



THE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

EDITOR
De Jenkins

COPY EDITOR
David Fulk

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Fatia Birault

NA WAY WORKGROUP
Muk H-D, Paul C, Alan D, Marc G,
Stephanie V, Sue H, Tim S

NA World Services, Inc.
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA
Telephone: (818) 773-9999
Fax: (818) 700-0700
Website: www.na.org

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From the editor

Whether we're supporting a newcomer or contributing to a service body, we know that when we work together, we achieve better results. This NA Way demonstrates that success. It's the result of collaborating with NA newsletters to exchange ideas, information, and material. Though I've never met most of these editors, we work and grow together via email, telephone, and printed page; developing friendly bonds that enrich our publications and our lives. When I hear that Payam Behboodi (Iran) now has a circulation of 51,000 or someone sends me a copy of a new publication from Colombia, I'm reminded that "Tradition One presents a picture of addicts working together worldwide to support each other's recovery." (*It Works: How and Why*, "Tradition One")

Most of this issue's material was gleaned from local NA newsletters. One piece was part of the "Living Clean" input and we also have a second installment of Sixth Edition Basic Text excerpts. From those stories, to the article from the World Board regarding contributions and supporting services, each piece focuses on the ways we successfully live life on life's terms...like working together to achieve great things in our recovery and service.

De J, Editor

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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, Farsi, 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 providing 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."

Another day at the office

I'm an addict and have been clean for eight years. I came to Narcotics Anonymous through a weird set of circumstances and heard the message that I didn't have to live the way I was living. I decided to stay because people encouraged me to, and now I live a different life full of the blessings that recovery has given me.

These days I work in the family court. Nobody there knows I used to be a junkie, and I value my anonymity. It's a challenge, and I love it, but the work is often confrontational. Being sworn at is a regular occurrence. Getting into my place of work is like getting into an airport. We have closed-circuit television monitoring, metal detectors, the whole kit and caboodle. A client has been murdered on the premises by another client.

Most of the people I deal with are truly good people who wonder how on earth their life came to this. It's a feeling I am familiar with. When I deal with the addicts, the wife-beaters, and the pedophiles, I try to practice the principles recovery has taught me and treat them at face value, as I would treat anyone else. Those days are tough, but I am good at my job. I have learned much in the rooms that helps me every day.

A while ago, I had been having "one of those days." I called what I hoped would be my last ticket of the day, and a woman approached my counter. I asked how I could help and she asked me to file a document. I could smell alcohol on her breath; she was smashed. Something about it was strange. She was filing it on behalf of her husband, who was represented by a lawyer. I asked her why she was doing this, and she shot back, "because he couldn't organize a f\$%@ in a brothel!" As I filed the document, I gently suggested she keep such comments to herself, and she started to rant a bit. As I have said, I value my anonymity, but I thought it would be appropriate to inquire if she had ever sought help for her own (obvious) problem. She calmed down a bit and I handed back her copies. I was about to look up some helpline numbers for her when she told me to "get f*%e@!" I'd had enough, and suggested that she leave. She did leave, but I thought to myself that I had lost an opportunity to plant a seed.

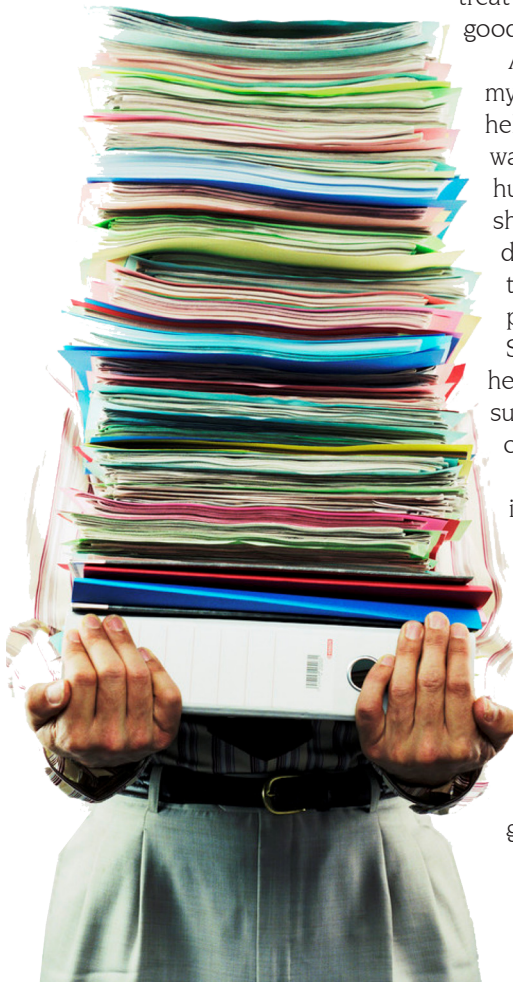
About three months later, I was at my home group, which is the biggest meeting in town. A woman got up to share on her sixty-day milestone. She looked familiar, but I couldn't be sure. At her ninety days, I was pretty certain it was her; and then when she celebrated six months clean, I was certain because some of the things she shared at the meeting were some of the things she had told me that day at work.

I have never spoken to her to ask if she remembers that day. I suspect that it was in the midst of a fairly nasty bottom for her. What matters is that she is in recovery. Somehow the seed was planted, maybe not by me that day, but somehow a loving higher power found the way.

It's a good job I have, tough at times, but rewarding on a regular basis. It's a gift of recovery, and sometimes God throws in a little bonus.

Damien R, Sydney, Australia

*Reprinted with permission from
NA Today, October 2007*



HA HA HA HA HA! 

I called a friend who was a new NA member and heard the following recording:
 "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you will know that you are one of the changes."



The monkey isn't on my back any more, but the circus is still in town.

Red Y, Wellington, New Zealand



Reprinted with permission from Mid America Newsletter, October 2008



An oldtimer was sitting in a meeting and a newcomer walked in and sat down next to him. The newcomer's hair was sharply spiked and was all different colors: green, red, orange, blue, yellow, and hot pink.

The oldtimer just stared until the newcomer said, "What's the matter, oldtimer, you never did anything wild in your life?"

The oldtimer replied, "Yeah, as a matter of fact, I got wasted once and had sex with a parrot. I was just wondering if you might be my son."

SHARING

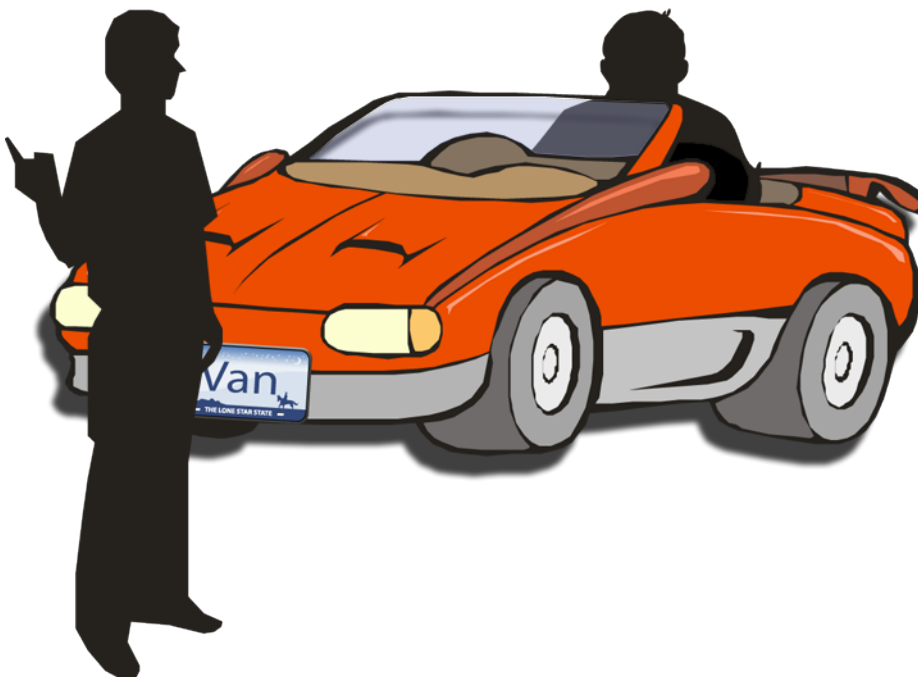
My deal with god

I was in a recovery house and decided I was going to leave, even though I knew I would face seventeen years without parole if I left. I made a deal with god (whom I wasn't real sure about, but was coming to believe in). My deal was to go to the office and see if a van was available to take me to an NA meeting, knowing the chances of that were slim. If there was a van available, I would stay; if not, I was packing my stuff and leaving.

I got to the office and the guy behind the desk was on the phone. He paused and asked what I needed, and I told him I needed to get to an NA meeting and asked if a van was available. He said no, so my first thought was, "Aha! I'm packing!" Then he told me to hold on a minute. He said, "I'm on the phone with someone who's going to the meeting, and he says he will come by and pick you up." I said, "No, no; that's okay." But he insisted. "You just said you needed a meeting, and he's on his way."

I stood outside, pissed off and not sure what to do. My deal was a *van*. No van, I'm leaving. I decided to be polite and go to the meeting with this guy, and then after the meeting I would leave. I got an uneasy feeling when the guy pulled up, but I was astonished when he introduced himself. He said, "Hi, I'm Van." I laughed all the way to the meeting.

Jim B, Texas, USA



It's not over until it's over

I received the gift of recovery over three decades ago and have tried my best the past twenty to twenty-five years to show my gratitude through service to others. I recently received another gift, which gave me another chance to live and carry the message of hope and gratitude. I had a couple of very serious health conditions—cancer and liver disease—that put me on life-or-death status for over two years. Because of NA, I learned that it's not important when or if something happens to me; it's how I experience and live through those times. I also learned how much others love me, and how to honor and show respect for that love.

***The doctors...
told me they
had never seen
anything like this
NA thing...***

I worked through recovery for the most part unchallenged by life. I have problems of finance, relationships, selfishness, and ego, but the Twelve Steps and Traditions were there to help me change my behaviors and perspectives. I thought I was always open-minded and willing to apply our principles in my life—until I got sick! I felt as afraid as the day I walked into NA, and instead of asking for help or sharing about my conditions and feelings, I thought I was responsible for them all by myself. What started out as a hopeful and energetic fight eventually became a hopeless and desperate attempt to hold onto my life. I watched my husband and close friends fight for me when I couldn't any longer.

I'm sure I never realized how much I was loved, and I was not the easiest person to love at this time in my life. I went to meetings, talked to my sponsor, and tried to prepare for whatever was to

become of me. I was always afraid the women I sponsored would drop me for a healthier sponsor (they never did) or that I would have to take drugs if I had the operation they wanted me to have. I am one of those people in NA who believes I cannot use anything, anytime. My mental abilities were leaving me and everyone was praying for me. I was angry because I didn't think the prayers were being answered fast enough.

I got to the end of my rope and surrendered in a way I never had before. Because of NA, I felt peace. I felt grateful for the great life I've had and for how lucky I've been to see NA grow from an East Coast/West Coast US fellowship to a worldwide fellowship. I became so grateful that I forgot to be afraid or angry or sad. Somewhere during that brief eight-hour period of surrender, I received a gift of life (an organ) from a donor who passed away. My life forever changed. I have a renewed commitment to serve NA and honor those who served me throughout this ordeal. The doctors at the hospital told me they had never seen anything like this NA thing they got to observe for the past two years, and I smiled and said, "I owe my life to them (and the doctors)."

The road back has been full of unmerited gifts—too many to write about—but I have found peace and comfort by just reaching out and asking another addict for help and understanding. So, here's what I know to be true now: first, that it's not over until it's over, so I have to be open to learning a new way to live clean because I will sometimes face things that I never knew before; and second, that when I receive a gift, any gift, I have a continued responsibility to pass on my experience and hope just like I did the day I walked into NA. My gratitude cannot and does not have conditions or limits. This is a new perspective for me.

Cathy B, Florida, USA

*Reprinted with permission from
Just for Today on the Bay, January 2009*

Transmission trouble

When I was working on the Third Step, the transmission went out on my car and I didn't have the money to fix it. I had done the writing on my Third Step, but I hadn't gone over it yet with my sponsor. She always has me show her how I am living the steps before I even go over the writing with her. She watches and listens.

Well, in the past, I would have been totally irate and upset about my car. Instead, I stopped and prayed. My HP told me to do the footwork and he would help me. He wouldn't do it for me, but he would help me. So, I got out a pen and paper and started calling around to get estimates to have my car fixed.

Having a new transmission installed was a joke; it was way too much money to spend on the car I had. So, I tried the junkyards and found a fairly cheap used transmission. Then I found a shop that would install it for a reasonable fee. They would also pick up the used parts at the junkyard at no charge. All I had to do was get my car to the shop.

I applied the first three steps to this problem: I can't, he can, and I think I'll let him. A close friend happened to call that day and I explained my situation. That friend ended up paying for the transmission and the towing of my car to the shop. I talked to my mother, who paid for the installation. By turning this problem over to my HP and then doing the necessary footwork, people were there in my life to help me. Thanks HP and family.

Anonymous

*Reprinted with permission from
Clean Times, October 2007
Toronto, Canada*

Dancing with God

When I meditated on the word *guidance*, I kept seeing *dance* at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing: When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if the two become one body. To dance this way takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes were drawn back to the word *guidance*. When I saw the "G," I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i." God – u – and – i – dance... God, you and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would receive guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. May you abide in God as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting to be led and guided through each season of your life.

And I hope you dance.

Author Unknown

*Reprinted with permission from
NA Cleantimes, January 2008
Southwest Area, California, USA*

A cup of coffee

A woman who had been hanging around meetings for a little while decided it was time to get a sponsor.

There was a woman she had been watching who had serenity and peace and was always sharing stories that gave her hope, so she asked her to be her sponsor. The woman said she would be honored to sponsor her, and invited the sponsee to her house for coffee.

The sponsor put on a pot of coffee and listened as the sponsee told her everything she understood about recovery and the steps. She brought two coffee cups to the table and the sponsee continued to talk, even as the sponsor got up to get the pot of coffee. When the sponsor finally sat down, she interrupted the chatting sponsee to ask if she wanted a cup of coffee. The sponsee said "yes" and then continued with her accounting of her recovery knowledge.

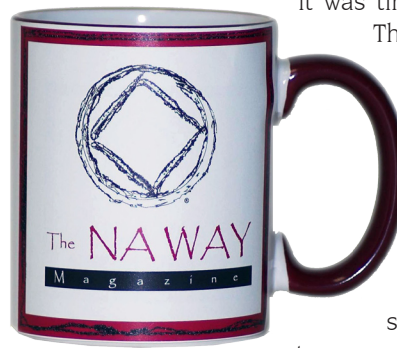
First the sponsor poured herself a cup of coffee, and then she started to pour the sponsee's cup. The sponsee watched as the sponsor poured . . . and kept pouring even when the cup was full and was flowing over the rim onto the table and dripping on the floor. The sponsee yelled to the sponsor, "Stop! Can't you see the cup is full? You can't put any more coffee in that cup!"

The sponsor stopped pouring the coffee and calmly put the pot down. She looked into the eyes of her sponsee and said, "You are like this cup—already full of your own ideas about the Twelve Steps and recovery. How can I share my experience with you if you have no room for input?"

Author Unknown

*Reprinted with permission from
Carrying the Message, February 2008,
Kathmandu Area, Nepal*

Editor's Note: This story has been told and adapted in many spiritual and recovery circles.



Fill your cup: *The NA Way* mug is available online www.na.org/?ID=OrderLiteratureOnline-Content or by contacting customerservice@na.org.

In Times of Illness and Self-Support

Review and input drafts available

Review-and-input drafts of the self-support pamphlets, "Keeping It" and "Giving It Away," and proposed revisions to *In Times of Illness*, are out for fellowship review until 30 May 2009. You can access these drafts online at www.na.org/?ID=Conference-index with the username and password **WSC2010**. You can also provide feedback online.

The common thread

NA reaches us no matter where we are and who we are, and this is especially evident in the personal stories of our new Sixth Edition Basic Text. The personal stories section is now called "Our Members Share," and stories are grouped in four sections:

Beginnings stories from some of our early members as they were originally published in previous editions of the Basic Text

Coming Home about members finding our fellowship or starting NA where they live

Regardless of... stories about finding acceptance and creating a safe, welcoming place for all recovering addicts

Life on Life's Terms members practicing NA principles in day-to-day life

In this and future issues of *The NA Way Magazine*, we'll include excerpts from the Sixth Edition Basic Text—and from other NA literature as well. This issue features excerpts from the Preface to the Sixth Edition and from the "Life on Life's Terms" section of "Our Members Share."

...NA grows, not just in numbers but in breadth of recovery and experience. As our members stay clean ten, twenty, thirty years and more, our fellowship has more and more experience dealing with challenges beyond "not picking up the first drug." In the Sixth Edition, you will read stories of addicts who stayed clean through the loss of loved ones, serious illnesses, raising children, marriage, divorce, getting an education, pursuing careers, and much more. The common thread through all of these varied experiences

is that we draw strength from the NA program regardless of how long we have been clean or what life situation we are facing. Over the decades our members have lived a lot of life on life's terms and have learned a lot about what it means to recover from addiction in that context.

Narcotics Anonymous,
Preface to the Sixth Edition

When this addict lost a brother and a son to the disease of addiction, his heart was crushed and his faith was challenged. Going to meetings and working the steps helped him to survive so much loss.

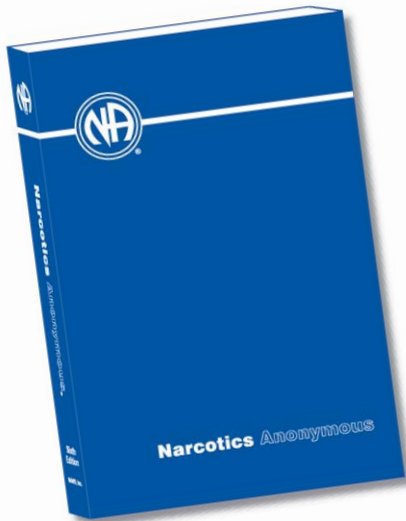
Life and Death in NA

...Then he said the words I was hoping for: "I want to come home." I felt cautiously relieved, because I know using addicts will say anything for money. I sent him a nonrefundable train ticket. He left the next day and was coming home to live with me and my other son. The next day, I got a call from his mother. I thought she was just confirming that I was going to pick him up at the train station. I was wrong. She was crying hysterically and blurted out, "Our son is dead!" I didn't want to believe it—he was almost home. My heart sank as she told me that he was found dead in a bathroom on the train in Kansas City. My wonderful, fun, outgoing, family-oriented, respectful, loving son is dead at twenty-one. He did one more, and it killed him. I will never hold my son again, I will never laugh with my son again. I will never fish or go to the movies with my son again.

Even in a remote corner of paradise, the disease can find us—and so can recovery. She kept coming back, and found freedom through fearless inventory work.

Breath of Life

...I realized that I was not one person; I couldn't be after being so fractured. I am really divided into three people. There is "lower me;" that is the addict. She can be dishonest, can pinch a baby when no one is looking. She's the one who smoked your bail money. This is still a part of me. Then there is "middle me;" she is a citizen. She pays her taxes; pays her bills; is a good daughter, sister, wife, and worker. She is decent. She is a trusted servant. She can show up and be accountable. She is generous and funny and loving. "Higher me" is my exact nature: who my HP intends for me to be. This is the part of me that is compassionate, nonjudgmental, open-minded, and full of grace. This part of me is pure light and pure love.



The Basic Text is available online at www.na.org/?ID=ips-index or may be purchased at www.na.org/?ID=OrderLiteratureOnline-Content.

Primary purpose

"There are many ways of doing things in Narcotics Anonymous. And just as all of us have our own individual personalities, so will your group develop its own identity, its own way of doing things, and its own special knack for carrying the NA message. That's the way it should be. In NA we encourage unity, not uniformity."

The Group Booklet

Gratitude: You gotta want it

The Third Annual Gratitude Day, held by the Monday night "You Gotta Want It" group, was held 5 January 2009. According to the history of the Northeast Area, this group started in August 1987. The group got its name from a founding member who pulled the name from a grab bag of suggested names. They used to pay their rent with canned goods to the facility. One of the group members, who has been with this same home group since he first got clean twelve years ago, continues to serve the group and is currently the group service representative (GSR). He said that a few years ago the group was holding a Fifth Tradition meeting, and he, along with other group members, thought it would be a great idea to hold a gratitude day as a way of giving back to members who have supported their home group over the years. He also said, "The group decided to hold Gratitude Day on the first Monday of the year as a way to start the year off with gratitude." I think this was an excellent idea, and the event was very successful as the clear Narcotics Anonymous message was carried.

This year's event was crowded, with standing room only. Homegroup members placed names in a hat to determine who would share. The names of one woman and one man were pulled. After they shared, the floor was open for sharing on the topic of gratitude. I had such a wonderful experience during this meeting. Members were just grateful to be clean, and a newcomer was grateful for the warm welcome she received when she came through the door that night. I must agree: There was a very warm, welcoming feeling when you entered the room. Homegroup members embraced and welcomed everyone who came through the door. There was a spirit of thankfulness that filled the room, lots of tears and emotions. It reminded me that honest sharing comes from the heart, and reaches the heart.

The meeting after the meeting was the First Tradition in action. There was a spirit of unity, people getting to know one another, eating together, and really caring about what was going on with fellow recovering addicts beyond the regular meeting. I had a chance to speak with a member with twenty-two years clean. He mentioned that Gratitude Day didn't exist when he first came around. He left me with something to think about. "Can you still be grateful when things are not going well?" I asked. His answer was: "Recovery happens in the moment."

This event made me realize that we have to search our hearts daily to find something to be grateful for despite what's going on in our lives, good or bad. I'm also reminded of a statement from the "We Do Recover" chapter of the Basic Text, which says, "Today, secure in the love of the Fellowship, we can finally look another human being in the eye and be grateful for who we are."

Nate R, New Jersey, USA

*Reprinted with permission from
Our Gratitude Speaks, Northeast Area newsletter*

This is a column for you, about you, and by you. We invite you to share any challenges your group or NA community may have faced, how you reached a solution, or its "special knack" that keeps you coming back!

BARCELONA

Just in! Reduced rates at some hotels and huge airfare sales

Barcelona is a vacation destination all by itself. But why stop there? Just a day or two before or after the convention you can see the Costa del Sol, make a quick trip to Madrid, or take a leisurely drive to the south of France—and while you're at it you may even be able to attend some great local NA events in these world-renowned vacation destinations.

To enhance your vacation and make your trip to Barcelona even more enjoyable, we're working with NA areas and regions in Europe that are organizing pre- and post-WCNA 33 events for you to attend. As those NA events are planned, we'll post information on the website: www.na.org/wcna. And because so many people are booking cabins, we're also looking into having meetings on the week-long cruise leaving Barcelona after the convention, to make it a uniquely serene journey. See five different cities along the Mediterranean and share it with hundreds of others in recovery aboard a luxury cruiseliner—all at an incredible price!

As of the end of March we had over 2,000 pre-registrations! While we have sold over 500 hotel rooms through www.na.org, we have heard from some of you that you may be finding better deals through the Internet. During our most recent visit to Barcelona, we talked to the hotel community about this issue and some of them are reducing their rates by up to 15%. If you're shopping around for rooms online there are a couple things you should pay attention to:

- 1) **If it's not a WCNA hotel, what is the location?**
All our hotels were selected because of their proximity to the Metroline and/or the convention center.
- 2) **If it is the same hotel, what is the room type?**
All WCNA rooms are the "premium rooms" at a given hotel; that is, they are exterior-facing or the better rooms

in the property. Cheaper rooms may be found online, but they may be interior-facing or smaller rooms.

- 3) **Does the price include VAT and Breakfast?**
All WCNA rooms include VAT and breakfast, which alone can add up to 30-40 Euros to the price.

If you've considered all these options, then by all means go ahead and book your room. The hotels offered online are meant as a convenience to our attendees, but because of the worldwide economic crisis (including Barcelona), the hotel community is selling rooms in certain cases at discounted prices; but pay attention to what you are getting!

We are all facing economic challenges, and we're finding that many people who plan on spending more time in Europe are discovering that Barcelona and the surrounding area offer an abundance of historic beauty, European adventure, and serene escape. So this convention experience on the Mediterranean Sea is a great opportunity to couple WCNA with a cost-effective getaway in the hottest vacation destination in Europe. And because of the airfare sales and discounted hotel rooms, you really

have no excuse not to take a week and head to Barcelona for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You can pre-register until 1 July, which includes access to exclusive pre-registration merchandise and up-to-date details about the convention. Remember, there will be only limited on-site registration, so if you haven't already pre-registered, now is the time!

Many of you who are already pre-registered are anxiously waiting to hear about entertainment and purchase tickets. We're diligently planning the world convention, but one thing is for sure, this world convention will be unlike anything you may have ever attended or heard about. Many of the events will be completely unique to Barcelona and Europe and may only require a registration badge to attend. So make sure you're registered for WCNA 33, and you will be sure to experience a convention filled with unique memories, flavors, sounds, and recovery... and a European holiday to remember.



Pre-register now and check for additional WCNA 33 updates at
www.na.org

Live from Barcelona, Spain

World Unity Day

22 August 2009

The language of NA transcends words and boundaries. Ours is a language of the heart. Join NA members from around the world to celebrate:

Amor sin fronteras **LOVE WITHOUT BORDERS**

Individual members, groups, area/regional functions, and institutions can join in the celebration of World Unity Day. This is a two-hour telephone hookup to the Saturday night main meeting of WCNA 33.

The cost is 50€ for calls within the United States/Canada. One free hookup will be provided for each region outside the US and Canada! Specific event time will be announced in the near future. To plan and register your event, download a registration form, or to get more details, go to:

www.na.org/wcna33/unityday

or contact NA World Services at

818.773.9999, ext 149

Registrations must be received by 1 august 2009



Living Clean The Journey Continues

*We are
recovering in the
here and now
and the future
becomes an
exciting journey.*

Basic Text

[www.na.org/
?ID=Living_Clean_
Project](http://www.na.org/?ID=Living_Clean_Project)

livingclean@na.org

www.na.org

Living Clean – New Innovations

We are seeking more source material from the fellowship for our latest book project, "Living Clean: The Journey Continues." The Basic Text tells us that in our own growth, "the greater the base the higher the point of freedom." And, in our literature development, the more material we have to work with, the better the book will be in the end. One of the best ways to have an impact in the development and direction of our literature is to take action in these initial stages. To that end, we are trying some new methods of gathering additional source material.

We have a dedicated "portal" for the project and all supporting information at www.na.org/?ID=Living_Clean_Project. On this page you will find a new discussion board specifically created for "Living Clean." Here, members may register (doing so helps minimize spam) to offer input and experience regarding the topics to be covered in the book. The discussion board is organized with each chapter as a separate thread so members can direct input to specific topics. We encourage members with a desire to contribute to join us on the discussion board, where you'll also be able to interact with other members. For those who choose not to share in a public forum, you can also send your input directly to livingclean@na.org. (As always, you can also send input via regular mail to NA World Services; Living Clean Project; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409.)

In addition, we have posted a session profile that local NA communities can use to host workshops for developing source material. The session profile is an outline that describes how to conduct a workshop in a structured manner. Along with the profile is the draft outline of chapters as we envision them today and additional support material—all in PDF files for you to print and use locally.

So far we have over 500 responses to the online survey, and we are optimistic that more members will submit their experience, strength, and hope so that this book can reflect our common experience in living clean. The survey remains available to all who care to submit their responses.

The first review and input period of "Living Clean" will begin this summer, and will include the first two chapters and an outline of the book. The remainder of the book will be sent out in pieces for review and input periods in 2010. Draft material will be available for a minimum of ninety days, with the input deadline clearly marked on each page. Those chapters will be based on material you submit online, the discussion boards, and your letters and workshop notes. The sooner you get material to us, the better! We look forward to your contributions.

OUR FREEDOM, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

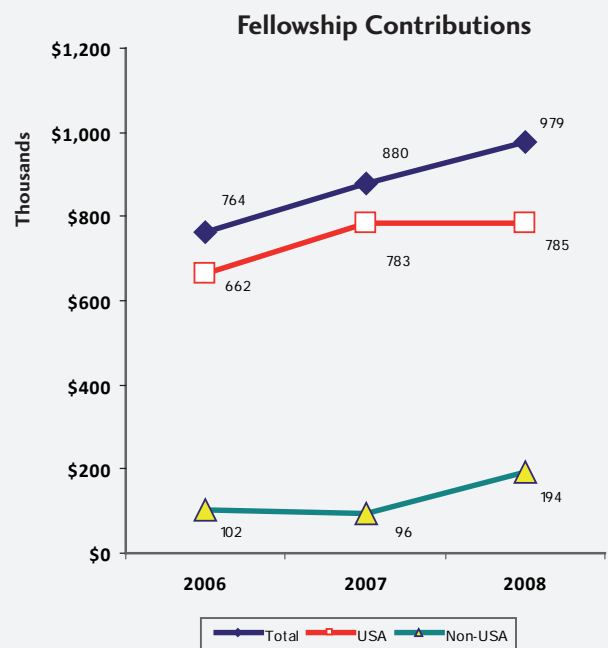
It seems the topic of money is one that comes up more and more often these days, both in mainstream society and in NA. For an organization that has spent years specifically *not* talking about money, this is a new experience for us. Almost two years ago we began a discussion in *The NA Way* about contributions and the costs of services provided to the fellowship by NAWS. Since then, we have seen a modest increase in all contributions (both US and non-US); and for the first time, non-US donations accounted for nearly 10% of total donations. This seems to indicate that our fellowship is hearing the message and responding. The fellowship's efforts in this area help NAWS continue to further our vision and support the fellowship in fulfilling our primary purpose. In light of economic realities worldwide, the need to continue having these challenging conversations is all the more pressing.

Our reality today is one both of abundance and of lack.

In terms of abundance, the rising number of meetings around the world suggests that our fellowship development strategies of the past several years are showing considerable success. We are growing in places where NA never existed before and are taking unprecedented steps to carry our message worldwide. We have trained trusted servants to be more effective in their local NA communities, taken further steps to improve the overall public image of NA, and continued to make literature more readily and reliably available in terms of both distribution and translation. Some new NA communities are equipped to “pick up the ball and run with it,” but that isn't always the case. In some places the economic reality is such that an individual addict may never be able to afford a Basic Text. NAWS puts great effort, energy, and resources into supporting and subsidizing communities that could not otherwise access the NA message in print. Cutting back on any of these efforts for financial reasons is difficult in light of our overall mission. Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers, which is reflected in the NAWS vision that “every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life.”

This is where our abundance comes face-to-face with our lack.

As we increase awareness and availability of NA and its services through our fellowship development efforts, the demand and need for those services also increases. We receive contributions from all over the world to help fund NAWS services, with the largest portion coming from the United States and Canada. It makes sense that the majority of contributions come from the places with the greatest volume of meetings. Historically, over 90% of all NAWS funding (contributions and literature sales) has come from the US. We have planned and operated based on this reality for years.



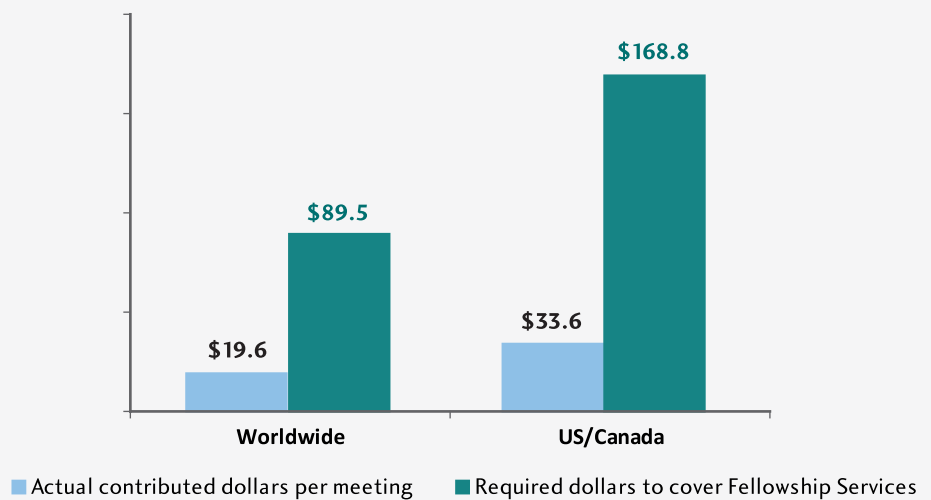
But many things change during certain times, and this is one of those times.

In the last few years we have seen that the places where NA is growing most quickly also happen to be the places least capable of generating financial support for NAWS services. The more successful we are in spreading the NA message in these places, the greater demand there is for our ongoing support. If our resources remain at the same level as that demand increases, our resources will continue to be spread more and more thinly. And with the sharply rising costs of doing business in today's economy, we know that many NA communities are experiencing similar difficulties.

We are diligently assessing all of our operations, considering ways to increase income and either reduce expenses, increase effectiveness, or both. Our collective challenge is that so much of this directly affects local NA communities, individual NA members, and the strength of the NA Fellowship. As always, we welcome your thoughts. We also welcome your contributions, which help NAWS continue to support NA communities across the globe. Now, more than ever, let's work together to fully embrace our responsibility, so that we might continue to enjoy our freedom.

An average annual contribution of \$89.50 per non-US/Canadian meeting and \$168.80 per US/Canadian meeting would completely fund NAWS' costs of providing services to the fellowship. These annual totals are actually \$19.60 (21.9%) non-US/Canadian and \$33.60 (21.2%) US/Canadian.

Fellowship Services Cost vs. Contributions



Meeting by Mail

The bimonthly newsletter, *Meeting by Mail*, was created in 1986 to link isolated members together. It is published in English for slightly over 700 people. Of the 700 who receive this publication, over 400 also receive *The NA Way*. Today, it seems that no organization or individual stands unaffected by the precarious state of the economy today, and NA World Services is not insulated from the reality of these financial challenges. Our production, translations, and shipping costs are steadily rising, and we are making difficult decisions to meet these challenges. Therefore, it is our intent to discontinue publication of *MBM* after two more issues. We will notify subscribers in the April/May issue and the June/July issue will be dedicated to members saying good-bye to this publication.

Although *MBM* will no longer be published, we hope to bridge this gap through the many other ways its readers may share their experience, strength, and hope with fellow recovering addicts around the world. *The NA Way Magazine* is available by electronic subscription or online and is published in six languages (www.na.org/?ID=naway-naway-toc). *Reaching Out*, aimed at helping many incarcerated addicts stay in touch with the world of NA on the outside, is also available online and is always in need of stories from members who were perhaps inmates themselves or members who have some form of H&I experience (www.na.org/?ID=reaching_out-index). Another way to connect is by participating in the online discussion boards at <http://disc.na.org/index.htm>. Discussion boards are a great way to share your voice, be informed, and benefit from the experiences of fellow recovering addicts. We also plan to engage *MBM* readers in exploring how we might meet their needs in other ways.





NEW Welcome to www.na.org

The website of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

> **Home**

Our website has changed! The NAWS website has grown from three simple pages in 1996 to a complex of over 100,000 records and 12,000 files spread across nine domains (for separate functions such as online literature sales, database, discussion boards, project surveys, and literature input).

The NAWS website is a “living entity.” We will continue this multi-faceted redesign in a step-by-step process, and we continually add new material and updates as they become available. Click on the “How to Use the Site” and the “What’s New?” buttons on the lower left side of the home page for help navigating the site. We hope you will explore and visit the site often.

How to Use the Site

What's New?

Our website is an essential resource for NA members, but it also serves professionals, potential NA members, and others interested in NA, like family members.

A visit to our website is often the first encounter someone has with NA. To accommodate all audiences, the front page includes some of the most visited links. The site is further organized into three sections:

- > **Information about NA**
for those seeking basic information
www.na.org/?ID=home-content-inf
- > **Services to Members**
links, services, & support
www.na.org/?ID=home-content-sm
- > **Find a Meeting**
locator & basic info
www.na.org/?ID=home-content-fm

To aid in the website transition, we eblasted all web-servants and regional delegates so they can make changes to ensure that local service committee links continue to work. If your area, region, or zone hasn’t received that information, or if you have questions or concerns about the website, please email webmaster@na.org.

Did you know...

- > Monthly website hits have increased from 2 million in 2005 to over 5 million?
- > Daily *Just for Today* emails are sent to over 16,000 subscribers?
- > ALL IPs and booklets in English, and several in nearly 40 other languages are on the website?
- > NA groups and service committees can register online?
- > The 6th Edition Basic Text is accessed more than 130,000 times per month?
- > Service pamphlets & many of our service handbooks are online?



www.na.org

Picture this

NA communities are invited to send photographs of their meeting places. We especially welcome photos that include meeting formats, recovery literature, posters, dirty coffee cups, and anything else that makes the meeting place look "lived in." Sorry, we cannot use photos that identify NA members. Please tell us about your meeting, its name, the location and city, how long it has been in existence, and what your format consists of (speaker, participation, etc.).

The Jimmy Group

These are the photos of my home group in my hometown. It's a small group with five or six home group members. It meets outside on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm, on an Andalusian patio, with flowers and some trees. It's called the Jimmy Group as homage to an NA pioneer member in Spain who contributed to the growth of our fellowship and passed away a few years ago. It's in Bornos, a small town of about 8,000 in Cádiz Province, which is in the Andalucía region of Spain. Our group has been meeting since November 1993. It's an open participation format. We do the readings and read the daily *Just for Today* meditation, and then each member shares his or her experience, strength, and hope.

We are very excited about having WCNA 33 here in Barcelona this year. We are very grateful to NA World Services for selecting this city as the site of a world convention. And we hope to see all of you this August!

Manolo B, Cádiz, Spain





CALENDAR

Multi-day events and those occurring between publication dates are printed according to the schedule below. To enter events or to access event details, visit the online calendar at: www.na.org/?ID?=comingup-toc. (If you don't have Internet access, fax or mail your event info to 818.700.0700, attn: NA Way; or *The NA Way*; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.)

Issue	Submit event info by	For events taking place during
January.....	15 October	second week of January through first week of April
April	15 January	second week of April through first week of July
July	15 April	second week of July through first week of October
October	15 July	second week of October through first week of January

Brazil

Amazonas 11-14 Jun; CSA Amazonas Convention 1; Hotel Cachoeira do Urubui, Presidente Figueiredo; www.na.org.br/iccam

Minas Gerais 11-14 Jun; 1st Convenção Mineira; Estalagem das Minas Gerais, Ouro Preto; www.na.org.br/cmna

Canada

BC 19-21 Jun; Central Okanagan Area Serenity by the Lake 20; Green Bay Bible Camp, Kelowna; event info: 250.863.8434

Ontario 15-17 May; Ontario Regional Convention 22; Delta Meadowvale Hotel, Mississauga; event info: 905.837.9378

2) 3-5 Jul; Golden Triangle Area Gorging on Recovery Campvention 18; Guelph Lake Conservation Area, Guelph; www.gtascna.on.ca

Quebec 15-17 May; Quebec English Area Convention 8; Days Inn Hotel, Montreal; www.eana-mtl.org

Croatia

Trogir 30 Apr-3 May Trogir English Speaking Convention 3; Hotel Medena, Split/Trogir; event info: 386.40.795.47

Denmark

Odense 3-5 Apr; Denmark Regional Service Conference; Odense; www.nadanmark.dk

Germany

Berlin 1-3 May; First Berlin Area English Speaking Convention; Berliner Stadtmission, Berlin; www.b-open-na.de

2) Rlp 29-31 May; Willkommen im Leben Koblenz Recovery, Koblenz; www.na-koblenz-convention.de

India

Delhi 3-5 Apr; Delhi Area Convention 8; Nainital, Delhi; event info: 09910370010

Indonesia

Bali 19-21 Jun; Bali Area Convention 9; Seminyak; www.na-bali.org

Mexico

Baja California 17-19 Apr; Convencion Area Baja Cachanilla 6; Hotel Calafia, event info: US 760.641.6742; Mexico 044.686.121.3370

Oaxaca 23-26 Apr; Region Mexico Cremex 12; Hotel Posada Real, Puerto Escondido; registration: 5552.64.47.48

Spain

Barcelona 20-23 Aug; World Convention 33; Centre Convencions Internacional (CCIB), Barcelona; www.na.org/ID?=wcna-index

2) 20-23 Aug; Spain NA Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Historical Exhibit; Centre Convencions Internacional (CCIB), Barcelona; www.narcoticosanonimos.es

United States

Arizona 22-24 May; Arizona Regional Convention 23; Star Pass Resort and Spa, Tucson; www.natucson.org

Arkansas 29-31 May; SOS And HOW Groups Float for Hope 6; Caddo River Campsite, Glenwood; www.caasc.org/activities.htm

(2) 26-28 Jun; Northwest Arkansas Area Beaver Roundup 24; Buffalo Point National Park, Yellville; write: Northwest Arkansas Area; Box 2582; Rogers, AK 72756

California 9-12 Apr; Northern California Convention 31; San Jose Convention Center, San Jose; www.norcalna.org/nccna.php

2) 1-3 May; Santa Barbara Area Campout; Sage Hill Campground, Santa Barbara; event info: 805.861.6772

3) 29-31 May; River Cities and 916 North Areas Ride-4-Recovery; Big Pines Campground, Cobb; www.naride4recovery.com

4) 19-21 Jun; San Diego Imperial Regional Convention 24; San Diego Concourse, San Diego; www.sandiegona.org

5) 3-5 Jul; California Inland Region Convention; Wyndham Palm Springs, Palm Springs; www.cirna.org

Connecticut 8-10 May; Straight from the Hip Women's Sponsorship Retreat 5; Incarnation Retreat Center, Ivoryton; event info: 860.417.3282

2) 12-14 Jun; Greater Waterbury Area Family Campout 23; Camp Cedarcrest, Orange; www.gwana.org/campout-reg-09.pdf

Florida 23-26 Apr; Alabama NW Florida Regional Convention; Boardwalk Beach Resort and Hotel, Panama City Beach; www.alnwl.org

2) 24-26 Apr; Daytona Area Convention 10; Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach; www.daytonana.org

3) 14-17 May; Women of Freedom Group NA in the Bahamas Cruise, Port Canaveral; event info: 813.412.0712

4) 2-5 Jul; Florida Regional Convention 28; Double Tree Inn, Orlando; speaker tape deadline: 15 Apr; write: Florida Region/FRSO; 706 N Ingraham Avenue; Lakeland, FL 33801; www.floridarso.org

5) 10-12 Apr; Coastal Area 25th Anniversary; Travel Lodge Hotel, Brunswick; event info: 912.656.3762

Georgia 10-12 Apr; Northeast Georgia Area Convention 10; Unicoi State Park, Helen; www.negana.org

2) 24-26 Apr; Little Girl Grows up Convention; Ramada Atlanta Airport Conference Center, Atlanta; event info: 770.330.3881

3) 2-5 Jul; Midtown Atlanta Area Convention 19; Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta; event info: 678.429.3616

Hawaii 22-25 May; West and East Areas Big Island Gathering 23; Spencer Beach Park, Kawaihae; write: West and East Hawaii Areas; Box 5415; Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-5415

Idaho 5-7 Jun; Magic Valley Area Men's Retreat 13; Miracle Hot Springs, Buhl; www.sirma.org

Illinois 3-5 Apr; Rock River Area Convention 18; Cliffbreakers Riverside Resort, Rockford; www.convention.rtagsna.org

Indiana 10-12 Apr; Kentuckiana Regional Convention 23; Executive Inn, Evansville; event info: 812.568.742 or krcnaxxiii@yahoo.com

2) 12-14 Jun; First Northeastern Indiana Area Convention; Hilton Hotel and Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne; event info: 260.422.0705

Louisiana 22-24 May; Louisiana Regional Convention 27; Holiday Inn South, Baton Rouge; www.larna.org

Maryland 17-19 Apr; Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Convention 23; Ocean City Convention Center, Ocean City; www.cprcna.org

Massachusetts 1-3 May; Martha's Vineyard Area Celebration of Recovery 22; Wesley Hotel, Oak Bluffs; www.newenglandna.org

2) 12-14 Jun; Southeastern Massachusetts Annual Convention; Holiday Inn, Mansfield; event info: 508.676.5544

3) 20-22 Nov; NA World Services Worldwide Workshop; Marriott Boston-Peabody, Boston; event info: 818.773.9999, ext 116; www.na.org

Michigan 9-12 Apr; Detroit Area Convention 17; Hyatt Regency, Dearborn; event info: 313.320.2349

2) 2-5 Jul; Michigan Regional Convention 25; Crowne Plaza, Grand Rapids; www.michigan-na.org/mrcna

Minnesota 17-19 Apr; Minnesota State Convention 16; Holiday Inn and Suites, St Cloud; www.naminnesota.org

2) 22-25 May; Upper Midwest Spiritual Refreshment 17; www.umrna.org

Montana 19-21 Jun; Montana Region Annual Gathering; Symes Hot Springs Hotel, Hot Springs; www.namontana.org

Nebraska 22-25 May; Southeast Nebraska Area Run for Fun 29; Alexandria Lakes State Recreation Area, Alexandria; event info: 402.362.1102

Nevada 10-12 Apr; Southern Nevada Area Convention 23; Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas; www.snana.org

New Hampshire 26-28 Jun; Granite State Area Campout 19; Applehill Campground, Bethlehem; www.gsana.org

New York 25-26 Apr; Tribute to Oldtimers 10; PS 194; Manhattan, NYC; write: Manhattan Area; Box 2095; Radio City Station; NY, NY 10101

2) 1-3 May; Eastern New York Region Spiritual Retreat 2; St Ignatius Retreat House, Manhasset; event info: 516.659.5902

3) 22-24 May; Heart of New York Area Convention 6; Holiday Inn, Liverpool; write: Heart of NY ASC; Box 772; Syracuse, NY 13201

4) 12-14 Jun; Albany-Rensselaer Area Campout; Camp Scully, Albany; www.abcdna.org/campout

5) 19-21 Jun; Bronx Area Convention 7; Friar Tuck Resort, Spa, and Convention Center, Bronx; www.bronxna.com/bxacna

North Carolina 3-5 Apr; Capital Area Convention 20; Doubletree Hotel, Rocky Mount; www.crna.org/areaevents

2) 17-19 Apr; Greater Charlotte Area Convention 23; University Hilton Hotel, Charlotte; www.charlotte-na.org

3) 29-31 May; Down East, Inner Coastal, and Crossroads Area Convention 4; City Hotel and Bistro, Greenville; event info: 252.230.2548

4) 4-7 Jun; Western North Carolina Area Looking Glass Bash 4; Cove Creek Campground, Brevard; write: Western North Carolina Area; Box 2066; Asheville, NC 28802-2066

Ohio 22-24 May; Ohio Regional Convention 27; Holiday Inn, Hudson; www.nabuckeye.org

Oklahoma 17-19 Apr; Oklahoma Regional Convention 23; Quality Inn, Stillwater; www.okna.org

Oregon 29-31 May; Pacific Cascade Regional Convention 16; Florence Event Center, Florence; www.pcrna.org/hotel

Pennsylvania 10-12 Apr; Greater Philadelphia Regional Convention; Valley Forge Convention Center, Valley Forge; www.naworks.org

Tennessee 22-23 May; Positive Image Group Recoveryfest 6; Plaza Hotel, Memphis; 901.628.7408

Texas 21-24 May; Duncanville Group Old School Nationwide Speaker Jam 5; Tioga Recreation Center, Dallas; event info: 469.279.6074; speaker tape deadline: 30 Apr; write: Duncanville Group; Box 12094; Dallas, TX 75225 0094

2) 22-24 May; Texas State Convention 7; Wyndham El Paso Airport, El Paso; www.tscna.com

Utah 12-14 Jun; Southern Utah Area Convention 2; Hilton Garden Inn Dixie Center, Saint George; www.suana.org

2) 12-14 Jun; High Uintah Area Celebration of Recovery; American Legion Hall, Vernal; www.utahna.info/High_Uinta.htm

Virginia 22-25 May; Marion Survivors Group Campout 13; Hungry Mother State Park Lutheran Retreat Center, Marion; www.manate-tn.org

2) 5-7 Jun; Piedmont Area Campout 19; Misty Mountain Camp Resort, Crozet; event info: 434.249.9915; speaker tape deadline: 21 Apr; write: Piedmont Area; Box 6931; Charlottesville, VA 22906-6931

Washington 1-3 May; Washington Northern Idaho Region Convention 24; Seattle Airport Marriott, Seattle; www.wnirna-reg.org

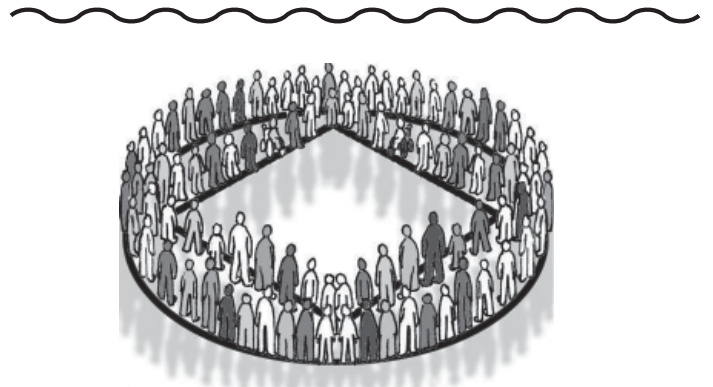
2) 19-21 Jun; Southwest Washington Area Freedom Retreat 27; Camp WA-RI-KI, Washougal; www.swanaonline.org

West Virginia 8-10 May; Mountaineer Region Spring Convention; Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley; mrcsna.org

Wisconsin 22-24 May; Inner City Area Convention 7; Best Western Hotel and Conference Center, Milwaukee; event info: 414.545.0005

2) 5-7 Jun; Big Rivers Area I Can't, We Campout 5; Wildcat Mountain State Park, Ontario; www.bigriversna.org

Wyoming 15-17 May; Upper Rocky Mountain Regional Convention 10; Hitching Post Inn, Cheyenne; www.urmrna.org



Members interested in being considered for nomination at the 2010 WSC will want to update their World Pool Information Form by 31 August 2009.

The online version can be found at www.na.org/?ID=HRP-wpif-default.

NAWS PRODUCT UPDATE



Basic Text Commemorative Edition – 2nd Printing

In response to extraordinary fellowship demand, we're offering a limited edition second printing of this handsome version of the Sixth Edition Basic Text. Each book will be hand-numbered in the series 10,001 – 20,000.

Item No. 1103 Price US \$25.00

Arabic

Group Trusted Servants: Roles & Responsibilities



الخدم الموثوق بهم في المجموعة

Item No. AR-2203 Price US \$0.21

Disruptive & Violent Behavior

السلوك المعيق والعنيف

Item No. AR-2204 Price US \$0.21

Castilian

*IP No. 27: For the Parents or
Guardians of Young People in NA*
**Para los padres y tutores
de los jóvenes de NA**

Item No. CS-3127 Price US \$0.26



Group Trusted Servants: Roles & Responsibilities

**Servidores de confianza del grupo:
Funciones y responsabilidades**

Item No. CS-2203 Price US \$0.21

Disruptive & Violent Behavior

**Comportamientos problemáticos
y violentos**

Item No. CS-2204 Price US \$0.21

Croatian

IP No. 1: *Who, What, How, and Why*

Tko, što, kako i zašto

Item No. CR-3101 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 7: *Am I an Addict?*

Jesam li ja ovisnik?

Item No. CR-3107 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 11: *Sponsorship*

Sponzorstvo

Item No. CR-3111 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 16: *For the Newcomer*

Za novopridošle

Item No. CR-3116 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 22: *Welcome to NA*

Dobro došli u Anonimne narkomane

Item No. CR-3122 Price US \$0.21

Hebrew

Roman Numeral Bronze Medallions

Traditional bronze finish in 18 months and 1–25 years.

Item No. HE-4300 – 4325 Price US \$2.75



Hungarian

IP No. 11: *Sponsorship*

Szponzorálás

Item No. HU-3111 Price US \$0.21

Lithuanian

IP No. 12: *The Triangle of Self-Obsession*

Apšestumo savimi trikampis

Item No. LT-3112 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 17: *For Those in Treatment*

Tiems, kurie gydymo įstaigoje

Item No. LT-3117 Price US \$0.26



Japanese

The White Booklet
 ナルコティクス アノニマス
 Item No. JP-1500 Price US \$0.63

Russian

NA: A Resource in Your Community
 Ресурс нашего общества
 Item No. RU-1604 Price US \$0.32

IP No. 7: Am I an Addict?
 Зависимый ли я?
 Item No. RU-3107 Price US \$0.21



NAWS Shipping Rates Change

NAWS hasn't increased shipping charges since early 1990s, and shipping costs exceed what we charge. Very few costs remain constant over more than 10 years and we have done our best to shoulder this increase, but we can no longer continue that practice. To cover shipping costs, effective 1 April 2009, shipping charges will be:

Total Order	Current	Rates as of 1 Apr 09	
		US/CAN	Europe
\$0.01 – \$25.00	\$2.50	\$5.00	€ 5.00
\$25.01 – \$50.00	\$3.50	\$7.00	€ 7.00
\$50.01 – \$150.00	7%	15%	15%
\$150.01 – \$500.00	6%	12%	12%
\$500.01 and over	6%	6%	6%

A walk-in handling fee of 5% will be added for orders under \$500.
 NAWS-Europe shipping charges will also change to match these rates in Euros.

Translated Fifth Edition Basic Texts

The price for translated Basic Texts with only the first section of the book will increase from \$5.50 to \$7.50, effective 1 July 2009. We will continue to work with communities that receive additional discounts, subsidies, or free literature.

NAWS-Europe Literature Price Change

Effective 1 July 2009, literature purchased through NAWS-Europe will be priced the same in Euros as it is in dollars. For example, an \$11 Sixth Edition Basic Text will be €11.

All NA literature is available for sale at www.na.org/?ID=OrderLiteratureOnline-content

