

In our efforts to help the Fellowship to carry the message to the addict who still suffers, we welcome any and all input and suggestions which you may have. Please direct these to the World Service Office, c/o Group Services Department.

## FROM THE TRUSTEES

### TRADITION ONE

*"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity."*

The Twelve Traditions are the spiritual principles we apply to make certain that the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship will be here for the long haul. As we begin to put the Twelve Steps into practice in our lives, we become better able to understand and interpret the Twelve Traditions.

When we first look at Tradition One, we may think that physically bonding ourselves together with other addicts will ensure our personal recovery. Although this may be true for some, the message of the First Tradition goes far beyond that.

The term *common welfare* which we find in Tradition One refers to the general well-being of the N.A. Fellowship as a whole. Each of us is dependent on the N.A. Fellowship for our personal recovery. So, the better off the N.A. Fellowship is, the better it is for each of us as individuals. And as individuals we each need to do our part to ensure N.A.'s general well-being. This is one way we begin to apply the spiritual principles of the Traditions in our personal recovery. At some point in our recovery we realize that we can always use drugs by ourselves, but we cannot recover by ourselves. As individuals we need our N.A. groups, and we each have a responsibility to do whatever we can to make sure N.A. will be there in the future not only for us but for the suffering addicts we haven't met yet.

For many, the N.A. logo is a symbol of "new attitudes." Often we find that the attitudes prevalent in our N.A. groups are the same as those reflected in the N.A. Fellowship as a whole. One of these new attitudes seems to be, "What is good for this Fellowship is good for me."

So what is good for everybody in the N.A. Fellowship? Of course the answer to that question is multi-faceted, but one key is unity. In bringing about greater unity for this worldwide Fellowship, we must always be watchful for "attitudes of indifference or intolerance toward spiritual principles." As we know, these attitudes will defeat us in our recovery. Aside from the devastating effects they have in our personal recovery, these negative attitudes also defeat us in our attempts to bring about unity. And yet, when we really make an effort to put spiritual principles into action in our lives, we find recovery from our addiction. And this is true not only for us as individuals, but also for our N.A. groups and service committees. The results speak for themselves. We find that we no longer have to be

creative at crisis management; we experience a measure of serenity both in our personal lives as individuals and collectively as a worldwide N.A. Fellowship.

Many decisions are made at the group level which concern the well-being of the group. And even though other N.A. members may attend the meeting, the decisions are made by the members of that particular group. The ability to accept whatever decisions are made, whether or not we agree with it, helps to promote unity within the group. This unity contributes to the atmosphere of recovery which is what attracts addicts to our N.A. groups.

Since our personal recovery truly depends on N.A. unity, then doing everything we can to promote unity is of utmost importance. Studying and learning about the philosophy of N.A. which is expressed in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is a good beginning. But then we must practice these principles and put our *new attitudes* into action. The unity we are striving for is in our effort. Our victory is in our effort.

## TRUSTEES' STATEMENTS:

At this year's World Service Conference, the Board of Trustees issued statements on a variety of subjects of concern to the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship. These will be printed in the next few editions of the *Newsline*. The following paragraph appeared in the Trustees' introduction to these statements:

*Since many of these issues continue to recur, it is our hope that we will make strong statements in response to these Fellowship concerns and submit these to the World Service Conference. In this process, the Fellowship can consider and vote on these issues which affect N.A. as a whole. We feel this must involve the entire Fellowship in order to set policies and direction. We respectfully submit the following suggestions to you for consideration and further input, to be sent to us between now and November 1, 1986.*

### STATEMENT BY THE WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS TO NAR-ANON AND FAMILIES ANONYMOUS:

It has become clear to us that the phrase "cooperation not affiliation" is no longer suitable for Narcotics Anonymous. Undoubtedly this attitude and these words have served us over many years, but it appears that the growth and development of our Fellowship demands a revised expression. In consulting the dictionary, "cooperation" means, "the act of working together to a common end or the association of a number of people together in an enterprise, the benefits of which are shared." This definition can present a problem in addressing our relationship with any other organization, including Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous. Strictly speaking, the object

or goal of our Fellowship is not the same as any other Fellowship. In this respect, it is impossible to cooperate.

The Board of Trustees believes that a policy, or attitude, or phrase which serves our purpose and guides our Fellowship well is "a policy of non-affiliation." This clearly conveys the fact that we do not associate with, connect with, or adopt any other organization or purpose. Our relationship as a Fellowship with Nar-Anon, Families Anonymous, treatment centers, clubhouses or any other organization or enterprise can then be simply and clearly defined as one of providing information. We do, and are willing to, provide information about what we do, where we do it, where our meetings are held, where our conventions are held, etc. We provide this information to anyone or everyone who requests it. We must avoid any type of affiliation or special treatment for anyone outside of Narcotics Anonymous.

Our Sixth Tradition states that "An N.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the N.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose." The Sixth Tradition does not contain a qualifier exempting Twelve Step programs for family members. The Board of Trustees believes that many of the practices which we have engaged in as a Fellowship do not constitute compliance with our Traditions. These include listing Families Anonymous and Nar-Anon meetings in N.A. directories, on flyers for N.A. conventions, or in N.A. registration forms, and the practice of obtaining meeting places for these other Fellowships at conventions or other N.A. activities. Additionally, holding N.A. meetings in clubhouses or facilities of these other Fellowships, utilizing speakers from these other Fellowships, and giving specific referrals on our phonelines to these other Fellowships, are practices which do not adhere to our traditions.

Adherence to our Twelve Traditions does not imply the lack of care or love or respect for Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous. However, the Board of Trustees believes that it has become imperative for our Fellowship to uphold our Twelve Traditions and support compliance by all of our groups. In doing so, we must separate the opinions of individual members of Narcotics Anonymous from the standpoint of the Fellowship as a whole. We believe that adhering to our Traditions in this manner ensures our own recovery and, and also best serves those we love by allowing them to pursue their recovery in an appropriate place and manner.

## N.A. LITERATURE ON CASSETTE TAPE

At long last and after numerous requests, the World Service Office has begun the production of cassette tapes. Our plan is to make available cassette tapes of all Conference-approved literature items. The first items of priority are the informational pamphlets, which will be followed

by the *Group Starter Kit*, the White Booklet and the Basic Text.

The taping is being done in a professional manner in a soundproof booth at the World Service Office. This is one of the reasons tapes were not prepared prior to this time--we did not have the facilities to make professional quality tapes. However, sophisticated taping equipment has been purchased, the taping booth has been constructed and we are off to a roaring start!

The reading will be done by volunteer N.A. members from the Los Angeles area. We would like to encourage and invite any other interested N.A. members who will be visiting the Los Angeles area to come in and read. We will be happy to listen to any N.A. member who wishes to read, however, please be advised that no financial compensation will be provided, and some readers may not be used. It will be necessary to obtain reading samples from a variety of members in order to obtain the most pleasant and easily understood voices for this purpose.

We anticipate the tapes will be available for sale in approximately six months. We will be notifying those agencies who commonly come in contact with visually-impaired and learning disabled addicts so that they may assist us in making these materials available to those addicts who have difficulty reading printed materials. The cassette tapes will also be available for sale to anyone else who may have use for them.

We appreciate the patience of those of you who have written and requested these tapes, and we look forward to making them available in the very near future. Again, we extend the invitation to any interested N.A. members who care to come in and volunteer for reading.

## H&I NEWS

During the World Service Conference held recently, the WSC H&I Committee met to outline their proposed agenda for the 86/87 year. The number one priority item on their agenda concerns H&I funding. They are to begin work on guidelines which will assist H&I committees Fellowshipwide in the area of H&I funding. An ad hoc committee was appointed by the newly elected chair to begin initial work on this task.

Since 1980 some H&I committees throughout the Fellowship have been self-supporting by passing the "H&I can." When the growth of N.A. increased, so did the responsibilities and activities of many H&I committees. In many areas and regions, H&I committees have begun to have separate fundraisers to assist with the purchase of H&I literature stockpiles. When this occurs, the question of accountability to the Fellowship at the group, area and regional levels seems to come up more frequently. In accordance with the service structure as we understand it today, the WSC H&I Committee believes that a major priority is to outline alternatives to fundraising (i.e. both the can and other fundraisers). The WSC H&I Committee feels that the time has arrived for H&I