

DM

Letter
to

Fellowship

Dear World Services,

Addicts from everywhere are hoping you will do something at this conference that will further N.A.'s ability to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering addict that is useful and affordable!

I hope you folks will remember the Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous while you go about your work here. I hope you remember that you are Trusted Servants, and a lot of people ARE TRUSTING you still.

We need to stand back and take a good hard look at our service structure in general and who specifically benefits from the existing structure. We should be alarmed and become willing to slow down what seems to be a car without any driver careening down a road to nowhere.

We must completely rethink, rewrite and revamp the legal structures of our tangible properties, as well as all our service policies. Please do not assume this will be an easy process or that there is some immediate "quick fix" solution based on emotionalism at this conference that will suffice.

By emotionally approaching these problems we could further dilute the ability to protect fellowship properties from an already weak protection position.

Solutions to our problems lie not in emotionalism or in tightly controlled management of information, but rather in the truthful telling of the realities, legal and otherwise. We must have complete, factual, information if we are to do a job that will have an ultimate positive purpose, outcome or impact!

Will our message or our properties be protected by copyrights designated "Work For Hire?" The answer is no. Work for hire will not bear the legal, moral or factual tests that would be utilized in any challenge to their efficacy. We must begin anew, in an atmosphere that any addict could trust and feel important and welcomed in!

One hundred people in Van Nuys for 6 days, once a year, cannot possibly say that they are the collective experience of Narcotics Anonymous personified. We have forgotten that the driver of that car should be the 750,000 addicts in 22,000 plus meetings around the world. We have ignored them for too long and that is why the car is out of control! We can not expect their continued trust, tolerance or limitless respect, especially with attitudes prevailing such as the one below that an RSR published to his region; QUOTE: Northern Cal.

Out here, we know that many others are out there on the floor listening to this that have the same disdain for the people that they are supposed to serve? The message is quite clear and it is getting louder all the time! That message is being heard by more and more of us out here everyday. The message is that World Services are ignoring the twelve traditions, the addicts in the groups, and those coming that will need us in the future. Perhaps there is an even more poignant message that is being disseminated and that is "World Service is becoming irrelevant!"

Addicts will find a way to fulfill the primary purpose of their groups, whether or not there is a World Service. We would all do well to remember that it is the power contained in the message that is freely given in our recovery meetings and the work that is being done there that is responsible for our explosive growth!!

After all, would anyone, anywhere in need of help really care that the person or persons that came to their assistance had a World title next to their name as long as they got the help they were seeking!?

Good Luck To Us All
In Loving Service,
Grateful Dave

Dear World Services,