

## Chapter Eight

### Growing Pains

*If the previous two years had been like "just getting started" — and they were — the next two years were filled with growing pains. People everywhere were feverishly working to start new recovery and service meetings and to fulfill the million-and-one needs and demands of the growing fellowship. Those needs and demands ranged from starting more meetings and holding local dances to handling media coverage and writing a Basic Text. Regions, committees, boards and individuals were each stretching and growing, reaching to find the limits of their capability, authority and responsibility. The organizational mobile was being jostled and trying to regain balance as each entity tried to determine what its role was, or what it ought to be. Since no one really knew what or how much to expect from the office, the conference, the trustees or regions, there was a lot of conflict. Everyone was feeling their way through uncharted territory.*

The year 1980 began with another report from Bo. He advised everyone that the committee was going to submit the material from Wichita in the form of a manual, although he didn't indicate how far along he was in getting it composed. He suggested the need for a literature conference "...to compose our Basic Text. We feel we'll need at least thirty days." He may have been thinking of one meeting, but getting members with any "time" to stop their normal lives and spend thirty days someplace and compose the book was unrealistic. But, as it turned out, it did take about thirty days to compose it by committee, but it was done in smaller sessions. He optimistically wrote "we can present a manuscript to the World Service Conference in 1981. The copies would be sent out at that time." And he was just about right.

As usual, the *Main Line* came out on schedule with the January/February issue. Also, a new publication, *The Rainbow Connection* from Atlanta, Georgia was being produced each month. Despite the advantages the WSO should have had in the area of publishing a regular monthly or bimonthly newsletter, it was still not able to do so.

Regional publications took up the slack as best they could so as to keep the widest number of people informed. In the newest *Mainline* edition, they outlined the idea of "Spirit of 1980," suggesting everyone join the effort to raise money for the conference and office. They even printed a "wish list" of things the office could use including a \$1,500 computer, a better typewriter and salaries for the manager and a full or part-time secretary." The office undoubtedly resented the success both the *Mainline* and *Rainbow Connection* were having in getting members to contribute articles.

In the middle of January, Jimmy called me to see if I would come to the conference again as parliamentarian. He outlined the expected schedule and said it would be at Valley College. I agreed to be there.

The trustees held elections at their February meeting, and a new member was elected, but not much else took place. Chuck S. was elected as chairperson and Sally E. was voted in as a trustee. Chuck was not a timid man. In his own words, he "came to NA fighting every inch of the way, not to get the program, but against it. And despite of myself, the program won." This aggressive attitude was echoed in nearly everything he did. A man with a short temper and a "black or white" viewpoint of most issues, he didn't hold back when he had something to say. Chuck would serve as chairperson until shortly before the conference in 1983.

Sally was one of the few women with a lot of clean time who had gained all of it in NA. Her ability to see different sides of most issues led her to be the conciliator in many upcoming conflicts. She took a sincere interest in literature development and worked on the book and other literature projects for almost nine years. She would succeed Chuck as chairperson of the board.

At the end of February, when the annual report was made, they reported the previous twelve months' income was \$4,432 in donations and \$15,295 in sales for a total of \$19,727. Expenses were \$19,579, which resulted in a net income of \$148. It is hard to comprehend that the office worked with such a tiny budget, and yet it was the largest annual budget so far.

Greg had been gone about six months, and his absence from activities of the trustees and the office began to show. The void had to be filled, and although Chuck S. was a strong person, he wasn't the innovator Greg had been. And on the office side, Greg's influence had been replaced with people of lesser ability and vision. They appear to have been more loyal to Jimmy as a person than to NA as a fellowship, and that eventually led Jimmy and the office into tragedy.

But Greg was not entirely out of the picture. In a letter he wrote to Jimmy in early March, he reports about his investigation of the pamphlet *We Made A Decision* that had been in the inventory since

1976. After a careful reading of the AA pamphlet *This is AA* he asserted that *We Made A Decision* seems to have been directly copied from copyrighted material. I suggest [to the office] that we discontinue distribution and publication of it."

Jimmy took Greg's advice under consideration, but continued to sell the pamphlet. Most likely he concluded that he did not want to make the decision to remove the pamphlet from circulation on his own. That decision was later made by the conference, and the matter was settled.

In March the office published what is unquestionably the best edition of *The Voice*. It was well balanced with service news, a calendar of upcoming events, sharing of personal recovery and letters to the editor. It was also huge — thirty-six pages from cover to cover. Jimmy signed page one as Managing Editor. As a reminder, Jimmy inserted on page twenty-five a reprint from the 1968 edition of *The Voice*, the explanation about what CARENA stood for.

By March, Bo had received the material from Wichita and tried to have volunteers type it, but had not been successful. He checked with the committee and then sat down and wrote out what he believed was the product they had intended to produce. Miraculously it all seemed to fall into place. In what seemed a short time he had prepared a booklet that encapsulated the Wichita discussions. He again went over with members of the committee what he had written, then by late March he was ready to have it typeset. It was then printed and distributed as the Literature Committee Handbook. All of this took time, and it was not until a few weeks before the conference that it was finished and mailed to conference participants.

Tommy sent a small packet of information to the fellowship inviting participation in the conference. One hundred and nine packets were sent to trustees, conference officers and their committees, and various members or committees in forty states. Unfortunately the packet was mailed very late, and in some cases did not get to the right people early enough to enable them to take advantage of the information.

Tommy opened the 1980 Conference on Friday, May second with a moment of silence followed by a reading of the Steps and Traditions. No work was actually done on Friday except introductions and distribution of reports. The following morning, regional representatives gave reports which often included the number of meetings in their region; Hawaii (3), Southern California (distributed their directory), Northern California (53), Oregon, Idaho (3), Nevada (4), Texas, Nebraska (also included Kansas and Iowa), Wisconsin (16), Southeast (the Carolinas, West Virginia and Georgia), Florida (23), Tennessee (included parts of Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Kentucky)

(20), Virginia (9+), West Pennsylvania and east Ohio (60+), and New Jersey (6).

The reports showed tremendous growth and better communications over the year, though communication was still identified as a major difficulty. A functioning service structure existed in each region, though many were new and unstable. Area committees had been formed in a few regions, and most had subcommittees for literature, H&I or PI. Jimmy gave a report about other countries, including meetings in France, Ireland, South Africa, Australia, Scotland, England, Germany, Finland and Holland. A member also rose to speak of meetings in Spain. There were fourteen voting representatives from regions, up from seven a year earlier. The trustees had ten votes and conference officers and committee chairpersons had nine. The office had one.

The trustee report was given by Chuck S. He reported the board consisted of himself, Bob B., Greg P., Mel H., Bill B., Sally E., Jimmy K., Cliff K., Dennis M., Gloria C., and Carl B. Chuck said the Board had fulfilled its duty during the year, but there had not been much to do. A few Tradition violations were reported to them and they were handled mostly by letters.

Committee reports came next, and Bo was first. He gave an overview of the year, apologized for not getting the handbook out ninety days in advance of the conference, and invited everyone to the next literature composition conference. When he was done, he was questioned about the two pamphlets that were to have been distributed for review during the year. He responded that they had been turned over to the office for that purpose. However, Jimmy quickly stated that "the Literature Committee's responsibility was to distribute these." Discussion of this misunderstanding was put off until the following day, but it was not discussed again. Bryan S. talked about having drafted internal guidelines for the Policy Committee. Phil P. (acting as temporary PI chairperson) handed out copies of the public information kit approved at the prior conference and available through the WSO. Sue I., Finance Committee chairperson, handed out draft guidelines the Finance Committee had written. Bob B. (San Francisco) gave the report for H&I and indicated they would be adopting the Southern California guidelines. They needed help and financial support to handle the massive numbers of institutions that were wanting NA meetings and panels.

Jimmy gave the office report in which he stressed that 430 starter kits had been sent out at a cost of over \$1,200. The report showed:

<b>Income</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$1,086.76
Literature Sales	16,535.40
Donations	<u>3,790.89</u>
Total	\$20,913.05
<b>Expenses</b>	
Mail	\$1,596.48
Printing	10,308.91
Telephone	1,414.94
Shipping	950.00
Office Expense	600.00
Supplies	<u>6,202.74</u>
Total	\$21,073.07

Also reported were Accounts Receivable (\$2,136.77), Literature Inventory (\$4,000.00), and Depreciable Assets (\$1,600.00) for a net worth of \$7,736.77. Why this report is different from the one given to the IRS is unknown.

The rest of his report briefly covered the range of concerns he wanted the participants to take back to their home areas. He stressed the need to support the office, sending information about new groups, sending changes of address and officers, and getting the WSO budget large enough so that it could adequately serve the fellowship.

After Jimmy finished his report, the conference held elections. Chosen to serve for the following year were: Chuck G. (Sepulveda, CA) chairperson; Steve B. (Santa Rosa, CA) vice-chairperson; Faun F. (North Hollywood, CA) Secretary; and Bryan S. (Fountain Valley, CA) treasurer. Bo was re-elected as chairperson of the Literature Committee. Also elected were Bob P. (Pennsylvania) to PI; Henry S. (So. CA) to H&I; Phil P. (So. CA) to Policy; and Amy W. (No. CA) to Finance. After elections, the conference adjourned for the day.

The following morning committee meetings were held and then reports were given. I did not attend the committee deliberations, but arrived for the reports. The Administrative Committee began, and they first addressed the wide range of concerns about the office. Jimmy was asked to respond about qualifications for office directors, their selection procedure and tenure. Jimmy offered a detailed response. Unfortunately the response was to establish more clearly a battle line between the office and much of the rest of the fellowship. There had been a growing dissatisfaction with the office as it seemed to be too independent and unresponsive to complaints. Jimmy's response turned the gulf between the office and its growing list of antagonists into an impassable chasm.

Jimmy directed everyone's attention to a *Service Manual* section stating, "that WSO is more of a business than it is part of the fellowship. WSO is separate from NA but works with NA. WSO functions as a non-profit corporation with managers, administrators... subsidiaries and the like. One of the subsidiaries is CARENA, our publishing arm. ...We are a legal entity. NA as such, cannot be a legal corporation, but we as WSO, Inc. of NA can function that way."

It sounded confusing to some people, and to others it appeared to be deception. The explanation seemed founded on the premise that a corporation owned the rights to publish NA literature, yet the fellowship could have no control over that corporation. The fact that he stated CARENA was the subsidiary of WSO, yet CARENA was not mentioned in the *Service Manual* was evidence enough for many office adversaries of duplicity and lack of fellowship control over the office and literature.

As Jimmy went on, it seemed the gulf was being made wider: "literature that comes out of WSC that has been approved, comes to WSO. The board, which is also the board of CARENA, the publishing arm, makes sure that it gets published, because that's part of WSO's job. WSO is truly a business." The emphasis on WSO being a business rather than part of the spiritual fellowship was not lost on his audience, and it was repeated across the fellowship for years to come.

Within a few months, the conference minutes had gotten to the groups and had become the topic of discussion at service meetings and over coffee after regular meetings. Was the fellowship going to accept that WSO was an independent company, and that somehow it was getting control and ownership of NA literature? No financial report was presented for CARENA leading many to speculate that perhaps CARENA was in some way making money from the publishing it did for WSO. It appeared to many that a hidden corporation was, or might be, making money from NA, and no one could get details about it. Many believed that Jimmy was in fact getting money from CARENA.

As I listened to Jimmy's explanation at the Conference, I too became puzzled as to why this convoluted arrangement existed. I was aware of how normal non-profit organizations did their publishing, and it was much simpler and within the control of the membership. I felt this was a strange way for any organization to do business, and I was quite certain that his answer would incite controversy.

Perhaps more importantly, Bo and his Literature Committee members could not help but take note. They were in the process of gathering information about the meaning and interpretation of the Traditions. And to get, right from the most authoritative source, such

a clear enunciation of where the office did or did not fit into the structure was no doubt unnerving. The Literature Committee was in the middle of a monumental effort to produce a Basic Text for NA, and the office which would ultimately publish and distribute the book was asserting itself as separate from and not beholden to NA.

A little later in the meeting, an input item from a region suggested that the "WSO remain in Southern California until such time that WSC, by two-thirds vote, suggests or recommends that the business of NA can be better implemented in a new location." The response by Tommy was, "that we have no control over that... the WSO, Inc., is a separate entity and a business all its own. We cannot tell them to move. He stated that this issue was not a part of this conference." To me, this response sounded like another brick was being put in the wall that separated WSO from NA. But some force of inertia took hold of everyone, and the matter was left alone at the time.

After a brief report on WSC finances, Bob B., H&I chairperson stood up, and in his usual demonstrative manner, bellowed out his report. It included a recommendation that H&I cans (for member contributions directly to H&I expense) be approved for separate collections at any NA meeting. Reaction was mixed as many saw the value of giving H&I a secure funding source, but many felt it was unfair to other needs. If the policy was approved, it would set H&I aside from the money allocation system then in place. Many felt other committees would suffer as fewer funds might be available. When the talking ended, the conference voted to approve the "H&I can" policy. Bob, jubilant in his victory raised his red-covered can, and shaking it loudly, proclaimed "Okay, you M.F.'s here's your first chance to put your money where your mouth is!" and started it around the room. This was, for the next few years, a key element of fellowship growth and for carrying the message into hospitals and institutions.

Sue I., finance chairperson, proposed adoption of the guidelines her committee had developed. Concern was raised about a provision that would require groups to send ten percent of their money to WSO. This was modified to suggest that "each NA meeting donate any excess funds over and above operational expenses, be sent to WSO through its normal channels." Adoption of this was immediately followed by questions from the Northern California representative, Steve B., about how their "Spirit of 80's" donation (approximately \$1,400) was going to be spent. A clear answer was not given then, as the matter was deferred until later. When it was discussed, the Northern California delegate was informed that the money was going to be kept by the conference and not passed on to the office. A little irony existed in this response, as he had by then been elected confer-

ence vice-chairperson and had a voice in the distribution of that money.

Bo then gave his Literature Committee report. He asked for and received authorization for a second literature conference. Lincoln, Nebraska was eventually selected as the site. He also proposed and the conference approved, creation of a review committee within the Literature Committee. By the twists of fate, the Literature Committee elected Doug F. to be its leader. Doug was Jimmy's surrogate on the committee and Doug would become Bo's implacable enemy. When Bo presented the *Literature Committee Handbook* for approval there were some changes made, but approval was overwhelming. This handbook became the foundation for member participation in the literature development process for a number of years. This was a key source of support for Bo when he needed it.

Consideration was given to changing parts of the Little White Book, which was still the principal literature that explained NA philosophy. The edition then in publication had been changed over the years, but it had been sent for copyright registration just a few months earlier. By copyrighting it, the conference was told by an office spokesperson, the White Booklet could no longer be changed.

I observed an interesting trend emerge from discussions about changing the White Booklet. Many newer members and particularly members far removed from the people whose stories were in it, showed they were less emotionally attached to it, especially its grammar and use of terms. Long time members and those with a direct link to people whose stories were in the booklet were strong advocates for leaving it alone. This issue would again become a hot topic in 1984 and 1985.

A similar situation then arose concerning the pamphlet, *Another Look*. Suggestions for changing it had also been considered by the Literature Committee, as well as by Jimmy, who wrote it. He had suggested to the committee in writing months earlier some changes he thought were appropriate. As part of the discussion, it was advanced that, "*Another Look* is not only a man's personal story but it is copyrighted material and therefore it cannot be changed." The argument that copyrighted material could not be changed was false and should have been dismissed. However, this argument came back again and again over the years. Unfortunately, none of the participants seriously challenged the office assertion that no change could be made. Simply reminding themselves that standard publications, like dictionaries, are changed each year and are also copyrighted could have helped end this confusion. Since at that time it was not my responsibility to inject myself in discussions of substance, I did not say anything.

The need to remain true to a person's story was a matter that should have been discussed separately from the copyright issue. While it was true the fellowship became the owner and publisher of such personal stories and could, by virtue of that ownership, change anything it wanted (it took years for this legal right to be properly understood), keeping the "truth" of a person's experience was another matter. It seemed proper to keep the facts of a person's story just as they related them, but using generalized terms, such as "drugs" instead of "pot" also seemed appropriate, and later became an accepted practice.

After all the discussion on *Another Look*, the conference voted to approve the piece in its entirety, including the changes. The approval was not really that easy, as there was a protracted argument after the vote over what constituted an acceptable margin of approval. I did my best to help, but the issues touched raw nerves, and neither side was willing to accept any decision that did not reflect their own views. The Literature Committee had also worked on the *Service Manual*, although their efforts were restricted mostly to reorganizing it rather than editing it. They proposed a few modifications, one of which was to change the name to, *Service Manual of NA*. The reorganization and name change were accepted, but most of the modifications were sent back to committee for more work.

Bryan S., chairperson of the Policy Committee, presented his committee's proposed guidelines for adoption. They were quickly approved. This was followed by an important discussion concerning the use of non-NA literature in meetings. Because of the lack of literature on the Steps or the Traditions, members in many groups were using literature from AA in their meetings. Discussion of this issue eventually led to a decision that any group that used literature that was not NA-approved would be dropped from all NA directories. This effectively closed the door on using AA literature in NA meetings. It was understood that any member may, in their own personal lives, read anything they want to. Following on the heels of this discussion was a proposal to decree that members could not, as they identified themselves in meetings, say they were "members of Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous." Action on this was avoided by having the matter tabled, but it would come back two years later in a movement to change NA terminology under the banner of "NA purism."

As the conference neared its end, it took up the matter of deciding how much money to allocate to the trustees and each of the conference committees so they could accomplish the work they promised to do in the coming year. The treasurer announced that requests totaled \$2,350, but the conference only had \$1,267. Two lines of thinking appeared in this discussion. One was based on the sound princi-

ple of approving only what you have or know you are going to get. The other was the idea of approving a deficit budget and forcing everyone to come up with more money. This argument was to become a fixture of the closing hours of each conference for the next ten years.

The treasurer suggested that the conference keep a reserve of \$500 for next year's conference, give \$500 each to the Public Information and Literature Committees, and give \$100 to the Institutional Committee. This was approved, but nothing was said about finance, policy, trustees or the Administrative Committee. Seemingly they were expected to get their jobs done with no financial help from the conference. Frankly it was an impossible situation, and resulted in several committees doing almost nothing. When a committee actually accomplished something, it was because somebody in the committee had means to sacrifice the money and the time to do it on their own.

Chuck G., as the new conference chairperson, was in a good position to foster harmonious relations throughout world services. He was also on the WSO board and saw some of the trustees regularly. However, he was not in a position to effectively control Jimmy's perceptions and reactions to events. Therefore, when problems arose at the office, or between Bo and Jimmy, Chuck was not really able to avoid confrontations.

Chuck is a very steady, methodical and low key individual. Back when he first took to heart the First and Second Steps, he did so without reservation. As one of those people who allowed the Steps to become the basis of his life rather than just words he remembered at meetings, he became one of the most visible examples of what NA is all about. People who met him for the first time, and those who had to work under him were struck with the fact that this was a man who truly lived the Steps.

However, his tenure as Conference chairperson had one defect. He did not believe it was the providence of the chairperson to tell the committees what to do. Consequently, several committee chairpersons simply went to sleep on the job and nothing got done. It was not until his successor took over that the role of the activist conference chairperson was exhibited.

Soon after the conference, Bo put the machinery into high gear to prepare for the Lincoln, Nebraska literature conference to be hosted by the Mid-America Region. An invitation was extended to everyone in the fellowship. A ten dollar registration fee was to be charged in order to help meet the expenses, although the Mid-America region was expected to come up with more money on their own, which they did.

Bo took every opportunity to seek member participation in the book project. For example, a member from Portland, Oregon wrote to

inquire about the propriety of members reading AA literature at NA meetings. He did redirect their inquiry to the trustees, but rather than simply letting it go at that, he wrote about the need to help write NA literature. Bo had a unique way of being involved in a conversation on one subject and before long getting around to talking about writing the book. Certainly without this single-minded determination, the book would not have been completed when it was.

The *Main Line* continued to provide assistance to Bo. In the March/June issue, material submitted to Bo's committee was printed with the notation to send comments or new material directly to Bo at his address in Marietta, Georgia. Bo even wrote a letter to Jimmy in July asking about how *The Voice* was coming, as an issue had been promised in 1980 but had not yet been made. Bo acknowledged he was using the *Main Line*, yet offered material for *The Voice* too. He wrote, "a lot of members felt I had favored the *Main Line* with more material. If you need material, please let me know. As more and more members get involved with literature, we'll have enough to fill three monthly's, God willing!"

Bo was being pragmatic, in that the *Main Line* was keeping to a more punctual publication schedule and had a much larger mail list. He was also trying to be diplomatic with Jimmy and not alienate him further because he was aware of Jimmy's unhappiness with Bo using the *Main Line*. Jimmy had even written a letter to the *Mainline* criticizing them for printing things he thought should be done in *The Voice*. Bo's offer to send things to be printed in *The Voice* was genuine, but nothing came of it.

An important event took place in June when the First East Coast Convention was held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. This convention was a multi-regional affair, as the fellowship was still too small in all East Coast areas to have a convention just for one region. This convention, like the Atlanta World Convention, was to have an important impact on the fellowship for many years. People in isolated NA communities came and found hundreds of addicts from neighboring states. They traded numbers and addresses and began to communicate. It was an important step in bring together the fellowship along the eastern seaboard.

Bo was one of those attending the East Coast Convention, and was roped into holding an impromptu literature workshop. It didn't take much rope. It did, however, excite a lot of people, and more volunteers were "hooked" on helping write the book. It was an administrative coup that Bo learned was a great thing to do. After this, whenever a convention wanted a literature workshop, he would do his best to be there or have one of his lieutenants there. It was easy to see that the more often you brought the work to where the people

could easily get to it, the more they wanted and the more they would support it.

The trustees held a meeting in July, but there was little to do. After receiving a report on the office, they voted Chuck G. in as a new board member. Bob B. was asked to draft a letter to go out with the minutes of their meeting stating their opinion on the use of non-NA literature at NA meetings. This was the first time the trustees took the opportunity to express their opinion on the issue, since the conference had taken a strong position on this earlier. Bob wrote the letter which politely admonishes members to use non-NA literature only in their personal lives, not at NA meetings. Seven members present for the meeting were Chuck S., Bob B., Cliff C., Jimmy K., Mel H., Sally E. and Chuck G.

Bo spent the summer months concentrating on having things organized for the Lincoln literature conference. The Lincoln host committee was lining up places for people to stay and equipment for the meeting, and was hard at work raising money to pay for everything. Money was in critically short supply, but the need was also critical. In a move echoing an addict past, five members of the host committee (Dave K., Jim N., Sam J., Rich H., and Ray) went down to the blood bank and sold a pint of blood each. They pooled the proceeds and used it for postage and other essentials. Thinking about it fifteen years later, one of them recalled he would have done as much to get drugs, so doing it that time to save his life and possibly others made sense.

Other fundraising events included dances and passing the hat during the conference. A mostly vacant building was secured as the location. They agreed to rent a copy machine from a local AA guy, and he donated a lot of paper. Members volunteered to have people stay in their homes and drive people to the meeting. A few weeks before it was to start, they were ready in Lincoln.

The Tenth World Convention was held in Wichita at the Broadview Hotel, starting on September fourth under the slogan of "The Ties that Bind Us Together." Nearly three hundred twenty people registered, but there were a lot of others too. A participation meeting got things started on Thursday, which was followed by a disco dance. Friday night, in what was becoming a big event at conventions, an auction was held before the meeting. It proved to be a fun time and raised a lot of money for the convention. After the fun subsided, the director of addiction services for the State of Kansas, Dr. Loren Phillips, offered an official welcome. He was followed by both Jim N. (Lincoln, Nebraska) and Gina H. (Nashville, Tennessee) as they shared the podium for the main meeting.

There were nearly four hundred people on hand Saturday night to hear the Honorable Robert G. Knight, Mayor of Wichita, offer a welcome who was then followed by Russ C. of Norman, Oklahoma and Bob B. sharing an NA message of recovery. On Sunday morning the podium at the spirituality meeting was shared between Julie W. (Wichita, Kansas) and Father Phil K. (Kansas City, Kansas). The host committee, under the joint leadership of Dennis E. and Julie W., had done a magnificent job. They even ended up in the black financially. Some of the money was given to pay off the remainder of the Atlanta debt and some was used to support the literature conference.

In the words of trustee Chuck S., "the last two conventions (Houston and Atlanta) both used AA Young People's circuit speakers; if they had another one at Wichita, I was never going to go to another World Convention. I was surely pleased that finally we had NA speakers at the convention again." Motorcycle Ed remembers that the city had an eleven o'clock curfew (strongly enforced) and the main center for getting drugs was across from the hotel. From the podium and at the marathon meeting held during the entire convention, there was much discussion about the fledgling NA community attempting to take root in New York City. It was still illegal, members were saying, to hold meetings there, because the "Rockefeller Laws" prevented "known drug addicts" from congregating together.

The only business to be conducted at the Saturday morning service meeting was selection of the next convention site. Several bids were presented, including a token bid from Milwaukee. But the one that took the day was Miami.

When the convention was over, a few carloads of people got on the highway, headed north, and arrived at Lincoln, Nebraska for the literature conference. Jim N. had arranged to use portions of the old Federal Building from September eighth through the fourteenth. The first floor was mostly vacant, and upstairs were some social service agencies. With this much room, several committees would meet simultaneously. Thirty-five people showed up, and Bo brought along the material he had written as well as letters and personal stories from hundreds of people. In all, Bo reports, there were probably eight hundred pages of material to work through. Bo later described the experience this way: "From the moment the early arrivals gazed into the empty hall in the Federal Building, it was apparent that this was the time and place for the fulfillment of a dream. Men and women, who had little or no previous acquaintance of one another, embraced each other readily, eager to enjoy what each had to share."

Among those present were trustees Bob B. and Greg P. They offered background and perspective, including a discussion of the historical context of the work within the growing fellowship. When the