



May 24, 1984

TO: All Voting Participants
WSC (83-84)

FROM: Volunteer Region of Narcotics Anonymous
P.O. Box 150314
Nashville, Tennessee 37215-0314

Fellow members;

The Volunteer Region, as a voting region in the World Service Conference 1984, stands in favor of the I.P., An Approach to the Fourth Step Inventory. We also feel this I.P. should continue to be available to members within NA, until proper procedures can be adhered to, and at such time as a true group conscience of the Fellowship can be obtained, again.

Our group conscience is not based on the rightness or the wrongness of this I.P., it is based entirely on the improper removal by WSO and the validity of the substitute motion which removed it from circulation. Our Region believes in the faith, trust, and authority of a true Group Conscience. If the Fellowship feels a need to review and revise every previously approved literature, so be it. But for the WSO to remove this pamphlet we feel is a direct violation of Group Conscience. The Volunteer Region also feels this precedent cannot be tolerated in a spiritual Fellowship, such as Narcotics Anonymous. Our recent inquiry to WSO stated that this pamphlet is removed from circulation. (Enclosed letter from WSO).

We brought with us a group conscience at WSC (83) to approve this I.P., and it was approved by a majority of the regions present. We think the Fellowship has spoken in regards to this I.P. Although many members dislike this I.P. the removal of it has raised many questions in our region.

1) Did the motion presented by the WSC Lit. Chair (pg. 14, preliminary draft WSC minutes 83-84) set a procedure to be followed by the WSC 83-84? This motion read:

MOTION: (WSC Lit. Chair) seconded (RSR Mid-Atlantic), "that all literature submitted to this conference for approval require a 2/3 majority vote of participants." AMENDMENT: (RSR Florida) seconded (WSC Policy Chair), "that it take a 2/3 majority vote at WSC to withdraw current NA literature from the category of approved literature." Motion with amendment carried.

As we reviewed this motion another question was raised: is it correct to say that an amendment is to be included into the language of the main motion? With the passage of this amended motion, we established procedures which this conference would abide by. Now having established procedures by which to both approve and withdraw any and all literature brought to the floor, we move to our other point in question. The substitute motion (pg. 33, preliminary draft WSC minutes 83-84) motioned by the (WSC Lit. Chair), seconded (WSB Trustee), "that the 4th Step Guide be evaluated by the Literature Review Committee and input sent to the World Lit. Committee and a revised draft should then proceed through the review and approval process as outlined in the procedural guidelines for the creation and development of new literature. The 4th Step Guide be removed from circulation while the process is occurring."

VOTE Yes 25 No 10 Abstentions 9

The substitute motion carried.

2) Again we question the validity of this motion. We feel it failed, the reason being that procedure was set on pg. 14 pertaining to the approval and withdrawal of any NA literature, stating that either action (approve or withdraw) requires a 2/3 majority of voting participants. In conclusion, the substitute motion removing the 4th Step Guide failed. In procedures already established it would take a 2/3 majority of voting participants to remove it and 25 votes of yes does not constitute 2/3 majority. We believe removal from circulation of this I.P. by the WSO was both premature and without

the 4th Step Guide in WSO circulation. Our region also wishes for the correction of the WSC minutes to read that the substitute motion (pg. 33, preliminary draft WSC minutes 83-4) failed, lacking the required 2/3 majority of voting participants.

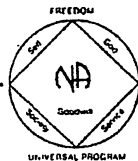
This I.P. has for many years been through the development process for new literature and has been reviewed by an informed Fellowship. The removal of this I.P. is an injustice to a Worldwide Fellowship dedicated in the pursuit of Group Conscience. Our conscience is clear, and we feel the conscience of the Fellowship is clear. We pray this communication will clear up the confusion brought about by the removal of this I.P., both in the correction of the WSC minutes and the respect of an already obtained group conscience of Our Fellowship.

We, the Volunteer Region, are dedicated and continue to be in loving service to a Fellowship we owe our very lives.

RSR: Rick Woody
9000A Grayland Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37923

Volunteer Region of
Narcotics Anonymous

RSR, Alt.: Hollie Arnold
3221 Elm Hill Pike
Nashville, TN 37214



PITTSBURGH AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE
OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

P.O. BOX 802 • PITTSBURGH, PA 15230-0802

To the Fellowship:

The Pittsburgh Area would like to express their concern about the procedures used to withdraw the 4th Step Guide from the market of approved N.A. literature. We believe that it should have been sent out to the N.A. Fellowship for approval or disapproval before such a decision was made. The 4th Step Guide was approved by a group conscience of the N.A. Fellowship at WSC'83 and we believe that it should be sold by WSO until such time as a loving God as expressed in our group conscience disapproved it or approved of a new one. Please consider the implications of this decision and the effect that it has had on our recovery.

While reading the minutes from WSC'84 we found that there is two different procedures for voting at the World Service Conference and that the Chair could use either procedure at his own whim. We do not feel that this is very spiritual.

At WSC'84 a two-thirds majority was needed to remove the 4th Step Guide from the market. The vote was Yes 25 No 10 Abstentions 9. On page 4 of WSC'84 minutes a motion was passed "to accept the proposed standing rules WSC which defines two-thirds majority of all participating voting members." The proposed standing rules state that in some cases where a two-thirds majority is needed a two-thirds of all members eligible to vote is needed and in other cases members that abstain are not counted as voting members and it is up to the Chair to decide which procedure to use. This has proved to be very confusing to us.

In the Pittsburgh Area when a vote needs a two-thirds majority it must be a two-thirds majority of all GSAs present, even those that abstain. We feel that this procedure should be adopted by the World Service Conference because we do not feel that a true two-thirds majority was reached to remove the 4th Step Guide from the market.

Regardless of what has happened and what procedure was used we feel that there should only be one set procedure used and that it should be sent out to the Fellowship to be voted on as the first item of business at WSC'85. This would relieve much confusion and resentment in the future.

Our last concern deals with the price of our Basic Text. It is our opinion that the price should be reduced to 3 dollars immediately. If each area complies with the WSC'84 request that each area hold a fundraiser for the benefit of WSC there should be sufficient funds to operate each year. Also, with the growth of areas and regions the fund flow between the member and our World Services should improve dramatically.

With a decrease in the price of our Basic Text it will become more available to addicts who cannot afford them and it will help our Hospitals and Institutions committees to supply them to addicts who cannot attend N.A. meetings. The less expensive our Basic Text is, the more lives it will save. This is our primary purpose!!!

In Loving Service.

provides for 34 such personal opinion votes = 34 votes representing no group conscience. WSB, VSO, WSC Sub-Committees (Service Boards and Service Committees created to accomplish a specific task).

Is it any wonder why it's not working ??? We seem to have given God a 50% say-so. Whatever happened to "unconditional" 100% faith? Simplicity and clarity is often elusive in our human strife.

If the answer is not yet clear, then perhaps we should continue praying only for the knowledge of His amendable will. (A weak attempt at humor.)

Secret: Cod 34, WSC 34 = more will be revealed.

An important vehicle for the continued growth by the fellowship in spiritual principles may be found in open and direct, uncensored communications between the regions. Just as one addict shares with another, so too one group shares freely with another = ASC, so too one area shares freely with another = RSC. Then why not have one region share freely without the intimidation and censorship of super servants, ultimate leaders, and trusted authorities?

Please submit any communications from you, your group, your area, and/or your region that you would like to have shared uncensored with others. (Please omit all four-letter words except - work, love, and pray.)

Send to:

P.O. Box 955
Lanesburg, VA 22075

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*Love
Larry*

WHO'S IN CHARGE AROUND HERE ?

An addict alone is in bad company and so is a region in Florida. We are surrounded on three sides by water and the information we receive is select at times. The present "trusted servants" on our world level have not over-stopped their bounds; however, they have twisted the spiritual principles that we have held dear in our recovery. What does it mean to have our decisions made by a small group of trusted servants? Have not the principles that N.A. was founded on served their purpose in our growing fellowship? Why have our quarterly fellowship reports stopped? Have the jobs at the W.S.C. been open to all recovering addicts, or based more on who you know? What has happened to our second tradition? Where has the spirit that created our Basic Text gone?

We create service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve. When they no longer respond, they no longer function under the guidelines of our ninth tradition.

There is an increasing movement among members of the fellowship to actively participate in the writing of our literature. Will that participation be available in the future . . . or will professional journalists replace the experience, strength, and hope of recovering addicts? What of our spiritual principles? Will the avenue be open in the future for willing addicts?

The increasing number of recovering addicts cannot be disputed, but let us not forget that quality - not quantity - saves our ass. That active participation in our early recovery gave us the spirit to carry the message of recovery through an informed group conscience, not a vote of confidence. By giving of our time and resources through travel, communication and conventions, we have learned:

The truth will set us free.
Internal strife cripples our fellowship.
We keep what we have only with vigilance.
We know we're not in charge.

*Charlie M.
T. S. R. S. C. N. A.*

To: The Fellowship

From: The Tri-State Regional Service Committee

While reviewing the minutes from WSC'84 we found that there is two different procedures for voting at the World Service Conference and that the Chairperson could use either procedure at his own whim. We do not feel that this is very spiritual.

At WSC'84 a two-thirds majority vote was needed to remove the Fourth Step Inventory Guide from the market of N.A. literature. The vote was Yes - 5, No - 10, Abs. - 9. On Page 4 of WSC'84 minutes a motion was passed to accept the proposed standing rules WSC which defines two-thirds majority of all participating voting members. The proposed standing rules state that in some cases members that abstain are counted as voting members and in other cases they are not counted as 'participating' voting members and it is up to the Chair to decide which procedure to use. This has proved to be very confusing to us. If the members who abstained were counted as voting members in the above issue the Fourth Step Inventory Guide would still be for sale right now.

The Tri-State Region feels that a two-thirds majority should be defined as two-thirds of all members eligible to vote that are present at WSC. We do not feel that a true two-thirds majority was reached to remove the Fourth Step Inventory Guide from the market of N.A. literature.

Regardless of what has happened and what procedure was used we feel that there should only be one set procedure used and that this issue should be sent out to the Fellowship to be voted on as the first item of business at WSC'85. This would relieve much confusion and resentment in the future.

Our next concern deals with the price of our Basic Text. It is our opinion that the price should be reduced to three dollars immediately. If every region and area complies with the WSC'84 request that each area hold a fundraiser for the benefit of WSC and with the growth of areas and regions the fund flow between the member and our World Services should improve dramatically. WSC cannot operate without funds and it is up to us to provide the funds for our services. We should not be dependant on sales of our literature.

The Tri-State Region has held a fundraiser for the benefit of WSC and has committed itself to making a monthly donation to WSC. We feel that all the Regions should do this.

With a decrease in the price of our Basic Text it will become more available to addicts who cannot afford them and it will help our Hospitals and Institutions subcommittees to supply them to addicts who cannot attend N.A. meetings. The less expensive our Basic Text is, the more lives it will save. This is our primary purpose!!!

In Loving Service,
T.S.R.S.C.N.A.