

How it works . If you want what we have to offer, and are willing to make the effort to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps. These are the principles that made our recovery possible. • We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable. • We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. . We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. • We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. • We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to numers being the exact nature re entirely rea efects of character. of our wrongs. . W rem inven d medit through tood His nly for Having ual awa ★ Step on it! ★

★ Step on it! ★
★ WCNA 34 Update ★
★ Invest in Our Vision ★
★ Recovering without god ★



THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

The NA Way Magazine, published in English, Farsi, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, 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."

NA World Services, Inc.

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From the editor

This issue of The NA Way Magazine comes at a time of change and turmoil in many parts of the world. We don't involve ourselves in outside issues as a fellowship, but we are affected by what happens in the world around us. As individuals, outside of NA, we may advocate for specific causes, suffer economic misfortune, or find ourselves directly affected by personal tragedy or natural disaster; but when we come together as recovering addicts, it is for one purpose: to carry the message of recovery.

We all bring our own personal opinions, hopes, and expectations to our recovery and our service to NA. Our recovery experience is formed by what we learn from our sponsors, fellow NA members, NA literature, and our own personal step work and spiritual beliefs. It can take some effort to set aside personal opinions, priorities, and perceptions to focus our service on recovery principles and our clearly defined purpose: to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. This issue is dedicated to the principles of our NA Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, and our Vision for NA Service.

De I, Editor

A Vision for NA Service

All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous are inspired by the primary purpose of our groups. Upon this common ground we stand committed.

Our vision is that one day:

- 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;
- Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;
- NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery;
- Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

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

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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.



Travel broadens the mind—and recovery

I had been in the program for many years when I had to go through an extended period of challenges that life presented. It actually was a period of cascading failures over many years. Unfortunately, the doctrine in the meetings in my area, across the board, was what I call "manageable delirium," meaning that life can be controlled with the program, while fate and misfortune are flatly denied and literally demonized as acting out on the disease. I felt very alone and abandoned and stopped going to meetings, harboring a great many resentments, of course.

But my Higher Power presented me with the next challenge: a business trip with a bunch of people who were part of one of my problems. I would be stuck in a hotel with them for a whole week, day and night, even in the evenings, since the company had decided to take care of the poor foreigners at organized functions every evening! I was in agony—as if it weren't enough being on a plane with them and, even worse, being crammed together in a car for hours to get from the airport to the hotel, plus hearing their voices in the corridor, which really felt like being stalked by them. It was scary!

On the verge of despair, I realized that I started to hate being an addict without the escape of something mood-altering to help me endure all this. At this point I realized that I was in the grip of the disease and that I had to act—quickly. Luckily, the electronic version of The NA Way Magazine reached me in the middle of this emotional and mental turmoil, and I pocketed my pride—or so I thought—and contacted NA World Services for a local contact number in the area where I would be on the business trip.

To be honest, it took me another three days to use this number. During these days I tortured myself with the company of my least-hated work colleague, going with her to places I didn't like, fending off her attempts to persuade me to go to a bar with her, thinking up all kinds of excuses, which just made me look like someone who was unable to get along in a foreign country. This made me feel even angrier. If she only knew! I had lived and used in this particular country, with all the consequences that the using lifestyle entails.

I finally sat down and dialed the number. My thinking had become so sick that I actually expected to be rejected.

I feared the worst. How surprised I was when the guy on the other end asked me if I wanted to be picked up for a meeting. I felt like I was being rescued from drowning. I actually was happy for the first time in a long, long time. The guy swept away my objection that he couldn't be expected to be my taxi, and just asked what time I would be available. I could not believe it. I was excited.

Proudly and gratefully, I told my colleagues to send my apologies to the rest of the staff, but I had to meet my family that night. And for the first time in my recovery, I meant that. NA was,



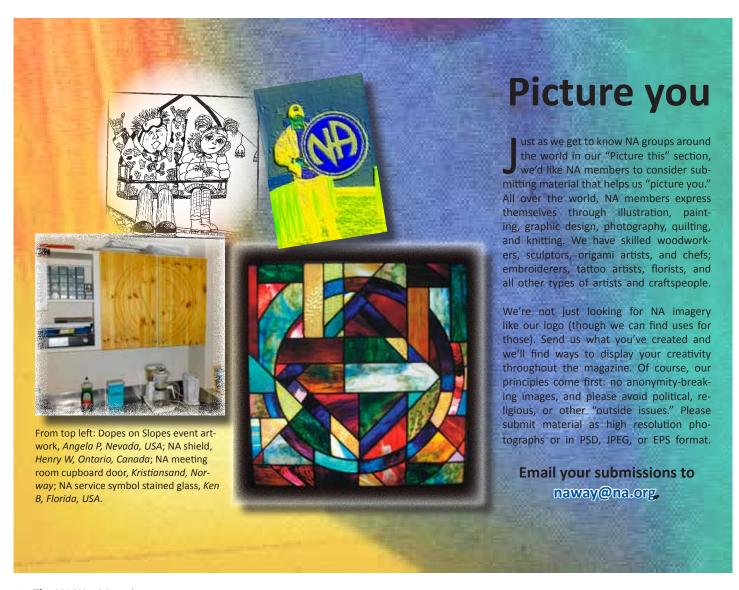
indeed, family. "Steve" picked me up every evening, and every evening I had great meetings. They were full of recovery. I could perceive the message from a completely new perspective. I was sort of a newcomer because I had just been rescued. I won a Sixth Edition Basic Text in one of the meetings; the next one had a birthday celebration with a speaker and one of those fancy American cakes (which is not usual in our country). I was introduced to Steve's wife and his friend, "John." I was taken out for dinner to a restaurant where a live band was playing,

and one of the band members gave me a dark red carnation with the words "an old American custom" before he left. I was thrilled. And the United States was so different from that particular time in the past when I had been there, at a time when I was intermittently using or withdrawing because I couldn't get to the supplier.

I promised to write an article for The NA Way Magazine, but somehow I never found the words when I tried. I was so looking forward to this year's business trip, and then we got the message that

it was canceled for economic reasons. I was really disappointed. But then I remembered that I still owed the people I met, the fellowship, and those who helped me contact friends in the Providence area an article that at least might be published in our magazine. Thank you, NA; thank you, NA in Rhode Island; thank you, NAWS staff, trusted servants, and, above all, my new NA friends Steve, his wife, and John!

Martina H, Hesse, Germany





Step Eleven

It's amazing, isn't it? I feel that sometimes after we get to Narcotics Anonymous the steps enter our life before we even realize it. Well, that's what happened to me with the Eleventh Step. By the way, this is one of my favorite steps. In retrospect, I believe God was working in my life long before I realized it, and it was evident with the experience I am going to share with you. This was the very first form of meditation that I did, and I do this still today, many years later. It is listening, as our Basic Text mentions in the Eleventh Step: "For some, prayer is asking for God's help; meditation is listening for God's answer."

When I had about 30 days clean (of course, I was nowhere near the Eleventh Step; I don't think I even realized I had arrived!), my sponsor gave me a listening assignment. "We" decided that I had a problem with listening. My assignment was to go to a meeting, and afterward call my sponsor and tell her what I had heard. I would call her and she would say, "Well, what did you hear?" And my reply was "Nothing." She asked if I had been paying attention, and when I said, "Yes," she then said, "You better hope and pray that you hear a message because if you don't, you may go back out, use, and die!"

So, I would go to a meeting and say a silent prayer to my Higher Power to please help me hear the message. The very first message I heard at a Narcotics Anonymous meeting went like this. A biker was at the podium, and my first thought (prejudgment) was: "Forget him. Bikers don't stay clean. He can't really have eight years clean." I was going to tune him out immediately, and then I thought of my assignment and that I had to call my sponsor with what I heard at the meeting. I sat up front, leaned forward, looked at the speaker's mouth, and said my prayer to my Higher Power: "Please help me to hear the message!" This is what I heard him say: "If you don't ask your Higher Power to help you stay clean just for today and thank Him at night, you will go back

out and use." That was my conscious contact with God. Wow! I had never heard that before. What a concept! I thought I knew everything, and had been coming in and out of the rooms for years. What else hadn't I heard?

My first NA meeting was in the early 1970s. I started to feel some hope, and today, many years later, this is still my prayer and meditation. When I go to a meeting, I sit up front to hear my HP's message, and I pay attention to the speaker and what they are saying. I do this with my sponsor and other NA members. Listening is a great tool and was the first stepping-stone for me into recovery. The Eleventh Step helps me to communicate with my Higher Power. I have done this many times. Sometimes I sit in silence for about 20 minutes, calmly breathing in and out. My thoughts come and go, and I don't fight it; I just try my best to calm my mind. Someone very wise once told me, "It doesn't matter what happens during the 20 minutes that you sit and meditate; what matters

is how that 20 minutes affects the other 23 hours and 40 minutes of your day." And I have found that to be so true. When I take the quiet time to spend with my Higher



Photo: Building the Twelve Steps of NA David P, California, USA

Power, I really have a much smoother, calmer, more serene day. I have also used guided meditation tapes also, which help me to relax and connect. The most important thing I practice is that I put the program of Narcotics Anonymous first, and I do not let any other religious rituals or forms of meditation distract me from my purpose. To me this is really a "simple" step.

So the next time you are at a meeting or someone is speaking to you, maybe you'll want to say your own little prayer and listen from your heart to the message, because I guarantee there is a very special message for you from your Higher Power.

Roseanne S, Utah, USA

Step on it: One member's interpretation

- Step 1: I had an old clunker parked in the driveway. I tried to fix it, but just made a bigger mess of things.
- I couldn't fix it, but I believed someone else could. Step 2:
- I turned the car over to a mechanic. I took an inventory of all that worked Step 3:
- and didn't work on the old clunker. Step 4:
- I shared the inventory with the Step 5:
- I prepared the car to have all the old Step 6: parts removed.
- I left the rest to the mechanic. I made a list of all the damage done by Step 7:
- defective parts and lack of service. Step 8:
- I admitted that I hadn't checked the oil and fluids properly or fixed the Step 9: other things that were going wrong. I committed to correct the damage and make
- Step 10: I maintained the car regularly, and when I didn't, the engine didn't hummmmm, so I would quickly make corrections.
- Step 11: I called on the mechanic to help me understand and maintain my car.
- Step 12: That mechanic and I became such close friends that we took a trip together across the country, and stopped to help other motorists along the way.

Anonymous, Mumbai, India

Step Eight

The list of people I have caused harm to was not something I wanted to see in black and white. As I began to compile my list, I realized just how many people my self-centered behavior affected. My understanding of harm expanded to include all the unintended effects my behavior had on people, society, and myself. I focused only on the harm I caused, and did my best to include anyone or anything that may have been adversely affected by my actions, intended or not. I shared my list with my sponsor and we added a few names and removed a few names, but in the end we had as thorough a list as I could compile.

Becoming willing to actually make the amends was a little tricky. My list included many names that I was eager to address, like family and close friends, and some members of NA. My willingness was slow to appear for those people and institutions I felt had wronged me. Becoming willing to make amends to all of them occurred as a result of making direct amends to those few names I had the eagerness to address first. Reaping the benefits those amends had on my life and really wanting to experience more freedom from my past created the willingness to make amends to the rest.

As a result of my making a beginning on this step, my loneliness and guilt began to subside. I started to lift my head up and feel like I could enjoy the rewards of working the steps of NA. I soon realized that if I could relate to the problems of addiction, then I could also enjoy the freedom of recovery. The end of isolation and loneliness seemed attainable, and the development of meaningful relationships started to become a reality. My guilt and shame are slowly being replaced by hope, trust, and faith.

> Jimmy S, Indiana, USA Reprinted with permission from The Beacon, August 2010 South Shore Area (Indiana)

Earning forgiveness

Coming into the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous and seeing the steps for the first time, my eye was instantly drawn to that Ninth Step; you know, the one that says we make amends to all of the people we had harmed. I had it all figured out; I admit I'm an addict, say I'm sorry and that I can't help it, and all is forgiven. I was in a meeting doing something about my problem, so I wanted everyone to forgive me, right now. That was what I saw when I looked at that step: simple forgiveness. I failed to see the eight steps in front of the forgiveness I was seeking. But, I thought, I'm special, I'm an addict, I admit it; forgive me now! That's how I lived my whole life. I wanted what I wanted, when I wanted it, and I expected to get it with little or no effort. Boy, was I in for a surprise!

Maybe I should have taken a look at those first eight steps.

In the next few weeks I tried to use my new "membership" to get some sympathy out of a few of those people I had harmed. I proudly told them about going to meetings because I now knew I was an addict, and shared with them how sorry I was for the pain I caused. I got a much different reaction to my admissions than I thought I would. These people told me it was about time I tried to grow the f*!k up, and they already knew how sorry I was, and they didn't need me to tell them that. My feelings got hurt, and I lashed out, saying mean and hurtful things. I ended up owing more amends than I did before. Maybe I should have taken a look at those first eight steps.

In Narcotics Anonymous the steps are in a specific order for a reason. We can't work only the ones we like, or skip around. We must surrender completely to the process. I finally gave up the fight, got a sponsor, and started working the steps with my sponsor's guidance. It has taken a while, but I have found freedom in the steps, freedom from the selfcenteredness that ruled my world for so long. In time, maybe I will be forgiven, when I have earned it.

Joe A, Tennessee, USA Reprinted with permission from The Guardian Upper Cumberland Area, Tennessee Region

Recovering without god

A few months ago I was sharing in a large meeting about using the group as a power greater than myself. An addict approached me after the meeting and asked me, "So you don't believe in god?" I replied that I didn't. She then went on to tell me that she was sure there was a god and that I must have been going to the wrong churches all my life. All I could do was chuckle inside and thank her for her observation.

While this type of occurrence is not mean-spirited. I can assure you that it is common and unwanted. When I came to the rooms of NA I was told that I could have any higher power I wanted as long as it was loving, caring, and greater than me. The NA group met all those requirements. I have used the group since I found NA, and here I am, more than eight vears later, still clean and serene.

Atheists in recovery are either few and far between or just a very quiet bunch. We tend to keep our nonbeliefs to ourselves because there is a stigma attached to not believing in god. But every so often, one of us will make it known that we have been recovering without god. I felt alone for a very long time because my nonbeliefs were in direct opposition to what most people felt was the only way to get clean: with god. Even our literature stresses belief in a god, albeit a liberal interpretation so as to not offend us nonbelievers.

I struggled for a long time over whether or not I should "come out of the closet" with my atheism. When I finally did, I was surprised at the support I received, not only from friends in recovery but from nonaddicts as well. What I have discovered is that I do not need to believe as everyone else does to recover. I have discovered that I do not need to pray to something I do not believe in to work the steps. Do not get me wrong; there were many people both inside and outside the rooms who made it very clear that they feared for my soul and that they believed I was wrong, but that was a minority. I have realized through working the Twelve Steps that I do not have to prove myself to anyone but myself. I am a living example that an atheist can recover.

One thing I hope to see in the future of Narcotics Anonymous would be for the rooms to be more accessible to those who do not believe in any supernatural higher powers. I know that progress takes time. When I meet other atheists in recovery, I encourage them to share with others that it is okay to not believe. Anyone, whether Christian,

I am a living example that an atheist can recover.

Muslim, Hindu, Iew, atheist, or of any other faith, can recover from the disease of addiction using the Twelve Steps. I do not and will not use the term "god" when sharing because I believe it denotes certain ideas about a supreme being, which I don't believe in, but I do appreciate and respect those who do.

Part of what makes me keep coming back is the love and tolerance we share within the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous. I encourage others to think about what they are sharing in meetings. Does it make everyone in the room feel welcome, or does it marginalize someone? We as members have to stay vigilant to make sure EVERY addict who wants recovery can get it and feel welcomed. Thanks for letting me share.

Rip W, Missouri, USA

NA member, armed forces

I felt compelled to share my experience of being a proud member of NA and a proud veteran who struggled with addiction while serving in the military.

I began my military service on 7 December (Pearl Harbor Day) 1987. I was busted once on a urinalysis, but somehow managed to avoid trouble throughout the rest of my enlistment. However, once out of the service, my life started going downhill from using on a regular basis. I tried active reserves, but this did not stop me from using, and my life seemed to get worse and worse. I did what many addicts do, and I engaged in a geographical escape to Las Vegas to get a "fresh start." About a month later, I was recalled to active duty along with thousands of other reservists, stationed aboard a repair ship in the Persian Gulf, and I spent a lot of time in Bahrain.

After the war in the gulf was over I knew I had a problem, but I didn't think I was an addict. I accepted an offer to return to active service, and after that stint, I returned with the ship stateside to San Diego, California. Before I knew it I had found my drug of choice and continued right where I had left off in Las Vegas.

It wasn't long after that, while attending a military school in Philadelphia, that I was caught on a urinalysis and they decided to discharge me. I did receive some counseling from another service member, and he encouraged me to go to meetings, which I never did. This was February of 1992, and my life really hit bottom after that, including being homeless and in and out of jails in San Francisco.

It wasn't until I was, arrested in June of 1995 that I was given a chance through the veterans court system to seek recovery. While at this treatment center (second time there), I finally heard the life-saving message of NA through an H&I meeting. I can't tell you what I heard; all I know is that since the day after I was arrested until today, I haven't found it necessary to take anything, no matter what.

Paul D, California, USA

Editor's note: This NA member's story is offered in the same spirit as other NA Way material—simply as a means of one addict sharing his experience with other recovering addicts. This article is not intended in any way to endorse or affiliate with any government agency or military service.

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SERVICE SYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE

One of the objectives of the 2010 NAWS Strategic Plan is to...

...transition from a service structure to a service system that is driven by unity in fulfilling our primary purpose and that is flexible in meeting the diverse service needs and goals of NA communities.

In August of 2010 we released a set of proposals that outlined some ideas about what such a service system might look like. We gathered input from the fellowship, held workshops around the US and sessions in other locations, and then we revised the proposals in March. These revised proposals will be the basis of further discussion that will help us to frame the material contained in the 2012 Conference Agenda Report. You can find the revised proposals and all other material related to the Service System Project online at www.na.org.

Foundational principles of a revitalized service system

There are five principles that are foundational to our thinking and common to each of the structural changes proposed:



Purpose-driven



Group-focused



Defined by geographic boundaries



Flexible



Collaborative

Thank you to everyone who took the time to read and give input on the first draft proposals. We continue to encourage you to share your ideas about how we can build a system that helps us to best achieve our primary purpose.

One of the specific things about which we are seeking input is shared services. Have you ever been part of a successful shared services body? We would love to hear about how that shared services body functioned—particularly how you dealt with issues of accountability to the different areas that the body was created to serve.

Please write to us with your experience: worldboard@na.org.

Please visit

www.na.org/servicesystem

for complete project background, updates, and materials.



his essay is the second in a multiple-part series on the topic "Invest in Our Vision." The first installment appeared in the January 2011 issue of this magazine. This series is intended to raise awareness and prompt discussion about the fact that everything we accomplish together as a fellowship is made possible through member contributions of time, effort, and money.

As was discussed in the January 2011 issue of *The NA Way Magazine*, the newly adopted Vision for NA Service highlights the goals we hope to accomplish in serving NA. The notion of having a vision for our fellowship might seem like a new idea to some members, especially those who weren't familiar with the precursor to A Vision for NA Service, which was the NA World Services Vision Statement. The NAWS Vision Statement was adopted by the World Service Conference in 1993 and served to guide the work of NA World Services up until the unanimous approval of A Vision for NA Service at WSC 2010.

While there was no formal vision statement in place for our fellowship prior to 1993, from NA's earliest days our members envisioned a future in which the Narcotics Anonymous message of hope would be available to addicts all around the world. When Jimmy K shared at a celebration dinner for NA's twentieth anniversary in 1973, he spoke about the fact that it would take a lot of effort and dedication from our members to make that vision possible, to make recovery available to addicts across the globe.

That fact remains true to this day: The work we must do to achieve our vision requires a great deal of commitment from established NA communities, and from members who have found

ongoing recovery in NA. Many members in our early days were very passionate about spreading our message into new places so that new groups and meetings would spring up and reach more addicts.

The more successful we have been in spreading the NA message into new communities, the more challenging our task has become. This is true for local communities just as much as it is for NA World Services. Area service committees in rural places have often found that by successfully making the NA message available to an isolated or outlying community, they have taken on the sometimes difficult and resource-heavy task of continuing to provide support to that community as the NA groups there go through growing pains and other common challenges. In some urban communities, there are parts of town where there aren't yet any NA meetings, so the service committee may do some outreach or public information efforts to get new meetings started. In either situation, as the area or regional service committee is more successful in reaching underserved communities, they may begin to find that even more resources are required to follow up and support new groups and meetings in these places.

The same phenomenon occurs in the work that NA World Services does. NAWS has seen varying levels of success in helping to make the NA message available in many parts of the world, especially in places that are isolated from other existing NA communities. As Jimmy K says in his speech, "We grew from a need ... many addicts were still going down the road of degradation and death. We thought it was right that we should try to do something." This need is made very apparent by the fact that even the tiniest

spark of what NA has to offer sets these communities quickly ablaze with desire for recovery and for connectedness with our worldwide fellowship.

In many cases, we are carrying our message into communities whose economic realities are such that the NA groups there may never be able to afford the literature they need to grow and thrive as other NA communities have. Often these communities are very far from the nearest area or regional service committee, so they rely on guidance and support from NAWS to find their way through the growing pains and challenges that so many NA communities face. The task of continuing to make literature and support available to these communities can be very costly, but making it possible for addicts in these places to find recovery is a worthy investment.

Making our vision a reality takes place on many levels: locally, nationally, and worldwide. On a local level, well-established NA communities have many resources to support members in their recovery: meetings most nights of the week (if not every night), experienced members to look to for guidance, and readily available, affordable NA literature. Members in these communities are able to demonstrate their gratitude by being of service and providing their local service committees with the funds they need to do their work. NA World Services is responsible for helping to ensure that developing NA communities around the globe have access to the resources they need to make recovery available. To support the work done to help achieve our vision around the world, we ask that members *Invest in Our Vision*.

A day at a time,
Our vision and
Our fellowship
Can become a
greater reality.

NA 20th Anniversary
Dinner Speech
Iisten to Jimmy's speech.

NA members can make one-time or recurring contributions directly to NA World Services at

10 The NA Way Magazine **E-Subscribe now at** ------**>** www.naway.org 11



Living Clean: The Journey Continues

The final review and input period for Living Clean: The Journey Continues ended on 31 December 2010. The input process has concluded.

Thank you

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of our fellowship who shared their experience, strength, and hope with us regarding Living Clean. Members sent their experiences to us via email, on discussion boards, in workshops at local events or conventions, by postal mail, and in audio recordings. We have received input from members of our fellowship from all over the world. Your sharing affected the direction and structure of this book. We deeply appreciate the time, energy, and effort of members who reviewed the draft material. Again, we thank you for your participation in the process that is bringing this book to life.

Next steps...

The input we received from the fellowship is being factored into the material. The revised draft will then be copyedited to ensure the material is coherent and clear. After that, the World Board will sign off on the final wording of the text. The "approval form" of the book will be published in April 2011. The project plan for this book calls for the approval form to be available for a one-year period. This approval period is not a time for additional input, but offers the fellowship the opportunity to read and consider the proposed text as it stands. Members can check the Living Clean webpage (www.na.org/?ID=Living_Clean_Project) for further updates, like details on when the approval form will be available.

The book will be included as an addendum to the Conference Agenda Report and will be a part of old business at the 2012 World Service Conference. Approval requires a two-thirds majority vote in favor by regional delegates. If approved, the book will be designated as "Fellowship approved" and published after the conference.

> For additional and updated information, please visit: www.na.org/?ID=Living Clean Project

Picture this

NA communities are invited to send photographs of their meeting places. 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, your format, and what makes it *your* home group.

Principled growth

The Creciendo (Growing) group was founded in 1995 and meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 pm until 10:30 pm, and on Fridays from 6:00 until 8:00 pm. For cleantime birthdays a member creates a parchment that we all sign, and we give it to the member with a medallion. After the meeting if the member wishes to do so, we go together for dinner at a typical Argentinean restaurant.

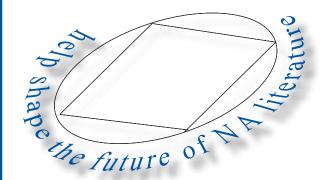
The meetings are now held at a government building that is the site of a drug program for addicts. We observe our Seventh Tradition by paying \$40 per month for rent. We have gone through many times of crisis. For example, there was a three-year period when the meetings did not function well, but placing principles before personalities always works well for us. This, along with unity, is the key to growth in emerging NA communities. After meeting all these years, today we can say that the group is solid and we are regularly receiving addicts who are seeking recovery, thanks to the unconditional service of members who are giving back what they found in NA.

Marcelo S, Provincia de Mendoza, Argentina



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NA Literature Survey



Let your voice be heard!

Deadline extended until 30 April

We've extended the deadline for members to participate in the 2010 Literature Survey. The survey has been online since early October 2010, but we are hoping to get many more responses before the end of the month. Many of you have already taken the time to complete the survey online or by mail or fax, and we want to thank every one of you. Your valuable input will be collated, reviewed, and used to help plan future NA literature. Thank you again for participating. If you have not yet filled out a survey, just go to www.na.org/litsurvey until 30 April 2011.

www.na.org/litsurvey

Public Relations

Productive and cooperative relationships



While many members may have heard of the Public Relations Handbook, how many members are aware of its full contents? This handbook contains information about many areas of service such as criminal justice, fellowship development, phonelines, and treatment. Broadly speaking, public relations efforts aim toward building and maintaining relationships in all services that NA provides.

Meeting attendance cards mandated by drug courts affect many members. Meetings may seem overwhelmed with new members who have a slip that needs to be signed. Other members may be disgruntled with these addicts who are sent to our meetings expecting a slip to be signed, claiming these folks are disruptive and disrespectful. The question then seems to be: How can we cooperate with drug courts while maintaining an atmosphere of recovery in meetings?

Chapter Six in the *Public Relations Handbook* specifically speaks to the topic of drug courts (pages 57–60). This section of the handbook addresses NA's relationship with drug courts, discussions an

area service committee may have about drug courts, communication from an ASC to drug courts, and the prevalence of meeting attendance cards. The handbook focuses on experience-based solutions—providing drug court personnel with presentations and information explaining what NA is (and isn't). It also suggests involving trusted servants of an area in solution-based discussions. Some areas have used a Chapter Six resource, "Newcomer Workshop," to help meetings with an influx of referred members. This workshop invites all new members, including drug court—mandated persons, to a workshop meeting that is facilitated by NA members at a set time and place. The basics of an NA meeting are explained along with brief descriptions of NA terminology, meeting protocol, and sponsorship. Areas that have used this resource and have been consistent with their presentations with drug court personnel have found a marked improvement in the atmosphere of recovery in their meetings.

Concerns about how to handle meeting attendance slips are a constant refrain related to court-mandated addicts. One way to view these slips is as a service to addicts, with a focus on our Third Tradition. We welcome all addicts, regardless of how they arrive at our meetings. Some addicts with attendance cards, whether from a drug court, treatment center, or parole program, may not be sincere in their desire for recovery. Ours is not to judge their level of commitment to recovery; ours is to let all who attend meetings know that NA's message of recovery is available. Information about meeting attendance cards and approaches can be found on pages 59–60 of the Public Relations Handbook. Bulletin #31 is another resource for meeting attendance cards and can be found at www.na.org.

The underlying thread with drug court—referred addicts is cooperation. This simply means working together in actions that benefit all those involved. We willingly help those who request our assistance. "We are more likely to form productive and cooperative relationships when we simply and honestly review what services we can and cannot offer to others." (PRHB, Chapter Two) Open two-way communication seems to be key to productive relationships with the public. We perform public relations service to increase the awareness and credibility of the NA program. Communicating with drug court personnel helps build solutions both for those referred to NA and for NA as a whole.

WORLD CONVENTION UPDATE

In just a few short months we will be gathered along the Pacific Ocean in San Diego, California, celebrating our recovery In the Spirit of Unity Here are some reminders and announcements, and watch for eblasts and updates at www.na.org/wcna where we will post information as it is available.

Pre-registration and Registration

We encourage members to register early. You can still enjoy a \$10 discount by registering before 28 July. To most effectively manage fellowship funds, we have established a fixed capacity of 16,000 registrants. Some onsite registrations will be available at \$99, but the number of onsite registrations may be limited by the fixed capacity. We do not want members to miss the opportunity to celebrate recovery with addicts from throughout our worldwide fellowship, so we encourage those planning to attend to register sooner rather than later. (Please note that if you register more than one person in your party, all packets must be picked up at the same time. We are not able to "split" registration packets onsite.)

Please help us spread the word about the convention by downloading and distributing the informational postcards and posters at www.na.org/wcna.

Registration Badges

For security purposes, wearing and displaying registration badges will be required for access to the San Diego Convention Center during our convention (This is true for all events and meetings held in the SDCC.) We know this may be surprising to some, but requiring registration to attend seems to be the reasonable and responsible thing to do. Registration badges afford members the ability to attend the dances, the coffee houses, the convention festival, and meetings all of which will be held in the convention center. As always, we will have a limited number of registrations for those in their first 30 days.

Being of Service

Want to help make our recovery celebration a success? We will be seeking volunteers to help with entertainment and events, merchandise, program, registration, and many other tasks. For more information, please visit www.na.org/wcna and click on the tab to sign up to volunteer at the convention.

Entertainment

Everyone wants to know, "Who is playing at the concert?!" We have not finalized all contracts yet, but we are excited to announce the following:

- ★ Blues Luncheon Kenny Wayne Shepherd
- ★ Friday Night Festival Trombone Shorty and Ozomatli
- ★ Coffee Houses We'll have some great NA-member bands opening for coffee house headliners.

Two event schedules have changed. The Jazz Breakfast has been moved from 9:30 am to 10:30 am, so we've appropriately renamed it the Jazz Brunch. The comedy show will be held on Thursday night instead of Friday to avoid a scheduling conflict with the Friday Night Festival. Please take note of these changes so you can adjust your schedules accordingly. If you didn't previously purchase tickets for these events, you can still access your registration online to do so.

Many of our US WCNAs have included a banquet before the main meeting Saturday night; however, we will not be holding a banquet at the world convention in San Diego. We hope this will allow our members to further explore San Diego and to participate in other events that night.

Post-convention events are still available; however, the Wednesday Night Dinner Boat Cruise is sold out.

Hotels, Travel, and Local Information

The hotel room block is filling quickly, so we strongly encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible. The following hotels are sold out: Embassy Suites, Hard Rock, Hilton Gaslamp, Holiday Inn, Marriott Marquis, and Omni.

For hotel details, including distance to the convention center, please visit our website, www.na.org/wcna and click the hotel tab. There are also tabs for travel and information about San Diego. Please visit the site often as we are always updating information about WCNA 34.

Members requiring wheelchair or scooter rental will want to contact San Diego area medical equipment suppliers and/or the San Diego Convention Bureau, as we will not be offering these services at this convention.

san Diego!



Individual members, groups, area/regional functions, and institutions can join in the celebration of NA World Unity Day. This is a two-hour telephone hookup to the Sunday morning Closing Meeting of WCNA 34. We will come together on a worldwide conference call between 10:00 am and noon Pacific Time. To plan the time of your own event, go to www.timezoneconverter.com to determine the exact time for your area. Simply complete the registration form below and fax or mail it to NA World Services with your payment. The cost is \$50.00 for calls within the United States/Canada. One free hookup will be provided for each region outside the US and Canada. To plan and register your event, download a registration form, or to get more details, go to:

www.na.org/wcna34/unityday

Please provide the following contact infor	mation						
Contact Name	_ Group (Region/Area/Institution)						
Phone Number	_ Email Address						
Street Address							
City/State							
What type of event are you planning?							
Expected attendance?							
Outside US/Canada? Phone number you w	ill use on o	day of cal	II				
Form of Payment (Check One) ☐ AMEX	□ VISA	□ М/С	□ Discover	☐ Diners Club			
☐ Credit Card Number			Expir	ation Date			
Signature	Print Name						
☐ Check/Money Order							
☐ Free Regional Link <u>outside the US and</u> Include name and phone number of regional				of region.			
Regional Chairperson		Phone Number					

Please mail completed application with your check/money order to **NAWS**, **attn: Unity Day**, **PO Box 9999**, **Van Nuys**, **CA 91409** or fax it to **818.700.0700** with credit card info. After 1 August 2011, you will receive a confirmation via email or mail, which will include call-in number and password for call. Confirmation will outline agenda for call, explain how to phone in on day of call, and what to do if you experience problems during the call. **Questions? Call Johnny at 818.773.9999**, **extension 149 or email johnny@na.org**.

Registrations must be received by 1 August 2011



Multi-day events and those occurring between publication dates are printed according to the schedule posted online. To enter events or to access event details, visit the online calendar at: www.na.org/events. (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.)

Brazil

Paraná 6-8 May; CSA Norte Paranaense 2 Encompasso Muitos Milagres; Monte Carmelo, Londrina; event info: 43.9970.2938

Canada

Ontario 20-22 May; Ontario Regional Convention 24; Radisson Inn, Sudbury; www.orscna.org/english/index.php

Colombia

Quindio 4-6 Jun; 20 Convención Regional de Colombia; Auditorio Colegio Las Capuchinas, Armenia; www.nacolombia.org/convención.html

Denmark

Skanderborg 29-31 Jul; Midtjylland Area Convention and Camp; Audonicon, Skanderborg; www.nakonvent.dk

Germany

Berlin 13-15 May; Berlin International Convention 3; Berliner Stadtmission, Berlin; www.BINAC.de

Guatemala

Ciudad 5-8 May; Latin American Convention 10 and Latin American Zonal Forum; Conquistador Hotel and Conference Center, Ciudad; event info: 502.5706.4325

Japan

Okinawa Ginowan 1-3 Jul; Japan Regional Convention 7; Okinawa Convention Center, Okinawa; www.jrcna7.org

Puerto Rico

Carolina 29-31 Jul; Región del Coquí Convención Unidos Podemos 22; Hotel Verdanza, Isla Verde; www.prna.org

Spain

Murcia 27-29 May; Spanish National Convention; Hotel Costa Narejos, Los Alcazares; www.narcoticosanonimos.es/eventos.htm

United States

Arizona 27-29 May; Arizona Regional Convention 25; Hilton El Conquistador Resort, Tucson; www.arizona-na.org/arcna or www.natucson.org

California 27-29 May; San Diego Imperial Counties Regional Convention 26; Town & Country Hotel, San Diego; www.sandiegona.org 2) 3-5 Jun; Lake County Area Ride 4 Recovery 8; Big Pines Campground, Loch Lomond; www.naride4recovery.com

Connecticut 6-8 May; Straight from the Hip Group Sponsorship Retreat 7; Incarnation Retreat Center, Ivoryton; event info: 203.592.1072

2) 24-26 Jun; East Coast Convention 15; Connecticut College, New London; speaker tape deadline: 27 Apr; www.eccna.org

Florida 29 Apr-1 May; Daytona Area Convention 12; Hotel Plaza and Resort, Daytona; www.daytonana.org

2) 27-30 May; Goldcoast Area Convention 21; Hyatt Regency Bonaventure Hotel and Resort, Weston; www.goldcoastna.org

3) 30 Jun-3 Jul; Florida Regional Convention 30; West Palm Beach Convention Center, West Palm Beach; www.naflorida.org/frcna

Georgia 19-22 May; A Little Girl Grows Up Convention 3; Renaissance Concourse Atlanta, Atlanta; www.alggu.org

2) 30 Jun-3 Jul; Midtown Atlanta Area Convention 20; Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta; www.midtownatlantana.com

Illinois 29 Apr-1 May; Rock River Area Convention 20; Clock Tower Resort and Conference Center, Rockford; www.rragsna.org

2) 10-12 Jun; Little Egypt Area Flight to Freedom 27; McNair Group Area, Carlyle Lake; event info: 618.410.8670

3) 24-26 Jun; Chicagoland First Little Girls Grow Up; McCormick Hyatt Hotel, Chicago; www.chicagona.org

Indiana 10-12 Jun; Northeast Indiana Area Convention 2; Grand Wayne Center & Hilton Hotel, Fort Wayne; www.neiacna.com

Iowa 1-3 Jul; Iowa Regional Convention 28; Clarion Hotel, Davenport; www.iowa-na.org

Kentucky 22-24 Apr; Kentuckiana Regional Convention; Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green; event info: 270.522.5011

Louisiana 27-29 May; Louisiana Regional Convention 29; Best Western Inn & Suites, Alexandria; www.larna.org

Massachusetts 24-26 Jun; Southeastern Massachusetts Area Convention 3; Holiday Inn, Mansfield; event info: 401.559.7079

Michigan 30 Jun-3 Jul; Michigan Regional Convention 27; Best Western/Valley Plaza, Midland; www.michigan-na.org/mrcna

Mississippi 29 Apr-1 May; Foglifter's Group Campout; event info: 601.624.3694

Nevada 3-5 Jun; First Region 51 Convention; Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas; event info: 702.340.1967

2) 15-17 Jul; California-Arizona-Nevada Convention 19; Riverside Hotel & Casino, Laughlin; event info: 928.201.0313

New York 27-29 May; Heart of New York Area Convention 7; Holiday Inn, Liverpool; www.honyana.org

North Carolina 13-15 May; Down East, Inner Coastal, Crossroads Areas Convention; City Hotel and Bistro, Greenville; event info: 252.671.3329

2) 17-19 Jun; Capital Area NC Convention 22; Doubletree Hotel, Rocky Mount; www.capitalareancna.com

Ohio 27-29 May; Ohio State Convention 29; Metroplex Hotel and Conference Center, Girard; www.naohio.org

Oklahoma 1-4 Jul; Blind Faith Campout 3; Hawthorne Bluff Lake Oologah; event info: 918.200.7409

Oregon 6-8 May; Pacific Cascade Regional Convention 17; Red Lion Hotel, Medford; www.pcrna.org

2) 17-19 Jun; From Down Under to Up Above Group Timothy Lake Campout 8; Pine Point Campground, Timothy Lake; www.pcrna.org/gwv/tlc/tlccampout.htm

Pennsylvania 22-24 Apr; Greater Philadelphia Regional Convention 26; Radisson Hotel/Valley Forge Convention Center, Valley Forge; www. naworks.org

2) 29-31 Jul; First Diamonds in the Rough Women's Convention; Radisson Greentree, Pittsburgh; event info: 412.867.0394

South Carolina 13-15 May; North Central Carolina Area Campout Woodstick 24; Kings Mountain State Park, Blacksburg; event info: 864.529.2332

South Dakota 16-18 Sep; South Dakota Regional Convention 14; Ramkota Hotel Best Western, Rapid City; sdrna.com

Tennessee 22-24 Apr; Knoxville Area First Annual Convention; Crowne Plaza, Knoxville; event info: 865.405.5133

Texas 28-30 May; Duncanville Group National Old School Speaker Jam 8; Radisson Hotel & Suites - Dallas Love Field, Dallas; event info: 214.243.3088

Utah 3-5 Jun; High Uintah Area Celebration of Recovery 25; Western Park, Vernal; event info: 435.790.0982

2) 24-26 Jun; Southern Utah Area Convention 4; Best Western Abbey Inn, Saint George; event info: 435.668.5216

3) 15-17 Jul; Utah Region Campvention 28; Whiting Campground, Mapleton; www.cuana.org/FLYER/campvention.pdf

Vermont 18-21 Aug; Green Mountain Area Back to Basics Campout 27; Wallingford Boys Camp, Wallingford; www.gmana.org

Washington 27-29 May; Washington/Northern Idaho Regional Convention 26; Hilton Hotel, Vancouver; www.wnirna-reg.org

Wisconsin 20-22 May; Inner City Area Convention; Best Western Hotel, Milwaukee; event info: 414.698.0978

2) 3-5 Jun; Big Rivers Area I Can't, We Campout 7; Wildcat Mountain State Park, Ontario; www.bigriversna.org

Wyoming 13-15 May; Upper Rocky Mountain Regional Convention 12; Ramada-Plaza Riverside, Casper; www.urmrna.org/convention.html

NA Way Magazine Subscriptions update

The October 2010 NA Way Magazine was the final automatic mailing from the then-existing database. Many of you have re-subscribed or e-subscribed, and we thank you for responding so quickly.

Individuals, groups, or service committees can e-subscribe or re-subscribe. We are trying to save NA funds wherever possible and electronic subscriptions are a great way to do that, but we realize many people don't have access to a computer. Those who have been receiving paper copies can still choose the paper version if they feel they need it. We are continuing to translate the magazine into Farsi, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

To e-subscribe or re-subscribe, please visit us at <u>www.na.org/subscribe</u>. Individuals, groups, service committees, or organizations that need multiple paper copies, may follow the "multi-copy subscriptions" link or email <u>fsmail@na.org</u>.

The electronic subscription reduces distribution costs, saving fellowship funds for other uses. The e-version also offers access to additional content and features not available in the paper version. Please share this information with others in your groups and service bodies. Thanks for your help and for being a part of *The NA Way Magazine*.



Members interested in being considered for nomination at the 2012 WSC will want to update their World Pool Information Form by 31 August 2011.

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

NA Way readers were recently introduced to Zé Caldinho, a mixed-up recovering addict who's trying to look cool, honest, and funny. However, his sarcastic "shadow" is always there adding his backhanded comments. This month, Maria Papoila, (also known as "Mary Poppy"), a friend of Zé's, joins us from the pages of Serenidade, the newsletter of the NA community in Portugal. Like Zé, Maria's reality is sometimes "over shadowed."

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NAWS PRODUCT UPDATE



It Works: How and Why Gift Edition

Featuring an iridescent green and gold cover with a debossed NA logo, and complementary giftbox sheath.

Item No. 1142 Price US \$15.75

Bronze Medallions

Now available in 51 through 55 years. Item No. 4351-55 Price US \$2.75

Spanish

Commemorative Basic Text Sixth Edition

Narcóticos Anónimos

Item No. CS-1103 Price US \$25.00

In Times of Illness, Revised

Cuando estamos enfermos

Item No. CS-1603 Price US \$2.75

Finansiering af NA-service



Danish



IP #28: Finansiering af NA-service

Item No. DK-3128 Price US \$0.32

French

NA: A Resource in Your Community, 2010 Version

NA : *Une ressource près de chez-vous*

Item No. FR-1604 Price US \$0.32

Greek

Introductory Guide to NA

Μια εισαγωγή στους Ναρκομανείς Ανώνυμους

Item No. GR-1200 Price US \$1.70





Color Vinyl Posters and Banners

The Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Item No. 9080 series (35" x 50") and 9081 series (28" x 40")

> A Vision for NA Service Item No. 9085 (36" x 36") and 9086 (28" x 28")

World Regional Meeting Map Item No. 9090 (5' x 7') and 9091 (45" x 63")

Literature Timeline Item No. 9095 (2.75' x 9.5') and 9096 (2' x 7.25')

Hawaiian

Welcome Keytag

Item No. HAW-4100 Price US \$0.45



Hindi

It Works: How & Why यह काम करता है कैसे और क्यों Item No. HI-1140 Price US \$7.70

Italian

NA: A Resource in Your Community, 2010 Version

NA: Una risorsa nella società

Item No. IT-1604 Price US \$0.32

IP #13: Da giovani dipendenti, per giovani dipendenti

Item No. IT-3113 Price US \$0.26

IP #27: Per i gentiori o i tutori dei giovani in NA

Item No. IT-3127 Price US \$0.26

Information about NA

Informazioni su NA

Item No. ZPRIT1002 Price US \$0.25

















Nederlands

IP #15: Voorlichting en het NA-lid

Item No. NL-3115 Price US \$0.21

An Introduction to NA Meetings

Een kennismaking met bijeenkomsten van NA-Anonieme Verslaafden

Item No. NL-2201 Price US \$0.21



Bare for i dag

Item No. NR-1112 Price US \$7.70

Polish

IP #12: Trójkat własnych obsesji

Item No. PL-3112 Price US \$0.21

IP #19: Samoakceptacja

Item No. PL-3119 Price US \$0.21

Urdu

کون، کیا، کیسے اور کیول: 11 IP

Item No. UR-3101 Price US \$0.21



Coming soon

For release dates please check our online Product Catalog:

www.na.org/?ID=catalog-products

Heat-Sensitive Mug



More will be revealed. Our message, "...that an addict, any addict can... lose the desire to use..." is artfully printed on this handsome black mug. Add a hot beverage and the unique artwork from the title page of the Limited Edition Commemorative Basic Text is slowly revealed in full color.

Item No. 9416 Price US \$15.00



"Living Clean: The Journey Continues" **Approval Draft**

will be available late April 2011 priced at \$8.50 including shipping & handling and any applicable taxes. Item No. 9146 Price US \$8.50

Literature Price Increase

Effective 1 July 2011, a 5% across-the-board price increase will be implemented on all of our inventory items, except the Basic Text.













