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*That wordless language of recognition,  
belief, and faith, which we call empathy,  
creates the atmosphere...*

*Jimmy K,  
from the Basic Text, page 85*

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IN THIS ISSUE

## An atmosphere of recovery

What creates an atmosphere of recovery? Is it the meeting room? The way the chairs are arranged? Candlelight instead of fluorescent light? Or is it something more intangible? One thing is sure: We recognize an atmosphere of recovery when we're in one. It seems that the very air is charged with the spirit of recovery. The sharing is uplifting and inspiring, true and profound. Members who came in feeling out of sorts and needing support find themselves becoming grateful and wanting to tell the newcomers how wonderful recovery can be. People smile easily. Even the newest newcomer is likely to be surprised by a belly laugh coming up from his own insides.

In this issue of the *NA Way*, we're taking a look at recovery atmospheres around the world, at recovery meetings and service meetings, at ways a recovery atmosphere can be encouraged—and at ways one can be destroyed. The mood of our meetings is of concern to every NA member, for we know that personal recovery depends on us hearing the message regularly as much as it depends on NA unity.



THE  
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OF  
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EXECUTIVE CODIRECTORS

Anthony Edmondson  
George Hollahan

EDITOR

Cynthia Tooredman

COPY EDITORS

David Fulk  
Nancy Schenck

TYPOGRAPHY AND DESIGN

David Mizrahi

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Anne Peters

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Bella A, Craig R, Stephan L, Jane N

**World Service Office**

PO Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA  
Telephone: (818) 773-9999  
Fax: (818) 700-0700  
Web Site: <http://www.na.org>

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# Our readers write

## One and only

I've been enjoying the *NA Way* since it first found its way to me. I love to read about recovery around the world.

However, I must admit that sometimes I read things that disturb me. You've printed several stories from addicts who talk about having more than one sponsor. This bothers me a great deal. If I had more than one sponsor, I would just go to whichever sponsor would be sure to give me the answer I *want* to hear, not what I *need* to hear. I would set the stage for my recovery to flop. I would design my recovery around my sick thoughts and behavior.

I need to have one sponsor with whom I can share and be honest, one sponsor who knows all about me.

I was told how to get a sponsor when I got here, and I would like to share that with you. There are two ways you might find someone. Either you'll hear someone say something you like, or you'll hear someone say something that pisses you off. Either one might be a good sponsor for you. But however you choose a sponsor, *choose only one*.

Dwayne B, Idaho

## Hooked!

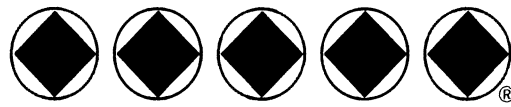
I was astounded after reading the April 1999 *NA Way*. Every story drew my attention. I read so many awesome articles, I am now hooked for sure! Just to recognize that there are NA members all over the world—I was overwhelmed! When I read the last words of Gina L's article "So You Want to Change NA?" I got goosebumps.

I serve as GSR for my home group and just had eighteen months clean and serene. I took the GSR position knowing nothing about what I would be doing, but I felt good about it. I have a lot to learn, but I won't give up no matter what happens. I will keep coming back.

Cindy P, Florida

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

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



# SHARING

**Reflections of an addict  
on reaching 30 years clean**

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## **A page from my journal**

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**17 December 1998**

Aloha God.

Amazing, simply amazing. I long ago quit wondering why it was me. Why was I blessed with instant freedom? I didn't even ask for it. It was given to me, neither in reward nor in mercy, but simply out of love.

I could look back on these thirty years and see no method to the madness of this addict in recovery, yet it seems that some divine plan was at work. I have come to rely on Your guidance even though I walk beneath a cloud of unknowing.

Early in my recovery, some wise old soul told me that all I had to do was ten percent and God would do the other ninety. My ten percent was practicing honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness—with that I was well on my way.

I came into this journey with nothing. I was given one simple seed—a desire not to use—and from that, everything else grew. What an abundant harvest it has been! It seems the only limit is my lack of faith, but even that has diminished over the years as my fear of life has fallen by the wayside.

Put quite simply, my life works. Before finding NA, it didn't work. It seemed that all the universe was against me, and I couldn't fit in no matter how I tried. Just finding that my life works is a mind-blower. All I did was admit that I was an addict and my life had become unmanageable, and I was on my way up and out.

Not long ago, someone asked me what I had to do for my recovery now that I had almost thirty years clean. I thought about it, and I realized that I do pretty much the same thing as I did when I was a newcomer. I still go to meetings on a regular basis; I try to be honest; I pray and meditate every day; and I try to be of service. I do my ten percent, and it's just as monumental today as it was in the beginning.

My friends and teachers along the way have been phenomenal. They have all reinforced my belief that God is running the show and I am not alone on this journey.

What freedom it was to learn that nothing was happening *to* me; it was all happening *for* me. I didn't have to fight for anything or anybody anymore, not even for myself. I rely on the truth that God will do for me what I cannot do for myself as much today as I prayed for when I was new. I have thirty years of proof that it works.

I live very comfortably. Yet my outer abundance is not really about achievement or success; it is more about faith and trusting that my Higher Power wants me to hold out a bigger cup. He constantly dares me to try Him out, and He has never failed me.

I was given one simple guarantee in the beginning: that all my needs would be taken care of. I have never gone hungry or been without shelter or clothes. On the contrary, I have always had an abundance. My family has always been taken care of; we have always had enough.

What has happened to my outsides is beyond my wildest dreams, but the greatest gift is what came before: the knowledge of an inner life and a sense of gratitude that is not dependent on what I have on the outside.

Children, wives, lovers, and friends—what richness and fulfillment to a person who was incapable of formulating a coherent sentence. I can actually have relationships that are honest and healthy. And if I find myself in a relationship that isn't honest and healthy, I have enough self-respect to get out and get on with the business of living life to its fullest. I don't have to stay stuck; that isn't what I believe God wants for me.

What is also wonderful is watching my friends walk this path of recovery, to see them growing and demonstrating the same reality I have discovered—the absolute love we have for one another and the joy we take in time spent together. There is no competition or envy in our relationships. We have seen one another at our worst and have learned to rejoice in each other's happiness and success. We know that on some level, each of our successes is somehow connected. Maybe it's because we've learned to be here for ourselves, but we've also learned to be here for one another.

One day at a time—as true today as it was then.

I want to thank You, God, for my sweet wife, Tali. I don't know where she came from, but you couldn't have found a better match for us; we were both so ready for each other. May we continue to grow and be ever open and able channels of Your love.

Thank You for my children: Shannon, Megan, and Finn. I couldn't be more proud and grateful. What a miracle! Me, a father! What an opportunity, what a challenge to this process, what a demonstration that through You all things are possible! Thank You for giving me the chance to break the family cycle of shame and fear. My children have actually grown up to be free to be themselves, and what wonderful human beings they are!

Thank You for my sponsors and mentors, for my therapists and those anonymous members old and new who taught me how to live. I have been so fortunate, so blessed.

For Flobird: I don't know where you are, but I know you're close by. I know you are smiling; I can feel it today. Thank you for being the open channel and the able example of God's love for me. Without your demonstration of faith and love, I would never have known how to do it. What a wonderful legacy that you left behind to Tom C, Larry R, and me. We are still clean after all these years and still very involved in carrying the message.

God, I pray that I continue to grow and reach out to my fellow addicts both in and out of our fellowship. I pray that I will continue to be used as a channel of Your will. Thanks for my life and for the ability to really live and to know You.

Love,  
Tom McC, Hawaii

## Learning to breathe in a polluted atmosphere

This is the fourth NA area I've lived in since I came into recovery. It is also the rudest. People feel free to come and go during meetings, talk loudly in the hall, hold side conversations while someone is sharing, swear copiously, talk in the back of the room, promote their religion from the podium, and so on. Indoor functions are held in facilities that permit smoking—and it evidently hasn't occurred to the activities committee that just because we *can* doesn't mean we *should*—which effectively bars people who are concerned about their health from attending. This includes most of our area's old-timers.

When I first got clean, I was told in no uncertain terms to sit still, be quiet, and listen when I was at a meeting. However, that's not the usual approach here, and the disruptive behavior just seems to be institutionalized; that is, most people don't think it's a problem. If it were just one meeting, I could more easily think of it as a "group autonomy" thing, but it's all the evening meetings, especially the open birthday meeting, and most functions.

I believe this type of behavior affects NA as a whole. It fractures our unity, shocks family members (giving NA a bad name), turns away newcomers and old-timers who can't handle the chaos and the smoke, and literally prevents the addict from hearing the message of recovery.

When I moved to this area three years ago, I did what I had been taught before. I brought up my concerns individually and politely with trusted servants. Nothing changed. I became active in the service structure and attended business meetings, sometimes voicing my concerns there. Some people agreed with me; others didn't. Still, nothing changed. I sought out and offered solutions. Nothing changed. I watched, deeply upset, as others who were outspoken about these issues were called names, yelled at, shunned, baited, and gossiped about. Most of them ended up leaving NA,

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What creates an atmosphere of recovery at my home group is consistency—seeing the same faces each week and feeling safe.

Mary, Australia

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including those who were among the area's old-timers.

For myself, I finally did what I've learned to do when I find that I'm powerless over people, places, and things. I worked on myself. I tried to let go of what I couldn't change and seek solutions that would help me live with it. I focused on promoting unity and my own recovery. It's been difficult to let go because I feel responsible for the fellowship that has literally given me my life, and I was "raised" to believe that it is the job of every addict to carry the message, to create an atmosphere of recovery—even when that means being unpopular.

It helps me to keep in mind that my experiences in recovery are different from those of most people in this area. I've seen an area literally torn apart because people don't focus first and consistently on unity and the newcomer. I've seen the resulting personal suffering and the impact on NA communities worldwide. People in this area haven't had those experiences. I need to allow others the opportunity to go their own way, even if destruction will be the outcome. I need to keep in mind that letting go can also bring wonderful gifts; I don't know what HP has in mind.

There are 31 meetings a week in my area, which is about 150 by 200 miles. Even with so few meetings available, I have managed to find other members who share my focus on unity and respect. We gravitate to the same meetings and are starting to bring unity and respect into the atmosphere of those meetings.

I'm glad I've stayed in NA. I had to fight the urge to leave NA, or at least move back to an area where there's more recovery. I've learned that any urge to run is a problem, and the solution is to face the situation my HP has put me in and do what I have to do to stay clean—no matter what!

To other addicts who feel like you're suffocating on your meetings' atmosphere: Hang in there. So far, I'm getting what I need by following my oldest recovery habit: reaching out, including to people in other regions. I can only be here for the still-suffering addict if I take care of myself and seek to be part of a community of caring and sharing the NA way, even when it's uncomfortable.

*Anonymous*

# Extreme meetings

Some of the feedback we've gotten from our readers has asked us to include more about local NA communities. Our readers in the United States especially like to hear about what it's like at meetings in other parts of the world. One of my own favorite stories is about some addicts from the United States who went to a meeting in a bomb shelter in Tel Aviv. The humidity made it like a sauna. The smoke was so thick you could cut it with a knife. The room was packed; everyone sat shoulder-to-sweaty-shoulder with another recovering addict. Evidently, the locals took it all in stride; it was just like many other meetings, but the addicts from the United States just loved it.

For this issue of the *NA Way*, we asked a few members to tell us about the most remarkable place they ever went to a meeting. Enjoy!



The place I'm thinking of isn't really remarkable to me. It's actually my home group. I live in an area that is zoned for both residential and agricultural use. Our meeting is usually held in a church classroom, but during the summer we move to the back lawn. It just so happens that the church borders on a yard that holds pigs, chickens, horses, and a few other species. To me, the oinks, clucks, whinnies, and so forth had become background noise. I didn't even hear them anymore. But one night we had a speaker come up from the city, and he thought the barnyard noises were hilarious. He seemed especially amused when a duck waddled through the meeting. We got a new perspective on our meeting that night and a new appreciation for our special atmosphere of recovery.

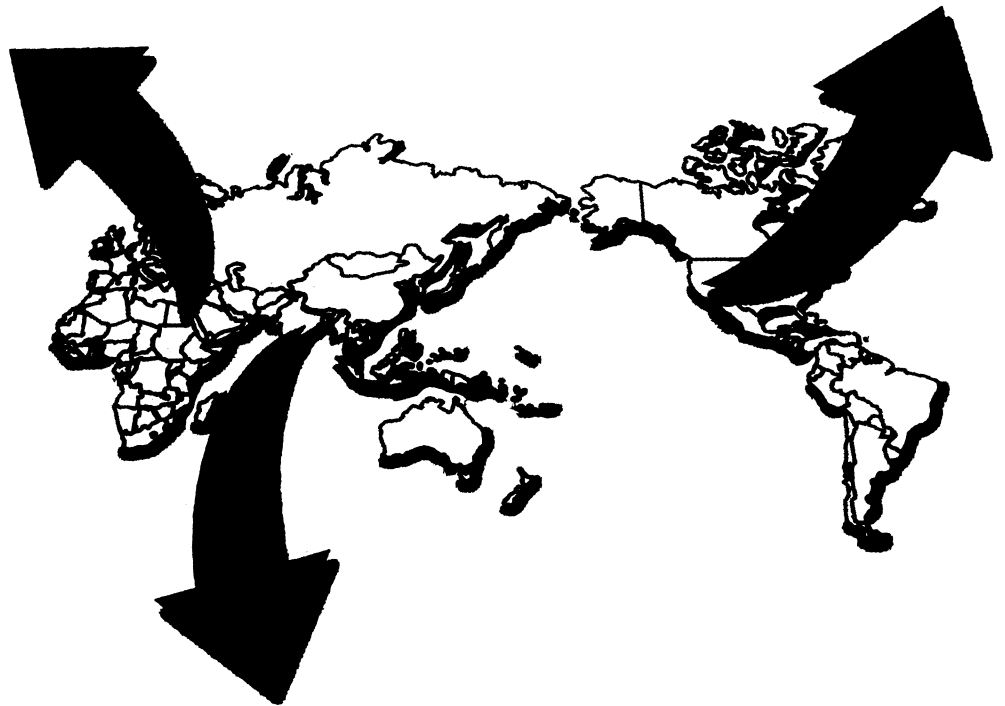
*Sean, California*

**I** went to my first meeting in Boulder, Colorado, and that meeting turns out to be the most remarkable meeting I've been to in eighteen years of recovery. "Boulder One," as it was called, had a unique meeting room because it was held in what was formerly a meat locker. The ceiling still had meat hooks hanging down from it. The room also had the usual NA accoutrements of the time: two very old couches with protruding springs, an assortment of chairs, a desk, wall decorations of all types (prayers, slogans, photos of people from twelve-step history, etc.), and a hundred or so ashtrays. Those of us who were new spent many hours looking up at the evenly spaced meat hooks, pondering the room's history and our own futures. The image of that room has stayed with me all these years. Maybe it was the permanence of the meat hooks and the lesson they taught through their endurance of change and hard times, or maybe it was just the strange happenstance of finding recovery with meat hooks hanging over my head.

*Steve S, California*

**W**e arrived in Cairo in the midst of a geophysical phenomenon—a sandstorm—and during the holiest of Muslim holidays, Ramadan. Desperate for a meeting, we called the number we had for an NA member in Egypt. He picked us up within fifteen minutes and whisked us past pyramids, camels, and ruins that we had never seen the likes of before, to an NA meeting. For the rest of our stay, we were asked to share at every meeting, go out for coffee every night, and attend every business meeting. For two addicts, it was the perfect Egyptian holiday.

*Cary & Susan, Illinois*



**I**t was a women's meeting in Bandra, a suburb of Bombay. I set off in a taxi, which in India is an adventure in itself. You never know just who or what is going to poke its head in the window of your taxi and scare the s— out of you. I arrived at the place the meeting was supposed to be, got out of the taxi, and stood there on the footpath wondering where the Municipal Clinic could be. All I could see was a gray concrete wall with a large hole punched through it. Cautiously, I approached the hole, wondering if I was in the right place. I looked through, and to my amazement, there was a group of NA women, all beautifully dressed in colorful Punjabi clothes, sitting in the middle of this dusty, half-demolished building. I greeted the women, exchanged hugs and hellos, found myself a plank of wood, and sat down for the meeting. Most of the meeting was in the Marathi language and Hindi, neither of which I understand, but it didn't matter. Our common bond eliminated all boundaries. During the meeting, our little circle of women was surrounded by rubble, building workers, and groaning trucks laboring past and raising clouds of dust, but we continued to carry the message to each other in our own languages with the power of our experience, strength, and hope. After the meeting, we said the Serenity Prayer, hugged, dusted each other off, and walked down the street to the famous Bandra Café for a cup of Chai tea.

*Debs T, China*



# SERVICE

## An inside job

**NA members at the Oregon State Penitentiary  
show us that an atmosphere of recovery  
can flourish anywhere**

*by Bob G, Editor*

*Hole in the Wall Group Newsletter*

One Sunday in June of 1988, some recovering addicts here at Oregon State founded the NA Hole in the Wall Group. The first meetings took place in the chapel with the permission of the institution's chaplain. The members of that group had nothing more than a copy of the Basic Text and a desire to stay clean.

As word of the meeting spread around the institution, the staff decided that it would be better to have the meeting under the auspices of the prison's "Recovery Club" (which also handled the AA meetings). This gave us a new place to meet and a place to put our book. However, most people didn't know much about the NA program.

The meeting started off with a lot of outside support, especially from the Mid-Willamette Valley Area, but a lot of it disappeared because some of our early members didn't practice the principles of recovery. However, there were a few members who believed in NA, believed in recovery, and didn't give up. We got a Group Starter Kit from the World Service Office when we registered our group in September of 1992.

This was both a happy and a sad time for us because we were finally a recognized group, but we had lost our outside support. We came to believe that recovery is an inside job, so we got busy and took on the challenges of that job. With the help of our outside sponsor—a state employee and a recovering addict—we formed a book study meeting. It was at this meeting that many of us came to know what the NA program is really about: the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

We received a great deal of experience, strength, and hope from the Eugene Area H&I Committee for many years. However, after some struggle, we decided that our group would be an autonomous group, not an H&I meeting. We invited the H&I members who had been supporting our meeting to keep coming back as regular NA members or as members of the Hole in the Wall Group, and many do to this day.

This decision caused some mixed feelings in the group. Some of our members missed the regular appearance of addicts from the outside coming in to fellowship with us. Also, not everyone understood why we were choosing to go in this direction. Some members even left to join the AA group.

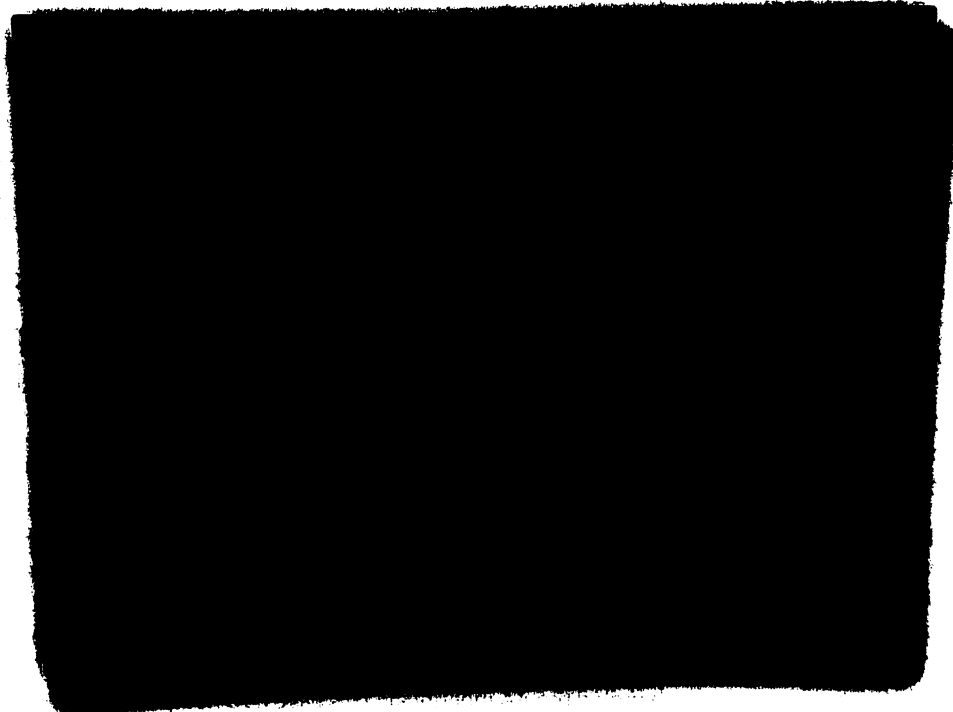
Despite the controversy, we stayed committed to becoming a regular NA group. We knew that we would have to accept the things we couldn't change, and work on changing the things we could. Our group follows the Twelve Traditions and our primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers, though we take it a step further by adding "no matter where that addict may be."

At one time we were only allowed to have one medallion to share among ourselves and give to one another on clean time celebrations. We adopted the Eternity Medallion as our official group medallion because we were behind a wall, cut off from the living, and thought of as dead. Also, we believe that recovery is eternal, the one thing you can take with you.

Today, we're allowed to give regular clean time medallions, which we do along with clean time certificates that we make here. Those clean time certificates were the only thing we could have for a long time. Yes, there were some addicts who heard about these certificates and came to us so they could get one to take to the parole board, but many heard the message and have become some of our strongest members. Some also come back after they are paroled to support the meeting here.

We are part of the Mid-Willamette Valley Area Service Committee, and we make monthly reports. We try to make sure that our meetings take place in an atmosphere of recovery, and that any addict seeking recovery (or not) is welcome here. We have three regularly scheduled meetings every week:

- The Sunday Morning Open Meeting, which is held at the AM-Yard Line Bell (7:45 am) in the Activities Section. Anyone can attend. This is where newcomers can sign up for any of the meetings or services that we have. This meeting has some outside support from members who come in to share a meeting with us first thing in the morning.



- The Tuesday Night Visiting Room Meeting meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the Visiting Room. This is the meeting that in the past was the one where all our outside support came to carry the message to us.
- The Thursday Night Book Study meets every Thursday night on the Education Floor. We study all the books and focus on sharing our experience, strength, and hope on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

We also have other events and functions: two speaker meetings a year, an annual activities day, and an annual banquet and social where we honor those who have been of service to the group as well as those who have faithfully supported the meeting. We also take part in the World Unity Day telephone hook-up every year.

We are part of the orientation for new arrivals at the institution. We make everyone aware that we are here for them and let them know what we do. We pass out

literature and meeting schedules and answer any questions. We do twelve-step calls. We answer letters from people who write asking for our help or advice with their loved ones and various other questions about Narcotics Anonymous. We get our message out by word of mouth and on the closed-circuit prison channel in both English and Spanish. We

put out a group newsletter, which we also exchange with other newsletters and send to others who request it whenever we can. We are in the process of seeking permission to have meetings in the institution's infirmary for addicts who are too sick to make it to the other meetings.

Recovery as found anywhere else in the NA Fellowship can be found inside the Oregon State Penitentiary at the Hole in the Wall Group. We can always use more outside support from recovering addicts out there in the fellowship, but as we have learned from our experiences here, recovery is an inside job. For many of us, that job starts here. ♦



*After being made aware that members' personal recovery was being affected by racism in the South Atlanta area, the area service committee formed an ad hoc committee to investigate the problem and develop some ideas for dealing with it. The ad hoc committee sent its final report to The NA Way Magazine, asking that we share it in the magazine so others can benefit from the experience offered. We thought it fit perfectly in this issue, which has "an atmosphere of recovery" as its theme. —Ed.*

## Clearing the air

### South Atlanta Area works to overcome racism in its meetings

Our committee was charged with the duty of examining racism in the area and making recommendations on what can be done to address it.

We started out by reviewing the past five years for specific incidents. We concluded that racism does exist in NA in the South Atlanta area.

We looked for innovative ways to enhance the wisdom that we pray for daily, both as individuals and as a fellowship. We developed some specific recommendations on action that we, as an NA community, can take to raise awareness of this issue and promote unity, tolerance, and respect. As individuals, we need to more rigorously apply the Twelve Steps and learn all we can about the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts.

We believe that living in the spirit of unity is a must. Not to practice our principles would surely make worse the internal and external forces that would destroy us. To idly stand by and ignore racism in our area and throughout the fellowship would be irresponsible and detrimental to the newcomer and old-timer alike. We can no longer afford to stay in the problem and blame one another. We are all responsible.

We are all NA members with a program to work. We recommend what the steps recommend—that is, to look at ourselves,

evaluate our associations and surroundings, become willing to change, ask for help, make amends, and focus on our primary purpose. Race is irrelevant to carrying the message of recovery; if we let it divide us, we are on our way to becoming using addicts instead of recovering addicts.

For our common welfare, we recommend that we focus on our similarities, not our differences. No addict seeking recovery, whether black, white, brown, or whatever, need die from the horrors of addiction. We recommend that everyone ask him- or herself this question: If within our fellowship we practice hate and intolerance toward those whom God made different from us, can our primary purpose ever be realized?

For our area as a whole, we recommend the following:

- Have ASC chairs visit the various groups in the area.
- Have workshops on the topic of human relations.
- Have speaker exchange meetings.
- Have more topic meetings on the Twelve Traditions.
- Have workshops on *A Guide to Local Service*.
- Have workshops about sponsorship.
- Present this report to the entire area at our area anniversary celebration.
- Place this report and the minutes of our committee meetings with our findings in the area archives.

We would like to leave you with a quote from page 60 of our Basic Text: "We must live and work together as a group to ensure that in a storm our ship does not sink and our members do not perish. With faith in a Power greater than ourselves, hard work, and unity, we will survive and continue to carry the message to the addict who still suffers."

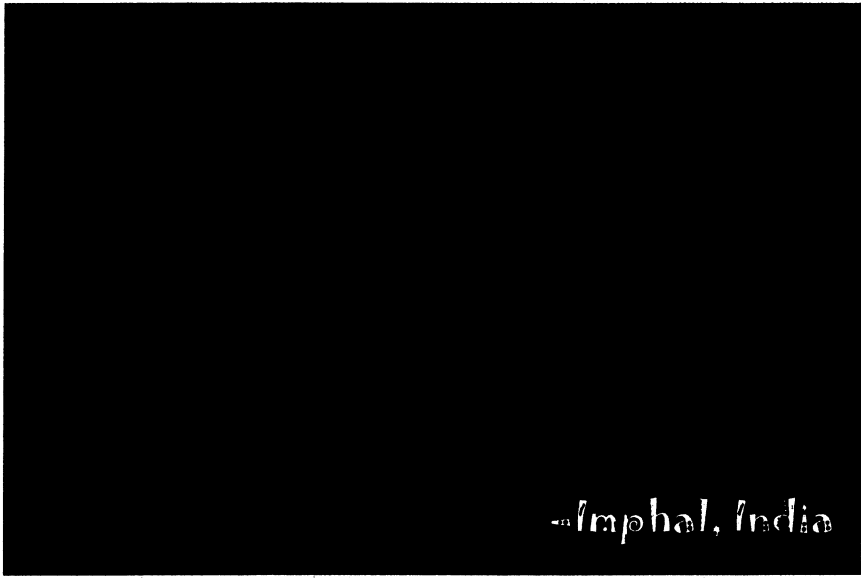
*In loving service,  
The Ad Hoc Committee on Racism*

*An atmosphere of recovery includes many things, too numerous to cite. The one thing I treasure most about my home group is its atmosphere of tolerance about members' spiritual beliefs. At my home group, it is not uncommon to find Christians, Jews, Muslims, or people who have no specific belief, and all feel free to talk about their individual relationships with the God of their understanding. My home group recognizes that without the presence of God, there is no chance for addicts to find recovery.*

*Chuck L, Arizona*

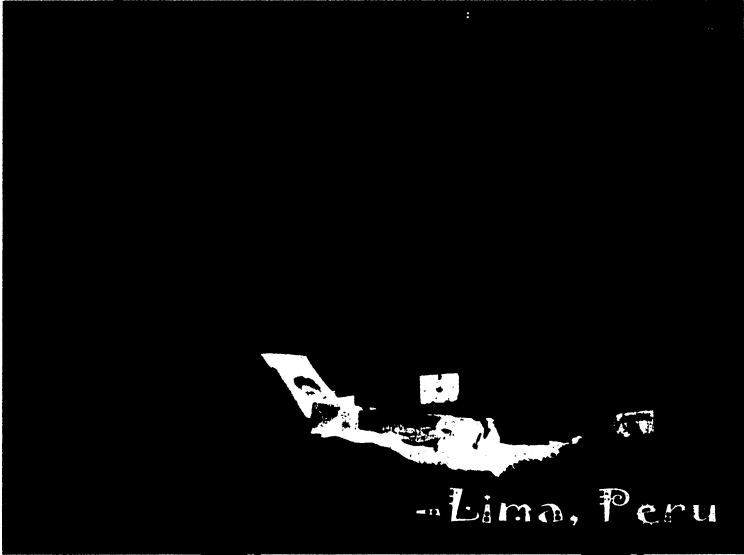
# Snapshots of recovery

What does an atmosphere of recovery look like? It all depends on where you are. It might be in a beautiful outdoor setting where the surroundings are a perfect backdrop to the miracle of recovery happening in the meeting. It might be in a dark and dingy room in a neighborhood that seems to be more about drugs than recovery, but the physical reminders of what it was like create a powerful atmosphere of recovery. It might be anywhere in the world—in an isolated spot far from other meetings, or right in the middle of a huge NA community. Wherever it is, it's the place we call home.



Unfortunately, the black and white image of this meeting place in Imphal, India, doesn't capture the atmosphere created by all the color in the room. The chairs are either blue, red, brown, or tan. The walls are pale blue, and the signs are also very colorful. This is where the Karuna Group, the oldest in Northeastern India, has met since September 1988.

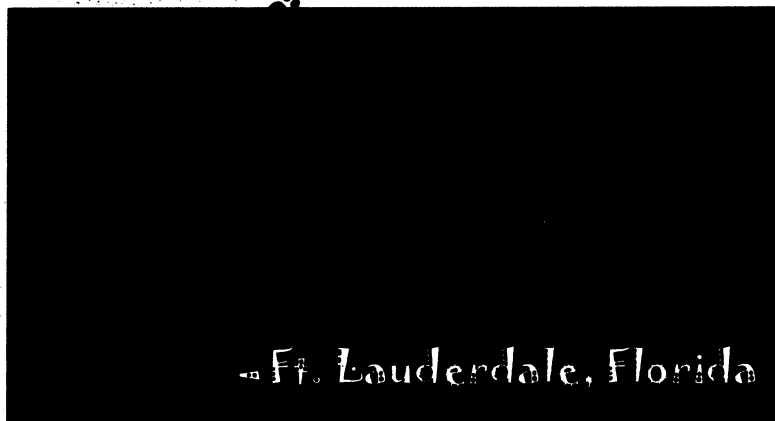
The Pure and Simple NA Group meets outdoors in the summertime on Sundays at 9 a.m. From this location in Maria Reiche Park, members have a view of the ocean.





The Just for Today Group—which meets on the Asian side of Istanbul, Turkey—got most of its meeting decor (the Serenity Prayer card, the bamboo stick, and the Jamaican flag) from the fellowship in Jamaica.

The Just Be Good to Yourself Group is a topic study format and it gets the topic from the *Just for Today Meditation Book*. It was formed in 1993 and meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



The Eindhoven, Holland Group has two meetings a week in this room at the "Bomanshof." On Mondays it's a topic and step study; on Thursdays it's a step study. The group has been meeting here for about three years.

The Open Mind Group meets in this classroom in Varginha, Minas Gerais, which is in Southeastern Brazil.



# Charged with recovery

by Jane N, World Board Member

After the 1998 World Service Conference, those of us elected to the new World Board all found ourselves thinking and feeling very much alike. Individually and collectively, we wondered how we would function as a World Board. What would a World Board be in practice? What was I supposed to do as a World Board member in reality?

Showing up at our first meeting with all our mixed emotions and thoughts was our initial step of walking through change. Those of us with world service history questioned whether any change was possible, while others wondered about our ability to contribute to fellowship growth as a World Board member. We wanted to bring the atmosphere of recovery from our home groups into meetings of the World Board. We sat down at our first board meeting feeling very fragmented: willing and scared, wondering and doubtful, open-minded and skeptical, vacillating emotionally and intellectually. We welcomed the opportunity and privilege to foster change. We concentrated on practicing spiritual principles. We wanted to function as a unit—a single board.

We were assisted by a consultant to help us to begin to function as a board. The consultant and his team were the springboard for our growth as your World Board of Narcotics Anonymous. We strive to operate from a spiritual base and as a unit. The slogan "together we can" rings true for us.

Many of us come from having served in hostile, non-supportive, blaming, backbiting environments. We wanted to have some fun in service, air our differences with each other, encourage each other, and remember at all times who is in charge: a loving higher power. We wanted to allow that power to work by getting out of the way.

To achieve our goals, we needed to establish some ground rules that would promote an atmosphere of recovery. Some of them are:

- 1. No Dumb Questions:** We recognized and accepted that the only dumb question is the one that is not asked.
- 2. No Bad Ideas:** We wanted everyone to feel encouraged to participate in discussions and brainstorming.
- 3. No Dominance:** We wanted each World Board member to believe that a higher power is in charge and we are all equal partners on the board.
- 4. No Negatives:** We wanted to focus on growth and solutions and come to believe that anything is possible.
- 5. No Limits:** We needed to believe that what we want—for Narcotics Anonymous to be the Number One program for recovery—can happen.

To embody through practice the above guidelines, we recorded and adopted these as our Operational Ground Rules. In addition, we agreed to listen to each other without interruption, to openly consider all viewpoints, to disagree with the rationale and not the person, and to respect each member through action. We adopted and utilize the Twelve Concepts of NA Service.

At the beginning of every World Board meeting, we use action groups (which are small, focused discussion groups) to help us identify solutions for goals and issues for agenda items. By utilizing action groups, we promote unity and respect among ourselves. The positive aspects gained from these groups prompted us to train World Board members for facilitation. Having experienced a principled avenue for beginning our meeting, we also wanted a spiritually based format for closing. At the end of each day of a World Board meeting is a sharing session. During this time, we air emotions from the day, letting those feelings go with each other, and saving us, in a sense, from ourselves by taking our feelings out to discuss in the hallways. We usually leave feeling refreshed, optimistic, and grateful.

We have served with each other for a year and we have built our base with spiritual principles. We are committed, as a board, to fostering our fellowship's

growth from this foundation of mutual respect, trust, and integrity. Our honest desire to maintain our board atmosphere stems from our willingness to embrace challenge and change, to be open and fluid with our building process in world services, and to seek spiritually based solutions with pragmatic issues. We are dedicated to preserving an atmosphere that we all longed to create—a service atmosphere where our hearts demonstrate the gratitude and privilege of service through our actions as a board. ♦

An atmosphere of recovery is made up of many things, but most of all it's the sharing that determines whether a meeting is about recovery or about addiction. This doesn't mean we shouldn't talk about drugs or our using. Quite the contrary! It's the way we talk about drugs that matters. If we brag about our using or make it sound glamorous, we're creating an atmosphere of disease. However, if we talk about our using from a perspective of recovery, we are giving the meeting exactly what it needs to fulfill our primary purpose.

Cathy, Massachusetts

# NA as a whole depends on our personal recovery

*by Anonymous*

When I first got into recovery and heard people share about needing to quit beating themselves up, I felt such relief. I felt the same way upon hearing that we didn't have a moral deficiency, we had a disease—for which, by the way, we weren't at all responsible! Hooray!

I'm not the only one who heard only part of the message. There are members speaking in meetings whose "recovery" has been very much influenced by other self-help ideas and concepts, mainly those that focus on "healing ourselves" or "forgiving ourselves." There are parts of our Basic Text that lead us to focus excessively on how our addiction enslaved us and brought us pain, misery, and guilt. There are a lot of people who are very compassionate as sponsors, but recovering addicts need more than love, support, and compassion from a sponsor.

Our predecessors were touched by God when they wrote the Twelve Steps. They knew that we didn't need to learn how to heal ourselves; we needed to learn how to make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. We needed to learn how to identify the exact nature of our own wrongs. We needed to accept responsibility for our character defects without blaming them on inadequate parenting or an unhappy childhood. We needed a relationship with God, not a bunch of people telling us everything was okay.

We've all heard about how sponsors are these comforting old souls who reassure us during our Fifth Step that there's nothing we've done that they haven't also done or thought about or whatever. Yeah, yeah. Those of us who sponsor people know what it's like when a sponsee admits to doing something horrible—putting her child in danger, leaving someone to die, etc.—and she's sitting there after saying it, and we know what it cost her emotionally to get it out. We know also that while the shame is washing over our sponsee, she is accepting responsibility for her part, squarely facing the exact nature of her wrongs, and she needs to be allowed to feel every bit of that pain and shame in order to become more fully human.

It usually takes everything I have not to say, "There, there, you didn't know any better. You did the best you could with what you had," or some other thing that will take the tension out of the room and comfort my sponsee. But this is a time when I know to shut up. God is present in the room, and only that Power can provide the kind of healing my sponsee needs at that moment.

Taking the easier, softer way by finding ways to absolve ourselves of responsibility does not create an atmosphere of recovery in our meetings. It creates an atmosphere of self-centeredness. It takes courage to do the hard thing, to look at the truth no matter how much it hurts or embarrasses us. But we have to. It isn't just our own recovery that's at stake; it's NA as a whole. ♦

# Humor

## How self-obsessed are you?

You say your sponsor doesn't understand you, doesn't know how difficult life is for you. He or she wants you to work all those tiresome steps and then help others, for heaven's sake! Well, maybe your sponsor can't see that you're the one who needs the attention and help, but *we* understand. Yes, we've all been quite busy thinking about you, and we know what you need: a quiz to help you pinpoint the evidence you're collecting to prove—at last—that the world is revolving around you.

1. You're at your first NA dance and your sponsor has warned you about all the "vultures" that hang out at dances, just waiting to exploit newcomers. You:
  - a. start dancing, slowly and haltingly at first, then with abandon as you forget that everybody's looking at you.
  - b. look around the room for someone who looks as uncomfortable as you feel, walk up to him or her, and make friends.
  - c. scream "Get lost, you predator, you!" at the first person who comes anywhere near you.
2. You're trying out various approaches to spirituality to see which one works best for you. The one you're on now involves praying to a Higher Power. You:
  - a. look anxiously around the room to see if anyone might spot you doing this embarrassing thing.
  - b. ask for the knowledge of God's will for you and the power to carry it out.
  - c. first ask why you haven't gotten the things you asked for last week, then bestow forgiveness on your HP and say you have a few things to add, anyway.
3. You're talking to someone at a meeting and she reminds you of your second grade teacher, Mrs. Wattleboil. You slip and call the woman you're talking to Mrs. Wattleboil. Realizing your mistake, you:
  - a. apologize, adding that she reminds you of your warm and loving second grade teacher, Mrs. Wattleboil, then go on with your conversation.
  - b. blush, sweat profusely, explain that she reminds you of Mrs. Wattleboil, your second grade teacher, because of her pinched librarian look, oops, blush and sweat again, say that actually there's no resemblance at all, blush some more, sweat.
  - c. blush, apologize, excuse yourself, and then avoid the woman for the rest of your life. Move to a new area if you have to.
4. You want to share at a meeting and the format calls for raising your hand to be recognized. You've raised your hand between others' shares for the whole meeting and the chair hasn't called on you. It's now five minutes before the meeting ends, and the chair calls on someone else. You:
  - a. confront the chair after the meeting, talking about how "not validated" you felt until he squirms with discomfort. When he looks like he's ready to hit you or cry, go home stewing with resentment.
  - b. jump in after the other person is done sharing, holding the meeting hostage while you pontificate for twenty minutes and comment on everything everybody else said during the meeting. You have to set everybody straight about the way it's supposed to be done, after all.
  - c. figure you weren't meant to share that night and forget about it.
5. You want to change sponsors because:
  - a. the one you have relapsed.
  - b. the one you have moved far away and you don't think it's going to work for you if you don't run into your sponsor at meetings all the time. Picking up the phone (especially for a long-distance call) seems like it's beyond "any lengths."
  - c. you called your sponsor at one o'clock; it's now three-thirty, and she hasn't called you back yet. Doesn't she understand that you're having a feeling *right now*?
6. You had a fight with your partner before dinner, and you barely spoke while you were eating. After dinner, your partner heads for the door, saying she needs some diet soda. You:
  - a. follow her to see if she's telling the truth.
  - b. ask her to pick up some root beer for you.
  - c. move in with your mother.
7. After picking up your car from the mechanic and handing over a week's salary, you go to work and find out your least-favorite person has been named your supervisor. Then you go home and find out that the cats have relieved themselves on your new carpet. Then the telephone rings and it's someone selling discount meat. Just when you get rid of him, the electric company calls, telling you they'll need payment by the close of business tomorrow or your electricity will be disconnected. You:
  - a. scream until you lose your voice.
  - b. go to a meeting and find a newcomer to work with.
  - c. go to a meeting and tell everyone who will stand still and listen how awful your life is.
8. You're at your regional convention, and you've just been to the merchandise room. You left with:
  - a. one item for yourself and gifts for your sponsees and friends who couldn't afford to go to the convention.
  - b. everything—and a sick feeling in your stomach because it isn't enough.
  - c. everything—you could easily afford it all because you neglected to register for the convention.
9. You're asked to speak at a meeting of a twelve-step fellowship that you're not a member of; in fact, you've never even been to one of its meetings. You:
  - a. decline, and politely explain that your recovery is in NA and you can only carry an NA message at NA meetings.
  - b. ask how many people will be there, and if it seems to be enough, accept.
  - c. your voice dripping with disgust, exclaim "Of course not!" and tell the person who asked you that he's an evil being from an alternate universe who's poisoning the NA message by mentioning that "other program" in your presence.

10. Since you've been in recovery you have (circle all that apply):
- spoken at more conventions than you have months clean.
  - forgotten your mother's birthday.
  - served in, though not completed, more service positions than you have months clean.
  - gained five pounds and consequently refused to leave your house.
  - been in more relationships than you have years clean.
  - stayed outside more than one recovery meeting smoking, flirting, or arguing about service.
  - sponsored more newcomers than you have days clean.

## Scoring

- a-3 b-1 c-5
  - a-3 b-1 c-5
  - a-1 b-3 c-5
  - a-3 b-5 c-1
  - a-1 b-3 c-5
  - a-3 b-1 c-5
  - a-5 b-1 c-3
  - a-1 b-5 c-3
  - a-1 b-3 c-5
10. 1-2 circled answers: 3 points;  
3-5 answers: 6 points; 6 or more:  
9 points

## 9 points or less

You're a model of selflessness. In fact, are you sure you still have a self? You could benefit by taking a few more risks.

## 10 to 24 points

You're not extraordinarily self-obsessed, but you still think about yourself more than an adolescent boy thinks about sex. You should go buy a picture of a beach and draw an arrow pointing at one grain of sand with the words "you are here!"—just to get you in focus.

## 25 to 51 points

You are dangerously self-obsessed. You're so sure the world is revolving around you that you have your own weather satellite.

## 52 points or more

Not only are you the most self-obsessed person in the whole world, you must have looked at the answers to try to get the highest score (too bad you can't add numbers correctly!). Next time you're going to cheat, make sure you understand the quiz. ♦

# Do we deserve a convention?

by Judi M, GSR  
Regional H&I Chairperson  
Past Area Convention Chairperson

While attending a recent Northeast Zonal Forum meeting, I heard and took it to heart when an experienced member said, "An area or region that cannot carry out basic responsibilities does not deserve to have a convention."

Please don't misunderstand me. I love conventions. For the first few years of my recovery, I was a convention junkie. I still attend anywhere from three to six conventions a year. There is no describing the feeling experienced by a circle of addicts at the close of one of the main speaker meetings. On several occasions, I have come home after a convention and felt such a spiritual boost, it seemed like my recovery had been propelled forward a notch or two.

When I was chairperson of a convention, I researched and tapped into all the experience, strength, and hope of any convention committee members who were willing to take the time to share with me. I did the best I could to learn what to do and what not to do. Still, I made a lot of mistakes. Without guidelines and a set of operating procedures, we were sitting ducks for a scamming addict or a tax audit. I cannot be sure that the convention I chaired was not victimized. We didn't keep the best of records, and it's my personal belief that falsifying records happens a lot more often than out-and-out theft.

That particular convention raised more than \$10,000. It seemed to give the home groups the impression that we don't need donations since we have this convention. Donations have consistently gone down ever since the convention started. The purpose of a convention is to celebrate recovery, not to pay for essential services that carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

When I read the names of the officers of the executive committee and subcommittees from the last few conventions, I see that many of these members have significant clean time and experience on convention committees. This is good. However, there's another factor to be considered. Many of these members also have a

history of service in H&I and PI in our area, and they are still greatly needed on those committees. Don't misunderstand me. I don't believe we should dictate how an addict serves the fellowship. However, I do remember a time when we did not hesitate to pile into a car and support a neighboring area's event or meetings, a time when we would not hesitate to answer the phone late at night and make a twelve-step call to a suffering addict no matter where he or she lived. I remember when we would promptly and graciously return a call to a facility that was requesting some information about NA. I remember when we did whatever was needed to fulfill the clearance procedures of an institution and drove a long distance to carry a meeting to incarcerated addicts. I include myself when I say that it seems many of us could use a dose of humility and a thorough daily inventory.

In no way do I absolve myself of responsibility for the dilemma facing our area. I have been guilty of endorsing trusted servants with shady histories, hoping they had changed their ways, only to find out later that they had not. I have been guilty of allowing addicts with little or no experience in service to fend for themselves because I was too busy or too proud to help. I also take responsibility for leaving area service to serve at the regional level and then complaining from afar about what was going on at area.

I have made a decision to recommit to the area by taking a more productive approach and becoming part of the solution. I am currently the GSR of my home group. There are many ways to support our basic services. It just takes individuals willing to give of themselves. One thing that might help is to have each home group choose a member to be of service on the area H&I, PI, and phoneline committees. This has been successful in many NA groups across the nation.

I am very aware of the high energy and the many hours of work it takes to plan a convention. Please take the time to imagine the number of suffering addicts we could reach if we applied that same time and energy to more basic services. Imagine how high that point of freedom! Remember, the life-saving message of Narcotics Anonymous is best given through the atmosphere of recovery at our home groups and through our service-providing committees. Are we truly maintaining these services to the best of our ability? ♦

# SURVEY

## 1999 Fellowship Literature Survey Summary of Final Results

The World Board would like to extend our thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the 1999 fellowship literature survey. The survey was designed to get an initial general sense of what the fellowship would like to see in the development of and/or changes to our recovery literature. We think you will find the results interesting, and since we distributed the survey in English, French, Spanish, German, and Portuguese in the *NA Way*, we wanted to report back here to the many *NA Way* readers who responded.

It is worth saying that numbers alone can never tell the whole story when it comes to group conscience, especially as it relates to NA recovery literature. *This 1999 survey was not intended to be a ballot.* We hope these survey results will be used to further dialogue. The survey and its results represent one way to gather information which will form one basis for discussion and dialogue about fellowship priorities for recovery literature. We suggest that these survey results be considered as a first step in our effort to come together as addicts, crossing all cultural and geopolitical boundaries, in a spirit of goodwill to reach consensus about what literature priorities will best further our common welfare worldwide and our primary purpose.

Between March 1, 1999, and July 15, 1999, we received 2,339 total responses, of which 88% were English-language surveys and 12% were all other languages. This is very close to the percentage of meetings in English-speaking regions (89%) versus non-English-speaking regions and countries (11%), according to the breakdown of the 26,148 meetings in over 100 countries worldwide listed in the 1998 Annual Report of NAWs/WSO. 14% of the forms returned came from service committees and NA groups, and 79% came from individual NA members (8% did not specify). We asked about clean time to help us determine if the literature needs of our fellowship vary with length of time clean. We found that individual members who returned the survey had been clean as follows: 16% less than one year; 41% one to five years; 23% six to ten years; 14% eleven to fifteen years; and 4% over fifteen years.

### What New Literature Do We Need? (Table One)

The following are issues that have been discussed over the years as things some of our members have wanted to see as (1) new literature, and/or (2) revisions to some of our existing literature. We asked you to give us your opinion of how great our fellowship's need is for the following literature:

Topic	Very Much Needed (Ranked by %)	Needed, not a top priority	Not Needed	No Opinion	Combined % (and Rank)
Sponsorship	#1 (69%)	19%	6%	6%	#1 (88%)
What is spirituality?	#2 (56%)	24%	10%	10%	#4 (80%)
Practicing the principles of our traditions	#3 (54%)	29%	8%	9%	#2 (83%)
Service and recovery	#4 (51%)	32%	7%	11%	#3 (83%)
A piece discussing how NA is for everyone that will help newcomers focus on our similarities and not our differences	#5 (50%)	25%	11%	14%	#8 (75%)
Youth in recovery	#6 (50%)	27%	9%	14%	#5 (78%)
Relationships	#7 (47%)	29%	12%	12%	#7 (76%)
Recovery in day-to-day life	#8 (46%)	31%	12%	11%	#6 (77%)
A collection of personal stories that reflect a worldwide fellowship	#9 (32%)	36%	14%	18%	#9 (68%)
Racial and cultural diversity	#10 (30%)	29%	21%	21%	#11 (58%)
Seniors in recovery	#11 (29%)	34%	13%	23%	#10 (64%)
Revisions to the Basic Text	#12 (26%)	26%	30%	18%	#12 (52%)
Revisions to the Little White Book, Narcotics Anonymous	#13 (15%)	20%	44%	21%	#13 (35%)



The ranking of the items based on the "very much needed" percentage is somewhat arbitrary because the questionnaire did not explicitly ask respondents to rank these items, which would have been helpful. Also, the difference is within one to five percentage points for several items. Nonetheless, the revisions of the Basic Text and the Little White Book come out 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> either way. Also, note that only one item (sponsorship) is considered "very much needed" by more than two-thirds of all respondents. And only 6 of the 13 are considered "very much needed" by a majority of all respondents. However, when the items are ranked based on the combined percentage, 9 of 13 items are supported by more than two-thirds of respondents, and 12 of 13 items are supported by a majority. The follow-up questions about the Basic Text suggest that the fellowship is divided about making changes.

<b>Book One (Chapters 1-10)</b>	<b>Is OK as it is</b>	<b>Needs editing for grammar and consistency</b>	<b>Needs Content Changes</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>All Respondents</b>	44%	10%	38%	10%

When asked about adding a chapter on sponsorship, however, a slim majority (53%) of all respondents favored this option (compared to the 69% who said something about sponsorship is very much needed). Also, only a large minority (44%) favored adding a chapter about service. Moreover, only 18% of all respondents wanted to revise the existing material, and only 8% wanted other additions to the text.

However, a majority of 51% of all survey respondents favored changing Book Two by keeping some of the existing stories and adding some new stories. Only 13% of all respondents favored all new stories.

<b>Book Two (stories)</b>	<b>Is OK as is</b>	<b>Needs new stories to replace the old stories</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>All Respondents</b>	28%	58%	15%

We asked you how helpful the following types of formats are in carrying our message and you said:

<b>Very Helpful</b>	<b>Helpful</b>	<b>Not Helpful</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Format</b>
53%	35%	2%	11%	Information Pamphlets (IPs)
43%	38%	2%	16%	Booklets
53%	22%	2%	22%	Workbooks
39%	25%	3%	33%	Book-length pieces

The survey results also indicated large majorities of the respondents are opposed to changing our literature's appearance (59% against new designs, 61% against new colors, and 61% against new layouts).



This was not a scientific survey and the results have not been analyzed statistically to determine the significance of any differences, so no hard and fast conclusions should be drawn. There were slight differences between English and non-English respondents, among individuals based on length of clean time, and between individuals versus committee/group respondents. But the degree of similarity among all categories of respondents is more remarkable than any of the differences, particularly the ranking of sponsorship and spirituality in the top two items, with the same five items also ranked at the bottom. The responses to the Basic Text follow-up questions were also very consistent. All segments across the board show: (1) divided responses about changing Book One; (2) a bare majority wanting a chapter on sponsorship; (3) only a large minority favoring a chapter on service; and (4) almost no support for revising the existing ten chapters or adding other material.

Although the deadline for this survey has passed, the opportunity for input has not. This survey was designed to get an initial sense of what you wanted to see happen with recovery literature, and your answers have raised more questions. It's clear that future follow-up surveys will be needed. These results are one piece of input the World Board will use in our review of what type of proposals to develop for new literature, for possible revisions to the Basic Text, for the Little White Book, and for other existing recovery literature. A strategic Ten-Year Plan for literature development will be presented to the fellowship in the 2000 Conference Agenda Report as part of the "Motion 21" Project approved by the 1999 World Service Conference. Any input received between now and early November will be considered in the preparation of the draft plan. The fellowship will then be able to discuss and debate the CAR proposal from January 2000 until the April 2000 WSC. A more detailed analysis of the literature survey results is available at the WSO website ([www.na.org](http://www.na.org)) or upon request. Thanks again to all who participated.



# CALENDAR

This calendar contains only the events that the fellowship has given the WSO information about and requested that we publish. It should not be considered a complete list. Those with Internet access may find more information on these and other conventions at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org).

## ARGENTINA

**Buenos Aires:** 26-28 Nov. 1999; 12<sup>th</sup> Argentina Regional Convention; Mar del Plata; to reach committee, call: +54/11/43425464

## AUSTRALIA

**New South Wales:** 15-17 Oct. 1999; Sydney Combined Area Convention; to reach committee, call: +61/2/98821652

**2)** 28-30 Jan. 2000; Far North Coast Area Convention; Byron Bay; to reach committee, call: +61/2/66847347

**3)** 29 Sep – 1 Oct. 2000; Sydney Combined Area Convention; to reach committee, write: 272 Victoria Avenue, Suite 366, Chatswood 2067, NSW, Australia

## BRAZIL

**Mina Gerais:** 21-24 Oct. 1999; 10<sup>th</sup> Brazil Regional Convention; to reach committee, call: +55/21/532158

## CANADA

**Alberta:** 8-10 Oct. 1999; 13<sup>th</sup> Alsask Regional Convention; Highlander Hotel, Calgary; mention ARCNA-13 for hotel rsvns: (403) 289-1961

**British Columbia:** 26-28 May 2000; 3<sup>rd</sup> Victoria Convention; at Esquimalt Recreation Center, 527 Fraser Street, Victoria; to reach committee, call: (250) 744-2050

**2)** 20-22 Oct. 2000; 23<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Northwest Regional Convention; Vancouver; to reach committee, call: (604) 434-7950; or write: PNWCNA-23, #220 – 3495 Cambie Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Z 4R3

**Nova Scotia:** 5-7 Nov. 1999; 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Convention; Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax; hotel rsvns: (902) 423-6331 or (800) 565-2020; to reach committee, call: (902) 463-2605

**Ontario:** 30 Dec. 1999 – 2 Jan. 2000; Turn of the Century Convention of NA; Waterloo Motor Inn; mention NA for hotel rsvns: (800) 361-4708; to reach committee, write: TCCNA, 170 University Ave. West, Suite 12, Box 267, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3E9

**Quebec:** 8-10 Oct. 1999; Quebec Regional Convention; Delta Hotel, Sherbrooke; mention "GPANON" for hotel rsvns: (819) 822-1989; to reach committee, call: (514) 955-5023

## DENMARK

**North Jutland:** 1-3 Oct. 1999; North Jutland Area Convention "Together We Can"; to reach committee, call: +45/96904574

## ECUADOR

**Guayaquil:** 30 Oct. – 2 Nov. 1999; 4<sup>th</sup> Latin American Conference and Convention; to reach committee, call: +593/4/884057 or +593/4/888685; fax: +593/4/884065

## GREECE

**Central Greece:** 1-3 Oct. 1999; 3<sup>rd</sup> Panhellenic Convention; Costa Perla Hotel, Ermioni, Argolida; to reach committee, call: +30/94/510048 or +30/94/283132 or +30/94/330350

## INDIA

**Calcutta:** 3-5 Dec. 1999; 3<sup>rd</sup> Calcutta Area Convention; Sagar Island; to reach committee, write: CACNA, Box 9146, Park Street, Calcutta 700 016, India

## JAPAN

**Honshu:** 21-26 Mar. 2000; 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Convention combined with 1<sup>st</sup> Japan Regional Convention; National Olympic Memorial Youth Center, Tokyo; *more will be revealed*

## MEXICO

**Baja California Norte:** 8-10 Oct. 1999; 7<sup>th</sup> Baja California Convention; Grand Hotel, Tijuana; hotel rsvns from USA: (800) 472-6385 or from Mexico: 91/800/0266007; to reach committee, call in the USA: (619) 277-6438 or in Mexico: 66/802370

## NEW ZEALAND

**North Island:** 29 Dec 1999 - 2 Jan 2000; Convention at Riverbend Camp, Hawkes Bay, Auckland, New Zealand; to reach committee, call: +64/6/8432330 +64/6/3561592

## PERU

**Lima:** 14 Nov. 1999; 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion-Lima; La Punta, Callao; to reach committee, call: +51/1/9957841

## SWEDEN

**Gothenburg:** 3-5 March 2000; 13<sup>th</sup> Swedish Regional Convention "Fri Att Leva" (Free to Live); Gothenburg; to reach committee, call: +46/31/7757540 or +46/31/186518; or write: GOCNA, PO Box 7223, S-402 34, Göteborg, Sweden

## SWITZERLAND

**Vaud:** 28-30 July 2000; 17<sup>th</sup> European Convention and Conference; Lausanne; to reach committee, call: +41/22/7000335

## WEST INDIES

**Bahamas:** 5-7 Nov. 1999; Bahamas Area Service Committee Presents "Celebration-XII", Nassau Marriott Crystal Palace Resort, Cable Beach; hotel rsvns: (242) 327-6200; to reach committee, call: (242) 326-1428 or (242) 324-2942

## UNITED STATES

**Alabama:** 1-3 Oct. 1999; Alabama/Northwest Florida Region presents Surrender 1999—A Spiritual Retreat; Cheaha State Park; to reach committee, call: (205) 933-5078

**2)** 26-28 Nov. 1999; 6<sup>th</sup> Greater Birmingham Convention; Marriott Hotel, Birmingham; to reach committee, e-mail: [light112@aol.com](mailto:light112@aol.com)

**3)** 18-20 Feb. 2000; North Alabama Area Convention; Decatur Holiday Inn; hotel rsvns: (800) HOLIDAY or (256) 355-3150; to reach committee, call: (256) 851-0525 or (256) 383-3512 or (256) 767-5837

**Alaska:** 15-17 Oct. 1999; 15<sup>th</sup> Alaska Regional Convention; Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel; hotel rsvns: (800) 880-3880; to reach committee, call: (907) 337-6773 or (907) 245-2332

**Arizona:** 3 Oct. 1999; East Valley Area 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Blues Festival; Kiwanis Park, Tempe; to reach committee, call: (480) 927-9443 or (480) 833-3604 or (480) 833-4925

**California:** 22-24 Oct. 1999; 20<sup>th</sup> Southern California Regional Convention; Ontario Convention Center; to reach committee, call: (714) 295-2030 or (626) 339-5941 or (626) 960-8157

**2)** 29 Oct. 1999; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; to reach committee, call: (760) 323-0169

**3)** 19-21 Nov. 1999; Western Service Learning Days; Burbank Hilton; hotel rsvns: (800) HILTONS or (818) 843-6000; to reach committee, call (626) 791-4235 or (213) 757-9100

**4)** 26 Nov. 1999; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; to reach committee, call: (760) 323-0169

**5)** 31 Dec. 1999; The Just For Today Y2K New Year's Event; put on by the Contra Costa, Greater San Jose, Mission Peak, Monterey Peninsula, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco areas; San Jose Civic Auditorium; to reach committee, call: (408) 379-8724 or (650) 424-8232 or (408) 294-6372

**6)** 20-23 Apr. 2000; Northern California Regional Convention; for more information, call: (408) 972-1451

**7)** 9-11 June 2000; California Mid-State Regional Convention; Modesto; to reach committee, call: (209) 578-4417

**Connecticut:** 7-9 Jan. 2000; 15<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regional Convention; to reach convention information, call: (860) 346-8832 before 10 pm EST or (860) 956-8230

**Delaware:** 10-12 Mar. 2000; Small Wonder Area's SWACNA IV; Wyndham Garden Hotel, Wilmington; *more will be revealed*

**Florida:** 22-24 Oct. 1999; 1st Mid-Coast Area Convention; to reach committee, call: (561) 272-5999

**2)** 29-31 Oct. 1999; 5<sup>th</sup> Uncoast Area Convention; Adam's Mark Hotel, Daytona Beach; hotel rsvns: (904) 254-8200; to reach committee, call: (352) 381-2903 or (352) 332-8281

**3)** 12-14 Nov. 1999; 3<sup>rd</sup> South Florida Rainbow Weekend; Clarion Hotel, Hollywood Beach; to reach committee, call: (954) 760-4130 or (954) 409-2176 or (954) 768-9748

**4)** 18-21 Nov. 1999; 18<sup>th</sup> Serenity in the Sun; Sheraton West Palm Beach; hotel rsvns: (800) 325-3535; to reach committee, call: (561) 630-6446 or (561) 640-0569

**5)** 18-20 Feb. 2000; 18<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Unity Convention; Four Points Hotel; hotel rsvns: (407) 859-2711 or (800) 325-3535; to reach committee, call: (407) 977-8623 or (407) 423-3118

**6)** 3-13 July 2000; NA Millennium cruise to WCNA-28; sponsored by Northside Stroll Group of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Cruise leaves from Ft. Lauderdale; for more info, call: (800) 688-8033

**Hawaii:** 4-7 Nov. 1999; Hawaii Regional Convention; Maui; to reach registration committee, call: (808) 280-6363 or (800) 344-6284 ext. 160

**Idaho:** 31 Mar. - 2 Apr. 2000; 11<sup>th</sup> So. Idaho Regional Convention; Weston Inn, Twin Falls; hotel rsvns: (208) 733-6095; to reach committee, call: (208) 736-1160

**Illinois:** 16 Oct. 1999; Wisconsin Region hosts a Multiregional PI Learning Day; to reach committee, call: (815) 964-2820

**2)** 12-14 Nov. 1999; 3<sup>rd</sup> Greater Illinois Regional Convention; Holiday Inn East, Springfield; hotel rsvns: (217) 529-7171; to reach committee, call: (217) 522-9906

**3)** February 2000, exact date not yet determined; 4<sup>th</sup> Joliet Area Convention; to reach committee, call: (708) 848-2211; speaker tapes wanted, send to: JACNA-IV, PO Box 336, Joliet, IL 60436

**Indiana:** 3-5 Mar. 2000; 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana State Convention; Holiday Inn, Terre Haute; hotel rsvns: (812) 232-1682; to reach committee, call: (812) 882-1523 or (812) 466-1463

**Kentucky:** 14-16 Jan. 2000; Louisville Area Convention; Sielbach Hilton; to reach committee, call: (502) 775-8154

**Louisiana:** 26-28 May 2000; 18<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Regional Convention; Radisson Hotel, New Orleans; mention "LRNA" for hotel rsvns: (800) 333-3333 or (504) 522-4500; to reach committee, call: (504) 821-3867 or (504) 843-4984

**Maryland:** 5-7 Nov. 1999; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ocean Gateway Area Convention; Sheraton Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City; hotel rsvns: (800) 638-2100; to reach committee, call: (410) 219-5837 or (410) 208-0339

**Michigan:** 12-14 Nov. 1999; 8<sup>th</sup> Kalamazoo Area Convention; Clarion Hotel, Kalamazoo; hotel rsvns: (800) 750-3697; to reach committee, call: (616) 385-2822 or (616) 628-5342

**Mississippi:** 1-3 Oct. 1999; 17<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Regional Convention; Lake Tiak-O-Khata, Louisville; hotel rsvns: (888) 845-6151; to reach committee, call: (662) 423-3328

**2)** 19-21 Nov. 1999; Surrender by the Seashore; Gulfport; to reach committee, call: (228) 392-3852

**Montana:** 11-13 Feb 2000; Cabin Fever Prevention Convention; Lake Ozark; to reach committee, write: Cabin Fever, PO Box 7114, Jefferson City, MO 65109

**Nebraska:** 8-10 Oct. 1999; 16<sup>th</sup> Nebraska Regional Convention; New World Inn, Columbus; hotel rsvns: (800) 433-1492; to reach committee, call: (402) 564-9322

**Nevada:** 1-3 Oct. 1999; 7<sup>th</sup> Sierra Sage Regional Convention; Atlantis Hotel Casino, Reno; to reach committee, call: (775) 746-9357 or (775) 356-9217 or (775) 972-4461

**New Jersey:** 5-7 Nov. 1999; 5<sup>th</sup> North East New Jersey Area Convention; Sheraton Hotel, Frontage Road, Newark, NJ; to reach committee, call: (732) 236-0204 or (908) 351-0406

**2)** 26-28 May 2000; 15<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Regional Convention; Four Points Sheraton, Cherry Hill; hotel rsvns: (800) 257-8262 or (609) 428-2300; to reach committee, call: (609) 259-0006

**New York:** 15-17 Oct. 1999; 4<sup>th</sup> Western New York Regional Convention "Eighth Wonder of the World"; Fallside Resort, Niagara Falls; for hotel rsvns, call: (800) 519-9911 or (716) 285-2541; to reach committee, call: (716) 863-9813

**2)** 19-21 Nov. 1999; 1st Eastern New York Regional Convention "Wecovery in the East"; Crowne Plaza Hotel; to reach committee, call: (718) 527-5473

**3)** 17-19 Mar. 2000; 6<sup>th</sup> Rochester Area Convention; Hyatt Regency Hotel, Rochester; hotel rsvns: (800) 233-1234; to reach committee, call: (716) 544-9794 or (716) 342-3434

**North Carolina:** 1-3 Oct. 1999; Central Piedmont Area Convention; Holiday Inn, Salisbury; hotel rsvns: (704) 637-3100; to reach committee, call: (704) 795-4733

**Ohio:** 26-28 Nov. 1999; Greater Cincinnati Area Convention; Regal Cincinnati Hotel; hotel rsvns: (800) 876-2100 or (513) 352-2100; to reach committee, call: (513) 281-5654

**2)** 7-9 January 2000; Central Ohio Area Convention; Radisson North, Columbus; hotel rsvns: (614) 846-0300; to reach committee, call: (614) 338-1713

**3)** 26-28 May 2000; 18<sup>th</sup> Ohio Convention; Holiday Inn, Lima; hotel rsvns: (419) 222-0004; to reach committee, call: (937) 461-4313 or (937) 274-3380

**4)** 7-9 July 2000; Dayton Area Convention; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton; hotel rsvns: (800) 2CROWNE; to reach committee, call: (937) 237-0037

**Pennsylvania:** 19-21 Nov. 1999; "Start to Live XVII" Tri-State Regional Convention; Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion; to reach committee, call: (412) 771-0240

**2)** 26-28 Nov. 1999; Greater Philadelphia Region's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; Ramada Plaza Hotel, Wilkes-Barre; to reach committee, call: (570) 287-0728

**3)** 26-28 Nov 1999; Beehive Area Ten-Year Birthday Convention; Ramada Plaza Hotel, Wilkes-Barre; to reach committee, call: (570) 287-0728

**4)** 21-23 Jan. 2000; 6<sup>th</sup> Bucks County Area Convention; Sheraton Bucks County Hotel; hotel rsvns: (215) 547-4100; to reach committee, call: (215) 357-6536 or (215) 244-1218

**South Carolina:** 8-10 Oct. 1999; HOW-II Convention; Quality Hotel and Convention Center, Spartanburg; hotel rsvns: (864) 503-0780; to reach committee, call: (864) 587-7142 or (864) 574-4815 or (864) 583-0183 or (864) 542-1635

**Tennessee:** 24-28 Nov. 1999; 17<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Regional Convention; Sheraton Music Center Hotel, Nashville; to reach committee, call: (615) 742-1811

**Texas:** 1-3 Oct 1999; EANA Area "Frolic in The Woods" at Garner State Park; to reach committee, call: (210) 434-0665, outside San Antonio (800) 221-9091

**2)** 25-27 Feb. 2000; 16<sup>th</sup> Texarkana Area Convention; Four Points Sheraton, Texarkana; hotel rsvns: (903) 792-3222; to reach committee, call: (903) 792-4187 or (870) 773-4604

**3)** 10-12 Mar. 2000; 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Convention; Hotel Sofitel, Houston; hotel rsvns: (800) SOFITEL; to reach committee, call: (713) 773-2223

**4)** 21-23 Apr. 2000; 15<sup>th</sup> Lone Star Regional Convention; Hyatt Reunion, Downtown Dallas; hotel rsvns: (800) 233-1234 or (214) 651-1234; for more information, call: (800) 747-8972 or (972) 245-8972

**Vermont:** 29-31 Oct. 1999; 10<sup>th</sup> Champlain Valley Area Convention; Ramada Inn, South Burlington; mention "CVACNA" for hotel rsvns: (802) 658-0250; to reach committee, call: (802) 862-4516

**Washington:** 15-17 Oct. 1999; 22<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Northwest Convention; Sheraton Tacoma; hotel rsvns: (253) 572-3200; to reach committee, call: (206) 382-0534

**2)** 5-6 Nov. 1999; North Puget Sound Area Hosts H&I Learning Days; to reach committee, call: (360) 293-9531

**West Virginia:** 5-7 Nov. 1999; True Colors '99; Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley; to reach committee, call: (304) 776-1929 or (304) 746-2949

**Wisconsin:** 22-24 Oct. 1999; 16<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin State Convention; Yacht Club Resort, LaCrosse; hotel rsvns: (608) 785-9400; to reach committee, call: (608) 785-3255 or (608) 787-0156 or (608) 788-9634

## NAWS NEEDS YOU!!!



Here's your opportunity to give back what was so freely given to you!!! Help build the World Pool by sending in your service resume. Trusted servants for WS projects and elections will come from this pool. You can reach us by letter, phone, e-mail, or visit our web site at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org) to request your resume form.



**January 2000 NA Way**

Deadline (manuscripts in to WSO):  
**Monday 4 October 1999**

Theme: Selfless Service

- Giving it away in order to keep it. What are we giving and what do we keep?
- Just because we're supposed to serve without expecting recognition or reward, do we have to put up with constant criticism from the people we serve? How does NA treat the people who do service?
- Personal experience with over-inflated ego, control, and manipulation; how have you grown in recovery in the area of doing service? How has doing service enhanced your recovery?
- I have lots more clean time than others in my area and at ASC they (a) ignore me and continuously reinvent the wheel, (b) worship me and let me make all the decisions. How do I stay involved in service without losing my mind?
- Our meetings don't have GSRs, H&I commitments go undone because there's nobody willing, and phonenumber slots are empty. How do we get people involved?
- Who's watching NA's money? How does your group or service committee protect Seventh Tradition funds?
- Electing the right people for the right service positions. What do members need to consider and how should it be handled?

**April 2000 NA Way**

Deadline (manuscripts in to WSO):  
**Friday 31 December 1999**

Theme: NA Worldwide

- Unity and autonomy: What do they mean in a worldwide fellowship?
- When and how does group autonomy affect other groups or NA as a whole?
- NA recovery literature and the local culture (i.e., what do you mean, "We are under no surveillance at any time?" Our country is a police state.) How much leeway should NA literature translations have?
- What's it like to recover in *your* part of the world?
- How has your NA community changed over the past five or ten years?
- What does your NA community do to celebrate recovery? Conventions, etc.? What kinds of activities do they include?

**July 2000 NA Way**

Deadline (manuscripts in to WSO):  
**Friday 31 March 2000**

Theme: The Voice of NA

- What can NA do to make sure its voice is heard by members who don't hear, don't see, can't get to regular meetings, can't read, etc.?
- How has NA's collective "voice" changed since you've been around? Are the changes good or bad?
- What does the voice of NA say to both newcomers and old-timers?
- How do we ensure that the voices of members who can't/don't participate in the service structure are heard? (For example, how should an institutional group—whose members cannot leave the institution to attend service meetings—be represented in the group conscience?)
- Where should NA make the most effort to ensure that its voice is heard? Among addicts? Professional or governmental forums? In the media?

# Home Group

