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To me, being part of a global fellowship means that from the isolation of active addiction, we come to a place of warm belonging in a world of recovering addicts.

Lasse W, Sweden

A groundswell of recovery

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That Narcotics Anonymous would eventually exist wherever there are addicts in need of recovery has been our dream ever since NA got started in 1953. When one of NA's founders, Jimmy K, first designed the NA logo, he included directional markers around the circle to symbolize his hope that NA would expand to the four corners of the earth.

Our collective dream has come to pass. NA members go to meetings on every continent, in almost every country. Granted, there are a few places we haven't penetrated yet, but we're working to carry the message in all the places we have.

In this issue of *The NA Way Magazine*, we've collected comments from members around the world on what it means to be part of a global fellowship. For a special feature, we asked NA communities around the world to share about their communities—how they got started and what they're like now. We were very happy to receive responses from some places that haven't been heard from before in the pages of *The NA Way*.

Though it pleases us to see the wide representation of NA communities in this issue, we're even more delighted to know that what's included here is only a small fraction of NA as a whole.

As much as NA has grown, we continue to strive for and dream of the day when NA will actually reach its ultimate potential, the day when no addict, anywhere, need ever die from the horrors of addiction. ❖



**THE
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NAWS NEEDS YOU!!!



Here's your opportunity to give back what was so freely given to you!!! Help build the World Pool by sending in your service resume. Trusted servants for WS projects and elections will come from this pool. You can reach us by letter, phone, or email, or visit our website at www.na.org to request your resume form.

The NA Way Magazine welcomes letters from all readers. Letters to the editor can respond to any article that has appeared in *The NA Way*, or can simply be a viewpoint about an issue of concern in the NA Fellowship. Letters should be no more than 250 words, and we reserve the right to edit. All letters must include a signature, valid address, and phone number. First name and last initial will be used as the signature line unless the writer requests anonymity.

The NA Way Magazine, published in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish, belongs to the members of Narcotics Anonymous. Its mission, therefore, is to provide each member with recovery and service information, as well as recovery-related entertainment, which speaks to current issues and events relevant to each of our members worldwide. In keeping with this mission, the editorial staff is dedicated to providing a magazine which is open to articles and features written by members from around the world, as well as current service and convention information. Foremost, the journal is dedicated to the celebration of our message of recovery—"that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live."

Unity: the practical foundation for a worldwide fellowship

As it says in It Works: How and Why, “anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our traditions,” but “unity... is the practical foundation on which we may build strong and successful groups.” NA communities around the world have discovered that being part of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole is more important than any issue or challenge. Recovery truly does transcend all languages and cultures.



Border is no obstacle to growth in Ireland

In 1978, some recovering addicts who had never heard of NA changed a few words in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous (“alcohol” to “drugs”; “alcoholic” to “addict”) and started a short-lived group, which they called “Drugs Anonymous.” The group continued to meet until early 1979, and then died out.

A few months passed and Mary B, an AA member and therapist in a treatment center in Clondalkin, County Dublin, suggested to an addict receiving treatment that he start an NA meeting “as he obviously needed one.” So he did, in October 1979 in the treatment center. There have been NA meetings in Ireland continuously since that date, and Mark recently celebrated 20 years clean.

The first ASC was formed around Dublin in the early eighties, which led to several members traveling to London to learn about service. We hosted the first European Service Conference soon after, and we started sending a representative to the World Service Conference in the mid-eighties. One of our representatives, Oliver S, subsequently served on the WSO Board of Directors.

We now have 121 meetings throughout Ireland, including some in the Northern Area, which surrounds Belfast. We experienced a huge growth spurt in our membership in the mid-nineties, and the average age of new members dropped from the early thirties to the early twenties.

While a few of our more fervent patriots consider Irish Gaelic our native language, the rest of us are grateful to have NA literature in English.

The first Irish Regional Convention—“Clean, Green, and Serene”—was held in Dublin in 1985. It was a great success and had approximately 55 attendees. Our most recent regional convention was held last October in Limerick and had approximately 400 attendees. The Southern and Eastern areas have had similarly sized conventions in the past few years. We also have other fundraising and social events.

Ireland NA has a young, growing membership. We’re one of the oldest NA communities in Europe and one of only a few regions to straddle a national border.

Conor H, Dublin

The curtain is raised on recovery in Poland

The first NA meeting in Poland took place in March 1988 in Olsztyn, a town in the north-east part of Poland. Five addicts attended the meeting, which was started by an alcoholic priest named Marian. He was unaware that NA existed elsewhere (Poland was still behind the Iron Curtain at the time), but he felt that since he had found recovery from his alcoholism in AA, the principles of that program would also work for drug addicts.

We now have 28 NA groups in Poland, each of which meets once or twice a week.

When NA first started in Poland, even AA literature in Polish was scarce. We had no NA literature. We now have draft translations of 18 informational pamphlets, the White Booklet, *For Those in Treatment*, *The Group Booklet*, and *NA: A Resource in Your Community* in Polish. We're working on translating *It Works: How and Why*. Though none of these translations have been approved yet, we are able to use them with approval pending.

Our first convention took place in 1986 as part of an AA convention. We now have our own independent conventions, as well as service committee meetings.

The drug of choice in Poland was and still is "kompot"—a mixture of heroin and morphine. It can't be snorted or smoked, only injected. Consequently, we have a very large percentage of HIV-positive addicts in our membership and in the addict population in Poland. Our meetings are long compared to other places. They usually run at least two hours, and we don't have time limits on sharing. It's not unusual to have a single person sharing for more than 30 minutes.

Maciej M, Krakow

Being part of a global fellowship means I have a sense of community no matter where I go.

Ted J, South Africa

Dedicated to recovery in Argentina

Four addicts—Beto, Juan Carlos, Valeria, and Walter—started the first NA meeting in Argentina, which was held 4 January 1986. Beto was recovering in AA at the time, and his sponsor gave him some NA literature. Using the address printed on the literature, he wrote the WSO and received more NA literature and some medallions in reply. He then spoke to a priest at a church where AA meetings were being held, and got permission to have an NA meeting there. We now have 240 meetings a week.

Naturally, we had no NA literature in Spanish back then. The first thing we did was hire someone to translate the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions into Spanish so everyone could at least know what the NA program consisted of. We now have the White Booklet, the Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, the *Just for Today* meditation book, almost all of the informational pamphlets, and a service manual in Spanish.

When we had our first activity (a public meeting to which we invited the community), we expected only a small crowd and planned to meet in our usual meeting room at the church. However, so many people showed up that the priest had to open up the sanctuary and cover the Christ figure so we could have the meeting there. Our first regional convention was in 1992, and we continue to have one every year. We also have area conventions, campouts, barbecues, dances, dinner parties, step and tradition weekends, service weekends, and learning days.

What makes our local NA community unique is that we celebrate recovery anniversaries with "pergaminos," which can't really be translated into English. "Manuscripts" is pretty close. "Pergaminos" are usually notebooks filled with personal dedications written by fellow recovering addicts.

Irina D, Buenos Aires



From Switzerland with love

The Swiss French-speaking area is getting ready to host the 17th European Convention and Conference. It will be in Lausanne 28-30 July, and we're looking forward to welcoming members from all over Europe and beyond. In the days following the convention, we'll be holding a post-convention mountain retreat in the Alps called "Gratitude in the Altitude." Right there, 7000 feet above sea level, we'll take the time to savor what it means to be clean and share our experience, strength, and hope. Since our national holiday falls during that time, people at the retreat will get the chance to come in contact with our mountain culture, which is that of a 3000-year-old shepherd's civilization.

More than 15 languages are spoken at a typical ECC, and the one we are hosting will be no exception. Though English is the "official" language spoken at all main meetings, we make sure that members from all communities get a chance to attend a meeting in their own language.

Some European NA communities have had meetings for a long time, while others are brand-new. These emerging communities are most important to us, for they are the lifeblood of our collective recovery.

NA in Switzerland is still pretty small, since the first NA meeting here was held just ten years ago. Since then, meetings have started throughout the country, in all three of the different languages spoken here. We now have about 30 meetings a week in twelve different cities. Our local conventions draw about 200 attendees.

One of our main difficulties lies in the fact that professionals in our country have little knowledge of our program of recovery. The wording of the steps and the emphasis put on spiritual principles is something they have a hard time coming to terms with, and they usually think of us as a religious movement. Our local PI committee has done great work in trying to inform the public, but such work doesn't always produce immediate results. We're confident that having the ECC here will help spread the message of recovery.

Ten years ago, when I returned to Switzerland after having gone through treatment in California, I didn't know of any NA here. I sought recovery in another twelve-step fellowship, but I had a rough time, because I lacked the support and understanding only another recovering addict can give. I kept relapsing and I grew more and more frightened that I would

never make it. Finally, one evening a guy came up to me and said, "Did you know that an NA meeting just started in Geneva?" I can still remember my reaction: "I'm not gonna die, then."

The beautiful dream that no addict seeking recovery need die has become truth here in Switzerland. At first, we were just a bunch of crazy dope fiends sharing the hope that maybe we could stop killing ourselves one day at a time. The only literature we had were some lousy photocopies of draft translations in French. We kept coming back, at least some of us, and the miracle started to happen. Now, when I see 200 clean addicts enjoying life together here in Switzerland, I feel tremendously grateful. The Swiss NA community looks very much like the country itself: solid, down to earth, uncomplicated, lively, warm-hearted, and dedicated. There sure is a whole lot of hugging going on in our rooms.

Jean-Dominique M, Lausanne



Recovery lives by the delta of the Nile

My name is Hamed G, and Makram S and I started the first NA meeting in Egypt. It was held in Cairo 26 November 1989. I had gotten clean in Australia and came back with 20 months. I initially joined AA in Cairo, but soon crossed paths with a doctor from a local treatment center who believed strongly in NA and told me about it. I was impressed that there was a program for recovering addicts. The doctor made meeting space available to us at the treatment facility, and I went to that meeting with addicts who were in treatment. Makram was there at the time, and when he got out, we started an NA meeting at a school where AA also had meetings. We now have seven meetings a week in Cairo, one each day.

We have had a draft translation of the Basic Text in Arabic since NA began here. Our members are currently reviewing and discussing it to decide if it will meet the future needs of our NA community.

We have not yet had a convention; we had our first activity—a retreat—in January in Fayrooz, a resort village on the Mediterranean Sea.

Here in Egypt, we never take NA for granted. By law, we have to be given legal sanction and be under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Hamed G, Cairo



Greetings from Greece

Our first NA meeting may not have happened if not for five Greek addicts who were living in England. They translated IP #1, *Who, What, How, and Why*, into Greek, and then two of them—Vasilis V and Marianna P—came to Greece and started the first meeting. It took place 1 July 1987 in Athens.

We now have 42 meetings a week. We just finished translating Book One of the Basic Text and have sent it to NA World Services so we can get started on the approval process. We also have draft translations of *Just for Today, It Works: How and Why*, and *The NA Step Working Guides*.

We had our first regional convention in 1994, and we are now planning our fourth regional convention. We also have parties and bazaars.

What makes our community unique? The majority of our members got clean without a Basic Text. Also, it's illegal to detox from drugs in Greece, so there aren't any places to go for that. Most members go through withdrawals in meetings. There are "therapeutic communities," but they see NA as competition, not as a resource. Since we don't have those things that addicts in other countries may have, we really depend on one another and our fellowship is very close-knit.

We're very grateful to be part of "global NA," and we'd like to wish that the new millennium will be a clean and serene one for addicts all over the world.

Alexander L, Athens

To be part of a global fellowship
means I no longer feel unique
and self-centered.

Monica, Norway



The Peruvian hour

The first meeting for addicts in Peru, called the "Renovation" meeting, was started on 14 November 1985 by Roberto S. The meeting didn't have an NA orientation. Everything was borrowed from AA, and the group was called Drug Addicts Anonymous. In the beginning, the meeting got a lot of support from AA members, but as soon as they returned to AA, the group started to fall apart. Then Tomas arrived from the United States and found Roberto and told him about Narcotics Anonymous. He brought a Basic Text and several IPs, which were all in English. The members started translating immediately, hoping that having literature in Spanish would better carry the message of recovery. The group struggled for a long time. No new members were attending, but there were four regular members who kept things going. Later on, we got a meeting started in the psychiatric unit of a hospital with the help of a doctor. We also got help from a Catholic nun who helped us with some public information work. Then another member came from the United States who knew a lot about the program and helped us learn about the traditions. He didn't speak Spanish, but Roberto translated for him. All this helped bring new addicts to the meeting. After some time, the original "Renovation" group had more than 60 members, and it became necessary to start new meetings.

In our region, we now have 120 meetings, but there are still many cities where NA has yet to reach. Roberto translated the literature that Tomas brought, and we made photocopies of the drafts to give to newcomers. Our older members still remember how hard it was to get those copies. Thank God, today we have available in Spanish practically all the recovery literature and a great deal of the service literature.

Our first event was in Lima in November 1991. The most important thing about that first event was that everyone got to see that NA was bigger than just the members of one's home group. Also from that event, we were inspired to plan our first combination convention and conference the following October in Chiclayo. It was attended by more than 200 people.

We now hold a variety of activities: the regional convention, the regional assembly, a local World Unity Day celebration, and a local anniversary meeting, plus learning days, workshops, campouts, picnics, trips, and dances.

What's special about NA in Peru? Our members are very relaxed, so we generally leave things to the last minute. Nothing ever starts or ends on time. Everybody says that in our region, there's no escape from the famous "Peruvian hour." It is something we still have to conquer.

Fernando M, Lima



Growing together in Brazil

Narcotics Anonymous, as it is now known, had its first meeting in 1988 in Rio de Janeiro. Prior to that, we also had meetings of what was called Toxicanamos Anonimos—TA. TA followed the NA program of recovery (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, draft translations of several IPs, and a somewhat altered Basic Text). There was some influence by AA on TA's service structure, but that was the primary difference. The first TA meeting was held in 1978 in São Paulo. All TA meetings became NA meetings in 1990.

We just celebrated the 20th anniversary of our oldest group, and we spent some time reminiscing about how things used to be in NA in Brazil. One of our oldest members, Joaquim, told about how in the early days, members used to be asked to turn in their guns and knives at the beginning of a meeting, so that no one would be hurt or worse during the fights that frequently broke out in recovery meetings. Our early meetings were held in secret. When a meeting was going to happen, one member would drive through town picking up all the other members on his way to the meeting. It is said that NA got started in Brazil on the suggestion of an American AA member who together with his wife opened the first treatment center in Brazil.

NA in Brazil has mushroomed since we merged the two fellowships of NA and TA. At that time, there were 53 meetings a week. Our latest count has NA meetings practically carpeting the earth. There are 1200 meetings a week, which are served by 23 ASCs with H&I, PI, phonline, and other committees. Our regional office distributed more than 100,000 IPs and more than 18,000 welcome chips last year.

When TA and NA merged, the only literature we had in Brazilian Portuguese was twelve IPs and a Basic Text. The IPs were photocopied, and the Basic Text was an unauthorized local printing job done by some members. To say something was lost in the translations we had would be an understatement. They were done by well-meaning people (treatment professionals, Naranon members, etc.), but they weren't addicts.

The recovering addicts in Brazil took a while to reach an agreement about some of the terminology (addicts, toxicanamos), but everything was finally resolved and everyone was able to sit down and work together. In 1989, some members from world services visited us. We had asked them to come help us sort out our problems. After a long and painful struggle, we finally got our Basic Text approved and published in 1993.

Presently, we have almost all of the NA literature in Brazilian Portuguese. *Just for Today* is going into production soon, and we are working on translating the *Step Working Guides*.

Our first activity in Brazil was a sort of "preconvention" held in 1986. It was held primarily for the purpose of getting recovering members from three different states (Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Minas Gerais) together. We had two days of recovery and service meetings and about 30 people in attendance.

Today, we have many "step working cycles," as we call them. Usually, these weekend marathons are held to study NA literature, and they are very popular. However, our biggest event is our annual regional convention, which is attended by more than 1000 members. We always invite two or more speakers from

outside Brazil to share their experience, strength, and hope with us. Due to our rapid growth, we need stability and experience to stay unified.

In 1992, we were invited to participate in the Development Forum at the World Service Conference. This was a turning point for us, and we have continued to participate at the WSC. We learn a great deal, and it's very helpful in terms of support and making us feel a part of our worldwide fellowship.

Our country is huge, more than three million square miles. Nevertheless, we have a very tight-knit fellowship. Members are devoted to one another and to carrying the message. Our outreach efforts are dependent on the selfless service of members who drive thousands of miles in all sorts of conditions.

Our meetings usually run about two hours, and people share for seven to ten minutes instead of the "three to five" that seems to be the norm elsewhere. As commonplace as the coffeepot is the blackboard we have in all our meetings, which has suggestions for newcomers and the names of all those who will be celebrating a milestone of clean time at the meeting.

Dora S, Rio de Janeiro



Recovery is central in Ecuador

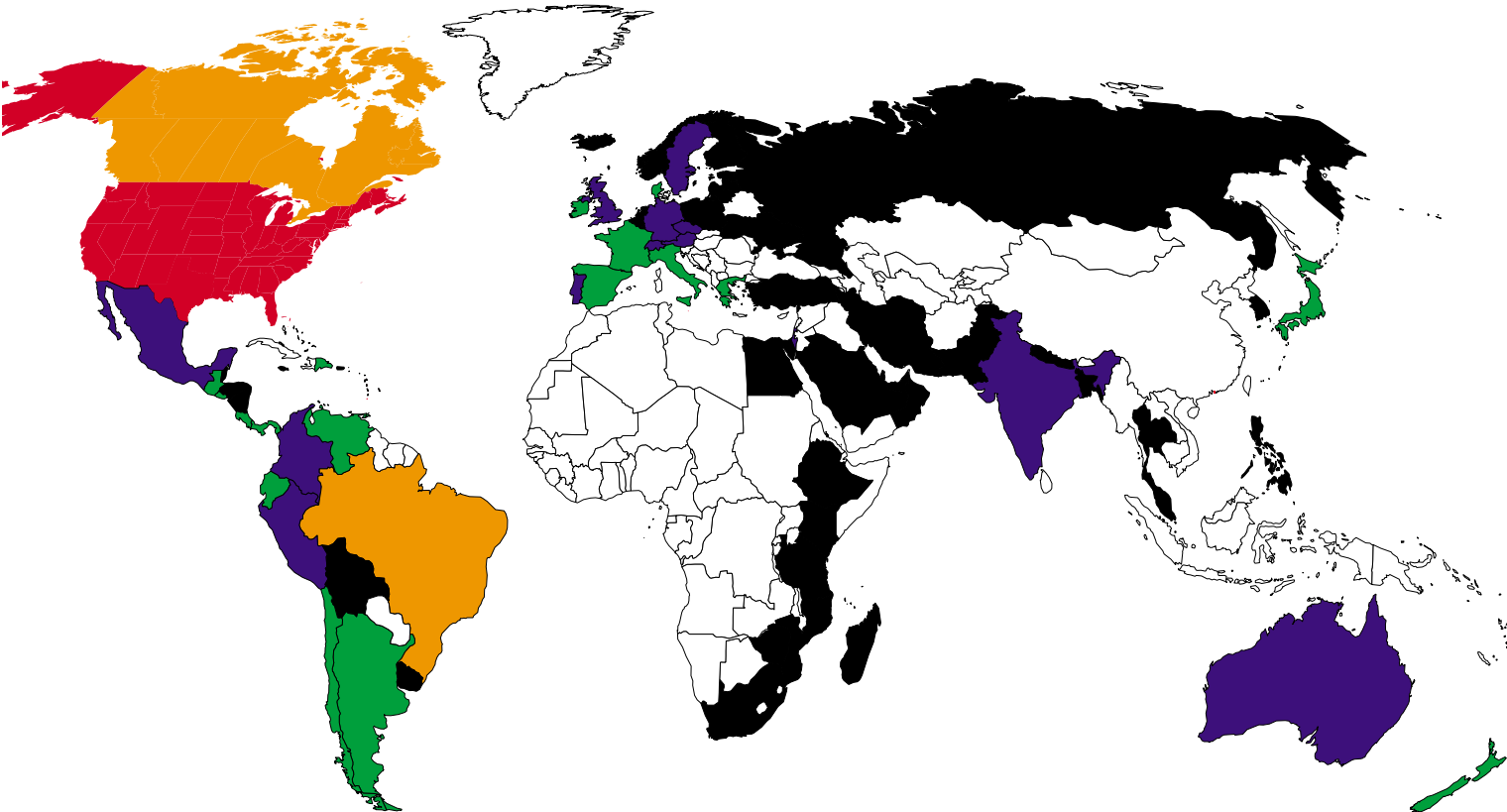
Early in 1983, a member named Ruy A started the first meeting in Ecuador. Ruy had heard the message of recovery in a South Miami hospital, and when he returned to Guayaquil (Ecuador's largest city), he found some other addicts and started the Nuevo Camino (New Walk) meeting. We now have 37 groups in Ecuador, which hold 180 meetings every week.






In 1983, there was no NA literature in Castilian Spanish, but we now have all the recovery literature that's published in English except a couple of IPs. We even have a draft translation of the *Step Working Guides* book.

We had our first regional convention in September 1997. It was beautiful. It was the first time that members from all over the country met with one another and got the opportunity to see and feel what NA could do. We all had our perspectives enlarged from realizing that we weren't just members of our own groups at home, but of a worldwide community. Last October, we hosted the Latin American convention, which was attended by members from 16 countries. It was marvelous, full of love and spirituality. Hundreds of NA members cried during the clean-time countdown.

Roberto, Guayaquil

WEEKLY NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS



-  **USA—20,500 Meetings**
-  **Canada—1,200 Meetings**
-  **100-500 Meetings**
-  **25-100 Meetings**
-  **1-25 Meetings**

I'll never forget the support we received from the WSO, and visits from members of NA World Services since the late eighties. Their sharing of love, wisdom, and faith made all the difference in transforming our lonely struggle toward a dream into the more than 1,100 weekly meetings we have in Brazil today. For me, being part of a global fellowship means being grateful and offering my hand to the next newcomer—be it a member, a group, or a region—anywhere in the world.

Teresa, Brazil

We found a room!

My name is Tolga, and I live in Ankara, Turkey. Until just recently, there were no NA meetings here in Ankara.

I just moved here, and I wanted to try to get a meeting started. I thought I would go to an alcoholic treatment doctor who has been very supportive of AA—maybe she would be supportive of NA, also.

I met with her, and she was very supportive—still, she said she doubted the hospital management would let us use a room in the hospital. I guess the hospital managers weren't very supportive of AA or NA. I did give her my phone number, though, and she said she would pass it on to any addicts coming through the hospital. I also left some Turkish-language informational pamphlets with her.

One of my favorite things to do in Ankara is ride the Metro. It's only about a year old in Ankara, and it's very modern like in most European cities. I was about to ride the Metro downtown to go to an AA meeting (something I don't like doing, but when there's no NA, I don't have a choice). But something told me to take a different route and ask at a few more places for a meeting room. I didn't have any real hope that I'd find a place for a bunch of addicts to meet in a conservative city like Ankara, but I did the footwork, anyway.

I came to a street near downtown that has a lot of cafés, bookstores, movie theaters, bars, and so on. It's a very popular place, and a lot of addicts hang out there. I asked at one café, but they thought we were the Rotary Club or something, and I couldn't make them understand what NA is. Then, a few blocks away, I tried another café—a small place with only ten tables. I approached the cashier, and started to speak in a shaky voice, but I caught sight of some stairs leading down. So instead of asking about meeting space, I asked if I could go downstairs. Something told me that was where I needed to go.

When I got downstairs, there was a woman there, and I told her about NA and asked her if we could meet there. She said yes! I got goosebumps at that moment.

Our meeting place is in a small storage room right across from the café's kitchen. We can only fit a few addicts in there, but that's all we need right now. I believe that God prepared that room for us, and just waited for us to come get it. I believe that when we need something bigger, God will work it out again. Right now, I am crying from gratitude. Dreams come true.

Tolga, Turkey

Damned Leslie!

I just attended the 30-year reunion of my high school class, and it's taking me a while to get over the residual effects. Even more off-putting than the mob standing outside the door of the reunion was a conversation I had with a woman named Leslie.

I'm not sure why Leslie's family moved to our rural community in our sophomore year. At the time, I harbored a suspicion that any of my neighbors not born on Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range were in the FBI's witness protection program.

Anyway, at the reunion, Leslie shared with me about the first dance that she and her twin sister had attended at our school. She desperately wanted Clint to ask her to dance, but he sauntered right past her and asked her sister instead. I told her that I could relate, having always wanted Clint to ask me to dance, too.

She brushed aside my interruption to finish her story.

It turns out that I was the first guy to ask her to dance at her first dance in her new hometown. The memory still brought a warm glow to her face as she shared it, even though 33 years have passed.

Needless to say, this five-minute moment had failed to burrow its way into my long-term memory. That the gesture was so important to her and so unimportant to me was initially flattering. Then I became uncomfortably aware of a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach.

I should mention at this point that from time to time I can wield a sharp tongue—especially at service meetings. The god-awful know-it-alls who curse every service meeting seem to me like a plague of locusts from someone else's bible. It's not just them, though. Basically, anyone who disagrees with my well-reasoned conclusions about what's best for everything and everyone bothers me.

Which brings me back to that irritating Leslie woman.

If an unconscious act of kindness is fondly remembered more than 30 years later, what does that say about my well-aimed barbs?

I'm not going to make any foolish promises, because I've had previous experience with awareness and willingness to change, followed by more awareness of how firmly entrenched are my defects of character. But I do hope that I can remember to use my power of speech for good instead of evil. Failing that, maybe I can at least remember to think twice before I deliver a well-deserved pummeling to the world's never-ending supply of louts.

*Abashedly,
Kit E, Minnesota*

Enriched

Very often, addicts from outside the United States and Canada talk about how much they were helped by having a visit from someone in world services or just someone from a larger and stronger NA community. We don't hear too much about how much established NA communities are helped by having members from other countries visit.

When I got clean, my world consisted of the groups in Lewiston-Auburn, Maine. As my recovery has progressed, my "world" has opened up to encompass all parts of the globe. I have met and shared with addicts from many countries, and they have all enriched my life and my recovery. Though the principles of recovery are the same all over the world, the challenges we face in our NA communities are very different, and it's good for all of us to be aware of them.

After the 1997 World Unity Day celebration in Milford, New Hampshire, we were blessed to have two addicts from Peru, Rueben and Sylvia, come to visit us. They shared at our regional unity day picnic and came to our regular Monday night meeting, the "We Need Help" group. Members of the group still talk about Rueben and Sylvia's visit and how moving their sharing was. We've now been doubly blessed. After the 1999 World Unity Day in Hollywood, Florida, Bablu from India came to visit and spend time with us.

These visits have brought life to the phrase "a worldwide fellowship."

Stuart B, Maine

One is a start, and a thousand is a miracle

On 22 November 1999, we had our thousandth meeting. It hasn't been easy, but we made it. There were times we had only a single member in the meeting room, along with a coffeepot, some literature, and a feeling of hopelessness in the air. There were other days, especially in the summer, when the room was full of people—locals, newcomers, visitors from other places. We are very grateful for the support we received from members throughout Brazil. They came faithfully to remind us that NA works, we should keep our doors open, and newcomers would be sure to arrive. They gave us the strength to continue. We had ups and downs, but there was always an atmosphere of recovery. Every time a newcomer kept coming back, our love for NA increased. We kept coming back ourselves, and we tried to learn about staying clean and helping others.

We carried the message to our local community—churches, schools, universities, and other places that requested our presence. We were always welcomed, and we learned and grew from each experience. We attended ASC meetings and participated in outreach, PI, H&I, and helpline workshops. We try to emphasize service in our meetings because we know how important it is to our recovery.

Thank you, fellow members. Thank you, Higher Power. We're looking forward to our next thousand meetings.

*Guarapari Group,
Espirito Santo, Brazil*

Resources for a global community

My home group is part of a global fellowship—not all of it, not most of it, not the part that knows best or the part that is more entitled. Both my home group and I are simply part of something that's greater than we are. My home group has a responsibility to always consider the needs of NA as a whole. We're part of it. We may think we know what's best for all of NA from where we sit and with the information we have, but it takes the voices of all of NA to arrive at what our Ultimate Authority wants for our fellowship.

Rachel O, Florida

Though it goes without saying that our most important resource is another recovering addict, there's no need to reinvent the wheel every time we're facing a new issue in our local communities.

Besides the many books, pamphlets, and handbooks available in the NAWS Product Catalog, there is a variety of material addressing issues that affect NA as a whole available for free. You can download many of the following from our website or by contacting the World Service Office.

At the present time, these materials are available only in English.

Starting an NA Meeting – A reprint from *NA Update*, the NAWS newsletter for professionals, this article provides guidance to nonaddict professionals on starting NA meetings in their communities.

Starting a New NA Group—A Checklist – Lists all the things to do when starting a new NA meeting.

Trustee Bulletin #13: Some Thoughts Regarding Our Relationship to Alcoholics Anonymous – Self-explanatory.

Trustee Bulletin #14: The Relationship of Narcotics Anonymous to NarAnon and Families Anonymous – Self-explanatory.

Trustee Bulletin #15: Open and Closed NA Meetings – Addresses the differences between NA meetings that are open to the public and meetings that are for addicts only.

Trustee Bulletin #17: What is Addiction? – Addresses the “disease concept” of addiction, types of addiction not related to drugs, and the reasons for our name, Narcotics Anonymous.

Trustee Bulletin #18: Special Interest Meetings – A history and overview of NA's experience with meetings that are of special interest to specific parts of our membership.

Trustee Bulletin #19: Gender-Specific Language and Use of the Word “God” in NA Literature – Self-explanatory.

Trustee Bulletin #20: Freedom from Prejudice, Parts 1 and 2 – Provides practical solutions for the times when this problem arises in our local communities.

Trustee Bulletin #21: The Generation of Funds and the Seventh Tradition in Narcotics Anonymous – Addresses issues of fundraising.

Trustee Bulletin #22: Direct Contributions – Explores how direct group contributions to all levels of NA's service structure can help stabilize NA services.

Trustee Bulletin #25: Public Relations and the Traditions – Self-explanatory.

Trustee Bulletin #27: HIV and AIDS in NA – Self-explanatory.

Trustee Bulletin #28: Freedom from Prejudice, Part 3 – A continuation of the discussion in Bulletin #20.

Trustee Bulletin #29: Regarding Methadone and Other Drug Replacement Programs – Self-explanatory.

News brief

NA at the United Nations

We're pleased to announce that Narcotics Anonymous has consultative status at the United Nations. We are one of the many nongovernmental organizations within the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

This status gives us official recognition, and we are informed about and invited to discussions at the UN that may concern us. We don't attend every meeting—only the ones that are appropriate for us to attend. Over the next ten years, the UN will be developing policy to address the drug problem in all its member countries. In the past, policy has been centered primarily on enforcement. As new policy is developed, we would like the policy makers to know about NA as a recovery resource so that they may choose to include us in the new policy.

There are indirect benefits to our official recognition by the UN. As we seek to start meetings in new countries, especially in Africa, our UN consultative status eliminates many of the barriers that would otherwise exist. We also have the opportunity to network with other nongovernmental organizations from all over the world, which increases general awareness of and respect for Narcotics Anonymous. ❖

Trustee Bulletin #30: Theft of NA Funds – Discusses strategies for responsible management of NA's funds, and the steps local communities may wish to take if funds are stolen.

Translation Basics – A comprehensive resource package for local translation committees. It contains helpful information about creating an LTC, prioritizing projects, the process for approving translations of NA literature, what LTCs may do with a work in progress, troubleshooting, etc.

The Loner Group and Meeting by Mail – The Loner Group was created in the early eighties for members who are isolated by geography or circumstance. Loner Group members get a list of other Loner Group members and their addresses so that they can write and support one another's recovery. The *Meeting by Mail* is the bimonthly newsletter of the Loner Group. This is not available in institutions; however, a similar publication, *Reaching Out*, is available to members in institutions.

Reaching Out – A newsletter for incarcerated NA members, H&I committees, treatment centers, prison libraries, and correctional officials.

NA Phonenumber Directory – If you'll be traveling or relocating, this is an invaluable guide to help you find a meeting or get in touch with Narcotics Anonymous worldwide. ❖

To be part of a global fellowship means that I am home anywhere I go... (and it might not be in keeping with the spirit of the magazine, but it's the truth) ...and I am subject to envy because I know so many people from all over the world. I am thought to be utterly courageous because I'll travel to nearly any country knowing only that I'll find other NA members there. I can go look for a job abroad (like I always dreamed of doing in my active addiction, but never did), and I know I'll have all my recovery needs met: meetings, service, friends. It also means that I have a program that works wherever I take it: a lonely loch in the Scottish Highlands, the capital of Portugal, the rough mountains of Northern Spain. It means to pray together with a Muslim at a Catholic church in Rome, and feel that there is no difference—we both mean the same thing when we ask God to grant us the serenity... It means that I often feel that I have more than most other people.

I could continue without end.

Martina, Germany



When and how does group autonomy affect other groups or NA as a whole?

Tradition Four: “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole.”

Autonomy beyond the group

The autonomy we speak of in Tradition Four extends way beyond the group level. What about how it relates to individual addicts? We do not dictate how individuals should work their programs. We allow them the autonomy to work a program they believe is right for their own personal recovery. Along with the freedom of autonomy comes the responsibility of working the second half of this tradition. Working our program our way does not give us the right to interfere with or damage other members or Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. For example, if we bring our children to a meeting and they damage the facility, and the meeting is then asked to find another meeting place, aren't we as individuals, the parents, responsible?

What about area service committees? Does not the same rule apply? What if an area takes and fills commitments within another area's geographic boundaries without trying to communicate? What if an area holds a convention at a facility that's within the boundaries of another area? What if the facility has a relationship with the area whose geographic boundaries contain it, and what if that relationship is damaged by the other area? What if nearby areas schedule events at the same time without communicating with one another? What about regional services and world services? Shouldn't we all be bound by the same Fourth Tradition?

Shared meeting space

When we share meeting space with another group, we need to take extra care in practicing group autonomy. When two or more groups use meeting space at the same facility at different times, it becomes readily apparent how actions can affect other groups or NA as a whole. If one group shows disrespect for a meeting place by not cleaning up after its meeting, it jeopardizes not only its own relationship with the facility, but that of all the other NA groups that meet there. Worse yet, if the meeting is in a public building, NA's reputation in the community is at stake. Having a poor public image or reputation would jeopardize our ability to find other meeting space. We need to remember that even though every group is autonomous, those who aren't part of NA may have trouble understanding our group autonomy—that our groups are independent and are run by the members.

H&I Slim



For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of meeting him, H&I Slim is the ultimate "H&I kinda guy." He hangs out in hospitals and jails all over the world. You might say he's always in the know and always on the go. Got a question about H&I? Need some help? Write H&I Slim in care of the WSO.

Dear H&I Slim,

I'm the secretary of an institutional group. At the last few meetings, a lot of the men have talked about having Jesus as their Higher Power during their sharing, and have suggested that you can't work a good NA program without being "saved." This is upsetting our Muslim members, and they're asking me to do something about it.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

I can see why you're having difficulty with this problem because it touches on two very sensitive issues for our fellowship: our members' personal understandings of spirituality and the primary purpose of our meetings. NA members are bound to be sensitive about anything that might be perceived as criticism of their spirituality, yet it's critical that our meetings have an atmosphere of respect for every member's views. I suggest reading and discussing the Eleventh Step essay from the Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, and *The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides* in your meeting. The places where our literature talks about each member having the right to his or her own understanding of a Higher Power would most likely help raise awareness among the members of your group.

In service, H&I Slim

NA meeting formats and the Twelve Traditions

NA is like a patchwork quilt. There are many different elements composing the whole, all glorious in their own way, but even more so when stitched together. NA stitches together the background and individual personality of each addict, preserving each one's uniqueness, but blending those unique individuals into something more powerful than a gathering of individuals: a group with the power to offer recovery.

This also applies to meetings, their individuality and format. It would be a gray and boring world if we had only speaker meetings, discussion meetings, and step study meetings, though all of these meeting formats are completely valid and each relates to a way of looking at NA that is valid for most members.

Special interest meetings raise concerns for some members. When we focus on our differences, rather than on our similarities, our anonymity and unity are at risk. Anonymity is the foundation of all our traditions; unity is the cornerstone. When we completely ignore individual differences, our autonomy is at risk. Do we talk about these issues at meetings?

Goodwill, as defined in NA literature, tells us that we should recognize and respect the importance of each individual member. Autonomy, anonymity, unity, and our primary purpose can guide us toward temperance, remembering that while special interests may define an individual's identity and bear on his or her recovery, special interests need not become the identity or primary purpose of an NA group.

It is important to deal with such situations according to our spiritual principles. In our PI efforts, such as meeting directories, it is important that we do as much as possible to be inclusive and welcoming to any addict who may want to stop using. We must ask ourselves if we believe that listing meetings as "special interest" implies exclusivity. Or does it extend an invitation to certain addicts? Does it help to add language to the meeting directory that says something like "Any addict is welcome at any meeting"?

It is important that we respect each other as autonomous individuals in our autonomous groups. This means that we shouldn't "crash" special interest meetings for the sake of making a point. It is important to remember that we are providing a service to our communities and to the addict who still suffers, as well as to one another. Local NA communities are best able to determine whether there is a community need for "common welfare" or "special interest" meetings. Ultimately, all groups have but one primary purpose. Secondary purposes such as meeting the common needs of members can't be more important than our primary purpose.

Does size matter?

Is the common welfare of a group more important based on the number of members it has? Is the voice of our Ultimate Authority heard or not heard depending on the size of a group? Is the only requirement for membership different in smaller groups? Should a group with 20 members have more say-so in matters affecting NA as a whole than a group with two members? Is our primary purpose different, depending on the group's size? If this is a God-given program, and our means of making recovery available is done through our groups, then each group should have more than autonomy. It should be considered equal to all other groups in Narcotics Anonymous.

*Respectfully submitted,
New England Regional Literature Committee*

*We are many—
the same around
the world—
rebuilding our lives
with the same spiri-
tual principles.*

*Clean in the Campus Group,
Costa Rica*

NA phonedlines: two opinions

Helplines are no help

It has been my understanding that local NA helplines are for the purpose of helping addicts and helping newcomers find meetings. However, based on my experience as a truck driver traveling around the United States, I don't think our helplines are doing what they're supposed to do.

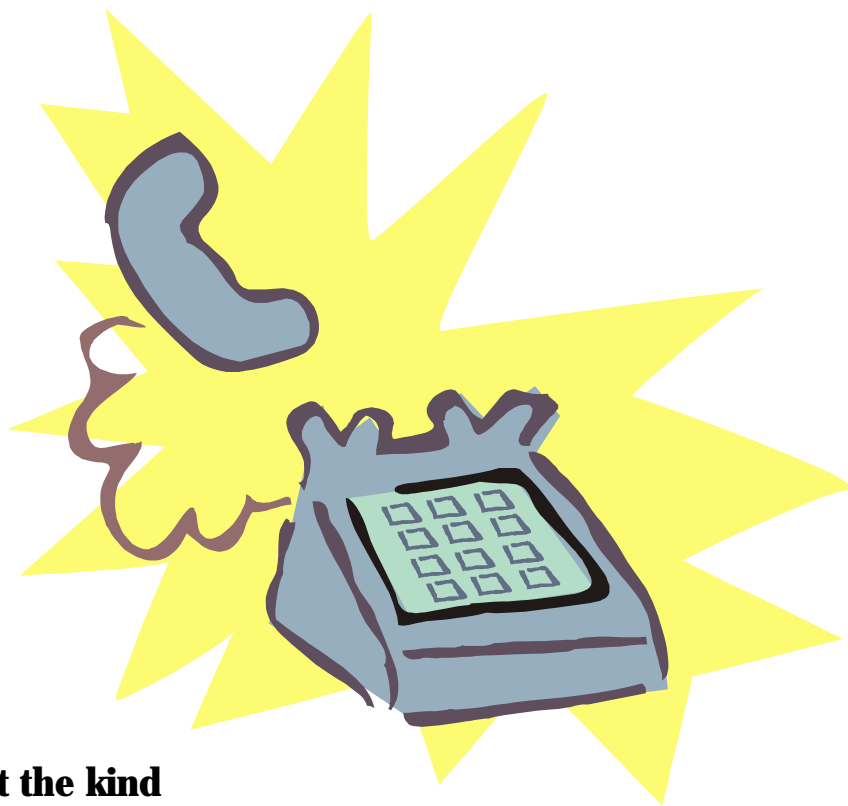
Whenever I'm stopped somewhere and have enough time, I call the local helpline to try to get a ride to a meeting. (I drive a huge chemical tanker truck and can only park it at a truckstop. I can't disconnect the trailer and leave it alone, either.)

Unfortunately, I almost always get an answering service when I call the helpline. This would be okay, except that I can't ever seem to get an addict on the phone after that. Sometimes they tell me they "don't have a contact list." Sometimes the answering service tells me someone will call back, but they don't. Other times, I'm supposed to get "patched through," but it winds up that nobody who's supposed to be on call is available. My "favorite" response was "we don't give rides, just meeting schedules."

This has been very frustrating for me. There are days when I need that simple hug and to hear the message of recovery at a meeting. When I can get a ride, my recovery is very fulfilling.

Do I have any solutions? Some, but I don't want to force my will onto the fellowship as a whole in regard to the way our helplines are operated. All I ask is that people who are supposed to be serving on the helpline, actually serve on the helpline. Any addict who calls the helpline should be helped, the same way I was the first time I called a helpline. Please remember the day you first walked into a meeting, that sense of coming home, and give it freely to someone else the way it was so freely given to you.

Don K, Georgia



I got the kind of help I needed

I'm usually not very mystically oriented when it comes to my understanding of God. In other words, I don't run around saying things like "God put so-and-so in my life" or "it wasn't meant to be," and I don't believe that things are fated or preordained. However, I have to make an exception when it comes to how I got to my first meeting and found recovery.

I, like many of us, called the number for Narcotics Anonymous that the information operator gave me. Also, like many of us, there was some time (several days, maybe a week) between the time I got the number for NA and the time I finally called. In that time, I imagined what would happen when I called.

I don't know where I got the ideas I had. Perhaps I had seen a made-for-TV movie at some point ("Diary of a Teenage Addict" or something). Anyway, I thought that when I called NA, they would promptly dispatch two tough but sympathetic older ladies to my house, who would then listen to my tale of woe about being hooked on heroin, married to a lunatic, the mother of an infant, etc. Then they'd sit with me while I kicked (physically restraining me from going to cop, if necessary), brew overly sweetened coffee for me, urge me to eat some

kind of real food, and generally nurse me back to health.

Hilarious, huh?

Anyway, I finally called. The machine answered and the message went something like this: "Thank you for calling Narcotics Anonymous. We apologize for the lack of personal contact at this time. Please listen for a list of today's meetings." Then it gave the meeting times and locations.

Pop! There went my fantasy of rescue. But I was only disappointed for a minute. One of my strengths (even in active addiction) has been an ability to rise to challenges and to make the best of whatever circumstances I am presented with (once I make up my mind to do the right thing, anyway). I went to a meeting that night. I was wearing some kind of paisley housedress with long sleeves that I kept wiping my runny nose on. I wanted to crawl out of my skin and leave it lying on the floor more than anything. I was shivering like crazy and sneezing almost constantly. But I went. I sat in a horrible folding chair. I stood up and introduced myself when they asked for newcomers. I stayed till the end of the meeting. And I went back the next night. And the next. And so on.

It's been about fifteen years since that day, and in the intervening time I've served on the area phonelines both as an NA member available to answer calls and as chairperson. I've seen the phonenumber go through a variety of experiments with providing phonenumber service: trying to get NA members to be on call 24 hours a day, having volunteers carry beepers, call-forwarding the phonenumber to someone's house, having answering service personnel give out meeting information, forbidding answering service personnel from doing anything but taking messages, installing voice mail with menu selections for everything from a list of meeting locations to the option of leaving one's name and address in order to receive material about NA, and so on. Some things worked, and some things didn't. Some things didn't work ten years ago, but work just fine now that technology has caught up with our aspirations.

I haven't been involved in area service in a long time, and the last time I called the phonenumber was about a year ago when I was lost on my way to an area event and needed to double-check the address. There was an addict working the phonenumber, and she not only knew where the event was, she knew what time it started and who was speaking. I thanked her and told her that I was really impressed with how organized the phonenumber was. She was very proud of how well it was running and told me about some of the things the phonenumber committee was doing to make sure callers got the help they needed.

It's wonderful. It's awesome. There's no doubt in my mind that we should always try to improve our service to the addict who still suffers, and if for NA phonelines that means always having someone available to answer the phone, so be it. I won't argue with that. However, I have to smile when I think about my own experience.

Who knows what would have happened if I'd talked to a human when I first called the helpline? Of course, there's no way of knowing for sure, but I know myself well enough to make a pretty good guess. If I had called the NA phonenumber and talked to an addict, I would have whined about being hooked,

complained about my husband, expressed some guilt about what I was doing to my child, and made excuses. I would have promised to go to a meeting—but I wouldn't have kept that promise. I would have relieved enough pressure by spilling my guts on the phone to enable me to get up and go get loaded again.

I can't believe I'm unique in this regard, so I'll go ahead and say that addicts—practicing addicts, that is—take as little responsibility as possible, manipulate everything they can, and never do today what can be put off until tomorrow. I am so glad that when I called

the NA phonenumber, I got just the kind of help I needed—the street address of an NA meeting and the opportunity to spend 1½ hours listening to people share about recovery. Left to my own devices, I would have stayed on my smelly, cigarette-burn-scarred couch and spent 1½ hours talking about my addiction.

I'm not saying we should never have humans working on the phonenumber or never listen to the problems of a suffering addict who calls, just that we should think about what it means to "help" and how we can best offer our program's help on our phonelines.

Anonymous

When I don't feel connected to the few people in our small local fellowship, it gives me comfort to know that there are countless others around the world with whom I might connect.

Laureano, Netherlands



Our message is clear in any language spoken in our global fellowship: I never have to use drugs again!

Ken H, Japan

Being part of a global fellowship means that I have friends all over the world and feel at home everywhere. It means that I am never alone.

Francoise H, Israel



CALENDAR

We encourage you to publicize your event by having it published on our website and in *The NA Way Magazine*. You can inform the WSO about your event by fax, phone, regular post, or through our website. We encourage using the website because you can check to see if we already have a listing on your convention and, if not, you can enter your own convention information. It is then reviewed, formatted, and added to the online convention calendar on our website in approximately four days. Just go to www.na.org, click on "NA Events," and follow the instructions.

Convention announcements entered through the website and those received by other means are also given to *The NA Way*. *The NA Way* is published four times a year in January, April, July, and October. Each issue goes into production long before its distribution date, so we need a minimum of three months notice to ensure your event will be published in the magazine—that's three months before our publication dates. For instance, if you want your event published in the October issue, we need to know by 1 July.

AUSTRALIA

New South Wales: 29 Oct. – 1 Nov.; Sydney Combined Area Convention; Chatswood, email: gillian@sydney.net

BRAZIL

Paraná: 2-5 Nov.; 11th Brazil Regional Convention; Foz do Iguaçu, website: www.na.org.br/crna

CANADA

Alberta: 2-4 June; 15th Edmonton Area Convention; Elks Hall, Edmonton, event info: 780-476-9100 or 780-449-1287

British Columbia: 26-28 May; 3rd Victoria Area Convention "A Journey to Freedom"; Esquimalt Recreation Center, 527 Fraser Street Victoria, event info: 250-744-2050; write: Victoria Convention, PO Box 8284 Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 3R9; email: genehelene@home.com

2) 28-30 July; 21st British Columbia Regional Convention; Castlegar Fireside Best Western, Castlegar, hotel rsvns: 800-499-6399; convention chair: 250-368-9105; event info: 250-368-6870; merchandise: 250-368-9842

3) 27-29 Oct.; 23rd Pacific Northwest Regional Convention; Vancouver; write: PNWCNA-23, 3495 Cambie St. #220, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5Z 4R3; website: dwc@intergate.bc.ca

Nova Scotia: 11-16 July; Annapolis Valley Area Pig Roast and Campout "Porkalennium 2000"; Blomidon Provincial Park; event info: 902-679-4473 or 902-582-7354

2) 5-7 Nov.; 8th Canadian Convention "The Adventure"; Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, hotel rsvns: 800-565-2020 or 902.4236331; committee: 902-463-2605; write: PO Box 25147, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3M 4H4; website: designs@ns.sympatico.ca

Ontario: 26-28 May; 13th Ontario Regional Convention; Lamplighter Inn, London; convention chair: 519-432-5750; website: orsc.idirect.com/ORCNA1.html

2) 26-28 Jan. 2001; 2nd Toronto Area Convention; Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto hotel rsvns: 800-WESTINL; or 416-236-8956; write: TACNA-II, Box 5700, Depot A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1N8; website: www.members.better.net/toronto

Quebec: 14-16 Apr.; 3rd English Area Convention "Spring Free"; Holiday Inn Hotel, Montreal; hotel rsvns: 800-361-5430 or 514-739-3391; hotel fax: 514-739-6591; convention chair: 514-483-6180; programming: 514-598-5136; website: www.nexusweb.com/~eana

Saskatchewan: 14-16 Apr.; 14th Annual Central Saskatchewan Area Convention; Saskatoon, event info: 306-3733928; email: saides@home.com

COLOMBIA

Bolivar: 31 Aug. - 3 Sept.; 28th World Convention; Cartagena; event info: 818.773.9999

IRELAND

Cork: 30 June – 2 July; 4th Southern Area Convention; Silversprings Hotel, Tivoli, hotel rsvns: +353-21-507533; event info: +353-21-278411; website: www.na.ireland.org; email: sacna4@ireland.com

NEW ZEALAND

Bay of Plenty: 31 Mar. - 2 Apr.; Aoteroa New Zealand Regional Convention; Waiotapu Forest School; rsvns: +64-21-2159297; registration: +64-21-2930343

SWEDEN

Stockholm: 14-16 Apr.; 9th Swedish Regional Service Conference; Stockholm, event info: +46-8-7340369; email: service2000nsna@yahoo.com

SWITZERLAND

Vaud: 28-30 July; 17th European Convention & Conference; Lausanne, committee: +41-22-7000335; email: eccna17@hotmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM

London, England: 14-16 Apr.; 11th London Convention; Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens, London; event info: +44-171-2514077; email: ukso@ukna.org

UNITED STATES

Alabama: 31 Mar. – 2 Apr.; 3rd Greater Mobile Area Convention "A Time to Build, Not Destroy"; Adam's Mark Hotel, Mobile, hotel rsvns: 800-444-2326; event info: 334-471-9723; event registration: 334-679-1559

Arkansas: 16-18 June; 16th Annual Beaver Roundup Campout; Buffalo River National Park, Yellville

California: 20-23 Apr.; 22nd Northern California Regional Convention; San Jose; event info: 408-972-1451 or 408-559-1182

2) 21-23 Apr.; Southern California Regional Spring Gathering; Burbank, write: Ron B., PO Box 4656, Valley Village, CA 91617

3) 2-4 June; 6th Annual Napa-Solano Area Men's Spiritual Retreat; East Park Reservoir, Stonyford, committee: 707-552-1067 or 707-455-0133

4) 9-11 June; 6th California Mid-State Regional Convention; Double Tree Hotel, Modesto; hotel rsvns: 209-526-6000 or 800-222-8733; event info: 209-578-4417 or 209-656-0744; registration: 209-388-1574; website: www.ainet.com/na

5) 16-18 June; 16th San Diego/Imperial Regional Convention "Key to Recovery"; The Bristol Hotel, San Diego; hotel rsvns: 800-662-4477 or 619-460-4611; event info: 760-758-3493; programming: 619-696-0211; RSO: 800-479-0062

Connecticut: 20 May (or 21 May if raining on 20th); The Pigs in Space Group's 17th Annual Pig Roast; Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury; event chair: 203-865-6762; ticket chair: 203-272-0785

2) 2-4 June; Greater Waterbury Area "Together In Recovery" Family Campout; East Cannan; website: www.webdesign-sesran.com/gwana.htm

Florida: 5-7 May; Conscious Contact Through Unity 5; Travel Lodge Hotel, Tampa, hotel rsvns: 800-288-4011

2) 5-7 May; 11th Daytona Area Convention; Treasure Island Inn; mention DACNA for hotel rsvns: 800-874-7420; event info: 904-322-9426 or 904-253-8962; write: DACNA, PO Box 263199, Daytona Beach, FL 32126; email: GR8FUL1189@aol.com

3) 1-3 Sept.; First Coast Area Convention; Radisson Hotel, Jacksonville; phoneline: 904-723-5683

4) 1-4 Sept.; 8th South Florida Regional Convention "Recovery On the Gulf"; Naples Beach Club Hotel, North Naples hotel rsvns: 941-261-2222; registration: 941-649-0570; convention chair: 954-893-7758; write: SFRCNA, PO Box 9875, Naples, FL 34101

Hawaii: 31 Mar. - 2 Apr.; 16th Annual Gathering of the Fellowship on Oahu "Millennium of Miracles"; Camp Mokuleia, Oahu, event info: 808-848-8822 or 808-262-3793; website: www.na-hawaii.org; email: Gathering_2000@hotmail.com

2) 2-4 June; Big Island Gathering; Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Kilauea Military Camp Facility Kilauea, event info: PO Box 390147, Kailua Kona, HI 96739

3) 7-9 July; 13th Annual Gathering of the Fellowship on Maui; YMCA Camp, East Shore, Keanae (on the road to Hana) East Shore, Keanae, website: www.maui.org; email: chas@ccmaui.com

Idaho: 31 Mar. - 2 Apr.; 11th So. Idaho Regional Convention; Weston Inn, Twin Falls, hotel rsvns: 208-733-6095; convention chair: 208-736-3916; programming: 208-326-6869; registration: 208-886-9856; website: www.sirma.org

Illinois: 31 Mar. - 2 Apr.; 9th Rock River Area Convention; Holiday Inn, South Beloit, hotel rsvns: 815-389-3481; event info: 815-964-5959

2) 24- 27 Aug.; 3rd South Chicago Area Convention; Ramada Inn-Chicago South, Harvey; mention NASCAC-III for hotel rsvns: 708-596-1500; event info: 773-821-5646; write: PO Box 497-352 Chicago IL 60649-7352

Indiana: 26-29 May; North Central Indiana Area's "We Grow With Love" Campout; Camp Mack, Waube Lake, Milford, registration: 219-295-7148; event info: 219-295-5294; write: PO Box 1052, Elkhart, IN 46515

Iowa: 30 June - 2 July; 17th Iowa Regional Convention; Hampton Inn, Davenport, mention "Narcotics Anonymous" for hotel rsvns: 319-359-3921; event info: 319-383-0813 or 319-884-4388; email: esti@qconline.com; write: IRCNA-XVII, PO Box 5175, Davenport, IA 52808

Kansas: 14-16 Apr.; Mid-America Regional Convention; Great Bend; event info: 316-662-1030 or 316-664-1977; email: dragonmt@southwind.net;

2) 6-8 Oct.; Dodge City NA Roundup "New Frontiers"; event info: 316-225-6505 or 316-225-3066; website: www.angelfire.com/ia/naroundup/index.html

Kansas: 5-7 May; 5th Mo-Kan Area Convention "The Ties That Bind Us Together"; Mount Convention Center, Atchison, Kansas; mention "NA convention" for hotel rsvns at the Atchison Motor Inn: 913-367-7000 or the Comfort Inn: 913-367-7666; event info: 888-751-6262 or 913-262-4906 or 913-367-7220 or 816-387-8383; write: Mo-Kan Area, PO Box 1152, St. Joseph, MO 64502

Kentucky: 21-23 Apr.; 14th Kentucky Regional Convention; Holiday Inn Hurstborne, Louisville, hotel rsvns: 502-426-2600; event info: 812- 283-4907; email: lilfish_98@yahoo.com

Louisiana: 26-28 May; 18th Louisiana Regional Convention; Radisson Hotel, New Orleans; hotel rsvns: 800-333-3333 or 504-522-4500; convention chair: 504-8434984; vice chair: 504-840-7807; registration: 504-821-3867; write: LRCNA-18, 644 North Miro St., New Orleans, LA 70119

Maryland: 14-16 Apr.; 14th Chesapeake/Potomac Regional Convention "Courage in the Future"; Ocean City Convention Center, Ocean City, to reach committee, leave msg. at: 240-568-0444; website: www.nalinks.org/cprna/rsc

Massachusetts: 5-7 May; 13th Annual Martha's Vineyard Area Celebration of Recovery "A Precious Gift"; Island Inn, Oak Bluffs; hotel rsvns: 508-693-2002; write: PO Box 2754, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Michigan: 20-23 Apr.; 8th Detroit Area Convention; mention "NA convention" for hotel rsvns; Detroit Marriott, Renaissance Center Detroit: 313-568-8000 or 800-352-0310; Crowne Plaza Hotel Detroit Pontchartrain: 313-965-0200; convention chair: 810-778-0852; event info: 313-839-8199; programming: 248-356-5191

2) 3 June; Michigan Reg. Conv. Fundraiser Unity Dance; Lansing, event info: 616-527-1126

3) 30 June - 3 July; 16th Michigan Regional Convention; Holiday Inn South, Lansing, MI 48911; registration: 810-516-5930 or email woodman@tir.com; convention chair: e-mail: chuckster@sensible-net.com; website: www.tir.com; write: PO Box 35 Flint, MI 48501

4) 3-6 Aug.; 2nd Metro-Detroit Regional Convention; Troy Marriot; registration: 313-867-6018; event info: 734-955-1306

5) 27-29 Oct.; Western Wayne County Area Convention; Double Tree Hotel, Detroit Metro Airport, Detroit, mention "NA" for hotel rsvns: 800-222-8733; convention committee: 734-421-8624

Minnesota: 7-9 Apr.; 7th Minnesota Regional Convention; Double Tree Park Place Hotel, St. Louis Park, hotel rsvns: 612-542-8600; committee: 612-822-9472; website: www.naminnesota.org

2) 26-29 May; 17th Upper Midwest Regional Convention "Spiritual Refreshment"; Fairhills Resort, Detroit Lakes, event info: 612-822-9472

3) 10-12 June; Southern Minnesota Annual Recovery Blast 12 "The Monkey ain't no Joke"; Camp Patterson, Lake Washington, event info: 507-634-4868 or 507-444-9852; email: smarb12@hotmail.com or daniels@clear.lakes.com; write: PO Box 665, Owatonna, MN 55060

4) 14-16 July; 16th Annual Pig Roast; Country Camping Campgrounds, Isanti; website: pig2000@naminnnesota.org

Missouri: 5-7 May; 5th Mo-Kan Area Convention "The Ties That Bind Us Together"; Mount Convention Center, Atchison, Kansas; mention "NA convention" for hotel rsvns at the Atchison Motor Inn: 913-367-7000 or the Comfort Inn: 913-367-7666; event info: 888-751-6262 or 913-262-4906 or 913-367-7220 or 816-387-8383; write: Mo-Kan Area, PO Box 1152, St. Joseph, MO 64502

2) 16-18 June; 15th Show-Me Regional Convention; Holiday Inn, Joplin, mention "SMRCNA" for hotel rsvns: 417-782-1000; convention committee: SMRCNA, PO Box 105566, Jefferson City, MO 65110-5566

Mississippi: 13-15 Oct.; 18th Mississippi Regional Convention; Ramada Inn & Convention Center, Tupelo; hotel rsvns: 662-844-4111; convention chair: 662-665-0134; website: http://mrsca.org

Nebraska: 29 Sept. 1 Oct.; 17th Nebraska Regional Convention; Fremont, event info: 402-727-6713; send speaker tapes to: NRCNA, PO Box 806, Fremont, NE 68025

Nevada: 20-23 Apr.; 14th Southern Nevada Regional Convention "Over Time, Not Overnight"; Las Vegas; hotel rsvns: 702-734-5110; registration: 702-474-9425; convention chair: 702-247-6168

2) 12-14 May; 3rd Annual Clear Creek NA Coed Retreat; Minden, event info: 775-265-4648 or 775-246-3436

New Hampshire: 22-25 June; Granite State Area 10th Annual "Fellowship in the Field"; event info: 603-622-3558; email: kevieboy@mediaone.net

2) 4-6 Aug.; 1st Granite State Area Convention; Nashua, event info: 603-645-4777; website: www.stpweb.com/gsana

New Jersey: 26-28 May; 15th New Jersey Regional Convention; Four Points Sheraton, Cherry Hill, hotel rsvns: 800-257-8262 or 609-428-2300; hotel fax: 609-354-7662; committee: 609-259-0006; email: azev@home.com

New York: 26-29 May; New York Regional Convention "Freedom XIV"; New York Hilton & Towers, New York City, mention "Freedom XIV" for hotel rsvns: 800-445-8667; convention committee: 212-242-8140

New York: 1-4 Sept.; 14th Buffalo Area "Recovery in the Woods"; Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center, Angola, event info: 716-896-0028; registration: 716-884-4213; email: Mikekb108@aol.com

North Carolina: 28-30 Apr.; Greater Charlotte Area Convention "Bound for Freedom 15"; Adams Mark Hotel, Charlotte, hotel rsvns: 704-372-4100 or 800-444-ADAM; convention committee: 704-525-8527 or 704-563-1939 or 704-358-4886

Ohio: 26-28 May; 18th Ohio Regional Convention; Holiday Inn, Lima, hotel rsvns: 419-222-0004; event info: 937-461-4313 or 937-274-3380

2) 7-9 July; Dayton Area Convention "Out of the Darkness, Into the Light: Freedom to Live"; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, hotel rsvns: 800-2CROWNE; convention committee: 937-237-0037; email: dasnacc3@aol.com

3) 31 Dec.; Toledo Area New Year's Eve Party; Howland Community Church, Howland; event info: 330-638-4776; email: RSYoda225@aol.com

Oklahoma: 14-16 Apr.; 14th Oklahoma Regional Convention; Stillwater, event info: 405-947-3757; email: smook_@excite.com

2) 16-20 June; Oklahoma Regional Event; Lake Tenkiller State Park, Gore, event info: 918-343-9807

Pennsylvania: 21-23 Apr.; Greater Philadelphia Regional Convention; Adams Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, hotel rsvns: 215-581-5000; event info: 215-227-7944

2) 4-6 Aug.; 7th Williamsport Area Convention "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" Quality Inn, Williamsport, registration: 570-322-5368; convention chair: 570-323-3118

Rhode Island: 16-18 June; 3rd Greater Providence Area Convention; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick; mention GPANA for hotel rsvns: 401-732-6000; event info: 401-487-5147

South Carolina: 18-20 Aug.; Central Carolina Area "Welcome Home V" Convention; Adams Mark Hotel, Columbia; hotel rsvns: 800-444-2326; phoneline: 803-256-3100

Tennessee: 21-23 Apr.; Recovery On The Ridge VI; Big Ridge State Park, Knoxville, event info: 865-777-5298 or 865-692-0854; website: www.state.tn.us/enviorment/park/bigridge

2) 5-7 May; 12th Annual NA in May in Memphis BBQ Championship & Campout; Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Piersol Group Camp, Memphis, event info: 901-274-5071; website: www.geocities.com/jamiemps/nainmay/html; email: jamiemps@mindspring.com; write: NA in May, PO Box 111105, Memphis, TN 38111

3) 22-26 Nov.; 18th Volunteer Regional Convention; Knoxville Hilton Downtown, Knoxville, hotel rsvns: 865-523-2300; event info: 865-525-8030 or 423-639-3035; email: sandys9876@aol.com or mfox23@aol.com; send speaker tapes to: VRC-18, PO Box 52165, Knoxville, TN 37950

Texas: 21-23 Apr.; 15th Lone Star Regional Convention; Hyatt Reunion, Dallas, hotel rsvns: 800-233-1234 or 214-651-1234; event info: 800-747-8972 or 972-245-8972; website: www.isrna.com

2) 5-7 May; 67th Texas Unity Convention; event info: 972-245-8972

3) 18-20 Aug.; 68th Texas Unity Convention; event info: 972-245-8972

4) 10-12 Nov.; 69th Texas Unity Convention; event info: 972-245-8972

West Virginia: 5-7 May; Mountaineer Regional Spring Convention "A New Century of Recovery"; Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley, Super 8 Hotel: 304-372-8880; Holiday Inn Express: 304-372-5000; event info: 304-562-5835; website: www.newwave.net/~mrsncna/conv.htm

Wyoming: 2-4 June; Upper Rocky Mountain Regional Convention; Holiday Inn, Cheyenne; hotel rsvns: 307-638-4466; regional chair: 307-772-0705; convention chair: 307-638-1144

2) 29 Sept. - 1 Oct.; 9th Unity Convention; Jeffrey Center, Rawlings; event info: 307-875-7143; website: www.wyomingna.org

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