

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES, 4/11/81 (SPECIAL SCHEDULED MEETING)

Those attending: Chuck S., Bob B., Chuck G., Bill B., Cliff C.,  
Carl B., Sally E., Mel H.

The meeting was called to order a 8:00 pm.

A letter from Mel H. was read requesting that he be put on inactive status from the Board for one year, and at that time he will be reevaluated and a vote will be taken by the Board to determine whether he will be reinstated.

By a unanimous vote the request was granted and Mel was dismissed from the meeting.

A letter was read from the president of the World Service Office. The letter announced the dismissal of some of the members of the Board of Directors and the appointment of new Board Members. The letter stated this action was taken because of an apparent lack of interest on the part of those Board Members dismissed.

The question was raised regarding whether or not this action was taken within the corporate structure bylaws and the traditions of N.A.

There was no vote taken and much discussion followed. Major points brought out during the discussion were: The WSO needed to take some action in order to catalyze the support necessary for it to function; that the way in which the appointment and dismissal of the respective Board members, in which the appointment and dismissal of the respective Board Members, without the benefit of input from those Board Members dismissed and the fellowship of N.A. as a whole, prior to the action taken, was in direct violation of the traditions as well as the bylaws of the corporate structure; it was repeatedly stated by each of the Board of Trustees that Jimmy K.'s hard work and sincerity dedicated to the WSO is greatly appreciated.

The point was brought up that the World Service Board being separate from the Board of Trustees would be unable to operate separately in as much as it would have no legal effect. (Carl B.)

A letter was read by Chuck S. That he stated may be brought to the floor of the World Service Conference as a motion, The contents of the letter was a motion made by the membership of N.A. to withdraw the power entrusted to the World Service Board. It was not stated who wrote the letter or who would present it at the World Service Conference.

The legitimacy of "telephone polling" for requesting monies for the WSO was discussed.

It was agreed upon that what the Board of Trustees had discussed be brought back to a meeting of the Board of Directors of the WSO with these suggestions: - The old Board of Directors (those who were members of the Board prior to the action taken) be recalled and reverse the decisions made, with discussion and a revote taken.

- Each new Board Member be nominated at the World Service Conference, then be voted on and approved by the existing Board.
- the new members be selected from the various regions.
- An advisory board be set up by the various regions to facilitate communication between the Board and the membership of of N. A.

May 7, 1981

OPEN LETTER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

While "personal recovery depends on N.A. unity," at the level of the Board of Trustees, it might be said, "N.A. unity is dependent somewhat on the personal recovery of the individual Trustees."

In observing the behavior of the Trustees in the past few years, it has occurred to me that the illusion of high office may have arrested your spiritual development much in the manner that true humility within the basic N.A. group arrests our disease.

Since you were not all chosen by the Fellowship and are largely self-appointed, it stands to reason that you may have misjudged your own abilities.

When asked to define matters concerning the Traditions, you speak of grey areas. However, in matters of politics and power you seem to be clear and concise in your evaluations and actions. You attempt to exert pressure and influence on individual members who disagree with your tactics, even to the point of attempting to smear other Board members when they demur.

You strongly defend your personal rights and freedoms, giving little thought to the effect on the Fellowship as a whole. You conduct your personal lives as though the practice of Principles and the attempt to establish moral standards were the sole province of the newcomer. The newcomer who looks to you for guidance and example.

You have appointed yourselves best able among us to guide us. Your road map is the 12 Traditions, yet when you find us in the swamp you equivocate. You love to fall back on the tired old cop-out, "What do you expect, I'm just a sick addict."

Perhaps most of you have sacrificed your personal recovery under the false assumption that you are working for a greater good. I want to tell you the only good there is begins inside of you as an individual. If you have ignored this primary "save your own ass" principle of your program, you are no good to us, in N.A., to yourself or to whatever God you serve.

If you are unwilling to be exemplary in your behavior, honest and open in your dealings with others, then you are unfit to serve. You represent an ideal. If your character is not strong enough to bear the burden, admit it and step down. You have done enough damage to yourself and the Fellowship already. We have lost the one man on your Board who thoroughly embodies the Principles and Traditions. There is not enough of substance left among you to warrant your function at this time.

An N.A. Member

cc: Chuck Skinner  
Cliff Kraft  
Bob Barrett  
Greg Pierce  
Chuck Gates  
Sally Evans  
Carl Baggatt  
World Service Office (archives)