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Cover artwork created for the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous 31 held in Honolulu, Hawaii, 1-4 September 2005.

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

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

This photo, submitted by Chris M, is from the Crippled Dog Group, a Monday night round-robin candlelight participation meeting on the East side of Hollywood, California. The group has been meeting for twelve years. It is especially attractive to newcomers because of the serene, welcoming atmosphere.



Atmosphere of recovery

We hope the July 2005 NA Way article on the subject of "atmosphere of recovery" inspired discussions in group business meetings. Many may have identified things their groups could do to create a safe, inviting, and warm atmosphere for members. In this issue, we continue this discussion with a focus on what each of us can do in our groups and in our service to nurture that recovery atmosphere.

How might the picture in this article speak to an atmosphere of recovery? How could the meeting environment in this picture say "welcome"? The meeting set-up appears structured, which may provide a sense of safety and security for our members. The meeting atmosphere seems to say, "We care," and it indicates that members took time to set up the meeting space. And the picture may express tranquility and serenity. Understandably, this picture may not "speak" to you in the same manner it does to those who regularly attend this NA meeting, but the goal for its members is to create and maintain a meeting environment that provides a recovery atmosphere.

As many of us may have learned, there are numerous ways to create an atmosphere of recovery. The layout of the meeting is one aspect. We all may be able to distinguish the difference between a meeting with chairs that are carefully positioned in rows or a circle, and a meeting where chairs are haphazardly scattered about. In the meeting with carefully positioned chairs, we may consider that members took pride in the meeting set-up, while the haphazardly placed chairs could be the product of a hurried and uncaring approach. Which one, do you think, speaks to members in a more inviting way?

We may also consider the meeting itself. Some of us might attend meetings where members share their solutions, speak of being grateful, mention working the steps, and talk about their connection to a sponsor and recovery friends. Then again, we may attend meetings where members complain and drama spreads throughout the meeting room. Practical solutions, working the steps, and "sponsor" are words that are hardly ever uttered at these meetings. Which one sounds more like an atmosphere of recovery?

Granted, there will be times when groups go through difficult phases when the message of recovery and hope can get lost in chaos or confusion. This is when we will want to take additional time in our business meetings to ask ourselves, "What is going on?" and "What happened?" A drop in meeting attendance often indicates that the atmosphere of the meeting has changed. Then again, a change in the members who attend a meeting could also result in a change in the recovery atmosphere.

We may find a meeting atmosphere that is so welcoming to the newcomer that members with more recovery experience seem to vanish. This is the extreme example; however, in creating an atmosphere of recovery, do we consider that meetings need both new and experienced members? Our literature certainly informs us that experienced members can only keep what they have by giving it away—that, no matter what is going on in their lives, whether they have worked all twelve steps or not, these experienced members meet life on its terms without using drugs. On the other hand, the refreshing words of new members can help the experienced member as well. After a newcomer shares, it's not uncommon to hear experienced members comment, "That is just what I needed to hear." It seems to make sense that a recovery atmosphere is achieved with a blend of both new and experienced members.

When members share in meetings, are they speaking about their experience, strength, and hope, or are they lecturing, speaking pompously, or just trying to sound good? Our literature lets us know that our experience with living life without drugs is the message we have

to share. It rings true and speaks to the hearts of addicts in every meeting.

In our business meetings, do we have committed, stable members who participate? We may wonder what a group business meeting has to do with an atmosphere of recovery. The group is responsible for setting the tone and recovery environment, which is often decided upon in the group's business meetings. Members discuss matters that affect the group and its ability to carry the message of recovery. Sometimes, for instance, a trusted servant may want to continue their group position beyond the end of its term. We then have to consider whether that would be in the group's best interests, or if including others would be a positive step in the growth of the group. To assist our newer trusted servants, group members may provide written materials to help them succeed in their new role. Taking time to train and acquaint our trusted servants with their responsibilities helps them be prepared, feel confident, and better serve the group. This improves the atmosphere of recovery.

Actions of selfless service help to promote an atmosphere of recovery in every meeting. Think about creating and maintaining an atmosphere of recovery in our groups, and then extending those same actions to an area service committee meeting. What would an area meeting look and feel like if it was infused with a recovery atmosphere? We often say we need to take our recovery with us everywhere we go and into all our interactions. Let's take our recovery and our group practices to the area service committee and help create a strong recovery atmosphere there. What better way to help us support our common welfare, generate unity of purpose, and enable us to better carry the message to the addict who still suffers?



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My first NA convention

The Tenth Peruvian Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, held in Arequipa from 14 May through 16 May 2004, was my first convention. When I arrived to the bus station on Thursday morning, the atmosphere was very lively and festive. About forty of us traveled on a bus chartered by our local NA community. My fellow member, Ana, from Trujillo, which is 500 kilometers to the north, became my first friend on the trip. We shared during the journey, which lasted nineteen hours and covered 1,000 kilometers. It was enjoyable and novel, as our experiences contrasted. She was an oldtimer in recovery, and I am still a tender newcomer in spite of being fifty-four years old. I was probably twenty years older than her.



Beto, the chairperson of the convention committee, traveled with us. He asked all of us to write on a piece of paper what we wanted and expected from the convention. I wrote that I wanted to receive gifts for my recovery, and that I wanted the convention theme, "United for Our Common Welfare," to become a reality.

We arrived in Arequipa on Friday at around 4:00 pm. We checked in at the convent where we were to stay for the next three days. It was a peaceful place with all the necessary comforts and a beautiful view of the city next to the Misti volcano. That evening, the convention started, and the different NA communities in attendance were introduced. We had dinner and listened to two speakers, and then ended the night with two recovery meetings.

On Saturday, members continued registering, and several meetings were held on topics like hospitals and institutions, powerlessness and unmanageable behavior, God as we understand him, defects of character and acceptance, willingness to change, and (of course) "united for our common welfare," the convention theme. Afterward, clean time and recovery chips were handed out. I gave a two-month chip to Ramon, who granted me the honor to do so, and it coincided with my seventeen-month clean day. Different items were auctioned, even the convention banner, which was purchased by a native from Arequipa who now lives with her husband in Mexico. She took with her this unforgettable souvenir, signed by the majority of the attendees.

I collected over forty commentaries from different convention participants, with words that are so wonderful that this is an invaluable document. It is a treasure that refreshes memories and helps me relive those moments and encounters I had with the very precious people I met there. It was truly an unbelievable experience!

Sunday morning, we were nearing the closing of the convention, and you could perceive the melancholy amongst the members. In the morning, there were simultaneous meetings. The last speaker was one of the founders of NA in Peru, who shared about

spiritual awakening, prayer, and meditation. He and other members started NA in Peru eighteen years ago. The Peruvian NA community sold literature and souvenirs during the whole event, and on the final morning, other regions sold merchandise.

Finally, on the bus trip back home, Beto asked us to briefly explain what we all got from the convention. I wrote that I had been given new friends—more than I had ever thought possible. I now had better friendships with home group members and with people from other groups in my native city of Lima. I had new friends from other groups in the region and from other countries. We exchanged email addresses so we could stay in touch.

I also wrote that I decided doing service in a more active and organized manner will help me in my recovery. I believe that practicing the NA program for my recovery and spiritual growth means that without NA, there are no steps. Without the steps, there is no recovery. Without recovery, there is no service. And without service, there is no NA.

All these gifts exceeded my expectations, and they made me so happy that I am already thinking about attending the Regional Assembly and next year's convention. I am also thinking about my service work in my home group and my area. Thank you, Higher Power, for everything you have given me!

Arturo V, Lima, Peru

Keep coming back

There is a very good reason that you hear “keep coming back” over and over, every time you go to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. For one, most of us have to keep coming back for a very long time before we are able to hear the message. The message is hope, and the only promise is freedom, freedom from active addiction.

In the very beginning, it all sounds real crazy, or it did to me. It took a long time for me to figure out that I was just trying to complicate it. The reason I kept hear-

ing “keep coming back” is because there is no way to understand the disease of addiction in a whole lifetime, but if I come to meetings long enough, I become open-minded enough to hear what you have been saying to me since the first time I walked through the door.

I had just enough faith to get me through

I am not one of those who says “ninety meetings in ninety days.” I heard all the things you told me from the first time I came, but I heard it with a closed mind. The way I complicate things, it's hard enough to let your ideas into my mind when it's open. I did not follow all the suggestions, but I did give myself a break, and I had just enough faith to get me through until I could see some things change around me.

Having faith isn't an easy thing to do, either. I'm not sure why. I always had faith in the dope man, or the doctor, or whom-ever I trusted to bring my dope back to me when I sent him off with my money. I think, now, that I was not trustworthy, so I was afraid to trust others. Now I know that the small amount of trust and faith I put into you was well worth it.

“Keep coming back” is one of my favorite sayings. It let me know I had someone to turn to, even if I didn't want to. When I didn't understand what I was going through, you did, and you loved me through it.

It takes a long time to realize why you'd even want to do something different with your life, but if you just have a little faith, and if you keep coming back, you'll begin to understand for yourself. But the first thing you have to do is to not use, and “Keep Coming Back!”

Carol Y, Alabama, USA

Hitting my knees

I want to share an experience of mine that I thought might help someone else, because it's really helped me with the ego-and-pride issue, and that's been a stumbling block for me.

My sponsor is big on hitting your knees, but for my first thirty days clean, I fought that hard. I would pray in every position but that one. I had to stop and ask myself, “What is the problem? It seems like such a small thing; why can't I do it?”

Well, the first time I tried it, I hit my knee so hard on the bed railing that I literally couldn't hit my knees! Don't you know, I used that as an excuse for another week not to do it?

Eventually, God helped me realize that the reason I wouldn't hit my knees was my ego and pride. That simple act meant bowing down to a higher power and relinquishing control to someone else: God. And believe me, that's a lot easier than giving it to any one person, because my ego tells me that if I can't have it, you aren't getting it.

For me, it works because I get up with the same head full of the same thoughts every day, and hitting my knees starts the day with a little less ego and pride and a little more humility, of which I am definitely in need. I know that three months ago it was a lot worse, so there is progress—but never as much as I like to think, and certainly never as much as I want. But just the fact that I've seen progress at all is a huge accomplishment for me, and I've learned in this program that I can live with that, just for today.

I'll never be completely free of my ego and pride or any of my other character defects, because if I were I would be perfect, which means I would be cured—and I'll never be cured. But my disease is in remission. I will wake up one day and, instead of me feeling “less than,” my character defects will be “less than.” And that's faith to me: the assurance of things hoped for but not seen.

Deborah D, Pennsylvania, USA



Just a working guy buying groceries

I think of the times when I brought my burdens and problems to a meeting because they were too big to carry, even with the help of my sponsor and my support group. It has turned out, then, that the larger number who helped carry these burdens made them bearable and the problems solvable. In order to help achieve balance, I keep alert to the good and growing parts of recovery that come to me.

Well, about four weeks ago, with just over eight months clean, I picked up my paycheck at the construction site, went to the bank to cash it, and went across the street to a supermarket and bought groceries. From there, I went home, had supper, and went to a meeting. After the meeting, I stopped in at another supermarket to pick up a few things that the first one was out of.

Suddenly, I was struck by the realization that, here it was, between 9:00 and 10:00 pm on a payday Friday, and I'd done nothing but positive things without a single thought of using—not because I was "supposed to," but because it seemed to be the most natural thing to do.

Sure, I have cravings now and then and resort to my "just for today" thoughts to get through them—but not that evening. So, I went home in a joyous state after convincing myself that it wouldn't be a good idea to jump on the check-out counter and shout out my joy to everyone.

The next morning, however, I went to a 9:00 am meeting and told the story—with a lot of arm waving and joyous abandon.

Peter W, British Columbia, Canada

Recovery in action

In the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous, we experience recovery in action. This action is that of our members—whether they are young in recovery or have the rewards of staying clean for various amounts of time—sharing their experience, hope, and faith with others at the meetings. Although some of the people in attendance do not hear the whole message, some pick up just enough to carry them through that day and, I hope, on to another meeting. I reflect back on myself in early recovery, when I was not truly able to understand all that was being shared, but I heard a word here and there that allowed me to stay clean, just for one more day.

***Greeting others
with a warm hug
makes all addicts feel
welcome—not only
the newcomer, but the
addict who has been
around for a while.***

All of the sharing at a meeting may not have to do with the topics set forth. We speak of the issues that come up for us, personally, that either twisted our thinking back to the way it was in our active addiction or allowed us to look at what we had heard at another meeting that kept us clean. It is of the utmost importance to tell on our disease, but it is equally important to tell how our recovery today has helped us deal with life on life's terms. I have found that by listening, I gain a great deal. If the person sharing is speaking from their heart, the message is there for me to take. After all, we only keep what we have by giving it away. Learn from the mistakes of others, and you probably won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Another action in recovery we can experience is being responsible. When we are new, we can become responsible by reading at the beginning of the meeting. If we are too shy for that, we can help after the meeting closes by helping put away the chairs. As we progress in cleantime, and as the fear of reading goes away, then we can read. No one will laugh if we find some of the words hard to pronounce. They will only show empathy. Action can be taken with the willingness to make coffee, or help set up chairs and tables for the meeting, or help put out the literature.

Greeting others with a warm hug makes all addicts feel welcome—not only the newcomer, but the addict who has been around for a while. Think of a person visiting from another area. How do they feel when they walk into a meeting place where they don't know anyone? Yes, we can make a big difference with small actions.

As we progress in our recovery, we can become responsible to our group by going to area service committee meetings and carrying information back to our group. Most groups have a group service representative, and these GSRs usually welcome other group members who want to accompany them to area meetings. This is a great learning tool for a future service position within our group or elsewhere in the service structure.

To answer the question "What can I do?" our first goal is to stay clean, but it seems to elude some of us that our simple sharing can be helpful to others who may be struggling.

Larry F, Ontario, Canada

From the editor

I am excited and grateful to introduce myself to *NA Way* readers. Since this is my first issue as the new editor, I want to let you know a little bit about myself and how I look forward to working with you to create our fellowship's international journal of recovery.

Just under twenty years ago, I designed my first NA event flyer for a public information learning day in the area where I "grew up" in recovery. When I nervously presented it to the PI subcommittee, a more experienced member gently corrected my errors—including the fact that I hadn't placed an ® next to the NA symbol! At the end of the meeting, instead of feeling embarrassed about my mistakes, I felt a lot like I do after an NA meeting—better because of what I'd shared, heard, and learned from others.

Today I look back at that experience and at the many others that have led me to exactly the place I am supposed to be. I am grateful that more experienced NA members helped me stay excited about service and learn—sometimes through difficult lessons—what it really means to serve. My first sponsor defined "trusted servant" for me, and my service experience continues to deepen my understanding of this concept.

Coupled with NA service, I learned through a career in nonprofit management about the concept of stewardship—that in serving others, I am responsible for maintaining and improving what was developed before me to ensure that others may enjoy it in the future. Our previous editor, Nancy S, did an outstanding job of compiling our members' contributions into an entertaining and inspiring publication. I am grateful to her for what she taught me as a co-worker and fellow recovering addict, and for the work she did to make *The NA Way* what it is today. I am enthusiastic about building upon this foundation to better serve our fellowship.

The rest of the *NA Way* team includes our dedicated editorial advisory board, copy editors and NAWS staff, the World Board, and—most importantly—NA members like you from around the world who share experience, strength, hope, opinions, and humor with the NA Fellowship. My goal is to serve as an able steward of our magazine, but it is all of you who create this magazine for our fellowship.

As is explained in the *NA Way* mission statement: *The NA Way Magazine... belongs to the members of Narcotics Anonymous. 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."*

De J, Editor

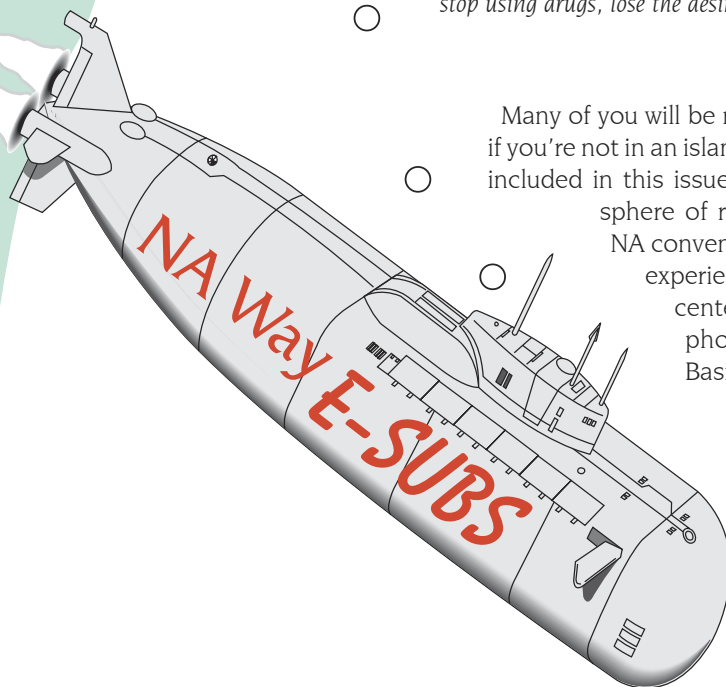
Many of you will be reading this at WCNA-31 in Hawaii! Even if you're not in an island paradise, enjoy the wonderful recovery included in this issue. We have another article on the atmosphere of recovery, a story about a member's first NA convention, and some great sharing of recovery experiences. And don't miss the "Picture This" centerfold, where we feature some beautiful photographs and vital information on the Basic Text project.

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On medication

I am writing in response to Kenny M ("What is it About Opinions?" April 2005) and Bruce W ("What is it About Medication?" January 2005). It is true that Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; however, this does not imply that individual addicts/members of NA do not have opinions on outside issues. I agree that these opinions do not belong inside NA meetings, but this does not mean that I (or any other member) do not have them. I, too, came to NA and found working the steps and following the suggestions of the program (including, but not limited to, complete abstinence from all mood- and mind-altering chemicals) made life manageable and even enjoyable. It took me many years in the program to admit that I deal with a chemical imbalance within me that no part of NA can fix.

I am an NA purist. I believe NA is the only program I need to help me with the disease of addiction. I have even been accused of being an NA "Nazi" because I do not believe that anything other than NA needs to be addressed or even referred to in an NA meeting. I dealt with my problems strictly through NA for many years, even though my sponsor and several other members I have known sought outside counseling. I held strong to the opinion that NA could deal with anything that occurred in my life. It was not until after the birth of my child that I sought outside help. Even then, it took me almost a year to realize that I couldn't do it only with NA. I then proceeded to spend over a year in individual counseling; my husband and I also went to marriage counseling. It was my husband (a fellow member of NA), my counselor (a member of AA), and our marriage counselor who finally, after two years of misery, convinced me to try an anti-depressant. I agreed to try, saying that if it made me feel high or in any way "not right," I would stop taking it. Within two weeks, I felt like my old self again. I had been telling my husband that I didn't know what was wrong, but that I knew the way I was was not "me."

I have been on this medication for four years now. It does still bother me that I am an addict living clean, and yet I have to take a pill every day to make me okay. I reconcile this with the knowledge that it does not make me high and it does not make my life unmanageable. I still have to deal with life's ups and downs and even some mild depression on occasion. The depression I dealt with for over two years after my daughter's birth was in itself unmanageable. It is thanks to my Higher Power and the people in the rooms of NA that I did not relapse during this time.

I have attempted to get off this medication several times, only to find myself falling into the bottomless pit of depression again. The depression I experience when not taking medication is so much stronger and deeper than "normal" depression that there is no comparison. I do not advocate the taking of medication on a whim. I exhausted every other available option before resorting to medication. I also believe that one must be clean from all drugs before a mental health diagnosis can be made. I have known several addicts who arrived in NA with a multitude of diagnoses. After staying clean for extended amounts of time, it became quite obvious that some of these were incorrect diagnoses.

I am not substituting for my drugs. This medication does not solve all of life's problems, nor does it make me happy, joyous, or free. I find true happiness and joy, and I experience true freedom only by working the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous and applying them in my life. Today, I admit and acknowledge that mental illness is real and that there is help available. I am taking medication to deal with my illness of depression, just as I "take" the program of NA to deal with my disease of addiction.

Frankie H, North Carolina, USA

Picture this...

a Basic Text that reflects the global diversity of the NA Fellowship

Have you sent a submission to the Basic Text project yet?

For the first time in more than twenty years we are gathering personal experiences from NA members to include in the Basic Text. The 2004 WSC passed a motion to replace "some or all" of the personal stories, and we are collecting submissions until the end of December.

Since the Basic Text was first published we have expanded from fewer than 3,000 meetings, mostly in the US, to more than 30,000 in over 100 countries. We have grown in every way—the places we live, the diversity of our membership, our recovery experience.

We need your help to put together a collection of personal experiences that will capture the richness of the NA Fellowship today.

You don't have to write down everything that's happened to you. Maybe you struggled to develop a relationship with a Higher Power or had a breakthrough at two years clean. Perhaps you confronted a defect at a point in your recovery where you thought, "I can't believe I am struggling with this when I have xx years clean!"

Maybe you are an atheist, single parent, celebrity, veteran. Maybe you have something to say about coping with illness in recovery, what it was like to start NA in your community, or going back to school. Perhaps you relapsed and finally "got it." Or perhaps you were able to stay clean the moment you joined NA, but confronted your disease in other ways.

Share your experience; tell us what happened and how NA's spiritual principles got you through. You don't have to write like a professional or make it sound like you think literature is "supposed to" sound. We want your experience in your voice and your words.



"When we honestly tell our own story, someone else may identify with us."

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BRANA

This photo is from the 23rd annual Blue Ridge Area NA campout, held at Natural Chimneys Regional Park in Mount Solon, Virginia, USA. This campout was the first major NA function in Virginia, preceding the Region of the Virginias Convention by about six months. In 2004, 204 recovering addicts attended the campout.

Dan W, Virginia, USA

Can you personally ask at least two people to submit something?

We hope you'll also urge others you know to send us their experience. So many of us won't write anything unless someone else helps to motivate us—it's no different from getting a first service position or a sponsor; a lot of people need encouragement to take action. Some members will see the call for submissions and think, "What a great idea, but they're not really talking to me." You can do more than we can to convince those members that, yes, we are talking to them.

Can you personally ask at least two people to submit something? Maybe you can work together by reading each other's writing and giving feedback. And don't forget to follow up. You'll probably need to talk to the same people more than once before they'll write and submit something.

Another way to get people interested and motivated is to hold a workshop. We have sample formats for workshops posted on the website. The shorter workshop is a sharing session to inspire people to submit something to the Basic Text project. We've used this format and can tell you it's fun and moving and gives everyone involved a chance to get to know each other (and themselves) better. The longer session, which can be a half or full day, builds from the first one and includes an actual writing workshop. These are just some ideas for how to stir up interest and enthusiasm in your area. Use your imagination.

So...send us your experience. Help someone.

Whether you're recovering at a campout in Virginia or an ancient church in Nicaragua, you have experience to share that could help someone.



While visiting in Nicaragua

While on a mission trip in León, Nicaragua, I found an NA meeting at this beautiful cathedral built in 1786. What a wonderful feeling to be so far away from home and yet feel at home! Knowing there were fellow addicts near me was comforting. At home I attend meetings in the new wing of a hospital and at a university, so it was awesome to see a meeting in such a different setting. We truly are one united family, despite geographic, cultural, and language differences.

Holly T, Michigan, USA

We are accepting submissions for the Basic Text project in any language from now until the end of December 2005. Send your experience to the World Board at NA World Services; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 or to worldboard@na.org. You can email your experience, but you'll need to mail us an original signed copyright release form. For more information about the project, contact world services, or go online to <http://www.na.org/conference/bt>.

Primary purpose

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

The Group Booklet, p. 1

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

NA in Venezuela

It was on Monday, 27 January 1992, when NA formally initiated its activities in Venezuela. The first group was opened in the city of Caracas, and it was named "Grupo Ave Fenix" (Phoenix), located in the area known as Urbanization Chacao. This group is still active today. At the time, we only had one Basic Text in English and several photocopies of some of NA's IPs and booklets, in both English and Spanish. However, there was a lot of hope and faith, and that is what has kept NA alive since then.

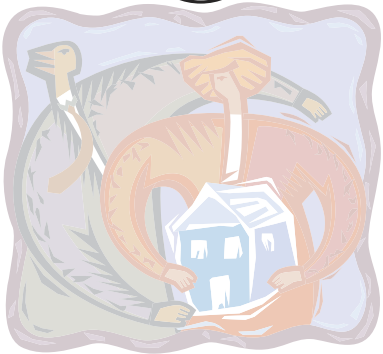
In 1992, two more NA groups opened in Caracas. Then more groups were started in different sections of the city and its surrounding areas. Others sprang up in other zones of Venezuela, such as Maracay, Valencia, Barquisimeto, Acariqua, Maracaibo, San Cristóbal, Puerto Ordaz, and San Felix. Many of these groups still meet regularly, while others, for one reason or another, have stopped meeting and have closed their doors.

In the beginning it was hard, and growth was slow. Neither the community nor Venezuela as a whole knew anything about us, and they mostly ignored us. Finding meeting places was not an easy task. There were times when we were not allowed to utilize the restrooms of the rooms we were renting to hold our NA meetings. We had a severe stigma as drug addicts, in spite of the fact that we were trying to recover, and some people believed that we could be transmitters of contagious diseases. However, we overcame many of these difficulties, and many of these places continue to rent to us their rooms, allowing us the possibility of presently having several NA groups. We maintain very good relationships with these places in every respect.

In 2001, the Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous in Venezuela was first formed, thanks to the unconditional help that we received from members in our region and in other regions in Latin America. Help also came from around the world, from the World Board, and from NAWS staff.

Presently we have two service offices, one operated by the Metropolitan Area Service Committee of Caracas and another coordinated by the Regional Service Committee of Venezuela. In these offices, we keep our area and regional literature inventories. Both offices are fully equipped and computerized, and both have telephone lines with their respective answering machines. The offices are managed by volunteer trusted servants who are responsible, amongst other things, for managing the financial resources and banking accounts of the fellowship, the postal box, and area and regional PI and H&I service efforts. These facilities are the main offices of NA in Venezuela.

From the early days of NA in our country, we have had many experiences carrying the NA message to penitentiaries, psychiatric institutions, treatment centers, community groups, and medical, professional, religious, and civic organizations. We have had similar situations in public information, trying to carry the NA message in the best possible way to the community and to society as a whole through the media (newspapers, radio, and TV). Our objective has been to fulfill our primary purpose as a fellowship, which



is to carry the NA message of recovery from addiction.

In our region we have organized many events and special activities such as picnics, dances, regional meetings, workshops, learning days, regional service assemblies, and two regional NA conventions. All of these activities have helped us to continue growing as a fellowship. The next NA regional convention of Venezuela will take place in the city of Caracas in the state of Miranda in November 2005.

Through the years, we have helped in the translation of NA books like *Just for Today* and *The NA Step Working Guides* from English to Spanish. We have updated and adapted several service manuals we received from other regions.

At the NA World Service Conference in May 2004, after several years of communications with our region, the World Board recommended conference seating for the Region of Venezuela. This gave us the opportunity to have a voice in this event, where regional delegates from around the world meet every two years. This means that the Region of Venezuela will have a seated delegate during the next WSC in 2006.

As of September 2004, we had thirty NA groups and 130 weekly meetings in our region. There are nine H&I panels with eleven weekly meetings. We have five area service committees.

In January of this year, we celebrated thirteen years of carrying the NA message of recovery, love, and hope to the addict who still suffers. In spite of the adversities and difficulties we have encountered, we continue on the path of recovery and service. The members, groups, and areas in our region have gained strength—and we continue on to grow and to show up, just for today and forever! NA works! Strength to the group! Thank you, Higher Power!

Mauro H, Caracas, Venezuela

Is atmosphere about paint colors?

When we talk about atmosphere of recovery, some members refer to the physical space of the meeting room, how it is organized, the color of the paint on the wall, or whether it is a smoking or non-smoking meeting. Others, like me, believe that it refers to the tone and type of sharing, how the meeting is run, the fellowshipping, and the integration of members into the group.

When I first came in contact with NA in a small town, there were only two members in the group; then there were five, but regularly there were only two members who attended the meeting. Because of this, there was almost no controversy. Things were done in a spiritual manner. We tried to follow principles, and everyone was accepted, regardless of whether they stayed or left.

Later, I had to relocate to another area of the city. I began to attend a group with a lot of conflict, and I started to experience a different type of atmosphere. That atmosphere included addicts who were using, addicts who came and went, hard-core group confrontation (like group therapy), lack of credibility, and dishonesty. It was also, to say the least, a cloudy atmosphere in that room, filled with cigarette smoke. It was really hard to believe that this would work for me, and I even thought about changing to a different group because I felt it was more like a treatment center than an NA group.

On one occasion, I met a member who was an old-timer in the area, and I expressed to him my doubts about what was happening in this group. He told me that he and some other members were attending a newer group, and said that I could go there if I wanted to, but he also suggested that I stay in my home group because I would probably learn many things that would help me grow. He left me thinking on how all these experiences help me in my recovery.

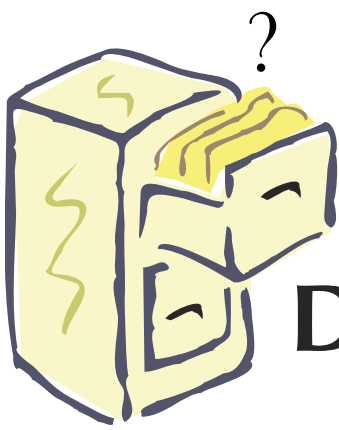
I still thought about not going to my group anymore because everyone in the room smokes excessively, while I stopped smoking when I was six months clean. I never feel well physically at the end of the meeting.

To my surprise, one day I arrived to my meeting and the group conscience had determined to stop smoking in this group's meetings. I thought that maybe with time this small but significant change would reflect on other aspects that for me make up the atmosphere of recovery in my home group. I believe we have to be willing to go through the growth process that more-experienced NA members had talked to me about.

Just for today, I will continue attending my meetings regularly so that I can experience the growth of the fellowship.

Joel O, Mexicali, Mexico





Did you know?

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

- Did you know** You can enter your own NA events for inclusion in the online calendar and *The NA Way Magazine* at <http://www.na.org/comingup-toc.htm>?
You can edit or update events you've listed anytime you want.
- Did you know** Our website gets over 2 million hits per month?!
- Did you know** NA groups and service committees can register online at <http://www.na.org/updateforms/newregfm.htm>, where more than 21,200 groups have registered?
- Did you know** Volumes of history and information are available by clicking on the "Reports and Periodicals" link? This section includes archives of the NAWS Inc. Annual Reports, *Conference Agenda Report*, and notable documents like the 1998 WSC Report.
- Did you know** All NA information pamphlets and booklets in English are now available online at <http://www.na.org/ips/>?
- Did you know** There are abbreviated PI and H&I guides available by clicking on the "PI Basics" and "H&I Basics" links?
- Did you know** Subscriptions to *The NA Way Magazine* are now available online? E-subscriptions are sent directly to your email in-box in full color before the printed version is mailed. And, e-subscriptions help defray the costs of postage and printing. For your e-subscription, just go to <http://portaltools.na.org/PortalTools/subscriptions>.

PR Handbook Update

Input on the first section of the Public Relations Handbook is now in, following a ninety-day review period that ended 1 August. We are excited about the feedback sent in...thank you!

Section two of the PR Handbook is now out for review and input until 1 December 2005. Check your area and regional service committee mailboxes or obtain a copy at <http://www.na.org/conference/prhb/index.htm>. The chapters being reviewed are:

- **Media**
- **Criminal Justice**
- **Treatment**
- **Healthcare**
- **Phonelines**

We look forward to receiving your input!

The first two sections of the Handbook will be considered for approval at WSC 2006.

It is our goal in both principle and practice to make recovery available to every addict seeking relief from the nightmare of addiction.

Self Support: Principle and Practice

Q How do I donate to Narcotics Anonymous via the Internet?

Each of us found freedom from addiction because NA was there when we could no longer survive the nightmare of our disease. Funding NA services is our collective responsibility. Every one of us—not just the other addicts at our meetings—is personally responsible for funding services that allow us to pursue our primary purpose—to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers.



Donate to NA World Services

A Just go to www.na.org and click on the "Donate to NA World Services" link at the bottom of the home page. Once there, you can check out the video depicting fellowship growth, review financial reports and information and, of course, make your donation by clicking on the "Donate Now" link. Your contribution is processed on a secure site and you will receive a receipt by mail.

In addition to donating online, you may send checks or money orders to: NAWS; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA

In the United States, the IRS has determined that donations to NAWS may be tax exempt according to tax code 501(c)3. For questions about donating and information about wire transfers, please call us at 818.773.9999 or email us at donationquestions@na.org.



CALENDAR

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

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

Argentina

Buenos Aires: 18-20 Nov; CRANA XIII-Prendiendo y Celebrando en Unidad; Chiozza y Guerini, San Bernardo; event info: 54.114.342.6659

Australia

Western Australia: 21-23 Oct; Western Australian Area Convention; Returned Services League Hall, Perth; event info: 041.032.4268

Belgium

Brussels: 4-6 Nov; Belgian Convention; Altitude Cent, Brussels; event info: 32.475.363071; write: Brussels ASC; BP1521060; Brussels 6 Belgium; www.na-belgium.org

Brazil

Ceara: 7-9 Oct; 1ª Convencao do CSA do Sol, Fortaleza; event info: 85.88272403; www.na.org.br/csadosol

Pocos de Caldas: 13-16 Oct; II Convencao do Nucleo; Av Vereador Edmundo Cardillo; Pocos de Caldas; event info: 55.21.99533471; www.convencao.cjb.net

Sao Paulo: 17-20 Nov; II Convenção do Núcleo Grande-Uma Esperanca de Vida; Caraguatuba; hotel rsns: 55.11.9751.8656; event info: 55.11.9751.8656, 55.11.5535.7837; event registration: 55.11.9994.4240; event info: www.napraia.com

Canada

Alberta: 7-9 Oct; Canadian Convention NA XIII; Holiday Inn Convention Centre, Edmonton; hotel rsns: 800.661.5193; event info: 780.450.0071; www.canaacna.org

Québec: 7-9 Oct; CRQNA18/QRCNA18; Laval; location and additional information to be announced

Montreal: 26-27 Nov; EANAC 6 Montréal-Live Free-Choose the Path of Recovery; Days Inn Montréal Metro Centre Hotel, Montréal; hotel rsns: 877.hotel50; event info: 514.938.4611; write: English Area Québec; EANAC; Box 453, NDG Station; Montréal, Québec, Canada H4A 3P8

Dominican Republic

Juan Dolio: 18-20 Nov; Algo Más Será Revelado IV-El Milagro Continúa; Coral Costa Caribe Hotel, Juan Dolio; hotel rsns: 809.334.1235; event info: 646.245.0292, 809.259.8666; event registration: 917.566.3714; speaker tape submission deadline: 30 Sep; www.m.809k.com/Convencion

France

Ile de France: 7-9 Oct; Une Autre Chance/Another Chance; Espace Agora, Alfortville; hotel rsns: 0609544705

Greece

Peloponnese: 7-9 Oct; 6th Panhellenic Convention-Be the Miracle; Porto Hydra Hotel, Ermioni-Thermissia; hotel rsns: 30.210.36.03 556.7; event info: 30.6936.685.111; write: Greece Region; NA Greek Convention Committee; Dimofontos & Iperionos 1; Ano Petralona; Athens, Greece; www.na-greece

Guatemala

Ciudad: 21-23 Oct; Third Regional NA Convention of Guatemala; Hotel Villa Espanola, Ciudad; hotel rsns: www.hotelvillaespanola.com

India

West Bengal: 2-4 Sep; Darjeeling Area Convention; Deolo Tourist Lodge, Kalimpong; hotel rsns: 03552.74101/74452; event info: 983.237.5691, 983.204.8588, 943.424.8944; write: Darjeeling Area Committee, House of Rhythm; 6 J P Sharma Road; Darjeeling, India

Mexico

Baja, California: 28-30 Oct; Convención Baja California XIII; Grand Hotel, Tijuana; hotel rsns: México: 01.800.026607, USA: 866.472.6385; event info: 818.765.5593, 925.753.5074; speaker tape info: 858.277.6438; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Oct; write: CBCNA; PMB-80, Box 439056; San Diego, CA 92143

Mexico City: 15-18 Dec; Convención de Área Ciudad de México I; Hotel Fiesta Americana Viaducto, Mexico City; write: Mexico City Area; Parral 28 Colonia; Condesa Cp 06140

Nepal

Pokhara: 4-5 Sep; Grand Get Together-NA Unity Day; Hotel Annapurna Airport Pokhara, Pokhara; hotel rsns: 009776125144; event info: 0097761531009, 0097761526982; event registration: 0097761522800; write: Pokhara ASC; Box 314; Pokhara, Nepal

Norway

Oslo: 30 Sep-2 Oct; To Live, OØKNA IX; Marienlyst skole, Oslo; 4748078673; event info: 4793257530, 4795133229; write: Area East Service Committee; Box 85; Lamberseter, Oslo N-1101, Norway

Portugal

Lisboa: 3-5 Feb 2006; Não há Lugares Marcados/Seats are Not Marked; Lisbon/Lisboa; www.na-pt.org

South Africa

Western Cape: 18-20 Nov; Annual National Convention; Okkie Jooste Camp, Cape Town; hotel rsns: 27.83.252.442; event info: 27.83.269.7273, 27.82.959.2536; speaker tape submission deadline: 10 Oct; www.na.org.za

Spain

Barcelona: 21-23 Oct; Buscando Equilibrio; Tiana, Barcelona; event info: 902.180.640; speaker tape submission deadline: 17 Oct; www.na-esp.org

Switzerland

Bern: 30 Sep-2 Oct; SCNA-Together; Gwatt-Zentrum am Thunersee, Gwatt; event info: 0041.78.723.21.09; www.narcotics-anonymous.ch

Turkey

Istanbul: 30 Sep-2 Oct; Third Turkish Area Convention-Together We Can; Hotel Villa Blanche, Istanbul; hotel rsns: 90.212.2163719; event info: 90.216.3624261, 90.240.7935215; write: Turkish Area; MBE 123 Mecidiyekoy 34394; Istanbul, Turkey; www.nalinks.org/turkiyena

Venezuela

Caracas: 4-6 Nov; CRENA Venezuela III-As Long as I Follow This Path, I Have Nothing to Fear; Circulo Militar, Caracas; event info: 58.416800040, 58.4167194425; www.na-venezuela.org

United States

Alabama: 18-20 Nov; GBACNA XI; Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, Birmingham; event info: 205.381.8913; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; speaker tape submission deadline: 15 Sep; write: Greater Birmingham Area; 1008 43rd St Ensley, Birmingham, AL 35208

2) 13-15 Jan 2006; Free at Last IX; Holiday Inn, Montgomery; hotel rsvns: 334.272.0370; event info: 334.868.0426; registration: 334.467.4291; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Nov; write: Central Alabama Area; Box 230572; Montgomery, AL 36123

Alaska: 7-9 Oct; Alaska Regional Convention XXI; Rivers Edge Resort, Fairbanks; hotel rsvns: 800.770.3343; write: Alaska Regional Convention; Box 74483; Fairbanks, AK 99707; www.akna.org

Arkansas: 30 Sep-3 Oct; Ozark Mountain High Campout; Wolly Hollow State Park, Greenbriar

2) 7-9 Oct; Cove Lake Campout; Mt Magazine/Cove Lake, Paris; event info: 918.647.2724; write: Arkansas River Valley Area; Box 5631; Ft Smith, AR 72913

3) 14-16 Oct; Arkansas Regional Unity Campout XIV; Shiloh Recreation Area, Higden; event info: 501.541.4728; write: Arkansas Region; Box 216 860 Highway 62 East; Mountain Home, AR 72653; arscna.org

4) 24-26 Feb 2006; TACNA; Texarkana; event info: 903.824.0719, 870.773.2287; speaker tape info: 903.791.1551; speaker tape submission deadline: 15 Oct; write: Texarkana Area; Box 6321; Texarkana, TX 75503

California: 30 Sep-2 Oct; Rainbow Convention X; Ramada Plaza, San Francisco; hotel rsvns: 415.626.8000; write: San Francisco Area; 78 Gough St; San Francisco, CA 94102

2) 31 Dec-1 Jan 2006; New Year's Eve Dance and Speaker Meeting; Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento; event registration: 916.470.0964; write: American River Area; Box 418222; Sacramento, CA 95841; www.sacramentona.org

3) 17-19 Feb 2006; Central California Regional Convention XIV; Holiday Inn Select, Bakersfield; event info: 805.938.0117; event registration: 805.720.1777; hotel rsvns: 661.323.1900; speaker tape & program info: 661.835.0887; write: Central California Region; Box 2170; Santa Maria, CA 93457-2170; www.ccrna.org

Connecticut: 7-9 Oct; Prayer and Meditation Retreat; Camp Wightman, Stonington; event info: 203.630.2505; write: Free to Be Me; 252 Reservoir Avenue Meriden, CT 06451; www.ctna.com/ctnaactv.htm

2) 6-8 Jan 2006; 21st Connecticut Regional Convention; event info: www.ctna.com

Florida: 30 Sept-2 Oct; 17th Annual River Coast Area Campout; Weeki Wachee Christian Campground, Weeki Wachee; event info: 352.683.8614, 352.592.2741; write: River Coast Area Service Committee; Box 10053; Brooksville, FL 34603

2) 7-9 Oct; MidCoast Convention; Healing the Spirit; Ocean Breeze Golf & Country Club, Boca Raton; hotel rsvns: 561.994.0400; event info: 561.313.6760; event registration: 561.859.6264; write: MidCoast Area; Box 8374; Delray Beach, FL 33483

3) 14-16 Oct; HACNA III; River Ranch; hotel rsvns: 888.808.7410; event info: 863.401.9283, 863.646.6373; write: Heartland Area Service Committee; Box 1848; Eaton Park, FL 33840

4) 28-30 Oct; UCACNA VIII-Life is Good!; Plaza Ocean Club Resort, Daytona Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.874.7420; event registration: 407.761.1645; event info: 352.246.1865; write: Uncoast Area of Florida; Box 12151; Gainesville, FL 32604; http://fdt.net/~ncoastna/

5) 4-6 Nov; Unidos en Recuperación (Spanish Convention); Orlando Grand Plaza Hotel, Orlando; hotel rsvns: 800.327.1363; event info: 407.701.1681, 407.383.8775; event registration: 321.276.7611; www.orlandona.org

Georgia: 14-16 Oct; WEANA XIX; Holiday Inn Select Conference Center, Atlanta; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event registration: 678-508-9704; write: West End Area of Atlanta; Box 11046; Atlanta, GA 30310

2) 6-8 Jan 2006; Peace in Recovery 18; Auga Towers Hotel & Convention Center, Auga; hotel rsvns: 706.855.8100; event registration: 706.364.3464; speaker tape info: 706.951.2937; write: Central Savannah River Area Anniversary, Box 426; Auga, GA 30901

3) 23-26 Feb 2006; GRCNA 25; James H Rainwater Conference Center, Valdosta; hotel rsvns: 229.242.1225; event info: 229.245.1119, 770.591.9219; speaker tape & program info: 404.542.8509; write: Georgia Region; Box 405; Conyers, GA 30012

Hawaii: 9-11 Sep; 17th Annual Maui Area Gathering; Camp Maluhia, Kahakuloa; event info: 808.280.0997; event registration: 808.269.1046, 808.870.6441; write: Maui Area Service Committee; Box 6160; Kahului, Hawaii 96733; www.na-hawaii.org/Main_Pages/HI_Gatherings

Idaho: 24-26 Feb 2006; Circle of Sisters IX; DoubleTree Hotel, Boise; hotel rsvns: 800.437.8010; event info: 208.362.3719; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Nov; write: Circle of Sisters; Box 140731; Boise, ID 83714; www.circleofsisters.org

Illinois: 12-15 Jan 2006; Chicago Regional Convention; Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago; hotel rsvns: 312.565.1234; event info: 708.422.4464, 708.754.4573; speaker tape submission deadline: 30 Sep; write: CRC XVII; Box 5319; River Forest, IL 60305

Indiana: 23-25 Sep; Central Indiana Area Convention II-Unity Is a Must; Courage is a Plus; Adams Mark Hotel, Indianapolis; hotel rsvns: 317.248.2481; event info: 317.787.5414, 317.450.2461; write: Central Indiana Area; Box 441716; Indianapolis, IN 46244; www.naindiana.org/home.php

Kansas: 28-30 Oct; Unconventional Convention; Douglas County 4-H Fairgrounds, Lawrence; hotel rsvns: 785.766.7850; write: Miracle Area; Box 99; Lawrence, KS 66044

Kentucky: 16-18 Sep; Freedom Between the Lakes XVIII; Land Between the Lakes; write: Western Kentucky Area; Box 2866; Paducah, KY 42001; www.nawestky.org

Maine: 2-4 Dec; Multi Regional Learning Event IX, Alfred; event info: 207.824.0287, 603.798.4329; write: NNERSC; Box 1274; Saco, ME 04072

Maryland: 30 Sep-2 Oct; OGANA VIII; Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City; hotel rsvns: 877.270.9494; event info: 443.366.3857, 410.251.8644; www.ogana.com

2) 25-27 Nov; Freestate Regional Convention XIII-If You Want What We Have...; The Waterfront Marriott, Baltimore; hotel rsvns: 410.385.3000; event info: 410.840.4720, 410.825.9024; write: Freestate Region; Box 0011; Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Massachusetts: 17-19 Feb 2006; Boston Area Convention; Boston Marriott Quincy; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 617.590.6821; event registration: 617.596.1262; speaker tape info: 617.959.0616; speaker tape submission deadline: 31 Oct; write: BACNA 11; 398 Columbus Ave, Ste 278; Boston, MA 02116

Michigan: 14-15 Oct; Women's Day Speaker Jam VI; Holiday Inn of Southfield, Southfield; hotel rsvns: 248.353.7700; write: Detroit East Area Service Committee; Box 13770; Detroit, MI 48213

2) 24-27 Nov; Through Change Comes Freedom VII; Holiday Inn Livonia West, Livonia; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event info: 734.658.7492; 734.481.2258; write: Metro-Detroit Region; 403 Livernois; Ferndale, MI 48220; www.michigan-na.org

3) 3-5 Feb 2006; Southwest Michigan Area Convention; Radisson Plaza, Kalamazoo; hotel rsvns: 269.343.3333; event info: 269.344.8694; speaker tape info: 269.998.2151; email: KalamazooArea@Michigan-NA.org; write: Southwest Michigan Area; Box 50822; Kalamazoo, MI 49005; michigan-na.org/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_events.

Mississippi: 21-23 Oct; Mississippi Regional Convention XXIII; Ramada Inn Hilltop, Natchez; hotel rsvns: 601.446.6311; event info: 601.212.9063, 601.954.9645; event registration: 601.317.4440; write: Mid-Mississippi Area; Box 1556, Ridgeland, MS 39158

Missouri: 4-6 Nov; St Louis Area Convention; Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, St Louis; hotel rsvns: 314.391.6700; event info: 314.863.0229, 314.322.8763; write: Showme Region/St Louis Area; Box 3540; St Louis, MO 63143

Nebraska: 7-9 Oct; Nebraska Regional Convention; The Villa, Norfolk; hotel rsvns: 402.371.7000; event info: 402.371.6791, 402.841.8966; write: Elkhorn Valley Area NA; Box 14; Norfolk, NE 68702

Nevada: 30 Sep-2 Oct; Never Alone-Never Again; Peppermill Hotel Casino, Reno; hotel rsvns: 866.821.9996; event info: 775.329.9568, 775.884.4829; write: Sierra Sage Regional Service Office; Box 7324; Reno, NV 89510; www.sierrasagena.org

2) 28-30 Oct; Western Service Learning Days IX; Palace Station Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas; event info: 702.638.0971, 702.647.6632

New Jersey: 7-9 Oct; In the Spirit of Unity XI; DoubleTree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center, Roselle; hotel rsvns: 732.469.2600; event info: 908.241.1257, 908.468.6258; write: Northeast NJ Area; Box 409; Roselle, NJ 07203

New York: 9-11 Sep; The True Nature II; Delta Lake Conference Center, Rome; hotel rsvns: 315.336.7210; event info: 315.457.1614; write: HONYANA; Fall Retreat; Box 772; Syracuse, NY 13201

2) 14-16 Oct; Fall into Open Arms I; Fallsview at the Nevele Grande, Ellenville; hotel rsvns: 800.647.6000; event info: 646.772.1727, 845.494.1403

3) 21-23 Oct; Western New York Regional Convention X; Holiday Inn Select, Niagara Falls; hotel rsvns: 716.285.3361; event info: 716.308.0153; event registration: 716.602.6815; speaker tape info: 716.831.6815; write: Western New York Region; Box 218; Buffalo, NY 14220; www.nawny.org

4) 13-15 Jan 2006; NACNA III; Hilton Huntington, Melville; hotel rsvns: 631.845.1000; event info: 917.975.8718, 516.731.6011; event registration: 516.505.2680; speaker tape info: 516.457.7578; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Oct; write: Nassau Area Convention Committee; Box 531; Hicksville, NY 11801-0531

5) 3-5 Feb 2006; Convencion Hispana, White Plains; hotel rsvns: 914.682.0050; event info: 347.613.3275; event registration: 718.872.6460; speaker tape info: 718.496.2539; speaker tape submission deadline: 31 Oct; write: Metro Area de Habla Hispana; Box 734; New York, NY 10116

6) 4-6 Feb 2006; Spirit of Love 18; Holiday Inn, Waterloo; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Nov

7) 24-26 Feb 2006; RACNA XII; Hyatt Regency, Rochester; hotel rsvns: 800.233.1234; event info: 585.266.1306, 585.503.5146; write: Rochester Area; Box 30485; Rochester, NY 14603

North Carolina: 23-25 Sep; More Powerful than Words; Holiday Inn Express, Salisbury; hotel rsvns: 704.637.3100; event info: 704.857.1078, 704.224.1057

2) 6-8 Jan 2006; Spiritually High in the Land of the Sky; Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville; hotel rsvns: 800.733.3211; event info: 828.242.6338; event registration: 540.588.0457; speaker tape submission deadline: 15 Sep; write: Western North Carolina Area; Box 16238; Asheville, NC 28816; www.wncana.org

3) 24-26 Feb 2006; Freedom by the Sea V; Sea Trail Resort & Conference Center, Sunset Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.624.6601; event info: 910.836.7778, 910.352.2538; speaker tape submission deadline: 30 Sep; write: Freedom by the Sea Convention Planning Committee; Box 561; Wilmington, NC 28402

Ohio: 10-11 Sep; Shattering the Illusion with a New Vision; Travelodge Hotel, Cincinnati; hotel rsvns: 513.771.5252; event info: 513.403.0207, 513.546.1029

2) 16-18 Sep; Friendly Valley; Camp Oyo, West Portsmouth; hotel rsvns: 740.776.6010; event info: 740.776.6010, 740.776.6010; write: KORASCNA; 101 Wilson Ave; Portsmouth, OH 45662

3) 7-9 Oct; Ohio Regional 12 Step Spiritual Retreat; Tar Hollow State Park, Chillicothe; event info: 419.420.1981, 740.452.8273; write: Ohio Region; 139 1/2 North Sixth Street; Zanesville, OH 43701; www.naohio.org/orcsna_events.htm

4) 25-27 Nov; Thanks for the Miracle XIV-From Isolation to Connection; Kings Island Resort and Conference Center, Cincinnati; hotel rsvns: 800.727.3050; event info: 513.821.7667, 513.333.0845; write: Greater Cincinnati Area; Box 19439; Cincinnati, OH 45219

5) 6-8 Jan 2006; Central Ohio Area Convention; The Columbus (formerly Adams Mark Hotel), Columbus; hotel rsvns: 800.417.1057; event info: 614.657.0613, 614.228.5050; write: Central Ohio Area Service Committee; 1561 Old Lenold Ave; Columbus, OH 43219

6) 10-12 Feb 2006; TACNA IX-Thru the Steps We Keep What We Have Only Thru Vigilance; Hilton Hotel, Toledo; hotel rsvns: 419.381.6800; event info: 419.867.9576

Oklahoma: 7-9 Oct; Shawnee Fall Convention; Ramada Inn, Shawnee; hotel rsvns: 405.275.4404; event info: 405.812.4580, 405.598.1626; write: Shawnee Fall Convention; Box 3615; Shawnee, OK 74804

Pennsylvania: 16-18 Sep; Little Apple Area Birthday Convention XXIV; Days Inn Conference Center, Allentown; hotel rsvns: 888.395.5200; event info: 610.434.5189; write: Little Apple Area; Box 90273; Allentown, PA 18109

2) 18-20 Nov; Start to Live XXIII; Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion; hotel rsvns: 800.452.2223; event info: 412.431.6073, 412.460.1060; write: Tri State Region; Start to Live XXII; Box 337; Homestead, PA 15120

Rhode Island: 24-26 Feb 2006; Greater Providence Area Convention-Endless Waves of Hope; Providence Marriott, Providence; hotel rsvns: 800.937.7768; event registration: 401.751.5265; event info: 401.274.6026; speaker tape info: 401.954.8745; speaker tape submission deadline: 30 Sep; write: Greater Providence Area; Box 75; Cumberland, RI 02864

South Carolina: 30 Sept-2 Oct; Unity Festival; Radisson Inn and Suites, Spartanburg; hotel rsvns: 864.574.2111; event info: 864.205.4012

2) 17-20 Nov; Serenity Festival XXIII; Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Myrtle Beach; hotel rsvns: Sea Mist Resort; write: Carolina Region; Box 1198; Myrtle Beach, SC 29578; www.serenityfestival.org

3) 17-19 Feb 2006; Recovery at Work; Beach and Tennis Resort, Hilton Head Island; hotel rsvns: 800.475.2631; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Nov

South Dakota: 16-18 Sep; SDRCA VIII; Oaks Motel, Sioux Falls; hotel rsvns: 800.326.4656; event info: 605.925.4873, 605.339.2133; write: SDRCA; Box 788; Sioux Falls, SD 57101; www.southdakotana.org

Tennessee: 23-27 Nov; Volunteer Regional Convention XXIII; Hilton Memphis; hotel rsvns: 800.445.8667; event info: 901.728.4143; Volunteer Region Convention Committee 23; Box 770728; Memphis, TN 38177; www.na-wt.org

Texas: 30 Sep-2 Oct; Frolic in the Woods; Garner State Park, Pecan Valley Grove Site, Concan

2) 30 Sep-2 Oct: For the Newcomer; Park Plaza Austin; hotel rsvns: 888.201.1803; event info: 512.775.1338, 512.322.9234; write: Miracles & Solutions; Box 141805; Austin, TX 78714

3) 14-16 Oct; Alive and Kicking Group Anniversary XXXII; Sheraton Brookhollow, Houston; hotel rsvns: 713.688.0100; event info: 281.748.4860; event registration: 832.794.7637

4) 14-16 Oct; BLRCNA XVIII; The Inn, Wichita Falls; hotel rsvns: 940.761.6000; event info: 940.761.4824, 940.569.4482; write: Best Little Region; 214 Dogwood Ln; Burkburnett, TX 76354

Vermont: 11-13 Nov; CVACNA XVI-Out of the Darkness-Into the Light; Wyndham Hotel, Burlington; hotel rsvns: 802.658.6500; event info: 802.318.5030, 518.563.7578; event registration: 518.324.6259; write: Champlain Valley Area; Box 64714; Burlington, VT 05406; www.cvana.org

Washington: 14-16 Oct; Pacific North West Convention 28; Sheraton Tacoma Hotel, Tacoma; hotel rsvns: 800.845.9466; event info: 253.208.7798; event registration: 253.473.6035; write: Washington Northern Idaho Region; PNW 28, Box 700; Tacoma, WA 98401

2) 4-5 Nov; WNIR 4th Annual Combined H&I/PI Learning Days; Emanuel Lutheran Church, Spokane; event info: 509.483.1349; write: Washington Northern Idaho Region; Box 945; Spokane, WA 99210

Wisconsin: 28-30 Oct; WSNAC XXII; Beyond Our Wildest Dreams; The Abbey Resort, Fontana; event info: 608.356.1702; 262.245.0404; event registration: 608.257.1990; write: WSNAC XXII; Box 149; Baraboo, WI 53913

WSO PRODUCT UPDATE

Danish

An Introductory Guide to NA
*En introduktionsguide til
Narcotics Anonymous*
Item No. DK-1200 Price US \$1.70

Keytags

Welcome through Multiple Years
Item No. DK-4100–4108
Price US \$0.37/each

Croatian

Keytags

Welcome through Multiple Years
Item No. CR-4100–4108
Price US \$0.37/each

Greek

Another Look—Item No. GR-3105*

Μια άλλη ματιά

Am I an Addict?—Item No. GR-3107*

Είμαι ναρκομανής;

Just for Today—Item No. GR-3108*

Μόνο για σήμερα

One Addict's Experience...

Item No. GR-3114*

Η εμπειρία ενός ναρκομανή με αποδοχή, πίστη και δέσμευση

For the Newcomer

Item No. GR-3116*

Για τον νεοφερμένο

Self-Acceptance—Item No. GR-3119*

Αυτο-αποδοχή

Welcome to NA—Item No. GR-3122*

Καλώς ήρθες στους ΝΑ

Staying Clean on the Outside

Item No. GR-3123*

Μένοντας έξω καθαροί

Icelandic

Am I an Addict?—Item No. IS-3107*

Er ég fíkill?

Living the Program

Item No. IS-3109*

Að lifa prógrammið

Welcome to NA—Item No. IS-3122*

Velkominn til NA

Hebrew

IP No. 2: The Group

הקבוצה

Item No. HE-3102 Price US \$0.26

Recovery and Relapse

Item No. HE-3106*

החלמה ונפילה

Am I an Addict?—Item No. HE-3107*

האם אני מכור?

Living the Program

Item No. HE-3109*

לחיות את התכנית

Sponsorship—Item No. HE-3111*

חונכות

The Triangle of Self-Obsession

Item No. HE-3112*

משולש האובססיה העצמית

For the Newcomer

Item No. HE-3116*

לחבר החדש

Self-Acceptance—Item No. HE-3119*

קבלה עצמית

Welcome to NA—Item No. HE-3122*

ברוכים הבאים

למכורים אנונימיים

"Hey! What's the Basket For?"

Item No. HE-3124*

"היי! בשביל מה הסלסלה?"

Moldovian

Keytags

Welcome through Multiple Years

Item No. MD-4100–4108

Price US \$0.37/each

Russian

Group Reading Cards

(7-card set)

Item No. RU-9130 Price US \$2.50

** Items marked with an asterisk are
priced US \$0.21 each.*



WSO PRODUCT UPDATE



New Medallion Design

18 months and 1–50 years

Bronze: Item No. EN-43xx Price US \$2.35

Gold-plated: Item No. EN-73xx Price US \$11.00

Bi-plated: Item No. EN-53xx Price US \$12.13

Silver: Item No. EN-61xx New Price US \$24.00

Literature Rack

eight-pocket wire rack

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Reproduction of our Basic Text hardcover
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Home GROUP

