

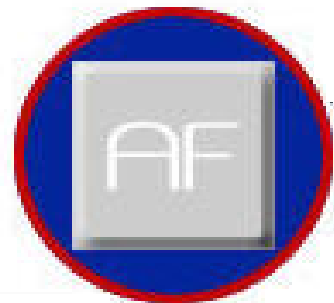
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The New/Old NAWay

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Mission

Alternate Service Information Structure

for Narcotics Anonymous is a point of collection for the informed group conscience of N.A. While we believe an attempt to reform N.A. service from within the existing structure might be beneficial, what we believe to be a more effective strategy is to provide a steady, reliable, non-political, and non-combative alternative for directly responsible service.

On Getting Involved with Service...

So often I have felt that my life had no purpose. I fell short of what I wanted my purpose to be. Confusion was a constant state. On one hand, I felt that my purpose could best be served through a profession and I sought to fulfill myself through my job. On the other hand, as a woman, I felt that marriage and a family should be my purpose in life and I sought the “right man” to complete my purpose. I felt lost and confused.

Today I know what my primary purpose in life is. N.A. has given me that purpose. I may be used as an instrument to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. I became involved in structural service several months ago, and as many of you who are involved can relate to—I jumped in—I didn’t wade in. I spread myself thin, and volunteered for everything that I felt capable of.

The more I became involved in different areas within the service structure, the more I began to feel that something was wrong. I didn’t feel that anything was lacking in my personal commitment to recovery. I did however feel a gnawing in my gut that my commitment to recovery and the priorities in my service work were being confused. I am grateful that I have loving friends in this Fellowship around me constantly who lovingly tell me when. I’m screwing up.

Reading our book helped me find the key that would clear up the confusion in my mind. The collective experience in our book I felt sure would show me the answer. I found it. “We attend meetings and make ourselves visible and available to serve the Fellowship.” “Working with others is only the beginning of service work. N.A. service allows us to spend much of our time directly helping the suffering addicts as well as insuring that N.A. itself survives.” I looked at my involvement in service work. I evaluated other people’s involvement in service. I concluded that I wasn’t putting enough effort into working directly with others. Today I understand that sharing at meetings and one-on-one with a newcomer what I have been given through N.A. is the most important way I can help our Fellowship grow. This must be primary in my life, for it is the only way to keep my personal recovery. Helping to insure that N.A. itself survives through the implementation of our Traditions and the service structure is necessary and vital, but without providing my part of the atmosphere of recovery in the group. I attend, our service structure would have less to support. Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. One of the best ways to insure our Fellowship’s survival is to share a pure message of recovery with the newcomer who then may share what they have found with the next newcomer through our doors.

No matter what area of service I involve myself in, I cannot, for my own peace of mind, and fuller recovery, afford to neglect my primary role.

Reprinted from The NA Way December 1982



River or Pond?

When first coming into the program of NA, I knew I was an addict and I knew I was done. It got to the point where using was more important than anything else in my life. By attending meetings, getting a sponsor and working steps, my life got significantly better. But, after being in NA for a while, I ended up “slacking off”, not attending many meetings, not working steps very much and simply put, I became complacent. This isn’t unusual...it happens to the best of us.

So, what can we do? I look at my program and myself...am I a flowing river or a stagnant pond? A flowing river is continuous and moving. If something tries to blocks its passage, it simply goes around it. The river knows its purpose is a welcome place for animals, fish and plants providing refuge, serenity and life while letting go of any unwanted items, washing them away. It signifies life. A stagnant pond just sits there, collecting waste materials, odors and slime. It can’t go anywhere because it is blocked up and doesn’t have the will to do anything about it. Eventually, stagnant ponds become choked with weeds, dry up and are no more. It signifies death. So, are we working towards a better life or are we allowing our disease to manifest itself towards our death? No one is immune to the disease no matter how long we have been clean. Get back into the flow of the river and your program.

There is a lot you can do! Attend a meeting you have never been to before, help start a new one or get involved in your Home Group again. Pick up the phone and call someone (like your sponsor) or become a sponsor to someone who is new to NA. Consider giving a ride to another recovering addict to a meeting or function. This simple act of gratitude could help you both from using. And most importantly, start working your steps again with a new found enthusiasm towards change. Continuing a life as a stagnant pond just brings us closer to picking up that first one and closer to death. Stay involved in your program. Let go of whatever is blocking you up. Become the river and become the person of who chooses life.

In Loving Service

Renewed Spirit

I am really enjoying NA meetings in my area. I have experienced a renewed spirit and am full of enthusiasm when I leave the meeting. I find myself calling people to share this excitement, it’s like being a newcomer again, when things are new and fresh. No one really knows you yet, there are no conflicts, everyone seems friendly, the principles are present, the meetings are carrying the message, coffee is made, and folks are greeted when they come in the doors of NA. I know this is how it should be, but it is not always how it is. Most recently I attended a meeting and watched an addict walk a newcomer around the room introducing them to other addicts to get phone numbers. I find this so personable, and so important to help the newcomer get the contacts



they need to stay clean. It's so easy to be in a meeting and mingle with the ones we know, the ones we relate to. My program tells me I need to be inclusive, to share with someone I haven't shared with before, and to reach out to that newcomer. Today, when I attend a meeting, I don't leave without introducing myself to at least one addict I do not know. Sometimes, I look for the newest person celebrating an anniversary be it a welcome key tag or a 30 day key tag, I hug that person and welcome them. This is some of the best service one can do!

I especially like the formats here, they ask that you shut off your cell phone during the meeting and some even include 'no texting during the meeting please'. These meetings provide an atmosphere of recovery which is so desperately needed now-a-days. Any side talk is hushed by the chairperson simply stating 'there's a meeting going on'. I admire these characteristics in a group! I can actually sit and hear the message of NA!

I know when I attend a meeting today, I am going to be greeted with a hug and a smile; there is one particular addict who reaches out to people, I am very grateful to her:) Just for Today, I will continue to enjoy my anonymity, enjoy people giving me their phone numbers and most importantly enjoy the Pure NA message that I am hearing at the meetings.

NA still moves me! *A very grateful addict*

Our NA Fellowship

My fellow addicts were do I start?? Where has our principle-based NA fellowship gone? Does anyone else wonder? Are you feeling it too? Here are some ideas to think about.

The single standing subcommittee left on the World level is the Convention committee...I kid you not. They will tell you different. They will call it fellowship services. No one really knows what they do. However, the problem is by them doing this, the areas and regions have modeled this service or disservice practice all across our country and abroad, depending on how one looks at it. The last two conventions at the world level have lost \$750,000 combined. They have spent \$700,000 in renovations on a property they don't even own. They have changed their book (6th Edition) to exclude the stories of our originators...the way they honored their memory and said thanks, was to take them out of the equation. They operate a service office in a country that has sanctions against it by the United Nations for Crimes against Humanity not to mention ties to terrorist activities. Our literature costs are so high that treatment centers, jails, etc., etc., give away the AA fellowship literature and send their clients there instead of where they belong... HOME IN A NA MEETING. Addicts are dying because they can't get our message. The message I got, and hopefully you too. Are you starting to feel this?

*One thing about
the addict in me,
I tend to believe
what I think*

I am so disturbed by the actions of our so-called leaders...I get sad and want to run. We can not do this anymore. Someone once told me the bigger the lie the bigger the cover up. Stand for something or fall for anything. Money, Property, and Prestige have diverted this fellowship from its primary purpose. It's way off course and a long way from its original aim. Most of these things I have listed were done without



If I had an answer to all of my problems, then I wouldn't need to question them, but if I had no questions, I wouldn't get any answers.

your input or knowledge. The WSO and or NAWS are using the money being generated by the groups to fund all these projects. The monthly operating expenses for the Office are in excess of \$700,000 monthly for a service office that will not be responsible to those they serve. I hope You are asking yourself right now what can I do? Daily I gather the input and information for the task at hand!!!

I am part of a group of people who love this Fellowship enough to sacrifice, money, time, and personal freedom to make a change happen. So much has happened to get me

here today. TRADITIONS, TRADITIONS... they can't be negotiated.. We have started a new home group. A foundation group so to speak, original literature, readings, no BS, no area affiliation, nor region... I love it :) However it is not attended as well and it is very controversial within the area I live. We will not donate any money to support the WSO. We boycott any purchase of NAWS literature, we reprint literature and books to be given away freely. Don't let the WSO lie to you, there is a provision in the FIPT that allows us to reprint our literature...after all we own it. You and I and every other addict across the world, the WSO is the trust holder of it but its owned by you and I. Seek out the truth.

If you know some of our originators (old-timers who were involved in the fellowship's literature committee) ask lots of questions and talk to them regularly. Question your trusted servants about the events at hand currently. Stay on top of the WSO and question anything that does not sound or look right. MAKE SURE AND DOWNLOAD a copy of the CAR report and go through it!!! All this stuff matters to us all. We can't say "it doesn't matter anymore" and hide. Make sure you look at the motion makers and pay special attention to the ones from WSO, the board, or WSC. These historically have made changes that were not well received by the fellowship. Mark your Calendars to attend MARLCNA Feb 12,13,14, 2010 in Lancaster, PA If we show up there with enough people maybe we can get some momentum, this is all important stuff. Last but not least, do a really good job with the people you sponsor, this is a huge task and an honor. Teach them well and please tell them about our traditions and how important they are.

Until next time



The New/Old NA Way is a quarterly newsletter of the Anonymi Foundation. The newsletter is published by email. To subscribe send an email to asisfna@yahoo.com



visit our website at www.anonymi.info

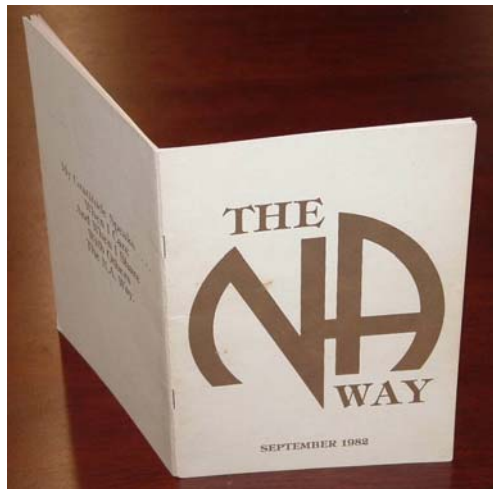
Dedicated to [true trusted service](#) for the NA Member, Group or committee who wants to effectively carry the NA message of total abstinence from all drugs and Recovery from Addiction to the addict who still suffers. We will be will be steady, reliable, non-political, and non-combative. We are guided by the [12 Traditions](#) of NA and [Directly responsible](#) to those NA Groups we serve.

Your Fellowship Magazine

*Share...
and be shared with...*

*Like it was when NA was new and young and
life-or-death intense:*

*You matter to us so we will tell you the truth as we know it
with nothing held back.*



“...so that no addict seeking recovery need ever die...”

We publish your input—the opinions presented are not necessarily those of the New/Old NA Way or Anonymi Foundation

