

...As our commonly held sense
of the highest aspirations that
set our course, our vision is our
touchstone, our reference point,
inspiring all that we do.

Honesty, trust, and goodwill are
the foundation of these ideals.
In all our service efforts, we rely
upon the guidance of a loving
Higher Power.

Our Fellowship's Literature

As a result of decades of fellowship discussion and conference decisions, NA World Services has sole responsibility for publishing fellowship-approved literature and protecting NA copyrights and trademarks. The *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* (FIPT) is the agreement that outlines these responsibilities for NAWS. This ongoing responsibility includes the processes for completing, evaluating, and maintaining the related, necessary legal paperwork in numerous countries around the world.

The guidelines surrounding use of NA's copyrights and trademarks by members, groups, and service bodies are all spelled out in the NA Intellectual Property Bulletins:

- ❖ #1: Internal Use of NA Intellectual Property
- ❖ #2: Individual NA Member Use of NA Trademarks
- ❖ #4: Reprinting NA Fellowship-Approved Literature

In recent years, NA World Services has been working to better use Internet technology to facilitate greater availability of NA literature. The greatest challenge in that endeavor is that of striving for a level of security in these electronic versions in order to prevent copyright infringement. NAWS took a big step forward during this fiscal year with the electronic publication of the Basic Text, in its entirety, on the na.org website. We will continue to look for other ways to make NA literature more available in electronic formats as we are able.

One popular service that we have not previously offered is daily email service for *Just for Today* meditations. Others have provided this service, but we have had to ask them to stop in order to follow the rules set forth by the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust. High demand for this service has grown much more apparent, so we decided to add it to the services we provide. We worked with a former provider of this service (who had stopped at our request) to quickly put a system in place to put daily meditations into members' email inboxes.





Our concerns about copyrights and trademarks are not about money or control. The simple fact of the matter is that NA literature and logos belong to the NA Fellowship, and one of the roles the fellowship has outlined for NAWS is to protect that property from misuse and abuse. The rapid changes in available technology can be both helpful and challenging at the same time. Our goal at NAWS is to continue to find ways to use NA resources to provide useful services to the fellowship. We are notified regularly by members, groups, and service bodies about infringements of fellowship copyrights. In some cases, members violate NA copyrights simply because they don't know any better. In other cases, people may not be happy with the decisions of the fellowship as a whole, or they may want to profit from misuse of NA property. We saw examples of this in San Antonio when unlicensed street vendors sold imitation convention t-shirts. Activities such as these cannot continue if we all, as members, refuse to participate in them. The NA Fellowship has spoken loudly and clearly over the past few decades by creating the FIPT, which directs NA World Services to be responsible for the property of the NA Fellowship. Every NA member can help us do the job we have been asked to do by not supporting any activities that misuse NA property.

