

Chapter Seven

Just Getting Started!

In some ways the conference of 1976 was only an experiment, and one that failed when it was tried again. Since there had been no one from outside of California at the 1976 conference, it could hardly be called a "World Conference." The fiasco in 1977 was so embarrassing it gave everybody reason for rededication to make the conference work the next time. So when planning for a conference in 1978 began, it was in many ways like just getting started for the first time.

The trustees began 1978 with a meeting on February fourth. Present were: Greg P., Cliff K., Chuck S., Sylvia M., Gloria C., Bill B. and Bob B. The Board addressed a number of sticky issues. A meeting that was not strictly NA had opened an office and advertised its phone number as the NA central office (a trustee is reported to have arranged the termination of this situation). One of the trustees (Dennis McG.) had been elected as the chairperson of his region, and there was some speculation that this might present a possible conflict if it would give him two votes at the upcoming conference. This was not the case, however, and the matter was dropped. They reviewed the guidelines item by item and made some changes, but more work was needed. They discussed a plan by some local groups to collect money to send a newcomer to the Houston World Convention. The trustees suggested this practice was confusing and might detract from the group's ability to carry the message of recovery to newcomers.

Greg gave the office report, as Jimmy was absent due to illness. They also held elections for officers, but in doing so simply reconfirmed the elections held the previous September. Greg continued as chairperson, Cliff K. as vice-chairperson and Lin A. (non-trustee) as recording secretary.

A few days after the meeting, Greg mailed to the board copies of their guidelines as revised at the meeting. These guidelines would remain unchanged for the most part until 1984. Even though they finally had guidelines, they never utilized them to the extent possible. They were simply not sufficiently funded so they could accomplish the types of things the guidelines allowed. Furthermore they were not

inclined to exercise the range of duties and authority they actually had.

Soon after the meeting, Greg sent a letter to each of the regions, and a fair number of others, as part of his continuing effort to maintain a dialogue with the fellowship. He called for additional financial support for the office and the upcoming edition of *The Voice*. He announced the conference dates and outlined the agenda. He also included minutes of the last trustee meeting plus their revised guidelines. Prior to the conference, Greg and Jimmy again spent long hours getting ready. They developed the agenda and Greg wrote all the motions that needed to be adopted.

Jimmy and his office volunteers kept working away at routine office tasks, while at the same time they wrestled with other issues. First, they published an edition of *The Voice*, and used it to herald the conference. This edition of *The Voice* marks the initial issue of a new volunteer with *The Voice*, Lin A. She had moved from upper New York State to California simply to be part of NA. She was one of the more talented volunteers to work at the office. This issue was mailed slightly more than a month before the conference, although it carried a February date. It was a well balanced edition with emphasis on the conference, yet filled with other items of interest. One article announced an offer for delegates to stay with local members during the conference. This made it possible for some visiting delegates to more easily afford to come to the conference, and many accepted this welcomed offer.

Also announced to anyone who didn't already know, the Eighth World Convention would be held in Houston in September. A report from the Mid-West region announced addicts were being referred to NA meetings after hearing about NA from local radio broadcasts. Equally pleasing was their institutional meeting in a regional center for women and another at a large treatment center in Nebraska that were both still going after a year. A report about the Pennsylvania fellowship revealed local radio stations were giving NA free air time in the Scranton-Wilkes Barre area where they had a 24-hour answering service manned by members.

A surprising article, in light of more contemporary attitudes concerning clubhouses, said that "the first 'Survivors Club' in the San Fernando Valley grew from a need for a place for clean addicts to meet with each other in a setting other than NA as such. ... Other areas where clubhouses have started are Pennsylvania, Florida and Northern California." Within a few years, a barrier was established between the fellowship and these clubs. The membership acknowledged their existence, but refused to mention them in official publications.

In early March, Greg visited Pennsylvania on his way to attend a conference of the National Institute for Drug Addiction (NIDA). NIDA paid for his ticket and he took this opportunity to visit several parts of the fellowship. He was able to visit eastern and central Pennsylvania for three days going to meetings and visiting with members. It was the first time the Pennsylvania membership had seen an NA trustee in the flesh. He was able to attend meetings in each of the three major areas. He was warmly received and learned first-hand what the membership there felt about what went on in California. This may have been the final push that was necessary for the Pennsylvania fellowship to raise the money necessary to pay for their delegate to attend the April conference.

The NIDA conference Greg attended was sponsored by the federal government and they contacted the WSO to send someone. The conference was an "exploratory" conference on non-residential self-help programs. The subsequent report described NA in some detail and very favorably. The conference represented the federal government's most significant recognition of NA up to that time.

Following the NIDA conference, Greg flew to Georgia (still on the NIDA ticket) to visit Bo and offer encouragement and support for the writing project. He told his story at the newly opened Rising Sun Clubhouse, and again it was the first time a trustee had visited this new and growing part of the eastern fellowship.

The World Service Conference was held in the cafeteria at Los Angeles Valley College in Van Nuys beginning on Saturday, April First. Greg, as chairperson of the trustees, called the meeting to order. After the Serenity Prayer and a reading of the Traditions, the trustees were invited to rise and introduce themselves. Present were: Mark McG., Bill B., Cliff K., Chuck S., Bob B., Jimmy K., Carl B. and Gloria C. A roll call was then conducted, to which representatives of the following regions responded: Southern California, Northern California, Texas, British Columbia, Southeast (Georgia and neighboring states), Midwest Regional Area (North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Iowa), Pennsylvania, Colorado and the Minneapolis Area. Nine regions were thus recognized. There were nine trustees votes and one for the office.

Greg presided over a confusing, but fortunately brief, discussion about the specific goals of the conference. These were listed in the "Conference Working Paper" that was handed out, but they insisted on scribbling everything on a portable black board too. More than anything else it broke the tension and got people in a positive mood, a feeling that they were contributing.

Greg then presented a lecture, more or less, about how the service structure outlined in the *Tree* should work. There was considerable discussion and many questions, and after awhile Greg offered a motion (from the chairperson it was a little out of order and I quietly told him so). He proposed, "The basic structure of NA as it exists today, including the concepts of the member, the group, the ASC, the Regional Service Committee, the WSC, the World Service Board of Trustees and the office be formally recognized and adopted by this conference." A voting member rose to state, "I so move" which was then seconded. In short order the motion was adopted.

This motion had been described in the agenda material as "although approved by the Board of Trustees and in general use throughout the fellowship, it has never been formally adopted." This was an indistinct reference to the *Tree* and in essence the motion was to adopt *The NA Tree* and the service structure it outlined. The deed was done. It was generally understood they had adopted the *Tree*, although it was not mentioned in the motion. Remembering back to the 1976 fight in Ventura, the approval here seemed unreasonably smooth.

Now that a structure was actually in place and the delegates had a technical justification for being there and voting, business could be conducted. We then worked through a series of motions Greg and Jimmy had crafted. These included accepting the trustees as officers for the current conference meeting, deciding who the chairperson would recognize to speak and vote, and the general procedures for operation of the meeting. They had thought of everything: it was another testament to Greg's organization skills.

Unhappily, one of these motions, adopted without much serious discussion, came back each year for several years thereafter to virtually explode at the conference, destroying any peace and tranquility that otherwise may have existed. In the minutes, it says "Prior to any actual vote, a voice vote "yes" or "nay" will be taken to determine if the item should be brought to a vote at the conference or returned to the groups for conscience decision."

There have been two different ways to view this motion. The first interpretation was that the conference could avoid voting to reject or approve a motion by referring it to the entire fellowship and then taking the matter up the following year. As a second interpretation, some felt that it was a signal that no item could or should be voted on by the conference, unless and until each group in the fellowship had voted on the matter first. In the years to follow, the majority of conference participants would elect to use the first interpretation. It was the original intent of the concept of referring a matter for

group conscience, to have the conference pause long enough to consider the appropriateness of the decision.

Some conference participants wanted to use the second interpretation. This came to be a voting block of representatives that functioned as a "standing minority." Every time an issue would arise they didn't like, they attempted to invoke this policy and have the matter sent out to the fellowship for a group conscience vote. As often as not, the minority, in using this interpretation, was simply trying to "kill by delay" things they didn't like — a common tactic, but certainly a deceptive one. Truthfully, the majority used this tactic on occasion also, but in most cases it was a motion from the standing minority that had been presented before and resolved to the satisfaction of the majority.

That first morning of the 1978 Conference was a busy one. Motion after motion was proposed, briefly discussed, and decided. Nearly all the motions Greg and Jimmy proposed were adopted. Included were creation of six committees, a decision to elect officers and committee chairpersons at this conference and that they would serve from the end of the meeting through the next conference. After what turned out to be a good procedural "workout," all the motions that had been considered were then voted on as a complete package and adopted.

After lunch each representative came forward to give a report about their region. This was followed by Greg who gave a report about the trustees, including a historical summary and a current list of members. They had not added new members since before the conference in 1976, and they lost Jack W. when he died, reportedly of a heart attack while playing volleyball, leaving eleven trustees.

Jimmy came next and gave the office report. He reported income from donations of \$500.00, literature sales \$4,330.58 and a cash balance of \$534.59. Printing expenses were \$3,091.91, and other expenses came to \$2,062.47, which left a balance of \$210.79. He told of sending out 135 starter kits and answering approximately 950 phone calls. He gave a good overall summary of what the office was doing.

After Jimmy's report, elections for conference officers were conducted. Sue I. who lived in the San Fernando Valley was elected chairperson. Tommy B. a resident of Atlanta, Georgia became vice-chairperson. Lin A. who lived in the San Fernando Valley was elected secretary. Steve B. from Santa Rosa was selected as treasurer. They then recessed for dinner, a meeting and a dance.

Jimmy had suggested that I wouldn't need to return on Sunday morning for the committee meetings, and I didn't. The committees met in the morning to elect chairpersons and then decide what the

chairperson and the committee should accomplish during the coming year. The committees were composed of anyone who wanted to be on a committee. Elected were: Mary L. (Nebraska) to the Institutional Committee; Rick S. (Bay Cities) and Jan S. (Denver) were to co-chair the Public Relations Committee; Hank M. (Bay Cities) to chair the Policy Committee and Mark McG. (Bay Cities) to head the Literature Committee. After the committees finished their deliberations, a general session was held, mostly to receive reports from the committees about what they discussed. There were no motions proposed from the committees adopted in the closing session.

After the conference was over, Lin transcribed the minutes from tape records and mailed them to conference participants. Sadly, the tape recordings of the Sunday general session were lost not long after the conference, and the minutes do not provide information about work done that afternoon. Despite this difficulty, she did a magnificent job. Lin published the minutes of the conference in a special edition of *The Voice* soon after the conference was over. Performance of the various committees, on the other hand, was spotty. Due to the facts that no money was allocated to them, there was little or no leadership from the conference chairperson (and trustees), not much help from the office and even less from the poorly-structured committees. The year was nearly a waste.

The most striking exception was the work done by Mark McG., the literature chairperson. Mark was relatively new to the fellowship, and had only a few years' clean time. He was elected chairperson even though there were many with ten years or so who could have been given the job. Nevertheless he was elected and did a great job. His committee had decided to have all the literature then in circulation studied by the committee and any recommendations from them for revision submitted at the next conference.

About three weeks, later Mark held his first committee meeting. There were fifteen people present, he remembers, and they started revising the Little White Booklet. During the rest of the year he held regular meetings, twenty-five he reported at the next conference, but by the end there were only three or four attending each time. The people who participated were from the Los Angeles area, and primarily from the Bay Cities meetings. He remembers that Jimmy was the trustee assigned to his committee, but that Jimmy never responded to his invitations or came to a meeting.

Also absent from Mark's committee was Bo, who was back in Atlanta working away on his ideas for the NA book. He had evolved into a pattern of writing every day and typing his handwritten notes on weekends. He mailed copies of completed pages to Greg about once a month. Greg continued to encourage Bo and spoke to Jimmy

about this from time to time. It is not known if Mark was aware of what Bo was doing. Besides, working on a book was not among the things Mark's committee gave attention to, and Bo wasn't interested in editing existing literature.

Mary L. attempted to keep in contact with her Institutions Committee by phone and letters, but since she lived in the middle of the country and no money was allocated for her work, she wasn't able to accomplish much. No meetings were held.

Rick S., the co-chair of public relations, started the year by sending out a letter through the office asking for input from across the fellowship. They sought to develop a "media kit" to help members work with radio, TV and newspapers. Also important was to offer guidelines for phonelines and other public relations practices. He asked for input to be sent to the Sun Valley address, but little was received.

The Atlanta ASC had delayed its April meeting to accommodate Tommy's return from the conference. He reported everything, but seemed to stress the transition that was taking place from trustee control to fellowship control through the conference. He announced his election as vice-chairperson of the Administrative Committee and talked positively about *The Voice*. He also encouraged everyone to help Bo with the book, suggesting that if everyone took a chapter of the manuscript, worked on it, and gave it back to Bo, a lot could quickly be achieved.

Two weeks after the conference, the office board held its April meeting. The central issue was how to expand services despite a lack of money. The needs for more money, better equipment and more help were each discussed. The only concrete decision was an authorization of funds for a photocopier. Also discussed was the idea of selling "novelty items": bumper stickers, pens, etc., and Bob B. was given the task of checking out prices. Greg, who was also present, raised the concept of "opening an eastern branch of the office," an idea he received in letters from the Northern and Central Pennsylvania areas. "Jimmy expressed concern that it might cause a split and that what they were really feeling was the need of a central office (under WSO control). No action was taken on the idea."

The trustees were to have held their next meeting in May, but only Greg and Jimmy arrived at the appointed time and place, so the meeting was canceled. One of the trustees from those times recalled that, "it was common for trustees to miss meetings during this period. Those who were out of the area almost never attended because their travel wasn't funded and even trustees in Southern California were often unable to attend. Attendance would be up when a serious issue

was to be discussed. But in general, a small core group did most of the work."

At the Atlanta ASC meeting in May, Tommy gave another report on the conference and suggested they consider submitting a bid to host the World Convention for 1979. It was thought this would strengthen the Atlanta fellowship and make it grow, although they only had eleven meetings. They talked about the cost associated with Tommy being a member of the conference Administrative Committee. Although it was cheaper for him to travel since he worked for an airline, any expenses still came out of his own pocket. The idea of the ASC helping him financially would brew for awhile before they began to provide assistance.

As the summer months came and went, Mark continued to have Literature Committee meetings. Although the committee kept getting smaller, he stuck with it. They were not quite through with the White Booklet, but soon would be, and would then tackle the pamphlets and *The NA Tree*. While at the same time in Atlanta, Bo was getting a little more help from interested supporters. This was important because Bo had also been elected to serve with Pat S. as co-chairperson of the Bid Committee attempting to bring the 1979 World Convention to Atlanta. It was a busy time, raising funds, putting on dances, having raffles and trying to create interest.

An examination of the reports, minutes and correspondence of the year suggest it was a calm period of time, for the most part. The issues that were to arise from this period showed a shift in adversaries. Jimmy was in full control of the office and his old opponents in the north seemed to have turned to other matters. The new chasm being formed would pit the new and growing literature movement against the office. When the conference adopted the committee system that Greg had written into the *Tree*, it was not expected the committees would meet or work, except at the conference meeting. So when the 1978 Conference Literature Committee made plans to work throughout the year, Jimmy was concerned, but was not really worried very much.

After all, the Office Literature Committee had existed for years and most folks with any time would have told you that the Office Literature Committee was responsible for developing new literature. This was fundamentally what happened in the creation of the *Tree* and the five pamphlets everyone was using. Later Jimmy would even point out that the *Tree* did not give the Conference Literature Committee a duty to write anything, only to gather input. So he could have had, in the summer and fall of 1978, some confidence that he would be given the duty of putting the NA book together, when the time came.

Without having really tried to control the development of literature, it had seemingly fallen to Jimmy to do it when it was needed, first in 1954, then again in 1962, and twice more, with the *Tree* and the pamphlets being the most recent. During the earlier part of the decade there were notices and invitations for people to submit their stories to be put in the NA book, but little was ever received. It was generally accepted within the California fellowship, that when a book was going to be written, Jimmy was going to do it. Jimmy had the most time and was in charge of the office and they had been asking for book input for years. It would have seemed there wasn't anyone more properly situated to take care of it than Jimmy and the office. Nearly everyone understood this and supported the idea.

Even the work Bo was doing in 1978 was probably not alarming. It was probably not until the late spring of 1979 that Jimmy began to worry. Until that time arrived, he probably just considered what Mark was doing was an annoyance. And he probably felt that the conference wouldn't vote against him on literature matters anyway. This is the most likely reason he didn't attend any of Mark's Literature Committee meetings.

Jimmy had strong feelings about the things he had written and was unwilling to allow any change. The pamphlet, *Another Look* and the segment of the White Booklet entitled, "We do Recover," were particularly dear to him and would fight to the end to preserve them as he had written them. Mark and his committee were ignorant of Jimmy's connection to them and unaware of the depth of his feelings. They were busily working away doing what they thought was their responsibility to do.

Unfortunately Jimmy was so tied to the daily needs of the office that he did not have the energy or time to actively work on compiling a book. That Greg was encouraging someone else probably began to get in the way of their relationship. Occasionally he did give some support to Mark and Bo, but overall he was cool to suggestions that he give full support.

His better thinking and a little time, once in a while, were invested in trying to show that the Office Literature Committee *did* exist and should remain the authority on literature. In the summer he sent letters to a few people about re-constituting the Office Literature Committee. Unfortunately nothing really came of it and the Office Literature Committee simply continued to exist in theory only.

After failing to have a quorum at their spring meeting, the trustees did better in August. Five of the ten members were present, and business was conducted. Jimmy reported the German translation of the White Booklet was complete, the office tax exemption had been

granted, a new *World Directory* was about fifty percent complete, and the volume of work (orders, calls, letters, etc.) had increased one hundred percent in the previous six months. After a review of actions accomplished at the previous meeting (February) they addressed new business. Principally they discussed the apparent inadequacies in the leadership at the group level in Southern California. They were disturbed that ineffective group leadership was hindering the growth of the fellowship throughout the region. They decided to send a letter to each area committee urging them to initiate a training program for group officers.

In August, Greg sent out another one page open fellowship letter. He wrote about the tremendous growth the fellowship had been going through and expressed gratitude for being part of the "exciting period of growth." His other comments mirrored the discussion at the trustee meeting about groups needing trained leaders.

Mary L. sent a letter in mid-September to her Institutional Committee and other interested members. She thanked everyone for sending their ideas and material for the proposed handbook. She mentioned that a number of people suggested a pamphlet also be addressed "to the addict in an institution."

Rick, the co-chairperson of Public Relations (later to be called "PI" or "Public Information"), wrote a letter about this time to Jimmy. He explained he had given a questionnaire to Bob B. that he wanted published in *The Voice*. He had expected to see it in print by September, but nothing had arrived. He explained that without getting his request for information widely published, his committee could not achieve much of anything. Perhaps not realizing the complexity of the situation, he suggested that if he could get an advance copy of the *World Directory* he could do the mailing himself. And, by the way, he explained, Jimmy could send his answer in care of the Bay Cities ASC mail address, since he was their new treasurer.

Jimmy was determined to keep the mail list as private office property, so sending it to Rick through the Bay Cities ASC was simply out of the question. And Rick's letter had an implied confrontational closing. Jimmy's notes on the letter indicate he tried to call Rick but found no number. He probably just gave up as he had many other things to do as well.

The Eighth World Convention started on September twenty-first at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel. That they would put on a successful convention in Houston should have been a matter of little worry. Since there were only a few NA meetings in Houston, everybody attended both fellowships many had prior experience in putting on AA Young People's retreats and similar large events.

"Carry the Message to Houston" was the theme they selected, but many California members felt they hadn't carried the right message. Friday morning, Mike Y. from Littleton, Colorado spoke, and that night Rudy Z. from Alameda, Texas and Pat S. from Atlanta both spoke. The Saturday night speaker was Gene H., from Ashland, Oregon. On Sunday morning, Dee T. (Houston) spoke at the convention's closing meeting.

A business meeting was held on Saturday, but only to establish a voting procedure for selecting future World Conventions and to select the next convention. A lengthy discussion ensued to determine eligibility to vote. Eventually a number of options emerged and then each was voted into oblivion. Finally a procedure was adopted; one vote would be cast by each of the recognized "areas" present at the convention. Thirty "areas" were then recognized. Sixteen of the "areas" were outside of California, thereby putting California on the defensive. Bids were put forward from Southern California; Atlanta, Georgia; Colorado (the city was not specified at the time) and Ashland, Oregon. Following the last bid presentation a recess was called (so each area could caucus and decide their vote) and after a period of time the written ballots were collected. At the banquet that evening it was announced Atlanta was selected by a unanimous vote.

Estimates suggest there were about a hundred and fifty members from California and perhaps a hundred from Texas or other places. Some of the Californians came away with a sour attitude because of the strong AA Young People's influence. A three person team of members from Atlanta went away with a more positive attitude. They had won, and now they had to get to work and put on their first large event — a World Convention. Since they didn't receive any money from the Houston Convention Committee to help get started, they raised their own.

Despite the AA influence, the convention was exciting for everyone, but it was exceptionally exciting for Bo. Besides coming to present the Atlanta bid, he came to meet with Greg to discuss in person the work he had been doing. He met Greg and Greg's wife Lois in New Orleans, at Lois's family home a week before the convention. There they went over everything Bo had accomplished. The week they spent together was very important for both men. Bo had begun to develop the same kind of relationship with Greg that Greg had with Jimmy. Each found in the other a person of like mind, a determination to get an NA book written, and a common vision about how that would be done. During the convention, Bo visited Bob B. and showed him all the work that had been done. Bob was suitably impressed, and Bo returned to Atlanta more enthusiastic. So were his supporters. The number of people attending his area Literature

Committee meetings where they worked mostly on discussing ideas about the book, slowly began to increase.

At the Southern California regional meeting in October, they assigned Kevin F. the duty of scouting out a place for a regional central office. They intended to take over the task of providing literature for all the area committees and groups in the region, and also to have recovery meetings in the same place. They acknowledged defeat of their bid to host the World Convention. Perhaps they understood it wasn't going to return for a long time, so they decided to plan for their own event, the first Southern California regional convention.

Things were taking a similar twist in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon and British Columbia) when they held, on November 3-5, the first regional convention in Portland at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. It was a fine affair. Bob B. from Los Angeles Spoke and he may have been the first trustee to visit that part of the fellowship.

For the second time in the year, a trustee meeting was canceled as only four trustees — Greg, Mel H. Chuck S. and Jimmy — were in attendance. Accordingly, elections were not held, and incumbent officers continued to serve. A special meeting was set for January 1979 for the purpose of conducting elections.

The November *Voice* reported that the conference had been held, but provided no substantial details. However, a letter from Mark sought participation and input on all literature items. He reported the committee was reviewing them for possible revisions, and their work would be up for approval at the next conference. He sought input on them and contributions of other material, personal stories, etc. Also included was a condensed version of the letter Mary L. had sent out earlier to the Institution Committee. Nothing, however, was included about Rick's request for Public Information input. This edition had a strong flavor of NA business, rather than sharing recovery. Seemingly there had not been much received at the office in the way of recovery contributions. An editorial comment sought personal stories for future editions. An important, but tiny message announcing the completion of the *World Directory*, was included. The directory had indeed been published, the first in two years. The directory included 367 meetings in the US and 24 in other countries.

AL	1	KY	2	NV	1
AR	2	LA	2	OH	1
AZ	6	MA	3	OK	2
CA	128	MD	1	OR	9
CO	4	MI	4	PA	42
CT	2	MN	13	TN	7
DE	2	MS	5	TX	15
FL	6	MT	2	UT	2
GA	14	NC	1	VA	3
HI	9	ND	5	WA	6
IL	10	NE	11	WI	18
IA	9	NJ	3	DC	1
KS	12	NY	3		

Other meetings were listed in Australia (15), Canada (3), Chile (1), Germany (1), Guam (3) and India (1) for a total of 391 meetings. The office mail log and income records clearly show a relationship between literature or starter kits mailed and new meetings in the directory. While the office may have been slow to get literature orders out, they mailed starter kit requests immediately. This immediate response was obviously an element in getting new meetings started across the country and a few places outside of it too.

Despite Rick's neglected request for help, he did some communicating on his own, and from the experience of his own ASC, a pioneer in Public Information, he gathered and wrote as much as he could. He was able to hold a few committee meetings with people from the Los Angeles area, and they developed a Public Information kit that they presented at the conference the following spring.

Jimmy called me in November and asked if I would come back in 1979 to help once more with the conference. I was beginning to get used to the hectic and often confrontational meetings, so I agreed.

Near the end of the year, Jimmy prepared a financial report covering the period from March first to December thirty-first: income from literature sales was \$6,385, and group donations totaled \$800. Expenses were less than income, leaving a balance of \$600 with which to start the new year. Principal expenditures were for printing and copying, \$3,316; mailing costs, \$1,059; key tags (a new inventory item), \$654; and telephone, \$624. A small but, as it turned out years later, interesting entry among the printing expenses was payment to a company called Thought Process, for the total of \$87.50. In the following year Thought Process, a print shop half a mile from Jimmy's home, would get a larger share of printing assignments. As the years passed, they became the primary printer for the White Booklet, pam-

phlets and other items. In the 1982 Basic Text printing fiasco discussed later, this company was the culprit.

Also shown was a \$50.00 per month payment for Office Expense. Although not explained in the report, this was the first concession to the inconvenience put upon Jimmy, and his family for having the NA office in his home. This small stipend was essentially all he received as compensation for doing the work and keeping everything in his house. There was at the time, and for many years after, a suspicion among some that Jimmy was getting a lot of money. But even Chuck S. would later say, "if Jimmy had taken all the money that NA had at the time, he would never even have come close to breaking even." But the rumor mongers and perpetual antagonists didn't know the truth or didn't want to know it, and so the rumors persisted.

Jimmy had continued to record all items mailed and every dollar in sales and donations. Some entries of interest on the sales ledger include purchases made by Hazelden and Comp-Care in February. Although the amounts were modest, both became regular customers who purchased the material for resale to their mail order customers. Twelve percent of office sales during the year went to these two organizations. Ten years later, with overall sale volumes many times higher, that proportion would be about the same.

Nineteen seventy-nine was another busy year for the fellowship. The conference was a little better, and a lot of new meetings started.

The year began for the trustees with the special meeting on January sixth, although only five of the eleven trustees listed as members were present. Greg was re-elected as chairperson, Cliff K. as vice-chairperson, and Lin A. (non-trustee) to be recording secretary. The board only discussed a few issues, including the need for the board to be more active and for members to attend trustee meetings and the conference, but no decisions were made.

Sometime during January, Tommy suggested to Bo that he arrange to go to the conference in April. Bo didn't have the money at the time, and held no elective position that would require his attendance, so he said no. Tommy was persistent and convinced Bo to just allow him to make the reservation. "It could always be canceled later," Tommy said, "but it would be more difficult without a reservation if you decided later that you wanted to go." Tommy made the reservation for him.

Out west Greg suggested to Jimmy that they invite Bo to write a letter that could be sent out by the office inviting members to take an active part in writing of the NA "Big Book." As Jimmy still expected the book would be done through the office, he did not outwardly seem threatened and accepted the idea. Bo later admits he was reluctant

to write the letter as he held no official position at the world level related to literature development. He was keenly aware there was a Literature Committee, and he supposed that this kind of communication should be their task. But he wrote the letter as he was encouraged to do, and the office mailed it.

In his rambling way, Bo addressed the reluctance of the average member to become involved in literature development. But he explained it is a pressing need and that if members tried it, they might find it isn't so hard after all. In a closing sentence, he asked if members volunteering would want to have their name and address known to others who were also working on the book. Over the long haul, the direct communications between Bo and "literature minded people" across the fellowship, and his encouragement of this kind of networking among these people, was the key to his success.

At first, Greg and Jimmy were both of the same thinking concerning Bo's work. For seven years, the duty to write an NA "Big Book" had been the province of the office (as implied by a trustee action in 1972). Even Bo was expecting to submit his work to world services and have it worked on by others. However, over time, Greg had begun to change his mind. While Jimmy might *talk* about writing the book, nothing got done. And here was Bo, nearly a newcomer, who was serious about getting a book written. True, Greg could see that Bo's early work would require a lot of effort before it could be used, but Bo's determination and spirit could make his project successful. Greg slowly moved from covert support of Bo to more open support. In so doing, he probably initiated the painful separation that later took place between Greg and Jimmy.

In the early part of the year, Jimmy filed on behalf of the office, copyright registration papers for *The NA Tree*, *Narcotics Anonymous* (the Little White Booklet), *So You Love An Addict* and *Another Look*. These were eventually approved by the Office of Copyright and Patents, and acknowledgments of copyright returned to the office.

On the night scheduled in February for the trustees meeting, Greg and two other trustees waited for a while before canceling the meeting because the other eight didn't show up. In a letter from Lin about the cancellation, she announced the next meeting would be held in conjunction with the conference, and requested the trustees to review the proposed changes in their guidelines so a decision could be made at the meeting.

A March edition of *The Voice* announced the conference would be held on April 28 and 29, again at Valley College in Van Nuys. The office published in this edition a lengthy item of input that was described as a feature of the newsletter to be carried thereafter. It was an essay on Step One. The introductory notice invited member input,

but again, it did not mention the Literature Committee or the work Bo was doing. In fact the notice is credited as coming from, "WSO Inc. CARENA Publishing."

Near the end of March, Mark M. sent out a packet of information to probable conference participants. This included copies of the revised publications for which they were seeking conference approval; The White Booklet, *For the Newcomer, Getting Realer* (A Guide to the Fourth Step), *We Made A Decision* (revised), *Another Look* (One Member's Opinion)(revised). Another pamphlet, *So You Love An Addict*, was not being recommended for approval, as the committee felt it was not directed at addicts, but rather toward family members. Also included were revisions to the *Service Manual*. Altogether it was quite an impressive package and gave everyone a lot of work to do before the Conference.

By the beginning of spring, the Pennsylvania publication, *NA News*, was showing its capacity to be a regular newsletter. Since starting the previous year, they had put out a quality publication on a quarterly basis. They reported about meetings and events throughout the state and things their members would need to know. In early April, the Northern California Region published the First Edition of their newsletter, *Main Line* which carried a front page story about the Atlanta World Convention. *Main Line* became the second regional newsletter to begin regular publication.

Sue I. the Conference Chairperson, opened the World Service Conference on April 28, 1979, as scheduled. Regional reports were given by seven RSR's: Northern California, Southern California, Texas, Midwestern, Colorado, Nevada and Southeastern. Northern California reported having five areas and roughly 35 groups, and copies the *Main Line* were handed out. Southern California also reported having five areas and was considering a regional service office. Texas reported about seven meetings and difficulty communicating outside of Houston. The Midwestern representative told of having their first regional meeting and a campout was scheduled for June. Tommy B. gave the report for the Southeast region indicating that the Friday night meeting Bo S. held each week on the book was getting between twenty-five and eighty people. Their clubhouse was hosting six regular and one marathon meeting a week. The Colorado RSR reported four groups in Boulder, Denver and Colorado Springs as well as seven meetings in a Boulder clubhouse. Bill K. from Las Vegas told the conference his area only had about ten active members within the two meetings they held.

The reports showed great determination and energy, but they also showed how small the fellowship really was. The *World Directory*, published just five months earlier, showed only California and

eight other states with more than ten meetings. This left California with the most reliable service structure. Most of the representatives were actually representing what should have been considered area committees, rather than regions. The fellowship was experiencing very rapid growth and some of these states with only a few meetings in 1979 had two or three times that many meetings within a year.

The office report was given by Jimmy. He told of interest from the military in getting NA meetings started on their bases and continued progress in translations of the White Booklet into German, Spanish and French. He mentioned that the Federal and State tax exempt number had been received and, "that these numbers are for use of the fellowship as a whole." This statement was to cause me considerable difficulty when I took over as office manager, and remained a source of trouble long after I left.

The Office financial report showed the following:

<u>Revenues</u>	
Starting cash balance.	\$210.00
Donations	1,032.93
<u>Sales Income</u>	<u>7,949.94</u>
Total	\$9,193.66

<u>Expenses</u>	
Telephone	\$645.76
Miscellaneous	33.93
Mailing	956.57
Office Supplies	1,879.25
Office Expense	1,250.00
<u>Printing</u>	<u>2,850.60</u>
Total	\$7,896.11

<u>Balance</u>	\$1,986.76
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Also shown were depreciable assets (\$500), Accounts receivable (\$500), Accounts Payable (\$225), and inventory (\$1,300). I didn't understand the mathematics in the report then, and still don't.

Greg gave the trustees' report. He told of spending the year establishing their internal guidelines and trying to motivate their members. He also announced a temporary committee had formed, headed by Bob B., to help start meetings on military bases. Serving with Greg at that time were Bill B., Jimmy K., Carl B., Mel H., Gloria C. (non-addict), Cliff K., Chuck S., Dennis McG. and Bob B. For the first time — and what would be the last time for a few years — the trustees invited nominations of members who the trustees might

consider for selection as new trustees. Thirteen names were offered, of which two were subsequently chosen by the board as trustees (Sally E. and Hank M.). Hank was not selected until 1980 and Sally was not selected until 1981. Two other suggestions were eventually elected by the conference to be trustees, Steve B. in 1985 and again in 1990 and Stu T. in 1991.

Amy, Finance Committee chairperson, suggested a newsletter should be started to let people know how to handle financial matters. Or maybe, she suggested, the conference ought to set up a "financial kit" to show what other areas have learned. Hank M. reported the Policy Committee had no recommendations, since no policy matters had been referred to them. No report was given from the Institutional Committee. Rick handed out copies of the PI kit they had written on how to conduct Public Information activities. Mark McG. stated the Literature Committee held over twenty-five meetings and sent out fifty packets of literature containing items they had worked on. He handed out those same packets again to the participants.

Elections of officers for the next year were then conducted. Tommy B. was chosen to be chairperson, Chuck G. (So. CA) to serve as vice-chairperson, Faun F. (So. CA) was elected as secretary and Amy W. (Santa Rosa) was elected treasurer. Those elected to committee chairpersons posts were Bryan S. (Bay Cities) to Policy Committee, Bob B. (San Francisco) Institutional, Alan R. to Public Information; Bo S. (Marietta, GA) to Literature, and Sue I. (Van Nuys) to finance.

The committees met the following morning to consider input and final action on the proposals they were making. All of the committees did quite well, except for Mark and the literature group. At this meeting there were a number of vitally concerned people who had missed all of the twenty-five meetings he held. But some of this new bunch wanted to scrap a lot of what they had done, and strong arguments erupted. This was particularly the case with the White Booklet and things Jimmy had authored. After lunch the reports were given and action taken when appropriate.

Things went relatively smoothly for Rick and the public information booklet. There were a few revisions, and the booklet was adopted. The literature items were more confusing. When Mark presented the recommendations, he finally learned that Jimmy had been contributor of important portions of the White Booklet in addition to *Another Look* and *Recovery and Relapse*. There was vigorous debate, after which, as the minutes show, a "motion was then made to accept [the Literature Committee] packet, including recommendations made by committee, as WSC approved literature. Seconded, Carried." It was later "motioned that in the packet the I.P.'s and general in-

formation be deleted [from the previous action of approval] and be sent back to the groups for comment and final approval by the groups...Motion carried."

Even today it is hard to understand exactly what this quote from the minutes said about what had taken place. The first motion suggests the pamphlets in the packet were thereafter approved literature, while the later motion suggests the material was being sent out for review until the next conference. It is no wonder the fellowship was filled with controversy over literature matters. Indeed the material was ordered sent out to the groups for a group conscience vote.

As the conference was about to end, Bo was recognized and spoke for a few minutes on the work being done to write a book for and by NA members. Essential to this project, he suggested was "forming Literature Committees all over the world." This notion was quickly dismissed by most oldtimers as a pipe dream. But Bo was serious. Bo was greatly surprised at his election to chair the Literature Committee. It was, at first, not exactly what he imagined it was. The committee had been the most active, but its efforts had been directed toward revisions of existing literature, not on development of new literature.

Bo stayed for two days after the conference was over. He spent an evening with Mark in his home, and Bo received the originals of the literature that needed to be sent out to the fellowship. Some of it had been modified in the Sunday morning committee meeting. There were no other copies. Bo also got all the other literature files to take home. He visited with Greg and Jimmy to discuss literature matters. Some time during those discussions, Bo and Jimmy talked about the pamphlets to be sent out for consideration. Bo was to later write in his book that he gave the originals to Jimmy who agreed to send them out. However, at the next conference this was hotly contested. But that was a full year away. While Bo was still in Los Angeles, he was warmly treated by Jimmy who even took Bo to the airport to see him off.

Regardless of what Bo later wrote in his historical account of these events, a letter from him to Jimmy at the office dated May 2, 1979, suggests the transfer was done by mail. The second (and last) paragraph reads, "We are passing along the packet from last years Literature Committee for publication as approved by the recent World Service Conference. If there are any questions or problems that develop, we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible to expedite publication." Assuming one or the other method of transfer took place, which seems reasonable, it became the duty of the office to mail out the proposed revisions, or return them to Bo for his committee to take care of. During the course of the year, Bo relates in his

book, he asked Jimmy in phone calls about when the items were going to be mailed, and he never got a reasonable or clear answer. Eventually he just stopped asking about it.

Soon after the conference, the *Main Line* published its second issue, which contained a brief report on the conference and highlighted the Ninth World Convention. In an editorial comment couched within the report, the *Main Line* wrote, "The office is located in the back of Jimmy's house, there are no paid workers. It does not take very much imagination to understand that this arrangement is not working. We need an office, and paid workers, eight hours a day, five days a week. Narcotics Anonymous has become too big. Its needs too great." On a later page, they published the numbers for the federal and state tax exemption with the admonition, "These numbers can be used by the fellowship for bank accounts, post office boxes and bulk mailing permits, and other functions." Reading it later made the hair on my neck stand up again.

Jimmy was not really happy about two things in the second issue of the *Main Line*, and discussed them with Bud the editor. He followed this up with a handwritten letter outlining his objections. The important issue was his concern over a statement in which the *Main Line* reported the Literature Committee is "writing new NA literature." Jimmy was clear to point out, "according to guidelines they (the committee) gather, compile and put into suitable form input from members who write. Members write NA literature, the conference Literature Committee performs the above services." How widely they circulated the letter is not known. But at least they could have realized there was a battle line being drawn between Jimmy's view of how the book should be written and what Bo was organizing to do.

Even while these exchanges were taking place, Bo cranked up his typewriter, bought some stamps and increased the number of phone calls he made. The communications from him during the coming months were staggering, by comparison to the rest of the conference and its committees. During some periods, he was having meetings weekly and sending out minutes of them. During others he was sending copies of letters to different area literature committees with new work assignments and requests. He was always writing letters and talking with people on the phone.

In what turned out to be an invaluable change, the Atlanta Area Literature Committee, which he had been chairing before he left for the conference, elected Linda G. to replace him. Linda essentially carved out a space for herself in the literature picture, but in so doing became a close ally to Bo throughout the following few years. Whenever Bo needed a tough job done, he often turned to Linda and it was taken care of. Bo could now point to the Atlanta Literature Commit-

tee as a distinct entity separate from the World Literature Committee. This was helpful in showing immediate progress.

Fairly soon after the conference, Bo was able to picture in his mind how he wanted to go about getting the book done. First he needed to successfully hold a literature conference in Wichita, a site selected by the conference. It was in the middle of the country and thought to be more accessible to the general membership. He would invite everyone who wanted to participate, generate some enthusiasm among them, give assignments and get a lot of work done. His idea of a mass movement was a radical departure from how things had been done in the past, and oldtimers expected the venture to fail. Besides, some of them even felt Bo wasn't all there, no matter where he was.

Less than two months after the conference, the details of the workshop for October 6-7 were in place. Wichita, whose Literature Committee had volunteered to host it, had arranged for facilities and was raising money to pay for anticipated expenses. Under the leadership of Cliff H. and Annie W., they would have everything in place when folks showed up. They got people to volunteer their homes for people rather than having to pay for hotel rooms. They organized a transportation committee and made arrangements for typewriters and other equipment.

While this was going on, Bo kept meeting with the WSC Literature Committee on a weekly basis. It didn't seem to bother him that only four or five people from the Atlanta area came to the meeting. They sifted through all the earlier work and helped prepare it for subsequent review by other committees and members. An information sheet was soon developed and sent to each person volunteering to be a member of the World Literature Committee work force.

During the early summer months, area literature committees were formed in Wichita, in the San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles, and in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Later, committees would also form in Miami and Minneapolis. Bo used the *Main Line* as another way of getting information to his committee and the fellowship at large. In one report to the committee, he suggested they even subscribe to the San Francisco-based newsletter. By devoting so much energy and time to the work, the committee began to grow and members across the fellowship began to take notice. This was the first real fellowship-wide enterprise that the average member might become directly involved with. A Literature Committee roster from July shows members in thirteen states.

While Bo was pushing as hard as he could on the Literature Committee work, there was also the World Convention. As co-chairperson with Pat S. he had to attend to those meetings and complete a considerable amount of work. Fortunately there were a lot of

people already keyed up for the convention, and the Administrative Committee was well-organized. They selected their speakers, arranged for programs and T-shirts, and handled a variety of other tasks.

Despite later criticism of Bo for how the committee worked, the volume of letters and personal notes are testament to his efforts to communicate with others and seek support. It was not long, however, before his letters began to discuss the financial needs of the committee and the idea of the committee being self-supporting. In his September committee report (his second quarterly), he announced formation of a new committee in Omaha, provided details of the procedure followed by the Atlanta committee and described some of the material he had available for further work.

Greg had been in a quandary all summer. He had a good job and was comfortable in Los Angeles, but he wanted to move his professional life in a different direction. Through phone calls, a visit or two and some other footwork, he decided to move to Oregon. It came as a great surprise to many, particularly Jimmy. Neither would have admitted it at the time, but their feelings had changed over the prior year. They were drifting apart. But if you had asked them they would both have said they were still close as ever. Jimmy was unhappy with Greg because of his support for Bo's efforts to work on the book. This became more pronounced after Bo became literature chairperson.

Greg was also unhappy with some of the things Jimmy seemed to be drifting toward. Rather than being the same old Jimmy, Greg felt he had somehow changed a little as a result of two hospitalizations and operations to open his carotid arteries. His attitude about some things and some people seemed to have become more unbending and more negative. Greg was probably sensing the subtle shift of a man under pressure who was getting older and was not in the best of health. Rather than finding old acquaintances rallying behind him, Jimmy was increasingly finding more of them "turning against" him.

In September, Greg packed his family with all their belongings and moved to Oregon, near Grants Pass. Not too long afterward, Tony D. and Nancy, both from Southern California NA, moved to Grants Pass as well. The three of them started meetings, organized the Siskiyou area committee and eventually helped form the Pacific Northwest region. Greg continued to actively support Bo and the work on the book, but his participation with the office and the Board of Trustees decreased significantly.

While Bo and his growing committee were picking up momentum, the office finally felt the need to seriously get into the literature development act too. Sadly, rather than reaching out to be inclusive

and bring new participation in the Office Literature Committee, their list of members is marked with deletions. It seemed that anybody who disagreed with Jimmy's view of how literature should be developed was removed from the committee.

In September, another edition of *The Voice* was published. This edition was sixteen pages long (three times longer than any previous edition), professionally typed, and contained primarily recovery material. This may also have been in response to the competition *The Voice* was getting from the *Main Line*, both for subscribers and content.

On a warm September sixth, the Ninth World Convention began in the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel, with a theme of "I can't — We can." For the first time it began on a Thursday, but it was a light afternoon schedule with registration, a participation meeting and a dance. Friday was filled with meetings and workshops. Shirley C. from Virginia Beach spoke early Friday, and at the evening speaker meeting, Tom C. from Hawaii addressed a large crowd.

Saturday was filled with business — more meetings and workshops. At the bid meeting, a token bid was offered by Miami, but the real push was made by Wichita. They were already in everyone's mind, as they were hosting the literature conference a month later. At the banquet that evening, Wichita was announced as the winner for 1980. Sam H. (Desert Hot Spring, CA) was the evening speaker. Unfortunately Sam was a well known AA Young People's circuit speaker, and a lot of California people were upset that an NA member wasn't chosen to speak. The following morning, Cheri H. from Grants, New Mexico spoke at the Spirituality Meeting.

During the Saturday morning workshops and the conference business meeting came a commitment by a few members that a special fundraising project to support the office and the literature development process should be undertaken. Called, "Spirit of the 80's," it opened the potential for a closer relationship to the office, better member information about the office, and better service. It could also mean that the money necessary to produce the book would be available. It was a good idea, but it didn't work.

The world service business meeting was chaired by Tommy. Although reports were given by the Hospitals and Institutions, Literature, Public Information, and Finance Committees and the trustees, nearly all the discussion eventually turned in the direction of the office, its relationship to each committee's activity and the need for money.

For example, Alan R., the chairperson of the Public Information Committee, reported that they felt it was the committee's responsibility to inform "various areas [of the fellowship] of the need to

support [the] office, monetarily." This was tied to the need for the office to publish the material the PI Committee was developing, as they had no money to publish it themselves.

During the Finance Committee discussion, the costs for development of the book were brought up. Bo said that the \$10,000 projected cost was way low and that a more realistic figure is \$50,000. He encouraged all members to make a greater financial commitment. Discussion then drifted to problems some were experiencing with the office. A number of people rose to complain about one failure or another with the office to adequately respond to their needs. Chuck S. (trustee) explained "that these same problems have been discussed for the past 18 years, but the bottom line was the dollar bill." He pointed out that Jimmy has devoted his whole life to doing things that paid employees should be doing, but that in order to have paid employees and efficient operation, "we must first have additional cash." But adequate funding was still years away.

As the convention was winding down on Sunday, the host committee was terrified to learn that they were going to be left greatly in debt. After checking the figures, it seems they would owe the hotel about \$1,300 after all the money had been distributed. In the closing meeting this was announced and baskets passed around for voluntary contributions. A lot was received, but not enough so the baskets went around again. After the second pass, Chuck S. remembers telling the host committee, "you'll have to eat the rest," suggesting they raise the difference themselves. Later the host committee did conduct several fundraising events and gave all the proceeds to the hotel. The hotel was cooperative and appreciated the committee's diligence. The last of the debt was paid off with profits from the World Convention the following year.

Overall, the convention was a tremendous success, and estimates suggest between 300 to 500 people were in attendance. It was the first major fellowship event east of the Mississippi River. Addicts from all over the eastern states came to the convention. Most returned to their communities all fired up and started new meetings, area committees, phonelines and institutional meetings.

On Sunday afternoon when the convention was winding down, a bunch of members ended up at the Rising Sun Clubhouse in nearby Marietta. The anniversary of the founding of the clubhouse was that weekend and people always gathered then to commemorate it. Among those present were some who had just been in Atlanta for the convention. Greg P. was one of those people. A lot of discussion centered around the WSO, and nearly everybody was unhappy. Despite Greg's membership on the Board of Directors, he was unable to fully explain why there were always so many problems. Out in the fellow-

ship, far from California, the failures didn't seem justifiable anymore. Somewhere in the course of the afternoon's discussion, Greg began to change his attitude. No longer would he continue to simply make excuses for what the office did. He had become converted to the view that there were problems there and they needed to change. It would be a long time before Jimmy realized his most ardent defender wasn't going to be a defender any longer.

One of those folks to come to their first NA convention was Joseph P. from Memphis. Dean, a California member, was hitch-hiking across the country to the convention and had received a ride near Memphis with an AA fellow. As they talked, the AA man thought his friend Joseph might be interested. After dropping Dean off with Joseph, a long talk led him to decide to go to Atlanta too. Jim M., a member from the fledgling fellowship in eastern Ohio also attended the convention. This was his first exposure to "the greater NA." Both Jim and Joseph met a lot of people, but perhaps most providentially they met Bo and Greg. A friendship soon evolved, and they got swept up in the drive to write the book. They would both end up working closely with Bo and for a time each looked to Greg for sponsorship.

The Wichita literature conference began on October sixth as scheduled, and everyone worked at a feverish pace. With only two days in which to get the work done, Bo wanted to use every minute. They began with a welcome meeting at the Ash House, an NA clubhouse. A planning session was then conducted followed by lunch. After lunch, the meeting moved to a building across the street where more space was available and committees could each meet separately.

Bo worked hard to preside over the work and provide general supervision. He kept the members working long hours and never allowed much slack time. Most folks stayed in homes of local members, so they were more of a captive work force. In a post-Wichita letter to Jimmy, Bo reported that forty members attended and "seven workshops discussed each element of our effort and wrote minutes of their discussions. These minutes will guide our efforts through the next literature conference. The workshops dealt with the paper machinery of collecting and reviewing material, the Basic Text, pamphlets, stories, newsletters, financing the circulation of material among local literature committees and setting up local literature committees."

Tragically, the notes that were taken during the conference couldn't get typed as originally planned. As weeks turned into months, he still didn't have the minutes. But Bo was patient and kept writing reports without the results in his hands. Finally, in late November, Bo sent a letter to his committee alerting them to the deadline of January 11, 1980, for anything the committee intended to send out for approval at the conference. That letter had been, as

much as anything else, a nudge for the Wichita folks to get the typing done.

Writing again later to the committee, Bo showed the extent to which he intended to go to get the fellowship involved. His letter states they intended to send the work compiled at the last workshop to the entire list of NA meetings. Although, because of the time required and the necessity of having another literature conference first (in order to compose the material yet to be received), he suggested it might not be ready until the Conference in 1981.

Bo's use of the *Main Line* had not gone unnoticed or unchallenged. The office had written one letter to the editor complaining, and others had been concerned that the newsletter was losing its focus on the region in favor of world service events. At the October Northern California regional meeting, a motion and discussion resulted in a vote to "give all of the unofficial support it can to the WSC Literature Committee but that the 'status quo' be maintained and the *Main Line* remain officially the Northern California Regional Service Committee Newsletter."

On November third, the trustees held their fall meeting. Elections were conducted, and Chuck S. was elected as chairperson, Cliff K. was selected as vice-chairperson. Lin A. was retained as non-member secretary. They discussed the selection of speakers at the recent World Convention, contending that some were not NA speakers. Another subject was a meeting using the AA *Twelve and Twelve*, but no action was taken.

While the year was coming to a close, a number of complaints were being tossed around concerning the office. One heard as 1980 began, and again in later years, was that Jimmy was spending a lot of time and fellowship money using the office phone lobbying people around the country. Although the accusation was not effectively rebutted at the time, the evidence does not support the accusation. An analysis of the office phone bill for several months during this period suggests the office phone was probably used too sparingly. During November of 1979, a typical month, only four calls were longer than ten minutes, the longest being 36 minutes. The average call was five minutes long — not much time to do real politicking.

However, he may have used his personal telephone to make such calls, as reliable members have reported having long talks with Jimmy when he called them. Jimmy did like to talk, and the phone was simply another way to have a conversation. And it is true he did frequently give his opinion on matters of fellowship concern. On the other hand, most of those who complained about these long phone calls, were themselves known for similar activity.

Since the phone records suggest it was not the office phone number used for most of the long calls, it seems wrong to condemn Jimmy for spending his money as he wanted to.

On a final note for this year, the office did a lot more business with Thought Process Printers. Of the \$10,309 in printing expense for the year, \$4,594 was done by Thought Process.