

November 1983

TO: The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous
FROM: Chuck S.

"AS I SEE N.A. SIX MONTHS LATER"

For many years Narcotics Anonymous was served by a few devoted and dedicated persons. We have progressed in growth at a tremendous rate which has been almost overwhelming at times.

Today, we have "trusted servants", on the Board of Trustees and the World Service Office Board of Directors working hard towards the continuing effort of meeting the needs of the Fellowship as a whole. The W.S.O. is becoming more efficient and more expeditious with regards to handling inquiries, mailing packets, etc.

It now appears that all persons involved are working towards a common goal and are pulling together rather than apart. Ofcourse, as in all things, those persons who lag behind in meeting the Fellowship needs will be "weeded out".

There is not, and never has been, any "hidden power" in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. As experience has shown us, those persons who look for anything along these lines fizzle out like a shooting star; a burst of multicolors which then vanish from the sky. It is the person who continuously carries the message to the addict who still suffers, wherever and whenever, who is the one with any so-called "hidden power".

It is with much gratitude that I have lived long enough to see my dream come true; "That no addict need die who truly wants to recover". This because the message is now world-wide.

While there is still much to be done, the sense of urgency has finally vanished. I feel and see that, you the Fellowship, will now more logically and reasonably continue to build and support the services necessary, and, to increase our efficiency in a more business-like manner rather than an emotional frenzy which has been prevalent over the past few years.

There is a great need for more literature to inform our Fellowship, our H&I Groups, new Groups in general, Public Information guidelines, etc., as there always will be in any new growth. Everything is subject to change and there is no decision reached thus far that cannot be changed for the improvement and betterment of the Fellowship as a whole.

My heartfelt thanks to those in the past and those in the future who have and will devote their time and energies to the growth of Narcotics Anonymous.

In Love and Fellowship,
Past Board of Trustees Chairman

/s/
Chuck S.

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Questions regarding Tradition violations arise most frequently over the use of literature and speakers from other twelve step fellowships. A rereading of our Tradition number Six and the following words of experience may be helpful in resolving these problems before they start.

Tradition Six: "An NA Group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose".

Narcotics Anonymous as we know it today evolved out of a group called AA for Addicts which met in the San Fernando Valley. In 1953 the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous informed this group that they were in violation of the Traditions of AA and that AA was for alcoholics. This group formed the first meeting of Narcotics Anonymous and since then we have grown from one small meeting in Southern California to a world wide fellowship.

We are deeply grateful to AA for granting us permission to adapt their Twelve Steps and Traditions to our program. We have gained much from AA and wish to maintain a spirit of "Cooperation, but not Affiliation" with AA.

The World Service Board of Trustees of NA has consistently held that at NA meetings that the use of Literature other than NA approved literature constitutes a violation of the Traditions. Further that speakers need to talk about the NA Steps, the NA Traditions and NA recovery. We need to keep in mind the confusion that can result for the newcomer in attendance at an NA meeting hearing about how to recover in another 12 step fellowship. Any member may attend another 12 step fellowship as part of his or her personal program, but when speaking in Narcotics Anonymous he or she needs to be able to talk about their NA experience. We are a separate fellowship in our own right. Under the guidance of a Higher Power, we are growing, we are getting better; we have our own literature and our own experience of recovery. We need to have pride in ourselves as such. It is essential that we adhere to our Traditions including Tradition six; our survival is dependant upon our standing on our own and not affiliating with another 12 step program.

There is much available in the nature of self help literature, literature from other 12 step programs and inspirational reading which can be helpful to the individual personally and can be incorporated into that persons recovery. However, there is a vast difference between reading and benefitting from a variety of sources and bringing them into an NA meeting for others to read or listen to.

The use of literature other than NA approved literature constitutes a violation of the Traditions, Speakers for NA meetings, Conventions, functions etc. need to talk about the NA Steps, the NA Traditions and NA recovery in order to avoid confusion and not be in violation of Traditions.

If your are concerned about a violation of traditions in your group, area or region, we suggest that you approach the individual, or individuals involved, with a positive and friendly attitude. Every effort should be made to discuss and resolve possible violations at the time and place they appear to be generated.

In a future article, we will provide guidance on the correct procedure to follow when a suspected violation cannot be avoided or stopped by direct and immediate discussion.

Yours in service
Board of Trustees

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CLOSING COMMENTS

We have received many letters in support of the expansion of the NEWSLINE and we appreciate them. We will also welcome suggestions that you feel would be helpful to you.

Yours in service to the Fellowship

Bob Stone