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MAGAZINE

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THE  
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL  
OF  
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

EDITOR  
De Jenkins

COPY EDITOR  
David Fulk

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
Fatia Birault

NA WAY WORKGROUP  
Paul C, Alan D, Marc G,  
Stephanie V, Sue H, Tim S

NA World Services, Inc.  
PO Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA  
Telephone: (818) 773-9999  
Fax: (818) 700-0700  
Website: www.na.org

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# From the editor

Last issue we talked about "coming home," which got me thinking that, really, home is where recovery is for us. Whether we're traveling, relocating, or just in a nearby town or neighborhood; there's a pretty good chance we can find NA. Even if we're not looking for a meeting, we might still encounter "signs of recovery;" and we always carry the NA message and spirit with us, wherever we go. This issue celebrates some of those experiences. Let us know where you see signs of recovery.

We're also happy to share a member-created comic strip, submitted in response to our call for submissions (p. 17). To warm up your laughter muscles – or decorate your bulletin board – enjoy some humorous quotes on page 4.

Finally, you're invited to participate in the "Living Clean" project, use new tools at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org), ponder several aspects of service, and celebrate the Thirtieth World Service Conference. Phew! Enjoy!

De J, Editor

The electronic *NA Way Magazine* is now enhanced with additional content and features not available in the print version. To e-subscribe, visit us at [www.naway.org](http://www.naway.org).

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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."*

# Messenger

## Tornado Jim

It is amazing how we learn things in recovery. When I was 16 years clean, I was working a job in Birmingham, Alabama, as an inspector for an emergency management agency. My duties were to visit people who had losses from a tornado. I would gather information and turn in reports that preceded the award of monies to help them rebuild their lives. As an addict in recovery, I understood disasters. Prior to coming into Narcotics Anonymous, my whole life was a disaster. If they named tornados like they do hurricanes, they could have called me Tornado Jim. I destroyed people's lives, including my own.

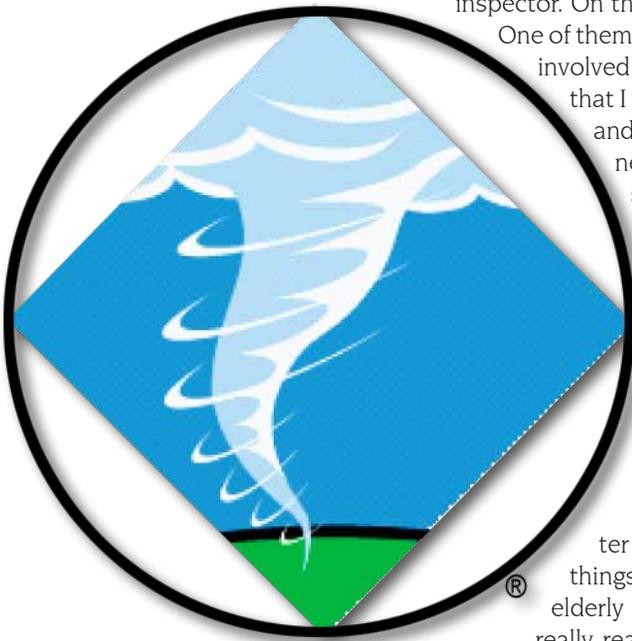
I had done over 10,000 inspections prior to this disaster. I was considered a qualified inspector. On this one day, I started reviewing my upcoming inspection assignments.

One of them was highlighted and marked "sensitive." That meant there were deaths involved. I knew right then that I needed HP. As I read the inspection, I noticed that I would be interviewing a 72-year-old woman who had lost her husband and grandson. It went on to say that she had also lost four neighbors. I needed my spirit to be conditioned. I said another prayer. One prayer simply was not going to be enough.

I met with the woman, whose granddaughter was with her. Her granddaughter explained to me that during the tornado, her granddad had placed a recliner chair over her grandmother, and then jumped on top of their grandson to protect him. The tornado blew through their home. She told me the grandson and grandfather were blown out into a tree limb that pierced and killed them. She said her grandmother was hurting and needed as much help as we could provide. I was very teary-eyed and could feel their pain. I did my inspection the best that I could.

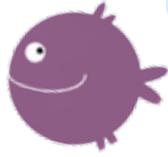
The elderly woman never spoke during the interview; her granddaughter spoke for her. I explained to them how we could help, and I listed the things we could provide them. I was finishing up the interview when the elderly woman spoke. She asked me if I could do something else for her. I really, really wanted to be able to help her. I said, "Sure." She said, "Young man, will you give me a hug?" My heart smiled. NA had been hugging me for 16 years. I was a professional hugger. I felt the presence of God that day. She did not care about the money we were awarding her in that moment. She did not want anything but a simple hug. I will never forget that day, because I felt like a messenger. My job was to give a hug, and Narcotics Anonymous had prepared me.

*James S, Florida, USA*



Sometimes  
we get together  
just to have fun.

*Sponsorship,  
"What Is Sponsorship?"*



... I got  
a sponsor who  
taught me to laugh  
and have fun again  
without using.

*Basic Text, Coming Home, "Reflections"*

Sometimes  
the best quality to  
promote God's will  
is a sense of humor.

*The NA Step Working Guides, Step Eleven*

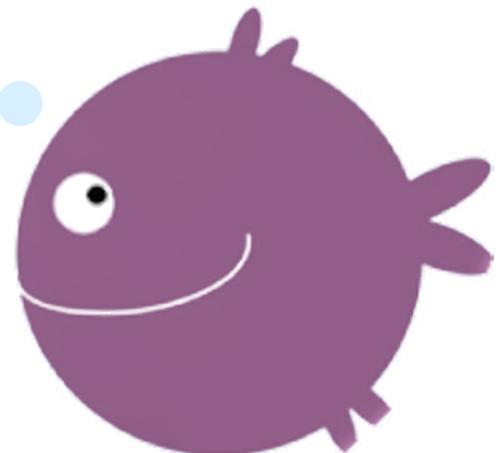
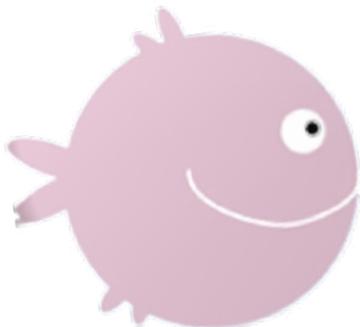
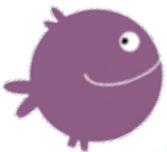


We are  
free to laugh,  
to cry, to enjoy  
our recovery.

*Just for Today, August 14*

Winners  
keep a sense of  
humor... And when  
winners laugh,  
they laugh with you,  
not at you.

*Just for Today, December 10*



## Never alone

When I got to NA, it wasn't my plan to stay here. I surely didn't think I could live without using, but God had a different plan for me. I've learned that I need to stay vigilant, listen for the message, watch for the miracles to happen, and keep the hope for the addict who still suffers. For example, last September (2009) there was a speaker jam in Gary, Indiana, and a few addicts from here were asked to share their experience, strength, and hope. A group of us planned to go together, so we flew off to the Midwest. We were eager to see Chicago and other local sites.

One friend and I really wanted to visit the childhood home of Michael Jackson in Gary, and we were both thrilled that we could go there. Not everyone in the group liked the idea, but we agreed to respect everyone's wishes. I even had T-shirts made for all of us to wear when we went to MJ's house. We laid out a daily schedule, but God had another plan in mind. After breakfast the first day, some local NA members suggested we go right then to see Michael Jackson's house because it was close. I was disappointed because we wouldn't be able to wear the T-shirts, but I went along with the group.

As we approached the corner lot, I was overwhelmed to be there. People were milling about taking pictures, and vendors were selling music, T-shirts, and other memorabilia. One vendor called across the street to us, "What does your T-shirt say?" The guy wearing the shirt said, "Never Alone." He explained that it was related to our NA recovery. The vendor stood there and just stared at us for several seconds, and then he walked across the street. "My name is David\*," he said. "I had ten years clean, but then I relapsed and used for the last ten years—until three days ago. I got three days clean today." He told us his wife had also been clean 13 years, but they'd been on this long relapse together. She now had two days clean.

The spirit of love and hope was alive in the air around us. We all hugged and introduced ourselves, invited him to the speaker jam the next day, and took some pictures with him. We all thought we'd gone to that celebrity's house for one thing, and instead we were there to help a fellow addict and share some hope. God's plan was for a van full of addicts, miles away from home, to visit that last house on the block to share the message because even at the end of the road, there's hope.

As we drove away, the van was so quiet. We were all feeling his pain and the awe of how this day had unfolded for us. And I thought to myself, "Remain vigilant, listen for the message, watch for the miracles, and keep hope for the addict who still suffers..."

*Rose G, California, USA*

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\*Name changed for publication



## California

I recently traveled to the community where I grew up to attend to matters for my youngest brother, who has been disabled with a severe form of cerebral palsy all his life. His health had taken a downturn and I had to arrange for him to receive hospice services. Needless to say, the trip involved some hard discussions, and facing my baby brother's mortality was not easy.

The trip there was a tribulation in itself. I arrived ten hours later than planned because of mechanical problems, weather delays, and missed connections. This meant there wouldn't be time for me to attend a meeting while I was there. However, I finally made it to my daughter's house, where I was energized by the love of her four children.

The morning I was to return home, I met my brother at his favorite restaurant so I could explain the upcoming changes. He didn't like what I was telling him, but indicated that he would go along with the changes. He began asking me for kisses, and we shared more kisses than we had in quite a while.

It was a long flight back. We landed at LAX in a dank rain, which matched my mood. This trip was one of the hardest weekends I had experienced, and I was worn out emotionally and physically. At the luggage carousel I spied the back of my suitcase. For many years I've used a white NA keytag as a luggage identifier, but imagine my surprise when I reached for the bag to discover a black keytag had been added somewhere along the way. I snapped a picture with my phone and uploaded it to my social networking page with the caption "We are everywhere."

The next day a friend from Missouri let me know that at a meeting the night before, a member who is a baggage handler shared about seeing a white keytag on a piece of luggage while he was at work. He recounted how he added one of his black keytags, thinking about what reaction the suitcase's owner might have at the end of the trip. A couple of weeks later I was put in contact with that baggage handler, and I was able to express my thanks to him for the reminder that recovery is always available to me and that I was not alone.

*Bob, California, USA*

## A tale of two keytags



## Missouri

It was almost 4:00 am. I was covering a guy's overnight shift at the airport and I was in a really bad space. It had been a rough couple of months; I was just feeling down on myself and feeling depressed—and a friend had just passed away, too.

I headed to the humongous conveyor belt where everyone's luggage was waiting. The morning flights were full and the conveyor was jam-packed. I was standing next to my supervisor (who's not in the program, but knows that I am), separating bags on our belt, when I saw it: a suitcase with a white keytag on it.

I yelled, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa! Look what we have here!" I pulled it off the conveyor to look at the name tag, thinking that maybe it was someone I knew. The name wasn't familiar, but I saw the LAX destination and the name of some guy named Bob from California. I said to my supervisor, "I'm gonna get one of my keytags and put it on this guy's bag."

"I wouldn't do that," he replied.

I shot back, "I know you wouldn't, but I would! That guy's gonna trip when he gets to LA and sees my tag on there." I put the bag back on the belt and ran in to get one of my keytags, but then had to find the suitcase again. Pretty soon, it was my supervisor who excitedly called out, "There it is; it's coming back around!"

As I attached my black keytag, I thought maybe there were other recovering baggage handlers working at LAX who would see our tags, too. As I put the suitcase back on the belt, I felt good, happy. I had been in such a bad space, but seeing that white keytag and imagining the owner's response when he saw mine touched my heart.

Later that day I shared at a meeting about what happened, and then a guy told me that a woman he knows saw a picture of the suitcase on her friend's social networking page. I don't have a computer, so I went to the woman's house and saw it: a picture of our keytags together on that suitcase—and comments on it from about forty recovering addicts from all over the world! I'm a tough guy, but I stood there and cried looking at that. I thought I'd just give a guy a laugh, but it turned into so much more. And now I have a new friend, too. I call him Keytag Bob.

*Lloyd L, Missouri, USA*

## Waves of change

I arrived at NA completely divorced from God. I didn't know if he wanted to help me, or if I even wanted him to help me. As I worked to "come to believe," other members told me to act as if I believed. I would look at the sky and think, "Could this be it?"

One afternoon I was sitting by the sea trying to come to believe, and I saw how a wave pushed a coconut into the sea and another wave brought it back to the shore, and then another wave took it back out again. I identified with the coconut. That coconut was me in the sea of addiction that had destroyed my life. It was impossible for the coconut to get out of the sea by itself. It needed someone to help it out of the water. That was my first contact with a Higher Power.

I understood what a Higher Power could do for me, but I needed sanity. When would it come? Sanity, like a spiritual awakening, is a process, not an event. That is why the small changes taking place in my life were the traffic signals indicating that I was on the right path—like the first time I paid my electric bill on time instead of putting it in a drawer. Or the first time that I went to get my children's grades instead of calling the school with an excuse for not going. Or the first time I called and asked for help instead of going back and using again.

All these actions indicated to me that I was on the right path and gave me strength to face head-on what my life had been in the past. My using and its consequences, with its dark and painful stages, didn't terrorize me, either. I knew how I had participated in each situation. God also knew it, and admitting it to him would not be complicated. The problem was in having the necessary humility to admit all that past to another human being who was just like me. Telling someone else who I really was seemed very complicated. But I wanted what NA had to offer me, and I kept moving forward. Contrary to all that I thought, taking this step didn't hurt, and it gave me relief. It allowed me to see my defects in black and white and give them to my Higher

Power. This act of humility allowed me to see the people I had harmed, not with guilt, but with conviction that from now on, the changes I was making would allow my relationships to improve, my bills to be paid, and my environment to be free from eternal crisis.

I maintain contact with God as I understand him. Today I understand God as I once did during a happy stage of my life. It's somewhat childish, but it's a nice relationship that has worked for me and has kept me clean for several years.

Today I can look back and see the waves of change in my life. The most evident fact of my spiritual awakening is the way I feel. The promise of a useful, happy life has come through for me and I live with gratitude. But, how can I show my gratitude and all the benefits of the program? Through service. In service I can practice principles like tolerance, surrender, humility, sanity, and conscious awareness. Group service and our service system have allowed me to develop a real conscience. As trusted servants, it is important to practice the steps and traditions to be sure our decisions are based on conscience or spiritual awakening, not on defects of character. It is important for us to discuss and reach consensus on decisions. In this way, the spiritual awakening each one of us experiences can contribute to the growth of our fellowship.

*Marielos P, Guatemala City, Guatemala*

## Strangers in the night

One night I was driving down the highway, dropping off a friend after a meeting. It was raining, and we were talking about NA when we noticed this van pulling up really close to us. My friend thought it was friends of mine fooling around, and I didn't know what to think.

Then, the window came down and they yelled at us, "Hey! Do you know the phone number for the Toronto helpline?"

"What?!" I shouted back.

"Do you know the number for the Toronto helpline?"

"Hang on," I said, kind of surprised. "I always have meeting lists in my car." But on this day, I didn't. We pulled off the highway and I checked my trunk for a regional meeting list, but I had taken them into my house the day before. So, my friend made a few calls, and we got them the number.

We stood and talked a bit and took some pictures of each other, all in the rain. It was awesome; I got goose bumps. This fellow addict and his dad were visiting from another country and saw the bumper sticker on the back of my car that says, "This Car Stops at All Meetings." Below that is an NA service symbol sticker. I had met a fellow addict from another country because of my bumper sticker. I helped him find a meeting! Damn, I love Narcotics Anonymous!

*Henry W, Ontario, Canada*



# 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.).



## Home, sweet home group

The group, NA Sarpsborg, or NASA, as it's lovingly called, meets three times a week in a bomb shelter in the heart of Sarpsborg City. It is situated right next to the bus terminal in the heart of the city. Many years ago the governor of Sarpsborg said this bomb shelter was to be used by self-help groups, and we've met here ever since 5 November 2001, except for one week when the government had to update the facilities for fire safety reasons. We meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday nights.

The wood for our keytag rack was found far up in the Norwegian mountains and brought down especially for this purpose. One of our members was inspired by a similar keytag rack at a meeting in Sweden, so he made this for our home group. When we celebrate cleantime, the person presenting keytags stands up, which has a bit more of a ceremonious feel; we like that, because it's really an achievement every time you get a keytag. Before a keytag is presented, it is passed around the room so everybody sees it and they can "charge it" with some love or good thoughts.

We have made PI "business cards" in an attempt to reach out to addicts in our local area, and it really does have an effect! People come and say that they found the card at the social security office or similar places. Our group also sells sodas and recycles the cans. We put the recycling money into the Seventh Tradition collection, but we also get rather a lot of money in the basket, too.

In case you didn't know, NASA is the best home group in the world, and we really work hard at keeping it that way. We also honor this with a small picture on our wall that says: "Home, sweet home group."

*Per Aksel L, Sarpsborg, Norway*



# Stumbling into service

Often in service work we can find ourselves getting sidetracked and quickly forget what we are doing, why we are doing it, and who we are doing it for—the newcomer, the still-suffering addict. After all, carrying the NA message of recovery is our primary purpose!

This past May we had a newcomer “accidentally” stumble into our regional service committee meeting in Southeast Texas. We arrived at the meeting location early to grab some of the Beaumont, Texas, hospitality. Their area service committee was providing a scrumptious breakfast for our quarterly RSC. When I went inside, there was a fellow perhaps in his early to mid-twenties sitting alone at one of the tables, looking rather down in the dumps. Not remembering having seen him before at other RSCs, I went over to him, introduced myself, and asked him what ASC he was with. He introduced himself, too, and asked what an ASC was. So I asked him if he was there for the RSC, and again he asked me what that was. I explained what an ASC and RSC were and what we were doing there today, and asked him how he came to be there. A friend of his had looked up meetings for him and found the 9:00 am meeting at that location, which was within walking distance of his home. Neither he nor his friend realized it was a service meeting and not a recovery meeting.

This newcomer had ONE day clean! We suggested that he could have two days clean if he would just stay put—he would get a free breakfast and lunch and would not have to use. He stayed until 2:00 pm and went home for a nap and planned to come back for a meeting that night in the same location. A regional committee member from my home area got him a Basic Text and I furnished him with a white keytag, meeting information, and some literature. His eyes teared up when the Basic Text went around the room for everyone to add their encouraging messages, names, and phone numbers. During the RSC we kept him tuned in to what was going on, and he was amazed at the laughter, the smiles, and the spiritual atmosphere. I told him it is not always this spiritual, but that his being there was instrumental in helping us keep our focus as a service body and on why we were there—for him and others like him!

He showed a lot of gratitude for the several hundred years of cleantime present at that RSC, and commented that he was really glad to have the chance to see this program in action. He exclaimed, “This thing really works, doesn’t it?” I saw him later in the day being of service to a homegroup member who needed help hauling some items to the member’s car. I had told him he was probably going to “grow up” to be a “service junkie.” He smiled and said, “It feels so good.”

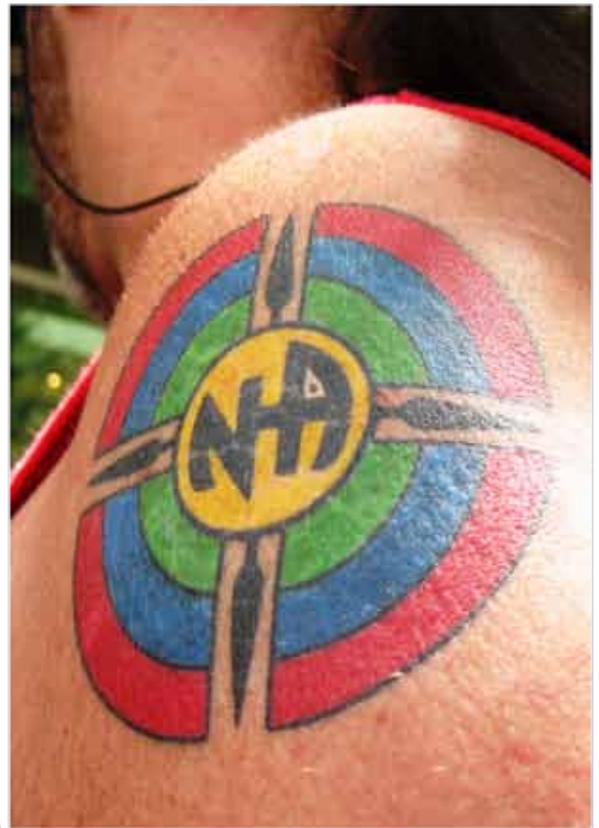
Business at the RSC went much smoother that Saturday in May! Thank you, our new friend, and please keep coming back!

*Anonymous, Texas, USA*

Canvas Bag – “We are the fruits of love,” Colombia



Motorcycle and Helmet – Uschi M, from a trip in Pokhara, Nepal



Group Logo Tattoo – Anonymous WSC participant, California, USA

Addicts on Asphalt Bus, Motorcycle, and Tent – MidAmerica Newsletter, Kansas, USA

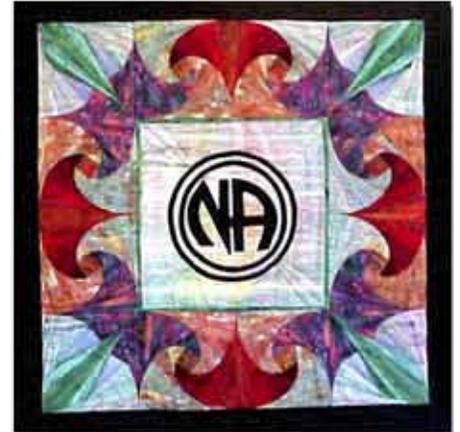


# SIGNS OF RECOVERY

NA Quilt – Hanging made by a special worker's mother, NA World Service Office, California, USA



Drum Set – Anonymous



Canvas Bag – WSC 2008



Crop Circles – Dave H, Michigan, USA



Basic Living Room and *It Works How and Why* Bedroom – Elliot L, New York, USA

# Our members write

## NA members online

*I noticed a few weeks ago that a friend's page on a social networking site includes applications like one called "spirituality," which, when accessed, displays all kinds of pictures with NA logos included that you can send to your friends on the site. Is that okay?*

*I was recently invited to join an NA group on a social networking site, which would make my name and photo available in connection with NA to millions of people.*

*It bothers me when people use social networking sites as a platform to talk about their recovery or break their (or others') anonymity by posting photos.*

NA World Services does not have guidelines for individuals to follow as they use websites or social networking pages, applications, groups/causes, or events. Although some of these sites are less public than others, it may still be difficult to ensure anonymity once material is posted on a member's page. It is also important to keep in mind that the Internet is a public place and anything posted there could affect NA's public image. While our Eleventh Tradition was written many years before we had a medium like the Internet, the spirit of that tradition can most certainly be applied in our online affairs. We encourage members to read the Eleventh Tradition essay from *It Works: How and Why* and use that as a guiding resource.

Care should also be taken to refrain from placing any of NA's copyrighted or trademarked material on the site. Individual NA members do not have the legal right to reproduce these restricted materials. With that said, many members are not aware that the NA Fellowship decided that use of NA registered logos is to be limited to NA groups and service committees. We would ask all NA members to respect the group conscience of the fellowship and refrain from posting NA trademarks and logos.

Further thoughts and information on this topic can be found in Chapters Two and Ten of the *Public Relations Handbook*, which is available online at <http://www.na.org/?ID=PR-index>, and in the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* at <http://www.na.org/?ID=legal-bulletins-fipt>.



## Dear NA Way Magazine:

My name is Otis G from Philadelphia. I read the story from Jeff R in *The NA Way Magazine* (October 2009) and, yes, I had the experience of listening to what must have been the same caller. He told me his wife and daughter were killed by a drunk driver. He said he had 26 years clean and that he didn't want to use. Being a trusted servant, I made some calls, and three or four addicts were there to support the caller. God was with us that day. We did our part.

Three months later I received a call from someone who was outside of Philadelphia, and it was the same story. (Isn't it great that we can remember things now?) Wow! I called him back and asked if we had spoken via the NA phonenumber before. He hung up.

I prayed for the caller, and I will continue to pray for him. We cannot deny other addicts their pain, but we can carry the message of hope. I'm grateful we were there in spite of the caller's reputation. In the meantime, we, too, have informed other regions and phonenumber volunteers.

With love and respect,

Otis G, Pennsylvania, USA

# Keeping it fresh

Over the years, in diners and other after-meeting spots, a conversation has been building about the speaker selection process for NA conventions. Just as the Issue Discussion Topics in our biennial Conference Agenda Report seek to raise awareness and suggest solutions through collective conscience, this article attempts to do the same. It is our hope that change will be facilitated through further discussion. The following are questions we've asked and heard regarding conventions in North America where, more often than not, the main speakers are the same every year.

- Where is the new blood? Are only a few select members capable of carrying a "good" message of recovery?
- Why do programming committees continually reselect the same speakers?
- Why are these speakers almost all from within one sponsorship family? And, why are programming committees often filled with members of that same sponsorship family?
- Why is a tape/CD/MP3 a requirement for an addict to be able to share at most conventions?
- Why aren't a member's NA service and other addicts' referrals held in higher regard than a recording of the addict speaking?
- Is the unsolicited submission of your own tape a service to NA, or is it ego-based and a direct conflict between God's will and our will?
- Is speaking at conventions a service to NA, or is it a privilege?
- Why don't addicts who are repeatedly asked to speak at conventions demur and allow the message to be heard through another messenger?

We both attended and were privileged to share at WCNA 32 workshops (no tape submission required for that commitment). While there, we experienced a fresh, diverse recovery message from a host of addicts, largely unknown to us, who touched our hearts profoundly. We were not surprised to learn that the recovering addicts selected to share at WCNA workshops are chosen not purely by recorded submissions, but also based on NA service experience and referrals from other NA members. We understand that eloquence of delivery can help listeners focus, even allowing them to better feel what is spoken, but the power of the NA message is simply shared experience, strength, and hope. Without this foundation, our message is lost, no matter how animated, loud, educated, or raucous the delivery.

We don't intend to discount the recovery or the message carried by speakers who have shared so regularly over the years. But we do question the validity of the selection process. In fact, the two of us have had the honor of sharing at many conventions over the years. We merely seek to breathe the refreshing, life-saving message into the lungs of more NA conventions. Our Basic Text states, "A simple, honest message of recovery from addiction rings true." We hope this article will give voice to change and help us maintain our Twelfth Tradition, placing principles before personalities.

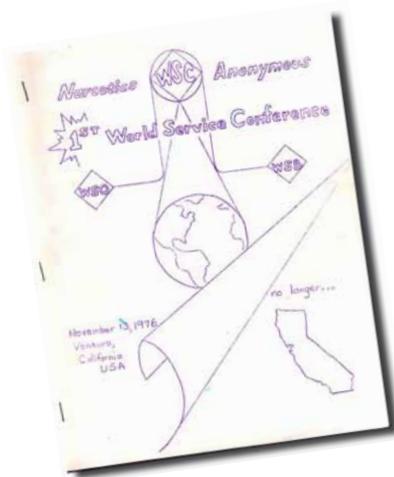
*Jessica N and James R, New York, USA*



# The World Service Conference

The World Service Conference is not an entity, it is an event—a coming together where the voice of NA as a whole is expressed on issues and concerns affecting our worldwide fellowship. Every two years—guided by our Twelve Traditions and Concepts—regional delegates, the World Board, and the executive director of the World Service Office meet to discuss questions of significance to the NA Fellowship. The WSC is not just a collection of regions; its concerns are greater than just the sum of its parts. The WSC is a forum where the business of the meeting is the common welfare of NA as a whole. The purpose of the World Service Conference is to be supportive of the fellowship and to define and take action according to the collective group conscience of Narcotics Anonymous worldwide.

The *Conference Agenda Report* contains proposals and motions from regions and the World Board on which the fellowship is asked to form a fellowshipwide group conscience, which will be discussed at the WSC. The World Board includes recommendations and statements of financial impact for each motion. One copy is mailed to each conference participant and to each region's mailing address. NA members may purchase additional copies from the WSO at a price established based on the cost of production and distribution (US \$8.00 this year). The CAR also includes a glossary for those less familiar with terms commonly used in world services.

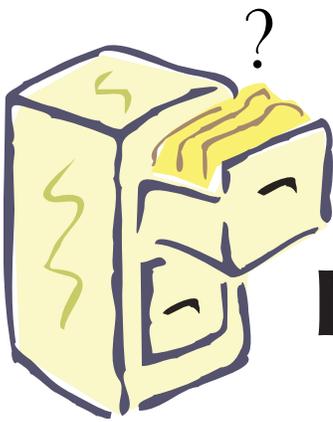


The *Conference Approval Track* is mailed to conference participants the January before the WSC. In the past, all of this material was included in the CAR. In response to groups' requests to make the CAR more relevant to their purpose and needs, however, the CAT was developed and includes service, strategic planning, project plan, and budgetary material. An overview of the CAT material is also included in the CAR.

The *Conference Report* is released immediately before each WSC and contains information about the status of major projects, challenges and successes, and suggestions for new work. Regional reports, submitted by RDs, are also included and convey information about the regions such as number of groups and meetings, service activities, challenges, and specific experiences that may benefit other regions and/or world services. Zonal forums may also submit written reports for distribution.



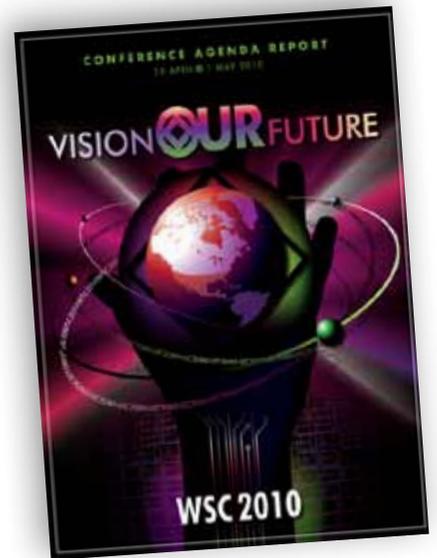
Information gleaned from *A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous, 2008–2010* and the *2010 Conference Agenda Report*.



## Did you know...

### The World Service Conference...

- ❖ is held every two years?
- ❖ takes place the last week in April within 75 miles of the World Service Office?
- ❖ is composed of regional delegates, World Board members, and the NAWS Executive Director?
- ❖ also includes the Human Resource Panel and up to two WSC cofacilitators?
- ❖ was first held in 1976 in Ventura, California, USA?
- ❖ begins with an orientation and community-building session, and includes old and new business, reports and presentations, interactive workshops, elections, new project ideas, lively discussion, singing, cheering, and, of course, recovery?!



The 30th World Service Conference  
**Our Vision – Our Future**  
25 April – 1 May 2010 ❖ Woodland Hills, California,  
USA

For updates on current projects

- ❖ Living Clean ❖ Our Service System ❖
  - ❖ *In Times of Illness* ❖ Self-Support ❖
- and to access or purchase the

#### **Conference Agenda Report**

please visit the WSC area of our website:

**<http://www.na.org/conference>**

### **Service discussions @ [www.na.org](http://www.na.org)**

#### **Share or seek:**

service experience, strength, and hope at  
<http://disc.na.org/servdisc/>

This discussion area is organized by general area and regional service and by specific service (activities, H&I, webmasters, outreach, etc.)

#### **Just added:**

A Newsletter Service Discussion Area  
<http://disc.na.org/servdisc/forumdisplay.php?f=25>

#### **Let us know...**

how YOU use or would like to use the service discussion areas at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org). What do you seek and share on the boards? What's not there that you'd like to see? What's of the most value to you and your service work?

Email us at [naway@na.org](mailto:naway@na.org).

# Phonelines and website search at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

In November we launched a new version of the local NA phoneline and website search application at <http://www.na.org/?ID=phoneline>. It is quick and easy to use.

We want to develop something as user-friendly, if not more so, for the meeting search, but we need your help. A significant portion of the meeting information we have is incorrect or unusable due to the addresses we have on file. There is an old saying about databases: "Garbage in, garbage out." This means that the information a website visitor finds can only be as good as the information provided.

We have implemented a number of ways to make it easier for local web servants to get us the updated meeting data. Over the next few months we will start a campaign to clean up the information we have in our database about NA meetings; however, we cannot be successful without you. For more information about how you can help, please contact [fsteam@na.org](mailto:fsteam@na.org), and stay tuned for updates about this project. Thanks for your willingness, as always, to help us!

## Living Clean The Journey Continues



We are still gathering source material for this book-length project and we encourage all members to offer their experience, strength, and hope with living the program. You can get your material to us in a variety of ways:

**Discussion Board at:** <http://naws.org/lc/index.php>

**Email at:** [LivingClean@na.org](mailto:LivingClean@na.org)

**Postal mail to:**

**NA World Services; Living Clean;  
Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409**

**Fax: 818.700.0700**

**You can learn more about the project at:**

**[http://www.na.org/?ID=Living\\_Clean\\_Project](http://www.na.org/?ID=Living_Clean_Project)**

### Review and Input

Our second review and input period is scheduled for 1 April – 30 June 2010, and will include the chapters "Living Spiritually," "Our Physical Selves," and "Relationships." We hope this advance notice will maximize the number of members participating in the review and input process.

*We are  
recovering in the  
here and now  
and the future  
becomes an  
exciting journey.*

Basic Text

[www.na.org/?ID=Living\\_Clean\\_Project](http://www.na.org/?ID=Living_Clean_Project)  
[livingclean@na.org](mailto:livingclean@na.org)  
[www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

## An open invitation

Please say hello to the "Tagged" characters created by Mike C of California, USA. We know many of you are still planning on submitting characters and ideas, so we eliminated the deadline and would like to extend an open invitation for you to send in your humor and comic strip material. In addition, we encourage NA members to submit recovery-related photography and artwork. (Remember, we can't print members' faces.)

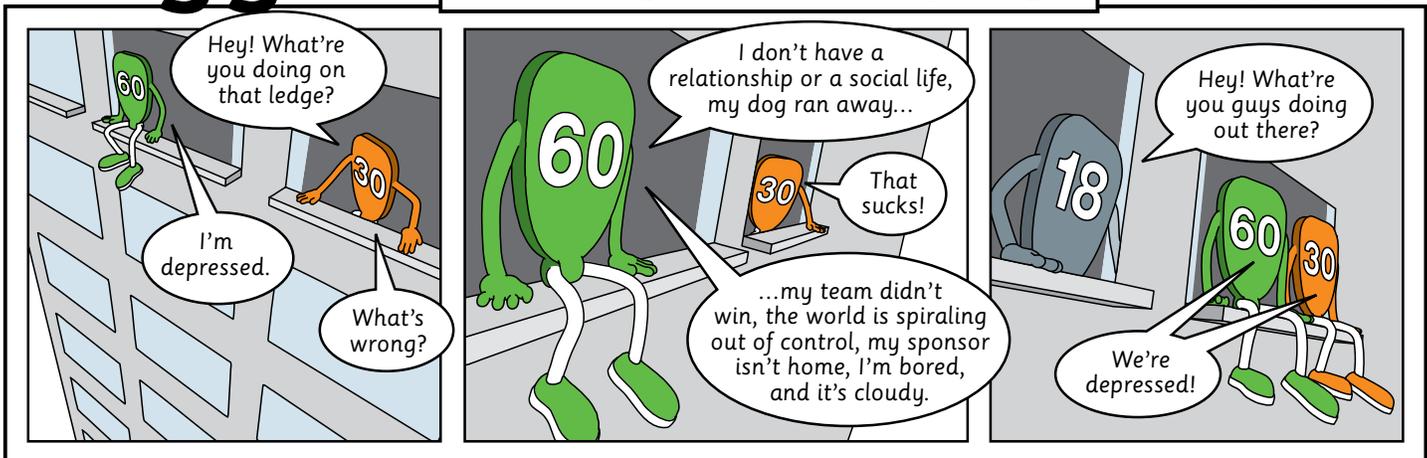
Electronic documents (jpg, png, pdf, etc.) may be emailed to [naway@na.org](mailto:naway@na.org) with NA WAY SUBMISSION in the subject line. You can fax submissions to 818.700.0700, attn: NA WAY SUBMISSION, or mail them to NA WAY SUBMISSION; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409. All submissions are considered for publication, and may be subject to modification/editing as needed. Electronic subscribers can quickly access the author's release form link. Others may go to [www.naway.org](http://www.naway.org) for more information and the release form.



## Tagged

### "Misery loves company"

volume 1 - no. 1



Mike C, California, USA

[www.naway.org](http://www.naway.org) 17



# CALENDAR

Multi-day events and those occurring between publication dates are printed according to the schedule below. To enter events or to access event details, visit the online calendar at: [www.na.org/?ID?=comingup-toc](http://www.na.org/?ID?=comingup-toc). (If you don't have Internet access, fax or mail your event info to 818.700.0700, attn: NA Way; or *The NA Way*; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.)

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Submit event info by</b>	<b>For events taking place during</b>
January.....	15 October .....	second week of January through first week of April
April .....	15 January .....	second week of April through first week of July
July .....	15 April .....	second week of July through first week of October
October .....	15 July .....	second week of October through first week of January

## Bermuda

**Southampton** 26-28 Feb; Circle of Sisters 13; Bermuda Fairmont Southampton; [www.circleofsisters.org](http://www.circleofsisters.org)

## Canada

**Ontario** 12-14 Feb; Toronto Area Convention 6; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Toronto; [www.torontona.org](http://www.torontona.org)

**Quebec** 26-28 Feb; Ottawa Area Dopes on Slopes; Hotel-du-Lac, Mont Tremblant; [www.ottawana.org](http://www.ottawana.org)

## Denmark

**Syddanmark** 5-7 Feb; Syddanmark OSK Vi Kommer i Bedring; Præstegårdsskolen, Esbjerg; [www.nasyddanmark.dk/](http://www.nasyddanmark.dk/)

## India

**Karnataka** 29-31 Jan; Bangalore Area Convention; Capital Village Resort, Madikeri; [www.blacna.org](http://www.blacna.org)

## Mexico

**Baja California** 5-7 Mar; Region Baja Son Celebrando La Unidad Latino Americana; Hotel Rosarito Beach, Rosarito; [www.bajason-na.org/Eventos\\_09.html](http://www.bajason-na.org/Eventos_09.html)

## Philippines

**Olongapo, Luzon** 12-14 Feb; Pilipinas Regional Convention 15; Pier One Restaurant, Subic Bay; [www.napilipinas.org](http://www.napilipinas.org)

## Thailand

**Chonburi** 19-21 Feb; Thailand Regional Convention 3; Erawan Hotel, Pattaya; [www.na-thailand.org](http://www.na-thailand.org)

## United States

**Alabama** 19-21 Mar; Greater Mobile Area Convention 13; Renaissance Hotel, Mobile; event info: 251.591.7729

**California** 15-17 Jan; San Fernando Valley Area Convention 15; Marriott Burbank Airport, Burbank; [www.nasfv.com](http://www.nasfv.com)

**2)** 19-21 Feb; Greater LA Area Heart-to-Heart Men's Retreat 2; Camp Whittier, Santa Barbara; [www.greatlarecovery.org](http://www.greatlarecovery.org)

**3)** 19-21 Feb; Central California Regional Convention 18; Bakersfield Marriott, Bakersfield; event info: 661.817.6550

**4)** 1-4 Apr; Northern California Convention 32; Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara; [www.norcalna.org/nccna.php](http://www.norcalna.org/nccna.php)

**5)** 11-18 Apr; Southern California Regional Cruise 6; Carnival Conquest-Galveston, Texas; [www.todayna.org/activities](http://www.todayna.org/activities)

**Georgia** 4-7 Feb; Georgia Regional Convention 29; Classic Center, Athens; [www.grcna.org](http://www.grcna.org)

**Idaho** 2-4 Apr; Southern Idaho Regional Convention 21; Sun Valley Inn, Sun Valley; [www.sirna.org](http://www.sirna.org)

**Kansas** 26-28 Mar; Mid America Regional Convention 27; Highland Hotel Convention Center, Great Bend; [www.marscna.net](http://www.marscna.net)

**Kentucky** 15-17 Jan; Louisville Area Convention 20; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville; [www.nalouisville.org](http://www.nalouisville.org)

**Maryland** 16-18 Apr; Chesapeake/Potomac Regional Convention 24; Ocean City Convention Center, Ocean City; [cprcnainformation@yahoo.com](mailto:cprcnainformation@yahoo.com)

**Massachusetts** 15-17 Jan; Boston Area Convention 14; Sheraton Framingham Hotel, Boston; event info: 617.953.7519

**2)** 26-28 Mar; Northeast Mass Area Convention 2; Boston Marriott Peabody, Peabody; event info: 978.564.5217; speaker tape deadline: 31 Jan; Northeast Mass Area; Box 79; Beverly, MA 01915

**Michigan** 1-4 Apr; Detroit Area Convention 18; Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center; event info: 313.613.0155; speaker tape deadline: 1 Mar; Box 32603; Detroit, MI 48232

**Minnesota** 16-18 Apr; Minnesota Regional Convention 17; speaker tape deadline: 15 Jan; Back 2 Basics Area; Box 295; Saint James, MN 56081; [www.mnnac17.com](http://www.mnnac17.com)

**Missouri** 5-7 Feb; Mid-Missouri Area Cabin Fever Prevention Convention; Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach; [www.cabinfeverconvention.org/](http://www.cabinfeverconvention.org/)

**Nebraska** 26-28 Feb; Eastern Nebraska Area Convention; Regency Lodge, Omaha; [www.eastern-nebraska-na.org](http://www.eastern-nebraska-na.org)

**New Jersey** 26-28 Feb; Cape Atlantic Area Convention 20; Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood; [www.pearlofrecovery.com](http://www.pearlofrecovery.com)

**2)** 16-18 Apr; Ocean Area Convention 5; Quality Inn, Toms River; event info: 908.814.6735

**New York** 5-7 Feb; Finger Lakes Area Convention; Holiday Inn, Waterloo; event info: 315.246.0104

**2)** 12-14 Feb; Metro Area de Habla Hispana Convention 5; Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains; [www.metroareadehablahispana.com](http://www.metroareadehablahispana.com)

**3)** 26-28 Feb; Rochester Area Convention 16; Rochester Plaza Hotel-Downtown, Rochester; [www.rochesterny-na.org](http://www.rochesterny-na.org)

**4)** 12-14 Mar; Western Queens Area Convention 2; Melville Marriot, Melville; [www.westernqueensna.com](http://www.westernqueensna.com)

**North Carolina** 26-28 Feb; Freedom by the Sea 9; Sea Trail Resort, Sunset Beach; event info: 910.228.1517

**Ohio** 19-21 Feb; Toledo Area Convention 13; Ramada Inn, Toledo; event info: 419.474.4704

**2)** 5-7 Mar; Legs Area Convention; Hilton Cleveland East/ Beachwood, Cleveland; event info: 216.224.5122

**Pennsylvania** 12-14 Feb; Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference 26; Lancaster Host, Lancaster; [www.marscna.org](http://www.marscna.org)

**2)** 2-4 Apr; Greater Philadelphia Regional Convention 25; Radisson Valley Forge, Philadelphia; [www.naworks.org](http://www.naworks.org)

**South Carolina** 29-31 Jan; Upper South Carolina Area Convention 30; Hyatt Regency, Greenville; event info: 864.423.0419

**2)** 12-14 Feb; Greater Columbia Area Convention 9; Hilton Oceanfront, Hilton Head Island; event info: 803.446.6515

**3)** 26-28 Mar; GAP Area Convention 17; Quality Inn, Anderson; [www.thegaparea.com](http://www.thegaparea.com)

**Texas** 19-21 Feb; Tejas Bluebonnet Regional Convention 10; Embassy Suites, San Marcos; [www.tbrcna.org](http://www.tbrcna.org)

**2)** 1-4 Apr; Lonestar Regional Convention 25; Hilton DFW Lakes, Grapevine; [www.lsrna.org](http://www.lsrna.org)

**Utah** 12-14 Mar; North by Northwest Las Vegas Area Dopes on Slopes; Cedar Breaks Lodge and Spa, Brian Head; speaker tape deadline: 1 Feb; North by Northwest Area; 6120 West Tropicana Avenue; #A16-PMB103; Las Vegas, NV 89103; www.nxnwana.org

**2)** 19-21 Mar; Northern Utah Area Convention 17; Marriott, Ogden; event info: 801.309.0087

**Virginia** 15-17 Jan; Peninsula Area Convention; Marriott City Center, Newport News; [http://avcna.org/html/avcna\\_committee.html](http://avcna.org/html/avcna_committee.html)

**2)** 19-21 Mar; Tidewater Area Convention 10; Marriott Waterside, Norfolk; event info: 757.627.4200

**Washington** 11-14 Mar; Washington Northern Idaho Regional Convention; Ocean Shores Convention Center, Ocean Shores; www.wnir.org

## NAWS PRODUCT UPDATE

### Castilian

Twelve Concepts Poster

#### Los Doce Conceptos de Servicio en NA

Item No. CS-9077 Price US \$2.85

#### Poster Set of Seven

Now available to include Twelve Concepts poster

Item No. CS-9070 Price US \$8.60

### Brazilian

*The Group Booklet, Revised*

#### *Livreto do Grupo, Revisado*

Item No. BR-1600 Price US \$0.81

### German

IP No. 26:

*Accessibility for Those with Additional Needs*

#### *NA-Meetings und Süchtige mit Behinderungen*

Item No. GE-3126 Price US \$0.21

### Indonesian

IP No. 2: *The Group*

#### *Kelompok NA*

Item No. ID-3102 Price US \$0.26

IP No. 8: *Just for Today*

#### *Hanya Untuk Hari Ini*

Item No. ID-3108 Price US \$0.21

### Norwegian

*Sponsorship*

#### *Sponsorskap*

Item No. NR-1130 Price US \$7.00



### Swedish

*Just for Today*

#### *Bara för idag*

Item No. SW-1112 Price US \$7.70



## Coming soon

### Danish

*Just for Today*

#### *Bare for i dag*

Item No. DK-1112 Price US \$7.70



### Hindi

Basic Text

*नारकॉटिक्स एनॉनिमस*

Item No. HI-1101 Price US \$7.50

### Finnish

*It Works: How and Why*

#### *Se toimii: Miten ja Miksi*

Item No. FI-1140 Price US \$7.70





## Specialty products



### Acrylic Medallion Holders

Stunning, crystal-clear medallion display embedded with artwork from the Commemorative Basic Text or, for a limited time, artwork inspired by WCNA 33 in Barcelona: Amor sin fronteras (or insert your own artwork). Displays front and back of medallion. *Limited supply.*

Item No. 6099 (Basic Text art) Item No. 6098 (WCNA 33 art) Price US \$25.00/each

### CD-Case Calendar

Inspire love daily with this 14-month calendar (Oct 09 – Dec 10). Decorated with some favorite quotes from NA literature and unique artwork designed for WCNA 33: Amor sin fronteras – Love without Borders. *Limited supply.*

Item No. 9500 Price US \$7.00



### Postcard Set

One dozen ways to share a message of love, recovery, and your own personal thoughts. This package includes twelve postcards inspired by the theme of WCNA 33 in Barcelona: Amor sin fronteras – Love without Borders. *Limited supply.*

Item No. 9501 Price US \$5.50

### Just for Today

#### Gift Edition

A thoughtful gift with the title debossed in chocolate brown on a caramel-colored leatherette cover. Present and display this beautiful volume in a matching gift-box sheath.

Item No. 1114 Price US \$15.75



## Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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Extent and nature of circulation	Average no. of copies in preceding 12 months	Actual no. copies as of 1-Oct-09
Total printed copies	37,375	37,500
Requested subscription—outside county	36,838	37,023
Requested subscription—in-county	0	0
Total requested subscription	36,838	37,023
Total free or nominal rate distribution	140	150
Total distribution	36,978	37,173
Copies not distributed (office uses)	397	327
Total	37,375	37,500
Percent requested circulation	99.6%	99.6%

Certified, correct, complete

