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FAX COVER SHEET

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Sat Sep 26 1992 11:55 am

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Fax: 5 pages and a cover page.

Note: TEST OF FAX

N.A. RECOVERY IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY  
September '92

I am sure that you've heard enough about what N.A. was like in old day's, the way it was as it were! However, something that I've heard very little of, is how close the Fellowship was back then, and the concern we had for each other.

Some place along the way we seem to have given up that closeness, for the acceptance of being the one who sponsors the most people, who has the greater service appellation. We seem to pursue acknowledgment for what we say, rather than be the example of what we have to say. It seems as though Individual Recovery is measured by the amount of service we are into, rather than the quality of the life we live.

What has been bothering me for some time now, are question like, is Larger really Mo-Better? By that I mean the larger our Fellowship gets, the larger we seem to want to make it. It seems like the primary nucleus of our endeavor is P.I., and almost nothing on laboring towards compelling our Fellowship to become vigilant of each other, and grow stronger from within groups. And stop competing with each other, over who has the best group in town, who's Sponsor has the best Recovery, yes, even who's group does the most service.

Now it's all about bigger and better dance's, charging more money to get in them, holding them in better more elaborate place's. And workshops that take two or three days to stage, only then finding out that nothing got done. Because we spent all are time impressing each other, with how marvelous our homes are or how Great our limousines are! What ever happened to probing those we haven't seen in a while, as to what is actually happening in their Recovery, or permit them to know what you are striving for in yours.

When was the last time the World Service Office spent any money to assist your group to do anything, or propose any guidance in resolving a predicament your group is in? Usually what you obtain from them, is that's not admissible in N.A. today! Take Literature as an illustration, call the World office, and let them know that your group can not afford to pay today's prices for their merchandise, and that your contemplating reprinting some to be used solely to aid the still suffering Addict. Do you think that they will offer to send you some to get by until you can afford to reimburse them for it, or even extend you a line credit, with monthly payments. Not!! What you will hear about, is how if you have the audacity to do such an unthinkable deed, you will be delivered to the Court and placed in litigation. To retrieve what you taken, which in reality belongs to you. And what beats all is, they will do this with the very money you have passed along to them!! Ask Yourself, When have you ever heard anything from them, except no' money no' money Mo' Money!! According to our World Leaders, there is no Recovery without the funds to assure our longevity, or is it their perpetual dominion that they want to perpetuate?

Let's accept for a moment that no' money is really the path to Greater Recovery, and that more is really better! Then what are



we going to do, now that all the Treatment Centers are going out of business, Who are we going to sell all our high priced Literature too ?? How can we afford to improve ourselves, with no' money to recover from our seemingly hopeless disease. Is the old platitude really true, once an Addict, perpetually an Addict??

Of course We can always charge Ourselves more for Our Literature, or even place a registration tax on Our Groups, and then a monthly or yearly fee to continue as a recognized Member Group, of N.A. World Services Inc. [ Who, weather they recognize it or not work for us] Which is exactly what I expect to be coming next from the Van Nuys Authoritarians. Some times I wonder how we ever acquired anything worth the struggle they are wielding to profit from and govern for us. Sure, they are!!

Designer Recovery, yes that must be the answer, all we need to do, is ask each person what is most acceptable for them each day, and then make it procedure to minister to their desires and requirements. That way we would never have anyone despondent, dejected, or unhappy. And all we would have to do is live in bliss and admire ourselves, for our evolution in Recovery. Think of it, there would be no exertion to squander on the Steps, We would not have any necessity for the Traditions. All we would have to do is Have faith in the fact that everyone else is as attentive to our contentment, as we are interested in theirs. That way everyone would be endeavoring to acquire for us, more Preferable jobs, Improved Housing, excellent clothes, so we can have mo' money to pay for mo' Better Recovery.

Appreciate it or not, but that's precisely the direction we are headed in. Exclusively because the passage forward proceeds in that direction, Because when we pursue exterior solutions outward of ourselves, where else can we expect to end up. I haven't any idea about how anyone else perceives this, nevertheless this all echo's of the disease of Addiction to me. That disease we all suffer from that cause's us to seek solutions from any where, but from within ourselves. Yes of course, you can discovery how to change this process in our literature, but we have discovered that there is no need to read about it, when we can just pay the World Service Office for it. What we learn that way is to say one thing, and then do something completely different. I personally have witnessed this in most individuals from meetings, all over the world, right to the world service office. There is an old saying, "that when we first practice to deceive, oh what a web we do weave". Well, we are in that Web.

Now that we are in that web, what do we do about it? Do we just Recreate the N.A. program, or adapt to one our alleged world leaders reproduction of it? Yes, that must be it, Reproductive Therapy!! That sounds relatively effortless to me, isn't that where you enlarge through someone else's jeans. Or would that be known as Protein therapy, I would imagine that would depend on how you engaged in the procedure, wouldn't it??

We could always engross ourselves in a movement to save our regional Treatment Facility's. Although it is my contention that, that is how most of our predicament began in the beginning. After all, don't most of our alleged world leaders own or operate their very own Treatment Facility's ??? I once met an RSR from the northern end of central california, who was speaking of the

benefits of treatment facility's, by telling of his progress in the N.A. program. He stated that he started in a eight day detox, proceeded to a thirty day Treatment Facility, where after graduation, he was employed by his Sponsor as a Drug Therapist. He worked there for a short time, when he got home sick, and fed up with working for someone else. So his sponsor set him up with his own Facility at home, where he still resides and operates his Recovery business. This persons only knowledge of our Text, came from approving changes in it, such as the forth and ninth Traditions, as well as proper language and sentence structure.

This is not unusual any more, I have met to many alleged "Old Timers", who's entire knowledge of N.A. came from some where else, other than our program. And have absolutely no' knowledge of our Literature, not even our Text. It seems because we are always in such chaos around here, that it is relatively easy to gain control over groups, then area's, then regions where they have to bide their time, until the "Old Wardens" die off and make room for them. If that old platitude "you only go around once" is true, then that must be why our world leaders idea of recovery is, grab what you can, before it's all gone. I once heard a short little fat guy, who was our exalted leader for a short time say: "We have to live each day to it's fullest, because tomorrow we die". I don't know about you, but I want more out of my Recovery, than to realize that I will die tomorrow. It was also this same person who accused some of us of Stealing, what belongs to us anyway. At least that's the opinion of the Federal Court, where they have to answer the Contempt Charge's, that they have failed thus far to do.

Where I feel Recovery really begins after having admitted that there is a problem, is going though the effort of pounding in our heads the three Disturbing realizations, then researching every word in the text, as to it's exact meaning. Then and only then will we begin to understand what's being said to us in the text. Then answer the seven questions prior to Step one, of course the answers will be yes if you have any business being in the first place, so what you will need to do is:

1. First look up every word you would not bet your life on knowing.
2. Then write the word 10 times, so your hand knows how to write it.
3. Then write it in 10 different sentence's, so your lips know how to speak it.
4. Explain in a paragraph or more, why each of your answers are Yes!
5. Write each of the Steps by hand, then after rereading the step, answer these three questions.
  - A. What has this Step said to me.
  - B. How does this apply to me.
  - C. How am I applying this to my life.

All this of course is only a place to start, I have assume that you have selected a Sponsor, and that your calling them at least daily. Here would be a good place to state that the person you picked for a sponsor, has worked the Steps with a sponsor, and that they have an N.A. sponsor. This is only my opinion, and in no way am I stating that this is the only way. What I will say about



this, is that it has brought me this far. And it has never failed me when I have attempted to use it. Also it is ever changing to suit what ever need I may have at any given moment. I only chose to relate this as I have, because all I mentioned prior seemed to me, to be so negative. After all, we still need some thing that works for the twenty first century don't we ? And how many times have you heard people tell you what is wrong, without offering you something to do about it, well this my offering. My feelings on this, are if it has worked this long, why change it now ! I also feel that if a person feels this consent need to change the basic's in their life , then that person probably has no foundation to stand on anyway. For me that is what the Basic Text has been for many years, the foundation that allows me to grow, to expand into all I've ever desired. And all it takes is all I am willing to put into it, as well as how willing I am to give up that which holds me back, to gain that which allows me to advance.

I have people all the time reminding me that I am Archaic, antiquated, Outdated, Outmoded, Old fashioned, yes and even Contemporary. They think I am all these things from time to time, but not to often have they said these things directly to me. More often then not, it's behind my back. That seems to be the new Wave in Recovery, smash them down from the remoteness of their disease, then when they are completely down, pile them up, so they can clime higher, and higher, until they see them selves as a glistening protagonist of recovery, however it is not recovery that cause's them to glisten! At any rate in their eyes I may be all these things. But in my eyes, I simply see them as Out of Recovery. Or should I say Not in, Out implies that they were in recovery in the first place. The only thing I have found that you can destroy in order to rebuild in recovery, is yourself.

What I would like to see is our returning to a time, when, if we could not find something positive to vocalize about someone else, we just didn't say anything about them at all. Then when someone was endeavoring to disgrace another member, we would just apprise them of the fact, that it is their dilemma, and recommend them to work it out through the Steps. Reminding them of our Traditions, and how participating in that type of conduct, simply motivates them further away from the recovery they are exploring for. This is where I like to familiarize them with Mirror Therapy, where you look at yourself first. Then work on correcting yourself, before striving to correct someone else's difficulties.

Also I'd like to see us cultivating our Fellowship, giving it time to flourish from within, before proceeding to augment our Affiliation registry. After all, is that not just more of the same old thing that got us here in the beginning, Mo' is Better. I am not asking anyone to be satisfied with things as they exist, but to exclusively work on the change from within, instead of continuously struggling to alter everything on the exterior.

So How do we enter the twenty first century with a Recovery program that works, I'd prefer to consider that the way we started Recovery in this century, will continue to work on into infinity !

Respectfully Submitted

C.A.Dunlap III Esq.