

we send another starter package and a registration acknowledgement with the code number imprinted.

The most recent information indicates that we have approximately 10,400 N.A. meetings (not including H&I). Unfortunately, there is reliable contact information for less than one-fifth of these. It seems that many GSR's or meeting contact people have moved or otherwise changed their relationship with a specific N.A. meeting, and the new information has not been received by the WSO.

It is therefore very important that all N.A. groups register again (unless they have done so within the last six months) and inform us of any recent changes. Please keep in mind that a stable mailing address is necessary (P.O. Box preferred--or use the ASC address or GSR, etc.) for the group to be registered. Revised forms are attached to this *Newsline* or may be requested from WSO.

## THE RELATIONSHIP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS TO NAR-ANON AND FAMILIES ANONYMOUS:

*This article was generated by the Board of Trustees in August, 1987 in response to the needs of the Fellowship. It represents the views of the Board of Trustees at the time of writing.*

The Board of Trustees has received many inquiries during the past few years which have asked specific questions about how to go about cooperating without affiliating when it comes to Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous. The need to address this issue arose from a confusion between the letter of our Twelve Traditions, and the spirit of love, understanding, and caring which we all feel as individuals.

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 without also endorsing or affiliating.

The Board of Trustees believes that a policy, or attitude, or phrase which serves our purpose best 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. Traditions Six (*"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"*) and Ten (*"N.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy"*) refer to these issues, and there can never be any formal relationship between Narcotics Anonymous and any other Fellowship or organization.

As individuals, we have tremendous respect for these other Fellowships and support the need for them. As grateful recovering addicts, we carry intense and genuine love and understanding in our hearts.

Adherence to our Twelve Traditions does not preclude or negate these feelings. We must remember, however, that Narcotics Anonymous, Nar-Anon, and Families Anonymous are separate Fellowships, each with its own purpose. These organizations are not enmeshed with each other, nor are they interdependent.

We believe that by reflecting back upon our own paths, we can find the way to convey this respect, love, and support, without endorsing or affiliating with other Fellowships. Our family members and loved ones were often instrumental in allowing us to face the consequences of our addiction by not helping us! We now have the opportunity to support them by not interfering and also by simply pursuing our own purpose as guided by the spiritual principles of Narcotics Anonymous. While we all may have our own way of supporting our loved ones, N.A. can only remain true to our primary purpose (Tradition Five: *"Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry the message to the addict who still suffers"*) and the guidance provided in Traditions Six (*"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"*) and Ten (*"N.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy"*). Consistent Fellowship action which is guided by these principles is the kindest and most loving path for us to follow, both for ourselves and our family members and loved ones. This helps these other Fellowships to address their own needs in a sensible, appropriate, and non-dependent manner.

Our relationship as a Fellowship with Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous, as with 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 are pleased to provide this information to anyone or everyone who requests it, while at the same time avoiding any type of affiliation or special treatment for any people or organization outside of Narcotics Anonymous.

The Board of Trustees believes that many of the practices which we have engaged in as a Fellowship do not constitute adherence to our Traditions. The intent of these actions was usually sound and it has taken many years of experience and study to evaluate them with respect to our Twelve 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 Fellowship at conventions or other N.A. activities. Additionally, utilizing speakers from the Nar-Anon and Families Anonymous Fellowships is a practice which does not adhere to our Traditions. However, we encourage phoneline workers to use common sense and good judgment in making known to family members that N.A. is for the drug addict and that family members may find family oriented recovery fellowships to be beneficial.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The International Department of the WSO continues to receive correspondence from around the world regarding information about N.A. During the past six months some 300 new meetings have been started in the international community, which brings the total number of meetings outside the U.S. to well over 1,000! International P.I. efforts have also expanded to include a number of non-N.A. events this year, with the next one scheduled for the end of November, in Hong Kong. The first edition of the *European Newsline* has just been circulated. It will be used as a communication tool to strengthen the N.A. communities scattered across the many countries of continental Europe. October again seems to be the month to celebrate N.A. recovery, as a number of N.A. conventions were held around the globe including: Quebec, Australia, Ireland, and British Columbia. A cost equalization plan (a plan where all regions would contribute equally to a general fund, therefore sharing the cost equally among all the regions for participation at the annual WSC meeting) will be presented in the Conference Agenda Report. This plan will tend to benefit the most, those regions who have great distances to travel each year....

## NEW MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM WSO

Several new items are now available from the World Service Office. First off, the Fall 1987 catalog has been completed. The new catalog is printed in two colors once again with black and white photographs on each page. It contains two order forms in the center which may be cut or torn out. All of the new items which were available at the time of printing have been included. We will begin enclosing a complimentary copy of the

catalog with each order we ship. Additionally, committees who wish to purchase bulk quantities of the catalog for public information presentations, or other purposes, may do so at \$.25 apiece.

The Office has had two different wallet size cards available for some time now. These depict the N.A. logo on one side with space for a local N.A. helpline or a member's personal phone number. The reverse sides contain two different excerpts from N.A. literature. Because the response to these cards has been so favorable, the World Service Conference recommended that the WSO produce more cards. Therefore, we have now added to our inventory Serenity Prayer cards and Third Step Prayer cards. The fronts of these cards are the same as the others, with the N.A. logo and space for a phone number. The reverse sides contain the two prayers. The price for these two new items is the same as the other cards. They are sold in sets of 500 at \$5.00 apiece.

More N.A. speaker tapes have also been added to the inventory of available materials. The Office utilizes a tape review committee which thoroughly evaluates each tape submitted before final approval. The committee has recently approved eleven new tapes to be sold by the Office. However, two of them could not be included because copyright release forms were not obtained from the speakers. If these individuals sign the form at a later date, their tapes will be added at that time. In the meantime, we now have nine new tapes for sale. Additionally, the Fall 1987 catalog contains brief descriptions of all the audio tapes currently sold by the Office. Hopefully this will assist members in selecting which tapes they wish to purchase by providing them with additional information other than the speaker's name.

The audio tape review process currently has twenty-six members who are available to review tapes that are submitted. Currently under consideration are more than forty-five tapes received during the current year. This includes tapes prepared at the World Convention in New Orleans. Members and convention committees are reminded that tapes can be submitted and are encouraged to do so. Please keep in mind, when submitting a tape for consideration, that it is important to include a copyright release form, signed by the individual speaker, the company that recorded the tape, and a letter of acknowledgement from the sponsoring service committee stating that the tape was prepared during their convention, and that it is appropriate for release by that convention to the World Service Office.

Last, but certainly not the least, the Fourth Edition Basic Texts are in stock. Again, based on the direction of the World Service Conference, some changes have been made. The book has been printed in both hardbound and paperback versions. The hardbound books are in stock now, and the softbound books will be available soon. A subject index has been added in the back of the book. A