Dear UA Fellowship,

We have been deeply concerned by the troubles in our fellowship and had hoped we could resolve this with unity around the Bylaws and the Traditions. This has unfortunately proven to not be the case.

After receiving legal letters from the lawyers representing the former GSRC, WSCPC and the self-appointed trustees, it would be negligent of us, as the Board, to respond to these legal letters without legal counsel.

After seeking legal counsel, our attorney sent us a legal opinion letter regarding the situation. In the letter our attorney informed us that the actions being taken by the outside enterprises are illegal.

Since we are charged with protecting the legal and fiduciary interests of the fellowship, we have issued the attached cease and desist letter to the following recipients, listed below, based on their positions and participation in the former GSRC, WSCPC and those who were appointed as self-elected trustees.

We also sent letters to members who solicited funds at UA meetings for these groups after they were deemed outside enterprises by the General Service Board.

We hope that by providing this information to all of you, it will help bring greater clarity and understanding.

Thank you.

*The actual cease and desist letter contains last names and email addresses, therefore to honor the tradition of anonymity we have listed below the recipients by first name and last initial only. ** The legal opinion letter can be found on the GSB section of the website.  


With appreciation,

Clara, GSB Chair  
Toni, GSB Treasurer  
John, GSB Class A Trustee  
Jason T, GSB Class B Trustee

***Additional information added.
TO: THE BELOW LISTED RECIPIENTS

Re: Infringement of Trademark Owned by UA-GSB, Inc.

We represent UA-GSB, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation that serves a Twelve Step mutual aid fellowship of people dedicated to recovery from underearning, known as Underearners Anonymous. It has come to our client's attention that you are infringing on UA-GSB’s federally registered trademark, “Underearners Anonymous” (“UA”). UA-GSB therefore demands that you immediately cease such infringing activity, desist from such infringing activity in the future, and comply with UA-GSB's other requirements set forth in this letter.

UA-GSB registered the UA mark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Register No. 5461982, on May 8, 2018. It has been using the UA mark in the U.S. for more than 17 years, since 2005. Accordingly, UA-GSB has established its priority in the mark and has the exclusive right of use of the mark.

Notwithstanding UA-GSB’s right of exclusive use of its mark, you have been using the mark without authorization or consent of UA-GSB. Your infringing conduct includes, among others, (i) YouTube videos containing the UA mark; (ii) domains bearing the UA mark -- "uawsc.org" and "uagsrc.org"; (iii) directing members of the fellowship to those unauthorized sites instead of the official UA website; (iv) soliciting funds from members of the fellowship under the name UA; and/or (v) purporting to elect or to have been elected a UA trustee.

The prominent use of the UA mark in this manner appears to be made with the intent to trade on the goodwill associated with UA. Your unlawful use of the UA mark creates the false impression that your conduct and activities are somehow connected or associated with UA so as to deceive the public as well as current and prospective members of the UA fellowship, or to cause confusion or mistake as to the origin or affiliation of your activities. The attempted association of the UA mark with your activities is likely to blur the distinctive character and tarnish the reputation of UA.

Your use of the UA mark in connection with your activities subjects you to liability for willful trademark infringement, false designation of origin, and trademark dilution. Your involvement in registering the domains may also give rise to separate claims of cyberpiracy, as well as any other applicable state unfair competition and dilution laws.

The civil remedies available for these violations include immediate and permanent injunctive relief, and up to three times the amount of monetary damages suffered by our client, as well as an award of attorney's fees.
While UA-GSB is entitled to enforce its trademark rights against infringers through all appropriate legal means, UA-GSB is prepared to try to resolve this matter amicably provided that you immediately, and by no later than September 30, 2022:

1. Cease and desist from all further use of “Underearners Anonymous” or “UA” in your activities, as well as any other designations likely to cause confusion with or dilution of UA-GSB’s trademark;

2. Destroy any materials in your possession or control bearing any designation likely to cause confusion with or dilution of UA-GSB’s trademark;

3. Provide UA-GSB with sufficient information to determine the full amount of funds you have collected from your use of UA-GSB’s trademark;

4. Abandon all pending activities bearing the UA mark, including your purported upcoming UA world service conference scheduled for October 1, 2 and 7, 8, 9, 2022;

5. Take down all YouTube videos regarding UA; and

6. Cancel your registrations for the domain names uawsc.org and uagsrc.org.

UA-GSB further demands that you provide, by no later than the close of business on September 30, 2022, written confirmation that you will comply with these demands. You are specifically advised that any failure or delay in complying with these demands will likely compound the damages for which you may be liable.

If we do not receive a satisfactory and timely response, UA-GSB is prepared to take all steps necessary to protect its valuable intellectual property rights, without further notice to you.

The above is not an exhaustive statement of all the relevant facts and law. UA-GSB expressly reserves all of its legal and equitable rights and remedies, including the right to seek injunctive relief and recover monetary damages.

Very truly yours,

Smith Buss & Jacobs LLP

By: /s/ David A. Menken
    David A. Menken, Esq.

cc: Nancy Durand, Esq.
    David Samuels - david@perlmanandperlman.com