Fo: Greg Emmons From: Rachel Houseman (FAX) 517/484-1560 (WE) 517/484-2872 (Hm) 517/484-4627 December 13, 1990

Dear N.A. member.

Your name and group are registered in the Michigan Regional list of Narcotics Anonymous groups. I am writing to you because of concern about issues which face our fellowship today. We am disturbed by events and actions taking place in the World Service structure, but also by the fact that so many of us who owe our lives to NA have turned our backs on the very program that saved our lives.

In a nutshell, this involves accountability by the World Service Office (WSO), it employees and Board of Directors World Service Board of Trustees (BOT), and the WSC Administrative Committee

WE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR ATTENTION:

- The WSO, its acting Executive Director, Stu Tooredman, and its Assistant Manager, George Hollahan, have signed depositions and filed a lawsuit against a fellow N.A. member, Grateful Dave, for copyright infringement of the Basic Text. These persons, service committees, and boards voted unanimously to allow Tooredman and Hollahan to pursue this matter.
- 2. These bodies and individuals (that carry no group conscience) voted to pursue this matter, without taking it back to the regions, areas, or groups for any kind of group conscience. This was an action taken by the above named boards, individuals, and committees alone. In the November 'Fellowship Report,' (released November 20) our input was asked for on this matter, including whether or not we wanted this action taken. The lawsuit was filed (90 pages of it) on November 27. The 'Fellowship Report' was not made available to "us" in the Michigan Region (if you have an ASR who passes this on to you) until the Region Service Committee meeting on December 2.

REG RIVING MICHIGAN REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEES

3. The Chairperson of MRSCNA wrote a letter to ASR's and Regional trusted servants, and signed it from "Michigan Region" condemning the distribution, sales, and use of the Baby Blue Basic Text, and mentioning that there were regional trusted servants involved with the Baby Blue Basic Text. The book was referred to as "illegal," with no basis for that assumption. As of today, NO COURT HAS JUDGED THIS BOOK TO BE ILLEGAL. No groups or areas were asked if they were in favor of a statement like this, and yet the letter was sent, supposedly, from "Michigan Region." To date, there have been no attempts by the Region to ask for or consider our group conscience.

Our questions to you are these. Did your group ask the WSO to commit itself to projected tens of thousands of dollars in legal costs to sue an N.A. member who is lives on Social Security benefits? Did the WSO consult your group to take this action? Why did the WSO choose to sue for \$100,000 from this man, when if they wanted him to stop, they could have sued for an injunction only? Is the WSO out to prove something? Is this how your groups wishes to see its 7th tradition money and literature sales profits spent? Is this how the WSO carries the message?

Did anyone at the regional level ask your group's opinion on the Baby Blue Basic Text? Why, when one person wrote this letter, was it sent as a statement from the entire region? Whose group conscience was this?

Our issue here is not the legality, morality, or spirituality of the Baby Blue Basic Text. My concern is that the WSO is spending thousands of dollars of our money, and did not ask for our group conscience, or wait for an expression of God's will to be shown.

What can you do? Enclosed is a letter from Grateful Dave, who is being such by WSO. Read the letter carefully. Talk about this at your next group conscience meeting. TALK ABOUT IT! Give a damn about what is happening to our fellowship. We have been in the dark too long. Start asking questions. Read the enclosed petition asking the WSO to suspend immediately legal proceedings against an N.A. member. If you like, design your own petition. Return it to: GSR, Insight Group, P.O. Box 20225, Lansing, MI 48901. Send any correspondence or input you have to that address. Feel free to make copies and distribute at your next ASC meeting. "WE KEEP WHAT WE HAVE ONLY WITH VIGILANCE..." How vigilant are you?

My name is Ted Curry and I am an addict. I am a member of the "Against All Odds" Group in Daytona Beach. By the grace of God, I will have 10 years clean time on January 19th. I am the newly elected Area Service Representative of the Daytona Area.

What I am about to say comes from a personal perspective, and only reflects Area Conscience to the extent that might be suggested by the fact that, after presenting these views at the opening of our last ASC, I was

elected as ASR by a vote of 19 pro, 3 con, and 2 abstentions.

The points I am addressing in this 3 minute presentation are: fiduciary accountability, fiscal responsibility, adherence to traditions, and copyright ownership. These are heated, emotional issues with legal ramifications that can only be finally decided by full due process in State and Federal courts.

This room, however, is the forum for presentation of words from trusted servants and the group conscience of individual members of Narcotics

Anonymous:

I am not now, nor have I ever been, engaged in the sale or distribution of the so called "Baby Blue" Basic Text. I am, however, philosophically aligned with duplication of N.A. literature by N.A. members as a viable option until questions of fiduciary accountability and fiscal responsibility are resolved between World Service Office, Inc. and the groups of N.A. I do, at this time, feel that the copyright for N.A. literature belongs to the spiritual fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. I am, at this time, of the opinion that World Service Office, Inc. has been fiduciarily unaccountable. This accounting could have been sent to each Area or each trusted servant at less expense than that incurred by the "justification" mailing I have received lately.

I have asked W.S.O. by phone on November 30th and was promised (by an administrative assistant of support services) a 1989 audit, but it never arrived, despite his assurance that it would be mailed that afternoon.

I do, at this time, suspect that World Service Office, Inc. may be financially irresponsible. I have heard so many accusations from within the Fellowship, and have received so many communications from the World that included no sufficient answer to questions raised, that I am left unsatisfied.

I have for some time thought that sometimes the Area, often the Region. and usually the World are not directly responsible to those they serve and are therefore in violation of Tradition 9, and function in a governing capacity in violation of Tradition 2. Stuart Tooredman, Acting Director of W.S.O., Inc. has sworn in Federal Court that the "Fellowship's decision-making body is the World Service Conference." Clearly they have placed World at the top of the service structure, not the bottom as intended by the Traditions. They serve us according to what they determine our needs are rather than what we think our needs are.

Our zeal for expediency and organization must not override our most fundamental premises. The unity of the spiritual Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous depends upon our success at this level, in either negotiating

with this corporation in California, or replacing it.

Our goal is to return the power in the service structure to the Fellowship. Our goal is to restructure the World Service Office, Inc. so that they are not a decision making body but are directly responsible to the Fellowship.

Our basic tenants are:

 All decisions should be made by group conscience going through Area to Region to World.

2. The World Service Office, Inc. should have no decision

making ability.

3. The 12 Concepts of Service should be abolished.

4. The Joint Administration Committee and the Board of Trustees should be abolished and not replaced.