

I attended their translating committee meeting. They have put out an incredible amount of energy and have been very busy with this. They sometimes have two to three meetings a week. They have quite a job because there are so many words and expressions in our literature that have no meaning to them in Japanese. Even the word "addict" or "addiction" doesn't translate into their language to mean what it means to us. They said it means something like "appetite," which relates to food. The word "drug dependent" is what most describes addiction to them. The translating of N.A. Conference-approved literature is their most important need.

During the welcoming party I met a few A.A. members who were considered friends of N.A. and noticed at meetings that no one was identifying as "cross addicted," etc. I asked about how they avoided this, since it is such a controversial problem in the U.S.A. Kiyoshi said he was rather amused at the N.A./A.A. paranoia that he has seen in Hawaii and California. One of the reasons they have been able to carry such a clear N.A. message is because they are carrying the message directly to the addict. In the U.S.A., with the advantage of so many treatment centers, the members get a message carried by a treatment center, which tends to be a mixed N.A./A.A. message.

I met one member who said he was clean eighteen months and then went back out to use. Several months later he received an invitation in the mail to return to N.A., he did.

I feel fortunate to have had the privilege of going to Japan and meeting all the members there. Our last meeting was quite moving. They have truly become an extension of my heart. But more important, they have all felt more a part of the whole of N.A.

More and more, as a member of the International Committee and the Board of Trustees, my perceptions of N.A. as a whole widens. Regions like Japan, Australia, London and others hold some keen insights for the rest of us. Because of the uniqueness of their cultures and customs, they, at times, are able to reach the core of the spirit of recovery, unity, service and good will.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following section is the fifth item in a series of reports presented by the Board of Trustees to the World Service Conference in April of this year. In this section the Board seeks to obtain assistance from the Fellowship for work they are doing on a special subject.

ON THE ISSUE OF SPECIAL INTEREST MEETINGS:

The World Service Board of Trustees has been discussing special interest meetings for many months. We have been attempting to come to a firm position regarding this issue. Some of the Trustees feel special interest meetings within

Narcotics Anonymous may violate our Traditions by excluding some addicts who seek recovery and also by reinforcing a separation or isolation of some addicts. However, all of the trustees also recognize the need for identification which many of our members have expressed when they come to Narcotics Anonymous. The dilemma we see is one of maintaining the integrity of our Traditions, while not alienating recovering addicts who have special needs. Can the Fellowship meet any or all of these special needs in unity? It is apparent that some N.A. meetings have been started and continue to exist which are attended primarily by addicts with one type of special need or another. Many members of Narcotics Anonymous have related to us and others that these meetings have served a need in their early recovery.

The Board of Trustees has decided to submit this issue to the Fellowship and request written input which relates to all sides of the issue and the rationale involved. In addition to soliciting opinions of all members of our Fellowship, in the coming year we will continue to gather information and experience regarding special needs and special interest meetings in Narcotics Anonymous.

We are interested in how special interest meetings may or may not interfere with our message of recovery from the disease of addiction. We are concerned with how that message may or may not be inhibited by labeling and identifying any special needs in addition to the need for recovery from the disease of addiction. We would also like to hear from members who believe that these meetings and their identification enhances their recovery.

FROM THE WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE

The World Literature Committee is compiling a new handbook which will serve as a Resource Guide for Trusted Servants. Although work on this new book is still in the early stages, some preliminary work has already been done. Input has been collected from the files of the World Literature Committee, the World Service Office and a variety of service committees and members have submitted material. A basic outline has been drawn up and the material sorted into chapters.

Our vision for this handbook is that it will make life simpler for trusted servants. It is not intended to be a textbook or description of the principles of service (We'll leave that task for the Select Committee who is working on *A Guide to Service in N.A.*). The new handbook is designed to be used like a workbook in conjunction with other service manuals. Our plan is to include a variety of samples, worksheets, forms, etc. We have already collected a lot of good material but we need more. The chapter headings and specific input we need are listed below.