

THE
NAWay
MAGAZINE[®]

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN PRINT ♦ 1982 – 2012

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VOLUME TWENTY-NINE ♦ NUMBER ONE



WCNA 34 REDUX ♦ INVEST IN OUR VISION ♦ SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICE PAMPHLET ♦ WSC 2012



THE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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

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The NA Way Magazine welcomes the participation of its readers. You are invited to share with the NA Fellowship in our quarterly international journal. Send us your experience in recovery, your views on NA matters, and feature items. All manuscripts submitted become the property of Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Subscription, editorial, and business services: PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9099.

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From the editor

We have some exciting news.

Thus began the first letter from the editor in the first NA Way. The letter explained the 1982 World Service Conference motion forming a "new subcommittee: to Administer the publishing of a monthly magazine on recovery from addiction the N.A. way." In 2012, we will celebrate 30 years of The NA Way by offering our readers some historic flashbacks and memories of days gone by. A lot has changed in those 30 years—frequency of publication, format, styles—but the essence of our recovery journal has remained the same: to share NA recovery and service information and experiences.

We invite you to share your memories of The NA Way Magazine over the years. We hope you'll enjoy these trips down memory lane this year—and that you'll appreciate this issue, with its focus on change.

Not only has NA changed me, it has made me comfortable with change.

Basic Text, "Just Say Yes"

De J, Editor

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

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Cover photo: "Facing change" on Rue de la Lune, Paris. (Yes, we added the NA logo!)

Jean-Paul B, Roquevaire, France

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.

That one fragile hour

What a night. After a day of service meetings, four of us went out for dinner and a meeting. We rolled into the meeting place parking lot in a white van like a treatment center crew, but the four of us have been doing service together off and on for almost 30 years. We swapped stories and a shared love of NA all evening. One of the guys in our group was the speaker, and he rocked it. It was a joy to watch a room of mostly LA kids nodding and laughing in recognition even though most of them hadn't even been born yet when the speaker got clean. He shared his feelings and perceptions of finding NA in his native country when NA was still new there, and not a single piece of NA literature had yet been translated into his language. The odds were stacked pretty heavily against his ever living this long, never mind his being here to tell the tale of a life transformed by that fragile and magical first hour in a basement with three other wacky people who shared from the heart in an effort to give him some hope. He got enough hope at that first NA meeting to stay clean and show up at the next meeting, and later at those early translation committee meetings, the World Service Conference a few years later (where all four of us first met), and all the service boards and committees on which he has been asked to serve ever since. He left out a lot of those specific service details from his story tonight, but none of it was lost on me.

What a team effort NA is, each of us weaving our little thread into this amazing fabric. And what a privilege it is to have witnessed so many of these dedicated, anonymous journeys for decades, and to now have a life in recovery that rests on the efforts of people whose lives I didn't witness and will never know.

We went to tonight's meeting because I was giving Roger (not his real name) a cake for 25 years. We met at a meeting when Roger had about 90 days clean and was nearly ready to give up on NA. Back then, he believed all he was getting at meetings and from NA people were pat, formulaic responses to issues that he felt were a lot more complex. He was at a point of thinking (and saying), "Screw this place, with all the God talk and clichés and superficial answers." He went to the meeting that night and spilled all this in a sort of long-finger swan song to what was then his latest in a seven-year string of short runs at recovery followed by relapse. He was fully prepared to once again walk away rather than swallow this vacuous crap. No one seemed to want to hear him talk about what he saw as the pressing, deep issues swirling within him; instead, as he saw it, they brushed him off with formulaic answers.

I was listening to all this from across the room that night so many years ago, seeing myself seven years before that, experiencing the same battle. Again, it was that fragile hour in which life could turn in a couple of radically different directions. I grabbed him after that meeting 25 years ago, and told him I got exactly what he was saying, and that I would be glad to get together and completely exhaust any issues he wanted to tackle. He was a little taken aback by that response. We talked for a long time until I had to go home, and we made plans to get together the next day. We did that, and we delved into every issue weighing on him during that and



Successful *NA Way* subscription changes

With your help, we've made a big difference! We've reached the one-year milestone of the major subscription changes for our magazine, and the numbers tell an impressive story.

The paper version of the October 2010 *NA Way Magazine* was the final mailing from our previously existing database. With the support of the World Service Conference, we purged that database and discontinued automatically mailing paper copies to all registered groups, service bodies, and trusted servants. Taking this action reduced paper subscriptions from approximately 163,000 copies per year to less than 33,000. Electronic subscriptions soared 161% to nearly 62,000 e-zines per year. As a result of this effort, together we saved more than \$100,000 of fellowship funds, which could then be used for other services to carry the message.

As a part of this change, we enhanced the electronic *NA Way Magazine* to encourage readers to choose that option. The e-version offers live links to related material, access to additional content, and features unavailable in the paper version. You can view the current and archived copies of the magazine at www.naway.org.

Many of you resubscribed or e-subscribed, and we thank you for your willingness to support this change. You can subscribe at www.na.org/subscribe. If you don't have access to a computer, you can still choose the paper version. Groups, service committees, or organizations that need multiple paper copies can follow the "multi-copy subscriptions" link or email fsmail@na.org.

The electronic subscription reduces distribution costs, saving fellowship funds to provide other forms of service for the addict who still suffers. Please share this information with others in your groups and service bodies. Thanks for your help and for being a part of *The NA Way Magazine*.

many subsequent conversations, and a long sponsorship relationship was born. I watched him for the next ten years, before I moved away from the area, as he sponsored wobbly newcomers, nursing along those fragile turning-point moments and coaching guys into step-work and service with love, wisdom, and skill. Another thread in the hammock you and I swing in today in such relative repose—born of fragile moments when one of us extended our heart to another and blew on that flickering spark of hope, sustaining the little flame for another day.

This is actually the reality you and I have been given as the gift of a lifetime. When tonight's meeting was over and I was walking alone down the hotel hallway toward my room, I was whispering to myself, "I am blessed. I am a rich man." And that I am. I need to slow it down once in a while and look right at that. You and I are living a lifestyle in which miracles are born in fragile moments, fragile hours in our home groups when that quiet person on the edge of the circle, oblivious to the bonanza they just hit when they walked through our door, could still go either way. A small act of love and attention after the meeting, an almost imperceptible current of energy extended, can literally transform a life—and with it the lives of parents, kids, siblings, grandparents, and on outward in concentric, rippled circles. Not everyone gets to live a life so richly packed with this kind of possibility. We do.

What a tapestry we weave together. May you all get to be weavers for decades, and see the patterns form through the relationships that make up those threads. "Not only is this way of life better than the hell we lived, it is better than any life we have ever known. We have found a way out, and we see it work for others. Each day, more will be revealed." (Basic Text, "More Will Be Revealed")

Ron H, New Mexico, USA



The 31st World Service Conference

Inspired by Our Primary Purpose

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

Visit the WSC area of our website to access or purchase the *Conference Agenda Report*

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

www.na.org/conference

Conference Approval Track (CAT) material will be available in late January.

Catastrophic change

Greetings from Joplin, Missouri. We're part of the Ozark Area in the Show Me Region of NA—and we are still here.

None of our meeting places were harmed by the tornado.* One church basement where we meet was turned into a disaster relief station, so the Miracles Group moved to another church temporarily for their 6:30 pm Friday meeting. With so many businesses lost and structures leveled by the tornado, surviving real estate was at a premium. The NA-based recovery club in town—a storefront space in a small strip mall—closed in August because the rent skyrocketed beyond what was affordable, so the rest of the groups located there had to find different places to meet. None of our groups had to close or even miss meetings. At present, there are six active NA groups holding 21 meetings per week in Joplin. It turned out that three of our groups were able to rent space in the same building, so we are supporting each other better by sharing resources.

But we also lost NA members to the tornado. Some of our members lost relatives, and many of our members were homeless. Our meeting attendance dropped dramatically. An inpatient treatment center and most of an adolescent treatment center were destroyed in the tornado. A lot of new people who were attending meetings prior to 22

May 2011 have not come back to meetings and, of course, we have no way of knowing what happened to them. Six months later, our attendance still isn't what it used to be. We lost a lot of members to the tornado just because so many had to leave Joplin to live elsewhere.

Despite the devastation, we had our annual High on Life Picnic at Truman Lake in Clinton, Missouri (about 150 miles north of Joplin). It was the 33rd year of holding this event. It's typical for 300-400 to attend the picnic, and we've even had as many as 500 in the past. This year, attendance was much lower—only about 240—but we were happy to celebrate our recovery and to be together. I chaired the closing meeting on Sunday morning at the picnic, and when we circled up, before our closing prayer, I mentioned the challenges and changes we've seen in Joplin. We were fortunate that some members from Kansas City were at the event, so they organized a huge road trip to visit and support Joplin. In one weekend, they attended three meetings and a function—just to share their experience, strength, and hope with us.

I am writing to ask for support for my NA community in the form of experience, strength, and hope. If you are traveling through here, please check out our meeting



**Editor's Note: Joplin was devastated by an EF5-rated tornado in May 2011. Pam wrote this letter to The NA Way Magazine in July 2011 and updated us by telephone in November 2011.*

schedule or call and talk to one of our phonline members. With all the changes following the tornado, it might be best to talk to a member to be sure you get to the right meeting places. Please come attend a meeting here if you can. We could use the strength right now. Thank you for your thoughts, and if it is your practice, your prayers.

With NA love,

Pam M, Missouri, USA

I want to be a part of NA

Recovery starts when we take the First Step and we persevere every day to seek spiritual principles through a Higher Power. For me, it's more than what will happen to me; it's also that I won't act out on impulse, creating the same situations that make the people around me suffer. I have to have an open mind and an attitude that benefits myself and others. It's very good to be good!

In my journey, I got in trouble and started using. I spent a lot of time "dead," but in recovery I am revived every day, and it's wonderful. When I was using, I didn't take pleasure in being alive. Recovery makes me feel curious, which is a good feeling. I have serene moments now, and I have a reason to live. I have a goal just for today not to kill myself or use drugs. I want to be a part of NA because by myself, I can't. I admit this because I am powerless over my addiction.

Alan A, Belem, Brazil

Photo: Anonymous, South Carolina, USA

Winds of change

Once I was but a small, frail seedling. I had always thirsted, but for what I never knew. So I blew along with every passing breeze, trying to find what would quench my thirst. I searched and searched to no avail. I was quite near death when one day I awoke to find myself in Safe Forest.

Mercifully, I had landed near a wise old tree that had stood tall in Safe Forest for many seasons. "Help me," I said to Wise Old Tree, "for I fear I'll be blown away. Please show me how to stay."

"It's simple to stay," said the Wise Old Tree. "But that doesn't mean it's easy. Still, it can be done. Look around you at the many tall trees who are rooted here in Safe Forest." So I looked around and saw many trees of beautiful foliage. "I want to be just like them," I declared. "I'm going to be ten feet tall—tomorrow!" Wise Old Tree chuckled gently and said, "Patience, my child. Tall trees with no roots topple over with the slightest of winds. If you really want to stay, you must grow roots, and this can only be done one day at a time."

"Okay," I sighed, and I settled down to the tedious task of establishing roots. It seemed I spent every day with the same trees around me saying the same things. Just when things were getting really boring, I heard an ominous wind. "It's the Winds of Change!" said Wise Old Tree excitedly.

Well, I'd been around Safe Forest for a while, so I figured I knew what to do when the Winds of Change came. I straightened my trunk up tall and stiff, and stood rigid against the Winds. But soon I was tired and my trunk hurt. "I'm tired and my trunk hurts!" I whined. "Of course, my child," said Wise Old Tree. "You must bend with the Winds of Change. After all, it's not the Winds that hurt you; it's your resistance to the Winds that causes your pain."

So I lived and learned in Safe Forest. I established roots and bent with the wind, and got to know the other trees around me. But then the Gardener came to prune me, and I became afraid. "I'm afraid. It's going to hurt!" I cried to Wise Old Tree. She



simply reassured me. "Yes, it's going to hurt a little; but you must let go of the old before new growth is possible." So, I resigned myself to my Gardener's care, and in no time at all I noticed that I had grown some beautiful new green foliage. At about the same time I noticed I had a gnarl and a knot in my trunk, and there were bugs in my branches! "There are bugs in my branches, and they're really bugging me!" I yelled. "Then you must ask your Gardener to remove them," said Wise Old Tree. "This is something you simply cannot do for yourself." So I humbly asked my Gardener to remove my bugs, and once they were gone, my gnarl and my knot didn't seem quite so bad. "After all," I thought, "the Gardener didn't see fit to remove them along with the bugs, so I must be okay, gnarl, knot and all."

I looked around and noticed that many small seedlings had come to Safe Forest after me. I started making a special effort to welcome them, because I remembered how it felt to be a seedling. Some that I reached out to put down roots and stayed in Safe Forest. Some never settled in completely and blew away, and I missed them terribly. Then there were the ones who just couldn't understand the rooting process, and they died. I grieved. There were times when the Storms of Grief shook me so violently that I wanted to run away from Safe Forest, but during these storms Wise Old Tree would lean close to me and say, "I understand, but sometimes we just have to stand still and hurt."

She's always stood with me, that Wise Old Tree, and I've come to know that I'm never alone in Safe Forest. There are always other growing trees to talk to, not to mention the Gardener himself. The warmth of all the trees standing together has taken the sting out of many a chill wind, and the world's not such a scary place now that I'm firmly rooted here. It's funny how the young saplings have started to look at me as a wise old tree, too. In fact, just today, one turned to me to say, "I fear I'll be blown away. Please show me how to stay."

"It's simple to stay," said I. "But that doesn't mean it's easy..."

Jo W, California, USA

Surrender

The sound of the heavy metal doors slamming shut on my cold, dark, concrete cell sent shivers of hopelessness through my drugged-out body. I hated myself. "My life is over," was the thought that kept haunting me as I lay there on my cold, steel bed. I sat up; anxiety was racing through me like a hot knife through butter.

"Why me?" I mumbled under my breath for fear another inmate would hear me. They would think I was weak, and that was unthinkable in jail. But this night I couldn't hold back the desperation and guilt I had bottled up inside. My family disowned me. My friends weren't my friends anymore. I had burned all my bridges this time. The world I lived in was one of self-centeredness and destruction. I couldn't stand it anymore. Life was over!

*I was panicking.
I fought with my
pride to believe in
something bigger
than myself.*

With tears running like a flood down my face and goose bumps all over my body (the guards kept our cells freezing to keep our tempers from heating up), I paced back and forth—ten feet at a time. Self-pity, self-pity, self-pity: All I could think about was "poor me!" I was all alone, all alone! For the first time, I had nobody to suck into my pain. There was nobody else to blame.

Fear started creeping into my bones. The thought of going to prison scared the hell out of me. I wanted to just punch the wall. With nowhere to turn, I screamed at God, "Why the f--- did you let this s--- happen to me?!"

The only things I knew about God were the stories I was told as a child. I didn't know if God was real, but I had nowhere else to turn. I was panicking. I fought with my pride to believe in something bigger than myself. I was desperate

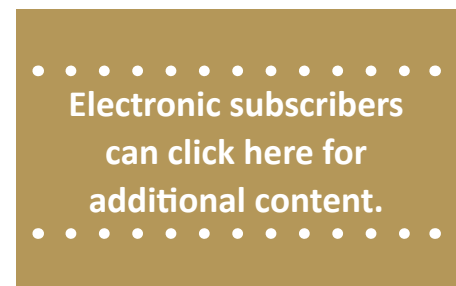
and needed help. My cell seemed to be getting darker and the walls felt closer. I fell to my knees. Sobbing, I cried out, "If you are real, please help me! I don't want to live like this anymore. I give up! Please, I beg you to help me overcome this misery and show me how to become a better person."

At that moment I felt a peace in my heart, my mind, and my soul that I had never experienced before. I had humbled myself to ask God for help. What a relief! I found myself truly praying to God for the first time in my life.

"Was this the answer?" I asked myself. "Is this what I've been so desperately seeking?" Calmness and peace fell over me. I felt hope that everything was going to work out. The anxiety and fear fled from me. As I thanked God, I fell asleep and woke up the next day with a secure, positive attitude and mindset. I have never before slept so peacefully in my life. The weight of the world seemed to have been lifted off my shoulders. As I pondered the events that took place the night before, I realized that turning my will over to God was the key for me to go on living. I had to surrender.

Since that miraculous event, I have found myself striving to be a better person—free from the insanity of active addiction and despair. I have a desire to help others, go back to school to become an addiction counselor, and further my productivity as a member of society. I enjoy being involved with NA and giving back. Today is great! When I find myself troubled or having problems dealing with something, I realize I'm trying to take my will back. For me, I have to always remember that night in my cell, the worst and most awesome moment of my life. I have to remember to let go, and let God!

Chris B, Kansas, USA



Father and son

I know when I was sick and tired of being sick and tired and burnt out, I was just about to give up. I could not stay employed—not even self-employed—and my wife was ready to ship me out. We both went to see counselors; we needed it. I had tried everything. Rehabilitation and detox only lasted as long as my will lasted.

My counselor said I should try NA meetings, and so did my wife's AA sponsor. All of them were right. I suffered my third heart attack and my cardiologist said, "Clean up your act." This is when I prayed for help, went to my first NA meeting, and listened to what they said. It was a one-hour meeting and I wanted to leave halfway through it. I met the man who I eventually asked to be my sponsor at that meeting and another man who took me to a men's retreat for the weekend. There was great food and fellowship, and I met all these addicts who were in my age group, in their fifties. I started going for what was suggested: 90 meetings in 90 days. It started to stick in my mind.

Little did I know that while I was getting clean, so was my son. He had also struggled with detox and rehab. We celebrate our cleantime within months of each other, his in November and then mine on 10 January. Also, my son and his wife have graced me with a wonderful grandson who will never see any of us in active addiction.

We all go together to meetings, speaker jams, and conventions. I thank God, the Higher Power, and the Fellowship of NA for saving this addict's life. I never thought the "simple spiritual—not religious—program...Narcotics Anonymous" could do so much.

Colin L, New Hampshire, USA

IN THE SPIRIT OF UNITY

Do you know about *Reaching Out*? This newsletter is distributed to nearly 4,000 inmates quarterly. It is also used by H&I committees, treatment centers, and addiction professionals as a valuable resource to carry our message of hope. We offer free subscriptions to incarcerated addicts and 20-copy bulk subscriptions to committees for \$32.60 per year.

Check out our latest issue at na.org:
www.na.org/?ID=reaching_out-index

We thank NA members who took time to visit the *Reaching Out* display at WCNA 34 in San Diego. Convention participants had the opportunity to subscribe to *Reaching Out* and submit their story in an onsite drop-box. Several of the stories collected at WCNA will appear in the January 2012 issue.

Please support our ongoing efforts by subscribing and contributing to *Reaching Out*. In addition to written submissions, we are always looking for logos and artwork from members who found recovery in NA while incarcerated or who have a passion for H&I.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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www.naway.org

WOCNA



47 countries represented

900 newcomer packages (including clients from 11 local treatment programs)

1,000 hugs exchanged between volunteers and on-site registrants

6 people who spontaneously donated entire registration packets to the newcomer fund when the newcomer line grew in length

INFINITE HUGS EXCHANGED between attendees

13,000+ registered **PARTICIPANTS**

84 workshops and speaker meetings **275** workshop/meeting leaders and speakers

150 translations headsets used in main meetings **15,000** seats in the main meeting hall

2,375 volunteer time slots worked

36 countries represented by **100+** pieces of art **1,000** pieces of NA historical memorabilia and event souvenirs on display

135 & 18 **Unity Day** hook-ups & live shout-outs from NA communities

33 California Department of Corrections facilities that participated **1st** time **ALL CA** corrections facilities participated in **Unity Day**

1,000+ postcards from the fellowship posted onsite

800+ **NA Way Magazine** Roving Reporter interviews

40 H of dancing, music and comedy events

222 H of **RECOVERY** workshops & speaker meetings

87 H of marathon **meetings**

13.5 H of on-the-water **recovery** (cruises!)

6 H of **PR Forums** (4 sessions)

6 H of **World Board Forums**

some quantities are approximate

IN THE SPIRIT OF UNITY

San Diego, California ★ 1-4 September 2011

Invest in Our Vision

A Vision for NA Service
 All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous are inspired by the primary purpose of our groups. Upon this common ground we stand committed.

Our vision is that one day:

- 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;
- Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;
- NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery;
- Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of our service efforts, all of which rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power.

Surrounding text in various languages: Български, Bahasa Melayu, Eesti, Nederlands, मराठी, Slovenčina, தமிழ், Українській, Türkçe, Latvīšu, Suomi, 中文, العربية, 日本語, Afrikaans, Angličtina, Lietuviškai, Dansk, Français, hrvatski, Polski, Magyar, Filipino, العربية, Norsk, Русский, اردو, Italiano, Swahili, Deutsch, Brasileiro, Ellhniká, Español, Bahasa Indonesia, Malti, ไทย, मन्प्रिन्ति.

As part of this “Invest in Our Vision” series of articles, one of the topics we have written about is how contributions to NA World Services can help offset the costs of providing support to developing NA communities around the world. In the *NAWS Annual Report* published at the end of each calendar year, we provide a comparison of the contributions we receive in a year to the amount of money it takes to fund the fellowship support portion of our work at NA World Services. And while the annual report provides a great deal of description about the types of work we do to support the fellowship—translations, conference projects, public relations, fellowship services, information technology, etc.—sometimes a real-life example of that support can best portray that work. In this issue, we will highlight a few recent fellowship development trips to provide a snapshot of how these funds are spent.

Canadian Assembly/Canadian Convention of NA (l'Assemblée canadienne de Narcotiques Anonymes Convention canadienne de Narcotiques Anonymes) Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada – October 2011



The Canadian Assembly (CANA) is a zonal forum that covers all of Canada. CANA meets once each year in conjunction with the Canadian Convention of NA to discuss issues affecting NA communities in Canada, including fellowship development and outreach efforts taking place all across “the Great White North.” CANA has invited NAWS to attend their assembly each year for over a decade now.

Attending CANA provides us with a great opportunity to meet with all of the nation’s regional delegates and alternates in a single setting, and to provide information and support to other Canadian trusted servants and interested members. We are typically allotted a significant portion of time in the agenda for NAWS sessions, which have been used to provide workshops on Issue Discussion Topics, workshop facilitation training, the Service System Project, strategic planning, public relations, and many other topics.

In the time we have been attending CANA, we have seen a great deal of positive growth and development of the NA communities throughout Canada. CANA has demonstrated an impressive level of hard work and determination to continue making our message available to addicts in some of the most rural and difficult-to-reach places in North America, and we remain committed to supporting those efforts.

Visit the CANA/ACNA website at: www.canaacna.org

Just wanted to thank NAWS for sending World Board and staff members to the Canadian Assembly meeting in October. Their knowledge, input, and workshops were more than we had hoped for. The opportunity for mentorship at this level of service—for all of us—gives us the opportunity to carry it to other levels of service. It works!
 In loving service,
 CANA/ACNA

Inspired by Our
 Primary Purpose



Western Service Learning Days Redmond, Oregon, USA—October 2011

The traveling event known as Western Service Learning Days offers areas and regions throughout the western part of North America an opportunity to come together and share experiences and best practices related to all forms of NA service. This event has been taking place for more than two decades and it evolved from a public information-oriented event (Western States Public Information Learning Days Convention-WSPILD) to one that also provides workshops regarding phonline service, hospitals and institutions, NA websites, and other related service matters.

The guidelines for WSLD specifically include inviting NAWS to participate and offer at least two workshops each year, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to do so. Having a NAWS presence at any multi-regional service-oriented event enables us to directly interact with a broad cross-section of members who are involved in NA service at the local level in a number of communities.

At this year’s WSLD, we presented workshops on a variety of topics including public relations, the Service System Project, fellowship development, the recently developed *Planning Basics*, and recently updated *H&I Basics*.

Learn more about WSLD on their website at: www.wsld.org

Arabic Language Translations Committee Meeting and Fellowship Development Workshop Kuwait—November 2011

In 2010, Middle Eastern NA communities celebrated publication of the first Arabic-language Basic Text. Following that accomplishment, the Arabic Language Translation Committee—with members from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain—prioritized other translations projects. During this trip to Kuwait, NAWS helped further their progress with a two-day ALTC meeting. The group agreed on key Arabic recovery glossary terms (a crucial tool in translations efforts), finalized some draft reviews, and discussed more efficient literature distribution processes for the Persian Gulf region. They also adopted guidelines to navigate the challenges of being an online-based LTC that encompasses far-flung communities and many dialects and cultures.

After the ALTC meeting, we participated in a two-day fellowship development workshop for the Kuwait NA community, facilitating sessions on Building Strong Home Groups, Planning Basics, and public relations. Attendance ranged from 50 to 80 members over the course of the event, including visitors from neighboring Bahrain and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Before and during the two workshops, we participated in a series of Kuwait ASC-arranged PR events:



- Visit to a local detox hospital with a pilot project halfway house.
- Meeting and discussion with the national anti-drug committee.
- Press conference hosted by the Kuwait Journalists Association, covered by four national TV stations and various print media. Eight Kuwaiti newspaper articles were printed in response.
- Twenty-minute interview on a Kuwait morning television show, including call-ins by two local NA members and on-screen listing of local helpline and website information.
- Open house with presentation and Q&A for government officials and the public, attended by the Kuwait Sheikha (sister of the emir, who is the local ruler; a sheikha is similar to a princess in Western royalty), nongovernmental organization representatives from Kuwait and Oman, and NA family members.

It was a whirlwind trip with much progress in just five days. Several trusted servants from Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia followed up these events with a December fellowship development workshop in the United Arab Emirates. Efforts like these are essential for emerging and growing NA communities, and we were happy to interact with local NA members and to be a part of the growth of this integral part of the larger Arabic-speaking NA community in the Middle East. Find more Kuwait NA information at: www.nainarabia.com

*...carrying the message
is so important to the
survival of NA that
it is called our
primary purpose.*

It Works: How and Why, "Fifth Tradition"



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

Social media service pamphlet

Social networking is currently one of the most-discussed topics in the NA Fellowship. The 2010 WSC discussed social networking sites and the challenges we face in applying our principles when using them. In response, we drafted a service pamphlet that offers members some thoughts on how to uphold our principles when interacting with one another and the general public in online forums. This service pamphlet isn't intended to encourage or discourage use of these sites, but simply offers some thoughts on how (and why) members can protect our own and others' anonymity in these settings. We hope this resource will be useful to members in their online interactions.

In keeping with the conference's wishes, the draft service pamphlet was reviewed by conference participants for a 90-day period that ended 31 October 2011. The final SP is now available and includes revisions made based on input from members and service bodies. To purchase or download *Social Media and Our Guiding Principles*, please visit www.na.org/?ID=OrderLiteratureOnlinecontent or www.na.org/?ID=servicemat-svc-pamphlets.

E-changes

Online versions of NA literature

Several years ago we posted electronic versions of our books and other literature at www.na.org as an experiment in our efforts to help carry the NA message. The on-line texts are simply portable document format (pdf) versions of the published works, and were always intended to be for personal use. Unfortunately, some people began distributing the texts through mass emails or even offering electronic versions of our texts for sale online through public commercial sites.

In the face of these developments, we believe the responsible course of action is to remove the book-length documents from our site, and instead offer excerpts of the texts online. For example, we might make the table of contents or the first chapter of a book available on our website, but not the entire text. We do, however, plan to leave all information pamphlets and booklets online in 41 languages on the website, as well as service pamphlets and handbooks. We hope *NA Way* readers will share this information in their NA communities to help spread the word about the upcoming change.

Electronic literature development

At the same time, we also know there is a significant demand for electronic versions of our literature, and we are developing e-books in response to that demand. Current technology allows combining video, audio, and/or text clips from other sources. Subscribers of the electronic *NA Way* enjoy enhancements like these, which allow the reader to link directly to referenced literature, related audio/visual files, and supporting information or material. However, our current policy only allows re-creation of simple e-versions of our literature that are exactly the same as the printed versions. A motion in the *Conference Agenda Report* seeks to allow for enhanced electronic versions of our literature, which might include clips or extracts from other NA text, audio, or video content.

For example, electronic versions of *It Works: How and Why* and *The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides* could include hyperlinks within each text to the relevant sections in the other text. Similarly, we could offer an electronic version of *Just for Today* that would allow a reader to click on the quotation at the top of a page and bring up the whole paragraph from which the quote was taken. In another example, in the electronic version of the Basic Text, we could include a sound clip of Jimmy K reading some of the text or something related to the material. As these examples illustrate, the content might or might not be Fellowship- or Conference-approved. We would clearly label the material that was Fellowship-approved and the material that was part of the electronic enhancement.

We believe these sorts of enhancements add value to the text, but we want to make sure the fellowship agrees. We look forward to considering the possibilities with conference participants at the World Service Conference in April.

FIPT motions

Two other literature-related 2012 CAR motions seek to change policy to allow:

- non-substantive corrections to Fellowship-approved literature to fix typographical errors, obsolete references, and similar corrections. Examples: Delete reference to *Meeting by Mail in The Loner* IP or correct a typographical error like omission of a word. (Motion 2)
- Bundling, excerpting, and repackaging of Fellowship-approved literature without changes to the texts themselves to combine related material in one piece. Example: Bundle Fourth Step material from the Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, *The NA Step Working Guides*, and *Working Step Four in NA*. (Motion 3)

Postcards from the fellowship

At WCNA 34, members created their own postcards to share their recovery experience at the convention and beyond. In this and future issues, we'll include their greetings along with other postcards from the fellowship.

Mid-America Region's history is vast and has participated in the growth of our fellowship. Kansas saw its 1st NA group form in 1972 and soon joined with new groups popping up throughout the Central Plains. Our first newsletter started in 1977 and in 1979 decided to elect a committee. The 1st WSC Literature Conference was held in Wichita Oct. 1979 and WCNA 10 1980 was also held in Wichita, KS. Our region supported groups in multiple states but as each grew they separated, forming their own regions. Today Mid-America Region is comprised of most of Kansas with groups in Oklahoma and Colorado filling out the list.

TO: The NA Fellowship
FROM: Mid-America Region



Greetings

From...
Mid-America Region

Dear Friends,
My 1st World Convention! Man, I am feeling the love
to: The NA Fellowship
Just for today!
from: Joan W
your name: Paradise Mtg VAN Nuys CA
your home group, area &/or region: CA
Want your postcard considered for The NA Way Magazine? Complete the release form at the NA Way table or at www.naway.org

Dear Friends,
I'm 2 all of you for the chance 2 be here FROM MOSCOW WITH LOVE
to: The NA Fellowship
10.18.2003
from: KATY
your name: KATY
your home group, area &/or region: XXX
Want your postcard considered for The NA Way Magazine? Complete the release form at the NA Way table or at www.naway.org



Love from Bangladesh

Dear Friends FREE TODAY THANKS TO
Thank you so much for giving me my life! I am so blessed and so grateful to be a member of this fellowship, to have the love and support of friends and NA family, my HP and from my sponsor Drama K.
to: The NA Fellowship
from: Bethany L.
your name: Bethany L.
your home group, area &/or region: Hamilton ON CANADA
Want your postcard considered for The NA Way Magazine? Complete the release form at the NA Way table or at www.naway.org

Dear Friends
to: The NA Fellowship
Gracias PS por enseñarme a Vivir Limpia solo X hoy!
from: Susa y Shirley
your name: NA Panama y Colombia
your home group, area &/or region: Panama y Colombia
Want your postcard considered for The NA Way Magazine? Complete the release form at the NA Way table or at www.naway.org

We have about 200 members now. Most meetings are in the city of Dhaka, where we have twelve NA groups, but some new groups are also forming outside of the city. IP #s 1, 7, and 16 and keytags are available in Bengali. We have one area service committee and we are doing H&I and PR service, plus we have had some great campout events.
to: The NA Fellowship
FROM: Bangladesh
Love from Bangladesh!

Thanks to members who submitted information and artwork: Tim S, Kansas, USA; Tanvir S; Dhaka, Bangladesh; and WCNA 34 attendees.

Picture this

NA communities are invited to send photographs of their meeting places and events. Sorry, we cannot use photos that identify NA members. Please tell us the group/event name, location, how long it has been in existence, format or special traditions, and what makes it a unique part of your NA community.



BRANA 30: The Journey Continues was a campout hosted by the Blue Ridge Area of NA at the Natural Chimneys Campground in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. As we did in 2005, we are sharing a picture of our Serenity Prayer circle following the Sunday morning speaker meeting on 17 July 2011.

Five years ago, BRANA 25 attracted 288 recovering addicts, representing 1,426 years of cleantime. BRANA 30 hosted 425 people with a total of 2,104 years of cleantime. This year, we started counting the children who attended, and there were 110 (that's in addition to the 425), so we thought you might enjoy a photo of one of their activities at the campout, too.

Dan W, Virginia, USA





CALENDAR

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

Belgium

Merksemdok 7-8 Apr; First Farsi Belgium Convention; Merksemdok, Antwerpen; www.na-belgium.org

Canada

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

Quebec 16-18 Mar; Youth Convention 16; Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel; www.naquebec.org/cjna-ycna

Denmark

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

Germany

Berlin 4-6 May; Berlin International Convention 4; Berliner Stadtmision, contact@binac.de; 00.49.177.4055749; www.binac.de

India

Karnatka 28-30 Jan; Bangalore Area Circle of Sisters Convention; Fireflies Ashram, Bangalore; 01.1.91.8105349153

Mexico

Veracruz 15-18 Mar; Mexico Regional Convention 15; Hotel Villas Del Mar, Puerto de Veracruz; www.namexico.org.mx

Norway

Hedmark County 28 Mar-1Apr; Trysil Group Ski and Recovery 6; Trysil; www.nanorge.org/tingskjer.asp

Philippines

South Cotabato 20-22 Jan; Pilipinas Regional Convention 17; Mother Francisca Spirituality Center, General Santos City; kirby_suico@yahoo.com

Thailand

Chonburi 17-19 Feb; Thailand Regional Convention 5; Town in Town Hotel, Pattaya; www.na-thailand.org

United States

Alabama 20-22 Jan; Central Alabama Area Convention 15; Motel 6 (Old Governors House Hotel), Montgomery; 334.430.7947

2) 23-25 Mar; Greater Mobile Area Convention; Ashbury Hotel & Suites, Mobile; zackszc@hotmail.com

Arizona 17-19 Feb; Mexico Arizona California Convention 3; Pivot Point Conference Center, Yuma; www.maccna.org

Arkansas 10-12 Feb; Texarkana Area Convention; Austin Hotel & Spa, Hot Springs; www.texarkanaareaofnarcocticsanonymous.org

California 20-22 Jan; San Fernando Valley Area Convention 17; Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, Burbank; www.nasfv.com/convention

2) 5-8 Apr Northern California Convention 34; McEnery Convention Center, San Jose; www.norcalna.org

3) 6-8 Apr; San Diego Imperial Counties Regional Convention 27; Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina; www.sandiegona.org/subcom/cc/index.html

New York 9-11 Mar; *Western Queens Area Convention 3*; Melville Marriott; Melville; www.westernqueensna.org

Delaware 9-11 Mar; Small Wonder Area Convention 10; DoubleTree Hotel Downtown, Wilmington; 302.507.7816

Florida 30 Mar-1 Apr; Space Coast Area Convention 4; Crowne Plaza Oceanfront Resort, Indialantic; www.spacecoastna.org

2) 26-29 Apr; Alabama NW Florida Region Fun in the Sun 35; Paradise Palms Inn/Days Inn Beach, Panama City Beach; www.funinthesunconvention.org

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

Kentucky 20-22 Jan; Louisville Area Convention 22; Galt House Hotel, Louisville; www.nalouisville.org/events/flyers/1261

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

Massachusetts 2-4 Mar; Northeast Massachusetts Area Convention 3; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Danvers; www.nerna.org/node/817

Michigan 5-8 Apr; Detroit Areas Convention 20; Hyatt Regency, Dearborn; speaker tape deadline: 11 Feb; write: Detroit Areas; Box 32603; Detroit, MI 48232; www.michigan-na.org/dacna

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

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

Nevada 24-26 Feb; North by Northwest Area Las Vegas Dopes on Slopes; Cedar Breaks Lodge, Brian Head, Utah; dopesonslopes@nxnwana.org

New Jersey 2-4 Mar; Cape/Atlantic Area Convention 22; Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, Egg Harbor Township; www.pearlofrecovery.com

New York 17-19 Feb; Metro Area de Habla Hispana Convention 7; Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains; www.mahh.org

North Carolina 17-19 Feb; Coastal Carolina Area Freedom by the Sea Convention 11; Courtyard Marriott, Carolina Beach; www.coastalcarolinaarea.org

Ohio 10-12 Feb; Multi-Regional *CAR/CAT* Workshop/Midwest Zonal Forum Meeting; Holiday Inn Express, Perrysburg; www.naohio.org

2) 24-26 Feb; Toledo Area Convention 15; Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, Toledo; www.naohio.org

3) 2-4 Mar; Cleveland LEGS Area Convention 9; Holiday Inn Cleveland South/Independence; www.naohio.org

Oregon 24-26 Feb; Circle of Sisters Convention 15; Marriott Downtown, Portland; www.circleofsisters.org

Rhode Island 24-26 Feb; Greater Providence Area Convention 6; Crowne Plaza, Warwick; www.gpana.org

South Carolina 17-19 Feb; Greater Columbia Area Recovery at Work 11; Hilton Ocean Front Resort, Hilton Head Island; www.crcna.org/events

2) 2-4 Mar; GAP Area Convention; University Inn (formerly Ramada Inn), Clemson; www.thegaparea.com

Texas 3-5 Feb; Tejas Bluebonnet Regional Convention 12; MCM Elegante Hotel, Beaumont; www.tbrcna.org

Utah 24-26 Feb; North by Northwest Area Las Vegas Dopes on Slopes; Cedar Breaks Lodge, Brian Head; dopesonslopes@nxnwana.org

2) 16-18 Mar; Northern Utah Area Convention 19; Comfort Suites, Ogden; www.northernutahna.org

Indiana 2-4-March; *Indiana State Convention 19*; Marriott East; Indianapolis; www.naindiana.org

NAWS PRODUCT UPDATE

Tri-Plate Medallions

To celebrate recovery milestones, four new striking color combinations are available in 18 months, 1 through 50 years, and eternity:



Translucent Green/Pearl/Black

Item No. 6100 series

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Item No. 6900 series

Violet/Pearl/Black

Item No. 6800 series

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Item No. 6700 series



Price US \$21.30

Just for Today Daily Meditation Cards

These 366 daily meditation cards offer the opportunity to focus on a new recovery principle every day with quotations from *Just for Today*. Includes decorative box.

Item No. 9505 Price US \$15.00



Social Media and Our Guiding Principles

This new service pamphlet addresses using social media responsibly considering our tradition of anonymity.

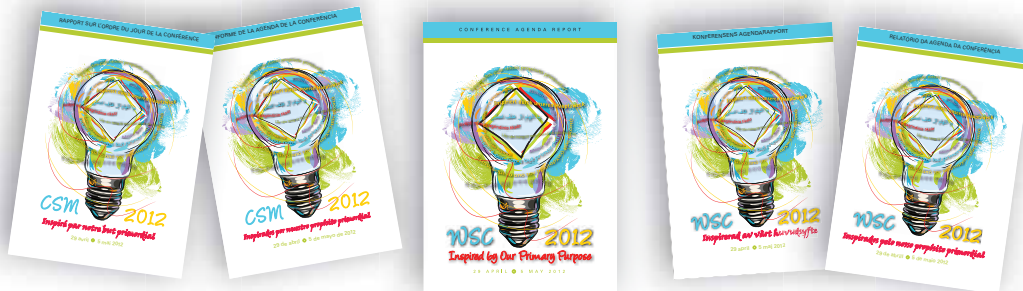
Item No. 2207 Price US \$0.28



2012 Conference Agenda Report

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Isang Pangunahing Gabay
sa Narkotiko Anonimo*

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Kurzer Leitfaden für K&E

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Hungarian

IP No. 9

Élni a programot

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Italian

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IP No. 28

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Riunioni di servizio di gruppo

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Roles & Responsibilities*

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White Booklet

Narkotiċi Anonimi

Item No. MT-1500 Price US \$0.67

Norwegian

IP No. 26

Tilgjengelighet for de med spesielle behov

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Informasjon om Anonyme Narkomane

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Polish

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Anonimowi Narkomani

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Swedish

Sixth Edition Basic Text

Anonyma Narkomaner

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