

April 28, 1986

Greater Philadelphia Regional Service Committee
P.O. Box 42628
Philadelphia, PA 19101-2628

The Greater Philadelphia Region is now in it's fourth year of existence. We consist of four areas: Philadelphia area, Montgomery County area, Bucks County area, and Tri-County area. Geographically we cover the metropolitan Philadelphia area and the entire state of Delaware. Last year we had 80 regular meetings and 25 hospital and institution commitments. We currently have 130 regular meetings doubled in size, and a strong emphasis is being put on home groups.

Curently, all public information and hospital and institution work is being done at an area level. The region has started proceedings to incorporate and is hoping to open an office in the near future. We intend to better consolidate PI work, and have a place set aside for a permanent hotline. As of this time, all areas have separate answering services. A recent study done by the Philadelphia area, found that most people calling our answering services are unwilling to leave a number. Suffering addicts are calling, but until we have an addict answering, we will lose many calls. We are working on improving our current methods in hopes that we can better fulfill our primary purpose.

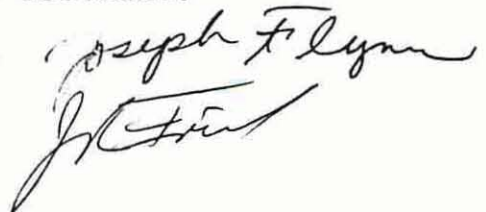
On April 4, 5, 6 we had our fourth annual regional convention. We were able to donate 200 registrations to local rehabilitation centers in hopes of providing an attractive atmosphere of recovery for those still suffering. Many of these newcomers attending were amazed at the size of the fellowship and we can only hope that they will keep coming back.

The convention also brought to light a rising controversy existing within the fellowship. Certain individuals, some even forming an "East Coast Vigilante Committee," have taken it upon themselves to be the overseers of Narcotics Anonymous. These individuals, calling themselves purists, try to impose their will on others. We, of the Greater Philadelphia region, in no means support such radicalism. We leave the doors of narcotics anonymous open to everyone regardless of age, race, color, creed, religion, lack of religion, or proper command of the English language.

We believe in a unified program and have the faith that over a period of time, and the necessary change in terminology that exist within our literature, that most members of narcotics anonymous will be using the same terms. But we should allow the change to take place on a spiritual level, one with love and understanding, and not with dogma and doctrine.

In loving service,

Joe Flynn R.S.R.
J.R. Friel Alt.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph F. Flynn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Joe Flynn R.S.R." and the name "J.R. Friel Alt.".