

A newsletter of the Autonomous Region of Narcotics

someone in NA who believes in me

and wants to help me in my recovery

The autonomous region of Narcotics Anonymous is comprised of groups & individual members who have come together to support each other in carrying the message in their local communities. Regardless of literature preferences, location or meeting formats.

WHO IS ARNA?

The Autonomous Region of Narcotics Anonymous (ARNA) is comprised of members and Groups from around the globe who have joined one another in a non-administrative service and information structure to better serve our Groups and members. ARNA trusted servants work together as a team, serving its members in a spirit of love and cooperation with any and all requests for services by the Groups that are in line with our twelve traditions.

Our members and Groups believe in the absolute right to group autonomy that is

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Submission

Addiction is now widely recognized as a disease in society. In Narcotics Anonymous I learned that the core of the disease is self-obsession. Many of us arrive at the rooms with our lives in tatters. That was certainly true for me. We gather on a regular basis and begin the process of rebuilding; we start to take responsibility for our lives. For many of us this is a dangerous business. By taking responsibility, I am

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This is our first issue of this monthly newsletter. Our intention is for this newsletter to serve as a vehicle to communicate experience, strength and hope in recovery among the members and groups of ARNA. We welcome your input into this newsletter. Please contact us at **newsletter@arna.world**.

Please send anything you would like to share with other members and groups of ARNA, including - personal experience, strength and hope in recovery; what becoming a part of ARNA has meant for you and your group; challenges and successes you have experienced in becoming a member of ARNA; anything else you would like to communicate with other members and groups of ARNA.

This is your newsletter. We will do our best to serve you by delivering an updated issue regularly, editing your input into an easily readable format, to facilitate effective communication between the groups and members of ARNA. We will also welcome any ideas you may have to improve the quality and effectiveness of this newsletter.

How ARNA does Service

ARNA – The Autonomous Region of Narcotics Anonymous is a Region that is served by a Non-Administrative service and information structure, called the Autonomous Region Service Committee (ARSC). Our vision is the fulfillment of Tradition Four becoming a reality: “Each group should be autonomous except for matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole.” The purpose of the ARSC is presently being carried out in the spirit of Tradition Nine. Our services are directly responsible to those we serve. Why? Because ARNA is free from the guidance of the Twelve Concepts that make other organizational service boards and committees NOT responsible to those they serve. You cannot delegate a loving God as He may express Himself in our Groups’ consciences.

Many groups have joined our Region because they do not want an Administrative Structure to use the Twelve Concepts to Rule, Censor, Decide, Dictate, Govern, or Control them as NA non-autonomous groups. ARNA groups are free to study the Grey Book, 3rd Edition Revised Basic Text, or any other historical N.A. Literature in our meetings. Groups join ARNA because they believe Narcotics Anonymous addicts have the right to print recovery literature that was written freely by addicts for addicts and are within the guidelines of our 12 Traditions. We believe that our message should be given freely to still suffering addicts all over the World whenever possible. ARSC team members serve and inform the groups in a Spirit of love by coordinating or cooperating in activities such as monthly Newsletters, Hot-line support, Jails and Institutional outreach, sharing group anniversaries, events, announcements, and helping groups buy or print their own literature, key tags, IP, etc. as needed.

ARNA believes in the newcomers, and our primary purpose to help addicts still suffering is critical for our survival. We believe that our NA literature is the greatest literature in the world to aid the recovering addicts in getting an active change in our attitudes, ideas, and behavior. Our services include free Narcotics Anonymous Literature wherever there is none.

Originally the ARNA Region was formed to support a petition to put our fellowship intellectual property trust (FIPT) in a safe place. How do we define a safe place? A safe place would be a place that does not carry the Narcotics Anonymous name, that does not abuse the integrity of our literature in support of the Drug Treatment Industry, instead of supporting the still suffering addicts.



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choosing to take ownership of my choices and escaping the endless loop of blaming others. My behaviors, feelings, and actions are viewed through new lenses. The shared experiences of others help me to recover. I can now make choices about how I live, where I go, the work I do, and the people I want to include in my life. The results can be amazing! I have found new freedoms I’d never experienced before.

My understanding is that early NA literature was created from the shared experience of addicts in recovery so that those who followed might have an easier path to a new way to live. This pandemic and the success of the virtual NA community has created a global harmony for members on a scale never seen before. Service structures like www.virtual-na.org have exploded from a few hundred meetings per week to almost fifteen hundred (at the time of writing). Many members are experiencing fellowship in a new way which used to only be possible thru the literature. The 12 Traditions that are read at many meetings have proven to be very accurate;

“Understanding these Traditions comes slowly over a period of time. We pick up information as we talk to members and visit various groups. It usually isn’t until we get involved with service that someone points out that “personal recovery depends on NA unity,” and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions. The Twelve Traditions of NA are not negotiable. They are the guidelines that keep our Fellowship alive and free.”

From the literature I have learned that it does take time to understand the traditions, and how important they are to both the services I participate in as well as the unity I depend on. I have learned one very important lesson; The worst enemy of unity is myself.

The following quote from the Basic Text, Tradition 2, may outline the source of our struggles with unity:

“However, many will become the role models for the newcomers. The self-seekers soon find that they are on the outside, causing dissension and eventually disaster for themselves. Many of them change; they

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learn that we can only be governed by a loving God as expressed in our group conscience”.

Who is the self-seeker? The question would probably be easier if we ask who amongst us isn't a self-seeker? Self-obsession is the core of our disease.

The dictionary defines self-seeker as:

“A person who seeks his or her own interest or selfish ends.”

There are many groups around the world. I understood the purpose of a group conscience is so that no personalities dominate the will of the group and everyone can collectively work together. Ultimately, the groups are what carry a message of hope and recovery to the suffering addict. Even when groups do become dominated by strong personalities, the autonomy of the groups ensures that no group dominates the other groups.

What is a 'group conscience'? This description comes from, (Narcotics Anonymous, The Group booklet, page 11)

Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps,” our Twelfth Step says, “we tried... to practice these principles in all our affairs.” When we collectively apply the insight received from that spiritual awakening to our group’s problems, we call that group conscience. Common sense, open minds, calm discussion, accurate information, mutual respect, and healthy personal recovery enable a group to deal effectively with almost anything that comes its way.

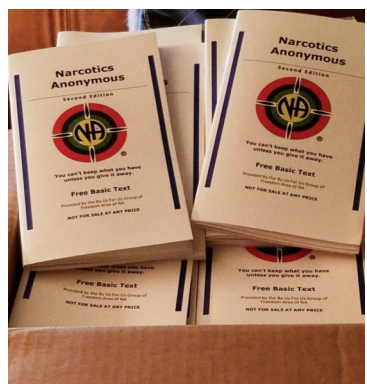
The behaviors of the self-seeker can be at odds with the group conscience. This is where 'principles before personalities' applies. Looking at this relationship between our self-obsession and the needs of the Fellowship helps me to identify my own problems that affect unity. We do learn something from Tradition 1, “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity”. The problem exists in the relationship between the common welfare of the group and the self-seeking individual.

I needed to go back further, to the Steps, to seek a solution to unity since personal recovery depends on unity. Maybe what really defines unity is my commitment to Step 12. That's where the rubber meets the road, as they say. Step 12; “Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.” This statement implies that I have worked through the Steps and am now committed to carrying 'this' message to addicts and practice 'these' principles in all aspects of my life. Our message is very clear; “that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live.” While all the spiritual principles listed in Step 12 are important, perhaps this quote from the basic text, Step 12 is key: “Practicing spiritual principles in our daily lives leads us to a new image of ourselves. Honesty, humility, and open-mindedness help us to treat our associates fairly.”

Our financial success, healthy relationships, and community contributions can seem to be legitimate results of working a spiritual program. There is nothing wrong with these successes. However, social acceptability does not equal recovery, nor does recovery guarantee material success.

Self-seeking is attractive to my addictive nature because the core of my disease is complete self-obsession and self-centeredness, but this works against unity. Step 12 in the Basic Text lists spiritual principles to live by such as hope, surrender, acceptance, honesty, open-mindedness, willingness, faith, tolerance, patience, humility, unconditional love, sharing, and caring. In fact, it is Step 12 that unlocks the key to unity for each of us as we come back from the isolation of addiction and self-seeking ways to join our fellows and society. By applying these principles and carrying a message to the still suffering addict, we have assured ourselves of ongoing recovery regardless of personal success

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outside the rooms.

Self-seekers eventually lose interest in the program as the disease continues the obsessive nature of seeking just for the Self. It simply becomes another form of addiction. For a time, we may succeed, but eventually we come to realize in Step 12 that “By this time, most of us realize that the only way that we can keep what was given to us is by sharing this new gift of life with the still-suffering addict”.

I have found that gratitude is a virtue, not a feeling, and is the basis of unity. When everyone feels unity I am able to curtail my self-seeking ways.

“The selfless service of this work is the very principle of Step 12. We received our recovery from the God of our understanding. We now make ourselves available as His tool to share recovery with those who seek it”.

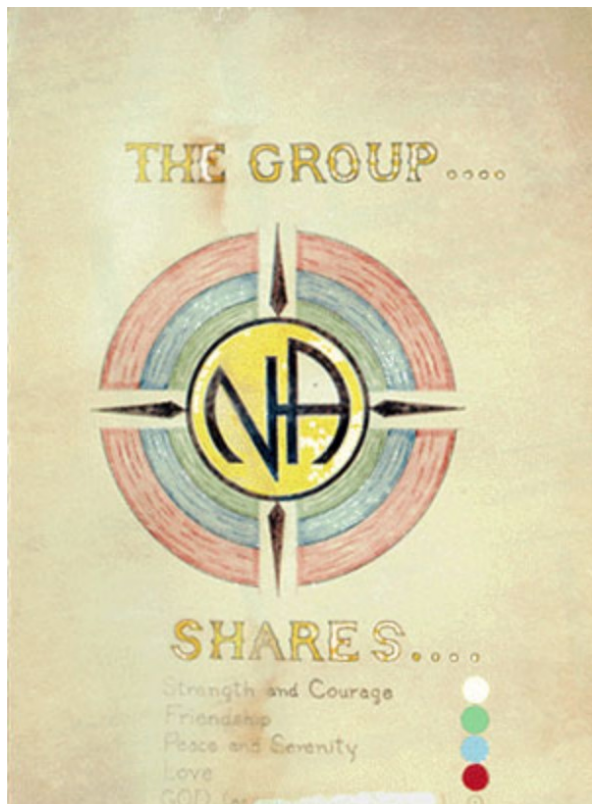
When we achieve unity, our personal recovery is secure, but only for a moment. The work must continue in our groups by whatever means the group sees as possible.

Autonomous Region Service Office

So far, you’ve heard about the Autonomous Region of Narcotics Anonymous, services, and volunteers. There however is another side to ARNA. The Legal Entity side of ARNA was created to fulfill and meet government laws, rules, regulations and legal specifications and requirements. This part of ARNA has been deemed a necessity in order to file a court legal petition, to obtain an EIN Tax identification number, collection of duty-free funds, and to initiate banking activities, which consist of two accounts: one for Outreach services and one to support legal activities.

This legal side of ARNA is not a part of the ARNA Service Structure. The legal entity is completely and totally separate from any and ALL activities of the ARNA Region and the individual Groups. Thus, the legal entity’s sole and absolute communication should thereby only exist and occur between themselves and the ARNA Outreach Team members. The aforementioned legal entity, not

for any reason or at any time – is to engage with – or to communicate to -- the individual ARNA Groups on the behalf of the ARNA Region for any purpose. The absolute bottom-line is that the legal side of ARNA has not been given any authority, rights, privileges, or power in any way to administrator, govern, rule, censor, decide, or dictate to the Autonomous Region of Narcotics Anonymous (Outreach Team and individual N.A. groups).



Petition

The Autonomous Region of Narcotics Anonymous has filed a petition with the California Court to remove NAWS as Trustee of our Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust, (FIPT), for the following reasons:

1. Address the Inherent Conflict of Interest

NA's Literature is one of the Fellowship's key tools that has helped save the lives of countless addicts and which enables addicts to redirect their lives from the otherwise common outcome of jails, institutions and death to which drug addiction leads. As such, the Fellowship's interest is to ensure the availability of NA's Literature to those in need. In contrast, the trustee's role is to be the printer, distributor, and (with the voluntary assistance of members of NA and paid editors) producer of some, but not all, of NA's Literature. This role has created in the trustee a self-interest in monetizing the NA's Literature as the primary source of its income, which denies its availability to those without the financial means to pay for it.

2. Seek Outside Supervision of the Trust

Take the issue to the proper local court for the address 19737 Nordhoff Pl, Chatsworth, CA 91311 in Los Angeles County, California, USA.

3. Return to Seventh Tradition and Convention Funding for Essential Services

The Trust states that the Trustee shall hold the Trust Properties as a perpetual charitable trust and shall use the properties and income derived therefrom for the payment of the incidental expenses and costs of the administration of the Trust and not for the Trustee's own profit. Nor shall any board member, officer, employee, or other person connected with the Trustee receive any of the net earnings or profit generated by the Trust.

However, World Services spends nearly 90% of proceeds from sales of the NA's Literature to pay millions of dollars per year in personnel salaries, overhead and other "costs."

4. Return to Compliance with the Probate Code

World Services use of NA's Literature for their own benefit is a violation of the Trust and World Services' fiduciary duties under Probate Code Sections 16000, 16002, and 16004, which state a trustee has a "duty to administer the trust according to the trust instrument," "duty to administer the trust solely in the interest of the beneficiaries," and "a duty not to use or deal with trust property for the trustee's own profit . . . nor to take part in any transaction in which the trustee has an interest adverse to the beneficiary."

5. Return NA to its Foundations

1. Affirm the ability of NA members to print and use NA literature to carry the message "one addict to another"
2. Obtain Court review of the reasonableness of past NA World Services compensation as Trustee
3. Appoint a new Trustee without the conflict of interest of a publishing company controlling literature copyrights and trademarks.
4. "A petition is how you ask an authority to intervene in a matter to provide clarity as to the rights and obligations of persons with respect to a particular matter. A lawsuit is a request for an adjudication of the rights and obligations of one party vis-a-vis another. In the former, the petition is made to an authority charged with expertise in the area of inquiry. It may settle issues between the parties (e.g. who pays the legal expenses) as an

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incidental issue, but the focus is upon getting everyone within its jurisdiction to behave consistently with legislative and common law intent."

We can't do this without your help. Please donate to the Legal Fund. Every donation helps. Thank you!

The \$8 that change dot org is asking for goes directly to fund themselves....

To donate directly to our Legal Fund's Trust Account at the attorney's office using your credit or debit card, click on this site. The donate link and instructions are on the [main page](#):

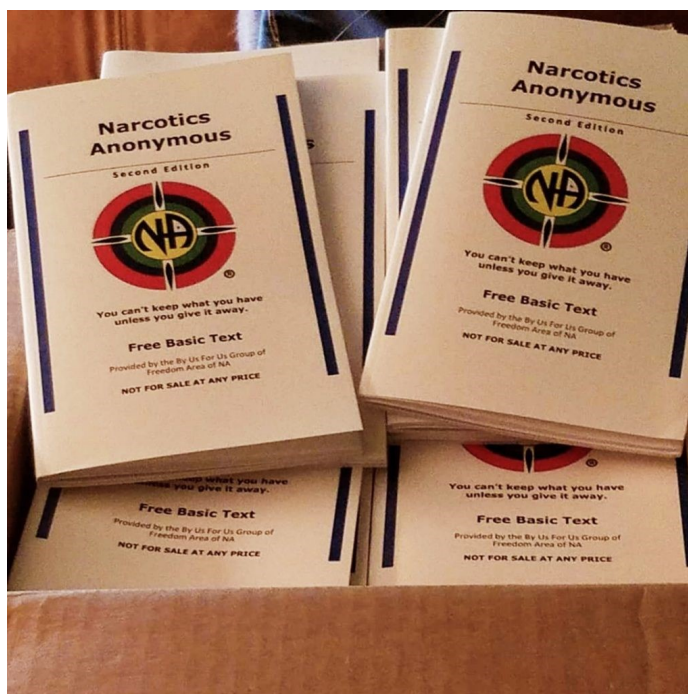
[Paypal Link](#)

Thank you so much.

Who is ARNA? (Continued from page 1)

written in our 4th tradition. We believe that the 9th tradition ensures that our service committees only provide services that are beneficial for the groups and members that they serve. They are not NA. It should be noted here that the Twelve Concepts of Service in NA are considered an outside issue by ARNA members and Groups, thus rendering them of no use to us. The services that we choose to do as a region includes efforts to adhere to vigilance in eliminating any and all attempts to rule, censor, decide, or dictate to the Groups.

The Groups and members of ARNA also recognize our rights to utilize all Group and Fellowship approved Narcotics Anonymous recovery literature autonomously, as well as all other intellectual property, in our efforts to fulfill our primary purpose of carrying the message to the addicts who still suffer. ARNA supports all Group efforts in continuing to make Narcotics Anonymous recovery literature available for all



Groups to use and distribute at no cost to the still suffering addict.

Our groups are not limited by geographical boundaries. We also support virtual groups either online or over the phone. We believe that our groups are the highest point of service in our fellowship and it is our goal that all of our services will be focused on helping our groups' primary purpose.