

13 May 1991

To: All Members of Sexaholics Anonymous in the Tri-State area, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut

From: Roy K.

Dear Members,

This is the first time I have addressed everyone in a given area of the SA fellowship such as I am doing now. I have the concurrence of the Advisory Committee in this.

Since most of us have never met and you may not know who I am, a word of introduction is in order. I am Roy K, sexaholic, a sex and lust drunk. My acting out was with masturbation, pornography, video, affairs, and prostitutes. My sobriety date is January 31, 1976. My story is on page 9 of our book. Progressive victory over lust and my other defects is a marvelous one-day-at-a-time experience and joy—by the grace of a loving God. I am author and copyright holder of the books *Sexaholics Anonymous* and *Recovery Continues* and some other SA literature. I take no personal credit for any of this; without my God in a fellowship of recovering sexaholics I can do nothing. This body of writing has been edited by SA members, our Literature Committee, and professionals and has been validated through the recovery experience of the fellowship of SA since 1981. The original program you and I have been given is working in the lives of many men and women.

I have been servant in SA from the beginning in 1981. The first "Central Office" was in my garage in Simi Valley for about four years. My wife and I handled the 3000 letters from that first batch of anxious, desperate sex drunks. As the work load increased, I got non-sexaholic secretaries to help. Nan came in in 1984. Central Office now has a suite of seven rooms in commercial quarters, with Pat and two other non-sexaholics handling routine workload and some 5000 calls and as many letters per year from around the world. However, no one can ever take any credit for what is happening *in people* in SA. If it is not a work of God, it is nothing. If it does not continue to be a work of God, it will be nothing. The greatest joy in my life has been and is to give away what I have been given so graciously and mercifully to any who might want it.

Purpose of This Letter

I want to make sure you all know about results of the Sobriety Survey. I also want to share with you some principles corroborating SA's interpretation of sobriety, and then state the case for why SA cannot afford to validate or endorse, even indirectly, "committed relationship" or same-sex sexualizing in SA. I would then like to show how all this bears on the problem of the two different fellowships (SA and non-SA) that exist in Tri-State and suggest a resolution. Finally, I'd like to warmly invite all who want SA sobriety to become part of the mainstream SA fellowship at large.

Sobriety Survey

Results of the sobriety survey were announced in the March issue of *Essay*. Over 75 percent of responding groups affirmed what has always been SA's interpretation of sobriety:

Regarding SA's definition of sexual sobriety, "married" means traditional, legal, heterosexual marriage, and "spouse" does not include "committed relationships" with either the same or opposite sex.

Such a definition as ours raises questions, to which I now respond in the enclosed paper, "Principles Corroborating SA's Interpretation of Sexual Sobriety." This paper also includes reasons why I believe SA should not validate same-sex or "committed relationship" sexualizing in SA. I did not come by this view easily; it is the result of some seventeen years hard experience in the program, observing what's happening in my own and hundreds of other lives.

There *is* a requirement for membership in SA, and *anyone* who wants that can call themselves a member; those who do not cannot. The requirement is "a desire to stop lusting and become sexually sober" (Tradition Three). SA is the only fellowship that defines sobriety. Thus, those who do not want SA sobriety cannot be SA members. This definition has been overwhelmingly revalidated in our survey. There is no ambiguity here; whether we like it or not, that's the way the Fellowship is. And this is just like AA: Anyone who wants to stop drinking alcohol can call themselves a member of AA; those who do not cannot.

So, What To Do About the Division in New York Tri-State?

No one disputes anyone's right to break away from Sexaholics Anonymous and adopt their own views or disagree with SA's principles, as the Tri-State leadership has done. We do, however, dispute Tri-State's presumed right to call itself SA. Tri-State contains some true SA members, but Tri-State is not SA., It has broken away from SA, for whatever reasons, but is still illegally using the SA name and trademark. (See the last letter to Tri-State Intergroup, dated 26 February 1991, enclosed.)

However—and this is hopeful news, encouraging me to write this letter now!—we understand from various members in your area that "much of NYC SA is for SA's principles and not for Tri-State's." But if this is true, it raises an important question: Why do such SA members in your area allow themselves to be governed by non-SA principles—and by those who wrongly use the SA name and fellowship?

Ask the newcomer to NYC who reads SA literature, identifies with it, and then goes to his first meeting. Distraught, he calls the Central Office back and says, "Hey, what's going on here, you sent me to a meeting that isn't SA!" This situation is terribly divisive and destructive to personal recovery and to SA itself. It has created an atmosphere of fear and confusion. (Read "Caught in the Crossfire" in the March issue of *Essay*.)

Our Stand

We—and I'm sure I speak for the 75% or more affirming SA's interpretation of sobriety—want the rank and file SA members in your area to know that the SA program and sobriety imperative are working for the fellowship at large and have been from the beginning. Ours is a tough and unique stand in today's world. It's not always a popular stand, but for us it works. We don't want people messing around with our Program. For us, it's a life-and-death matter. There are other organizations that accommodate and welcome the views of the Tri-State leadership and its followers.

Only groups holding to SA principles can call themselves SA. I say to those holding to non-SA sobriety: "Change your own affiliation; stop trying to change SA!"

The Challenge

We welcome all of you in the area who hold to SA principles and want the real SA. We invite you to be part of the real fellowship. You *can* decide for yourselves what kind of fellowship you want. You can help lay the foundation for a new beginning of unity with the larger fellowship. We want you to know that we are concerned for your welfare and continued recovery. You are part of our recovery. Please become a part of us—the fellowship at large.

The fact that many of you may have come into SA under the non-SA leadership makes this situation difficult for you. As newcomers, you may have come into a situation that was confusing. What could you do? Survival, not politics was uppermost on your minds and hearts. We understand that dilemma.

However, experience has shown us that our personal survival depends on SA unity. *There is no SA unity without unity on what sexual sobriety is!* So we have to take a stand, as painful as it may be. And we have taken that stand. Now we ask all who are for true SA principles to stand with the Fellowship. You won't be standing alone.

The great mass of SA will be behind you and with you. We hope you'll join us in our fellowship of sobriety and unity, in our conventions and retreats, and service. You have as much right as any others to your own needs and convictions-to your own Program, to the real SA!

We are with you-s-every one, no matter how new or how long sober or not sober-you who feel that for yourselves you must share in the real historic SA experience. We will help and support you.

Action

I hope you read what I have shared and feel strongly about in the enclosed paper. And I encourage everyone who holds to and wants true SA sobriety to join with us in the SA Fellowship. Let us know what you want so we can help. Call or write the Central Office, our world services headquarters for Sexaholics Anonymous (805-581- 3343).

Yours in sobriety by the grace and love of God,

Roy K.

encl: "Principles Corroborating SA's Interpretation of Sexual Sobriety," copy of letter to Tri-State Intergroup February 26, 1991