

N.A. NEWSLINE

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC., P.O. BOX 9999, VAN NUYS, CA 91409; (818) 780-3951
VOLUME 6 JULY 1990 NUMBER 7

BASIC TEXT CONTROVERSY SUBSIDES

Early this year, a few individual N.A. members in the eastern U.S. began illegally printing and selling their own paperback version of the Basic Text. Some of the language of the conference-approved Basic Text was changed in the unauthorized book. On June 29th, the World Service Board of Trustees wrote an open letter to the fellowship about the problem. "We want to suggest one simple thing N.A. members can do when confronted with the book itself: *don't take it*," the letter said. "Those behind the illegal book will get the message: N.A. wants them to stop."

The trustees gave two reasons why N.A. wants the unauthorized text stopped. What happens if N.A. allows a few people to change the Basic Text to suit their personal ideas? N.A. as a whole will lose its ability to decide what its own literature will say. And what happens if N.A. allows a few individuals to sell an unauthorized text? Our worldwide services are partially supported by sales of the *authorized* Basic Text. Sales of the unauthorized book mean fewer N.A. services.

World services have tried hard to put a stop to the unauthorized book by asking those personally responsible for the book to stop. Those members refused. This left world services with no choice but to take strong action to protect N.A.'s copyright and the first step has already been taken. The WSO Board of Directors is responsible to protect N.A.'s legal rights concerning the Basic Text. On July 2nd, their attorneys mailed a "cease and desist" letter to trusted servants in the regions where the illegal text had been seen. A July 10th letter explained that the previous letter applied only "if the shoe fits."

The World Service Conference held a workshop the following weekend in Arlington, Virginia. Talk of the unauthorized book was present everywhere. Some

hoped for a meeting between the trustees, the WSO directors, and the members responsible for the illegal Basic Text. They could settle the problem in the open. Those behind the illicit book however did not attend the workshop.

Meanwhile, N.A. members have taken to heart the trustees' request not to buy or sell the illegal Basic Text. As a result, support for the illegal text is waning. Only the three or four individuals directly responsible, and their immediate circle of friends, continue to distribute the unauthorized book, while their own areas and regions have refused. Hopes are high that, soon, further printing and sales of the illegal book will stop completely. The fellowship itself deserves a pat on the back for settling a serious problem simply by assuming its responsibility.

CONFERENCE FUNDS DRAWING LOW

In April the World Service Conference approved an annual budget of \$424,900. This represents a \$118,500 increase over last year's budget of \$306,400. To meet this budget fellowship donations have to average about \$35,400 each month.

Unfortunately, fellowship donations have not kept pace with the adopted budget. In fact, they've not even kept up with last year's donations. Donations for May, June, and July last year totalled \$38,801.65. Fellowship contributions for the same period *this* year total \$22,212.95. That's 43% less than what the conference received last year, and 79% less than what's needed to keep up with the WSC budget.

At this rate, the WSC Administrative Committee expects the World Service Conference to be penniless by September. Fellowship donations to the conference are needed in order to keep conference services from being curtailed.

WSO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

A search committee, made up of representatives from the World Service Office Board of Directors, the World Service Board of Trustees and the World Service Conference Administrative Committee, has been formed and charged with the responsibility to use all available means to conduct the search for an Executive Director of the World Service Office.

The committee has procured the services of an executive recruitment/search agency to conduct and coordinate the applicant process. Applicants should have a background in executive management (preferably non-profit organizations) encompassing a range of responsibilities including general office administration, budgeting and general financial management, personnel, publication and distribution practices and the management of ancillary operations.

Applications are being solicited from both members and non-members. The specific clean time requirements for member applicants has not been clearly established at this time; however, it is the general consensus of the committee that member applicants will have to have substantial clean time (at least ten years clean has been suggested).

If you are qualified and interested, or know someone who is qualified and interested, please contact Annette R. Segil, Executive Careers, at 1801 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 640, Los Angeles, CA. 90067 (213) 306-0360 for more information.

NEWS FROM HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS

The WSC H&I Committee conducted an internal and external learning day during the WSC workshop held in Arlington, Virginia. In accordance with the decision of the committee to make these learning events a priority, the WSC H&I Committee plans to conduct more of these during the coming year. The WSC H&I Chairperson extends gratitude from the committee and himself to those who were in attendance in Arlington.

As discussed in the last issue of the *Newsline* the committee completed and mailed the letter and survey concerning the feasibility of making *Reaching Out* available by subscription. The survey was mailed to all area and regional H&I chairs. If your committee did not receive one, please contact the WSO H&I Coordinator and one will be sent to your committee.

This brings up the importance of registering your committee with the World Service Office each time a change in trusted servants or mailing addresses occurs. In order for your committee to receive informa-

tion concerning activities of the WSC H&I Committee and referrals from institutions and hospitals requesting meetings, we must have your current mailing address.

The booklet, *Behind The Walls* is now available as an inventory item from the WSO. You may order this booklet by requesting item #1601 and enclosing \$.50 per copy. In addition, an audio tape including *Behind The Walls*, *Staying Clean on the Outside* and *H&I and the N.A. Member* has been produced. The WSC H&I Chairperson concurred with Bob Stone's idea to produce this tape and would like to extend a special thank-you to Bob for his contributions to H&I. This tape should be available as an inventory item sometime this summer. For further information regarding the item number and other details, please contact the WSO.

The WSC H&I Committee continues to offer its assistance to regional H&I committees in informing the fellowship about H&I endeavors. If you would like WSC H&I participation at your upcoming learning day, please contact the committee through the WSO.

FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON N.A. SERVICE

The committee met recently to discuss its agenda for the upcoming conference year. The major item discussed was the six multi-regional workshops to be held in the U.S. on the Twelve Concepts and *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. Listed below are the dates and locations for these workshops:

PHILADELPHIA, PA	COLUMBUS, OHIO
August 24-26	September 7-9
Marriott at the Airport	Airport Holiday Inn
4509 Island Avenue	750 Stelzer Road
(215) 365-4150	(614) 237-6360

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

September 14-16
Bellevue Concourse
505-106th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA
(206) 454-5505

For lodging information, call:

Connie F.: (206) 762-9079
Jerry M.: (206) 952-5249
Walt A.: (206) 847-2306

ATLANTA, GEORGIA	KANSAS CITY, KANSAS
September 21-23	October 5-7
Howard Johnson Hotel	Best Western Inn
1569 Phoenix Blvd.	501 Southwest Blvd.
(1 mile South of Airport)	(913) 677-3060
(404) 996-4321	

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

October 26-28
Location to be announced

Contact WSO for further information:
(818) 780-3951

The committee's aim is to fulfill three purposes with these workshops:

Education, Information. To help N.A. members become familiar with the material, so the fellowship can make informed decisions about the *Guide*.

Discussion, Input. To help the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service revise the draft material into final form.

Training for Trainers. To help trusted servants at the regional and area levels prepare to conduct local workshops on the *Guide*. The committee is hopeful that these workshops will be well attended, and a full exchange of information will occur. In preparing for the workshops, we recommend reading the "Spring 1990" draft of *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. It is available from the WSO, as item #2100. The cost is \$5.00 plus shipping and handling.

Note: The committee can hold these workshops only if the fellowship contributes enough money for the World Service Conference to continue its work. So far this year, the conference has received far less than what's needed. If this pattern continues, the *Guide to Service* workshops may be postponed or cancelled. For more information, contact the World Service Office.

FROM THE TRADITIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE

The committee has met three times since the last report in the *Newslines*. The first meeting occurred March 9, 10 and 11 as a combined effort with the Board of Trustees. During this meeting, they discussed the committee's progress. However, they spent the majority of time having lengthy, in-depth discussions about the spiritual principles contained in the Twelve Traditions.

The committee held its next meeting on April 6, 7 and 8. The meeting started by discussing ways to process the input received, and the material contained in the "brown and white" book. They decided to form two-person teams to go through the input. The majority of the time during this meeting was spent on sorting, coding and entering the input into the computer. Also, discussions continued on the need for detailed outlines.

As the weekend wound down, talks continued about various members' perceptions about how the book would finally look. Concerns were voiced that some members of the fellowship may be waiting for a book on the traditions that will spell out the law, and answer all the tradition questions the BOT has ever been asked, etc. That was not the committee's idea for this book. However, concerns were raised about a possible difference between their understanding and the fellowship's expectations. The hope was that if there was such a gap, they would hear about it at the conference or soon afterwards.

The third meeting to report on occurred June 29, 30 and July 1. The meeting started by reviewing committee membership, as two members have resigned since the April meeting. The committee added a new member to bring the total group number to seven. It was further decided to possibly rotate in additional members in the future to offer specific experience. Next was the review of the progress in processing the input since the last meeting. The committee spent considerable time during this meeting as well on this task.

Discussions started again on the possibility of using a staff-team in the writing efforts. While the committee is still not completely certain about the best way to utilize staff members in the writing process, they requested the assignment of a staff-team to the committee. Furthermore, they asked that the team be available starting with the July meeting. There was also discussion about the need for a production/development plan for the book. The committee decided to ask for staff support in developing a production schedule. In the event that staff could not provide sufficient help for the development of a production schedule, a request will be made to bring back the consultant used previously for another half-day meeting.

Another item discussed was the importance of maintaining close communication with the Steps Ad Hoc Committee. One of the committee members volunteered to serve as liaison between the two groups. Finally, the committee talked about the meeting schedule, and decided to set up meetings for the end of July, August and September.

THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

The Group Booklet

In the last *Newsline* we stated that we hoped to have this item in our inventory by late July. Our production process has taken more time than expected but the final proofing should be completed by the end of the month. This will mean a delay of approximately one month. We hope to have this booklet in our inventory by the end of August. Your patience is certainly appreciated.

The Revised Literature Handbook

This handbook is now available for ordering. The order number and price will remain the same for this item.

From the WSC Literature Chairperson

A staff person has been hired to work with the Steps Ad Hoc Committee. The committee is very excited to begin their work and will have staff assistance at their August meeting. A more detailed report about the steps project and the staff team will be available in the August *Fellowship Report*.

Work is proceeding on the two I.P.'s, *For Those in Treatment* and *In Times of Illness*. The WSCLC hopes to have both of these pamphlets available for approval by the April, 1991 conference.

WCNA-21 "THE GIFT"

The members of the Australian Host Committee are organized and are busy preparing to bestow "The Gift," down under style, upon members who are planning to attend the 21st World Convention. It is scheduled for the 4th thru the 6th of October 1991, in Sydney, Australia.

Representatives from the World Convention Corporation recently completed a visit to Australia where they negotiated hotel and convention center agreements. Preparations are steadily progressing and the convention is starting to take shape. As more detailed arrangements are made they will be reported in the *Newsline*.

It will be necessary for any member in North America or Europe who intends to travel to Australia to acquire a passport as well as a visa. An important note is that visa applications for Australia are only valid for eleven (11) months from the time of their submission. So for the trip to the World Convention members should wait until the 1st of October to apply. Visa application forms will be available from the WSO beginning September 15th 1990.

Interested members should contact the WSO to have a form mailed to them. Please note that you must have a passport prior to applying for a visa. Passport applications can usually be acquired from your local Post Office. If not, then you may have to refer to your local Yellow Pages to find a location near your home to pick up an application.

The following is a reprint of some information we published in a previous edition of the *Newslines* which is a letter from the Australian Consulate:

"A visit was recently made to the Australian Consulate to inquire about some of the immigration policies of the Australian Government because of the increasing number of questions we have received from members. Normally Australia is as difficult a country, for ex-offenders, to get into as the United States. Members with criminal histories, who plan to attend the convention, will need to apply for a visa starting in September 1990. The Australian government does not grant visas longer than six months in advance of the intended arrival date. However, if you anticipate having to provide additional information as described below, starting in October will allow adequate time for communications and research and processing of your application. These are the important points from our discussion with the Australian Consulate regarding this issue.

All persons entering Australia must meet the character requirements, referred to in the Migration regulations and the Australian public interest criteria.

A person is unable to meet this character requirement if the applicant:

(A) has at any time been convicted of a crime and sentenced to death, to imprisonment for life or to imprisonment for a period of not less than one year or

- (B) has at any time been convicted of 2 or more crimes and sentenced to imprisonment for a period totalling not less than one year; or
- (C) has at any time been charged with a crime and either found guilty of having committed the crime while of unsound mind or acquitted on the ground that the crime was committed while the person was of unsound mind; or
- (D) has been deported or excluded from another country
- (E) has in the reasonable belief of the Minister, been involved in activities indicating contempt, or disregard, for the law or for human rights; and has at any time been convicted of offence's in circumstances indicating, in the reasonable belief of the Minister, and habitual contempt, or disregard, for the law."

To summarize this jargon; a person who has been excluded or deported from another country, been convicted of a crime or crimes and sentenced to prison for a year or more whether suspended or not, is an habitual criminal or has been classified as being criminally insane, would normally be automatically refused a visa. However, an officer may consider waiving this character requirement taking into account:

- ★ the nature of the offence(s) or of any such involvement
- ★ the age of the applicant when the offence was committed
- ★ how long ago the offence(s) was committed
- ★ how many offence's were committed; and
- ★ the applicants record since.

Each and every application will be considered on its own individual merits and an applicant may be interviewed to assist in the determination.

On the reverse of the Application for a Visitor Visa for Australia, Form 48 question 20, repeated below, covers the public interest criteria:

Have you or anyone included in this application:

Suffered from any dangerous contagious disease such as tuberculosis?

Suffered from any mental illness?

Used or been addicted to or trafficked in narcotics?

Been convicted of or have any charges outstanding on a criminal offence in any country?

Been deported or excluded from any country?

Had a visa for Australia cancelled?

If "yes" to any of the above give details:

It is important that all attendees to the scheduled World Convention answer question 20 truthfully and as thoroughly as possible, supported by medical reports or statements of record of criminal conviction(s) issued by the appropriate authorities (if applicable) and clearly identify themselves as attendees to the convention.

There is benefit to Australia as a result of this convention. Aside from the tourist income, the growth and strength of recovery in N.A. in Australia will benefit. **The Australian Consulate has assured N.A. that full consideration will be given to all applications lodged by delegates to the convention.**

The registration flyers for this convention will be available in late September or early October. One of the things that will be a little different will be that the WCC will function as the booking agent for members from North America and Europe who are going to WCNA-21. The registration forms as well as the hotel reservation forms will be sent back to the WCC for processing. This is being done so that the WCC can minimize the risk of the fellowship's funds as it relates to the hotel obligations. The cut-off dates for hotel rooms for this convention will be much earlier than previous world conventions. For more information about WCNA-21 please contact WCC at:

(818) 780-3953.

WCNA-22 TORONTO CANADA

The chairperson of the Host Committee has been selected for the 22nd World Convention in Toronto Canada in 1992. His name is Sean S. The formation of the remainder of the committee will take place in November 1990.

Preparations are still continuing for the hotels and convention center. More specific information will be published in future *Newslines*.

At their last meeting the WCC Board considered the issue of the Zone Boundaries for the World Convention and elected not to recommend any change at this time.

WCNA-23

The deadline for the submission of bids for the 23rd World Convention has passed and bids were received from Columbus Ohio, Chicago Illinois, and Detroit Michigan. An incomplete bid was also received from Minneapolis, Minnesota and was not accepted by WCC. All of the cities whose bids were accepted will be visited before the November meeting of the WCC Board where the decision about the location of the convention will be made.

REPORT ON INDIA

The following is a report on the visit made early in March 1990 by two world service personnel, Mario T. (WSB) and Anthony E. (WSO staff), to India

We visited India to get first-hand exposure to the N.A. communities in Bombay and Calcutta. We knew the communities existed, but we had no realistic way of assessing their needs without seeing them ourselves.

Upon our arrival, we were met by a group of people holding up an N.A. sign. They were the Bombay ASC's current chairperson, the ASC secretary, and the previous ASC chair. Were we ever happy to see them!

As we drove away from the airport, we passed a very expansive slum district, with such extreme poverty as to make Western slums seem middle class. One of the members told us that this particular slum

was one of the largest in Asia. The depth of India's poverty was almost beyond belief. Even in such poverty, the residents of these slums find the ways and means to use. "Brown sugar," a relatively inexpensive opiate derivative, is extremely common among the "street people," as slum dwellers are known. The street people also function as traffickers of "brown sugar," and it is not uncommon for middle class people to go into the slums to acquire the drug. The widespread abuse of drugs is a fairly recent problem in Indian society, coinciding with the increasing influence of the Western hippie movement of the Sixties, according to some. The level of drug abuse increases in India, despite the fact that the use of such drugs as hashish is culturally linked to a minority group of the population.

On Tuesday evening, we attended a meeting of Bombay's oldest N.A. group, begun four years ago. The meeting was held in an open classroom at a school run by St. Michael's Church in Mahim, another suburb of Bombay. Narcotics Anonymous members in Bombay range from several days clean to six years, but mostly have between ninety days and three years in recovery. There were about twenty-five members present at the meeting, all male, mostly middle class. "Middle class" in India means that you can afford to live in a building, use public transportation, and eat regularly. The only N.A. member with a car was the one who took us to the meeting. The only other vehicle present was a motor scooter. Everyone else walked or took the bus.

A member shared with us that street people came to meetings from time to time, but never stayed around for long. He said that this was because, being lower class, they felt extremely uncomfortable around the middle class people who predominated in Narcotics Anonymous. I asked if there was a language barrier there, but the answer was no. The uneasiness was simply because of the class distinction. This member did tell us, however, that literature translated into Hindi would help these people become more comfortable in Narcotics Anonymous, because only the better-off Indians speak fluent English. Also, Hindi literature would be of immense benefit to rural areas. While there are many languages used in different parts of India, Hindi is the most prevalent of the native tongues.

Before we left for India, we had reviewed past Indian correspondence received at the World Service Office. We had gotten the impression that the N.A. members in India were mostly of Western extraction, because they used European names in their correspondence. It was quite surprising to find that they were all Indian—*Catholic* Indians, using Christian names.

At present, there are no female members attending N.A. meetings, but none of the local members seemed to think this was out of the ordinary. Culturally, it will be difficult for Indian women to attend regular meetings, especially at night. Her parents may allow it; if she is married, her husband would almost certainly forbid it. Although the government is encouraging a change in the prevalent attitude toward women in India, women still have far less status there than men.

The format of the N.A. meeting we attended was somewhat different than what we were accustomed to. There was no reading from literature to start the meeting—for that matter, there was no literature. It was difficult to hear the members who were sharing, because of the traffic noise outside. The Seventh Tradition brought in around 35 rupees (\$2.10 US) at the meeting we attended. This, we were told, was typical of Bombay N.A. groups. At present, they pay no rent to the priests who run the school. At the conclusion of the meeting, all stood, heads bowed, hands clasped, and said the Serenity Prayer. The only difference was that the prayer was abbreviated in different places, the result being that we were out of tempo with everyone else.

The Bombay Area Service Committee convened after the N.A. meeting, in the same room. The GSRs in Bombay had previously agreed specifically to hold this meeting on a date when we could attend. The discussion first turned to Bombay's problems with maintaining a stock of N.A. literature. Anthony informed them that WSO would supply a certain amount of literature to the ASC, for free, for a specified period. The question then became, what price should the ASC charge the groups for literature, particularly the Basic Text? The committee deliberated long and hard on this issue. We suggested that they think in terms of what it would cost to print it in India.

It amazes me, how these groups have developed

thus far without the use of the commonly available tools of recovery that most of us take for granted. If India is like most developing N.A. communities, then the availability of literature at the group level will help to provide for more stable growth. It will also provide the members with the ability to take something tangible with them from the meetings, something that can be used to reinforce the message of recovery.

The Bombay ASC had more literature business to discuss. A locally printed, slightly altered version of the WSC-approved White Booklet had appeared. In reading the ASC minutes of September 30, 1989, we had noticed reference to the printing of 1000 copies of this booklet at a cost of 400 rupees (\$59.70 US). The locally-printed edition had extra art work around the N.A. logo on the front cover. On the last page, the Alcoholics Anonymous "I am responsible" pledge had been inserted, having been altered for N.A. use. We explained, in as loving a manner as possible, the basic reasons why this is normally not done. At the same time, we understood that the N.A. members in Bombay had just been trying to have something in print available at Narcotics Anonymous meetings. The interim supply of free literature from the WSO should eliminate the need for any future printings of this adapted White Booklet. We agreed to have a shipment sent the next day from the European Service Office in London.

The final topic discussed was Hindi translations. A couple of members had been working independently on them, and the ASC had been in contact with A.A.'s GSO in Bombay for advice. We suggested that they form an ASC subcommittee which would work collectively on each translation. They agreed. We talked a little with them about the WSO translation policy, but left feeling that more communication would be required.

The N.A. community in Bombay is quite healthy, especially considering its recent formation and other circumstances. It is hard to believe that they have come this far with little or no literature. In the two years of communication with these members, we had sent only two small shipments of literature. The N.A. community has solid support from local treatment agencies, the Roman Catholic church, and the A.A. community. There is a core of N.A. members committed to recovery and service in Narcotics Anony-

mous. With the supply of literature assured, and with continued general support from world services, the fellowship should rapidly expand in Bombay in the next few years.

Bombay will serve as a suitable Indian center for the translation of our literature. There are many variations of the Hindi language, but initial emphasis on standard Hindi is what is needed. The Bombay committee has decided to seek help from N.A. communities outside Bombay, such as Madras, to help insure that the translations developed in Bombay will be useful elsewhere.

Our next stop was Calcutta. The morning after our arrival, we made contact with Reverend Pawomani from the Samaritan Community Centre. He sent his car and driver to collect us from the hotel. We were introduced to the staff, and were asked to sit in on a group therapy session for a while. That session was the first and last time we met women in recovery in India—two, in fact. It was interesting to note a clear emphasis on the Twelve Steps, which just happened to be the topic of that particular session. The reverend seemed to have a good understanding of twelve step fellowships, including the traditions. He informed us that he was searching for a venue for an N.A. meeting that would allow the meeting to be independent of the center.

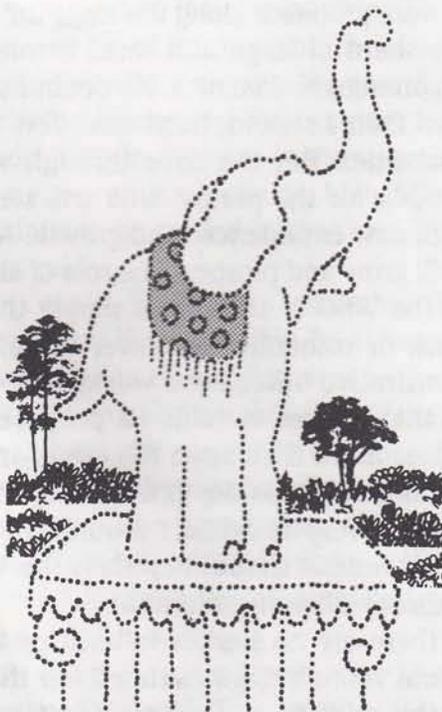
Reverend Pawomani made arrangements for his driver to take us out to a recovery house the Samaritan Centre was in some way associated with. The Aruno Day Midway Home was about a one-hour drive from downtown in a semi-rural area of outer Bombay. It was quite a substantial building, set in well-kept grounds with beautiful gardens. The director of the facility was Colonel Solomon, retired from the Indian Army. He identified himself to us as an "ex-alcoholic." There were perhaps twenty residents, all young males of middle class or better and from various regions within India. They had an in-house N.A. meeting there, and the only piece of literature I saw was a Basic Text.

We were both asked to share our stories, which we did. We noticed our driver, Pat, sitting in on the group, and he seemed to be listening more intently than anyone else. A man named Mahesh had many questions about Narcotics Anonymous. He explained that he was fortunate enough that he did not need to work,

so he was going to work at the Samaritan Centre as a volunteer. We made arrangements for him to receive some literature for his meeting. Mahesh was excited about the literature, explaining that he loved to read. We both got the impression that he has read the Basic Text, from cover to cover, several times. We shared a couple of songs from a Christian hymn book, followed by some hot tea, and left Midway House.

At present, N.A.'s future in Calcutta hinges on our relationship with the local treatment centers. Although there are several members who live in the community and attend meetings, the impression we got was that the meetings themselves were started by, and remain connected to, the treatment programs. One of the major problems is finding adequate places in which to hold independently operated N.A. meetings.

A follow-up visit made in around one year's time would be of great benefit to India. Bombay will need to have workshops on the steps, traditions, and service. It will also be important to see first-hand how well the arrangements for literature supply and translations, made on this trip, have held up. At that point, N.A. world services will be in a better position to determine its next step in providing assistance to the growing N.A. community in India.



The following is an article written by Bob Stone shortly before his departure in July. Bob wrote many articles for the Newslines over the years, discussing a variety of issues and providing information about the WSO. "From Bob Stone" was a regular Newslines column for over seven years. One of Bob's last requests to the Board of Directors was to have this article published, and the board agreed at its August meeting. The opinions expressed are Bob's own, and are not necessarily shared or endorsed by the WSO Board of Directors.

FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS . . .

On June 8, 1990, two days short of exactly seven years from my date of hire, a decision was made by the Board of Directors not to renew my contract. The decision was reached after a recommendation by the Board of Trustees that a change in management was desirable, in order to make changes in the focus and direction of the office.

While the trustee recommendation took myself and the directors by surprise, it was my decision to concur with the suggestion. Some of the trustees and I have not been agreeing very much lately and my opinions sometimes got in the way of their ideas.

The devastation that befell N.A. in the conflict over management of WSO between 1981 and 1983 has always been fresh in my mind. For two years there was a pitched battle between the WSO directors and a large part of the fellowship over how the office was managed and who was really in control. The members who attended the 1983 meeting of the World Service Conference meeting will still recall that the suggestion to hire me as the replacement office manager was made as an alternative to further conflict or opening of an alternate WSO. This conference action, and the WSO Board's concurrence, put the conflict in abeyance so the fellowship could measure the change, if any was to take place.

When I assumed management, the office was quite different than the one I leave. On the day I started work, WSO consisted of myself, one full-time clerk-typist, and a part-time shipping assistant. Although there was money in the bank, we were out of stock of many inventory items, and there were orders on

the desk for more inventory than we had at the time. It took months simply to bring the shipping and ordering into balance. Over the years we have run out of one item or another, but as time passed, the frequency of that problem diminished. It is a rare happening now.

Over the following few months, we hired several additional employees in order to attack the massive volume of work that existed. But that was also the beginning of an explosive growth. N.A. grew from approximately 2,400 meetings (including H&I meetings) to over 6,000 in the following two years. N.A. has almost doubled the number of meetings every two years since then.

Keeping up with the orders, and providing assistance and service to that growing membership, have been hard tasks to fulfill. For several years, we added more staff members as the demand for service grew and as literature sales skyrocketed. Staff expenditures were only a part of the overall increase in operational costs.

To give newer members some idea of the change, the gross income (total cash received) in the year just prior to the conference action in 1983 was \$87,200. Literature sales grew each year: 1984—\$818,045, 1987—\$2,668,000, and 1989—\$4,033,000. All of the income from these years of operation has gone to provide the literature and services that sustain a fellowship in fifty-three countries. Literature is now available in twelve languages. Although not everything is available in each language, the list of translated literature grows each month.

As I depart from service to N.A., behind me I leave a dedicated, hard-working staff. They are now quite capable of working right along, providing service and literature to meet the growing needs of addicts around the world.

Departing will be emotionally hard for me. I've grown to love so many people I cannot count them all. And those who have given me their love and support are also without limit. There is no way to thank individually the thousands of members who have offered encouragement or help during these years.

Few people have had the opportunity to be part of an experience like this has been. Some day I may even try to put a little of it on paper so those who want to know how it all happened can find out.

It was my privilege to travel widely for the fellowship to help resolve problems, attend meetings, provide assistance, and learn about the needs of the fellowship. Every place I went, I was met with love, kindness beyond measure, and support for me personally and the staff. Whether it was a meeting in Memphis to conduct a workshop on WSO services in 1985 (five people showed up and we had a wonderful time as they shared about recovery), or listening through translators to Japanese members conduct a public information day in Tokyo for judges, social workers, and medical professionals, it was an experience beyond words.

Members in countries all over the world opened their hearts and homes to welcome me and the work to be done. There were cold rainy days in Dublin, with members eager to share their problems with literature and the restrictive government policies. There were also sweltering days in Phoenix, learning about growth and service problems in the open spaces of the desert southwest.

Wonderful memories I will carry always include discussions in Damstat, West Germany; Medellin, Colombia; and Lisbon, Portugal. There were also wonderful people all over Canada, Australia, and the U.S. And the list could go on for pages. They were wonderful experiences all.

Yes, there were problems along the way. And I plead guilty to my share of large and small errors, oversights, shortcomings, and failures. No doubt I stepped on toes more than I should, but I have few regrets and no animosities. But the door through which I depart will open for the person who will serve the office through new experiences and growth. And the fellowship will grow and prosper. The role of an office manager at the WSO is more than simply that of a shipping clerk or someone to answer the phone.

The administrative office for a worldwide organization, one that desires to fulfill its purpose, is an office that does more than open the doors and ship literature. If indeed a purpose is to help carry the message of N.A. recovery to addicts around the world who still suffer (and it should be), then the WSO is more than simply shipping literature.

Although there are no studies to back up this assertion, I would venture to guess that fewer than one percent of the addicts in the world attend N.A.

meetings. Even if the number were as large as ten percent, it would mean that millions of addicts suffer all around us.

In the United States there are probably about 22,000 meetings in a population of over 250,000,000 people. That is one meeting for every 11,363 people. In most countries the ratio of meetings to population is appalling. In France, for example, there are about 25 meetings in a population of over 68,000,000. That is one meeting for every 2,720,000 people. In Mexico there are 45 meetings in a population of over 65,000,000. This represents one meeting for every 1,444,000 people. How is it possible for the addicts in such places ever to find N.A.?

It is easy for the American fellowship to argue amongst themselves over the literature process, or smoking meetings, or who works at the WSO. But we must consider the addict in less affluent countries who struggles to avoid starvation, or labors under repressive systems that imprison addicts, who lives in societies that consider drug users simply morally weak.

It has been my belief that the obligation of the office was to comprehend the full worldwide scope of our purpose to carry the message, and help set the course to give every addict the choice that only N.A. freely gives. The WSO Board of Directors has been unflinching in its support of this perspective. They have absorbed every bit of information they can get about serving addict needs around the world. They have demonstrated leadership and support to the extent that funds provide, in order to move in the direction of giving *every* addict a choice. I trust that the WSO will continue to be guided by that broad understanding of its role.

A virus exists within the fellowship that has the power to divert the fellowship from its primary purpose from time to time. This virus is the ego, pride, self-righteousness, and need to control that leaps from some members still caught in the stranglehold that is addiction. This destructive virus attacks our unity. It sets members or committees on their own self-appointed path wherein they claim a closer connection to our Higher Power, or knowledge of what is right and what is wrong.

Addicts in other countries who see this happen in America are dismayed. They wonder aloud how such

things are permitted, while millions of addicts continue to suffer. A long-time member in Germany taught me years ago that the first eleven traditions each address specific issues related to the unity and strength of N.A. The Twelfth addresses how we collectively serve to fulfill those tenets of unity and strength. "Anonymously," he said, "is how we serve to fulfill the spirit of our traditions."

The office staff now in place is vastly different from the single full-time employee of seven years ago. They are a dedicated group of people. They are organized, trained, and capable. They can function very well with little direct supervision. Unfortunately, some members of the fellowship attack the office and the staff without reason. While I know this is done by a small minority, such attacks are disconcerting.

An effective staff needs the support of the membership, particularly from those with whom they work on a regular basis. At this, a time of change, they need your support and confidence more than ever. I am hopeful they will continue to be used in positive and creative ways, and not relegated to a second-class status.

There is a crisis facing the office that only the fellowship at large can resolve. Gone are the days when the WSO produced excess income from literature sales that could be used for new projects, services, or staff. There are three solutions: cut WSO activity, increase prices, or receive direct contributions from members, groups, areas, and regions. I do not know what solution you will select, but failure to increase the funds available to meet the needs of addicts around the world dooms them to an early death. N.A. is the only antidote, and only you the member have the key to its use.

The conference has occupied a large part of my attention and energy over the years. The regional representatives have, on the whole, been marvelous to work with. They have been interested, qualified, and enthusiastic, and full of new ideas. The officers of the conference have been great companions in the struggles we've gone through to help the conference succeed. They have shouldered responsibility, and demonstrated their leadership and innovation.

The conference system, however, has both a positive and negative side. While it generally serves to meet the needs of the fellowship, it facilitates dysfunc-

tion among some members and disruption of progress. The conference has normally mistaken egotistical acting out by individuals as a minority viewpoint. And rather than handling errant members as a sponsor would, the conference lets them divert the conference from essential work and decision making. This could be improved by fellow regional representatives taking a stronger stand with those who are displaying character defects, rather than remaining silent.

Like the WSO, the conference is also facing the same financial shortage. The only solutions here are to increase the amount of money that is contributed to the conference.

The Board of Trustees has occupied a larger share of time and energy in recent years than in the early 1980's. Their activation of a committee system two years ago can produce a creative and stable leadership base. Unfortunately, until recently the Trustees as a group were generally more ineffective than effective. Their new-found strength can be a positive valuable resource to the fellowship.

The Board of Directors has been marvelous to work for and with. They read and understood mountains of reports, letters, and proposals. Their decision-making skills have served the fellowship very well. I cannot think of a decision made by the board that was wrong or questionable. Although the Board of Directors seems to have less visibility than some other service positions, the members are responsible and responsive to the fellowship through the conference.

The procedure used for their selection avoids the popularity contest aspect that permeates the election of trustees or conference officer positions. The Board of Directors election process affords a balance of conference-expressed confidence in a group of members, then leaves to those who really know what the job requires to make the final selection. I am hopeful that the current process will be changed very little.

There is a bright future for Narcotics Anonymous. It has been growing at a steady rate in the English-speaking countries, and a little slower in other countries. As more literature becomes available in other languages, the speed of growth there will accelerate.

There is nothing like N.A. Other organizations and efforts directed at addiction use the law, religion, medicine, or psychiatry, and it is not the same. It is not as effective, as those approaches miss the point that N.A. has proven is correct. Addiction is a disease that can be held in remission through N.A. meetings and working the steps.

As you read this, I will be toiling at a new enterprise. I have moved to Utah and started a small company. Next spring, if it's God's will, I'll start the foundation for a house on the lot I purchased several years ago. The mountains of Utah, its beauty and serenity have long beckoned me and I cannot resist.

I do not say good-bye, as for me the parting is neither good nor forever. I offer my prayers for each of you and N.A., to fare well in your daily lives and in your efforts to carry the message to addicts everywhere.

ANNOUNCEMENT*

The World Service Office, Incorporated introduces a variety of new recovery and service oriented publications and products, as well as pricing information.

*See next page for details.

Recovery and Service

The Group Booklet

Item No. 1600 Each 1-99 copies \$5.50
over 100 copies \$4.00

This new booklet provides the information members need when they start an N.A. meeting. As a replacement for the *Starter Kit*, "The Group Booklet" offers information and guidance for new groups.

Behind The Walls

Item No. 1601 Each 1-99 copies \$5.50
over 100 copies \$4.00

This booklet is aimed at those who are currently incarcerated, and is an excellent tool to help carry the message to those addicts who are unable to attend regular meetings of Narcotics Anonymous. The booklet contains the experience of many members who found and maintained their recovery "Behind The Walls." Their words are used to illustrate some of the principles contained in our program of recovery from the disease of addiction.

Medallions and Keytags

Bronze Medallion—18 Months

Item No. 4300 Each \$1.95
An antiqued metal medallion for eighteen months of clean time.

Keytags—Portuguese

Each \$.25

Made from sturdy plastic, N.A. Logo and appropriate clean time stamped in gold foil. Available from Welcome to 1 year.

Keytags—Spanish

Each \$.25

Made from sturdy plastic, N.A. Logo and appropriate clean time stamped in gold foil. Available from Welcome to 1 year.

Special Material

1990 Phonenumber Directory

Item No. 2112 Each: \$4.75

A directory of N.A. phonenumber numbers for use in locating Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Where service offices exist, their business numbers are included. Phone numbers for the United States, Canada, some European countries, Japan, and Australia are listed. This publication is updated annually.

Audio Cassettes

Recovery Tape Set (6 Tape set)

(Includes the Basic Text three tape set and Information Pamphlet Tapes 1, 2, and 3)

Item No. 8800 Each set: \$11.25

This comprehensive set provides the foundation for N.A.'s program and gives the listener a wide discussion of our common experience in recovery.

N.A. Informational Pamphlets

(Each tape sold separately) Each tape \$2.00

Information Pamphlets (Tape 1)

LP's 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19

Item No. 8802 (90 Minutes)

These pamphlets on N.A. recovery make the message of recovery available to addicts with limited reading skills or visual impairments, and all others who desire the accessibility of cassette tapes

Information Pamphlets (Tape 2)

N.A. White Booklet / "Hey! What's the Basket For?"

Item No. 8803 (57 Minutes)

The White Booklet, the original N.A. recovery tool offers a succinct foundation of N.A. The pamphlet, "Hey! What's The Basket For?" follows with an overview of how N.A. is self supporting.

Information Pamphlets (Tape 3)

Welcome to N.A. / Group Booklet

Item No. 8804 (56 Minutes)

The "Welcome to N.A." pamphlet offers an invitation to visitors and newcomers. This is followed by "The Group Booklet", a complete guide to starting an N.A. meeting.

Information Pamphlets (Tape 4)

Working Step Four in N.A. / The Loner

Item No. 8805 (63 Minutes)

"Working Step Four" is an indispensable guide to taking a Fourth Step Inventory. Following the Guide is "The Loner—Staying Clean in Isolation." This pamphlet offers additional help to those isolated from other addicts.

Information Pamphlets (Tape 5)

Behind the Walls / Staying Clean on the Outside / H&I and the N.A. Member

Item No. 8806 (78 Minutes)

This collection is intended for use in a correctional or institutional setting. These materials provide guidance for recovery for those behind the walls and upon release.

Speaker Tapes

(Each tape sold separately)

Each tape \$5.00

Judy G.

Item No. 8106 (64 Minutes)

Judy spoke at WCNA-17 in New Orleans, 1987. She shares about her struggle with fear in early recovery and awareness that when she "stopped looking outside herself for love, and began to look within," her recovery really began.

Leah G. / Becky M.

Item No. 8109 (73 Minutes)

Leah G.—This tape was recorded at the 1987 World Convention in New Orleans. Leah shares about her recovery as she goes through the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous, and learns the value of sponsorship.

Becky M.—This tape was recorded at WCNA-17 in New Orleans. At one year clean, Becky shares, she had to let people get to know who she was, when she realized that she didn't have a clue about what was happening to her. This tape touches on the steps, sponsorship, successes and changes she has undergone throughout her recovery.

Stu T.

Item No. 8120 (68 Minutes)

This member spoke at the Western States Unity Convention in 1985. In this tape Stu shares about his surrender to the disease of addiction after periods of incarceration. He shares about his recovery, relationships, his sponsor and his faith in God.

Leah G.

Item No. 8121 (50 Minutes)

A member's recovery talk at the Sixth East Coast Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland 1985. This speaker describes the insanity of her active addiction and her unconditional surrender to the N.A. program. She discusses working the Twelve Steps and learning to work with a sponsor.

Carmelita W.

Item No. 8122 (56 Minutes)

This recording of Carmelita was made at the Southern California Regional Convention in 1987. Carmelita's statement, "If you want to live, stay in Narcotics Anonymous," sums up her message in this unique tape which ends with a song of gratitude. (Contains strong, adult language.)

Ron H.

Item No. 8123

(66 Minutes)

Ron H. was recorded at the Upper Mid West Regional Convention in 1988. He gives a colorful analogy for each of the Twelve Steps as he shares about his recovery in Narcotics Anonymous.

Mariasha P.-U / Barbara J.

Item No. 8124

(81 Minutes)

Mariasha P.-U.—This recording of Mariasha was made at the "Isolation in Recovery" meeting at the Southern California Regional Convention in 1987. Mariasha shares how our disease spreads in the darkness of isolation, but through her recovery in Narcotics Anonymous she is overcoming the loneliness, fear and anger she has felt most of her life. (Topical)

Barbara J.—This tape of Barbara J. was recorded at the Second Southern Nevada Convention of N.A. in Las Vegas, 1988. Barbara begins by sharing a little about what it was like in her active addiction. She then goes on to her recovery, the influence of sponsorship and service in her life, and finding out just who Barbara is.—(Less than optimal sound quality.)

Dutch H.

Item No. 8125

(62 Minutes)

This tape of Dutch H. was recorded at the 1986 Southern California Regional Convention. "There is a big difference between total abstinence and recovery" states this speaker as he shares the trials and tribulations of his early clean time and growth in recovery through the Twelve Steps.

Bob Mc D.

Item No. 8126

(70 Minutes)

This recording of Bob Mc D. was made at Oregon/So. Idaho Regional Convention 1988. Bob talks about his surrender to his addiction and getting clean while in the military service. He talks about the "magic of sponsorship," as he struggled to stay clean his first year. His story covers relationships that came and went, dealing with suicide, and learning to love himself.

Anthony E.

Item No. 8127

(52 Minutes)

This was recorded when Anthony E. spoke at the Southern California Regional Convention in 1987. Anthony shares about his youth and using in Washington D.C., being "hip, slick, cool" and scared. He relates the recovery and the joy he has experienced since coming to Narcotics Anonymous. (Less than optimal sound quality.)

COMING EVENTS

AUSTRALIA: Sep. 28-30, 1990; Sydney Combined Areas Convention; Enmore Theatre, 116 Enmore Road, Enmore; tel. 61-202112445; CAC-90, P.O. Box 1376, Darlinghurst, NSW, Australia

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Oct. 26-28, 1990; 13 Annual Pacific Northwest Convention; Delta River Inn, 3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC V7B 1C7; rsvns (604) 278-1241; PNWCNA #13, P.O. Box 43018, Burnaby, BC V5G 4S2

CALIFORNIA: Nov. 2-4, 1990; 11th So. Cal. Regional Convention; Bonaventure Hotel, 404 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles; rsvns (213) 624-1000

Canada: Oct. 5-7, 1990; "Chaque jour nous en revelera davantage" 3rd Quebec Regional Convention; Grand Hotel in downtown Montreal, next to Square Victoria metro station; C.R.Q.N.A.3, Station B, P.O. Box 1871, Quebec CANADA, H3B 3L4

COLORADO: Oct. 26-28, 1990; 4th Colorado Regional Convention; Holiday Inn, 425 West Prospect Road, Ft. Collins, CO 80526; rsvns (303) 482-2626; Colorado Reg. Convention, P.O. Box 5183, Englewood, CO 80155-5183

MAINE: Sep. 22, 1990; International Area #1 P.I. and H&I Learning Day; Penobscot Community Medical Building; Bangor, Maine; call (207) 234-2713 for information

MINNESOTA: Sep. 22, 1990; Twin Cities Banquet, St Albert's Church, 2833 32nd Ave., Minneapolis, MN; rsvns via T.C.N.A. Banquet Committee, P.O. Box 18354, W. St. Paul, Mn. 55118

MISSOURI: Sep. 14-16, 1990; Show Me Regional Lake of the Ozarks State Park "Campvention", Central Missouri; call (314) 635-0271 for information; P.O. Box 7114, Jefferson City, MO 65109

NEBRASKA: Sep. 14-16, 1990; Holiday Inn, North Platte, NE 69101; NCRNA VII, P.O. Box 2254, North Platt, NE 69101

NEW ZEALAND: Oct. 26-28, 1990; New Zealand Regional Convention; Victoria University, Kelburn, Wellington; NZRSCCC, P.O. Box 12-473, Molesworth Street, Wellington

OHIO: Sep. 14-15, 1990; "Literature Awareness 1990," Ramada Inn East, 2100 Brice Road, Columbus, OH rsvns (614) 864-1280; Ohio RSO, (614) 236-8787

2) Sep. 21-23, 1990; COASCNA H&I Learning Day campout at Camp Oty'Okwa, 55 miles southeast of Columbus, OH; \$30 registration; Learning Day Campout, 1706 E. Broad St., Room 5, Columbus, OH 43203

OREGON: Oct. 13-14, 1990; "Heartbeat of N.A."; rsvns (503) 341-6070

PENNSYLVANIA: Sep. 7-9, 1990; 9th Little Apple Area Birthday Celebration; George Washington Motor Lodge, Rt. 22 and 145, Allentown, PA; Little Apple Area, P.O. Box 4475, Allentown, PA 18105

2) Nov. 9-11, 1990; "Start To Live VIII," Tri-State Regional Convention; Hilton Hotel Downtown Pittsburgh; rsvns call (412) 391-4600 or (800)HIL-TONS; phoneline (412) 381-8110; send speaker tapes (5years clean) to Tri-State RSO, Inc., P.O. Box 110217, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

3) Nov. 23-25, 1990; Beehive Area Thanksgiving Convention; Sheraton Crossgates Hotel; rsvns (717) 824-7100; phoneline (717) 283-0828; send speaker tapes to Beehive ASC, P.O. Box 291, Wilkes Barre, PA 18703

SOUTH CAROLINA: Nov. 15-18, 1990; Serenity Festival VIII, Landmark Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC; P.O.Box 1198, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

TENNESSEE: Nov. 21-25, 1990; 8th Volunteer Regional Convention; Hyatt Regency Hotel, 623 Union Street, Nashville, TN 37219; rsvns (800) 233-1234; VRC VIII, P.O. Box 121961, Nashville, TN 37212

UNITED KINGDOM: Sept. 7-9, 1990; UKCNA IV at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Union Buildings, King's Walk, NE1 8QB; UKCNA 4, P.O. Box 704, London, England, SW10 0RP

VERMONT: Nov. 9-11, 1990; Champlain Valley Area Convention; Ramada Inn, South Burlington; rsvns (800) 2-RAMADA or (802) 658-0250; CVACC, P.O. Box 64714, Burlington, VT 05406

VIRGINIA: Oct. 5-7, 1990; 4th Almost Heaven Area Convention; 4H Center, Front Royal, VA; AHA Convention Committee, P.O. Box 2462, Hagerstown, MD 21741-2462

WEST VIRGINIA: Oct. 26-28, 1990; "True Colors 111," Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV 25271; rsvns at (304) 372-7000; Mountaineer RSC, P.O. Box 2381, Westover, WV 26502

WISCONSIN: Oct. 19-21, 1990; 7th Wisconsin State N.A. Convention; Holiday Inn Southeast, Madison, WI; rsvns (800) 465-4329 or write P.O. Box 14501, Madison, WI 53714

WSO ORDER FORM

WSO P.O. Box 9999 Van Nuys, CA 91409-9999 USA 818-780-3951

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1102	<i>Narcotics Anonymous</i> , The Basic Text (Soft Cover)		\$8.00	
1500	<i>N.A. White Booklet</i> , Newly Revised		*\$.50 / \$.40	
3110	I.P. No. 10 — Working Step Four in <i>Narcotics Anonymous</i>		*\$.50 / \$.40	
3102	I.P. No. 2 — The Group		*\$.20 / \$.18	
3121	I.P. No. 21 — The Loner—Staying Clean in Isolation		*\$.20 / \$.18	
3101	I.P. No. 1 — Who, What, How and Why		*\$.15 / \$.13	
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3124	I.P. No. 24 — "Hey! What's the Basket For?"		*\$.15 / \$.13	
2102	Hospitals & Institutions Handbook		\$5.00	
2103	Guide to Public Information		\$3.50	
2104	Temporary Working Guide		\$3.00	
2105	Literature Committees Handbook—Revised 4/88		\$2.00	
2106	Handbook for N.A. Newsletters		\$1.50	
2107	A Guide to Phoneline Service		\$2.50	
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