or impliedly endorse any positions being taken or create any liability on my behalf to any party involved.

Finally, I have requested that Stu Tooredman, Chairperson, request that you prepare a proposed release document to be presented for my review. This should be drafted in a manner which satisfies the needs of the WSO in respect to the necessary consideration to lawfully release Dave M. and all others involved (subject to their further acceptance thereafter), consideration of claims, causes of action, suits, damages, losses, infringement rights or any other issues in law or in equity that may have resulted or in the future will arise due to acts or occurrences prior to the effective date of the release. Hopefully Stu has been able to reach you with this request and you will have the opportunity to prepare the document for my review Saturday morning.

Thanking you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and the opportunity to work with you on a matter very important to me.

Very truly yours,

Greg B. Emmons

cc: Dave M.



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Greg B. Emmons

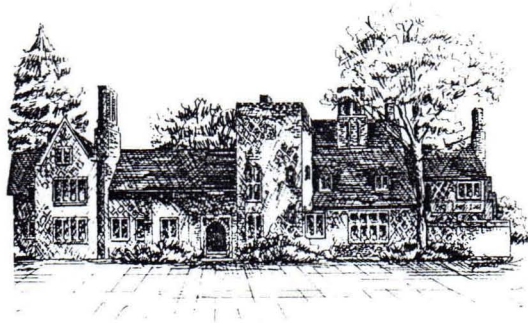
cc: Dave M. ✓



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Doylestown, Pa. 18901

Telefax  
Area Code 215  
348-9817



FAX NO. : 1-818-798-6970      DATE: 10-2-90  
TO : Mr. Steve Jordan  
FROM : Greg  
RE : NA  
COMMENTS :

Attached is complete letter. My  
ASSISTANCE TO DAVE HAS been one  
to promote an Amicable resolution  
only. If such is possible, I  
offer my help on Saturday.

Greg

Telephone  
Area Code 215  
348-9815

Law Offices  
Greg B. E. [REDACTED] and Associates, P.C.  
One Aldie Mansion  
85 Old Dublin Pike  
Doylestown, Pa. 18901

Telefax  
Area Code 215  
348-9817

August 29, 1990

Grateful Dave  
1110 East Palmer Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19125

RE: Honesty, Open-mindedness and Willingness  
vs.  
Money, Property or Prestige

Dear Dave:

In response to your personal request and as a fellow member of Narcotics Anonymous, I have taken time to review numerous documents you have submitted to me, including correspondence from various members of NA and NA servants including legal counsel, Wagner and Middlebrook. I must state that I am very concerned with the disputes that I have read about and which I chose to caption as above-stated.

My number one concern is my own personal recovery. Working the steps and traditions, participating in my home group and having a relationship with my sponsor is how it works for me. Nevertheless, I have a vested interest in the continued survival and wellbeing of NA as a whole and the issues that are being circulated are threatening that wellbeing and therefore my life as well.

The message that I must relay to you comes from my experience from years of involvement with the political process, whether working against the bureaucracy or with the political system. Having a Bachelors Degree in Political Science with a minor in International Relations, I am well aware of the affect of any governing body over a period of years while that body is allowed to grow and experience power and prestige. The number one motivator and cause for concern is money! I must assume that the people who are the elected officials in service for the NA organization are operating according to their belief that they serve with the best interest of NA in mind. Nevertheless and without exception, whether we are talking about a small political organization or a super structure, the people serving are human beings influenced by their own character defects and shortcomings.

Although I am unable to commit myself as a participant to this controversy without group conscience, I am able to offer some general



professional information which may be of some assistance. This is being offered only with the expressed intent that the information provided be used in an attempt to amicably resolve the issues in dispute. I am not in favor nor supportive of any legal remedies. This is an internal matter that should be kept out of the court system.

In reviewing the California Non Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law, Corporation's Code Section 5110 et. seq., together with the Bylaws of the World Service Office, Inc., and related policies and procedures of the World Service Office, as well as common law principals, the issues appear justified and deserve proper response and resolution. If requested by my home group, area and region, I would be willing to give an opinion as to some legal concerns that I have for the fellowship of NA. As cursory remarks and without a thorough legal review and analysis, I can now advise as follows:

1. Members of the NA fellowship are not members of the World Service Office, Inc., therefore, are not protected by the California Non Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law. None of the legal procedures and remedies available to members of a non profit corporation are available as considerations or alternatives in this dispute.

2. The World Service Office, Inc., operates under a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of the individual members of NA. Without going into detail concerning the various internal procedures and bureaucratic structures that have been developed, I will discuss just briefly the obligations imposed upon a corporation being in a fiduciary capacity: (a) As a fiduciary, the corporation (directors, officers, employees and agents) is responsible to meet the objectives and purposes of the fiduciary role. (b) The fiduciaries' role is to act at all times in the best interest and for the needs of the members of NA as beneficiaries of the services provided by the fiduciary. (c) In acting under a fiduciary capacity, the fiduciary is obligated to act under the standards of care, obedience, accountability, loyalty and notice.

3. Under the fiduciary standards of care, obedience, accountability, loyalty and notice, there is a multitude of factual and legal arguments that allow the beneficiaries the opportunity to evaluate the performance of the fiduciary to determine whether or not the fiduciary obligations have in fact been properly performed. An evaluation would include such things as audited financial statements, access to all books and records, review of budgets and expenses and perhaps even required production of personal financial statements of those individuals who are the elected and/or appointed officers of the Narcotics Anonymous Organization.


4. Any claim of ownership of trademarks, tradenames and copyrights by the fiduciary is ownership only for the benefit of the members of NA and not for purposes of the fiduciary's or your own self

interests. The Bylaws of the World Service Office, Inc., provide the fiduciary with the rights to control, use, print, duplicate, etc., of the licensed material. The Bylaws do not state that this right is an exclusive right nor does it state that the fiduciary has any powers to enforce or limit proper use of the materials by a member of the fellowship who is a beneficiary of the fellowship property.

5. The legal counsel for the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, Wagner and Middlebrook, by their letter of July 10, 1990, make representations that they have the authority to direct members of the fellowship to "immediately cease and desist" from what they allege to be infringements of property rights. Such a direction is only a request and cannot serve as anything but a notice of intent to commence legal proceedings to protect rights they allege their client has. Prior to any restriction of use of any materials, whether trademarked, copyrighted or otherwise protected for exclusive use by contract, minimum requirements of constitutional due process require a hearing and the opportunity to defend.

My prayers are with you and the members of the Narcotics Anonymous Organization that the disputes be resolved amicably and that the fellowship focus on the needs of recovery. We have but one primary purpose, to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg B. E.



August 20, 1990

Greatful Dave  
1110 East Palmer Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19125

RE: NA

Dear Dave:

It was nice meeting on Tuesday evening and reviewing the concerns you have respecting the NA Organization. Since then, I have had the opportunity to review your comments as well as look at the other correspondence that you have provided to me. I still have not had the opportunity to speak with legal counsel for NA due to my schedule and not lack of interest.

Enclosed herein is a copy of the notes that we made during our dinner meeting.

I understand that the World Service Organization is sending a representative, (or several), to a conference to be held in Coatesville the weekend of August 25, 1990. I am uncertain as to whether or not I will be able to go.

Best personal regards.

Very truly yours,

Greg B. Emmons

Encls.

  
**T.A.** TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY  
MEDIA, PA  
1-800-TA-AGENT

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# WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. Box 9999

Van Nuys, CA 91409

(818) 780-3951



## An open letter from the trustees concerning the unauthorized printing of the Basic Text

June 29, 1990

In the last few months, certain individuals in the eastern United States have printed a light-blue paperback book containing the first ten chapters of N.A.'s Basic Text (Third Edition, Revised), replacing the material on Traditions Four and Nine with material from the Second Edition text. This action contradicts our Twelve Traditions, and could do much damage to Narcotics Anonymous worldwide. The book they have printed is *not* conference-approved literature, and should not be used, purchased, or distributed by N.A. members, groups, or service committees. 1 2

The conference-approved Fifth Edition of the Basic Text has developed as the result of broad consideration within the N.A. Fellowship, represented in six years' worth of World Service Conference decisions. The illicit Basic Text has been printed without consulting any of N.A.'s worldwide decision-making bodies. Further, the unauthorized book has been published in violation of American law and international copyright treaty.

The illegally published book is being sold at a very low price; the conference-approved Basic Text costs eight dollars. Twice, our World Service Conference has considered dropping the price of the text, but has decided not to--for good reason. Proceeds from the sale of the approved text provide 95% of the support needed to continue our worldwide services: starter kits for new groups, assistance for new N.A. communities around the world, translation of our literature into other languages, the development of new N.A. books and pamphlets, and more. If sales of the unauthorized Basic Text take away from the support needed by our worldwide services, Narcotics Anonymous as a whole will suffer greatly. 3

We want to suggest one simple thing N.A. members can do when confronted with the book itself: *don't take it*. Some members may want to procure copies of the illegal publication for their memorabilia collections, but we encourage them to leave the book entirely alone. If N.A. members, groups, and service committees



refuse to condone the unauthorized printing, if they refuse to accept personal copies, if they refuse to distribute the illicitly-published Basic Text, those behind the illegal book will get the message: N.A. wants them to stop.

To protect the best interests of the fellowship as a whole, legal action has been initiated. If the action already taken does not stop the unauthorized printing of the Basic Text, we will have no recourse but to take the matter to court.

4

### **Unauthorized printing—how does it affect N.A.?**

One of N.A.'s dearest-held traditions is that of group autonomy. N.A. groups are left free to develop their own understanding of recovery, and are at liberty to conduct their own affairs as they see fit. Groups need restrict their actions only when those actions affect other groups, or when they affect N.A. as a whole. The unauthorized publication of the N.A. Basic Text directly affects the welfare of the entire N.A. Fellowship in two ways.

**First**, the Basic Text, to a certain extent, *is* our message. It defines what Narcotics Anonymous is, what we do, and how we do it. The unauthorized printing of the text impairs our fellowship's ability to maintain the integrity of our message and our identity.

Our fellowship has spent much effort over the last fifteen years making the World Service Conference what it is today: the single point where decisions significantly affecting the entire N.A. movement can be made. Such decisions include those affecting the content of the Basic Text.

5

While the conference protects the conceptual integrity of the N.A. message, our world service corporation protects its legal integrity. World Service Office, Inc., holds the copyrights to all N.A. literature on the fellowship's behalf. No one may legally publish the Basic Text without express written permission from N.A. world services. If the fellowship's legal rights to the book are compromised, swift action must be taken. If we don't, we will ultimately lose our ability to maintain the integrity of our message.

If individuals want to change the Basic Text, they should utilize the decision-making process this fellowship has established, leading ultimately to the floor of the World Service Conference. The same applies if they want the legal right to print the Basic Text themselves, whether they wish to publish the Fifth Edition or an altered version of the book. However, when individuals alter and print the Basic Text on their own, without permission, N.A. world services have no choice but to seek legal remedies.

6



Second, the unauthorized publication of the Basic Text undercuts one of the primary means our fellowship has established for supporting N.A. world services.

Narcotics Anonymous has three world service branches: the World Service Conference, the World Service Board of Trustees, and the World Service Office. Together, they provide a wide variety of services to the N.A. Fellowship: support for "loner" N.A. members, free starter kits for new groups, and assistance for new N.A. communities in dozens of countries; support for P.I. and H&I services in more than 500 areas; development, translation, and production of N.A. literature; and N.A. communications, both within the fellowship and between the fellowship and outside agencies.

Direct contributions from the fellowship account for about 5% of the financial resources needed to maintain our worldwide services. The remainder comes from the sale of N.A. literature. Twice in the last six years, the conference has considered the matter of dropping the cost of literature--once in 1984, and again in 1987--and each time has turned it down. The benefits at the group level produced by a cheaper book would be more than offset by the resulting loss of worldwide services. In fact, the need for funds at the world level is so great that, at the 1990 meeting of the World Service Conference, a number of motions were placed to *raise* the cost of N.A. literature, not lower it. If N.A. world services were deprived of income from literature sales, the fellowship, in turn, would be deprived of a great many of the services we've all come to depend on.

### **What is being done to stop the unauthorized printing?**

The World Service Board of Trustees would prefer to see this matter resolved without recourse to legal remedies, especially since the individuals behind the unauthorized printing of the text are fellow members of Narcotics Anonymous. To this end, we are told, the chairperson of the World Service Office Board of Directors recently contacted one of the individuals involved, asking that the unauthorized printing be stopped. A request was made, in turn, that the matter be discussed with the entire WSO board.

The office board chairperson is agreeable to such a dialogue, but only with the World Service Board of Trustees also present, and only in a public setting. Because the unauthorized printing of the Basic Text has the potential to seriously affect the entire fellowship, the WSO board chairperson and the WSB chairperson feel that discussion of the matter should occur in a setting where the entire fellowship can take part.

We must acknowledge N.A.'s First Tradition: "Our *common* welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. *unity*." The welfare of the entire N.A. Fellowship is affected by N.A.'s ability to maintain the integrity of its message



and its identity, and by N.A.'s ability to continue its worldwide services. We cannot allow the actions or interests of a few individual members to seriously jeopardize the welfare of N.A. as a whole. If we do not respond to the unauthorized printing, we will, in effect, be endorsing it.

The trustees, the WSO Board of Directors, and the Administrative Committee of the World Service Conference bear a collective responsibility to protect the best interests of the entire fellowship in this matter, by whatever appropriate means possible. Key individuals behind the illegal printing and distribution of the Basic Text have been asked to stop of their own accord. Legal cease-and-desist orders have been issued to those individuals and committees known or suspected to be involved. If those orders are not heeded, more serious measures will be taken.

### What can you do?

#### Don't take it.

Some of those who are illicitly publishing and distributing the book are acting on self-will. Such actions move those individuals away from recovery, not toward it. Others who are involved have been misguided, or are simply misinformed concerning the facts of the matter.

The individuals responsible for the illegal book say that they are fulfilling the wishes of the fellowship. If the fellowship does, in fact, want these individuals to print an altered version of the Basic Text, then let the conscience of the fellowship be heard through the World Service Conference. Until then, let the individuals responsible for the unauthorized, illegal printing of the text cease. We have allowed a vocal few to divert us from our primary purpose far too long. It's time to say enough.

**More on this matter** will appear in the *Newsline* and the *Fellowship Report* as more information becomes available. Should you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns regarding either the unauthorized publication of the Basic Text or this report, please write us:

World Service Board of Trustees  
P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, California 91409-9999  
U.S.A.





**T.A. TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY**

MEDIA, PA  
1-800-TA-AGENT

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# N.A. NEWSLINE

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC., P.O. BOX 9999, VAN NUYS, CA 91409; (818) 780-3951

VOLUME 6

JULY 1990

NUMBER 7

## BASIC TEXT CONTROVERSY SUBSIDES

Early this year, a few individual N.A. members in the eastern U.S. began illegally printing and selling their own paperback version of the Basic Text. Some of the language of the conference-approved Basic Text was changed in the unauthorized book. On June 29th, the World Service Board of Trustees wrote an open letter to the fellowship about the problem. "We want to suggest one simple thing N.A. members can do when confronted with the book itself: *don't take it*," the letter said. "Those behind the illegal book will get the message: N.A. wants them to stop."

The trustees gave two reasons why N.A. wants the unauthorized text stopped. What happens if N.A. allows a few people to change the Basic Text to suit their personal ideas? N.A. as a whole will lose its ability to decide what its own literature will say. And what happens if N.A. allows a few individuals to sell an unauthorized text? Our worldwide services are partially supported by sales of the *authorized* Basic Text. Sales of the unauthorized book mean fewer N.A. services.

World services have tried hard to put a stop to the unauthorized book by asking those personally responsible for the book to stop. Those members refused. This left world services with no choice but to take strong action to protect N.A.'s copyright and the first step has already been taken. The WSO Board of Directors is responsible to protect N.A.'s legal rights concerning the Basic Text. On July 2nd, their attorneys mailed a "cease and desist" letter to trusted servants in the regions where the illegal text had been seen. A July 10th letter explained that the previous letter applied only "if the shoe fits."

The World Service Conference held a workshop the following weekend in Arlington, Virginia. Talk of the unauthorized book was present everywhere. Some

hoped for a meeting between the trustees, the WSO directors, and the members responsible for the illegal Basic Text. They could settle the problem in the open. Those behind the illicit book however did not attend the workshop.

Meanwhile, N.A. members have taken to heart the trustees' request not to buy or sell the illegal Basic Text. As a result, support for the illegal text is waning. Only the three or four individuals directly responsible, and their immediate circle of friends, continue to distribute the unauthorized book, while their own areas and regions have refused. Hopes are high that, soon, further printing and sales of the illegal book will stop completely. The fellowship itself deserves a pat on the back for settling a serious problem simply by assuming its responsibility.

## CONFERENCE FUNDS DRAWING LOW

In April the World Service Conference approved an annual budget of \$424,900. This represents a \$118,500 increase over last year's budget of \$306,400. To meet this budget fellowship donations have to average about \$35,400 each month.

Unfortunately, fellowship donations have not kept pace with the adopted budget. In fact, they've not even kept up with last year's donations. Donations for May, June, and July last year totalled \$38,801.65. Fellowship contributions for the same period *this* year total \$22,212.95. That's 43% less than what the conference received last year, and 79% less than what's needed to keep up with the WSC budget.

At this rate, the WSC Administrative Committee expects the World Service Conference to be penniless by September. Fellowship donations to the conference are needed in order to keep conference services from being curtailed.



the desk for more inventory than we had at the time. It took months simply to bring the shipping and ordering into balance. Over the years we have run out of one item or another, but as time passed, the frequency of that problem diminished. It is a rare happening now.

Over the following few months, we hired several additional employees in order to attack the massive volume of work that existed. But that was also the beginning of an explosive growth. N.A. grew from approximately 2,400 meetings (including H&I meetings) to over 6,000 in the following two years. N.A. has almost doubled the number of meetings every two years since then.

Keeping up with the orders, and providing assistance and service to that growing membership, have been hard tasks to fulfill. For several years, we added more staff members as the demand for service grew and as literature sales skyrocketed. Staff expenditures were only a part of the overall increase in operational costs.

To give newer members some idea of the change, the gross income (total cash received) in the year just prior to the conference action in 1983 was \$87,200. Literature sales grew each year: 1984—\$818,045, 1987—\$2,668,000, and 1989—\$4,033,000. All of the income from these years of operation has gone to provide the literature and services that sustain a fellowship in fifty-three countries. Literature is now available in twelve languages. Although not everything is available in each language, the list of translated literature grows each month.

As I depart from service to N.A., behind me I leave a dedicated, hard-working staff. They are now quite capable of working right along, providing service and literature to meet the growing needs of addicts around the world.

Departing will be emotionally hard for me. I've grown to love so many people I cannot count them all. And those who have given me their love and support are also without limit. There is no way to thank individually the thousands of members who have offered encouragement or help during these years.

Few people have had the opportunity to be part of an experience like this has been. Some day I may even try to put a little of it on paper so those who want to know how it all happened can find out.

It was my privilege to travel widely for the fellowship to help resolve problems, attend meetings, provide assistance, and learn about the needs of the fellowship. Every place I went, I was met with kindness beyond measure, and support for me personally and the staff. Whether it was a meeting in Memphis to conduct a workshop on WSO service in 1985 (five people showed up and we had a wonderful time as they shared about recovery), or listening through translators to Japanese members conduct a public information day in Tokyo for judges, social workers, and medical professionals, it was an experience beyond words.

Members in countries all over the world open their hearts and homes to welcome me and the work to be done. There were cold rainy days in Dublin, with members eager to share their problems with literature and the restrictive government policies. There were also sweltering days in Phoenix, learning about growth and service problems in the open spaces of the desert southwest.

Wonderful memories I will carry always include discussions in Darmstadt, West Germany; Medellin, Colombia; and Lisbon, Portugal. There were also wonderful people all over Canada, Australia, and the U.S. The list could go on for pages. They were wonderful experiences all.

Yes, there were problems along the way. And I am guilty to my share of large and small errors, oversights, shortcomings, and failures. No doubt I step on toes more than I should, but I have few regrets and no animosities. But the door through which I depart will open for the person who will serve the office through new experiences and growth. And the fellowship will grow and prosper. The role of an office manager at the WSO is more than simply that of a shipping clerk or someone to answer the phone.

The administrative office for a worldwide organization, one that desires to fulfill its purpose, is an office that does more than open the doors and distribute literature. If indeed a purpose is to help carry the message of N.A. recovery to addicts around the world who still suffer (and it should be), then the WSO is more than simply shipping literature.

Although there are no studies to back up this assertion, I would venture to guess that fewer than 1 percent of the addicts in the world attend 1



meetings. Even if the number were as large as ten percent, it would mean that millions of addicts suffer around us.

In the United States there are probably about 22,000 meetings in a population of over 250,000,000 people. That is one meeting for every 11,363 people. In most countries the ratio of meetings to population is appalling. In France, for example, there are about 5 meetings in a population of over 68,000,000. That is one meeting for every 2,720,000 people. In Mexico there are 45 meetings in a population of over 5,000,000. This represents one meeting for every 111,111 people. How is it possible for the addicts in such places ever to find N.A.?

It is easy for the American fellowship to argue amongst themselves over the literature process, or smoking meetings, or who works at the WSO. But we must consider the addict in less affluent countries who struggles to avoid starvation, or labors under repressive systems that imprison addicts, who lives in societies that consider drug users simply morally weak.

It has been my belief that the obligation of the office was to comprehend the full worldwide scope of our purpose to carry the message, and help set the course to give every addict the choice that only N.A. freely gives. The WSO Board of Directors has been unfailing in its support of this perspective. They have absorbed every bit of information they can get about serving addict needs around the world. They have demonstrated leadership and support to the extent that funds provide, in order to move in the direction of giving every addict a choice. I trust that the WSO will continue to be guided by that broad understanding of its role.

A virus exists within the fellowship that has the power to divert the fellowship from its primary purpose from time to time. This virus is the ego, pride, self-righteousness, and need to control that leaps from some members still caught in the stranglehold that is addiction. This destructive virus attacks our unity. It sets members or committees on their own self-appointed path wherein they claim a closer connection to our Higher Power, or knowledge of what is right and what is wrong.

Addicts in other countries who see this happen in America are dismayed. They wonder aloud how such

things are permitted, while millions of addicts continue to suffer. A long-time member in Germany taught me years ago that the first eleven traditions each address specific issues related to the unity and strength of N.A. The Twelfth addresses how we collectively serve to fulfill those tenets of unity and strength. "Anonymously," he said, "is how we serve to fulfill the spirit of our traditions."

The office staff now in place is vastly different from the single full-time employee of seven years ago. They are a dedicated group of people. They are organized, trained, and capable. They can function very well with little direct supervision. Unfortunately, some members of the fellowship attack the office and the staff without reason. While I know this is done by a small minority, such attacks are disconcerting.

An effective staff needs the support of the membership, particularly from those with whom they work on a regular basis. At this, a time of change, they need your support and confidence more than ever. I am hopeful they will continue to be used in positive and creative ways, and not relegated to a second-class status.

There is a crisis facing the office that only the fellowship at large can resolve. Gone are the days when the WSO produced excess income from literature sales that could be used for new projects, services, or staff. There are three solutions: cut WSO activity, increase prices, or receive direct contributions from members, groups, areas, and regions. I do not know what solution you will select, but failure to increase the funds available to meet the needs of addicts around the world dooms them to an early death. N.A. is the only antidote, and only you the member have the key to its use.

The conference has occupied a large part of my attention and energy over the years. The regional representatives have, on the whole, been marvelous to work with. They have been interested, qualified, and enthusiastic, and full of new ideas. The officers of the conference have been great companions in the struggles we've gone through to help the conference succeed. They have shouldered responsibility, and demonstrated their leadership and innovation.

The conference system, however, has both a positive and negative side. While it generally serves to meet the needs of the fellowship, it facilitates dysfunction.



tion among some members and disruption of progress. The conference has normally mistaken egotistical acting out by individuals as a minority viewpoint. And rather than handling errant members as a sponsor would, the conference lets them divert the conference from essential work and decision making. This could be improved by fellow regional representatives taking a stronger stand with those who are displaying character defects, rather than remaining silent.

Like the WSO, the conference is also facing the same financial shortage. The only solutions here are to increase the amount of money that is contributed to the conference.

The Board of Trustees has occupied a larger share of time and energy in recent years than in the early 1980's. Their activation of a committee system two years ago can produce a creative and stable leadership base. Unfortunately, until recently the Trustees as a group were generally more ineffective than effective. Their new-found strength can be a positive valuable resource to the fellowship.

The Board of Directors has been marvelous to work for and with. They read and understood mountains of reports, letters, and proposals. Their decision-making skills have served the fellowship very well. I cannot think of a decision made by the board that was wrong or questionable. Although the Board of Directors seems to have less visibility than some other service positions, the members are responsible and responsive to the fellowship through the conference.

The procedure used for their selection av popularity contest aspect that permeates the of trustees or conference officer positions. The of Directors election process affords a balanced conference-expressed confidence in a group of members, then leaves to those who really know what job requires to make the final selection. I am hopeful that the current process will be changed very soon. There is a bright future for Narcotics Anonymous. It has been growing at a steady rate in the English speaking countries, and a little slower in other countries. As more literature becomes available in languages, the speed of growth there will accelerate.

There is nothing like N.A. Other organizations efforts directed at addiction use the law, medicine, or psychiatry, and it is not the same. Not as effective, as those approaches miss the heart that N.A. has proven is correct. Addiction is a disease that can be held in remission through N.A. meetings and working the steps.

As you read this, I will be toiling at a new project. I have moved to Utah and started a small company. Next spring, if it's God's will, I'll start a foundation for a house on the lot I purchased several years ago. The mountains of Utah, its beauty and serenity have long beckoned me and I cannot resist.

I do not say good-bye, as for me the parting is neither good nor forever. I offer my prayers for you and N.A., to fare well in your daily lives and in your efforts to carry the message to addicts everywhere.

## ANNOUNCEMENT\*

*The World Service Office, Incorporated introduces a variety of new recovery and service oriented publications and products, as well as pricing information.*

\*See next page for details.