

THE
NA Way
MAGAZINE®

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



APRIL 2014

VOLUME THIRTY-ONE ♦ NUMBER TWO



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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

I am overwhelmed as I read through the pages of this issue. It includes articles from individuals and service bodies that reflect the power of our unified efforts, inspired by spiritual principles and our commitment to fulfill NA's primary purpose.

We have so much to be grateful for—as a fellowship, as individual members, in our groups and in our service bodies. Narcotics Anonymous has grown from a few fledgling meetings in the 1950s to a strong, inspiring, and sustainable solution for addicts seeking recovery. In more than 61,000 meetings around the world, we come together despite our diverse backgrounds and beliefs to support one another and to provide services that help to strengthen and grow our members and our Fellowship.

A few lines from *It Works: How and Why* offer a fitting introduction to this issue:

This book is not meant to be an exhaustive study of NA's steps and traditions, nor is it meant to be the final word on any aspect of recovery or NA unity... We hope you will find personal growth, understanding, and empathy in the following pages. We pray you will be moved to a new level of insight into your recovery and the valuable place you occupy as a member of Narcotics Anonymous.

De J, Editor

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

13,575+ days

Hello, I'm the local NA dinosaur. I'm apparently well-liked and respected—folks usually smile when they see me, and I get my share of questions asking my experience or opinion about our Steps, Traditions, literature, service, etc. I'm fairly well known, at least in this corner of NA. Sometimes members I've never met recognize my name. I have a home group, a sponsor, a handful of sponsees, and a conscious contact with God as I understand It. I do stepwork and service work. I have a deep and long-held loyalty, dedication, and gratitude for NA. With 37 years clean, I couldn't be more solidly a part of NA.

But it's not all peaches and cream. Sometimes I feel there's a huge "something" between the rest of NA and me; like there are a hundred things keeping me from being a "regular" NA member. Coming from a time when NA was so different, I think no one can identify with my experience or agree with the ideas, attitudes, and beliefs grown from my experience. My welcome to recovery was in AA, which presents two difficulties. First, how, or even should, I share about it? Saying "The 'other fellowship' helped me" could divert an NA meeting from our primary purpose. But when I share about an awakening or kindness from my early recovery, if I don't make it clear it wasn't in NA, I feel I'm misleading folks—and it feels ungrateful to those who walked me through my first steps (and Steps) clean.

Second is how long it took me to be a member of an NA community. I was over a half year clean before I even heard of NA, and 15 months clean before I met and spoke with NA members. Most members today have their first NA contact in their first days clean. By the time my local area had six meetings a week (within roughly a 50-mile radius), I had over three years clean. In other words, in NA I have always been the oldtimer. From my first involvement in NA, folks looked to me for help and leadership. There was never a time for me when an already-existing local NA community eagerly offered the support and kindness we offer newcomers.

For much of my early cleantime, no meetings were available. I've had the experience of every Sunday for six months, setting up a meeting place and waiting for another addict to show up. To this day, I still feel every NA meeting is precious and should be squeezed for every last bit of recovery. For most today, NA is easy to find. They know only an abundance of meetings, and they just don't seem to get how important "sit down, be quiet, and listen" is to me. For them, it's easy to converse during readings or announcements or stay on the phone during a meeting. For me, it's not.

I've been an active NA member and trusted servant since the fall of 1979. There were ASC and RSC meetings to travel to; phoneline, PI and H&I commitments; plus phone calls and letters to connect our local community with members far away. Back then, "active member" included a lot of out-of-pocket spending for gasoline, local and long distance calls, and hundreds of copies of flyers, minutes, and reports. "Active member" meant hours and hours of time and attention to "How can we make NA better and stronger? How can we ensure NA will survive?" This is how I spent most of the 1980s—using most of my free time, money, and efforts to improve NA... instead of me. Ten years of abstinence, but barely any recovery. At twelve years clean, I saw many members with so much more growth and change than I had, in a lot less time. I felt cheated and envious. Sometimes I still feel as if I'm playing "catch-up" with career, education, finances, and all the things that allow one to be a productive member of society.

I've seen some of the worst of NA, along with its best. I've seen gross mistakes and breathtaking inspiration and genius; so my loyalty and love come with some skepti-



cism. It's another difference between me and members who only see the current miracle of NA, so they don't question what they have. I've seen a fellowship so frighteningly small that we couldn't afford for anyone to think ill of us; an NA that wanted very badly to make, *everyone* who walked in the door feel not just allowed, but truly welcomed. Yet, I have (to the end of my life) amends to make, because for a while, I forgot all of that and became an NA purist bigot who attacked anyone doubling up with AA. No "wrong words" were allowed in my presence. Today NA is big enough to absorb this kind of "wrongness." People expect me to be the ultimate NA policeman, but I'm not, and my tolerance for this behavior sets me apart.

the next time you see your local dinosaur...

In my everyday life, only my sponsor has as much or more cleantime than me, and our paths rarely cross in person. On a frustratingly infrequent basis, I share with two of "my" oldtimers, exclusively on the phone. The rest of my oldtimers, the members I looked up to when I arrived, have all either stopped being active in NA or have died. Of the NA members I see on a regular basis, maybe five or ten got clean five years after me. The rest have 10, 25, or even 37 years less cleantime. Yes, as addicts we have much in common, but there's barely anyone for me to sit down with and ask, "When you had as much time as I do now, what was it like for you?"

I have many times felt the pain of living through the death of friends—overdoses, heart attacks, strokes, car wrecks, stabbings, shootings, and many different diseases, led, of course, by AIDS. I've found life to be fragile, fleeting, and precious. As a result, the passion and intensity I put into all my relationships is something else that pushes away most other members. They are scared by it.

Lots of NA members know my cleantime, a few of my stories and opinions, but not much else about me, like what music or food I like or what sports teams

I root for. I am to them the oldtimer, the history reservoir, the NA "answer man" more than I am a person or fellow member. Many times someone has said they can't imagine me using or being a newcomer. That certainly lets me feel "apart from."

Like I said, being such an old oldtimer, it's not always so great. I haven't painted a pretty picture here, I know. I realize it's almost NA blasphemy, but in some ways the "cleantime gap" between most members and me means I am different, which sometimes makes me pretty lonely...yet I wouldn't trade it for the world.

For the past 37 years, I've been alive! There wasn't a single person 38 years ago—friend, relative, doctor, cop, or drug dealer—who thought that was possible (including me). And it's been 37 years clean! Over 13,575 days in a row of "free choice over impulsive thinking and compulsive action." It's been 37 years of having my spirit awakened; over a third of a century of surprise, growth, and joy. Yes, surprise. I haven't heard it all and I don't know it all, no matter how much cleantime I have. My life today is so very full. Of friends, both in and out of NA. Of accomplishments, in the program and in society. Of the care and strength and maybe even a little wisdom given by a Power greater than myself. Our NA program really has become "a set of principles so simple" that I can follow them in my daily life. "Personal inventory" is my favorite. I love how I can see my mistakes and shortcomings and learn from them instead of being defeated by them. I know well who I am. I face life on life's terms on a daily basis with no great complaint.

I really have no more separation between me and NA than anyone else has. It's just the particulars that are different. There are other people who didn't start in NA. Some came from rehabs, therapeutic communities, or other fellowships; some from religious backgrounds or prisons. There are other skeptics who are just as willing to speak up when they think something is off the beam. There are plenty of other members who've spent time on the margins of NA, who've been the "misfits" of our Fellowship. Many NA members live with obligations that keep them from frequent meeting attendance,

whose experience leads them to savor each meeting as much as I do.

NA has been around long enough and grown large enough so there are now lots of members who've been the first to go through things and become examples for others. In fact, a good number of my fellow members have encountered things I haven't yet experienced. Moreover, I have no exclusivity on the hurt of a loved one's passing, and it's not only me who loves more intensely as a result. About not being known so intimately by folks? I'll bet just about every other NA member feels the same, each for her or his own reasons, most having nothing to do with their cleantime. The same goes for not being listened to; anyone with even a few years clean has had their experience ignored and mislabeled as an attempt to govern.

About the only two complaints I can claim as legitimately my very own are not having any oldtimers to hang out with and having spent so many years focused on NA's well-being rather than my own. Oh, well; too bad for me. If sharing with older-timers is so important, I have to make the effort to get new phone friends who've got more time than me. I've learned that folks with less cleantime *can* "show me the way," and today I revel in that. As far as the sacrificed years are concerned, I've had to quit dwelling in the past and start living in today. To that end, I returned to school ten years ago and earned my university degree a month before I turned 50.

Hello, I'm the local NA dinosaur. Remember, with NA, it's not only possible but hoped that you'll be a very oldtimer yourself someday. Maybe the next time you see your local dinosaur, take a moment to remember that all that cleantime doesn't make it all slick and easy for her or him. Maybe ask how he or she is doing—and really listen to the answer. Take a look at things from their point of view and reach across the divide that their cleantime can put between you. But know this: Whether or not you reach out to me or the next very oldtimer, I'm glad you're here, I'm glad I'm here, and I'm glad our Ultimate Authority has given us both this day to be clean and recovering in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.



Why I serve

Greetings, everybody. I am an addict named Jaime V. I left my mother's house in the fishing village of Gloucester, Massachusetts, at age 13 to pursue my dream of using people, places, and things without any nonsense getting in my way.

I arrived in Narcotics Anonymous in July of 2000 as a 24-year-old adolescent. The NA members at that first meeting scooped me up and taught me I was a member, too, whether or not I had stopped using. I hadn't. I continued to use for the next several months while being exposed to a variety of NA experiences, usually against my will. Those members would dope-fiend me into attending a convention far from home (Burlington, Vermont) while dope-sick, drag me to dances unshowered, feed me at cookouts and on couches, take my drug-addled calls at 2:00 am, get me bed after bed in detox after detox, say things like "Better already?" when I would return from a week in "treatment" with a new girl on a new run, clap when I collected unearned keytags, and hug me, hug me, hug me, ultimately loving me clean on 7 March 2001. I have not found it necessary to use since, despite life on its own terms not always being what I want it to be, and rarely being what I think it ought to be.

I learned, finally, how to stay clean just for today, in Boston. Fortunately, this is a city of tremendous diversity, and there was no shortage of NA meetings to attend while I started learning to get comfortable in my own skin and take some of the other suggestions beyond "don't use no matter what." I was taught that if I wanted cleantime, that was easy: Don't use and don't die. But if I wanted recovery, I should be able to answer four simple questions: Who is my sponsor? What step am I working? What is my home group? What is my service position?

The idea that if I did not change, my clean date would, scared the hell out of me and still does, so I got answers to those questions and have had them ever since. The motives for having those answers have changed dramatically over the years, as have the answers, but I still impress upon my sponsees the importance or "practicing membership" by getting their own answers.

In my first 90 days I attended the Boston Area Service Committee meeting twice and found myself disturbed. This didn't feel or sound like the NA I knew. There was contention, posturing, peacocking, arguing, and yes, even chair-throwing. I was very attracted to it, and wanted to be the guy who would fix it all. Couldn't they see how messed up this all was? The spirit of service, while likely present, was lost on me.

After two of those and much complaining to my sponsor about it, he took me (just after my 25th birthday, having just picked up my first honest-to-goodness red keytag) to a meeting of the New England Region of NA. I remember two things very distinctly from that day. The first was this book everyone seemed to have and know through and through. I later learned that not only was it not NA Fellowship-approved literature, it was in fact written by a military general for Civil War-era decision-making bodies. That general was Robert E. Lee, and that book was Robert's Rules of Order. This left a terrible taste in my mouth, as I felt that no such volume of "rules" had any place in a spiritual fellowship such as ours. As you may have discerned, I came around with some tenacity, and formed some pretty strong opinions almost immediately.

The second thing I remember from that day was this guy who I knew right away used like I used (you know how we can sort of smell our own kind?), but who was somehow changed. Recovery had had its effects on him, but that notion eluded me at the time,

*I shared my ass off
week after week
in my home group...*

and instead it just seemed like magic. He stood and gave this presentation to the body that included research, volumes of viewpoints, competing bids, data, numbers, and so on. More than his preparedness, what struck me was how impassioned he was when he told us all about the work his committee had done to get this thing he was pitching off the ground and why we should all buy into it. He looked and he sounded

I saw her first sneeze, her first grimace...

like a Kennedy, aided of course by his "pahk tha cah" Massachusetts accent, and I was blown away. The idea that a junkie like me could end up like this guy who cared enough about anything to do all that he was doing, and stand for it, was nothing short of amazing to me. His motion carried, and that was the day we adopted the New England Regional phonenumber, 866.NAHelpU. I left there that day feeling resentful (about the Rob's Rules thing), and in awe of one addict's passion for what he believed in. Both of these feelings inspired me, and have led to me being a student in service to our glorious Fellowship ever since.

Over the years since, I have served in various capacities at both the area (my home area of Northeast Mass., mostly) and regional levels—H&I, PI, policy and guidelines, chair, outreach and orientation, convention, fellowship development, RCM, RD, etc. I have rarely said no to the Fellowship that has never said no to me. This practice has always been to my benefit personally, and I only hope that in some way I have been able to contribute to the lives of others as well. Other things, of course, have kept me going over the years. There are so many that it's tough to narrow them down, but here are some moments in my recovery that I value and refer to in my heart time and time again.

At just under two years clean, I was in Florida learning how to live and enjoying life without the use of drugs—riding roller coasters, dropping down water

slides, chilling in Jacuzzis, checking out the ladies, and smoking cigars with my former sponsor and good friend. My phone rang and it was my father. Dad had been "people, places, and things" to me, so we weren't all that close in those days. I had barely been in touch with him, only dropping by his house briefly on the way to a meeting, and always with another recovering addict, just to let him know I was alive and well. He asked how my vacation was going and made small talk—and then his voice cracked as he asked, "Jaimeson [my father's nickname for me since I was a boy], when you come back home, do you think I could go to some of those meetings with you?" I replied, "Of course, dad." After disconnecting with him I looked at my old sponsor in a panic, asking what to do. His reply was simple: "Take him to meetings." "And then what?" I asked. And again, a simple response: "Introduce him to the people you know, love, and respect, and then let him go."

I took his direction, and after about a month of coming to meetings in various conditions, my dad checked into detox. He has been clean now over a decade, since 13 January 2003. He was recently elected as our area chair after three years as our vice chair. He sponsors men. We share a home group; we talk about the Steps, Traditions, and all manner of things in which fathers and sons could possibly engage. You, Narcotics Anonymous, have given me the father I always wished I had when growing up. Thank you. This is why I serve NA.

The week he was in detox, a sponsee and his wife set me up on a blind date that was to become a one-night stand that evolved into a casual relationship with zero responsibilities. Just the way I liked things at that time. A few short months later, however, this young woman called to tell me she was pregnant. Scared to death, with all sorts of fear-based thoughts owning every nook and cranny in my numb skull, I shared my ass off week after week in my home group about how I was going to fail as a father, how I couldn't possibly raise a child, how mad I was at this woman for lying about the birth control she wasn't actually taking, and on and on, selfish and scared. The other members of my

home group loved me through this, and ultimately taught me how to show up and be the man I was pretending to be when I took her to bed in the first place. On 22 October of that year, I found myself in the maternity ward watching my daughter come into the world. I saw her first sneeze, her first grimace, her first Jesus Christ pose as she stretched her impossibly little limbs out as if to say, "Here I am, world! What's up?" Something I have never been able to articulate changed in me that day. It was something deep down in my soul, and I knew with my heart (not just my head) that it would be impossible to continue on as selfishly as I had thus far.

I attacked my stepwork. I got real honest with my sponsor. I engaged ferociously in this process of change that we call recovery, and today I am a father, with all that that means. My daughter is my buddy and my beautiful little angel. She is almost ten years old now, and has never seen me high and she never has to. Thank you, Narcotics Anonymous. While her mother and I never did get together in a more formal sense, we have developed a close friendship over the years, and we coparent our daughter even during times of disagreement. This would not be possible without you guys. Thank you. This is why I serve NA.

The majority of times in my life when I have felt, deeply felt, purpose and direction in my life have been while in service to our Fellowship. The things I learn, the people I meet, the experiences I have, and the ways I grow have always led me back to love. I love Narcotics Anonymous and cannot begin to express the depth of gratitude I feel, regardless of how verbose I tend to be. So, I serve.

Jaime V, Massachusetts, USA



Surrounded by NA love in Latin America

Latin American unity was born for me thanks to the internet in 1998. Many will remember the early internet chat, which was the way we communicated at that time. Several members from different regions began to strengthen their bonds of unity, sharing virtual meetings until we met in person at the World Convention of NA held in Cartagena, Colombia, in 2000. We felt great joy when we saw each other for the first time, coming closer with hugs and the thrill to be meeting fellow NA members from Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Colombia, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Honduras, and Peru. And this was the start of other major encounters.

Many years have passed, and we continue to share in our conventions (or, as we say, CLANAs: Convención Latino Americana NA), celebrated every two years in different countries. Love of our Fellowship grows more between us every day. Not only are we fellow convention attendees, we are also soul mates, sharing many situations and becoming close in times of great distress, some of which been very intense times that have shaped our lives in many ways.

In 2000, my sister and I served on the host committee for the first NA World Convention held in a Latin American country, in the city where we lived, Cartagena, Colombia. Two months before the convention, while we were intensely involved in organizing the convention, my dad died. In those days we received and felt all the love in the worldwide Fellowship with us, giving us both support. Our service helped us stay connected to the Fellowship through the pain.

In 2009, while traveling with my husband to CLANA in Caracas, Venezuela, we had a motorcycle accident on the border shared by Colombia and Venezuela. I was left lying in the middle of the street with a broken leg. I received calls and many emails from my colleagues who were waiting for us at the convention. My husband was a regional delegate and wanted to go to be of service, so

after my operation, once I was settled at home, he went to the convention to fulfil his commitment. The recovery process for my leg lasted three years, requiring a wheelchair and crutches; and, again, the Fellowship was there to support me through it all.

In 2012 at our regional convention held in Cartagena, I served as host committee coordinator and my husband was the events coordinator. During the convention, my sister (also an NA member) was admitted to the hospital. The emotions I felt that night were too big—my sister in the hospital on one hand and, on the other hand, experiencing over 800 addicts celebrating recovery, dancing, and enjoying life. I cried and was grateful to my Higher Power because I was not alone. I was surrounded by recovering addicts and my closest companions.

At the time of the convention's closing on Sunday, the hospital called to tell me my sister was in intensive care. I was surrounded by the love of the Fellowship by members who stayed on after the convention to accompany me on hospital visits, hold meetings anytime and anywhere, and entertain me a little to ease the pain. A week later, my sister died. I was so grateful that my pain was softened by the members who supported me.

All these situations made me think that every time I was attending a convention, something happened in my life; but I always said it was the will of a Higher Power.

In June of 2013, we were to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Colombia Regional Convention. My husband had a heart attack two days before the trip. I could not believe this was happening. From his bed, with all the medical equipment attached to him, he said, "We're going to the convention. We cannot miss the big celebration." On Thursday, we traveled by ambulance to another hospital for a heart catheterization. We maintain enthusiasm and gratitude in any situation in which we are living; that's what we've learned in NA. On Friday we were back at home, and I was looking for a flight the next day to go to the convention. People who are not addicts could not understand how we could do this, but it was very important to us

that we both be present at this convention, which meant a lot to us because we have been servants of the region for many years.

My initial conclusion was that we had to stop going to NA conventions because it was always something! But I finally understood what my Higher Power wanted: Every time we had a situation like this, we were surrounded by peers and the love of the NA Fellowship.

After that, we went to the World Convention in Philadelphia to celebrate NA's 60 years, and we were recently at CLANA in the Dominican Republic, celebrating 20 years of the [Latin American Zonal Forum](#)—and nothing happened! Well, yes, many things happened: I joined fellow NA members, I met other addicts, and I saw delegates from Latin America for three days working together in one room on behalf of the suffering addict and strengthening unity to carry our message to countries and regions that have not known this program. I also spoke and shared why I felt so grateful, because service is for me the way to give back what I receive from this beautiful program.

I will continue attending all conventions and take my Higher Power with me. He has a plan for me and I'm willing to be guided by that. Just for today, I understand that everything is perfect and that all is well in my life. Thanks, Narcotics Anonymous!

Luchy G, Cartagena, Colombia

Going back inside

This story begins with a prayer: Please help me to write your story without getting in the way.

While loaded to the point of blackout, an 18-year-old aspiring addict beat a man to death in 1965.

I was convicted and mandated to serve a sentence of five years to life in perhaps the most notorious maximum-security penitentiary in the state of California. While there, I grew into manhood as my addiction progressed. I continued the same old story of addiction and crime after being granted parole in 1972.

From that time until 29 April 1976, it was full speed ahead. The wheels fell off and I found myself in my first NA meeting. I quickly became hopeful and became an avid student of recovery. Teachers appeared with the toolbag of recovery. In it I found the gift of giving. Hospitals and Institutions service was very helpful in learning to use this tool. Over the next 15 years, I shared my recovery experience in every jail, nuthouse, or prison that I could. I dreamed of one day going back to carry the message in the prison where I had done time, but a change in corrections department policy came up and locked me out. Convicted murderers were excluded from going into locked facilities with H&I panels.

As the years passed, the hope began to dim of carrying the message at the prison where I had been incarcerated. Twenty-odd years later, I was invited to go to New Mexico on a panel in a prison there. There was an NA convention in Albuquerque that weekend. At dinner I met a man from California, and the conversation eventually got around to the fact that I went to New Mexico to speak in the prison. After I explained why I went all the way to New Mexico to speak in that facility, he told me he might be able to help me get cleared to go into the prison where I had once served time. He told me that he sponsored the chairperson of H&I panels there and had been going there for a very long time. Within a brief period of time an associate warden at that prison came to learn about me and my desire to go back inside to carry the NA message. An exception was made, and I was cleared to go in on a panel.

I could tell a whole other tale about my experience walking in the front gate 40 years later; however, this story is about walking into the meeting room. I had dreamed of this for over three decades, and I was totally unprepared for the experience. The buzz of recovery in the room—it was like going to an NA convention; that tense prison atmosphere of the yard stopped at the doorway to the meeting room. It seemed as if it could not penetrate this sanctuary of recovery. There were about 150 men of all ages and races mixing and talking, filling the room with that energy that I have only experienced where large groups of

recovering people are gathered. NA was alive and bustling beyond, way beyond, what I could have imagined or would have believed.

The six new men who came in off the yard for their first time were given an enthusiastic welcome. What we have come to know as the atmosphere of recovery was clearly there in that room. I saw no one distracted or disinterested among them. They seemed hungry for recovery. It was over the top! After the meeting the men were warm and friendly. I felt more at home that night than I may ever have felt in an NA meeting. I am one of them. I was most touched by a man I talked with after the meeting. He's doing all day.

He has no hope of getting out. I asked him to explain to me what he was doing in NA. Unlike many others, his hope is not about a better life outside the walls, it is about a better life now, inside the walls. Wow!

I am overjoyed to pass on the message to you, the Fellowship. Narcotics Anonymous and recovery from addiction are alive and thriving inside the walls of the Bastille by the Bay. My love and gratitude for NA were significantly deepened by sharing with the fellas in my old neighborhood. Don't cheat yourself; help out in H&I!

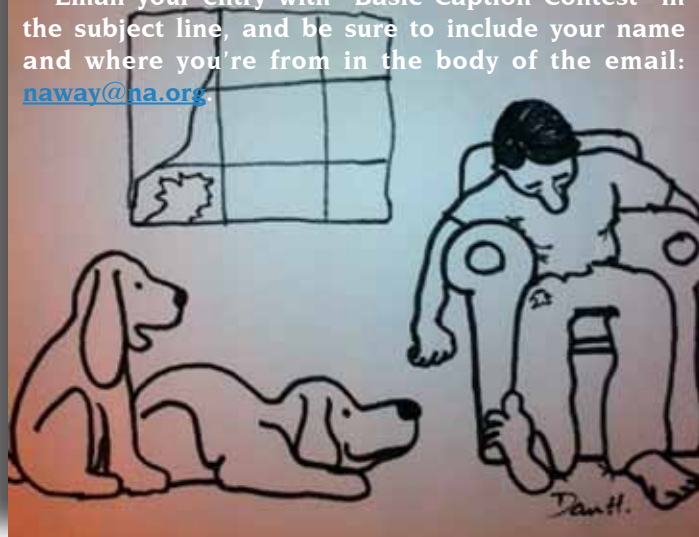
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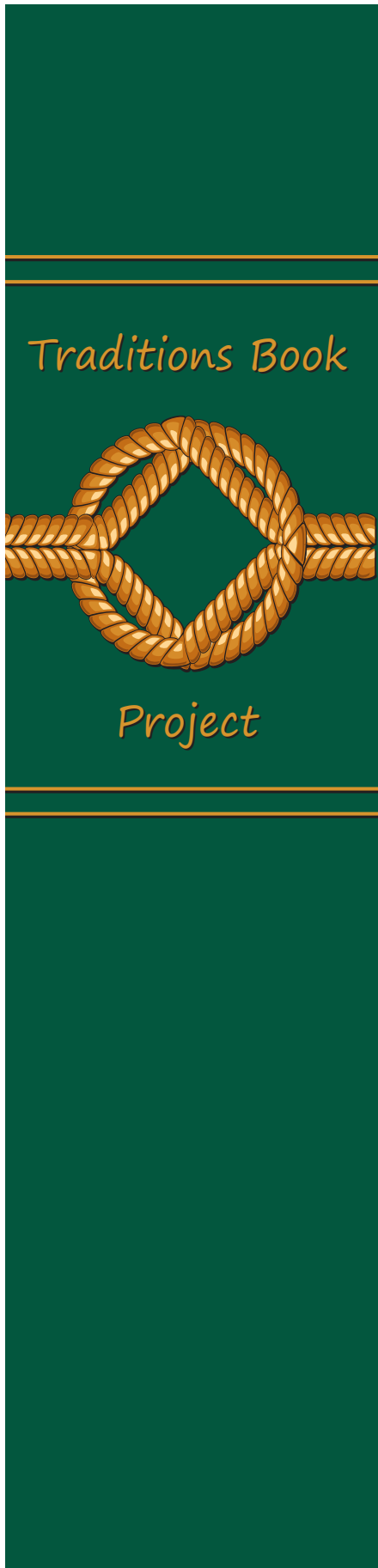
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Basic caption contest

Here's your chance to participate in *The NA Way Magazine* in a whole new way. Write a caption for this comic, send it to us, and you'll be magically entered in our caption contest. We'll choose the best (and maybe a few others) for publication in an upcoming issue. Your prize will be the satisfaction of seeing your name in *The NA Way*!

Email your entry with "Basic Caption Contest" in the subject line, and be sure to include your name and where you're from in the body of the email: naway@na.org.





Traditions Book Project

Small Group Input Gathering

The Traditions Book Project was approved at the 2012 World Service Conference as a two-cycle project spanning 2012 to 2016. According to the approved project plan, the 2012–2014 cycle will focus on gathering material, input, and ideas about what the Fellowship would find most useful for guidance on the Traditions; and the 2014–2016 cycle will focus on drafting the book, conducting Fellowship review and input, and then developing the approval draft for consideration at WSC 2016.

We're excited that we've received input from many area and regional workshops so far. To make it easier for even more members to get involved, we developed this shorter workshop format—and we're including it in the January and July *NA Way Magazine* to make it even more accessible.

These group-focused discussion starters can spark interesting conversations and give home groups and individual members a chance to participate and share their experience, strength, and hope. These questions will help begin that discussion, and if your group has input beyond the scope of these questions—we welcome and encourage that, too!

OK, Great! Where Do We Begin?

Choose a trusted servant or two to help facilitate the discussion. It will help to read over these materials first and plan the mini-workshop carefully to have things go as smoothly as possible. Each workshop focuses on one Tradition—the group can choose which Tradition to discuss, or they can ask the facilitator to decide. Each workshop outline includes a brief explanatory note based on our literature, and discussion questions. It may be useful to have copies of the Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, and the Traditions summary sheet available, too.

These outlines are geared toward a 20-minute group discussion, but feel free to adapt the material in whatever way works best. Run as many or as few workshops as you'd like; you might even want to do a Tradition a month throughout 2014. And do them when it works for you—before or after a meeting, with your spouses, as part of a GSF meeting, or before/after a service committee meeting. You may have someone take notes on the discussion or save time at the end for individual members to write their own thoughts.

Send the input all together as a group, or each member can send their thoughts individually. If you want to make it simple, take a picture of your handwritten notes with your phone and send it to us at worldboard@na.org. (Try to make it legible, please!) Outlines for these mini workshops on each Tradition are available at www.na.org/traditions.

Having the Discussions: A Suggested Format

These workshops are meant for a 20-minute discussion, but you can have shorter or longer conversations based on your group's wishes. The questions are meant simply as a starting point. We hope your discussions are energetic and inspiring, and that you challenge each other to see the Traditions in ways you didn't before.

- ◆ Choose which Tradition to discuss.
- ◆ Begin with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer or another prayer of the group's choice.
- ◆ Assign a member to take notes, and have her/him capture the unique experiences and ideas members share—not just a list of spiritual principles or literature quotes.
- ◆ Have a member read the Tradition and the explanatory note from the workshop format and have another member read the excerpt from the Twelve Traditions summary sheet.
- ◆ Have another member read additional paragraphs from NA literature, if desired.
- ◆ Choose a discussion question—or, skip the question and just talk!
- ◆ Have as many members as possible share their experience and ideas. The facilitator can ask members to clarify or expand on thoughts, but try to allow everyone to share before debating interpretations.
- ◆ Try to end your discussion at the agreed-upon time. If members still have energy for more discussion, feel free to keep going, move on to another question, or continue the conversation at the “meeting after the meeting.”
- ◆ Snap pictures of your note sheets with your phone and send them to us at worldboard@na.org, or go to www.na.org/traditions and fill out a questionnaire. You can also mail note sheets to NA World Services; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409.

Outlines for these mini workshops
on each Tradition are available at
www.na.org/traditions.

We welcome your feedback and ideas at
worldboard@na.org.

Thanks for participating!

Tradition Seven

The principle of self-support includes money issues, but goes much further than the funds we contribute. Whatever a group needs to fulfill its primary purpose should be provided by the group itself. Group service and active group membership are two vital contributions to group self-support that don't cost any money at all.

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Discussion Questions

- Why is the commitment to self-support so important?
- How do our efforts to be self-supporting contribute to unity?
- When the line between self-support and outside contributions is hard to see, how do we find a solution?

Tradition Eight

Tradition Eight reminds us that our members need no professional credential to be effective in carrying the NA message. The heart of the NA way of recovery from addiction is one addict helping another. We don't sell recovery; we share it freely with others in a spirit of love and gratitude. However, Narcotics Anonymous groups, service boards, and committees may require professional help in fulfilling their responsibilities.

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Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between a professional and a nonprofessional approach to treating addiction?
- If our professional work brings us into contact with addicts, how do we treat those individuals as members rather than clients if/when we see them in the rooms?
- What is the relationship between this Tradition and anonymity?

Tradition Nine

This Tradition is all about keeping it simple; not that we are disorganized, but that we create service boards and committees to serve the groups so that “NA, as such, may retain its uncluttered, direct approach to carrying the message.” The key to making this work is communication—along with a shared sense of responsibility to our primary purpose.

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Discussion Questions

- What do we need boards or committees for?
- How do we maintain effective communication between groups and their boards or committees?
- Talk about the relationship between this tradition and our primary purpose.

Tradition Ten

NA members are encouraged to think for themselves, develop their own opinions, and to express those opinions as they see fit... But, for all that, we all know that controversial personal opinions can distract our meetings from their primary purpose... So long as we keep our common welfare and primary purpose in focus, we will avoid the kind of controversy that distracts us from recovery.

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Discussion Questions

- When sharing in meetings, how can we discuss things outside of NA that affect our recovery without distracting the meeting from NA’s primary purpose?
- What views does NA have on getting clean?
- When speaking publicly, how can we describe NA without getting tangled in controversy?

Tradition Eleven

Tradition Eleven is the cornerstone of NA’s public relations policy. Public information work, done properly, is not promotion; rather, it seeks to make NA attractive to those who might need us. What we say and what we do reflects on our NA recovery and the NA Fellowship. As responsible NA members, we want that reflection to be a source of attraction rather than a source of embarrassment.

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Discussion Questions

- How do we protect NA’s reputation in public relations service work? Or when we participate on social media? Or when we wear an NA T-shirt to the coffee shop?
- How do we manage our personal anonymity when we participate in social media?
- Why is my personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film important to NA as a whole?

Tradition Twelve

The Twelve Traditions describe a fellowship that takes its collective guidance from spiritual principles rather than from individual personalities. That kind of selflessness is what the Twelfth Tradition means by the word “anonymity,” and it is the spiritual foundation on which Narcotics Anonymous is built.

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Discussion Questions

- If we place “principles before personalities,” where do our personalities fit in our role as NA members?
- What is a “spiritual foundation,” and how do we build on it?
- What is the relationship between anonymity and “our common welfare”?



The Twelve Traditions of NA

First Tradition

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.

Our First Tradition concerns unity and our common welfare. One of the most important things about our new way of life is being a part of a group of addicts seeking recovery. Our survival is directly related to the survival of the group and the Fellowship. To maintain unity within NA, it is imperative that the group remain stable, or the entire Fellowship perishes and the individual dies.

Second Tradition

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Our direction in service comes from a God of our understanding, whether we serve as individuals, as a group, or as a service board or committee. Whenever we come together, we seek the presence and guidance of this loving Higher Power. This direction then guides us through all our actions. [...] When we choose a member to serve us in some capacity, we exercise mutual trust.

Third Tradition

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.

The Third Tradition encourages freedom from judgment. It leads us on the path of service toward an attitude of helpfulness, acceptance, and unconditional love. [...] Addiction is a deadly disease. We know that addicts who don't find recovery can expect nothing better than jails, institutions, and death. Refusing admission to any addict, even one who comes merely out of curiosity, may be a death sentence for that addict.

Fourth Tradition

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole.

Each group does have complete freedom, except when their actions affect other groups or NA as a whole. If we check to make sure that our actions are clearly within the bounds of our traditions; if we do not dictate to other groups, or force anything upon them; and if we consider the consequences of our action ahead of time, then all will be well.

Fifth Tradition

Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

What is our message? The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom. When all is said and done, our primary purpose can only be to carry the message to the addict who still suffers because that is all we have to give.

Sixth Tradition

An NA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Within the limits established by Tradition Six, we have tremendous freedom to carry the message of recovery and help other addicts. We have clear boundaries set by our identity as Narcotics Anonymous. When we take care to observe those boundaries, our outside relationships enhance our ability to carry the message to the addict who still suffers rather than diverting us from our primary purpose.

Seventh Tradition

Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

By encouraging our group to pay its own way, the Seventh Tradition gives our group the freedom to share its recovery as it sees fit, not obligated to outside contributors. Further, it gives our group the freedom that comes from inner strength, the strength that develops through applying spiritual principles.

Eighth Tradition

Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

In this tradition we say that we have no professionals. By this, we mean we have no staff psychiatrists, doctors, lawyers, or counselors. Our program works by one addict helping another. If we employed professionals in NA groups, we would destroy our unity. We are simply addicts of equal status freely helping one another.

Ninth Tradition

NA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

NA groups join together, combining their resources to create service boards and committees that will help them better fulfill their primary purpose. Those boards and committees are not called to govern NA; they are called, rather, to faithfully execute the trust given them by the groups they serve.

Tenth Tradition

Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

There are a great number of addiction-related issues that others might expect a worldwide society of recovering drug addicts to take positions on. [...] Our answer, according to Tradition Ten, is that our groups and our fellowship take no position, pro or con, on any issues except the NA program itself. [...] For our own survival, we have no opinion on outside issues.

Eleventh Tradition

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

The existence of a public relations "policy" implies the importance of a public relations "program" in carrying out our fellowship's primary purpose. [...] As NA groups, service boards, and committees, we deliberately and energetically cultivate good public relations, not as an incidental result of our normal activity but as a way to better carry our message to addicts. [...] Public anonymity helps keep the focus of our public relations on the NA message, not the PI workers involved.

Twelfth Tradition

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Anonymity is one of the basic elements of our recovery and it pervades our Traditions and our Fellowship. It protects us from our own defects of character and renders personalities and their differences powerless. Anonymity in action makes it impossible for personalities to come before principles.

Fellowship development

New possibilities arise

“Wouldn’t it be cool if...”

Ideas can percolate to the surface through a number of channels in Minnesota. There’s the traditional method: GSR to ASC to RCM to region. Technological advancements in communications have also led to ideas from within and from outside the Fellowship. For example, our Bridging the Gap program (a temporary contact service for those new to NA or those newly out of an institution) came into being as a result of requests from treatment and corrections professionals for a program similar to that offered by Alcoholics Anonymous. But two additional examples are worth noting to illustrate the power of how simple and cost-free innovation can be.



The first is rethinking how our RSC conducts our open forum. As is so often the case, this session was almost an afterthought, placed at the end of the RSC agenda, ready to be hacked if time ran short and members had mostly gone on to other things in their lives. Yet proper in-depth discussion is central to having a successful project-based system. Our willingness to routinely rethink EVERYTHING invited us to move the open forum to the beginning of the agenda. Why stop

there? The next thing we did was to place chairs in a circle rather than setting up the room classroom-style, to invite equal participation. This seemingly subtle change has been perhaps one of the simplest and most influential examples of innovation. Sitting in a circle minimizes our sense of top-down hierarchical thinking, inviting everyone to feel equally a part of, equally welcome, equally important. Innovation doesn’t always have to come in a shiny new toy; it can be elegant in its simplicity.

Since we have transformed to a project-based region, the annual assembly has taken on a new, central role in what we do. It offers members another forum in which to generate ideas to carry our message. One of the most popular sessions over the past four years has been a brainstorming exercise called “Wouldn’t it be cool if...?” Every member can think big or small about service delivery. “Wouldn’t it be cool if...?” laid the foundation of innovation squarely in the hands of our members. These are just a few examples:

- *Wouldn't it be cool if* our region had one database of meetings instead of 14 separate ones for each area?
- *Wouldn't it be cool if* we had an updated website where areas and the region can store minutes and flyers, to be viewed by anyone on demand?
- *Wouldn't it be cool if* more sponsor opportunities were made available by our members for our inmate members?

Ideas are the key ingredients that churn innovation and provide options for making use of our precious resources.

Monte J, Minnesota, USA

Multi-Zonal Service Symposium: An expression of gratitude

We were inspired by [Western Service Learning Days](#), the [Florida Service Symposium](#), the [Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference](#) (MARLCNA), zonal weekend workshops, [NA World Services](#) Worldwide Workshops, regional service assemblies, and five multiregional learning days in the Midwest (1992–96). All have served as potential models for the structure and inspiration of the MZSS. Large-scale weekend NA events like this tend to be few and far between in the middle part of the United States, and currently nothing of this scale happens on a regular basis here. We want to bring this atmosphere of learning, sharing, and enthusiasm for service to Middle America.

It has been awesome to see the level of excitement and thirst for MZSS. There are 25 regions within three zonal forums ([Midwest](#), [Plains States](#), and [Southern](#)). Of the 22 that voted, over 90 percent approved it to happen. With the workgroups just beginning to form (programming, merchandise, registration, facilities/hosting, technology, and arts and graphics), we hope to get NA members from all of the regions involved. We currently have workgroup members from within all three zones and more than a third of the regions. We meet via video conference call, so everyone can participate from their homes. We don't have the burden and cost of travel, yet we addicts hundreds of miles apart from each other are collaborating to put together this event. In the course of our service in planning this symposium, we have gotten to know recovering addicts we otherwise may not have had the opportunity to know—and we have developed some close friendships.

This is a great example of collaboration between multiple types of service bodies across great distances. Such events also allow for more trusted servants to gain facilitation/presentation experience, ever widening our base of service experience, which can be taken back to our local NA communities. See-



ing other addicts passionate about and dedicated to NA service can spark a fire in other members, which we hope will help our groups and service bodies grow and bolster our efforts to carry the NA message to the addict who is still suffering.

We have seen how service learning workshops transformed groups, areas, regions, zones, personal recovery, and, probably to a certain extent, even the atmosphere of the WSC. It is amazing to see an addict from one part of the country sharing ideas and practices with members from another part of the country. They can begin to envision that their home group could be stronger too; that their region could have a phoneline; that their area could mix an afternoon of service workshops with an evening of eating, sharing, and dancing—and get a decent turnout the whole day; or that an addict in rural Minnesota could do stepwork via mail with an addict behind prison walls in California.

This event is going to happen—it really is! The Multi-Zonal Service Symposium will take place 26–28 September 2014, in St. Louis, Missouri. If you are interested in helping make the symposium happen (behind the scenes and/or the weekend of), please email us at (info@mzssna.org) or visit our website www.mzssna.org and register for access to all the documents.

With love and gratitude in service,

MZSS Workgroup

Walking the walk

Talking Traditions

I was asked by the [European Delegates Meeting](#) Fellowship Development Committee to do an FD follow-up for Bulgaria. So I started to gather information, and it was quite clear that it should be something about the Twelve Traditions of NA. I involved Moldova as well, and somehow the group grew. We ended up with members from Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, Switzerland, Germany, Pakistan, Kenya, California, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

I thought it might be a good idea to not travel again, but instead to use some modern technology. It was a first test, and it went quite well. We used an internet conference call program and had group calls for twelve weeks in a row. I asked [NA World Services](#) for support, and the staff person coordinating the [Traditions Book Project](#) was assigned. The idea was to have one Tradition each week, with one speaker each week followed by a Q&A session. We figured out after the first call that it would be better to have two speakers, as it's not so easy to speak about one tradition for 30 minutes. We also broadened the base of speakers and got amazing support from NAWS staff members as well as World Board members and several other experienced long-term members from all over the US, Sweden, Greece, New Zealand, and Australia. They very patiently answered all of our questions in detail. Later in the process, I included someone from a US zonal forum to give her a chance to see how we do things in Europe. We also recorded the sessions, and we decided to make the speaker portions available on CDs.

I can't describe in words the benefits of being part of this task team, so others involved with the calls are also sharing their experience (see the electronic NA Way). It was another push for my personal recovery, and I can only encourage people to use our experience and repeat it in any ways that fit their purposes. We

had no travel costs and brought together lots of people from around the world, and my hope is that some of these ties that bind us together will last longer than the project did. Our thanks to the EDM for this opportunity, to NAWS for the support, and to all the speakers and members of this incredible workgroup.

Helge B, RD, Germanspeaking Region

Click here to read more
about the Traditions
internet calls.

Afghanistan growth

The third fellowship development trip to Afghanistan took place in January 2014. We facilitated two days of workshops in the city of Herat on topics like Building Strong Home Groups, the Twelve Traditions, Atmosphere of Recovery, Service, the Twelve Concepts, and Planning for Formation of an Afghanistan Region. The third and last day we were there, we formed a panel to carry the message into the city, where we met with addicts and distributed as many IPs as we could.

There were approximately 200 members from Herat, Kabul, Mazar e Sharif, and Ghazni, up from 55–60 workshop participants during our first trip and about 100 on our second trip. The total number of NA members in [Afghanistan](#) was about 400 in 2012, and we believe there are now approximately 1,000. Afghan members present decided to meet by internet conference call monthly and in person every three or four months, with the aim of developing a region.

We are grateful for the resources provided by [NAWS](#), the members who supported these efforts, and, of course, all of the Afghan members.

[Asia Pacific Forum](#)

Fellowship Development Committee

The journey continues

United without borders: [Latin American Zonal Forum](#)

On 29 April 1993, several representatives of some Latin American NA regions and communities, with the help of Narcotics Anonymous World Services, gathered during the 1993 World Service Conference to take the first steps toward forming the Latin American Zonal Forum. The first Latin American Conference/Convention was held 12–14 November of that same year, and was attended by only five Latin American regions/communities and NAWS.

Today, regular meetings of the Latin American Zonal Forum (LAZF) occur every two years to share experience, strength, and hope; to inform ongoing and new projects; and, mostly, to work for carrying the message. This year, the eleventh LAZF meeting was held 7–10 November in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, with the participation of regional delegates from 20 out of 25 regions or communities of the Latin American Zonal Forum. Well, it was 25 before we started, but one of the first issues for discussion was the seating request from the Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) Region; so the LAZF is now made up of 26 regions/communities—and growing, with more than 7,600 meetings in 21 countries!

Hearing that there are ten groups in [Cuba](#) thrills us almost to tears, and motivates us to keep going and to strive more each day. Knowing that in Haiti, after some teamwork between the LAZF and NAWS, there is still an NA meeting twice a week, and that several Dominican members are motivated to support this meeting, makes us dream and keep up the hope that *every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life!*

We will keep working in [Cuba](#) and Haiti, and now we will also add fellowship development efforts in Belize. We also talked about translations, happily shar-

ing that the [Reaching Out](#) newsletter has been translated from English to Spanish for eight consecutive editions, which is helping Hospitals and Institutions efforts in Latin America. Also, the translation revisions of *Living Clean: The Journey Continues* are ready. All of this, together with the fact that 13 issues of our [Infolatina](#) magazine have been published, fills us with happiness and pride.

Every moment of the meeting was exciting. We heard of efforts made by our trusted servants in our regions, such as Uruguay celebrating NA's 60th anniversary through a public information activity with the nation's presidency; Brazil and all the service efforts they do; Panama, with a very good [public service TV spot](#); and each region sharing ideas to practice in our communities.

We shared two conference cycle workshops with the local community—Collaboration and Group Conscience—facilitated by a World Board member and a NAWS staff member. It was great and special to interact with others attending the Latin American Convention, which is the recovery event held alongside the LAZF meeting. We had a heavy agenda to cover, and we were eager to work. We discussed ideas, projects, and the need for the Seventh Tradition in all our services. We tried to decide by consensus, which helps a lot to fulfill our primary purpose.

Finally, the moment came to decide where to hold our next LAZF. After hearing about wonderful projects, the forum conscience was that [Baja Son Region](#) (Mexico) will be the next host in 2015. That Saturday night we worked until 4:00 am. Phew! But we finished our working agenda happy, united, grateful, and motivated because... the journey continues.

Now a new working cycle begins. During the next two years we will continue to work intensively so that *an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live*, as we have found it ourselves. Thank you, NA; thank you to all of our predecessors for serving and knowing that we are committed to keeping this alive!

LAZF Executive Committee

Aloha, NA

The Oahu Area of NA is happy to announce the Thirtieth Hawaii Gathering, 25–27 April 2014, on the North Shore of Oahu. Our Gathering is located at a beachside campground along the beautiful North Shore. The event is a weekend celebration of recovery with workshops, meetings, dancing, fun in the sun, swimming, fishing, snorkeling, and relaxing.

Our first Hawaii campout in 1984 was called the NA Round-Up, but because AA called their campout the AA Round-Up, we decided we should be different, so the next year we changed the event name to the NA Gathering. It was held 14–16 February 1985. That first Gathering was held at Camp Homelani, a campground owned by the Salvation Army off of Crozier Lane in Mokolieie. It was a small venue, but more than 250 members showed up. We did all the cooking ourselves. My brother was in charge of the meals. I was the chairperson, and a woman from Samoa was my cochair. I don't recall what the registration fee was, but I know we welcomed everyone. For meals, once we knew that everyone who paid had been fed, we opened the doors to everyone else.

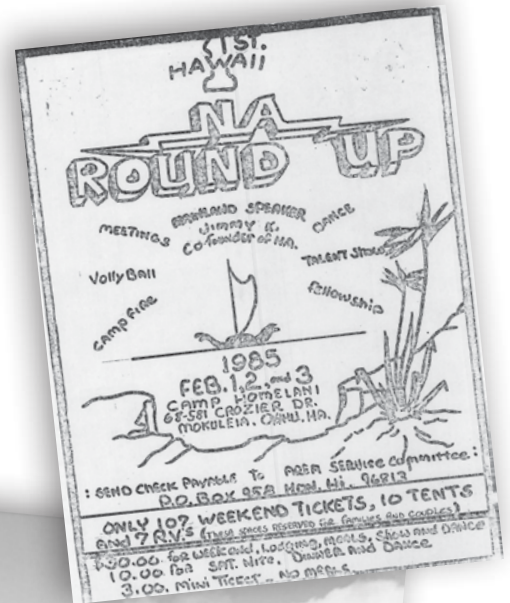
Members from all of the outer islands came, as well as members from California, New York, and Japan. The week before the Gathering, with so many visitors there for the event, the Wednesday night

Hoponopono meeting in town had over 200 members. It was the same after the gathering, when the Sunday night Ohana meeting was packed. It was a time of very loving and unifying energy for all of us. One of our members even got married on the beach Sunday morning.

A member of the WSC Board of Trustees and the chairperson of the World Service Conference attended. Many AA members who had supported NA over the years came to celebrate with us on Saturday night. And Jimmy K, a cofounder of NA, was to be our speaker. He celebrated 35 years on 2 February, and he was very excited about coming. Unfortunately, Jimmy called a week before to tell us he was too sick to come. He was hospitalized and died in July of that same year. In his place, a long-term member from California came and shared a great NA message. He also brought along an audio recording of a message from Jimmy to all of us.

It really felt like we were a Fellowship in our own right rather than one that existed in the shadow of our predecessor. It was one of those coming-of-age moments for the Hawaii NA community.

Tom M, Hawaii, USA



Photos: Erik R, Hawaii, USA

Time to start planning for
WCNA 36 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

11–14 June 2015



Registration and hotels are currently planned to be on sale in June 2014 and we are planning to offer payment plan options. We are working on a bi-lingual convention plan in English and Brazilian Portuguese. We'll be starting to look for speakers and speaker evaluators beginning in July.

We are still working on hotels and facilities. The convention site, Rio Centro Convention Centre, is close to an area called Barra de Tijuca, which is approximately 30 kilometers outside of central Rio (because of traffic it is normally not advisable for people to commute between these two locations), and there are beautiful beaches across from most of the Barra hotels. We'll arrange pre- and post-convention trips in and around Brazil to explore more of this extraordinary country. Stay tuned for more information—mais será revelado!

www.na.org/wcna

Calling All Newsletter Editors and Committees

Does your area or region publish a newsletter?

Please let us know—and add us to your email/ mailing list!

naway@na.org

The NA Way Magazine; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409

Share or seek newsletter experience on the discussion board:

<http://disc.na.org/servdisc>



CALENDAR

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.)

Our Calendar section was decreased to one page in recent years to save print space (which equals cost savings) and because most can access the online event calendar. We create the *NA Way* Calendar page from the online calendar database at www.na.org/events, which is viewed some 20,000 times each month.

Our production schedule fluctuates sometimes to coincide with the World Convention, World Service Conference, or other events, so we are adjusting the printed date ranges, starting with a longer-than-usual window of time for this issue, and then following the usual three-month range beginning in July. Because the magazine is produced approximately three months before publication, event information should be submitted according to the dates listed below. If you have questions or concerns, we always welcome your input and inquiries at naway@na.org.

Issue	Events Occurring	Submission Deadline
April	10 April – 31 July	15 January
July	1 August – 31 October	15 April
October	1 November – 31 January	15 July
January	1 February – 30 April	15 October

Argentina

Mar Del Plata 11-13 Apr; Area Mar Del Plata Convention 9; Gran Hotel Santa Teresita, Mar Del Plata; www.facebook.com/convencionna.mdq

Brazil

Belem 11-13 Apr; Belem Area Convention 14; Seminario Mae da Divina Providencia, Belem; Event Info: adictotorquato@gmail.com

Canada

Alberta 16-18 May; Chinook Area Convention; Delta Calgary South, Calgary; www.chinookna.org

Nova Scotia 14-20 Jul; Pig Roast & Campout 25; Blomidon Provincial Park, Canning; Event Info: 902.692.1031

Croatia

Seget Donji 6-8 Jun 2014; Adriatic Regional Convention 8; Hotel Medina, Seget Donji; Event Info: odborzatrogir@hotmail.com

Portugal

Setubal 7-8 Jun; Portuguese Regional Convention 24; Centro Paroquial Senhora da Anunciada, Setubal; www.facebook.com/XXIVCPNA

Puerto Rico

San Juan 25-27 Jul; Convención Unidos Podemos 25; Condado Plaza Hilton Hotel, San Juan; Speaker tape deadline: 1 Jun; www.prna.org

Spain

Algeciras 6-8 Jun; Spanish Regional Convention; Hotel Santa Cristina, Algeciras; www.narcoticosanonimos.es

Tanzania

Dar es Salaam 21-24 May; East Africa Regional Convention 2; Hotel South Beach Resort, Dar es Salaam; www.ea-na.com

Ukraine

Donetsk 2-4 May 2014; First Ukraine Regional Convention; DNMU, Donetsk; www.uccna1.org

United Kingdom

Aberdeen 24-25 May; A Vision of Hope; Queen Street Church, Aberdeen; Event Info: ecsna@ukna.org

United States

Arizona 23-25 May; Arizona Regional Convention 28; Scottsdale Doubletree, Scottsdale; www.arizona-na.org

California 17-20 Apr; Northern California Regional Convention 36; Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento; www.norcalna.org

2) 18-20 Apr; San Diego Imperial Counties Regional Convention 29; Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, San Diego; www.sandiegona.org

3) 30 May-1 June; Ride4 Recovery; Sierra Bible Camp, Canyon Dam; www.naride4recovery.com

4) 18-20 Jul; Napa/Solano Area Women's Spiritual Retreat; Golden Pines RV Resort & Campgrounds, Camp Connell; www.napasolanowomensretreat.com

5) 18-20 Jul; Greater Los Angeles Area Convention 7; Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles; www.glana.org

Florida 11-13 Apr; Space Coast Area Convention; International Palms Resort, Cocoa Beach; Event Info: sconv@gmail.com

2) 19-24 Apr; Greater Orlando Area Recovery at Sea 3; Carnival Cruise Lines Port of Tampa, Tampa; Event Info: 407.421.6525

3) 2-4 May; Daytona Area Convention 15; Plaza Resort & Spa, Daytona Beach; www.daytonana.org/dacna-convention

4) 3-6 Jul; Florida Regional Convention 33; Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando; www.naflorida.org

5) 25-27 Jul; Mid Coast Area Convention 13; Boca Raton Marriott, Boca Raton; www.mccna.com

Georgia 1-4 May; A Little Girl Grows Up 6; Hilton Airport Hotel, Atlanta; Event Info: alggukitty@yahoo.com

2) 3-6 Jul 2014; Midtown Area Convention 23; Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport, Atlanta; www.midtownatlantana.com

Hawaii 25-27 Apr; Camp Mokuie'i'a, Waialua, Oahu; www.na-hawaii.org/area_gatherings.htm

Idaho 11-13 Jul; Serenity in the Wilderness Campout; Elks Flat Campground, Boise National Forest; Event Info: harperkns@gmail.com

Illinois 25-27 Apr; Rock River Area Convention 23; Clock Tower Resort, Rockford; www.rtagsna.org

Indiana 18-20 Apr; Kentuckiana Regional Convention 28; Clarion Inn and Convention Center, Evansville; www.nakentucky.com/kentuckiana-region-of-na

Louisiana 23-25 May; Louisiana Regional Convention 32; Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge; Event Info: 225.978.4749

Maryland 11-13 Apr; Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Convention 28; Roland E Powell Convention Center, Ocean City; www.cprcna.org/28

Michigan 17-20 Apr; Detroit Areas Convention 22; Adoba Hotel, Dearborn; Event Info: 248.242.3988

2) 3-6 Jul; Michigan Regional Convention 30; Sheraton, Ann Arbor; speaker tape submission deadline: 12 March; www.michigan-na.org/mrcna

Minnesota 11-14 Apr; Minnesota Regional Convention 21; Doubletree Minneapolis; www.naminnnesota.org/mnnac

Nebraska 23-26 May; Nebraska Region Run for Fun Memorial Day Campout 34; Alexandria State Recreation Area; www.nebraskana.org

New Hampshire 25-27 Jul; Granite State Area Convention 8; Nashua Radisson, Nashua; www.gsana.org

New Jersey 30 May-1 Jun; Ocean Area Convention 7; Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel, Asbury Park; www.convention.ocanj.org

New Mexico 15-18 May; Rio Grande Regional Convention 25; Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, Albuquerque; www.riograndena.org

New York 9-11 May; Western Queens Area First Stop to Freedom 4; Hyatt Regency Long Island, Hauppauge; www.westernqueensna.org/convention

2) 23-25 May; Heart of New York Area Convention 10; Crowne Plaza Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse; www.honyana.org

North Carolina 6-8 Jun; North Carolina Capital Area Convention 25; Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley, Raleigh; www.capitalareancna.com

2) 18-20 Jul; New Hope Area Convention 21; Durham Convention Center, Durham; www.newhopeconvention.com

Ohio 23-25 May; Ohio Convention 32; Wyndham Garden Dayton South, Miamisburg; www.dascna.org/index.php/ocna-32-dayton-oh
2) 4-6 Jul; Dayton Area Convention 10; Wyndham Garden Hotel, Miamisburg; www.dascna.org

Oregon 16-18 May; Pacific Cascade Regional Convention 20; Ramada Medford Hotel & Convention Center, Medford; www.soana.org/pcrcnaxx.html

Tennessee 28-30 Nov; Volunteer Regional Convention 32; Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville; www.natennessee.org

Texas 2-4 May; Area de Habla Hispana de Texas Convention 3; Lake Palestine Resort, Frankston; www.natexas.org

2) 23-25 May; Texas State Convention 12; MCM Elegante Hotel, Beaumont; www.tscna.org

3) 16-18 Jan 2015; First Esperanza Area Convention; Hilton San Antonio Airport, San Antonio; www.eacnaonline.org

Utah 6-8 Jun; High Uintah Area Celebration of Recovery; American Legion Hall, Vernal; Event Info: jim_tamie@yahoo.com

2) 20-22 Jun; Southern Utah Area Convention 7; Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Saint George; www.suana.org

Virginia 23-26 May; Marion Survivor's Group Campout; Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center, Marion; www.mana-e-tn.org

2) 20-22 Jun; East Coast Convention 18; College of William and Mary, Williamsburg; speaker tape submission deadline: 30 Apr; write: Central Atlantic Region; Box #144; Mays Landing, NJ 08330; www.eccna.org

Washington 25-27 Jul; Seattle International Convention; Lynnwood Convention Center, Lynnwood; www.seattlenaconvention.org

Wyoming 16-18 May; Upper Rocky Mountain Regional Convention 15; Roundhouse, Evanston; www.urmrna.org/convention

2) 11-13 Jul; Central Basin Area Retreat Serenity Under the Stars; Fremont County Youth Camp, Lander; Event Info: landerna@gmail.com



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