

A New Surrender

And recovery is then possible.

We are addicts seeking recovery. We used drugs to cover up our feelings, and did whatever was necessary to get them. Many of us woke up sick, unable to make it to work, or went to work loaded. Many of us stole to support our habit. We hurt the ones we loved. We did all these things and told ourselves, "We can handle it." We were looking for a way out. We couldn't face life on its own terms.

A NEW SURRENDER

I've tried to look at it all from a principled distance. We have this fellowship full of newcomers who don't know the full history of N.A. service.

At just about every meeting they attend they hear..."our common welfare should come first.....one Ultimate Authority, a loving God...in our Group conscience...our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.....Each Group is autonomous.....N.A...ought never... finance...any outside enterpriseN.A...ought to be fully self-supporting..... N.A. as such...may create service boards and committees, directly responsible to those they serve."

When I was in their seat, when I was new, I treated these principles as cherished truths, describing the nature of Narcotics Anonymous: pure and simple. Just as you and I did, they will probably soon be attracted to service in order to 'give it away so they can keep it'. Today, that's usually where their disillusionment begins. Or where they begin to be corrupted, depending upon

their character and the character of those members they find involved in service. Each of us discovers the spiritual corruption in N.A. structural service in a different way and each of us deals with it according to our own recovery.

We find that lock-stepped compliance to 'what is done here' and unthinking uniformity masquerade as Unity, overriding any considerations of the truth and Spiritual Principles as they regard our common welfare.

We find that service committees tell N.A. Groups and members how to think and how to behave.

The conscience of those groups is either manipulated or ignored. Each service committee takes its lead from the next 'higher' service committee. We find our leaders running the show with strong hands and wills, skillfully assuring us that they do what they do in our best interests. We find a structure more nearly resembling representative government than any form of 'service' we may have considered. We see any group that differs from the norm criticized, ostracized or outcast, and are told not to go near those people because they are sick and not 'real' N.A.

As we become more sophisticated and perhaps ask our representative to read some financial reports from our primary service center we realize that outside concerns buy our literature at reduced rates so that they may charge the same amount we charge our members while defraying their own costs. Or in other words, we indirectly finance outside enterprise. We also

see from these reports that large 'profits' are made on the literature that we buy as newcomers or buy as groups to give to newcomers and that this profit is used to finance service projects that are supposed to benefit our group.

We find that groups don't really need to be self-supporting that their services are paid for through our newcomer tax. We find that most every function sponsored by a structural service committee is designed to raise funds or encourage conformity. We learn that our services are funded by literature/convention profits and fund-raisers with groups' donations being relatively meaningless as funding.

Consequently we are not amazed to discover that the services rendered by our boards and committees were seldom if ever requested by most or even any of the groups. We wonder how our structural services, our boards and committees are 'directly responsible' when the pure and simple Spiritual Principles shared at most every meeting of N.A. seem foreign to the conduct of these boards and committees we have created. We question the honesty of the Narcotics Anonymous fellowship when we look at the service structure it has built for it self.

How has this happened? NA truly is a spiritual fellowship where an addict with the desire to stop using drugs can miraculously stop using, lose the desire to use and find a new way to live. We say our recovery in NA is based upon the application of spiritual principles in our lives. How then, can such blatant compromises of such

basic spiritual principles be tolerated? Perhaps it's because most of the fellowship is not aware of the reality of our services.

Perhaps it's because most of our fellowship doesn't know our real

history. It sounds to me as if our fellowship needs to inventory it's services, current and past so that we may begin living up to our principles here and now.

LETS PUT A
STOP TO THE
CORRUPTION
BEFORE THE
CORRUPTION PUTS
A STOP TO OUR
NEWCOMERS.

...ANONYMOUS