



FACTS ABOUT OUR IDENTITY

IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT OUR COMMON IDENTIFICATION, OUR UNITY, AND OUR FULL SURRENDER AS ADDICTS DEPEND ON A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR MOST BASIC FUNDAMENTAL: *POWERLESS*

We are powerless over a disease that gets progressively worse when we use any drug. It does not matter what drug was the center for us when we got here. Any drug we ^{use} will release our disease all over again. We recover from this disease by applying the Twelve Steps of NA. Our steps are uniquely worded to carry this message clearly, so the rest of our language of recovery must be consistent with our steps. Ironically, we cannot mix these fundamental principles with those of any other 12 step fellowships without crippling our own message.

When our members identify as "addicts and alcoholics" or talk about "sobriety" and living "clean and sober" the clarity of the NA message is blurred. The implication in this language is that there are two diseases; that one drug is separate from the rest, so that a separate set of terms is needed when discussing it. At first glance this seems minor, but our experience clearly shows that the full impact of the NA message is crippled by this subtle semantic confusion.

(Re: World Service Board of Trustees Bulletin #13)

LETS CARRY THE N.A. MESSAGE NOT THE MESS