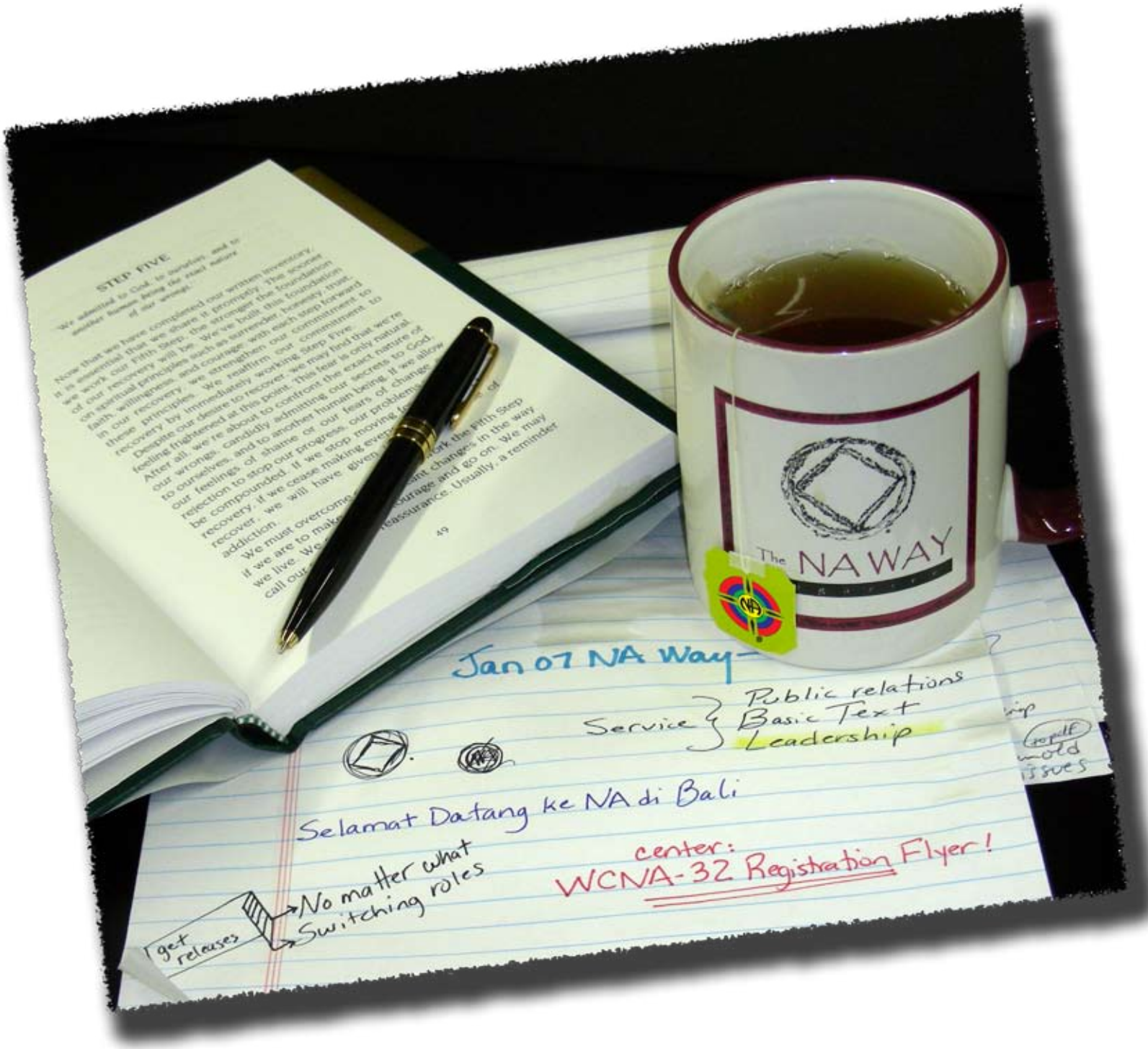


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THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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From the editor

The cursor on my computer screen blinks about once every second. I know this because, some days, I spend a lot of time watching the cursor blink in the sea of empty space that lies between "From the editor" and "De J, Editor." With my hands poised on the keyboard, I wonder, "What should I write? What needs to be said?" The seconds add up to minutes, hours, days; and I keep coming back to this blank screen. Usually, something kicks in and, suddenly, I have more to say than I have room for in the allotted space.

Recovery can be like that. We go through times of great breakthroughs when we can't wait to share our newest revelation. Other times, maybe not so much seems to be going on, but we know our recovery continues, and that doing the next right thing propels us forward. As we learn to live life on life's terms, we experience loss and tragedy, we laugh and learn, and we reach out to ask for and give support. Change and growth are assured as we work the Twelve Steps and learn to live by spiritual principles that lead us out of the dark, tight places of addiction into the vast freedom available through recovery.

De J, Editor

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

The NA Way Magazine, published in English, Farsi, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish, belongs to the members of Narcotics Anonymous. Its mission, therefore, is to provide each member with recovery and service information, as well as recovery-related entertainment, which speaks to current issues and events relevant to each of our members worldwide. In keeping with this mission, the editorial staff is dedicated to providing a magazine which is open to articles and features written by members from around the world, as well as providing current service and convention information. Foremost, the journal is dedicated to the celebration of our message of recovery—"that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live."

When all else fails, read the instructions

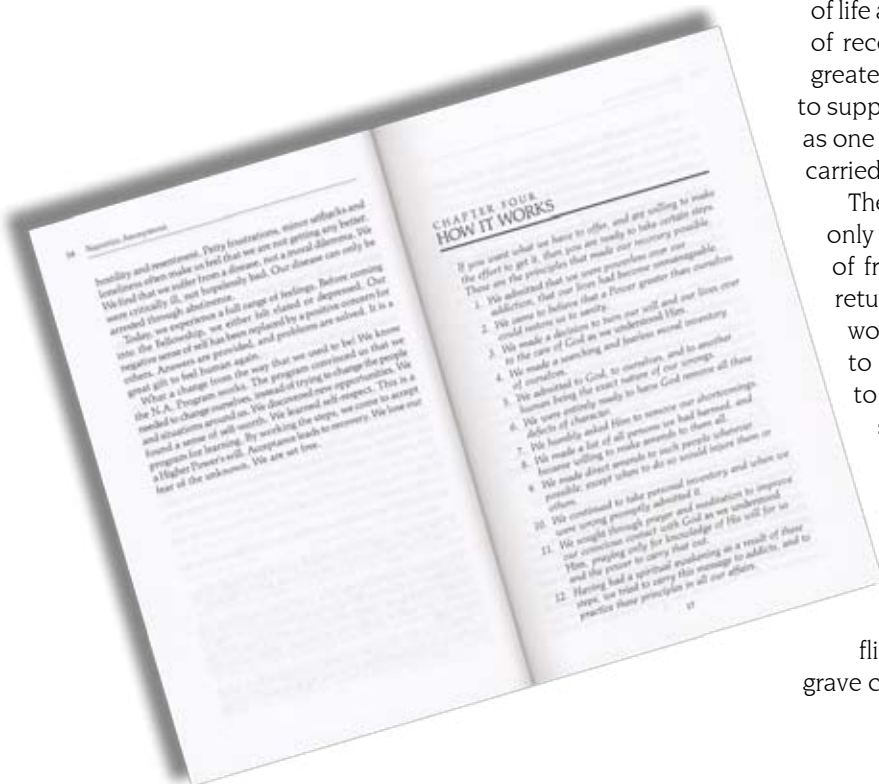
My first sponsor died suddenly and unexpectedly. In the years since his death, my gratitude for the experience, strength, and hope he passed on to me continues to grow. He always said, "When all else fails, read the instructions." Every time I am troubled, I reach for our Basic Text, and it always helps me put things in perspective. My sponsor and other recovering addicts who influence me sincerely believe that addicts can leave behind their fear-driven, pain-filled lives to find freedom from active addiction and a spiritual awakening. They constantly guide me to NA literature and passages of the Basic Text. My sponsor called the Basic Text "The Recovery Manual."

I am grateful I have access to a Basic Text and other NA literature in a language I understand. There are many addicts who don't yet have that chance. When I think of this, the reality of NA's vision hits me. Our vision looks forward to the day when "every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture." (NA World Services Vision Statement) Often, in my daily meditation, the power of this vision sweeps over me. I can be reduced to tears of gratitude for the life I have found through working the Twelve Steps of NA, and for those who cared enough to work in service and carry NA's message to me.

In NA, I found a fellowship of men and women, addicts meeting in groups and trying to use spiritual principles to find a new way of life and freedom from addiction. The NA I found was the legacy of recovering addicts who had learned to depend on a power greater than them. They kept coming back, and they served NA to support our fellowship's primary purpose. I see my own service as one way of fulfilling my commitment to carry the message they carried to me.

The pain of addiction brought me to NA, but if our rooms were only filled with pain, there would be no hope and no promise of freedom such as we read about in our Basic Text. Fear of returning to the life I had escaped, and attraction to those who worked at recovery, forced me to address lifelong habits. I had to face an almost instinctive rebelliousness and reluctance to be guided. All my lonely life, I clung to the delusion of self-sufficiency. Pain forced me to ask for help, and hope came when addicts cared and shared with me the NA way. Working the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous has helped me find the tools that will, if I use them, allow me to get honest with myself, open my mind to alternatives, and become willing to try what is suggested.

With so much pain among us, there will always be conflict. Many times, simple misunderstandings have grown into grave conflicts entirely disproportionate to the original issues. In




"The Recovery Manual," the essay on the Second Tradition says, "By nature, we are strong-willed, self-centered people who are thrust together in NA. We are mismanagers and not one of us is capable of consistently making good decisions." (Basic Text, p. 60)

So, how do we "mismanagers" manage to work together? In the Introduction to the Basic Text, the addicts who wrote and compiled material for our book offer some suggestions. We can consciously and deliberately invite a Power greater than ourselves into our work, and ask a loving God to influence our decisions. By relying on a loving God, we have a defense against anger, personal opinion, and ego. We can disagree without being disagreeable, and we can conduct our service in a businesslike fashion. By practicing willingness to achieve conscious contact with a Power greater than ourselves, we develop the capacity to recognize the difference between group opinion, as dictated by powerful personalities or popularity, and group conscience.

I have a strong personality, but I've never been that popular. I am not capable of consistently practicing spiritual principles in all my affairs. I am an addict trying to recover. I pray for progress rather than perfection. Through years of practicing these principles, our fellowship has developed practical guidelines to help addicts like me who wish to find a new way of life and follow the NA way. So, when all else fails, I phone my sponsor, get to a meeting, and read the instructions.

Francis M, Belfast, Ireland

AAA AH-HA! 

Do you remember when you first "got" the NA message—when it was finally clear that you had real hope for recovery? And what about other experiences later in recovery when the clouds parted and everything seemed to come together like a bright ray of sunshine in your life? These are what we call our "ah-ha" moments.

Share your ah-ha moments with us by email at naway@na.org; by fax at 818.700.0700, attn. NA Way; or by postal mail at *The NA Way Magazine*; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.

Five relapses

I came to NA for the first time because my family demanded that I join the program. I relapsed five times in a period of one and one-half years. After the fifth relapse, I arrived at a meeting and my fellow members were still waiting for me. That day, I felt something different, and I decided to stay in NA. On that day, in that room, with those addicts, my desire to stop using was born in me.

Alfredo D, Sonora, Mexico

Eight words

For my husband, my son, and I, using was a family affair. When I had thirty-five days clean, I took my son to drug court. The judge said he had to get clean or go to prison. My son reluctantly agreed to treatment. After attending meetings for just a few weeks, I knew that lecturing and pleading would not help, so all I said to my son was, "You don't have to do this for nine months or a year. You only have to do it for today." He looked me in the eye, for the first time in a long time, and said, "Mom, I think I can do that." He went to treatment and started going to meetings.

My "ah-ha moment" came a few months later in a meeting. In the Basic Text we read, "If sharing the experience of our pain helps just one person, it was worth the suffering." (p. 56) I suddenly realized, like I'd been struck with a bolt of lightning, that I had to go through all that I did, not only to save my life, but also to be there with those eight simple words for my son: "You only have to do it for today." All that pain and suffering was worth it to be able to see my son today, clean, happy, and living the NA program.

Denise T, Oregon, USA



No matter what

The newspaper headline cried out, "Five Hurt As Bus Crashes Into Terminal." The article went on to explain that an arriving bus had smashed through the glass wall of Long Island's main bus terminal, injuring five people, one of them critically. A forty-eight-year-old woman lost both legs in the accident.

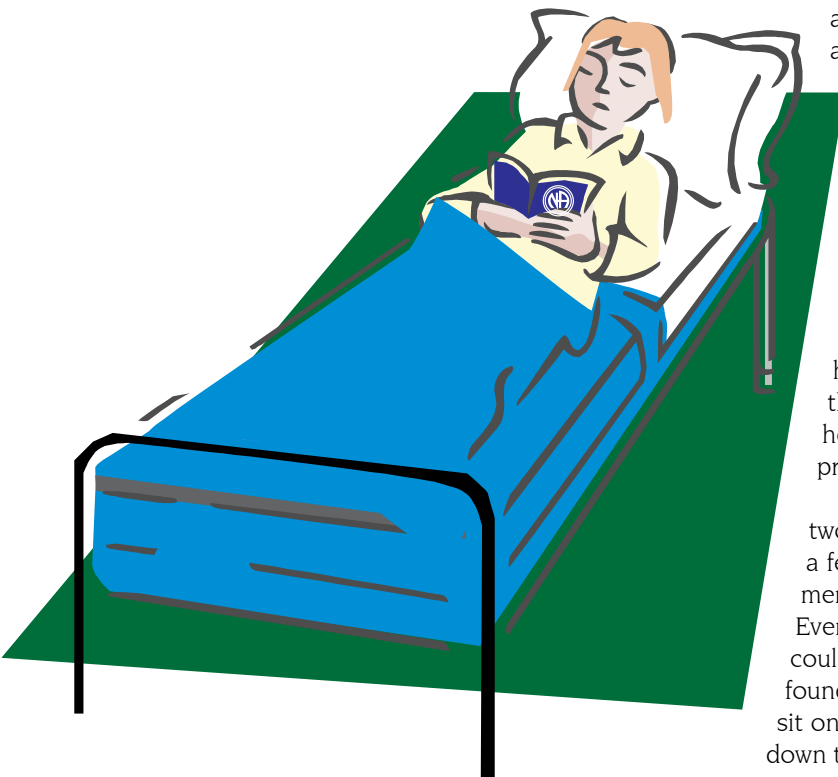
One witness described it like this: "The bus did not stop. In a split second, the glass was flying, and I saw blood. There was a lot of screaming and chaos. There was a woman down, and her leg was gone. All of a sudden, it was quiet, and people started helping."

The forty-eight-year-old woman who lost both her legs is a member of Narcotics Anonymous. She has been a dear friend of mine since she first got to NA about seven years ago. February was the three-year anniversary of the accident that took her legs. She had spent the morning helping another NA member. The accident happened as she sat on a bus-stop bench, waiting to go home.

We first went to the hospital to visit our friend with tears in our eyes and looks of horror on our faces. She simply smiled at us and told us not to be sad that she lost her legs, but to be glad that she was still there with us. Amazing as it was, she was the one consoling us.

We brought NA meetings to her in the hospital. The hospital staff could hardly believe the steady parade of people who came to visit their patient on a daily basis. Only eighteen days after her horrific accident, the nurses' jaws dropped and their eyes popped when more than fifty NA members showed up at the hospital to celebrate their friend's four-year NA anniversary. Some had never met her, but they came just to let her know they cared. They heard about her courage and strength, her sense of humor, her belief in NA, and her faith in the principles of the program.

That afternoon, as visitors began arriving in groups of two or three, the hospital nursing staff at first allowed only a few visitors at a time in her room. After twenty or so NA members showed up, the staff moved her to a larger space. Eventually, so many NA members showed up that the nurses couldn't figure out what to do with everybody. One nurse found an empty hallway where fifty or so NA members could sit on the floor while another nurse rolled the patient's chair down the hall for a very special NA celebration. We invited the



nursing staff to sit in on the NA meeting, and they shed tears side-by-side with many NA members.

There was hardly a dry eye in the house, and the tissues were working overtime that night.

That meeting not only touched the hearts of our members, it also touched the hearts and minds of the hospital staff. For the members, the NA message of recovery was carried that night, perhaps in a way that addicts here hadn't ever seen or felt before. For the hospital staff, it was the ultimate NA public relations message.

Within months of losing her legs, against all odds, our fellow NA member

She is one of my heroes

was able to take her first steps with her new prosthetic legs. Just tell an addict they can't do something, and then watch them do it!

Recently, this dear woman was a speaker at our area convention. Yes, she remained clean through it all. A few months ago, she celebrated seven years clean. She is one of my heroes: an inspiration, a role model, and a reminder of what we can achieve with the help of the NA program and the people in this fellowship.

Yes, anything can happen at any time and change our lives in an instant, but we really don't have to use, no matter what.

Richie S, New York, USA

What's your message?

Each issue of the *Inside Connection Newsletter* of the American River ASC (California, USA) includes a question of the month. Here's a selection of responses to the question, "What message do you most like to share with newcomers today?"

Breathe—it gets easier.

Garren B



There is always hope, even though it may seem distant at times. We will love you until you can love yourself because you are worthy.

Alan and Karen



From this day forward, you are making a choice: either to live in the problem, or to live in the solution. There is a solution to every problem, and getting loaded doesn't solve anything.

Steve C



Don't overestimate your nuisance value! In other words, ignore the feeling that you will be bothering someone when you call them.

It will help them as much as it will help you!

Mike G



Keep an open mind. Stop fighting the addiction, and surrender. You don't have to do it alone.

Kathy G



If you are like me when I was new—scared, nervous, beaten-down, and tired—you'll have to trust the program. It has changed my life.

If you do what is suggested, you can have a better life.

Lishia R



Through working the steps, we are able to make peace with our past and learn to love ourselves.

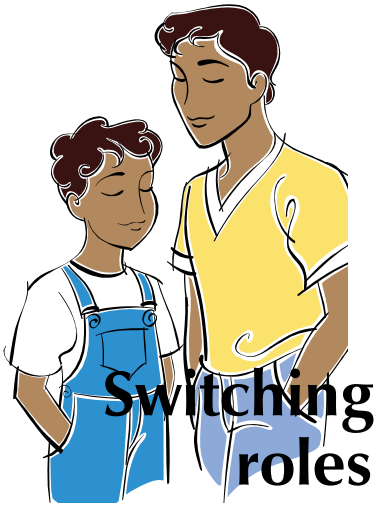
Ramon P



Doing things a different way can be scary and uncomfortable, but these feelings will go away over time, and you will see the benefits of living clean.

Jonnie

Reprinted with permission from *Inside Connection Newsletter*, California, USA



Switching roles

I still remember the first time I realized I wanted to be just like my older brother. At the time, I was ten years old, and he was fifteen years my senior. I was like a formless sculpture, waiting to be molded into anything other than what I was. One weekend, my mother went out of town, so I spent the weekend with my brother and discovered a world that I had not seen before in my sheltered existence. I would be invented that weekend, and everything I did for the next several years was a direct result of that occurrence.

His apartment was a small one-bedroom, full of beer bottles and pornographic magazines. It was heaven as far as I was concerned. He and his friends smoked cigars, drank beer, and snorted something that looked like sugar up their noses. They all laughed hysterically and had a fabulous time. I was desperate for that feeling, so every chance I got I would sneak into the bathroom and imbibe a beer. The euphoria I shared with them was perhaps the first experience I ever had where I felt like I belonged. From then on, emulating my brother and re-creating that feeling was my purpose. I accomplished this by using drugs to change the way I felt.

After a few years of this behavior and some problems with the local youth authority, my mother moved us to another state. I no longer had my brother to look up to, and had no friends to replace my hero, so I did what had become natural to me: I got loaded. I soon had lots of friends, and we partied on the weekends just like my brother did. It wasn't long before the weekends turned into weekdays, and the euphoric feeling I once had was all but gone. I missed my brother, my

hero, but it would be years before we would see each other again.

When my brother came to Oregon, where we had moved, it was not to visit. He had nowhere else to go. He was frail and the years had not been kind to him. I was using drugs every day and was eager to party with my brother again, but something was different. The years of abuse had made him ill and he could no longer function while using, but that did not stop him from being my hero. He used to the point of unconsciousness. He often urinated on himself, and he embarrassed me every time he used. It became easy for me to make a joke of him so that I did not have to look at myself and what I had become. I dismissed him as my hero just as quickly as I had made him so.

Seeing my brother in his dilapidated state gave me a vision of my own future. I needed to stop using, but I didn't know how, and I was becoming desperate. My mental and physical condition was deteriorating rapidly. The pain of remaining the same finally became greater than my fear of change, and I sought help.

After a period of abstinence, my life began to change. I came to respect myself and I gained a sense of dignity and integrity. My brother, however, continued to abuse himself, and he nearly died more than once. I wanted to help him, but I knew he had to want to help himself.

After I had been clean for three years, my brother started noticing the change recovery had brought to me, and he wanted that for himself. He tried many times to stop, but was not successful. I finally gave him the number of a treatment facility, and told him that if he wanted to stop using I would walk through hell with him—but if he wanted to continue using, he would have to walk through hell alone. To my surprise and joy, he stopped using, and he is still in recovery today.

My brother tells me every day that he looks up to me and that I am his hero. As much as I would like to take credit for this, I know I am no hero. It is the program of Narcotics Anonymous that gets the credit for my brother's new attitude of gratitude and hope. It was the life that NA had given me that attracted my brother to recovery.

Neal P, Oregon, USA

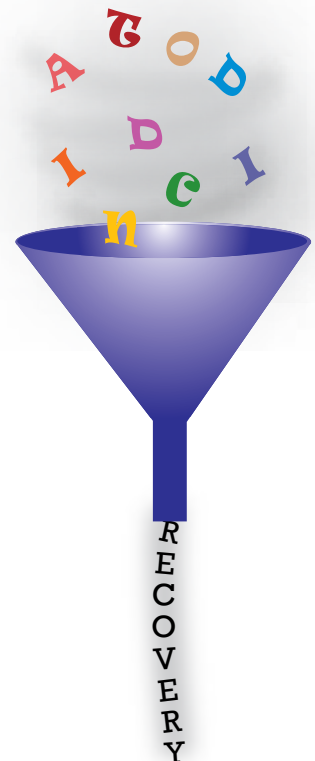
Caution: wide entrance

The path of addiction was broad and vibrant, filled with lust and fantasy. But active addiction is like a funnel: The entrance is broad, but the exit is narrow.

That is the way my active addiction was. Once I entered, it was almost impossible for me to get out. My best friend became my worst enemy: a progressive and deadly disease. I never thought about stopping my drug use, but as time passed, my life was totally confined to this hell of desperation, madness, and a desire to stop suffering—but I could not get out of that desperation.

Narcotics Anonymous arrived in my life when I was at the height of my desperation. Today, I can understand that God had a purpose for my unmanageable life. Today, I can say with immense joy that the hope I felt was God, manifested through the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship where one addict helps another on a long but simple path—the path to recovery. It is the men and women of NA who taught me—and continue teaching me—that I can always have hope.

Louis B, Carolina, Puerto Rico



Our readers write

Who is missing?

I am writing in response to the article titled, "Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?" (October 2006). I think this a crucial topic, and I am grateful that NA World Services realizes its importance.

I got clean when I was eighteen years old. I didn't believe that addicts my age were recovering, much less staying clean, but NA literature talked directly to me when I had those thoughts. It seemed that NA understood my struggle. There is an information pamphlet titled *Youth and Recovery* that helped me out a lot. When I got out of treatment and went to regular meetings, I met several recovering addicts who were around my age. We stayed pretty close, and that is one of the main reasons I am still clean today. There were several young people going to my home group, and addicts with more clean time than we had guided us.

If the disease of addiction doesn't discriminate, recovery shouldn't either. I hope we can get rid of our condescending attitudes toward people who are not just like us. Too many times, I have seen addicts walk out of the rooms, never to return, because of things like that. In NA, every clean addict is a miracle. We need to look at our similarities, not our differences.

I think we have a lot more work to do in developing more literature, meetings, and information, because our primary purpose is to carry the message to the still-suffering addict, "regardless of age, race, sexual identity, creed, religion or lack of religion." (Basic Text, p. 9) There are addicts out there who are missing from our meetings, and if we unify we can carry the message to them, too.

Sasha O, Indiana, USA

Life-sized Basic Text

I told my girlfriend I would like to be the Basic Text for Halloween, and just a few weeks later she had created the costume. I wore it to a Halloween function given by my area, and everyone there loved it. Since then, we decided we wanted to share it with the fellowship, so we go to various conventions and anniversaries to let people see, hug, and sign the life-sized Basic Text. We have found great joy in being able to share in this way. It is one of our ways of practicing the Twelfth Step. We hope you enjoy the pictures—and, you never know, we may be coming to a convention near you!

Val B and Pamela W, Virginia, USA



Eighty-four days

My name is Ron, and I am an addict. I have been clean for a while in a New York prison. I have been receiving *The NA Way Magazine* for the last eighteen months. Each issue has touched me in one way or another, but the October 2006 issue did more than touch me; it brought me to tears.

I was spiritually and mentally broken about being in prison. I was staying clean, but that was about all. Then I read Habib's story, and I cried like a baby. Here I was, feeling sorry for myself and thinking life was over because when I get out, I'll be an "ex-prisoner." Habib's message hit me hard. It took an addict on the other side of the world to get me to do something I have not done in a while. I got down on my knees and thanked my higher power for the life I have today and the life I will have when I get out of prison.

I wish I could thank Habib for saving me mentally and spiritually. Thank you, *NA Way*, for printing his message. I will never forget an addict named Habib.

Ron J, New York, USA

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.).

Selamat datang ke NA di Bali*

These photographs were taken in June 2006, during the Sixth Annual Bali NA Convention, held in the province of Seminyak in Bali, Indonesia.

This meeting is held on Monday nights at Padang Padang Beach, on the island of Bali, Indonesia. You have to walk through a dimly lit rock cave to even get to the beach. It is quite an adventure! It is attended by three or four regular members and many visitors from all over the world. The format is the daily reading from Just for Today and open sharing. As you can see, it is a candlelight meeting on the beach. Fishing boats dot the horizon, with their strings of bright lights. The weather is perfect! Ahh, I am ready to go again!

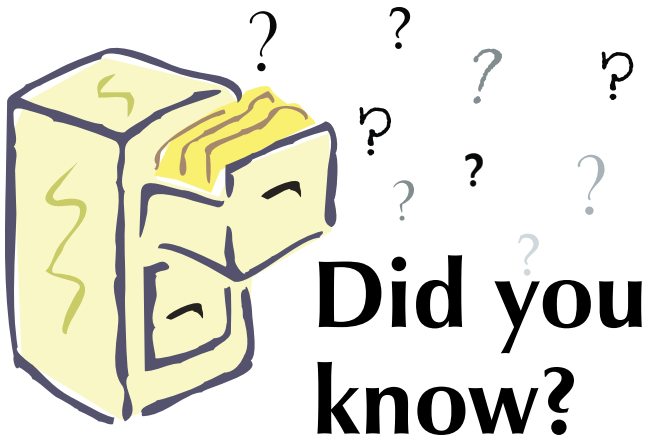


The Thursday night Bali meeting is held each week at a place called the Ruko, a sort of recovery-oriented clubhouse. It is a step-study meeting attended by ten to twenty-five people, depending on who is visiting. The night I attended, there were many others there who were also in Bali for the convention. On the right is a banner with the Twelve Steps of NA in Bahasa Indonesian.

Charlie Q and Sharon Q, Hawaii, USA



*Welcome home to NA in Bali



Did you know?

The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous has come a long way since our beginnings in 1953. We have grown from that first meeting in Sun Valley, California, USA, to more than 40,000 weekly meetings in over 125 countries worldwide. Our history is rich with diversity, and we want to share the facts of that history with you—the little-known facts and tidbits of information others might not otherwise know. Share your interesting NA facts with us by email at naway@na.org, by fax at 818.770.0700, or by postal mail at *The NA Way Magazine*, Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.

Did you know



the Egyptian Area was formed in 2002, and its H&I subcommittee is now visiting three correctional facilities, including one women's facility that was first visited in September 2006?

Did you know



the first NA group in Israel started in Tel Aviv in 1984? Today, there are approximately 250 meetings per week in more than thirty Israeli cities.

Did you know



France has a total of seventy-six meetings per week, forty-one of which are held in Paris? In early October 2006, more than 520 NA members celebrated France's tenth bilingual convention in Chinagora, near Paris.

Did you know



NA members from Belarus, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom joined members of Region Polska (the Polish Region) at a convention in Krakow in May 2006?

Did you know



there are two NA Switzerland links at www.na.org? One is for Italian-speaking South Switzerland, and the other is a multilingual portal to websites for the German-, French-, and Italian-speaking areas of Switzerland. Most Swiss speak two to four languages.

Did you know



Spain, where NA's thirty-third world convention will be held in September 2009, has eight areas with approximately seventy-two groups and 119 weekly meetings?

Did you know



in June 2006, approximately 200 members attended the fourth Northern Greece Area Convention, held at a camping resort in Halkidiki on the Aegean Sea?

Did you know



the Area Planning Tool has been translated into Swedish, and members of the Swedish Region have held workshops on how to use this new tool?

Did you know



the website of the Germanspeaking Region (www.narcotics-anonymous.de) now includes a new section with historical information about the region and a collection of posters and other graphic images depicting the region's history? Just click on the "Grafiken" link.

Did you know



in 2006, the NA logo was shown on television in Turkey for the first time? An NA poster and the logo were displayed during the primetime news telecast, while two Turkish NA members provided information by telephone.

Did you know



the fifth Hungarian Convention was held in Szeged in August 2006, and there are two NA phonelines in Hungary: one in Pecs and one in Budapest?

Did you know



information for this column was gathered from regional reports submitted in July 2006 at the European Delegates Meeting held in Porto, Portugal?



Public relations



NA has no opinion on outside issues

Or do we?

Often, professionals in the healthcare and treatment fields say that Narcotics Anonymous does not welcome addicts who are taking prescription psychiatric medication or drug-replacement medications as part of their treatment. NA World Services usually responds with statements from our traditions such as, "NA has no opinion on outside issues. We don't take sides. We don't make any recommendations." However, the professional retort remains: "That is not what NA members tell our clients." When our individual members share their personal opinions, NA's reputation can be harmed.

Medication

How can NA be a viable and credible program of recovery when members state their personal opinions as if they were NA's opinions? We've all heard about NA members who have expressed their own opinions to other addicts coming to our meetings who are taking prescription psychiatric medication or medication for a physical condition such as cancer—in fact, we may have been that opinionated member ourselves! We need to consider, however, that when we share our own opinion, it can be perceived as NA's opinion. Though it's obviously nobody's intention to hurt the fellowship, we need to be aware that expressing our own opinions in this way can damage NA as a whole. We can hurt NA's reputation, with the result being that professionals may choose not to refer addicts to NA.

In the *Public Relations Handbook*, we clearly state that "trusted servants can educate NA members that it is inappropriate to interfere with medication that has been prescribed to members by healthcare providers." (p. 77) In our Basic Text, we further state that NA has "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." (p. 69)

NA World Services hears statements from professionals all the time, and many of us wonder what ever happened to our Tenth Tradition: "Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy." (Basic Text, p. 71)

Drug replacement

Our Third Tradition says, "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using." Who are we to judge the quality or authenticity of another member's desire? An addict participating in a drug-replacement program demonstrates his or her desire to stop using when he or she attends NA meetings. Our Basic Text's essay on the Third Tradition says, "All addicted persons are welcome and equal in obtaining the relief that they are seeking from their addiction." (p. 62) How do we as members welcome these addicts? How do we demonstrate that all addicts are equal?

The *Public Relations Handbook* further states, "We cannot assess anyone's desire to get clean and... NA has no opinion on drug replacement therapies." (p. 67) Individual members can share their recovery and freedom in NA in an attractive manner. This will speak louder to an addict in drug-replacement therapy than judgment and condemnation. After all, it's all about carrying the message of recovery. Equally important, that kind of sharing is more likely to lead professionals who refer addicts for help to view NA as a program choice for their clients.

How can we help our members understand the Tenth Tradition? How can we welcome and embrace addicts who are taking medications? We have a booklet, *In Times of Illness*, to support members, and our traditions to guide our services.

How can we uniformly present our program of recovery to professionals in a positive light? NA's goodwill with professionals is sometimes jeopardized by the actions of individual NA members who voice their own opinions as if they were the fellowship's. We can work together—follow our traditions, read recovery literature, host learning days—to help realize our tradition that "NA has no opinion on outside issues."

NA World Services public relations activities

The *Public Relations Handbook*, including the Area Planning Tool, is now available. This handbook can be purchased and viewed at www.na.org. The chapter resource material continues to be developed, and it is hoped that additional resource material will be available late in the first quarter of 2007. Please check our website for updates.

Conferences and events

Narcotics Anonymous World Services has participated in several conferences. We presented information about NA at the World Therapeutic Communities Conference, held in New York City, USA, in August 2006. Professionals from therapeutic communities have begun to appreciate and refer addicts to NA.

We traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, in September to participate in the annual conference of the International Council on Addictions and Alcohol. During this event, we interacted with treatment and research professionals and government officials. The health ministers for Finland, Mexico, and Romania said that they are supporters of NA for addicts in their countries. They want NA to be available in their communities and languages.

Additionally, NAWS participated in Recovery Month kickoff festivities in Washington, DC, USA, in September. We attend their planning-partners meetings throughout the year, serving as a community resource for the national partners.

We attended the Cape Cod Symposium in Hyannis, Massachusetts, USA. This was our initial conference for treatment professionals in the northeastern United States, and we were gratified that conferees enthusiastically welcomed both our participation and our recovery literature—resources for their clients.

We wrapped up September with participation at the International Chemical Dependency Nurses' Conference. This was our first interaction with these healthcare professionals, who expressed gratitude that we were at the conference. We were able to clarify misconceptions they had about NA, and introduce them to our vast resource of recovery literature.

Partnering with NA communities

During the public relations session held at WSC 2006, we discussed our desire to partner with area and regional committees on public relations events. We believe this directly reflects our Vision Statement: "NA communities worldwide and NA World Services work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery."

NAWS generally participates in national and international events, but there are many conferences that need the support of local NA members to inform professionals about NA and provide them with information about our recovery literature. Cooperative relationships with these professionals help us come closer to the fulfillment of our vision that

"Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life."

NAWS recently partnered with the Tejas Bluebonnet Region and several of its areas for two professional events. The Region of the Virginians also partnered with NAWS on a professional event in October 2006.



We are still accepting ideas for the name of this PR column. What best describes this in-print exchange of information and experience? Send your ideas by email to naway@na.org; by fax to 818.700.0700, attn: NA Way; or by post to NA Way—PR column; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409. We will continue welcoming ideas until 31 December 2006.

I just want to thank you guys for this program. It saved my life in numerous ways. I am in a youth recovery treatment program. The meetings here are good, and I am really proud to say I got clean in this program. When I get out, I am going to spread the NA message. I am fourteen years old, I have ninety-one days clean, and I am glad I got clean at this age.

Josh G, Arizona, USA

Basic Text Project Update

Are you participating?

This is the last *NA Way* issue before the end of the review and input period for the Sixth Edition Basic Text—so this is the last chance we have to urge you to sign up to review the draft. Input is due by 28 February 2007. To receive a paper copy of the draft or instructions on how to download an electronic copy, you can either write to

NA World Services
19737 Nordhoff Place
Chatsworth, CA 91311 USA

or you can sign up online to receive a copy: www.na.org/conference/bt.

Thousands of members have already signed up! By the end of October 2006, we had already mailed more than 3100 paper copies and more than 2100 electronic copies had been downloaded. The input is starting to come in, and the project workgroup is reading through your ideas and recommending changes to the draft.

Many of you have already written to tell us you appreciate the increased diversity in the collection—the international quality of the collection and the greater breadth of experience living clean, among other things. We are getting plenty of ideas on how to improve the text, but overall the input is quite positive so far.

The project

We have also fielded some calls and emails about the project itself. Some of you have wondered about the origins of the project—how it came to be—and our process—how we made decisions about what to include in the collection. It's not possible in the space we have here to answer all of the questions you may have, but we can briefly touch on some of the background. More information about the project is available online at www.na.org/conference/bt.

The origins of the project stretch back many years. Work on the revision itself began after a motion passed at the 2004 World Service Conference. That motion was included in the *Conference Agenda Report*, published in November 2003 (December for the languages other than English), and subsequently discussed throughout the fellowship. But the passage of that motion was not just the beginning of something (this project); it was also the end of something (six years of evaluation about the issue). During that time, we formed a workgroup and devoted a project to the question of literature revision, surveyed the fellowship twice, had numerous discussions about the issue, and published reports in *NAWS News* and the conference publications. Since work on the revision began, we have also been using *The NA Way* and the World Wide Web to publish updates. And yet, there are members who are only now hearing about the Basic Text project. One of the long-standing challenges we have in NA service, at all levels, is communication. The challenge is ongoing and far larger than one particular project, but we hope the thousands of mailing requests and downloaded copies of the draft represent some progress for us.

The process

Within the workgroup itself, one of the ways we improved communication was to develop an online database tool for workgroup members to register evaluations of the stories (both the new submissions and the existing stories). Each new submission was put through the same evaluation process, which



involved, at one stage, rating the pieces according to criteria such as recovery content, quality, style, structure, and how it fits into the work as a whole. The evaluation process was “blind,” meaning the submissions were evaluated anonymously, and if a workgroup member did know the identity of the writer, he or she could opt out of evaluating that piece. The existing stories were also ranked, by the workgroup and board members, alongside the new submissions using the same set of criteria. We knew we wanted to preserve some of the existing stories for their historical value, as well, without sacrificing quality. As you might expect, some of the decisions were awfully difficult. But we are confident we have done our best to evaluate all of the pieces fairly and objectively.

Now we are on to the next set of tough tasks. We are trying to find pieces to fill some of the obvious gaps in the collection. Ideally we would like, for instance, to be able to include something from India, Iran, or Eastern Europe, to name just a few of the places from which we see a need for more material. At the same time, we are beginning to get input on the draft from the fellowship. Reading through all of the input, compiling it, and making decisions about it is an exciting but daunting prospect. Nonetheless, we hope you’ll make it even tougher for us by sending us lots of ideas.

❖ We hope to hear from you ❖

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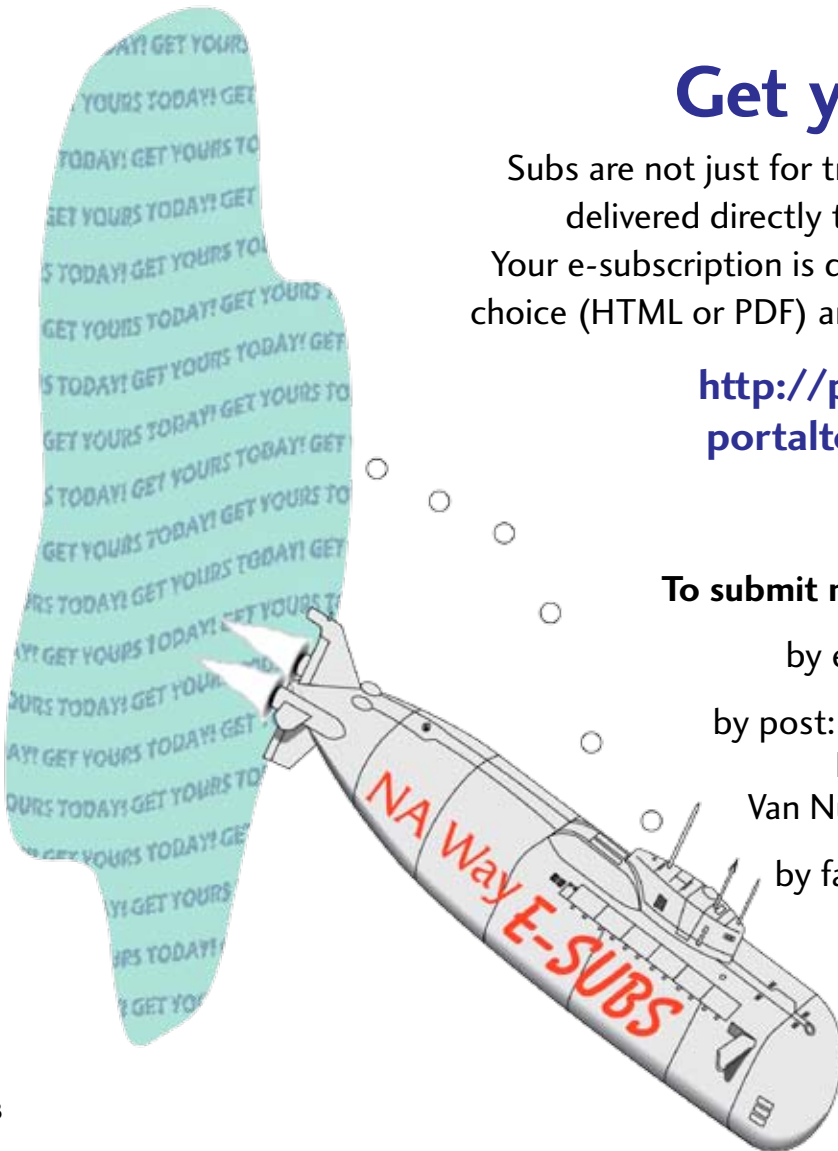
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by post: *The NA Way Magazine*
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by fax: 818.700.0700



2006 – 2008

Fellowship Issue Discussions

How are leaders identified, cultivated, and supported?

As many of you know, we've spent the last two years having fellowshipwide discussions about leadership in Narcotics Anonymous. World services has also had numerous discussions about ways to encourage and develop leadership, and we've had follow-up discussions with delegates at the World Service Conference. We've received valuable input, and we've been working on ways to develop a more systematic approach to encouraging leadership in Narcotics Anonymous.

Many of us already encourage leadership through some form of training and mentoring. "Leadership cultivation" is simply a way to make these practices a standard part of how we function. What follows here are some ideas of what we think a leadership-cultivation system in Narcotics Anonymous would look like—yet, we know we can only do so much. We also need your real examples of how you mentor members in your area or region, in your home group, or with your sponsees.

What seems most clear is that leaders are cultivated through the support and mentoring of other members.

Send us your experience with cultivating leaders and let us know what you think of the leadership strategies outlined.

Leadership Cultivation

Training: This approach would allow members to attend sessions that provide training in how to be an effective facilitator, how to have productive discussions, and how to encourage participation in these service discussions.

Leadership identification and development: An identification method would not only delegate to local members the responsibility of finding leaders within their NA communities, but also encourage teaching and mentoring to take place throughout the service structure. This approach would also create opportunities for people to get involved and provide ways for trusted servants to match talent to task.

Communication tools: This approach is designed to improve the ways we communicate. We can provide tools that help members share their best practices. We can also discover and frame the kind of information that is most needed.

Train-the-trainer: A train-the-trainer strategy would help members work with one another to teach leadership, facilitation, and communication skills.

We know that we can only accomplish this through a partnership with regional delegates, and we anticipate providing RDs with support and a number of tools to begin implementing these approaches. Supporting leaders in NA requires all of us to begin thinking of ourselves as mentors, trainers, and teachers. After all, one of the goals of an effective leader is to nurture and support other leaders. We look forward to hearing how you've been a teacher or mentor to others in Narcotics Anonymous.



Go to www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm for all the latest info on Issue Discussion Topics, and participate in Online Issue Discussion Bulletin Boards!

There will be session profiles to help with facilitating these discussions and electronic forms to submit information; both will be available at www.na.org. These tools are routinely updated, so be sure to check the website for new information.



CALENDAR

We encourage NA groups and service bodies to publicize events in *The NA Way Magazine* and in the online events calendar. To submit event information, just click on the "na events" link at www.na.org and follow the instructions. (Those who do not have Internet access can submit information by fax at 818.700.0700, attn. NA Way; by telephone at 818.773.9999 x179; or by postal mail at *The NA Way Magazine*; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.) We use the online calendar to create the NA Way Calendar, but only multi-day events and events happening between publication dates are printed in the magazine. The magazine is produced approximately three months before publication, and is usually distributed no later than the first week of the publication month. For your event to be included in the *The NA Way Magazine*, please submit information according to the schedule below. For additional event information, visit www.na.org.

Issue	Submit event info by	For events taking place during
January.....	5 October	second week of January through first week of April
April	5 January	second week of April through first week of July
July	5 April	second week of July through first week of October
October	5 July	second week of October through first week of January

Argentina

Santa Fe 23-25 Feb; Convención del Area Rosario IV; Hotel Majestic, Rosario; hotel rsvns: 0341.4405872 or 4482922; event info: 0341.4385502, 0341.156099055

Australia

New South Wales 2-4 Feb; Far North Area Convention XX; Byron Bay Arts and Convention Centre, Byron Bay; write: Far North Coast; Box 495; Byron Bay, NSW; Australia

Canada

Quebec 2-4 Mar; Youth Convention XI; Radisson Inn, Laval; hotel rsvns: 800.333.3333; event info: 514.347.3173, 450.669.4183; speaker tape deadline: 15 Dec; write: Quebec Region; 4590 d'Orleans Suite 212; Montreal, Quebec; Canada HIX 2K4; www.naquebec.org/cjna-ycna

India

Maharashtra 11-13 Jan; NA Bombay Area Convention XIII; St Mary's Villa, Khandala; www.nabombay.org

Mexico

Mexico City 8-11 Mar; Convención de la Region México X; Hotel Real del Sur, Ciudad de México; event info: coordinadora@namexico.org.mx; write: Región México; Durango 11A Despacho 3; Col Roma; CP 06700; México DF; www.namexico.org.mx

Nepal

Himalaya 16-18 Mar; Nepal Regional Convention II; Nagarkot, Kathmandu; event info: 977.1.4351870

Nicaragua

Managua 23-25 Mar; Primero Convención Regional Nicaragua; Hotel Ticomo, Managua; hotel rsvns: 505.26.50210; event info: 505.88.22969, 505.88.23103; registration: 505.87.71769

Philippines

Benguet Province, Luzon Island 26-28 Jan; Pilipinas Regional Convention XII; Teacher's Camp, Baguio City; hotel rsvns: 63.74.4426032; event info: 63.920.9037656; registration: 63.918.9100583; speaker tape info: 63.917.9477345; speaker tape deadline: 22 Jan; www.napilipinas.org

United States

Alabama 19-21 Jan; Free at Last X; Governor's House Hotel and Conference Quality Inn, Montgomery; hotel rsvns: 866.535.5392; event info: 334.233.9337; registration: 334.239.1111; speaker tape info: 334.613.3985; http://www.alnwflrscna.org/display_convention.php

2) 9-11 Mar; Greater Mobile Area Convention X; Renaissance Riverview Plaza, Mobile; hotel rsvns: 866.749.6069; event info: 251.554.0121; registration: 251.604.2691; write: Greater Mobile Area; Box 6566; Mobile, AL 36660

Arkansas 23-25 Feb; Texarkana Area Convention XXIII; Clarion, Texarkana; hotel rsvns: 903.792.3222; event info: 903.791.1551, 870.773.2287

California 5-7 Jan; TAC VII (formerly TriArea Convention); Holiday Inn, Chico; hotel rsvns: 530.345.2491; www.tac-convention.org

2) 16-18 Feb; Central California Regional Convention XIV; Holiday Inn Select, Bakersfield; hotel rsvns: 661.323.1900; event info: 661.305.4367; registration: 805.925.445; www.ccrca.org

3) 5-8 Apr; Northern California Convention XXIX; Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara; hotel rsvns: 408.748.7000; www.norcalna.org

4) 6-8 Apr; Spring Gathering; Sheraton Gateway LAX, Los Angeles; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 626.483.4287, 626.378.9931; speaker tape deadline: 7 Jan; write: Southern California Region; Box 954; Garden Grove, CA 92842; www.todayna.org

Florida 30 Mar-1 Apr; Convención Latina del sur de la Florida; Embassy Suites International Airport, Miami; hotel rsvns: 305.634.5000; www.soflarscna.org/regactcal.htm

Georgia 5-7 Jan; Peace in Recovery XIX; Marriott, Augusta; hotel rsvns: 866.316.5958; event info: 706.733.1790; registration: 706.533.9630

2) 22-25 Feb; Georgia Regional Convention XXVI; Atlanta Marriott Northwest, Atlanta; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 404.567.1263, 04.579.3002

Idaho 30 Mar-1 Apr; Southern Idaho Regional Convention XVIII; Red Lion Hotel, Idaho Falls; write: Snake River Valley Area; Box 50154; Idaho Falls, ID 83405

Illinois 11-14 Jan; Chicagoland Regional Convention XIX; Hyatt Regency Chicago; hotel rsvns: 312.565.1234; event info: 312.848.7343, 630.774.9853; www.chicagona.org

2) 2-4 Feb; Rock River Area Convention XVI; Ramada Inn of South Beloit; hotel rsvns: 815.389.1812; event info: 815.721.7714; registration: 815.494.5102

Indiana 2-4 Mar; Indiana State Convention XIV; Marriott East, Indianapolis; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 765.759.0924; registration: 765.649.4873

Kansas 30 Mar-1 Apr; MidAmerica Regional Convention XXIV; Holiday Inn Holidome, Salina; hotel rsvns: 785.823.1739; www.marscna.net

Kentucky 19-21 Jan; Louisville Area Convention XVII; Marriott Downtown, Louisville; hotel rsvns: 800.533.0127; event info: 502.693.8670, 502.541.6176; registration: 502.819.1630; www.nalouisville.org

Maryland 13-15 Apr; Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Convention XXI; Roland E Powell Convention Center, Ocean City; event info: 301.516.9078; registration: 301.785.3987; speaker tape deadline: 30 Dec; write: South Potomac Area; Box 156; Oxon Hill, MD 20750; www.cprcna.org/21

Massachusetts 16-18 Feb; Boston Area Convention XII; Marriott Boston Quincy, Quincy; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 508.653.2342; registration: 617.822.1495; www.newenglandna.org

2) 2-4 Mar; New England Regional Convention XII; Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge; hotel rsvns: 508.347.7393; event info: 401.727.4349; registration 508.230.3533; www.newenglandna.org

Michigan 2-4 Feb; South Western Michigan Area Convention III; Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites, Kalamazoo; hotel rsvns: 269.343.3333; event info: 269.267.6015, 269.598.3266; www.michigan-na.org

2) 5-8 Apr; Detroit Areas Convention XV; Hyatt Regency, Detroit; hotel rsvns: 313.593.1234; event info: 313.865.5203, 313.702.7749; speaker tape deadline: 15 Feb; write: Detroit Areas Convention of NA; Box 32603; Detroit, Michigan 48232; www.michigan-na.org/dacna/index.htm

Minnesota 13-15 Apr; Minnesota Regional Convention XIV; Cragun's Conference and Golf Resort, Brainerd; hotel rsvns: 218.825.2700 ext 8400; www.naminnesota.org/mnnac/mnnac.htm

Nebraska 23-25 Feb; Close Encounters of the Clean Kind Convention; Best Western Settle Inn, Omaha; hotel rsvns: 402.431.1246; event info: 402.505.3370; www.eastern-nebraska-na.org

Nevada 1-4 Mar; Southern Nevada Area Convention XXI; Palace Station Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas; hotel rsvns: 800.634.3101; event info: 702.505.1155; registration: 702.348.5059; www.snana.org/convention_info.html

New Jersey 30 Dec-1 Jan; Bergen Area New Year, New Life Convention XIII; Berkeley Carteret, Asbury Park; hotel rsvns: 732.776.6700; event info: convention@bergenarea.org; www.bergenarea.org/subcommittees/convention

2) 19-21 Jan; Northeast Zonal Forum; Holiday Inn, Somerset; hotel rsvns: 732.356.1700; event info: 908.769.7051; www.nanj.org

3) 16-18 Feb; Celebrating Recovery IV; Sheraton Newark Airport, Newark; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 973.424.0752, 201.876.9133; registration: 973.242.5393

New Mexico 15-18 Mar; Rio Grande Regional Convention XVIII; Marriott Pyramid North, Albuquerque; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 505.869.6574; registration: 505.332.4225; speaker tape info: 505.315.1188; speaker tape deadline: 5 Jan; write: Rio Grande Region; RGRCNA; Box 11472; Albuquerque, NM 87192; www.riograndena.org

New York 12-14 Jan; Nassau Area Convention IV; Hilton Long Island Huntington, Long Island; hotel rsvns: 631.845.1000; event info: 516.662.3456, 516.505.2680

2) 2-4 Feb; In the Spirit of Love IX; Holiday Inn, Waterloo; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event info: 315.745.9338, 607.869.5503; www.inthespiritoflove.blogspot.com

3) 16-18 Feb; Convención Hispana; Crowne Plaza Hotel, New York; hotel rsvns: 914.682.0050; event info: 718.496.2539, 718.367.1977; speaker tape info: 347.613.3275; www.metroareadehablahispana.com

4) 23-25 Feb; Rochester Area Convention; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Rochester; hotel rsvns: 585.546.3450; event info: 585.226.6133, 585.288.8216

North Carolina 23-25 Feb; Freedom by the Sea VI; Sea Trail Resort and Conference Center, Sunset Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.624.6601; registration: 910.232.2428

Ohio 5-7 Jan; Central Ohio Area Convention XVIII; The Columbus Hotel, Columbus; hotel rsvns: 800.417.1057; event info: 614.476.2344, 614.638.5809

2) 2-4 Mar; Cleveland Area Convention IV; Marriott Cleveland Airport, Cleveland; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 216.531.5069, 216.268.5460

Oklahoma 9-10 Dec; Women's Spiritual Retreat and Jammie Party XI; Cushing; event info: 918.862.3147, 405.665.9938; wasc_webmaster@cox.net

Pennsylvania 9-11 Feb; Mid Atlantic Region Learning Conference; Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster; hotel rsvns: 717.299.5500; registration: 717.392.2796; www.MARSC.com

South Carolina 26-28 Jan; Upper South Carolina Area Convention XXVII; Holiday Inn, Greenville; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event info: 864.421.4838, 864.277.8921; speaker tape info: 864.360.4726; write: USCANA; Box 1372; Greenville, South Carolina 29601

2) 16-18 Feb; Recovery at Work Convention; The Westin Resort, Hilton Head Island; hotel rsvns: 800.937.8461; event info: 803.348.2916; registration: 803.920.7698; www.recovery@work.com

Texas 23-25 Feb; Circle of Sisters X; DFW Marriott, Fort Worth; hotel rsvns: 972.929.8800; event info: 972.223.1094; www.circleofsisters.org

2) 6-8 Apr; Lone Star Regional Convention XXII; Holiday Inn Select, Tyler; hotel rsvns: 903.561.5800; event info: 214.570.1900, 800.747.8972, randie@LSRNA.com; www.LSRNA.com

Utah 2-4 Mar; Northern Utah Area Convention XIV; Marriott, Ogden; hotel rsvns: 800.627.7468; event info: 435.225.2876, 435.920.8050; www.nuana.org/nuacna.htm

Virginia 12-14 Jan; Annual Virginians Convention XXV; Richmond Convention Center and Richmond Marriott, Richmond; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 804.677.8064; registration 804.307.6936; www.thevrcc.com

2) 6-8 Apr; Tidewater Area Convention VII; Marriott Norfolk Waterside, Norfolk; hotel rsvns: 888.236.2427; event info: 757.966.5805, 757.503.1238; speaker tape deadline: 31 Dec; write: Tidewater Area Service of Narcotics Anonymous; Box 2833; Norfolk, VA 23501

Wisconsin 23-25 Feb; Greater Milwaukee Unity Convention XII; Four Points Sheraton, Milwaukee; hotel rsvns: 888.627.8390; event info: 414.526.7759, 414.383.2389; write: Milwaukee Area and Inner City Area; GMUCNA; Box 511001; Milwaukee, WI 53203

2) 9-11 Mar; Little Girl Grows Up VI; Best Western-Airport, Milwaukee; hotel rsvns: 877.461.8547; event info: 414.839.3663; speaker tape info: 414.550.6632; speaker tape deadline: 31 Jan; write: Little Girl Grows Up; 3343 N 8th; Milwaukee, WI 53206

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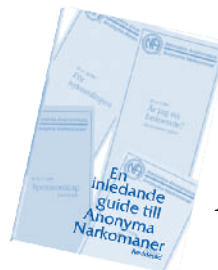


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Van Nuys, CA 91409

or 818.773.9999

or email us at hrp@na.org



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Total printed copies	35,125	36,000
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Percent requested circulation	99.6%	99.76%

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