

W.S.B. OF TRUSTEES

Dear Sally and friends; WSB of Trustees,

I've spent many hours studying, praying, and meditating on how to write this letter. Most of all I pray this may be read with empathy...

Many events have altered the nature of Narcotics Anonymous in the recent past. One of the most significant was the distribution of the Review Form of our Basic Text-"the Grey Book". The impact was enormous; overnight, NA groups began to use this book and many treated it as representative of NA recovery. Of great significance was the care taken to insure that this Review Form endorsed no outside enterprises nor stated any opinions on outside issues. I believe that because of this reinforcement of our Traditions N A Unity was enhanced. The ties that bound us together were stronger than the forces that could have torn us apart.

To me our Twelve Traditions are like a roof over our collective heads protecting us from the storms of society. A large black cloud is on the horizon: the public controversy that will inevitably result from Narcotics Anonymous publishing opinions on outside issues and the disunity that will inevitably result from Narcotics Anonymous publishing endorsement of outside enterprises. And there's a big hole in our roof: we have decided to distribute 'Living Clean' in review form.

The considerable benefit that could result from use of this material (Living Clean) is overshadowed by the damage resulting from clear violation of our Sixth and Tenth Traditions and certain compromise of our First, Fifth, Second, and Ninth Traditions.

I pray that you our trusted servants the WSB of Trustees will consider the distribution of proposed review forms of NA literature in general and the specific proposal to distribute 'Living Clean' for Fellowship review and input as regards the following:

#1)? does specific mention of Trade Names or generic Names of drugs or medications constitute, in a discussion of drug-using within proposed NA literature, an opinion on an outside issue? ?

#2)? does use of language identifyably representative of a particular religious sect, denomination, or dogmatic belief system constitute endorsement of that sect, dogma or belief system? ?

#3)? does discussion of things that are not NA such as 'detoxes', 'treatment centers', 'rehabilitation', or 'therapy' concluding in criteria to determine an addict's "need" for these things constitute opinions on outside issues or general endorsement of outside enterprises? ?

#4)? does publishing anything in the NA name which does not comply basically with the general perceptions of addiction and recovery outlined in our approved Basic Text, and does not agree basically with the language used to describe addiction and recovery in our Basic Text violate the spirit of group conscience Approval of our Basic Text as our definitive work on addiction and recovery? ?

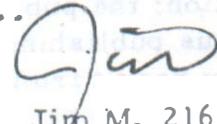
#5)? does distribution of a review form sharing ideas, perceptions, and experiences gained outside of NA discourage NA unity? ?

My experience indicates that the answers to each of these questions is a strong, unqualified YES !

Considering these points it would seem quite premature to publish "Living Clean" in it's present configuration as a Review Form. I submit that distribution of "Living Clean" now as a review form without addressing these issues first could well serve the Forces which could tear NA apart equally as much as distribution of the "Grey Book" enhanced the Ties that bind us together.

Please move swiftly and decisively to guard our Traditions and contribute to our common welfare...my personal recovery...my very life depends on it.

trusting you with all my heart
to serve in a directly responsible
manner...



Jim M. 216 424 3701

We agree with the considerations expressed in this letter and request that the WSB of Trustees respond prior to distribution of "Living Clean" in Review Form...

Franklin Gifford - M.

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