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IN THIS ISSUE

From the editor	2
In the name of love	3
WCNA-31 and Unity Day 2005: Experiences from around the world	4
New Orleans memories	5
Sponsoring beyond the steps	6
My old home group	7
Where is the love?	7
Picture this	8
OK...everybody in the pool!	9
Primary purpose	10
Did you know?	12
PR Handbook update	12
Regardless of...	13
Share the truth	14
Support the vision	14
WSC 2006: CAR parts	15
Our public image is each member's responsibility	16
Calendar	17
WSO product update	19
Home group	20





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OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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From the editor

Every day of the week, all over the world, recovering addicts gather to share the NA message. Whether our keytags hang from a custom-made rack or our home group is handing out keytags for the first time, the message is the same: Freedom from active addiction is possible. Through a sign language interpreter, through the welcome we receive at our first meeting, through NA literature or a conversation with our sponsor, we all hear the same message.

On 11 September 2005, nearly 10,000 NA members simultaneously shared this NA message of recovery at World Unity Day. From NA meeting rooms to correctional facilities and a mountain-top in India, recovering addicts gathered around speaker telephones and (in some cases) cobbled-together public address systems. In Honolulu, Hawaii, more than 8,000 recovering addicts attending our 31st World Convention were joined by telephonically connected members from around the world. All were welcomed collectively by the NA World Board chairperson. We listened as a member carried the message of recovery through her story, and we closed the meeting, together, with a worldwide moment of silence.

As individuals and as a fellowship, we share wonderful moments like these that bring us together in the joy of our recovery. We also face and move through the moments that break our hearts and challenge our faith. Friends and family members die. We lose jobs and relationships. We face crises that affect us collectively—and we've had our share in recent months, with hurricanes, flooding and mudslides, and massive earthquakes. We reach out to offer support, hope, prayers, replacement NA literature, and places for addicts to gather where the chairs are not afloat in floodwaters and the roof has not fallen. No matter what happens to us, we know that we don't have to use, that we are being cared for, and that, together, we can survive through our shared experience, strength, and hope.

De J, Editor

Electronic subscriptions to *The NA Way* are available at
<http://portaltools.na.org/PortalTools/subscriptions/Login.cfm>

Cover art adapted from *The NA Way Magazine*, August 1991

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

The NA Way Magazine, published in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish, belongs to the members of Narcotics Anonymous. Its mission, therefore, is to provide each member with recovery and service information, as well as recovery-related entertainment, which speaks to current issues and events relevant to each of our members worldwide. In keeping with this mission, the editorial staff is dedicated to providing a magazine which is open to articles and features written by members from around the world, as well as 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."

In the name of love

The following is an excerpt of the message a member planned to share at the Saturday night meeting of WCNA-31. Because he was not able to attend the convention, he shared via telephone during World Unity Day.

My name is Mahmoud, and I am an addict from Iran. I would like to thank the members for this opportunity to share about the NA miracle in Iran.

After twenty years of active addiction, and having so many unsuccessful tries to stop using, I finally got to know NA in Iran about nine years ago. In those days, there were only twenty members, and only one group with three meetings in Iran. I kept going to the meetings, but it took me two more years to get clean. I always promised myself that, if I could get clean, I would do my best to serve NA in any way I could.

The miracle happened. I got clean and started service in NA, but in my own way. My way was to be self-centered and make everyone listen to me and do what I told them to do. I wanted to be the boss. All this self-centeredness, arrogance, and resentment affected our unity. It caused some members to relapse, and some newcomers didn't stay. And it caused our community and our government to be skeptical of NA.

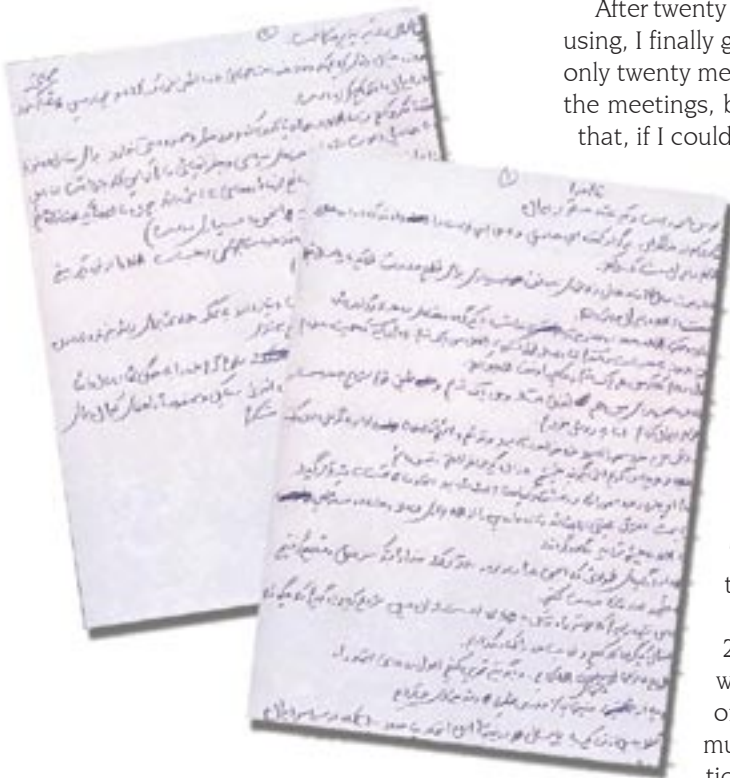
After a long conflict that affected our NA community very badly, thank God we came to our senses and decided to try to learn how to be of real service. We contacted NA World Services, and then we started to learn how to work as a group. We began translating NA literature, and we learned to practice the spiritual principle of unity. The farther we got away from our personalities and character defects, the more we grew.

Now, after five or six years, as a result of our unity, we have about 2,400 groups all over Iran, with more than 29,000 members. Every day we receive more newcomers, and our nation has accepted us as a part of an international fellowship that can be respected. We have grown so much that NA World Services has now opened a production and distribution center in Iran.

I personally think the NA program works all over the world, and no borders can stop it. For example, two of us were going to join you at this gathering, but we were stopped due to geographical and political boundaries. But these limitations could not stop us from having a spiritual connection, because we are members of one family, and I really believe in "one fellowship, many friends."

I hope someday I can visit NA World Services and other meetings. The Iranian NA community is young and needs you all to help us keep growing and making the NA message of recovery available to more suffering addicts.

Mahmoud C, Tehran, Iran



WCNA-31 and Unity Day 2005: Experiences from around the world

❖ Leejay G, Minnesota, USA

Two and a half years ago, when I said I wished I could go to Hawaii, my sponsor told me, "You're going to Hawaii." My sponsor gave me constant encouragement, and I continued to work my program. I made my first airplane trip and saw the ocean for the first time at age thirty-nine, with three years clean!

◆ Dario N, Medellin, Colombia

On Unity Day, my heart raced, thinking the phone system I had set up wasn't going to work. Then, we heard the phone: ring, ring, ring! I felt immense joy. We listened, and a member translated for us. I didn't understand everything, but it didn't matter. I was simply feeling my heart beat with excitement when I heard you on the line. My greatest happiness that day was when a newcomer arrived who, days before, was desperately asking for help on the phoneline because she wanted to stop using. Thanks to our phoneline volunteers, our Higher Power, and members who invited her, the greatest gift was that she was able to be there at World Unity Day.

❖ Ken P, Pennsylvania, USA

As I reflect back on moments in Hawaii, I think of old friends and new ones from as far away as Sweden, Greece, and Ireland. We celebrated our recovery, the spirit of fellowship, and the immense beauty of nature. Mahalo.

◆ Mickael H, Kehl, Germany

There were more people at the Twelve Coconuts meeting at the beach than there were at the entire European convention!

❖ Jimmy E, Eskilstuna, Sweden

I got to share my story of recovery at one of the workshops. I was scared, but I have never felt more at home than at that time. The loving power of god was working through us, and the word of one of my co-speakers was ringing in my head: "Namaste." I bow to you.

◆ Dawn A, Indiana, USA

I just can't explain how thankful I am that so many people went out of their way to open doors, guide me through lines, and assist with getting my wheelchair on and off the shuttles. This was my first world convention, and I am looking forward to attending the next.

❖ Javad M, Tehran, Iran

Suddenly, I felt the world is such a small place. I felt there is no need for me to feel isolated. It was worth staying up one night. Beyond geographical distance, and regardless of the time difference, it felt like I was hugged by recovery friends—friends who suffer from the same disease that brought me to my knees. Their souls were healed by the same process that made recovery possible for me.

◆ Shannon T, Tennessee, USA

In a virtual room full of thousands of people today, I really did feel unity, especially when the speaker from Iran came on the phoneline to say he'd tried and tried to get clean, but he couldn't do it until he found NA. NA came to his country, and he works the same Twelve Steps I work. He uses the same words I use: Keep coming back. NA is in Iran and Sweden, Honduras and Memphis. It makes me feel small and yet connected to the larger, the higher, and—just for me—to God.

❖ Jeff G, Darjeeling, India

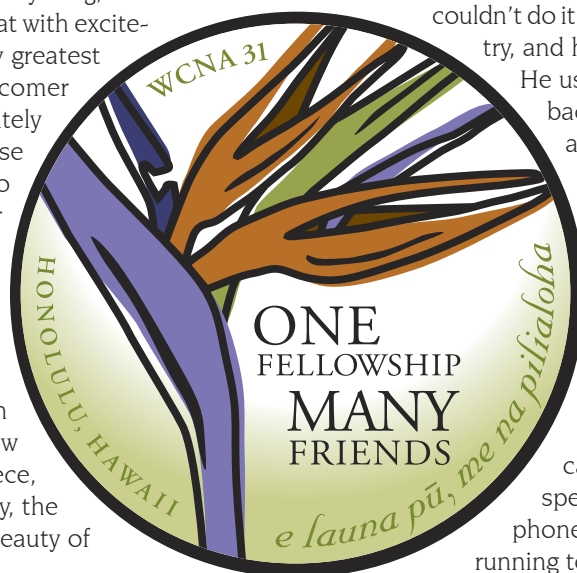
Monsoon rains still falling, but nearing the end of the season. Five thousand feet elevation at a resort on a mountaintop. Two hundred fifty NA members, all trying to help transfer the call from the main phone to a portable speakerphone, over which a floor microphone was propped up on pillows, with wires running to the amplifier and speakers in the tent outside where we were gathered. We disconnected the call three times, and the operator mercifully sought us out and reconnected us each time. Finally, the voice of the World Board chairperson opening the meeting, and then the otherworldly enjoyment of receiving the Unity Day call at a far-flung, remote location in the Darjeeling, India, region, knowing we were tied to Narcotics Anonymous worldwide. Thank you, NA, and thank you to the telephone operators.

◆ Kenny H, Oregon, USA

We would like to thank you for your help in getting us hooked up with Hawaii on Sunday for World Unity Day. It was a big success for us here at the penitentiary. We were able to have the sound broadcast loud enough for all to hear!

❖ Carolyn W, New Jersey, USA

I am here [at the World Convention] by myself, but I haven't been alone yet.





New Orleans memories

Narcotics Anonymous and New Orleans are entwined in my heart. I first learned about NA in New Orleans in 1982. I was taken to a local neighborhood hospital after my third overdose and placed in the psychiatric ward there. (I don't believe the hospital sustained too much damage from the recent hurricanes.) I was then transferred to another hospital for inpatient detox and rehabilitation. (Because that hospital sits on one of the highest points of the city, I don't think it sustained much damage either.) I attended my first NA meeting at this facility. That meeting changed my life forever. So has Hurricane Katrina which, along with Hurricane Rita, devastated the city in September 2005.

How can I tell you what NA is without telling you about my New Orleans? Memories of growing up in the lower Ninth Ward (one of the hardest-hit areas) are as fresh as the day those memories were made—their images burned onto my retinas like tattoos. I can still smell the thick air, heavy with heat and humidity. I can still feel the banquettes (what locals call sidewalks) roasting the soles of my shoes as I strolled hand-in-hand with my grandma on Canal Street. I would marvel for hours at the swirling eddies as they made metaphors in the muddy Mississippi River. How I loved sitting in a pirogue with my daddy, fishing on Bayou Bienvenue, while we watched the sun languidly kiss the early morning horizon. I can still smell the richness of the roux my grandma made for my favorite dish of crawfish bisque. My mouth is watering right now just at the thought of sopping crisp French bread in that glorious red gravy! The music that pierces your soul, the mosquitoes that pierce your skin, the sweat that drenches even your socks, the food that makes your taste buds radiate, the French Market, Café du Monde, Mardi Gras—oh, so many memories. And the only reason I've been able to hold onto these memories is because of NA.

I used every day for fifteen years. Every day is a reason to celebrate in New Orleans, and I took full advantage of that. But after a year or so of active using, it was no longer a party for me. It became a nightmare, day in and day out. I couldn't wake up. My disease clamped down on my spirit like a pit bull, shredding my sense of self-worth, mangling my will to live. At that first NA meeting, I saw life and tasted hope. I remember feeling such euphoria as the realization hit me that I didn't have to live in despair any longer. I had a choice.

So, what is Narcotics Anonymous? NA is a bunch of addicts in recovery. We go to meetings to share with each other about how we stay clean. We come from every walk of life; you name it, NA has it! Rich, poor, black, white, brown, old, young, gay, straight, male, female, transgender, short, tall, fat, skinny, American, Hispanic, German, Indonesian, South African, Iranian—NA has it all. NA is hope. NA is freedom. NA is love and compassion and truth. NA has given this addict the ability to live a life without the use of drugs. NA has allowed me to rejoin the human race. After twenty-two years in recovery, I not only remember those precious memories from my childhood in New Orleans, but

*I used every day
for fifteen years.
Every day is a
reason to celebrate
in New Orleans...*



I now have many new memories to hold near to my heart.

Because of NA, I am capable of sitting with this feeling of utter helplessness as I watch the city of my childhood drown. Because of NA, I can empathize with the anguish of losing one's home. My family lost everything in Hurricane Betsy in 1965. Because of NA, I can be there for my best friend and aunt who still live there and who survived Hurricane Katrina. I can listen to their sobs, and cry with them. Because of NA, I don't have to run away from these overwhelming emotions, fearing that I'll be consumed. I am here, because of NA.

Nancy S, Nevada, USA

Sponsoring beyond the steps

My experience is that some sponsees feel entirely satisfied if I work the steps with them, while others want more. Well, as I have been told, "It is okay to want." Someone wanting something does not always mean that I can give it. Some want to hang out, some want to be best friends, some want to be my favorite, and others want relationship counseling.

Other times, the wants of my sponsees, beyond working the steps, are within my experience, strength, and hope to provide. For instance, sponsees who want a deeper understanding of the traditions as they apply to their group service are welcome to seek out my experience. I also support sponsees by sharing how I use our slogans and the Serenity Prayer to get through difficult situations. I have found reading *Just for Today* each morning to be helpful, even though this is not part of step work. When a sponsee is going to have a medical procedure, I encourage them to read our pamphlet, *In Times of Illness*.

NA has other literature that presents more of a challenge. It seems entirely appropriate for sponsors to go over the book, *Sponsorship*, with those they sponsor. This is a way to expose them to what is reasonable to expect from

me and what they need to develop their willingness to stay clean. *Sponsorship* also provides a vehicle to let sponsees know how other people sponsor and to clarify which of those things I do or don't do, and why I have made these decisions. The challenge is when and how to go over the book with my sponsees.

It seems a cover-to-cover read prior to working the steps is problematic. With normal newcomer resistance and procrastination, this may delay First Step work too long and lead to relapse. On the other hand, waiting until someone is all the way through the steps before introducing them to this book could delay exposure to this important information for a year or more. This might lead to unnecessary misunderstandings and delay awakening to spiritual principles associated with sponsorship.

Here is what I am trying, but I would love to hear how other sponsors do this. When I get a new sponsee, I have him read Chapter One, "What Is Sponsorship?" While they read it, I ask them to highlight things they strongly agree with, things they strongly disagree with, and things they have questions about. Then we get together and go over what they have highlighted.

Here is where we leave experience and try to work from common sense. Prior to beginning the Fourth Step inventory, but after they have a thorough working knowledge of the first three steps, seems to me to be the perfect time to review

Chapter Two, "To the Sponsee." While the content of this chapter appears to me better suited to someone on the verge of seeking a sponsor, it also seems like a good time to review this material and affirm their decision to have me as a sponsor before the sometimes-scary process of committing their sickest secrets to paper.

I request that my sponsees refrain from sponsoring others until they have begun their Ninth Step and have had some relief from their defects of character. Based on this, it seems that just prior to Step Eight would be a great time to review Chapter Three, "To the Sponsor." While I considered waiting until after Step Eight, it seems unwise to delay someone who is ready to make amends from getting started.

Chapter Four, "The Sponsorship Relationship: Developing It and Sustaining It," seems like a fertile source of meditation material, and if my sponsee has been working with others, this chapter answers questions that they may have. Now, if they are sponsoring someone with additional needs, or someone who relapsed, I would encourage them to read those sections of this chapter when they need it, rather than waiting until just before Step Eleven.

Chapter Five, "Sponsorship: An Ongoing Journey," seems perfect for right after they finish the Twelfth Step for the first time. Right at the time they are reviewing their spiritual awakening and committing

...waiting until someone is all the way through the steps before introducing them to this book could delay exposure to this important information



to carrying the message appears to be a wonderful time to look at some of the extended aspects of sponsorship.

My experience is that applying intellect to challenges is often problematic. I am actively listening at meetings for other addicts' experience with the challenge of how to expose sponsees to the book, *Sponsorship*. One great idea a sponsee had was starting a meeting that reviews the book. This meeting, however, is material for another article. Please share your experience, strength, and hope with me and the rest of NA by writing an article for *The NA Way* on this or related topics.

Craig PW, California, USA

My old home group

When I was really new (not just kind of new like now), I called the NA helpline because I was living in a remote area, but close to the city. I detoxed in a friend's trailer, in a very scenic area with woods and a lake. Bus service was very infrequent, and I used this as an excuse not to go and score when I had money.

The purpose of calling the helpline was to try to get a ride to a meeting. A guy picked me up after driving out of his way and we went to the meeting. He gave me his phone number, and then, after I had moved twice in two months, I called him again, and he took me to a different meeting that was two municipalities away. He told me it was a great group, so I went there with an expectation it would be fairly good. Up until then, my experience was that the meetings in my local area were quite unfriendly. I remember trying to reach out by talking to other addicts before meetings, during breaks, and after meetings; but I was completely ignored. It's good for me to remember that, so I can be sure to make newcomers feel welcome.

We arrived at this meeting, and I couldn't believe what was happening. Addicts were introducing themselves to me and making me feel like I really mattered. The next week the same guy took me to the same meeting, and I

was amazed that addicts I met the week before remembered my name and made me feel welcome again. Needless to say, I made this my NA home group, and at the next meeting I asked a member with more than nine years clean to sponsor me. This meeting attracted addicts from far away, so there was quite a bit of clean time, and there was also a treatment center whose clients attended the meeting.

Our format was very uncontrolling, and we said very little about what you could or could not do during the meeting—it was great. Most meetings started with the chairperson asking the first person to open the meeting, and after that the meeting took on a life of its own. Addicts would just jump in without being called on or asked to share, which seemed to happen in a very orderly fashion with no control from the chairperson. Maybe a few times, two addicts would start to share at the same time, and one would let the other go first with no problem ever occurring.

Some nights there might have been some kids playing around while the meeting was going on, and it was no big deal. I even remember that one night a friend's son went and sat on the chair in the middle of the circle, which we place there for the addict who is still suffering. The boy was swinging his legs and smiling; it was funny, to say the least. It was no big deal, and we didn't have a bunch of ridiculous controlling rules, so we could focus on making others feel welcome and nurture an atmosphere of recovery.

As far as I can remember, this was my best experience of an atmosphere of recovery. How I miss those days at my old home group.

Dave S, British Columbia, Canada



Where is the love?

My name is Bonnie, and I am an addict from Africa. Last night we celebrated the NA birthday of one of the oldest members of our small NA community here. He is seven years clean. It was very emotional for me, especially because he and I have had differences in opinions. I was reminded of the love and concern that he so freely gave me in my numerous attempts at getting clean.

"What happened? Where is the love? How did I get so embroiled in differences of opinion and style that I forgot our primary purpose?"

These questions raced through my mind as we hugged. Not a word was uttered, but the evidence was in the firmness of the embrace and the handshake that accompanied it. In Higher Power's good timing, we are drawing together.

We now have six meetings weekly, and we are hoping to start a Sunday meeting soon so that we will have a meeting each day of the week. At least four people attend each meeting. We do not know how big meetings feel; we only hear about them. We feel like a convention when we have more than fourteen members in a meeting! We are making progress.

I take this opportunity to welcome to our meetings all NA members traveling in this part of the world.

Boniface N, Nairobi, Kenya

Picture this

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

Recovery First Group

The Recovery First Group uses this unique keytag rack, crafted by a group member. The foundation is a storage box for additional keytags, and the round base revolves on the foundation. The rising sides of the pyramid are made of Brazilian walnut, and the NA symbol in the center is carved from purple heart, a South American hardwood. Smaller racks have been made for other groups in the Northwestern Michigan Area. Since April 1996, the Recovery First Group has met at a coffee shop on Front Street in Traverse City at noon on Mondays and Thursdays, and at 8 pm Tuesdays.

Dave H, Michigan, USA



NA Chulan Group

"Recovery Boleh!" and "Thank God It's Friday" are the Wednesday and Friday night meetings of the NA Chulan Group in Kuala Lumpur. "Boleh" means "can" or "able," so the translation is, "Recovery Is Possible!" On Wednesday nights the meeting uses a topic/participation format, and on Fridays it is a steps and traditions study. The group, referred to by many members as "the mother group" of the Malaysian NA community, was established in 1987 and registered with the World Service Office in 1994. There are currently six NA meetings in Malaysia.

David K, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



OK... everybody in the pool!



“I perform service with NA members from all over the world. This causes me to think not only of the region where I live, but about NA as a whole and what I can do to help.”

“If you think you don’t have skills that might benefit NA World Services, my suggestion is this: Fill out the WPIF and send it in. Let your Higher Power do the rest. You might be amazed at what you end up doing.”

“I didn’t want to commit to something I couldn’t live up to, but I found out that if I was contacted to work on a project and I had a conflict, all I had to do was explain my other obligations.”

We mean the World Pool—a database of NA members and their specific skills, from which candidates are chosen for NA World Services positions and projects. Joining the World Pool is how an NA member makes known his or her willingness to be an NA World Services trusted servant, and a way to become involved on workgroups that complete specific projects.

The NAWS body responsible for managing the World Pool is the Human Resource Panel. For a complete picture of what the HRP is, we encourage you to read *A Guide to World Services in NA*. To give you a general idea, here is a brief description of the HRP’s primary purposes and functions:

- ◆ Brings together a pool of trusted servants willing and qualified to serve on the World Board, the WSC co-facilitator positions, the HRP, and workgroup projects
- ◆ Facilitates the process of selecting among candidates interested in being involved in NAWS
- ◆ Facilitates elections at the World Service Conference
- ◆ Utilizes all resources and creates a process that can be understood

Are you ready to jump into the pool yet? It’s easy! If you have five or more years clean, simply complete a World Pool Information Form. This is the way to express your willingness to be involved in NA World Services. The number of open NA World Services trusted servant positions is limited, and new projects only come along every two years, so please don’t be discouraged if you are not called immediately after turning in your WPIF. Part of the World Pool commitment is just making yourself available.

For more information, contact us by mail or on the web at:

HRP
NAWS Inc.
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
818.773.9999
or email us at:
hrp@na.org

Ready to complete *your* WPIF?

Access it directly at:
www.na.org/HRP/hrp-wpif-pt1.asp

Primary purpose

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

The Group Booklet, p. 1

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

NA in South Africa

I have been interested in NA history, especially our local South African history, for a while now. Right now, that history is a bit confused, and there are many opinions. Some of us believe the best way to document it is to have some of our oldtimers record their recollections of the early days. Until then, the "history" is my opinion only.

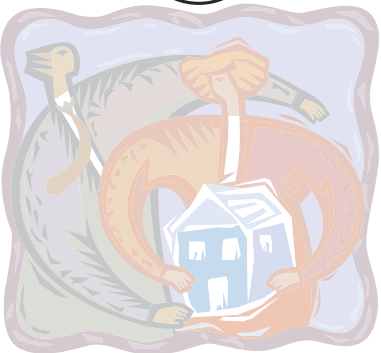
We are something of an NA backwater here on the southern tip of Africa, but recently we have been creeping toward the mainstream and are excited about becoming part of the greater NA whole. We are still a relatively small and young NA community, but there's a strong, growing core of trusted servants now. Last year's visit from NA World Services has been a catalyst. We hope for an increasing commitment to the growth of the fellowship here, particularly in the previously disadvantaged areas where the need for NA is matched only by our lack of presence. The recent completion of the first phase of the Zulu-language literature project is a real step in the right direction. This will be followed by Tswana or Sotho, two of the nine official indigenous languages in South Africa.

NA started here about fifteen years ago in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Durban might argue that they also got off the ground then, and they might be right. It was illegal at the time for more than two addicts to gather. In Johannesburg, meetings were held in the offices of a government agency, and the door to the meeting room had to be left open to comply with the law. Things have changed, and though growth has been slow, it has been steady.

The fact that we have had twelve national NA conventions is evidence of the cooperation among the three different areas. We now have three area service committees based in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban. We hold over ninety regular recovery meetings each week, with ninety percent of the meetings being held in these three centers. Many cities in South Africa have no NA presence at all.

We are in the process of creating a formal region, and we are excited about outreach, both locally and in neighboring countries. Twelve meetings in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Namibia are listed on our website. In Johannesburg, we have one particular meeting in Soweto which is really starting to take off; it is regularly attended by as many as thirty addicts. In the surrounding area, there are five meetings each week. All three areas are active in prisons, where we are currently developing a more formal, stable relationship with the authorities, and H&I meetings are held in many treatment centers (a growth industry in SA at the moment).

I could go on, but that's a snapshot of NA in South Africa at the moment, from this Johannesburg addict's perspective anyway. We are very proud of our website, a national initiative which grew quietly and organically in the way that only NA projects do. Why not visit us on www.na.org.za and log onto the forum and say hello?



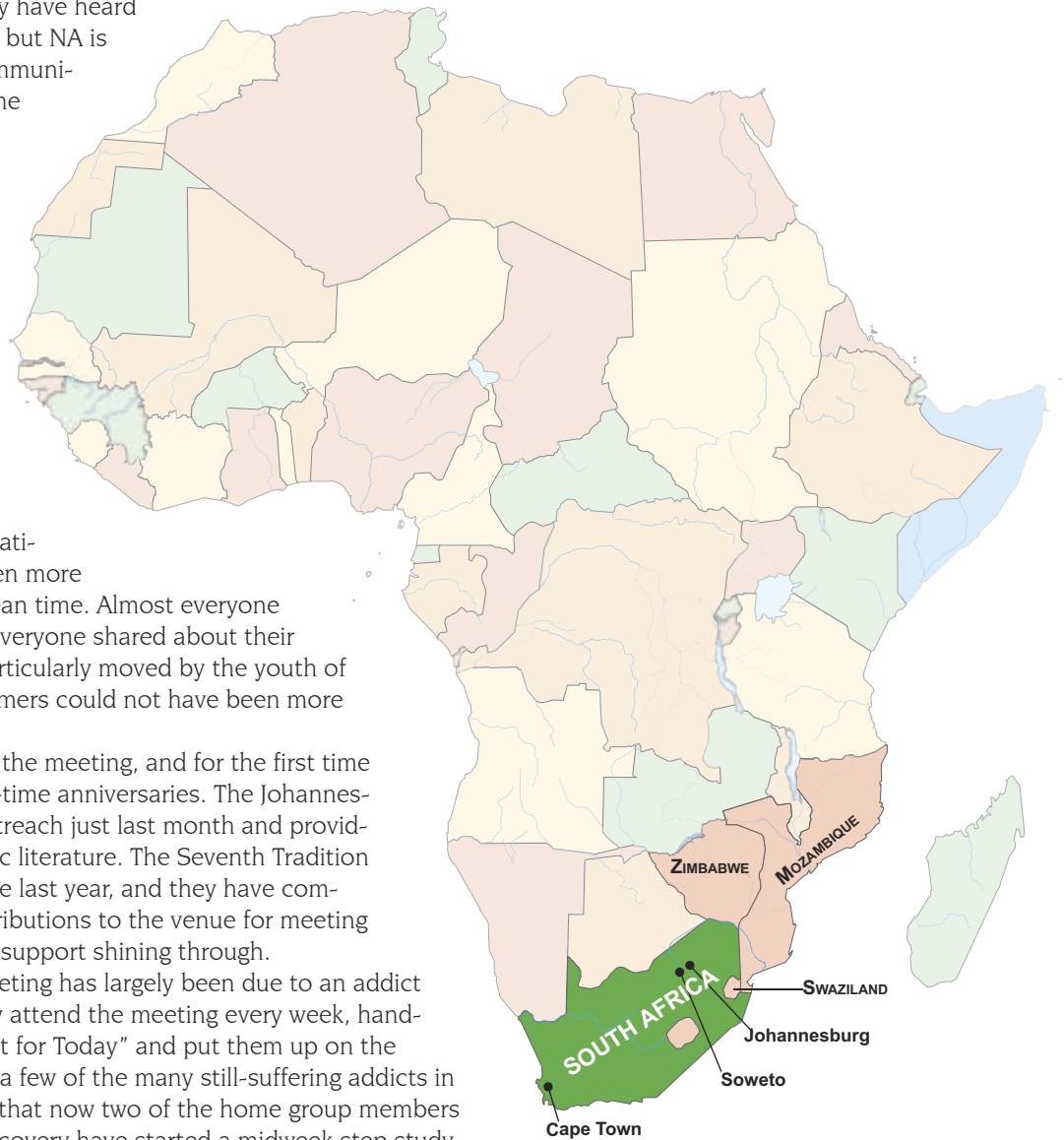


I attended the Saturday morning meeting in Soweto yesterday. In writing to my sponsor this evening, it struck me that this is the really important news from South Africa at the moment. More people outside of our country have heard of Soweto than of our major cities, but NA is new to this and other deprived communities. NA is largely the preserve of the privileged here, and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the need in these areas is enormous.

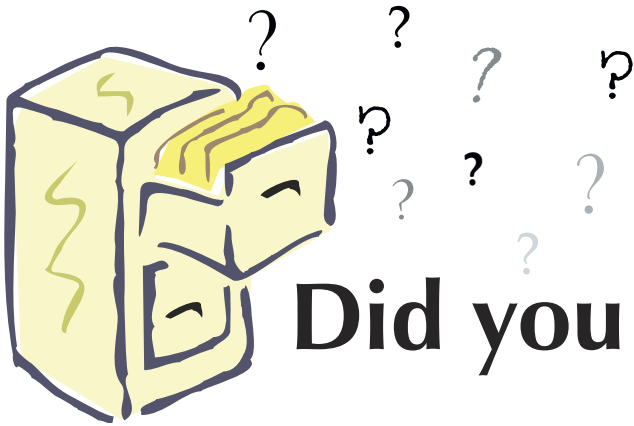
Through the grace of this program, I was six years and nine months clean yesterday, something that only occurred to me at the meeting when the chair proudly put up his hand for nine months. Nobody else attending this home group had anywhere near nine months clean, and I was humbled by the gratitude in that room. I have never been more conscious of the gift of my own clean time. Almost everyone shared on their week in recovery; everyone shared about their gratitude for the program. I was particularly moved by the youth of many addicts there; several newcomers could not have been more than ten years old.

There were thirty-one people at the meeting, and for the first time keytags were handed out for clean-time anniversaries. The Johannesburg ASC adopted a budget for outreach just last month and provided the group with keytags and basic literature. The Seventh Tradition at the meeting has raised \$30 in the last year, and they have committed to providing half of all contributions to the venue for meeting space rent. That's the spirit of self-support shining through.

The success of the Saturday meeting has largely been due to an addict who took it upon himself to quietly attend the meeting every week, handwrite the "Serenity Prayer" and "Just for Today" and put them up on the walls, and pass on the message to a few of the many still-suffering addicts in that community. The great news is that now two of the home group members who really want to work on their recovery have started a midweek step study meeting at the same venue. That's just two meetings, so far, in a city with a population much larger than Johannesburg—but it's a start.



Mark J, Johannesburg, South Africa



Did you know?

The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous has come a long way since our beginnings in 1953. We have grown from our first meeting in Sun Valley, California, USA, to over 33,500 weekly meetings in over 116 countries worldwide. Our history is rich with diversity, and we want to share the facts of that history with you—the little-known facts along with the well-known ones. If you have interesting facts and information about Narcotics Anonymous, send them to us at naway@na.org or NAWS, Attn: *The NA Way Magazine*; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys; CA 91409 USA.

- Did you know** there were 6,308 pre-registrations for WCNA-31 and 2,350 additional on-site registrations?
- Did you know** 950 WCNA beach bags filled with Hawaiian essentials were purchased, which means:
- 3,800 ounces (more than 112 liters) of coconut-scented after-sun lotion were available to sooth 7,600 arms and legs, and 1,900 feet were clad in WCNA-31 flip flops?
- Did you know** NA World Services staff created 139 convention posters and banners using 1,000 linear feet (about 305 meters) of banner material that totaled 3,600 square feet (about 335 square meters), in addition to another 30 posters and banners produced by outside vendors totaling approximately 2,000 square feet (almost 186 square meters)?
- Did you know** about \$0.35 of each WCNA-31 registration dollar went toward facility expenses; \$0.14 covered events included in the registration (i.e., dances and coffee houses); \$0.08 of each dollar paid for busing; \$0.13 went to planning and implementing the event; \$0.15 per dollar was dedicated to the program; and \$0.15 covered sound and video for the meetings and events?
- Did you know** 94 locations around the world in 28 countries telephonically linked for Unity Day 2005, which included 16 correctional institutions and over 10,000 people “attending” this virtual meeting?
- Did you know** for the first time in our history, WCNA included a welcoming address from the governor of the hosting state, Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, who also issued a gubernatorial proclamation declaring 1 September 2005 as the Aloha Kickoff Festival of the 31st World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous?

PR Handbook update

Thanks to everyone for input on the second section of the Public Relations Handbook, which was released 1 September 2005. By the end of the review and input process on 30 November, we had received great feedback.

The third section of the handbook was released 1 December 2005 for a ninety-day review and input phase. Check your area and regional service committee mailboxes or obtain a copy at: <http://www.na.org/conference/prhb/index.htm>. This section includes:

- **Technology**
- **Event Planning**
- **Fellowship Development**
- **Government**
- **Area Planning Tool**

Approval form drafts of chapters 1-9 (sections one and two) will be released 23 January 2006 as Conference Approval Track material.

We look forward to receiving your input!



Regardless of...

I have to work harder to “hear” the message of recovery. When I ask for help with interpreting what is said, your help is saving my life.

I decided to write this letter to express myself and to help others better understand me. Even within the supportive environment of an NA meeting, the obstacle of deafness is enormous. Many people are unfamiliar and uncomfortable with deafness, so I thought a perfect opportunity existed for me to write about my experiences as a deaf person in recovery. I am not, however, speaking on behalf of deaf people, or of people in recovery. I am speaking only about me. I am no more a model for the deaf community than I am for the recovery community.

My intention is not to complain about my difficulties or to seek sympathy. My point is to emphasize that the deaf world can be lonely in ways that hearing people never think about. I’m on the fringes of both the deaf and hearing worlds, and I don’t completely belong to either of them, but for sure I belong in NA.

Deaf people have varying degrees of hearing and speech. Some people can hear a little bit, while others are very deaf. Some can read lips, while others can’t. Some are able to speak fairly clearly, and others can’t. We’re all different. I have a cochlear implant, but I still cannot understand speech, and I am still deaf. In the same way that abstinence from drugs doesn’t mean addiction is cured, having an implant does not mean I can hear everything. People don’t realize that much of my isolation stems from that misconception.

I know people might feel awkward approaching me because they are afraid they won’t be able to communicate with me. If people want to communicate with me, I can manage it. I’ve been doing it all my life. I almost always have pen and paper and can express just about anything that way. I feel hurt when people complain that writing notes takes too much time or energy. Writing may be an option for most people, but it is a necessity for me.

I typically try to arrive at meetings early and ask the secretary/chairperson to arrange for a volunteer note-taker. On several occasions, the chairperson felt burdened by my request and told me I should go to meetings with interpreters. Interpreted meetings, however, are scarce, and sometimes those interpreters are not skilled. I was shocked to be sent away from meetings because someone thought they knew what I needed. Is it really so bothersome to ask for a volunteer to take notes?

I’ve had volunteer note-takers refuse to write down members’ names because they thought they were violating anonymity. Since the speaker announced their name to the whole room, the note-taker wasn’t protecting anyone’s anonymity. They were just censoring information everyone else at the meeting had. How else can I get to know people?

Sometimes people are unfamiliar with issues relating to deafness or using interpreters. For example, in some meetings or workshops, a chairperson has asked the interpreter to sit off to the side—far away from the person speaking. In some situations, that might be acceptable, but deaf people gain understanding from simultaneously watching the interpreter and the person speaking. I’ve also had people request that both the interpreter and all the deaf people move to the back of the room because

they think sign language interpreters are distracting. Well, I'd be much more distracting if I was loaded!

I have to work harder to "hear" the message of recovery. When I ask for help with interpreting what is said, your help is saving my life. Being deaf means living in a world of isolation and oppression. I want to say again how grateful I am for the people who have made an effort to get to know me and help me share in our recovery process. I wrote this letter to vent my thoughts, but also to help raise awareness. I hope that together we can make the road to recovery easier for deaf people.

Timothy S, California, USA

Share the truth

Hello everyone, my name is Gerson, and I'm an addict. I was affected by Sally's share in the January 2005 *NA Way*, "What Should Be Shared?"

I remember what a member told me one day: "Gerson, help me. I am angry with my home group, because since I stopped using drugs I have started to eat compulsively to calm my anxiety. When I shared about this in my group, the leader asked me not to share on this topic because it wasn't related to using drugs, that in NA we deal with drug problems."

So I told this member that when I stopped using, my life was (and still can be) complete chaos, because my problem wasn't really drugs, my problem was me. I am an addict, and the most evident symptom of my disease was the use of drugs. My disease consists of a compulsive search outside myself for something that makes me feel happy.

Now my disease manifests itself in different ways, just like our literature tells us. In *It Works: How and Why*, it says, "As we continue in our recovery, we will see how these aspects of our addiction can manifest themselves in many areas of our lives." (p. 7) Later, on page 14, we read, "The disease of addiction can manifest itself in a variety of mental obsessions and compulsive actions that have nothing to do with drugs."

Haven't you ever had days when everything turns out badly? On those days, I go to a meeting and share. I find out my bad day is not related to drugs, but I still feel better after I share about it. It can also help someone else to know that others experience these types of situations. Perhaps, as a result, someone will approach me because they can identify with what I shared.

In the beginning of my recovery, I shared something very painful and scandalous about my life. At the end of the meeting, some members came to me and said they didn't want me to come close to them. Another member asked me, "Do you have a sponsor?" I told him I didn't and he asked if I would like to have one. That is how I got my first sponsor. He told me that there were some things I shouldn't share in NA rooms, but that I could share those things with him. He also told me he identified with everything I shared.

Since then, I go to meetings to find experience, strength, and hope by means of identification. Those fellow members who once judged me are now my best friends.

In her article, Sally requested an opinion on whether she should share the kind of everyday problems that any addict might experience. From the deepest part of my being, and with the little humility that my program has offered me, I believe that today I go to NA meetings to recover from the disease of addiction—and this disease goes much further than just using drugs, because it is a physical, mental, and spiritual disease.

With love to my Higher Power and to you and NA, I am clean.

Gerson S, Navarra, Spain

Support the vision

Part of the NA World Services Vision Statement is:

"NA communities worldwide and NA World Services work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery."

The 1984 World Service Conference passed a motion, "That each area be requested to hold a fundraiser for the benefit of WSC in July of each year and send the proceeds of such fundraiser to world services; the first to be during July 1984."

As you plan your 2006 events, please keep this motion in mind; schedule an event that will help support NA World Services and this vision of worldwide NA unity and cooperation.

For more information, contact us at:

NAWS, Inc.
Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409
818.773.9999
worldboard@na.org



CAR Parts:

Discussion questions from your World Board

Some of you—in fact, we hope most of you—may know that we are now in what NA World Services calls conference season. The World Service Conference will be held 23–29 April 2006, and in preparation, members around the world are reading and talking about the *Conference Agenda Report*. Once upon a time, we wouldn't be making much, if any, mention of the CAR here in *The NA Way Magazine*. In the past, the gap between the content of *The NA Way* and the content of the *Conference Agenda Report* could be pretty wide.

This article is a testimony, then, to our efforts to make the *Conference Agenda Report*—and the work of the conference overall—more relevant to the fellowship as a whole. This year's CAR is focused on the issue discussion topics and projects. There are only a few motions in this year's CAR, but there are discussion questions for each topic and for some potential projects. Among the things we have determined to be important to work on in the years ahead are targeted literature and basic tools for groups, areas, and regions. We invite you to read about the topics and projects in the report (which can be downloaded from www.na.org/conference), and to consider these questions in your groups and service bodies.

Issue Discussion Topics

Atmosphere of Recovery

- Who, from your local community, is missing from your group, and why do you think they might be missing? (For example, if you live in a racially diverse community, do the people attending your meeting reflect that diversity?)
- What are some things that you can do as an individual to create and maintain the atmosphere of recovery in your home group? (For example, greet someone you don't recognize; make a commitment to listen while each person is sharing and not participate in side conversations; etc.)

- What are some of the things the group can do? (For example, change the room setup so it's more conducive to an atmosphere of recovery; acknowledge newcomers in some way—with phone lists or introductions; etc.)

Leadership

- How can we instill a sense of personal responsibility, ownership, and stewardship for the roles we take on?
- What do we mean when we refer to "leadership" in NA? What is the difference between "leaders" and "leadership"?

Our Public Image

- How do I take responsibility for NA's image/reputation? How do service bodies do so? How can a sense of personal responsibility and ownership develop in me, and how can I help others develop this?
- What about our image/reputation makes some people believe NA is not appropriate for them? What about our image makes some people believe NA is not where they would refer a client?

Infrastructure

- What are we trying to accomplish (what is most needed in your community) and how can we best meet those needs (how is the service structure meeting those needs)? What are the underlying principles involved, and what is the basic minimum structure required?
- What can I do to make service more effective? Why should I be of service?



Targeted literature and basic tools

Targeted Literature

Does the list below reflect our top needs for targeted literature? What can you think of that should be on this list that is not?

Priority (not necessarily in order)

- youth and recovery
- medication and recovery

Second ranking (not necessarily in order)

- the benefit of service to personal recovery
- the spiritual development of members with longer cleantime, and how to continue to engage them in the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

Third ranking (not necessarily in order)

- older members and recovery
- issues regarding gender

Basic tools for groups, areas, and regions

Does the list below reflect our top priorities for tools to create or revise? What can you think of that should be on this list that is not?

- Updateable materials that cover group trusted servant roles and responsibilities and how to carry them out
- Discussion tools for running certain types of meetings
- Simple, interactive tools (with more contemporary packaging) for leaders to use to increase member understanding and practice of the principles, including the "why"s and concepts (in both a generic, and a capital "C," sense) of service
- Puzzle of the components of the service structure

Our public image is each member's responsibility

Amidst the great success of WCNA-31, we did witness some unfortunate encounters with our members. If this was a one-time experience, it would not be noteworthy; however, we are seeing a pattern developing. Some NA members seem to harbor an inexplicable attitude of entitlement that causes them to behave in ways that do not reflect positively on our fellowship.

At WCNA-31, there were two physical altercations in which NA members actually pushed convention center staff and each other because they didn't have the patience to wait in line to enter a meeting or event. We also observed NA members handling hotel billing or service disputes by shouting and using obscene language at the hotel front desk—with everyone in the lobby observing this behavior. Because of these encounters, the impression many people in Hawaii have of NA is that our members are inappropriate, rude, and physically aggressive.

First impressions are the most long-lasting for many people, and the most difficult to dispel. Whether we are attending an NA convention, conducting an H&I panel, or just gathering after a meeting, we need to consider that we only have one chance to make a bad impression—and everything we do contributes to the perception others have of Narcotics Anonymous.

Which image do you think most people will remember: the image of the governor presenting NA with a proclamation or the image of the loud, cursing member at the front desk of the hotel? Which would you remember the most?





CALENDAR

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

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

Canada

Québec: 3-5 Mar; Youth Convention X; Days Inn, Montréal; hotel rsvns: 877.604.0002; event info: 514.259.5074, 514.852.2235

Ireland

Rosslare: 3-5 Mar; Eastern Area Service Committee Convention VIII; Great Southern Hotel, Rosslare Harbour, Rosslare; hotel rsvns: 00353.53.33233; write: Eastern Area of Ireland; Box 5793; Rathmines, Dublin 6; Ireland

Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur: 4 Feb; First NA Kuala Lumpur Convention; YMCA Brickfield, Kuala Lumpur; event info: www.nakl.tk

México

Coahuila: 2-5 Mar; Convención de la Región México IX; Hotel Camino Real Saltillo, Saltillo; event info: 52.55.5567.4720, 52.844.0730; www.namexico.org.mx

Baja California: 7-9 Apr; Convención Baja-Cachanilla Area III; Hotel Colonial, Mexicali; hotel rsvns: 800.437.24.38; Nacional: 01.800.026.58.88; México: 686.122.0188; USA: 760.352.5891; speaker tape submission deadline: 28 Feb; write: Baja Cachanilla Area; Calle 4ta y Callejón Yucatán; 1210 Altos Local 14, Colonia Esperanza Mexicali BC, México

Panama

Panama City: 25-28 May; First Panama Region Bilingual Convention; Hotel El Panama, Panama City; hotel rsvns: 507.215.9000; www.convencion.na-panama.org

Peru

Lima: 19-21 May; Convención Regional Peruana XII; Centro Recreacional, Lima; hotel rsvns: 511.9970.6609; speaker tape submission deadline: 19 Apr; <http://groups.msn.com>

Philippines

Mindanao: 17-19 Mar; Pilipinas Regional Convention XI; Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao; hotel rsvns: 63.918.4521958; event registration: 63.918.4521958; event info: 63.917.8110393, 63.917.9477345; www.napilipinas.org

Portugal

Lisboa: 3-5 Feb; Lisbon Area Convention IX; Lisboa; write: LACNA IX Rua Roberto Duarte Silva, nº4, 3º Esquerdo 1600-200 Lisboa, Portugal or CSAL; Apartado 526EC, 2796-801; Carnaxide, Portugal; www.na-pt.org

Spain

Fuengirola: 26-28 May; Convención Regional Española XXVI; Hotel las Pirámides, Málaga; hotel rsvns: 34.952.470600; Spanish event info: 34.629.777879, 34.636.257088; English event info: 34.952.887550

Sweden

Gothenburg: 3-5 Mar; Twelve Steps Toward Life; Folkets Hus, Gothenburg; event info: 46.707.910.900; www.nasverige.org/evenemang.html

Thailand

Bangkok: 10-12 Feb; Thailand Convention; Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok; 66.9.523.2322; event info: 66.1.720.0379, 66.9.523.2322; www.na-thailand.org

United Kingdom

London: 21-23 Apr; London Convention XV; Friends Meeting House, London; www.ukna.org.uk

Lancashire: 10-12 Mar; North West England and North Wales Convention; Blackpool Hilton, Blackpool; hotel rsvns: 0044.01253.623434

United States

Alabama: 13-15 Jan; Free at Last IX; Holiday Inn, Montgomery; hotel rsvns: 334-272-0370; event info: 334.868.0426; event registration: 334.467.4291

2) 10-12 Feb; Out of the Darkness, Into the Light X; Holiday Inn, Decatur; hotel rsvns: 256.355.3150; event info: 256.766.3994, 256.383.3512; event registration: 256.272.81833

3) 31 Mar-2 Apr; Greater Mobile Area Convention IX; Mobile Marriott Hotel and Resort, Mobile; hotel rsvns: 800.831.4004; event info: 251.554.5772, 251.476.4882

Arizona: 26-28 May; Arizona Regional Convention XX; Wyndham Phoenix Hotel, Phoenix; hotel rsvns: 800.359.7253; event info: 602.589.5158; arcnaxx@cox.net; event registration: 602.564.2823; speaker tape info: 602.993.7684

Arkansas: 24-26 Feb; Texarkana Area Convention; Holiday Inn-Holidome, Texarkana; hotel rsvns: 870.77.43521; event info: 903.791.1551, 870.773.2287

2) 10-12 Mar; Hangin' in the Fort XIII; Ramada Inn, Ft Smith; hotel rsvns: 479.646.2931; event info: 479.883.9808, 479.561.7274; www.arscna.org

California: 17-19 Feb; Central California Regional Convention XIV; Holiday Inn Select, Bakersfield; hotel rsvns: 661.323.1900; event info: 805.938.0117; event registration: 805.720.1777; speaker tape info: 661.835.0887; www.ccrna.org

2) 13-16 Apr; Northern California Convention; McEnery Convention Center, San Jose; hotel rsvns: 408.792.4168; event info: 408.826.2333, 650.554.1448; www.norcalna.org

3) 14-16 Apr; Southern California Regional Spring Gathering; Sheraton Gateway Hotel LAX, Los Angeles; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 310.642.1111; www.todayna.org

Delaware: 24-26 Mar; Small Wonder Area Convention VII; University of Delaware/Clayton Hall, Newark; hotel rsvns: 302.373.0900; event registration: 302.373.4373

Florida: 3-5 Mar; Primera Convención Latina de NA del Sur de la Florida; Embassy Suites, Miami; hotel rsvns: 305.634.5000; event info: 305.761.1636, 786.344.4586

2) 13-16 Apr; North Dade Area Convention II; El Palacio Sports Hotel and Conference Center, Miami; hotel rsvns: 305.621.5801; event info: 786.295.9711

3) 26-29 May; Gold Coast Convention XVI; Bahia Mar Beach Resort, Fort Lauderdale; hotel rsvns: 954.764.2233; event registration: 561.302.9921; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Feb; www.goldcoastna.org

Georgia: 23-26 Feb; Georgia Regional Convention XXV; James H Rainwater Conference Center, Valdosta; hotel rsvns: 229.242.1225; event info: 229.245.1119; event registration: 770.591.9219

Idaho: 24-26 Feb; Circle of Sisters IX; Doubletree Hotel, Boise; hotel rsvns: 800.437.8010; event info: 208.362.3719; write: Circle of Sisters; Box 140731; Boise, ID 83714; www.circleofsisters.org

2) 31 Mar-2 Apr; Together We Can; Red Lion Boise Downtowner, Boise; hotel rsvns: 800.733.5466; event info: 208.433.1199; email: sircnaXVII@gmail.com; www.sirna.org

Illinois: 12-15 Jan; Chicago Regional Convention; Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago; hotel rsvns: 312.565.1234; write: Chicago Regional Convention; CRC XVII; Box 5319; River Forest, IL 60305

2) 7-9 Apr; Rock River Area Convention XV; Ramada Inn of South Beloit, South Beloit; hotel rsvns: 815.389.3481; event info: 815.494.9776; www.wisconsinna.org

Indiana: 10-12 Mar; Indiana State Convention XIII; Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, Merrillville; hotel rsvns: 219.769.6311; event info: 219.951.9570, 219.944.2125; www.isnac.com

Kansas: 7-9 Apr; MidAmerica Regional Convention XXIII; Holiday Inn, Hays; hotel rsvns: 785.625.7371; event info: 785.827.8635, 316.269.3275; event registration: 785.493.5658

Kentucky: 20-22 Jan; Louisville Area Convention; Executive West Hotel, Louisville; hotel rsvns: 800.626.2708; event info: 502.751.8485; event registration: 502.774.8959

Louisiana: 26-28 May; Louisiana Regional Convention XXIV; Holiday Inn South, Baton Rouge; hotel rsvns: 888.814.9602; event info: 225.937.2380, 225.622.0100; speaker tape submission deadline: 15 Jan; www.lrcna.org

Massachusetts: 17-19 Feb; Surrender Is the Key; The Boston Marriott Quincy, Boston; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event registration: 617.596.1262; event info: 617.445.5553

Michigan: 3-5 Feb; South Western Michigan Area Convention; Radisson Plaza, Kalamazoo; hotel rsvns: 269.343.3333; speaker tape info: 269.998.2151; event info: 269.344.8694; email: kalamazooarea@michigan-na.org; www.michigan-na.org/kalamazoo

2) 13-16 Apr; Detroit Area Convention XIV; Hyatt Regency, Dearborn; hotel rsvns: 800.233.1234; event info: 313.869.2049, 313.702.7749; www.michigan-na.org/dacna

Minnesota: 7-9 Apr; Minnesota Convention; Holiday Inn, Mankato; hotel rsvns: 507.345.1234; www.naminnesota.org

Missouri: 3-5 Feb; Cabin Fever Prevention Convention; Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks; hotel rsvns: 888.265.5500; event info: 573.582.1386, 573.446.4087; www.midmissourina.org

Nebraska: 24-26 Feb; Close Encounters of the Clean Kind; Best Western Settle Inn, Omaha; hotel rsvns: 402.431.1246; www.eastern-nebraska-na.org

Nevada: 13-16 Apr; Southern Nevada Convention; Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas; hotel rsvns: 800.634.6753; event info: 702.349.3573; www.snacs.org

New Jersey: 24-26 Feb; Pearl of Recovery XVI; Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood; hotel rsvns: 800.992.9732; event info: 609.846.2736; www.pearlofrecovery.com

2) 10-12 Mar; Capital Area Convention X; Ramada Inn, Trenton; hotel rsvns: 609.448.7000; event info: 609.394.7237

New Mexico: 17-19 Mar; Rio Grande Regional Convention XVII; Las Cruces; www.riograndena.org

New York: 13-15 Jan; Nassau Area Convention III; Hilton Huntington, Melville; hotel rsvns: 631.845.1000; event info: 917.975.8718, 516.731.6011; event registration: 516.505.2680

2) 3-5 Feb; Spirit of Love XVIII; Holiday Inn, Waterloo; event info: 607.351.0294; event registration: 607.869.5503

3) 3-5 Feb; Convención Hispana, White Plains; hotel rsvns: 914.682.0050; event info: 347.613.3275; event registration: 718.872.6460

4) 24-26 Feb; Rochester Area Convention XII; Hyatt Regency, Rochester; hotel rsvns: 800.233.1234; event info: 585.266.1306, 585.503.5146

5) 10-12 Mar; Bronx Area Convention; Kutcher's Country Club, Bronx; hotel rsvns: 800.431.1273; event info: 914.882.2348, 917.541.0904

6) 19-21 May; Freedom XVIII-Greater NY Regional Convention; Neverle Resort and Country Club, Ellenville; hotel rsvns: 800.647.6000; event info: 212.242.8140; event registration: 212.690.4920

North Carolina: 24-26 Feb; Freedom by the Sea V; Sea Trail Resort and Conference Center, Sunset Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.624.6601; event info: 910.352.2538, 910.616.5083

Ohio: 10-12 Feb; Toledo Area Convention IX; Hilton Inn, Toledo; hotel rsvns: 419.381.6800; event info: 419.867.9576

2) 3-5 Mar; Cleveland Area Convention; Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 216.513.7223, 216.548.7278

3) 3-5 Mar; Miracles on the Lake/Taking the Steps; Marriott, Cleveland; hotel rsvns: 216.252.5333; event info: 216.255.2073, 216.513.7223

4) 26-28 May; Ohio Convention XXIV; Holiday Inn, Mansfield; hotel rsvns: 419.525.0197; event info: 419.663.0505,

Oregon: 12-14 May; Pacific Cascades Regional Convention XIII; Hilton Portland, Portland; hotel rsvns: 503.226.1611; event info: 503.720.6842

Pennsylvania: 10-12 Feb; Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference XXII; Lancaster Host, Lancaster; hotel rsvns: 800.233.0121; event info: 717.777.0132, 717.234.8250; event registration: 717.812.0266; www.marscna.org

2) 14-16 Apr; Greater Philadelphia Regional Convention XXI; Valley Forge Radisson, King of Prussia; hotel rsvns: 610.337.2000; event info: 215.438.8122; event registration: 215.519.9471; speaker tape info: 267.259.0110; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Jan

Rhode Island: 24-26 Feb; Greater Providence Area Convention; Providence Marriott, Providence; hotel rsvns: 800.937.7768; event info: 401.274.6026; event registration: 401.751.5265

South Carolina: 20-22 Jan; Upper South Carolina Area Convention; Hilton of Greenville, Greenville; hotel rsvns: 864.232.4747; event info: 864.250.9533; event registration: 864.233.3201

2) 17-19 Feb; Recovery at Work V; Hilton Head Island Beach and Tennis Resort, Columbia; hotel rsvns: 800.475.2631; event info: 803.318.7053, 803.422.1655; www.recoveryatwork.com

Texas: 13-16 Apr; Lone Star Regional Convention XXI; Hilton DFW Lakes, Grapevine; hotel rsvns: 800.245.3105; event info: 800.747.8972; www.lsrna.com

2) 26-28 May; Texas State Convention IV Radisson Plaza, Fort Worth; hotel rsvns: 800.333.3333; event info: 817.891.8215; event registration: 817.714.0607; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Mar; write: Fort Worth Area; Box 599; Lillian, Texas 76061; www.tscna.org

Utah: 10-12 Mar; Northern Utah Area Convention XIII; Marriott, Ogden; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 801.814.1209, 801.941.1403; event registration: 801.645.1242

Virginia: 13-15 Jan; Areas of Virginia Convention XXIV; Marriott, Richmond; hotel rsvns: 804.643.3400; event info: 804.247.0339

2) 24-26 Mar; Tidewater Area Convention VI; Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth; hotel rsvns: 888.839.1775; event info: 757.652.8490, 757.286.7882

Washington: 12-14 May; Washington Northern Idaho Regional Convention XXI; Doubletree Inn at Spokane City Center, Spokane; www.wnir-na.org

Wisconsin: 24-26 Mar; Little Girl Grows Up VI; Best Western Airport, Milwaukee; hotel rsvns: 877.461.8547; event info: 414.975.7911, 414.616.2138; speaker tape submission deadline: 15 Feb

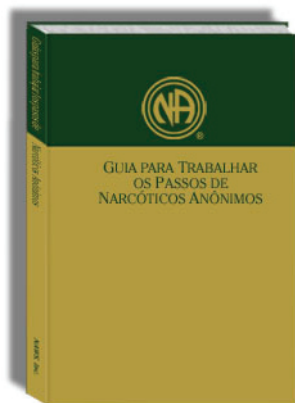
2) 5-7 May; Inner City Area Convention V; Best Western Milwaukee Airport, Milwaukee; hotel rsvns: 800.937.8376; event info: 414.873.9452, 414.803.3608; speaker tape info: 414.967.8979; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Feb; write: Inner City Area of Milwaukee; Box 12452; Milwaukee, WI 53212

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