

Plain Brown Rapper



THE SAA NEWSLETTER

The purpose of the Plain Brown Rapper is to be a voice of the SAA Membership, published by and for those recovering from compulsive sexual behaviors. We strive to be informative, sensitive, and responsive in expressing the experiences, strengths and hope of recovering sex addicts. Unless otherwise noted, the content of the PBR reflects the opinions of the writers and editors and not necessarily of the National Service Organization, the Literature Committee, or Sex Addicts Anonymous as a whole. Contents © S.A.A.

Geography of the Heart

Lost.
No map. No compass.
Blinded by pain and shame.

I struck out cross-country.
My heedless flailing injured
innocent bystanders.

I was badly bruised by falls,
collisions with walls and
fruitless struggles with
other travelers.

I became exhausted by
efforts to escape the en-
snarement of addiction.

At the bottom of the deepest
pit an inner voice told me
to be still.

I began to listen to others.
I learned to listen to myself.
I learned to feel my pain,
accept my life, trust others.
I learned how strong I can be

Now, when I don't know
where I am on the journey
of learning who I am,
I can choose my own direc-
tion, consulting the com-
pass of my heart.

Lester D. • Madison, WI

Editor's note: This edition of the newsletter is short because of our constricted financial status. The material herein pertains to the Board's proposal to move the national office and some opinions about that. Partially because of concerns voiced by several people in the fellowship, the NSO Board held a teleconference on July 3, deciding at that time, to continue plans to move the office, but to postpone it until there is enough money. There is no space to print the other written appeals by Connie B. and Lester D., although interested persons could conceivably obtain copies of these and other related materials. Opinions & questions to be directed to your elected representatives. L.G.

June 16, 1993

Dear Fellow members of SAA:

The NSO Board has decided to move the National office of our fellowship from Minneapolis to Houston Texas. While it is a move that saddens me, it is a move I ask you all to support.

I have been a member of SAA since 1980, and have easily attended 700 meetings in Minneapolis. It is the city where this fellowship was born, and it was the metropolitan area that organized the first and third SAA Conventions. As the representative from the North Central region on the NSO Board for its first two and a half years, and as the person who incorporated the fellowship, drafted its By-Laws, and did most of the work on gaining it tax-exempt status—work which was all done in the Minneapolis metropolitan area, it seems to me like the National Office belongs here. To me, the birth of this fellowship and the focus of its national outreach being in Minneapolis are two of the greatest jewels in this city's crown. They are far greater in significance, I would argue, than the two recent World Series wins of its baseball team. Baseball is about entertainment. SAA is about saving lives, ennobling character, preventing abuse, salvaging souls from degradation. What has Minneapolis given the world that is worth more than those?

So why has the NSO Board decided to move its office from Minneapolis? Unfortunately, we have had some rocky times here in Minnesota—times where personalities and issues have become obstacles in the path of service, making service work seem less than wonderful. With over 40 meetings a week in the Twin Cities, not one person volunteered to serve in the “at large” board seats that are designed to oversee the office, and for the past year there has been very little direct supervision of the office. No doubt that accounts in part for the financial difficulties we have recently experienced.

The NSO needed a new office manager, and it needed to supervise the office. The Twin Cities did not have members willing and able to do the latter. And with the troubles we have had in the Twin Cities involving the separation of Twin Cities Intergroup from the NSO, perhaps it will be a blessing for us, so that we can focus on strengthening our service work locally.

Anyone who knows about the early years of AA, or of the multiple offspring of AA, will know that 12 step fellowships often encounter troubled waters. SAA should not expect to be different. What I believe deep down inside is that this fellowship is not ours—it is our Higher Power's—and we are just fortunate enough to be participants in it, and that its ultimate fate is in the hands of our universe's Higher Power. That being the case, our long term prospects are very bright indeed. I also believe that our current Board is an excellent Board, and that we need to entrust these decisions to them, and pour out our financial support to them. I have met them all, and am impressed with each and

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June 19, 1993

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Requested actions: 1) send money now, 2) copy this letter and give to each group member, 3) send money regularly.

The National Service Organization of SAA needs your help. As you might know, for several months we have advertized for a new office manager. The good news is we have found one. He is Jerry B. from Houston, Texas, who brings us a broad background in management as well as extensive service with non-profit organizations.

In selecting Jerry, we realized the National Service Office would have to be relocated. Jerry and Douglas P. from Minneapolis-St. Paul are currently working on the transition, which is going well. But there is bad news: **No money was included in our budget for the move, nor do we have a surplus to cover it.**

In order to relocate, which we think will be very beneficial to our membership, we must raise \$3,741 and we must raise it quickly. With the former office manager stepping down, the longer we have to wait to make the move, the more our organization will suffer.

Attached you will find a list of costs for setting up the new office and moving the old. Most figures are actual, not estimated.

How much should you give? Only you can answer that question, which simply asks how much is a smooth running, efficient organization worth to you and to countless others who are still to benefit from it? For whatever amount you can give, please make your check or money order payable to National Service Organization of S.A.A. and mail to:

NSO of SAA

Attn: Transition Fund

P.O. Box 3038

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Any money received over and above the cost of the transition will be used to shore up our general funds, which currently are woefully low. Please copy this letter and give one to each S.A.A. member in your groups and committees. Also, please plan to send a regular monthly contribution. Every (little or big) regular gift is important, since we have many members. Please give as generously as it feels good.

Humbly In Your Service,

Kevin K. • Chair, Board of Trustees

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N.S.O. of S.A.A. TRANSITION COSTS

A. Start-Up Costs	
Office.....	\$600.00
Deposit.....	300.00
Rent.....	300.00
Wages (60 Hours/Social Scty).....	600.00
Telephone.....	310.00
Deposit.....	200.00
Electric.....	200.00
State Filing.....	25.00
Fees.....	200.00
Insurance.....
Liability.....	Workers' Comp...
Postal Box (6 Month Payment).....	78.00
Bulk Mailing.....	150.00
Penmit.....	75.00
Application Fee.....	75.00
Annual Fee.....
Postage Meter.....	Software (Pacioli 2000).....
Office Equipment/Supplies.....	100.00
Copier.....
TOTAL*	\$2,293.00
B. Moving Costs	
Option #2: Site Visit/2-way Airfare/UPS Shipping)	
Airfare.....	400.00
UPS (40 40-Pound Boxes/Valued @ \$10,000).....	575.00
Wages (24 Hours/Social Scty).....	233.00
Lodging (4 Days On Site).....	160.00
Meals (4 Days On Site).....	80.00
TOTAL.....	\$1,448.00
C. TOTAL TRANSITION COSTS.....	
	\$3,741.00

* \$250 NEEDED TO OPEN ACCOUNT
(No extra money actually needed since money will be needed in account to transact business.)

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every one of them. They are acting out of their concern for the best interests of the fellowship. This move was not suggested by people in Houston who wanted to gain something for themselves, but by people from outside both Minneapolis and Houston, who, looking at what would be best in the way of reaching out to those still suffering, decided on the move to Texas as the soundest choice, given the circumstances at hand.

To the people in Houston, I tell you that I am sad to see our Office leave. But I wish you the very best in offering it the support and oversight it needs. I hope when you think of us back here, you will remember us as a community that did so much to create the gift you just received from the National SAA fellowship.

To the people in the rest of the fellowship throughout the world, I am sure a change of address and phone number will seem confusing, and you might wonder what went wrong that the office was "taken" from Minneapolis. Not all that much—we just got caught up being all too human. Remember us, not as the city that "dropped the ball", but as the city of two jewels, one we kept, the other we gave away. And when you come to visit us, walk around our lakes, for it was here that our fellowship began, in a city with waters at times as blue as the sky, and men and women who have been faithful to this fellowship and now walk tall in recovery, as tall as people walk anywhere.

John B. • past Chair of the NSO Board

Don't Gamble With S.A.A.'s Future

by Steve L. (7/3/93)

I believe that the Board of Trustees of the National Service Organization will be taking S.A.A. on an extremely dangerous course if it decides to place moving the office to Houston on a higher level than establishing a prudent financial reserve.

S.A.A. is in serious financial trouble. The situation at the convention where the attendees were asked to donate over \$3000 on the last day in order to pay the hotel bill is only one example of how serious our condition is. On July 3, the NSO board voted to scale down our national operations and function at a minimal level because of our emergency financial situation.

Letters to suffering addicts will get answered. Phone calls to those who need to know about meetings will be handled. Professionals who seek knowledge about S.A.A. will get the help they need. However, even this small beachhead could be lost if S.A.A. as an organization misplaces its priorities.

The principles which should be guiding our national organizational life are outlined in Article 4 section 9 of S.A.A.'s By-laws. They direct us to apply the Twelve Traditions and A.A.'s Twelve Concepts of World Service. The most important of those concepts is Article 12 and its Six Warranties. And the most critical of them is Warranty 2 of this Article which states: **"Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle."**

Bill Wilson, in *"The A.A. Service Manual"* describes the Warranties of Article 12 as "...a series of solemn undertakings..." He said: "There are significant aspects of these Warranties which should be considered. Notice, for example that all of them are counsels of prudence—prudence in personal relatedness, prudence in money matters, and prudence in our relations with the world around us. For us, prudence is a workable middle ground, a channel of clear sailing between the obstacles of fear on the one side and of recklessness on the other. The Warranties of Article 12 express the wisdom of taking forethought for the future based on the lessons of the past. (Page 62 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the "A.A. Service Manual")

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Moving to Houston involves many hidden costs—only one of which will be rerouting our phone number which is listed with recovery organizations all over the nation as well as in over 20 major recovery books. There will be many more unseen costs.

In light of this, is it sensible for S.A.A. to spend an unknown amount of money if we do not establish a prudent financial reserve first? Making major expenses, especially those which are of unknown quantity without a prudent financial reserve is a form of gambling. It is contrary to sane and sober fiscal practice. It does not work in our private lives, and it cannot work any better in our organizational life. Every out of control gambler rationalizes his or her behavior by saying "I have nothing to lose."

But S.A.A. does indeed have too much to lose. If S.A.A. goes bankrupt by making decisions that are impulsive, unprincipled and not based on prudent financial reasoning, then many people trying to find S.A.A. will suffer. We will be in violation of much more than Article 12. We will break our First Tradition which includes the reminder (in the long form) that: "...S.A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first."

I believe that our common welfare depends upon operating within our means right now. Please support the principle of building sufficient operating funds plus a two month financial reserve before we spend any more money on moving to Houston.

Steve L. • Los Angeles, CA

Editorial policy

The PBR is the monthly newsletter of the National Service Organization of Sex Addicts Anonymous. The deadline for copy is the 15th of each month. Material cannot be returned, nor payment made. All submissions to the editorial committee must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions. Other anonymous groups may reprint without permission; we ask that you cite the writer and the PBR as the source.

The opinions expressed here are those of the writer, not the PBR, N.S.O. or S.A.A. as a whole. Please address all submissions to: P.O. Box 3038, Mpls., MN 55403 *Thank you to southern California and their Outer Circular newsletter for the adapted wording of the above statement.*

PBR Editorial Committee

Dave M. Fred J. Lisa G. Zoe P.
