

1970

Narcotics Anonymous
P.O. Box 622
Sun Valley, California

Fellow N.A.'s,

Enclosed are 25 copies of the Narcotics Anonymous booklet, a set of N.A. by-laws, and two copies of the sheet, "Suggested Method of Leading a Meeting." As the Parent General Service Organization of Narcotics Anonymous, in the Greater Southern California Area (Regional), it is our practice to send these materials free to all new groups who request them. Additional N.A. booklets may be obtained at any time for \$0.20 each, by writing to the Sun Valley address on this letter and on the booklets. (Note: All literature ordered, except for the free material supplied to new groups, will be sent C.O.D. unless prepaid.)

We realize that there are many new N.A. groups organizing in various parts of the U.S. and in other countries, and that we aren't aware of quite a few of them. We want to get into communication with all these groups, if possible, so as to supply them with literature when needed and offer them any help or suggestions we can. As we are the Parent General Service Organization, serving the region where Narcotics Anonymous first originated, and printing literature for distribution to all N.A. groups, we would like to establish better communication lines between N.A. groups in all areas.

At this time we are planning to establish a World Service Organization (although we may call it something else) similar to the Alcoholics Anonymous W.S.O. based in New York. As a regional G.S.O. we cannot, of course, set ourselves up as a world group; procedures for establishment of such a service organization will be taken up with the Parent Board of Trustees at our meeting (joint) held at the end of July.

In the meantime, for your information, here are excerpts from a draft of a proposed letter we hope can be sent out to all N.A. groups we know about; this letter will try to explain a little about N.A. traditions and suggest an outline, or guideline, for Narcotics Anonymous groups.

"Narcotics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from narcotics. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. There are no dues or fees for N.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. N.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, or institution; does not engage in any controversy, neither opposes nor endorses any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay clean and help others to achieve sobriety.

"The following outline for individual N.A. groups is based on Narcotics Anonymous traditions.

"Any group calling itself a Narcotics Anonymous group should adhere strictly to N.A. by-laws and traditions. As a guide, refer to the Alcoholics Anonymous book, 'Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,' which may be obtained either locally, from any A.A. group, or from the N.A. Sun Valley address (printed on the N.A. booklets.) Narcotics Anonymous follows the principles and recovery program developed by Alcoholics Anonymous, only substituting the words 'drugs' and 'addiction' for 'alcohol' and 'alcoholism'.

"Each Narcotics Anonymous group should have a set of N.A. by-laws, and a copy of the sheet, "Suggested Method of Leading a Meeting," to be kept by the group secretary. Any group not having these may obtain them upon request by writing to the N.A. Sun Valley address.

"It is suggested that, for group adhesiveness, a formal record of moneys received and disbursed should be kept by each group, by a person (the group secretary or another) specifically selected as treasurer.

"Each N.A. group should be self-supporting, declining outside contributions. Members contribute to local meetings for current expenses, such as rent, coffee, literature for newcomers, etc."

In general, we of N.A. try to avail ourselves of the methods of successfully working the recovery program that have been developed over the years by Alcoholics Anonymous. We have found, in Southern California and in other areas, that the types of meetings and quality of fellowship used in A.A. are of use to us. We have many participation meetings, but also speaker meetings, open discussion meetings, women's stag meetings (there should, it seems, be men's stag meetings too, but this female G.S.O. secretary isn't aware of any.) We have social events in which all the groups in this region participate - dances, picnics, beach parties, etc. We hope to hold a small-scale convention, something like the A.A. Palm Springs Round-Up soon, and to invite members of out-of-region groups to attend.

We suggest that for further ideas on meetings, sponsorship of newcomers, and formation of your own inter-group regional G.S.O. when you have sufficient meetings and members to make it practical - or for any local needs you may have - that you take advantage of the experience gained by Alcoholics Anonymous. A.A. has many published pamphlets that may be of help to you; after all, alcohol is one of the world's oldest known drugs. If you haven't already attended some A.A. meetings in your area, we suggest that you do so. You can get helpful hints on meeting procedure, at any rate, some of which you might want to adopt. (A.A. groups vary greatly in their reception of addicts, including those with the so-called "dual problem" - alcoholism and addiction to chemicals other than alcohol. If you find yourself in an area where N.A. and A.A. people seem to be on opposite sides of a generation gap, don't get shook up. As we say, we're not saints, any of us, just people trying to work our program to the best of our ability...) (The foregoing sentences are the opinion of this secretary, and do not express the opinion of N.A. as a whole, or even Southern California N.A. as a whole. So if you run into bad vibes along the line, please blame me personally, not the program.)

If you know of any other N.A. groups forming or already in existence in your area, who you believe aren't in touch with us, please have them contact us at the Sun Valley address. We will be glad to supply them with literature if needed. And we do need to get in touch. Eventually we would like to have a World Service Organization (or something similar) that will be of service to N.A.'s everywhere, and where all regional points of view can be represented. So please keep in touch with us, and let us know if there is any way in which we can help you.

Yours in fellowship,

Mari W.

Mari W.

Secretary-Treasurer, Narcotics Anonymous
General Service Organization, Southern
California Region.

THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE SERVICE UNITS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

1. The primary purpose of an N.A. GROUP is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers by providing a setting for identification and recovery where an addict can come for help if he or she has a desire to stop using.
2. The purpose of an AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE is to be supportive to the N.A. Group and its primary purpose by associating the Group with other Groups locally and by helping the Group deal with its day-to-day problems and needs.
3. The purpose of a REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE is to be supportive to its Areas and Groups and their primary purpose by linking together the Areas and Groups within the Region; by helping the Areas and Groups deal with their basic problems and needs; and by encouraging the growth of the Fellowship.
4. The purpose of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES is to insure the continuation and growth of N.A. by seeking new and better ways to carry the message to the addict who still suffers; by seeking to insure the maintenances of the Twelve Traditions; and by dealing with those things, both within and outside the Fellowship, which affect the continuation and growth of the Fellowship.
5. The purpose of the WORLD SERVICE OFFICE is to be supportive to the Fellowship as a whole, and to define and impliment the policies of N.A. The W.S.C. does this by joining the members, Groups, Areas, and Regions of N.A. into a united Fellowship; by dealing with the problems and the needs of the Fellowship; and by actively encouraging the primary purpose and growth of Narcotics Anonymous.
6. The purpose of the WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE is to be supportive to the Fellowship as a whole, and to define and impliment the policies of N.A. The W.S.C. does this by joining the members, Groups, Areas, and Regions of N.A. into a united Fellowship; by dealing with the problems and the needs of the Fellowship; and by actively encouraging the primary purpose and growth of Narcotics Anonymous.

OUTLINE FOR NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS GROUPS

Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovered addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay 'Clean'. Our program is a set of principles, written so simply that we can follow them in our daily lives. The most important thing about them is that 'They Work'.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using drugs. We have no dues, fees or assessments of any kind but we are self-supporting through our own contributions by our own members.

N.A. is not affiliated with any other organizations regardless of seeming similarities, neither are we connected with any political, religious or law enforcement agencies and are under no surveillance at any time. Anyone who has the one basic requirement: A desire to stop using drugs, may join us regardless of age, race, color, creed religion or lack of religion. N.A. does not engage in any outside controversy, neither do we endorse nor oppose any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay "Clean" and help others to achieve the same goal.

1. It is suggested that each group obtain a copy of the Service Structure of Narcotics Anonymous "The N.A. Tree", as soon as possible.
2. When two or more members meet regularly at a specified time and place and use the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions as their guides: They may call themselves a Narcotics Anonymous Group as long as they have no outside affiliations, are self supporting and are registered with the World Service Office, Inc.
3. N.A. meetings are conducted by recovered addicts for addicts. We use our present N.A. literature as our text. N.A. is a personal and spiritual program, therefore personal experiences, life stories and/or N.A. principles or N.A. general information should be the main topics at N.A. meetings.
4. All N.A. groups should keep the World Service Office, Inc. informed as to their location: Kind and time of meeting: Name of group secretary and mailing address.
5. New groups should send for free Starter Kit: It contains all the basic material to get started. Group registration form is in kit and should be returned as soon as possible to----

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC.
P.O. BOX 622
SUN VALLEY, CA. 91352

6. Much needed contributions from groups or area service committees for the support of Narcotics Anonymous World Wide Service, should also be sent to above address.