



WSC 2012 - 2012 PRICE ROLLBACK - SURRENDER TO WIN - PR LIPDATE

Inspired by Our Primary Purpose



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."

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From the editor

In the <u>January 2008 NA Way Magazine</u>, our Home Group comic strip featured some of our recovery milestones. The images we used were NA keytags, but none of them had a specific cleantime printed on the tag. Instead, each keytag identified some of the challenges and triumphs we experience as we grow in our recovery. "Aced my first job interview." "Survived my first relationship." We each encounter life on its own terms and in our own time, so these and other milestones mark different points along our recovery paths. I remember turning 40 (!) when I had 16 years clean and thinking, "I'm finally starting to feel like a grown-up." It's kind of embarrassing to admit that because, like many others, I still sometimes think I should have it all together all the time. Since then, there have been times when I behaved more like a child than my own child (when he was six!), others when I felt like I never wanted to deal with another single adult issue ever again, and still other times when I was amazed at how maturely I handled something. It's all a part of the process, and more is always revealed, right?

So, this issue recognizes the passage of time and the milestones that mark our progress. Invest in Our Vision highlights members' past shares on self-support. Celebrate *The NA Way Magazine's* second decade of existence in the second of our 30th Anniversary specials: an electronic feature inspired by a popular 1990s video game with stories about growing up in recovery. And don't miss the World Service Conference updates and a special piece that presents the Serenity Prayer in many of our languages.

De J. Editor

Electronic subscribers can click here for exclusive historical NA Way Magazine content.

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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.



Learning and practicing commitment

When I first got clean, I spent 14 months in a halfway house. I got a sponsor and a home group, and I started doing service. Every day I walked up the hill to where the NA meetings were held. It was a long walk. In fact, we nicknamed the Saturday night meeting the "One More Block Meeting" because often, as we were walking there with a newcomer, he would ask, "So where is this meeting?" and we would reply, "One more block," and then we'd laugh.

I was often perplexed, in those early days of my recovery, when someone would get up and claim 30-, 60-, and 90-day keytags all in the same meeting. I would ask myself, "How did they stay clean all that time without coming to meetings?"

My sponsor tried to teach me about keeping a commitment. He said it was like making a promise. I was elected as a trusted servant for a six-month term. That meant I had to show up every Monday and help set up and break down the meeting for the next six months. There were days when I didn't feel like going, but my sponsor reminded me of my promise and told me about the benefits to my self-esteem if I completed this commitment. My self-esteem was an area that certainly needed improving, so I went.

Completing my commitments made me feel like I was a part of NA. I wasn't just visiting NA to extract recovery; I was really a member. My whole life I never felt like I was a part of anything. I always felt like I didn't belong—in my family, my group of friends, clubs I belonged to, my school, etc. And then it came to me, like an "ah-ha"

moment. I never contributed anything to any of those people or groups. I never gave of myself to my family; I never followed through with any commitment to anybody in my whole life—that is, until I came to NA. Completing my commitments allowed me to feel like I was a part of. My sponsor was

right. My self-esteem improved. I felt like a stand-up guy. I could

proudly say that if I make a commitment, I keep it.

One of the fellows at the halfway house had a car. He went to a meeting every night, but his car could only hold three people. After a while I was able to get a seat in his car and go with him to meetings in neighboring towns, so I didn't have to walk up that long hill every night. He and I became friends. Talking about recovery and NA service on the way to and from the meetings created a bond between us. After about a year, I got my own car, and I accepted my first H&I commitment at a detox facility in our area. Every Tuesday I picked up my speaker and

And then, about another year later, my halfway house friend committed a crime, and was arrested and sentenced to up to 15 years in prison. I went to visit him in jail, and we talked about NA. He always asked me, "How long will you come to visit me before you forget about me?" I told him I would come as long as I could. About two years later, right after my fifth NA anniversary, I made a commitment to continue to

visit him until his release. Three or four times per year, I would get up early on Sunday morning, go to the supermarket and buy a bag of groceries, and take off to go visit him at whatever prison he was in. Being on his visitors list excluded me from being able to do H&I work in the state prison system, so during that time I did my H&I work at county jails, rehabs, and detoxes. I would not break my commitment to my friend who helped me get clean—no matter what!

My friend was in prison for ten years, and he stayed clean the whole time he was inside. I picked him up the day he was released. I let him sleep on my couch until he was able to rent a room. A few months later, when he was celebrating 14 years clean, I presented him with eleven medallions: one for each year of cleantime he acquired while he was imprisoned—four through 13 years—and his 14-year medallion. There wasn't a dry eye in the room.

Sometimes I think that my higher power made him go to prison, just to give me the opportunity to learn about commitment, but my higher power is not that cruel. Maybe he just knew what was going to happen to my friend, so he put me in the back seat of his car for a reason. I am grateful that NA has shared with me the spiritual principle of commitment. My life has gotten better because of it.

Elliot L, New York, USA

Postscript, December 2011: I wrote this story in about 2006 or 2007 about a friend of mine who went to prison and taught me about the spiritual principle of commitment. He served as a GSR and an H&I panel leader, and had served as area secretary in the past. Yesterday afternoon he had a heart attack, and passed away, with more than17 years clean. The whole area is in mourning.

Are you

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The 31st World Service Conference Inspired by Our Primary Purpose

29 April – 5 May 2012 Woodland Hills, California, USA

Visit the WSC web page

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Conference Agenda Report

- "Living Clean: The Journey Continues"
- The Service System Project
- Regional Proposals
- FIPT and WCNA Motions

and

Conference Approval Track material Including budget, project plans, strategic plan, and seating report

SHARING Memoir of a campout in Norway

Since 1997 I've been going to an island in the south of Norway for our annual NA campout. I set out again this year with my car packed full of whatever is necessary for a one-week campout in weather that can be very unpredictable. Boots and rain gear are packed side by side with bikini and suntan lotion. One just never knows. The journey took about five hours, and just at the minute I arrived, rain started to pour down. I got help to carry my gear up into the forest where I would camp in peace and quiet away from the crowd, and most of my clothes got wet in the process.

Some addicts had already been there for a few days, which meant it was a nine- to ten-day campout for some. Tents of all sizes and colors were placed around the area, and I was greeted by smiles and hugs and "welcome backs." My daughter was already there. She grew up as an NA kid and spends her holidays with NA members though, fortunately, she is not an addict herself.

> There was an opening speaker meeting that evening which I gladly attended. Good to be back. The next morning after being woken by the sheep, I attended my morning meeting. The ten o'clock meeting on Bragdoya is my home group there. We decided to read Just for Today, which has been translated into Norwegian, every morning. There were meetings all through the day, with all kinds of topics being shared, including the Twelve Steps.

More addicts arrived throughout the day with their children, spouses, dogs, and other pets, and the place became fuller and fuller. We all paid a registration fee, and filled slots on sign-up lists for doing service. In the evening people barbequed all over the camp, and groups of people sat together talking, laughing, and sharing. My boyfriend arrived, so I had company up in the "senior camp." I went through my usual feeling-a-bit-lonely-and-different-in-the-crowd blues, but that went away as soon as I shared about it and others identified as having the same feelings. It is not easy for some of us addicts to suddenly be together with 300 others.

So we spent the days sharing, socializing, grilling, bathing, shopping (on the other side of the island), dancing at night, and having fish soup together one evening. There was so much kindness and love present. The kids and younger members just loved being there, roaming around together.

My boyfriend signed us up for registration service, and it is there that we heard the alarming news that a government building had been bombed in Oslo. We were in shock. What? Here in Norway? And then it went from bad to worse. Some guy went crazy shooting lots of young people on another island farther north. The news continued to tick in. We heard that 92 people were killed in those two incidents (this number was later corrected to 77). A political extremist had detonated a car bomb outside the government building, and then drove to the island youth camp sponsored by another political party, where he gunned down 85 young people. The whole nation was in shock. It was the worst series of killings in Norway since World War II. As I wrote this just after the incidents, the whole nation was in mourning. The next day my sponsor called me from California, and I assured her that no NA members were killed, but I told her that the bomb killed seven people at my former workplace. Oslo was covered with roses.

Thank god for sponsors, meetings, and the fellowship of NA, so I have a place to cry and share my feelings in such difficult times. I also realized that I love my country, and I was able to participate in the collective grief of my motherland—a country that I couldn't fit into and that I left when I was in the grip of my active addiction. Luckily, the fellowship of NA has flourished and grown here, so I can have a place to go to and share my feelings, experience, strength, and hope.

Monica A, Ostfold, Norway



I came to believe

When I first came to NA, I attended meetings thinking that nothing had worked for me before, so I didn't have anything to lose if I tried this program. When I had three months clean, I asked my sponsor to help me with the steps. I had read all the self-help books I could put my hands on and I thought this would probably be the same. I couldn't see how sharing with another person would benefit me. In spite of my doubts, I continued moving forward, following the suggestions I was getting because they gave me the best possible option I had. I worked through the steps and experienced hope, restoration to sanity, and the ability to learn to behave like a human being.

The most difficult time in my recovery was when I became treasurer of a convention and some members did not believe in me. Shortly after I took the commitment, I changed jobs, and I had two months of chaos because I had to resolve a shipment of merchandise from a new company to another country. This new job absorbed a lot of time that I had previously devoted to NA service. Because I knew this chaos was temporary, I neglected some service committee meetings. As a result of the lack of trust (which I considered normal amongst my fellow members in regard to money matters, especially after working my Ninth and Tenth Steps), an emergency meeting was called to ask me for a financial report.

On the day of the meeting, I presented the report. Some members were not pleased and they asked me to resign. I explained the work-related reasons that prompted my negligence, and acknowledged that I was at fault. However, I explained that as soon as I had time, I resolved all the service-related matters. I had backups and receipts for all the information. They reviewed everything, and all the information was correct. The committee decided through consensus that I could remain as the treasurer.

My feelings were mixed up and I felt very uncomfortable. I remembered my Fourth and Fifth Steps and, of course, I asked for help on a daily basis. Having worked those steps reminded me that it is important for me to know who I am and to be able to show

my real self to others, not just to present myself in a way that makes me look good to others. I reviewed my Second Step and realized that a higher power was working so that I could do things with sanity and not allow my initial impulses to take over. I also accepted that the members I served had the right to question me. Before this, I would have complained about that right. Perseverance in service, and trusting God as I understand Him, could do for me what I could not do for myself. As a result, I didn't want to just look good; I wanted to do a good job.

I was the treasurer until one week after the convention ended. I presented a detailed report, which I had to review again with some members who questioned it, and we did that until everyone was satisfied with the results. I experienced the greatest satisfaction I had known after the storm passed. When I let go of the reins and trusted what the steps and the kindness of a higher power had done for me, I was able to present financial reports backed up by invoices and receipts down to the last cent.

A member who was involved in service for the first time told me he didn't know how I was able to withstand this whole thing. I responded that I believed my HP put this situation in my life for me to learn that if I didn't trust in the recovery process of our program, nothing in my life would have value. Little by little I learned that a higher power superior to my defects, my disease, and me would give me sanity so I would not cause harm



to the fellowship, and this understanding manifests itself in my life on a daily basis. Today I am more than grateful, and I trust what God can do for me through working the steps and coming to believe.

Jose Luis A, Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic

Surrender to win

I was born into a family of many step- and half-siblings and parents who met in a mental hospital. One of my halfbrothers, who was ten years older than my sister and me, was an active addict. He abused us and eventually his abuse became ritualistic in nature, allowing his friends to abuse us, and making us drink "teas" that tasted terrible and made my head spin. I don't know what was in that "tea," but I liked it because it made all the pain and fear go away. When I was nine my brother went to jail and the abuse stopped, but I wanted that "tea." I wanted the pain and fear to go away. I didn't want to feel the shame or the guilt.

For years I was lost in my addiction, in and out of abusive relationships and hospitals. Shortly after my nineteenth birthday I overdosed. I ended up in a sectarian hospital where the caregivers said I was possessed and sinful, and they told me that if I used again I would die. Although they said these terrible things, they took me to an NA meeting full of clean people who hugged each other, told me they loved me, and chanted a lot. I was afraid these "religious freaks" who spoke of higher powers and spiritual principles were in some way my brother's demons coming back to get me. But I started to hear my story in the rooms. These people understood me. For the first time in my life, I met other people who were abused as children and hadn't been able to face their fears. I didn't understand the spiritual principles or the steps, but I understood that I didn't want to die. The only concepts I understood were the ones I heard in the "Just for Today" group reading.

I left NA and started to attend another twelve-step program, rationalizing that my using was caused by the alcoholic abusers in my family. My denial of my disease was so strong that I figured this other program would cure me of my addiction, guilt, and shame. Without an NA program, I didn't have the tools to fight my disease. I stayed clean a few years, but started a very unhealthy relationship with a much younger man who was still in active addiction. After five years of abstinence, I picked up, and in one short year I was right back where I started.

I finally admitted I was an addict and my life was unmanageable; that I couldn't outrun myself, and that only surrendering would keep me clean. I ended that relationship, got clean, moved again, and went to college. I was finally ready to do all the things they told me to do, get real, and find out the exact nature of my disease. I had to work on myself. I stayed clean for eight years, and then relapsed because I held on to a reservation that because alcohol wasn't my drug of choice, it was okay for me to have a few drinks every now and then. After six months of guilt, I got honest with my home group, my sponsor, and myself. I gave back my eight-year medallion and picked up a six-month keytag.

The last two years have been amazing for me. I am working the steps again. For the first time in my life, I told someone else about my abuse. I came to terms with it and forgave my abusers. I learned to use recovery tools to deal with "life on life's terms." Each time I faced one of life's challenges and stayed clean, I learned to trust my higher power. I learned about reservations and rationalizations; honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness; and humility. I identified my exact nature and the spiritual principles that could restore me to sanity and help me shed character defects. I learned the difference between cleantime and recovery. I am rebuilding broken relationships and making amends. Today I am a grateful recovering addict. As long as I keep coming back to meetings, work my steps, do service work, work my personal program—and surrender—I will continue to win.



Lorie C, Ontario, Canada

Free from active addiction?

I am Gerson and I am an addict. I have been clean 15 years, and this year I hope to celebrate 16 years in recovery. I have realized that our members often say they are "free from active addiction," and we also read this in several parts of our NA literature. But what exactly does it mean to be free from active addiction for me?

For me, being in recovery is a lifelong process. Since I got clean, I have changed incredibly in all my affairs; however, sometimes my disastrous and insane behavior takes control of my life again. These episodes may not last a long time, but while they are occurring, I am exactly the same person I was when I was using. Being in recovery is a challenging responsibility for all of us.

I got clean in Ecuador, and then moved to Spain. The current world economic recession obliged me to relocate again, this time from Spain to the United Kingdom. It has taken me almost two years to rebuild my life. I learned English and got a very good job. Unfortunately, I forgot my particular condition as a recovering addict, and in just one moment I lost my job. Do you know why? One day, I did not like the way my boss assigned me my duties, so I told him that he should have told me in another way. Obviously, the way I talked to him wasn't so polite either.

This is the kind of behavior I sometimes experience that brings me to the same state I was in when I was using. Every day I have to hear the conflicting voices in my head, like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. I have to live with them, so am I really free of my active addiction? In my opinion, and from my experience during all this time, my Narcotics Anonymous program assures me that I can be free of using drugs and gives me certain resources that help me arrest and live with my addiction, which I believe is active all the time, just waiting for its opportunity to appear.

Gerson S, Dorset, England

Price rollback

Attention all recovering addicts! In 2012, Motorcycle Mike is rolling back the cost of worrying to his 1981 prices! This offer is good for newcomers only. Since those of you who are new to the program might not be familiar with this service, I shall explain.

In 1981 when I first got clean, I helped raise funds for the Twelfth World Convention of NA. First, we sold "Hugs not Drugs" T-shirts. Second, I started a "company" offering a unique service. For a minimal fee, the employees of my company worried on behalf of addicts who couldn't live Step Three and had no trust in their higher power. Most often, this service was dedicated to newcomers who struggled with these concepts and processes. The service was called A Day for the WCNA.

Through this amazing service, I would worry for you for the fee of a mere penny for every day you were clean. If you had a month in the program, you would pay 30 cents per day and I would worry for you. You were, however, limited to a maximum of five worries. This freed an addict of an enormous amount of energy and time worrying about things he could do nothing about and allowed him to concentrate on his program of recovery. After a year in the program, if you were still worrying about things you couldn't change, the price went up because I figured if you were that insecure, you could pay more and maybe learn to trust and let go.

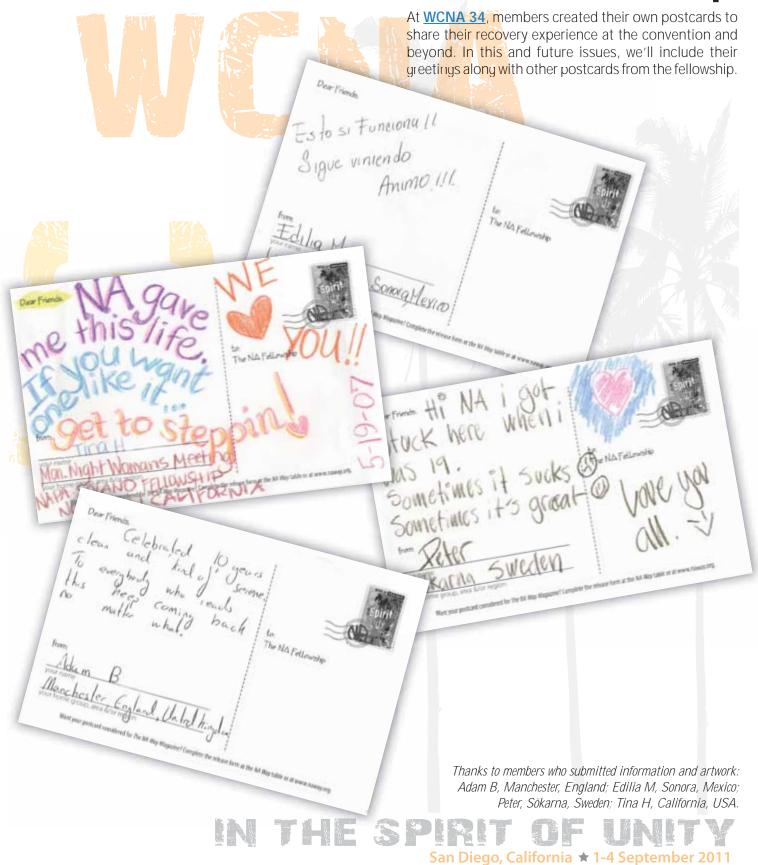
This business now employs 14 addicts, all working good programs. They work three shifts per day, 40 hours per week, with some overtime here and there. Each addict is busy eight hours every day, worrying about some newcomer's problems. A few of my employees and I are retiring from our "real jobs" this year, so we will have more time available to worry for newcomers. I myself hope to retire this year and put in at least another 20 to 30 hours per week of needless worrying about something no one can do anything about.

Now, back to this unprecedented offer. Just send your worries to me—and drop your appropriate cash payment for my services in the hat or basket passed at your meetings. Then kick back, talk to your sponsor, have a coffee, and relax, knowing that one of my employees or I will be pulling our hair out, wringing our hands, and crying over your problems.

Michael B, Wisconsin, USA

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Postcards from the fellowship



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Invest in Our Vision

Our members share

e began this article series on investing in our vision in the midst of a worldwide economic downturn that has affected many of us individually, and continues to impact our NA communities worldwide and NA World Services. At the same time, the demand for services continues to increase. Answering the call for NA recovery means that the "self" in self-support doesn't just refer to us as individuals or our particular homegroup; our "self" is really NA as a whole. Regardless of the economic climate at any given time or where we live in the world, combining our resources is the only way to ensure that "every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message...." The voices gathered here—from past and present **NA Way** articles—speak to this need for us to invest in our vision.

Inside contributions: An inside job

Today I see the strength our common welfare gains from the pulling together we must do in declining outside contributions. Like personal recovery, it's an inside job.... Today I see that the basket is the vehicle which drives our Seventh Tradition; it's the best way for us to provide the funds needed to support both our individual Twelve Step work and our group's primary purpose of carrying the message to the addict who still suffers....

ML, California, USA—October 1986

From our readers

I am not offended by articles about money. I'm a defender of talking about money issues because I see the needs we have at the regional and world levels, but I don't see the money to meet those needs....The way I view the "NA fundraising effort" is that it's about giving some of my money to NA because I have gratitude. I want all addicts to be able to experience this wonderful thing I've found in NA. I have money to give today; not just because I'm clean and have a job, but because I'm a lot less self-centered.

Andrea P, Wisconsin, USA—July 1998

Ten issues important in NA today

Narcotics Anonymous in the central United States seems to be at a standstill during the 1990s after its phenomenal growth during the 1980s.... Our meetings and service structure are kept alive by our donations. Members who do not have money to give should never be embarrassed or made to feel "less than" for not giving. If we are to encourage people to give, we need to do so through sponsorship. Do we explain to new members the spiritual principle of self-support and giving our fair share? Do we encourage addicts to chair meetings, set up chairs, and make coffee as a means of supporting the group? Members who are able should give more than they were giving when they were new.

What happened to the Seventh Tradition?

And...don't forget to bring some money with you to your home group. There's an opportunity awaiting you there to quietly express your gratitude and your pride in your fellowship, by helping to support it. It's called the Seventh Tradition.

Anonymous, New Jersey, USA—January 1989

The money tradition?

Think back to when you first heard of Narcotics Anonymous. Was it while in jail or an institution, or as an individual? We all got here from different sources, but someone helped us along the way by carrying that message to us.... So, before we are quick to say that the area or region or whoever does not deserve our money, or that the area or region is dictating to us, or whatever reason we may have for being afraid to put a dollar in the basket..., we should ask ourselves, "Do I really want to do this alone?" If it were not for the efforts of all of the above, in essence, that is where we would be.

Dana S, Tennessee, USA—April 2003

What I value

Many things have changed since got clean. Most of the things I consume have doubled or tripled in price. Now I am fortunate enough each year to be able to donate an amount almost as great as the dreaded back tax bill I owed when I first got clean. Yet, this year I realized I'm still putting \$1.00 in the basket, and I haven't established a system of regular, planned giving to the fellowship that saved my life.... So this year I've decided todo something about it, and here's my plan:

Recovery is free, but the rent isn't. Bob R, California, USA - January 1998

- I'll put at least \$2.00 in the basket, and when I can spare it, \$5.00. That's the equivalent of the inflation rate of a gallon of gas.
- On my recovery anniversary, I'll donate \$10.00 to NA World Services for every year I've been clean.
- I'll set up a monthly donation plan to NA World Services, just like I have with other organizations. (I went to the NA website and found it's pretty easy to do this by using the donations portal.)
- I'll remember to share my blessings—when I get a bonus or a raise, I'll make sure that my giving reflects my good fortune.

Khalil, Georgia, USA—April 2007

Spirituality of money

It is a wonder to see so many who once had nothing to give, support themselves, and give light and hope to the world. I am grateful to all those who did so before me, so that I can live the life I have today; to those very first members who, despite their own hardships, gave so that we could become the worldwide fellowship we are today. I hope what I give will do the same for those who are yet to find us.

Michael C, Marbella, Spain—April 2008

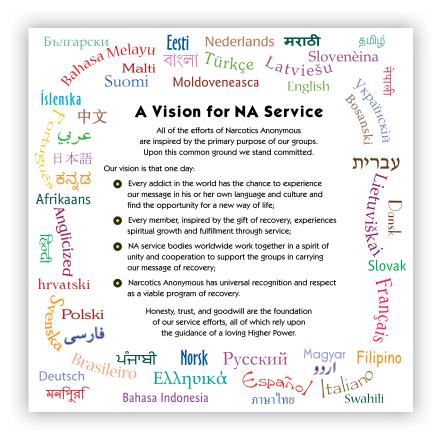
Omer G, Billy H, Ronda M; Oklahoma, USA—January 1999

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The importance of NA service for me

Our PI/PR subcommittee spoke to a government representative about putting up an outdoor sign for a group. We explained what NA was... that we are self-sufficient and could not accept outside contributions. [He] ... could not believe we didn't want anything like favors or prestige.... So, we suggested that if he knew anybody with a drug problem, he could tell them that there is a fellowship of people who found a new way of life free from drugs.

Marcel C, Brasilia-DF, Brazil—July 2011



I have read of NA members who hold their coins to the sky and pray that they will be used to stop the suffering of another in pain.

Michael C, Marbella, Spain – April 2008



NA members can make one-time or recurring contributions directly to NA World Services at www.na.org/?ID=donation-external-index.

Did you know, at WSC 2010:

2

nonseated/nonvoting delegates—from Denmark and Lithuania—were invited to attend?

6

newly seated regions attended WSC 2010? They were Egypt, El Salvador, Nicaragua, North Carolina, Poland, and Southern Brazil?

14

Spanish-speaking RDs participated in WSC 2010?

67

RDs at WSC 2010 were from US regions, 5 from Canada, and 39 from regions outside the US and Canada?

86

alternate delegates were registered, including 66 from the US, 5 from Canada, and 15 from the rest of the world?

111

of 114 seated regions were present? (Ecuador, Le Nordet, and Nepal were not in attendance.)

154

men and 62 women attended as WSC participants?

216

participants were present on the floor of WSC 2010?

350,000

Iranian members said, "Hello!" to the rest of the NA world via their WSC delegate?

Public Relations

The goal of our PR efforts is to build and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with professionals who work with addicts. With hundreds of self-help organizations to choose from, we aim to help professionals view NA as the program of choice for addicts. Fostering relationships with professionals allows us to work together toward a common goal: helping the still-suffering addict. Addicts who are steered to NA have access to the same opportunity that we all have had—to experience recovery and live productive, responsible, meaningful lives.

Fall 2011 conferences

NA World Services attends conferences to provide information about NA to professionals who may help the still-suffering addict find NA. In September NAWS attended the International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) conference in Oslo, Norway. Thanks to a cooperative relationship with a medical researcher, while attending this conference, we also met with leaders from the US National Institute on Drug Abuse and the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities. We also partnered with local NA PR members who met with Norwegian professionals to provide information and NA recovery literature.

Our second conference last fall was the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations (IFNGO) held in Malaysia. Despite the fact that NAWS had not attended this conference in more than ten years, we were offered a plenary (main) session to inform delegates about NA as a worldwide fellowship and, more specifically, about NA in Southeast Asia. Many professionals, including governmental employees, treatment professionals, and police officers talked with us after the presentation to ask for information and NA literature. Upon our return home, we received correspondence from a Thai government official, who thanked us for providing NA literature and expressed his hope that NA can help people seeking recovery in Thailand.

WCNA 34

Internationally focused PR efforts are exciting, but local PR efforts are equally important. Thanks to local PR efforts, WCNA 34 in San Diego made NA World Unity Day history. A record-breaking 33 California correctional institutions participated in Unity Day via phone link. That means more than 8,000 incarcerated addicts heard our message of recovery and felt NA members' love from around the world! History-making milestones like that do not magically occur. This was achieved through a collaborative effort of Northern California Regional H&I and PR trusted servants, who formed a cooperative relationship with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The Unity Day call was a highlight of this collaboration, but the effort started long before Unity Day and the effects of their efforts are ongoing. Imagine: if every regional H&I and PR committee forms mutually beneficial relationships with their departments of corrections, institutionalized addicts all over the world will be able to hear the NA message on the next Unity Day call!

We love to hear about your local PR triumphs and successes, and we strive to be a resource for your efforts. We welcome photos of NA billboards and transit signs and reports on your participation in health fairs, community events, and other PR efforts. We have a shared resource site (www.na.org/?ID=local_resource_area) for PR and other service, a direct email address (PR@na.org), and a series of "basics" to assist members in their service: PR Basics, H&I Basics, and Planning Basics.

Surveys

Our membership survey was offered at WCNA 34, and was available online through 10 February 2012. This survey anonymously provides information about the NA members. We ask guestions about influences to attend NA meetings, areas of life improvement since coming to NA, length of cleantime, etc. As always, our aspiration is that any addict seeking recovery can find freedom from active addiction. The membership survey data helps us provide a snapshot of our membership and illustrates the diversity of our fellowship. NAWS and local trusted servants use the survey results to provide information about NA to professionals who work with addicts to help demonstrate our credibility as a viable program of recovery. The survey information is also useful to family members and potential NA members.

We are also currently engaged in a cooperative effort with a medical researcher who designed a survey similar to our membership survey. This survey will collect information from NA members to provide information to the medical community. Since most addiction recovery research has been performed on other recovery fellowships, this researcher thought the medical community could benefit from information solely about NA. Once we have received and reviewed his report, we will provide more information to the fellowship.

If you feel energized by reading about our PR efforts, please attend your local PR or PI subcommittee meetings and find out how you can be of service. Member efforts are invaluable to getting our message of recovery to potential members so that they may join us in living the NA way.



WSC 2012: First things first

The opening session of the World Service Conference is a time for coming together. Like the beginning of an NA recovery meeting or the opening of a service body's meeting, this session sets the tone for the gathering. The WSC begins this week of business and discussions with a moment of silence, NA readings, and introduction of conference participants.

To close the first session, regional delegates and their alternates, WSC cofacilitators, World Board and Human Resource Panel members, NAWS staff, and other interested members take part in another of our shared practices: they form a circle by linking arms, and close the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. In this setting, the prayer is spoken first in English and then, one after the other, in all of the language groups present. Here is that familiar prayer in some of the languages heard at the WSC.

Danish ❖ Gud, giv mig sindsro til at acceptere de ting jeg ikke kan ændre, mod til at ændre de ting jeg kan og visdom til at se forskellen.

Filipino ❖ Panginoon, ipagkaloob mo po sa akin ang kahinahunan na tanggapin ang ang mga bagay na hindi ko na mababago, lakas ng loob na mabago ang mga bagay na kaya kong baguhin at dunong na malaman ang kaibahan.

Finnish ♦ Jumala, suo minulle tyyneyttä hyväksyä asiat, joita en voi muuttaa, rohkeutta muuttaa mitkä voin ja viisautta erottaa nämä toisistaan.

French ♦ Mon Dieu, donne-moi la sérénité d'accepter les choses que je ne peux changer, le courage de changer les choses que je peux, et la sagesse d'en connaître la différence.

Gaelic ♦ A Thiarna Cuidigh liom a bheith sásta glachadh leis an méid nach féidir liom a athrœ, Tabhair an misneach dom athrœ a dhéanamh nuair is féider; Ach go mor mor, Tabhair an aigne dom an dáchinéal a athint —na chéile

German ❖ Gott, gebe mir die Gelassenheit, die Dinge hinzunehmen, die ich nicht ändern kann, den Mut die Dinge zu ändern, die ich ändern kann, und die Weisheit, das eine vom anderen zu unterscheiden.

Greek \Leftrightarrow Θεέ μου, δώσε μου τη γαλήνη να δέχομαι τα πράγματα που δεν μπορώ ν' αλλάξω, το κουράγιο ν' αλλάζω αυτά που μπορώ, και τη σοφία να γνωρίζω τη διαφορά.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Hebrew ♦ אלי, תן בי את השלווה לקבל את הדברים שאין ביכולתי לשנותם, אומץ לשנות את הדברים אשר ביכולתי ואת התבונה להבחין בין השניים.

Hindi \diamondsuit gsb Zbj expsvite&' MUr nienu pit ladiskoldiju sdh ft Ugae Seny ugh i drkfgler nienu pit ladis cnyu sdh ft Ugae Seny i drkganijs bu niene alis tiuu sdh i ne Q nie

Italian ♦ Signore, concedimi la serenità di accettare le cose che non posso cambiare, il coraggio di cambiare quelle che posso la saggezza di conoscerne la differenza.

Japanese ◇ 神様、私にお与えください 自分に変えられないものを受け入れる落ち着きを 変えられるものは 変えてゆく勇気を そして二つのものを見分ける賢さを

Lithuanian \diamondsuit Dieve, suteik man ramybės Susitaikyti su tuo, ko negaliu pakeisti, Drąsos keisti, ką galiu pakeisti, Ir išminties tą skirtumą suprasti.

Manipuri � #Åð, šā ¤álá' ìRà/àš[Þ]-í°tan/àëðàðbàR³/¤Å}/åå' ðäþàÚà>¤à
' ðäþàëðàðbàR [Å}/ååäðà>¤Kãë=ï>à ''³Îà ëJĤ/åålR\>¤Kãë°ïÅ}µí

Maori ♦ E te Atua, tukua mai he ngakau mahaki (ki a matou) Kia tau tonu te rangimarie i roto i nga uauatanga, Me te kaha ki te whakatika i nga marotanga, Ki a matou, kia marama hoki nga rereketanga.

Norwegian ❖ Gud, gi meg sinnsro til å godta de ting jeg ikke kan forandre, mot til å forandre de ting jeg kan, og forstand til å se forskjellen.

Polish ♦ Boże, użycz mi pogody ducha, abym godził się z tym, czego nie mogę zmienić, odwagi, abym zmieniał to, co mogę zmienić i mądrości, abym odróżniał jedno od drugiego.

Portuguese ♦ Concedei-me, Senhor, a serenidade para aceitar as coisas que eu não posso modificar, a coragem para modificar aquelas que eu posso, e a sabedoria para distinguir umas das outras.

Russian ♦ Боже, дай мне разум и душевный покой, Принять то, что я не в силах изменить; Мужество, изменить то, что я могу; И мудрость, отличить одно от другого.

Spanish ♦ Dios, concédeme la serenidad para aceptar las cosas que no puedo cambiar, valor para cambiar las que puedo, y sabiduría para reconocer la diferencia.

Swedish ♦ Gud, ge mig sinnesro att acceptera det jag inte kan förändra, mod att förändra det jag kan, och förstånd att inse skillnaden.



Living Clean: The Journey Continues

n working on "Living Clean," we continually sought ways to express the wide range of experience in NA without being absolute or diminishing the power of the message. This always brought us back to the spiritual principles on which our recovery is based. Whether we're sharing at a meeting or writing a book, we find that it's always about the principles we practice and about the tools we use to learn them.

For this project, we called upon every means we could imagine to solicit experience from members worldwide. Of course, it was impossible for us all to gather for centralized, face-to-face workshops, but technology helped us come together, even though we couldn't always be in one room. Many communities around the world held workshops, and we gathered input at events like conventions and zonal forums.

We used these methods and more for "Living Clean." We began with an eblasted survey about challenges in recovery. The responses helped determine overall categories to build the outline. Once we built the outline, we read input to "harvest gems": choice lines, situations, turns of phrases. We listened to convention tapes and read NA Way Magazine articles and old NA literature drafts. We established an online bulletin board to solicit experiences, where members shared on topics ranging from relationships to spirituality to physical health.

Early on, we thought we could identify issues or processes as markers of cleantime, but member input showed us we were wrong about that. This early engagement by the Fellowship helped shape the first draft. Innovative software allowed us to "brainstorm" by mapping input around topics, organizing by idea rather than story. This made the material anonymous; it was impossible to recognize a statement as belonging to a specific member. Bringing input together this way also made it easier to identify underpinning spiritual principles.

Once we had a basic draft, we resorted to an old standby—scissors and tape. Arranging and rearranging, we found a flow that worked. Letting ourselves learn in the process meant the outline was a quide, but we had to let it change as we learned. For example, as we progressed, a reader suggested

a progression to the material we hadn't seen. We worried that it might be disorienting to change the chapter order after the outline had been sent out, but that's the purpose of review and input—for the Fellowship to impact the draft.

For years, we've been talking about and reporting on our struggles to develop a more responsive literature development process. We've tried different review-and-input approaches, varying the work plan and timeline with each book, but we've learned that when the Fellowship is involved in early development, the text as a whole can truly be shaped by our collective ideas rather than just fine-tuned by input on a completed draft. We hope to continue trying new ideas suggested by our members and our experiences to improve our literature development process. As the Preface of the approval draft of "Living Clean: The Journey Continues" tells us:

Our greatest treasure and resource is the depth of our personal knowledge of the recovery process.... This book...is intended both as an offering to new members and to rekindle the passion of our oldtimers.







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.)

Canada

Alberta 18-20 May: Chinook Area Convention 25: Delta South Hotel. Calgary; www.chinookna.org

2) 25-27 May: Edmonton Area Convention 27: Sands Hotel & Conference Centre, Edmonton; www.eana.ca

British Columbia 13-15 Apr; Victoria Convention 7; Juan de Fuca Recreation Center, Victoria; www.victorianaconvention.ca

2) 15-17 Jun: Central Okanagan Area Convention 23: Green Bay, West Kelowna; www.coascna.ca

Ontario 18-20 May; Ontario Regional Convention 25; Hilton Garden Inn, Ajax; www.orcna.ca

Saskatchewan 27-29 Apr; Central Saskatchewan Area Convention; Heritage Inn, Saskatoon; www.csana.org

Denmark

Skanderborg 3-5 Aug; Area Midtjylland Convention & Camp 5; Audonicon, Skanderborg; www.nakonvent.dk

Frederiksberg 25-27 May; Copenhagen Area Convention 19; Sofus Francks School, Frederiksberg; www.nakbh.dk

Germany

Berlin 4-6 May; Berlin International Convention 4; Berliner Stadtmission, Berlin; www.binac.de

India

Manipur 5-7 May; Imphal Area Convention 5; Imphal Hotel, Imphal; nacia5convention@gmail.com

Italy

Naples 20-22 Apr; Italian Regional Convention 29; Congressual Hotel, Castellammare di Stabia, Napoli; www.na-italia.org

Panama

Panama City 13-15 Jul; Panama Regional Convention 9; Hotel El Panama, Panama City; www.napanama.org/

Peru

Ucayali Region 18-20 May; Peru Regional Convention 18; Hotel Sol de Oriente, Pucallpa; 51.999700325

Puerto Rico

Isla Verde 27-29 Jul; Del Coquí Regional Convention 23; Verdanza Hotel, Isla Verde; www.prna.org

Moscow 17-19 Aug; European Convention & Conference NA 28; Druzhba (Friendship) Multipurpose Arena, Moscow; www.eccna28.org

Slovakia

Bratislava 20-22 Apr; First Czecho-Slovak Convention; KC Dunaj, Bratislava; www.anonymninarkomani.sk

United States

Arizona 25-27 May; Arizona Regional Convention 26; Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort, Scottsdale; www.arizona-na.org/arcna

Arkansas 20-22 Apr; Central Arkansas Area; The Joy Is in the Journey Campout; Dam Site Park, Greers Ferry Lake; serenaleighw@yahoo.com California 8-10 Jun; California Mid-State Regional Convention 12; Radisson Inn, Fresno; www.calmidstatena.org/convention.htm

2) 20-22 Jul; Greater Los Angeles Area Convention 6; LAX Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles; www.glaana.org

Colorado 6-8 Jul; Colorado Regional Rocky Mountain Campout; Printer Boy Campground, Leadville; www.nacolorado.org/events/calendar.php

Connecticut 11-13 May; Straight from the Hip Group Women's Sponsorship Retreat 8; Incarnation Retreat Center, Ivoryton; www.ctna. org/activities-calendar.cfm

Florida 26-29 Apr; Alabama NW Florida Region Fun in the Sun 35; Paradise Palms Inn/Days Inn Beach, Panama City Beach; www. funinthesunconvention.org

- 2) 4-6 May; Daytona Area Convention 13; Plaza Resort & Spa, Daytona Beach; www.daytonana.org
- 3) 5-8 Jul; Florida Regional Convention 31; Marriott Tampa Waterside, Tampa; www.floridarso.org
- 4) 3-5 Aug; Big Bend Area Convention 15; North Monroe Street Conference Center, Tallahassee; www.bigbendna.org

Georgia 3-6 May; A Little Girl Grows Up Convention 4; Sheraton Gateway Atlanta Airport, College Park; 718.926.4360

- 2) 18-20 May; Marietta Area History Rising Conference/Family Reunion; Atlanta Marriott Northwest, Atlanta; www.narising.org
- 3) 5-8 Jul; Midtown Atlanta Area Convention 21; Sheraton Atlanta, Atlanta: www.midtownatlantana.com

Illinois 27-29 Apr; Rock River Area Convention 21; Clock Tower Resort & Convention Center, Rockford; www.rragsna.org

Kansas 13-15 Apr; Mid-America Regional Convention 29; Topeka Holidome, Topeka; www.marscna.net

Louisiana 30 Aug-2 Sep; New Orleans Area Convention 12; Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans; www.noana.org

Maryland 13-15 Apr; Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Convention 26; Roland E Powell Convention Center, Ocean City; www.cprcna.org

2) 1-3 Jun; Baltimore Area Convention 10; Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore; www.baltoareana.org

Massachusetts 13-15 Jul: Boston Area Convention 15: Revere Hotel/ Boston Common, Boston; 617.988.5101

2) 3-5 Aug; Western Mass Area Convention 12; Sheraton Hotel, Springfield; 413.537.0259

Minnesota 13-15 Apr; Minnesota Regional Convention 19; Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester; www.naminnesota.org

Mississippi 27-29 Apr; Foglifters Group Fellowship under the Stars Campout; Roosevelt State Park, Morton; www.midmsna.org

Montana 15-17 Jun; Montana Regional Gathering 24; Symmes Hotel, Hot Springs; www.namontana.com

Nebraska 20-22 Apr; Elkhorn Valley Area Wings of Surrender Women's Retreat 4; Camp Moses Merrill, Linwood; 402.841.8966

- 2) 25-28 May; Nebraska Run for Fun 32; Alexandria State Recreation Area, Alexandria; www.nebraskana.org
- 3) 15-17 Jun; Great Plains Area Midsummer Night Campout 22; Sandy Channel State Recreation Area, Elm Creek; www.nebraskana.org

Nevada 8-10 Jun; Region 51 Convention 2; Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas; www.region51na.org

2) 20-22 Jul; California Arizona Nevada Area Convention 20; Riverside Resort, Laughlin; www.canana.org

New Hampshire 22-24 Jun; Granite State Area Fellowship in the Field Campout 22; Apple Hill Campground, Bethlehem; www.gsana.org

2) 3-5 Aug; Granite State Area Convention 7; Courtyard Marriott Nashua, Nashua; www.gsana.org

New Jersey 8-10 Jun; Ocean County Area Convention 6; Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel, Asbury Park; www.convention.ocanj.org

2) 6-8 Jul; New Jersey Regional Convention 27; Crowne Plaza, Cherry Hill; www.nanj.org

New Mexico 10-13 May; Rio Grande Regional Convention 23; Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, Albuquerque; www.riograndena.org

2) 2-3 Jun; Lower Organ Mountain Area White Sands Potluck, Campout, & Meeting under the Full Moon; White Sands National Monument Park, Alamogordo; www.riograndena.org

New York 25-27 May; Heart of New York Area Convention 8; Holiday Inn, Liverpool; www.honyana.org

North Carolina 20-22 Apr; Greater Charlotte Area Convention 26; The Blake Hotel, Charlotte; www.boundforfreedom26.com

- **2)** 18-20 May; Down East/Inner Coastal/Crossroads Area Convention 7; City Hotel & Bistro, Greenville; 609.501.3735
- **3)** 8-10 Jun; Capital Area Family Reunion Convention 23; Holiday Inn Brownstone, Raleigh; www.capitalareancna.com

Ohio 6-8 Jul; Dayton Area Convention 9; Crowne Plaza, Dayton; www. naohio.org

Oregon 25-27 May; Pacific Cascade Regional Convention 18; Holiday Inn, Springfield; www.pcrna.org

Pennsylvania 15-17 Jun; East Coast Convention 16; Robert Morris University, Moon Township; 412.537.7880

South Dakota 5-12 Aug: Otherside Group Sheridan Lake Campout 18; Sheridan Lake North Shore, Hill City; 605.391.4896

Texas 25-27 May; Texas State Convention 10; Westin Houston Memorial City, Houston; www.tscna.org

Utah 29 Jun-1 Jul; Southern Utah Area Convention 5; Lexington Hotel, Saint George; www.suana.org/Events.html

Virginia 25-28 May; Marion Survivor's Group Campout 16; Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center, Marion; mfisher71@hotmail.com

West Virginia 11-13 May; Mountaineer Region The Masks Have to Go; Cedar Lakes, Ripley; www.mrscna.org

Wisconsin 27-29 Apr; Inner City Area Convention; Crowne Plaza, Milwaukee; 414.517.7963

2) 1-3 Jun; Big Rivers Area I Can't, We Campout 8; Wildcat Mountain State Park, Ontario; www.bigriversna.org

Wyoming 18-20 May; Upper Rocky Mountain Regional Convention 13; Days Inn-Hot Springs Convention Center, Thermopolis; www.urmrna.org/convention.html

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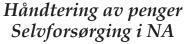
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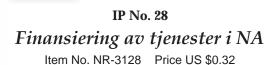


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