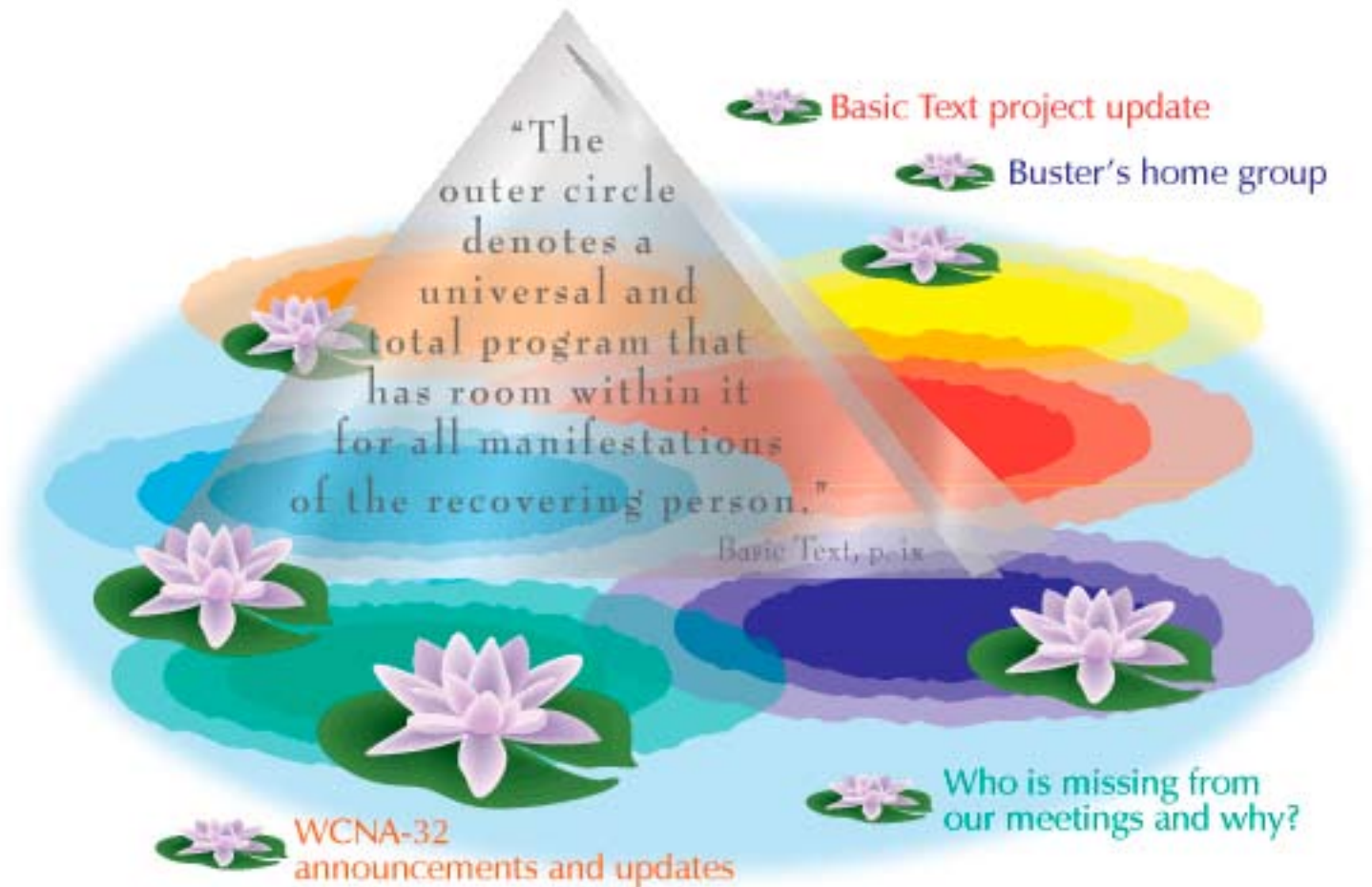


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From the editor

Touching lives is something we do in NA, and there are lots of ways we affect one another: when we give a great welcoming hug, share about struggles with a step, or just consistently show up for a commitment. We have a positive effect on each other when we serve with integrity, creativity, and passion — and then move along, allowing others to rotate in and share their experiences.

We can affect each other in negative ways, too. How? By spending time over coffee criticizing and judging a fellow addict. By focusing on everything except our recovery program. By discontinuing our meeting attendance, or ignoring addicts at meetings who we think are different from us.

We pass through life, sending out ripples as we move along, making some sort of difference in everything and everyone we touch. This issue of *The NA Way* is about that: how we touch and affect one another. Are you creating ripples, or are you standing still? Where are your ripples going, and how are they affecting those around you?

De J, Editor

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

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



No, really, just tell me

The other day I made a horrible mistake. I made it unwittingly and without malicious intent, but I still made it. I relayed a piece of gossip to a friend, a piece of gossip that had them as the central figure and held them in a most unflattering light. My friend, suffering from one of the most human of weaknesses—curiosity—did what so many of us have done before when asked the question, “Do you really want to know?” She lifted her chin and lied, saying “Yes.” I should have never fallen for it.

The problem is, we feel so compelled to indulge our curiosity that we will invite in (and by invite I mean hold open the door, beckon, wave, and smile broadly, all while straightening the welcome mat with the tip of our shoe) all manner of mean-spirited, petty jibes. Curiosity is like a strange tickle, an itching that starts deep in the base of the mind, beyond fingers’ reach, a hot patch that demands attention. Like a sneeze building in the nose, all we can feel is the pressure of not knowing, all we can register is the un-answer seeking to expand its confines, until we achoo out the words, “No, really, just tell me.”

And then we know, and there is no undoing that knowledge. Information cannot be extracted or erased from the brain—except, of course, for high school math, which I managed to erase with a concoction of illicit substances taken over a prolonged period of time. Words, once they have traveled down the ear canal, do not make a return trip. They are not touring on holiday visas, with tiny velcroed sandals on their little serifs. They are emigrants, huddled together in their masses, striking out for a brave new world. They move in with the extended family and form little ghettos of knowledge and knowing.

No one, regardless of their clean time, spiritual enlightenment, or personal evolution likes, to know that somewhere, someone is saying mean things about them. I believe this; and if I doubted it before, then the crestfallen look on my friend’s face and the question “Do you think that, too?” asked several times over the course of the conversation completely rid me of that doubt.

This is where I found my resolve, in that moment when I saw the sadness on my friend’s face and heard the hurt in her voice. This is where I found the internal fortitude and resolute conviction to no longer act as a conduit, the point at which I decided that I will never again act as a channel for gossip. I will become a bricked-in doorway, a vast, uncrossable moat, a ring of fire, a vigilant sentinel determined to keep malicious, prejudicial, unfounded gossip from making it over the wall. I will do this for those I love—and I will do this for me, the one I am trying to love. And, in this most simple act, I will remember that those I cherish are worth more, that I cherish them for intensely personal reasons that transcend the silly whisperings of a faceless few, and I will remember that my hunger for esteem can be fed with small mouthfuls of esteemable acts. Finally, I will remember that, if nurtured and kept safe, the love I feel for and from them can eventually wash away the lingering residue of the petty, jealous nature of mine that offers them the information in the first place.

Ngaio C, New South Wales, Australia

***No one,
regardless of
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or personal
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someone is
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things about
them.***

AAA AH-HA! 

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

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

A gift to hold onto

My "ah-ha" moment came when I realized that my daily craving for my drug of choice (or any substitute) was dissipating and would eventually become nothing more than a memory. The miracle of the program for me is that, even though my desire to use was present, I could choose not to pick up. After ten years of bouncing in and out of NA, I finally came to this realization. The "ah-ha" really happened for me when the cravings came back with a vengeance well into my second year clean, and I realized that the reprieve wasn't only a gift, but a gift that I could hold onto. Sometimes we don't realize or imagine what is missing until it returns.

Brenda W, Hawaii, USA



Love, respect, and acceptance

After I received the recovery message from an NA member, I had hope. I went to my first meeting, and a member told me that he would love me, respect me, and accept me until I could do all those things for myself. He touched my soul because, for a long time, I had not loved, respected, or accepted myself. The next day, he told me that he had attended that meeting only to make sure that I was there and that I was alright.

Juan Carlos R, Santiago, Chile



Eighty-four days

Editor's note: Following the formation of the H&I subcommittee in Iran, Payam Behboodi (the Iranian NA community's recovery journal) has been receiving letters from prisons across the country on a regular basis. The following letter has a different story. It is from someone who got to know NA while imprisoned, despite drugs being widely available in their jails at low prices.

My name is Habib and I am an addict. Greetings to all the addicts at the Central Prison of Qazvin, and to all NA groups around the world.

I am writing this letter as I pass the final moments of my life. I am very close to death. I wish to send a message to all fellow members: I got clean through a Narcotics Anonymous meeting in jail, and through attending these meetings, I stopped using drugs. I have become very close to God, I feel good, and I am at peace with myself and the world. I have accepted the will of God.

I'd like to ask you fellows to stay clean and be of service. Try to help other addicts stay clean physically, mentally, and spiritually. Please continue this path to save other addicts. I have nothing else to say. My name is Habib, and by dawn my life will end. I will be hanged for the crimes I committed, but I have been clean for eighty-four days beside you. I wish success for all addicts ... members and non-members. God bless.

Habib, Qazvin, Iran

Reprinted with permission from
Payam Behboodi, Issue #6, Spring 2006



Service learning

I just read the latest *NA Way Magazine* and found myself thinking of all the hard work that occurs each day to create the magazine. As I thought about this, I was reminded of the service each member can bring to our fellowship and how much we gain individually and as a fellowship through service work.

I am of service to a regional convention, and the experience makes me grateful I took the suggestion to participate in my recovery in this way. I have learned to accept that group conscience—not my own idea of what is right or wrong—decides every issue. I've learned what it means to follow through by making the commitment to show up at every meeting on time and stay until the meeting is over. The open-mindedness required to serve has taught me to listen before

There is a place for every member of NA to be of service...

making a comment, and I've become more patient with myself by practicing patience with others. I've become more aware of all the hard work others put into their service commitments just by being responsible for the commitments I've made. Tolerating change and new ideas has helped me grow into a person I hardly recognize, and the willingness to continue to commit myself every day to this new way of life has helped me to stay focused on my recovery.

I would have missed out on so much if I had chosen not to take that early suggestion to be of service. There is a place for every member of NA to be of service, and the growth experienced in doing so is well worth the time and effort required.

Lorraine L, California, USA

Buster's home group



For the last few weeks, my home group has had an attendance of three: myself, another addict, and a dog named Buster. Buster does not usually share, but he likes to participate in the group hug and Third Step prayer at the end of the meeting by barking and jumping on us.

Sometimes the other addict and I discuss whether keeping the meeting open is worth it, because we don't seem to be attracting other addicts in the small town in which we live (population 5,000). It really doesn't matter, because we continue to keep the meeting going, and that's what counts.

We meet on Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm in a mental health recreational facility in a town named (you're not going to believe this) 100 Mile House. We are pretty flexible with the length of our meeting; sometimes it's shorter than an hour and a half, and sometimes longer. It all depends on what the need is for that meeting.

As I opened the meeting one night, I wondered if anyone else would show up. I was prepared to spend the meeting alone. The other addict in town who regularly attends was out of town and probably would not be able to make the meeting, which also meant Buster

wouldn't be there. Another addict who was in the area for hunting had called to say he would attend, but I was not counting on him showing up.

I contemplated what step I might read from *It Works: How and Why* during the meeting time. What a surprise when the hunter showed up. We were able to connect right away, and both of us knew some other NA members in various parts of BC. And then—lo and behold—a newcomer walked through the door to attend his first meeting! We finished the readings and were ready to read Step One from *It Works* when the other addict who had been of town for the day showed up. What a great meeting it was. For the first half of the meeting we read Step One; then, after a break, we all shared. The meeting lasted over two hours, and for me, it was like a convention.

The only one missing that night was Buster, who didn't come with his human. I actually think that might be the only time Buster has missed our home group meeting. Oh well; as the meeting closed, I hoped to myself that he would stay clean until the next meeting.

He did.

Dave S, British Columbia, Canada

Complacency

According to a dictionary, complacency is a state of contentment or self-satisfaction coupled with lack of awareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.

According to the Basic Text, "Complacency is the enemy of members with substantial clean time. If we remain complacent for long, the recovery process ceases.... Denial returns, along with obsession and compulsion. Guilt, remorse, fear, and pride may become unbearable. Soon we reach a place where our backs are against the wall." (p. 80)

We become too busy for our recovery—until we slowly notice our lives have become unmanageable again.

Until recently, I had no idea what this word meant, nor did I realize how something this simple could affect me in my everyday life and recovery. I was feeling "blah" in my recovery, and meetings no longer held much meaning for me. Daily routines became boring. I dreaded school, work, and even getting out of bed. My drug-court commitments were only something I had to do to stay out of jail. I was burnt out on college, something I had worked extremely hard to get going. My life seemed dull and boring, even though my schedule was packed with activities. I felt frazzled and forgot important things—like how many meetings I attended weekly, calling my sponsor, when I went to court last, and even my son's dental appointments.

I finally learned the word "complacency" from other addicts. They shared that complacency can be a danger zone, and that it is something many of us ex-

perience. We attend fewer meetings, stop working steps, and often alienate or isolate ourselves. Sometimes complacency sets in when we are approaching clean dates. After putting some clean time together, some of us get so wrapped up in life that we forget our most important priority.

It happens gradually. We get jobs, start school, and reunite with lost family. The dog gets sick, or other things in life get in the way, and we go to meetings less and less. We notice we haven't called our sponsor, shared at a meeting, or even attended any recovery events in quite a while. We become too busy for our recovery—until we slowly notice our lives have become unmanageable again. The unmanageability slowly grips our lives, and then we find ourselves struggling to figure out what is wrong.

The answer is right in front of us. We became complacent in our recovery and no longer went the extra mile for what we wanted so desperately in the beginning. It is at this point that we take notice and open our eyes to see that, without constant participation in our recovery, we will spiral out of control and end up where we started—or even worse.
















I think I am starting to see the real meaning of this powerful word, "complacency," and just how it has been affecting my life these days. Today I will be aware of complacency in my recovery and every part of my life, and recognize the signs before my life becomes unmanageable.

Shannon S, Washington, USA



The faces of recovery

Who do we see when we look into the faces of fellow members at a meeting? Do we know what hopes and struggles they contemplate? Maybe it's something like this:

-  I'm scared of what might happen next.
-  I'm so confused, and I don't know what to do.
-  Would ya, could ya, will ya, can ya help me?!
-  Can I trust you enough to show me "the NA way"?
-  I know you think I'm paying attention to you, but my mind is racing so fast around something else that I'm really not even listening to what you have to say.
-  I am telling you the honest truth. Not.
-  Are you being honest with me?
-  What am I supposed to do now?
-  I'm trying my best to hide the pain I'm feeling.
-  Do you really "believe"?
-  How did I ever get myself in this deep?
-  How can you be so screwed up with all that clean time?!
-  I really do want to know exactly what it takes to get better, but don't tell me I'm actually going to have to *do* something!
-  What was it like for you?
-  Are you a person I can follow?

Warren L, Florida, USA



What do *you* see when you look around at the faces in your meetings? Do you even look at others—or are you focused on the clock or your cell phone screen as you send and receive text messages? Some say they spent much of their early recovery staring down at the shoes in meetings, mainly critiquing them and their wearers. Gradually, as they became more comfortable, they looked up at the faces of the people wearing those shoes—and found connections that helped them in their recovery.

We come to NA with different backgrounds, fears, and expectations, but we all share the experience of our disease and the hope of our recovery. Who were you sitting next to at the last meeting you attended? Is that person finding what he or she needs in NA? And when you look around, who do you notice is missing from your meetings? Do you see newcomers who have found NA as easily accessible and attractive? Do you see members with longer clean time still present and actively sharing their experience in your meetings? Or are newcomers and oldtimers absent? And who in your community has not found NA at all?

What stories do you see when you look into the faces of your fellow members at NA meetings? Write to *The NA Way Magazine* and tell us about the faces of recovery.



Picture this

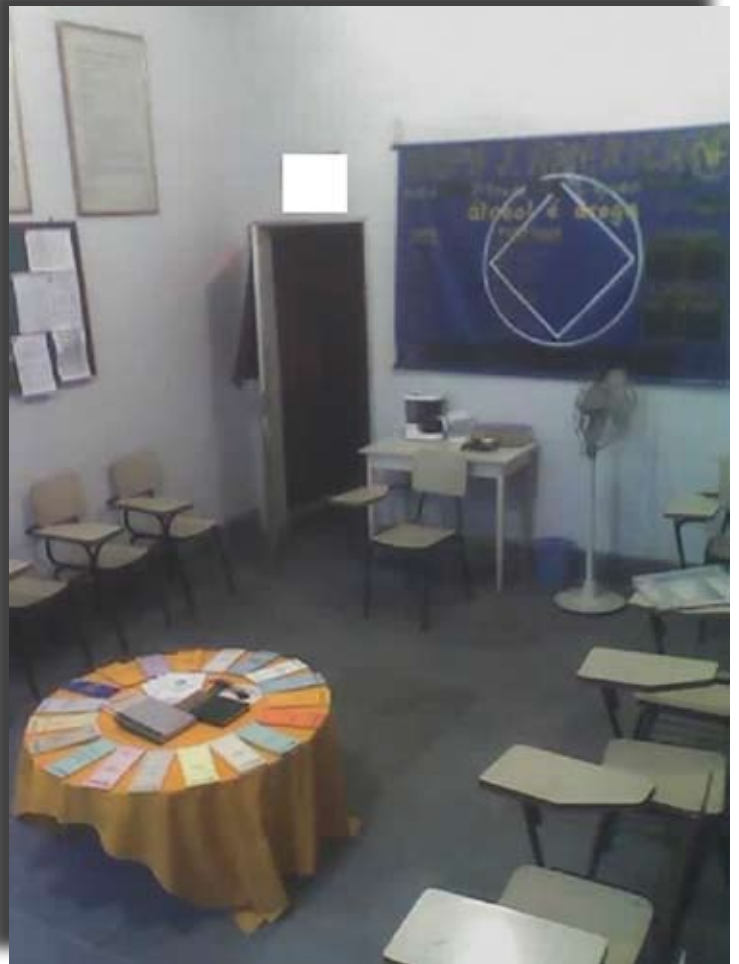
NA communities are invited to send photographs of their meeting places. We especially welcome photos that include meeting formats, recovery literature, posters, dirty coffee cups, and anything else that makes the meeting place look "lived in." Sorry, we cannot use photos that identify NA members. Please tell us about your meeting, its name, the location and city, how long it has been in existence, and what your format consists of (speaker, participation, etc.).

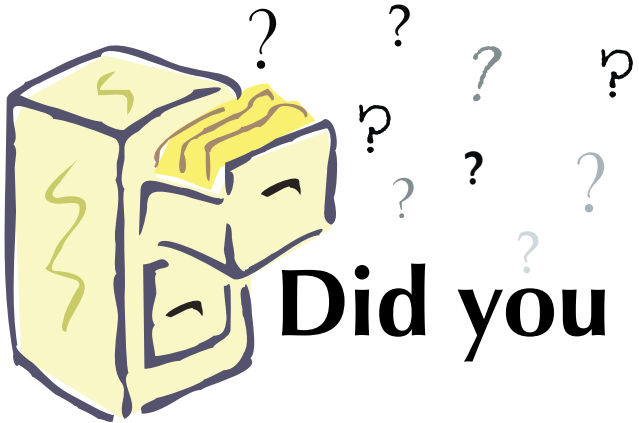
Keeping the NA flame burning since 1998

The group, "J. America," is located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A few members were very excited to open the group in 1998, but soon they left, and sometimes there were only two addicts there to keep the room open. In the beginning, meetings were held next to a soccer field where people were using drugs, and the smoke would drift into our rooms, so we decided to find another place.

Today, the group is doing great with meetings on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. We have about fifteen active members. It is wonderful to see the growth of the group, its difficulties, and how good it is now. Our Higher Power gives us a chance to give back what was given to us for free, so we have to make an effort to keep the NA flame burning—and, if possible, increase the intensity of this flame so that other addicts can have the same opportunity we had.

Sergio C, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil





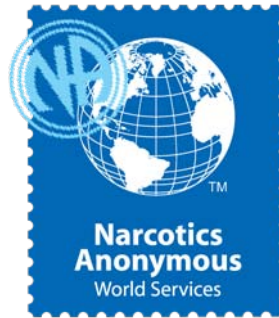
Did you know?

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 40,000 weekly meetings held in approximately 125 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:** the very first *NA Way Magazine* was published in September 1982 and was started with a budget of \$412? The cost of a twelve-month subscription for that first year was \$12.
- Did you know:** expenses for printing, paper, and postage for the October 1982 issue of *The NA Way Magazine* totaled \$90.07? There were twenty-six subscribers at that time.
- Did you know:** when *The NA Way* changed from a monthly, paid subscription to the current quarterly, free subscription in October 1997, we also began translating the magazine into French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish?
- Did you know:** every NA group registered with NA World Services is automatically signed up to receive the magazine?
- Did you know:** 43,206 *NA Way Magazines* were delivered in July 2006? Of those, 40,008 were paper, and 3,198 were electronic.
- Did you know:** the cost of printing, translating, and distributing the last four issues of *The NA Way* was over \$120,000? Postage costs were 58% percent—\$70,000—of that total!
- Did you know:** when you e-subscribe, *The NA Way Magazine* is sent directly to your email box in living color, and your e-subscription eliminates the cost of paper, printing, and postage—saving our fellowship thousands of dollars?



Public relations



Public relations news from NA World Services

This public relations forum will become a regular column in *The NA Way Magazine*. We hope it will help local members share their public relations experiences. We want to hear and learn from you. What are some of your experiences with building and repairing relationships in your communities? We believe that, by sharing our common challenges and experiences with one another, we will all become better able to provide effective local services. After all, we are each other's eyes and ears. Listening and learning from each other can only help NA's message of recovery become more widely known and available.

What do you think?

We can begin this ongoing dialogue by addressing the question, "What is public relations?" For us in NA, it seems helpful to think about public relations as falling under the following three topics:

❖ **Public relations is creating and maintaining relationships with professionals and the general public.**

Public relations is striving to put our best face forward. What is our collective appearance? How do our own behaviors and attitudes affect our relationships with the public? How can we better keep the commitments we make? How can we follow up on requests made to NA more effectively?

❖ **Public relations is openly and willingly listening to constructive comments from professionals about what they need from NA and what they've experienced with NA.**

Our goal is to maintain open communication and to be responsive. What are some of your experiences with listening to a member of the public's perception of NA? How has this helped you in your service efforts?

❖ **Public relations is working with professionals and facilities to rebuild and repair relationships.**

Making amends is not unfamiliar to us. How are we "righting our wrongs" when it comes to public relations? Owning the behavior that caused harm, building credibility by following through with renewed commitment, and becoming open to communication are all ways we can "right our wrongs." What are some of your experiences with this?

- ❖ The *Public Relations Handbook* was approved at WSC 2006 and replaces *A Guide to Public Information*. We are readying this handbook for publication and anticipate it will be available to members soon.
- ❖ The 2006-2008 conference cycle is well under way, and we are already busy interacting with professionals and members. We recently attended conferences of the National Drug Court Professionals and the Parole and Probation Associations. We anticipate making presentations at conferences of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities and the Asia Pacific Institute on Addictions. Most recently, we had the privilege of presenting at the American Society of Addiction Medicine conference.
- ❖ We are facilitating workshops on the Area Planning Tool and the *Public Relations Handbook* within the fellowship. With planning, preparation, and training, we will help enhance the credibility of NA's program of recovery, build solid relationships with professionals, and help addicts find recovery from addiction in Narcotics Anonymous.

We invite you to send us ideas for the name of this column. What do you think will best describe this in-print exchange of information and experience? Email your suggestions to naway@na.org; fax us at 818.700.0700, attn: NA Way; or send your idea by post to NA Way-PR column; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA. We will welcome all ideas received by 30 November 2006.

Basic Text Project Update

Are you reviewing???

The review-and-input draft of the Sixth Edition Basic Text was released at the beginning of September. Have you received yours yet? If you haven't signed up to review the draft, it's not too late. You can log on to our website and sign up:

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

Or you can contact us via post or email at:

NA World Services, Inc.
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA
worldboard@na.org

What's new in the draft?

The draft includes a new preface, a revised collection of personal experience, and an introduction to that part of the book. The collection of experience is divided into four sections, each beginning with several pages of shorter reflections from our members, sort of like the sharing at a topic meeting as opposed to the speaker-meeting type of sharing in the rest of the section. The longer pieces are each summarized in a short abstract that will also be included in the table of contents. This should make it easier for people who are looking for particular kinds of experience to find them more quickly. For background on the project, see the solicitation flier and other material on our website: <http://www.na.org/conference/bt>.

As we have reported earlier, we also have some ideas about revisions to the titles we use in the book. We are proposing that we drop the designations "Book One" and "Book Two." The page before Chapter One would be titled "Our Program," and the page after Chapter Ten would be titled "Our Members Share." We hope you'll give us your input on ideas such as this, in addition to telling us what you think of the new material itself.

In short, the draft takes a brand new approach, in some ways, to the idea of collecting our members' experience. We hope to reach out not just to newcomers but also to members who have been coming to NA for some time. The collection is international and attempts to paint a picture of NA's diversity.

A work in progress

That said, we know there is more we could do to capture some of the diversity in our fellowship. In particular, there are some obvious geographic gaps in the material we are sending out. We are still working to collect experience, and we hope the approval draft (which will be voted on at the 2008 World Service Conference) will include some additional pieces. And because the collection functions together—it's not just a bunch of isolated, individual pieces, but a collection in the true sense of the word—there may be some pieces in the review draft that are not in the approval draft.

And it's not just the collection itself that is a work in progress. We are also still discussing questions such as what to call this part of the Basic Text ("Our Members Share"? "Our Stories"? or something else) and how to refer to the pages of shorter passages of sharing ("Reflections"? "Cameos"? "Vignettes"? or something else).



Together we can

It's exciting for us to be moving into this collaborative phase of the project. The cover material for the review draft explains some of the background of the project and the areas where we are looking for your input. The questions included in the cover material are intended to be a helpful starting place, not to limit your thinking in any way. We welcome any input you have about the draft.

Please sign up and help us to spread the word.

Important dates

- ❖ Now through February: Review and input period
- ❖ 28 February 2007: Deadline to send input
- ❖ September 2007: Approval draft published



2006 – 2008

Fellowship Issue Discussions

Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?

The topics “diversity in NA,” *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?* and “common needs” are all about carrying NA’s message to those we haven’t yet reached. Diversity is about making NA more attractive to anyone who might benefit from our message—whether they are addicts from various races and cultures, or addicts of a certain age or professional background. We believe that reaching a broader range of addicts will not only strengthen our fellowship, but will more accurately reflect the nature of our disease. Just as addiction knows no limits, our purpose is to share NA’s message of recovery with everyone. These topics can help to support our unity and increase our ability to reach those who feel they don’t belong in NA.

In the July issue of *The NA Way Magazine*, we began outlining the 2006-2008 Issue Discussion Topic *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?* We will continue this discussion in a series of articles over the next two years. The topic *Who Is Missing?* comes from the fellowshipwide discussions we have had over the last four years about a group’s atmosphere of recovery. These discussions asked us to review how we can make our groups more welcoming and attractive. Now, we will begin to focus on the larger topic of diversity in NA and the related discussion of common needs. We hope some of the information here will help us all continue to have conversations about ways to strengthen our ability to attract those missing from NA.

Diversity in NA

Our literature states that “our diversity is our strength,” and this has been a touchstone in our discussions about the topic of diversity in NA. When we embrace the principle of diversity, we reach a broader range of addicts because they hear an NA message with which they can identify. Many of us have experienced what it feels like to be the only addict at a meeting who looks a certain way, or who comes from a particular background. We know that addiction cuts across all segments of society. Our hope now is that recovery in NA can better embrace all segments of society.

Our primary purpose is to carry NA’s message to all addicts, not only addicts with whom we feel comfortable. This topic asks us to look beyond the group of addicts with whom we are already comfortable. One approach to this is considering ways to include those who may seem unlike us. We can ask ourselves, “Do we display favoritism toward those who used certain drugs?” “Do our home groups successfully reach a variety of addicts in our community?”

Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?

In many ways, we are having this dialogue now because, as a fellowship, we’ve seen success and growth over the past years. We are attracting more and more members and have become more diverse than ever before. There are still many

Diversity doesn't only mean making NA's message more accessible to those from various cultures, races, ages, languages, and so on. It also includes making NA's message more attractive to those who have used various drugs, or those from a variety of professional and educational backgrounds.

addicts, however, who feel that NA is not for them. This discussion is about what we can do to make those addicts feel welcome and know that they, too, can find recovery in NA.

The answer to the question *Who is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?* will be different depending on the particular NA community in which we live. We know that we broaden our ability to carry NA's message of recovery when NA communities ask themselves, "Who are the people suffering from addiction in our community who are missing from NA meetings?" Not all communities are made up of people from diverse backgrounds, so the goal of this question is not to create a uniform picture of diversity that each NA community must meet. Instead, each community can look at its own population and ask itself who is missing from its meetings. In some places, professionals may be missing from NA meetings; in others, it may be addicts from a certain economic background. In some NA communities, young people may be missing, while in others they might be struggling with a lack of members with clean time or addicts who used a certain type of drug. What's important is that we broaden our perspective to consider who is living in our larger communities, and how we can better attract those we may not be reaching.

As your World Board, we've talked about the fear of developing strategies to address *Who Is Missing?* Some members believe that using certain approaches to reach those not in our rooms might conflict with our unifying message that any addict can find a home in NA regardless of age, race, creed, etc. We've heard the concerns of members who think that tactics such as common-needs meetings might compromise our unity. In our discussions about these concerns, and in our interactions with NA communities that have successfully reached those missing from their meetings, we've noticed how important identification is for newcomers. Hearing NA's message in a way that allows a newcomer to identify with the person carrying the message has made all the difference for many people.

In many ways, this idea of identification is directly linked to the NA World Services Vision Statement—the goal that NA's message become available to addicts in their own language and culture. This is what common-needs meetings and targeted literature are trying to do: reach addicts in their own language and culture.

Common-Needs Meetings

Targeted literature and common needs are two ways we are addressing the issues of *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?* and diversity in NA. Targeted literature has become a priority to world services, and common-needs workshops will be held at WCNA-32 in San Antonio next year. There were many discussions at the 2006 World Service Conference about our request to hold common-needs meetings at the convention. The conference overwhelmingly supported removing the language that said these types of meetings could not happen and directed that they must happen at the upcoming world convention.

We heard conference participants offer a helpful differentiation between "common needs" and "special interests." For example, knitting and chess are *interests*, whereas hearing the message of recovery in one's own language and culture is a *need*. We also heard the fear that common-needs meetings could be divisive or threaten the unity of our fellowship.

Our service symbol can be a model for our desire to reach those who haven't yet found NA—the broader the base, the higher we can reach. The broader we make our message, so that more and more addicts can find recovery in NA, the stronger our effect can be on this disease.

We believe there is tremendous value in making it easier for new members to identify with NA's message as soon as they are introduced to our program. That one new member may be the addict who is able to carry NA's message to someone we haven't been able to reach—maybe they speak the same language or come from the same cultural background. It's clear that the more diverse the fellowship, the more members we are able to reach. We hope that each member's level of identification will grow and expand as they progress in recovery, but the effectiveness of our efforts to reach the still-suffering addict depends on our ability to meet those addicts "where they're at." The goal is to make our message more relevant to more addicts so that anyone can come to NA and find that they, too, belong in our fellowship.

Targeted literature is another way of accomplishing that. This literature acknowledges people who wonder if they belong in NA. It says, "You matter to us and you belong here." No two addicts enter recovery with the exact same set of questions and concerns. Issues that are of great concern to some members are irrelevant to others. Targeted literature makes an effort to answer the questions that specific populations face. It can help reinforce the idea that NA is for all addicts, and that no one has to feel alone here.

We've identified the following list of topics as our priorities for targeted literature:

- ❖ youth and recovery;
- ❖ medication in recovery;
- ❖ the benefits of NA service to personal recovery;
- ❖ members with more clean time, and how to inspire continued involvement in the fellowship;
- ❖ older members and recovery; and
- ❖ issues regarding gender.

The need for literature to address these topics has become clear through a combination of requests from the fellowship and from the fellowship discussions that have taken place over the last two years.

Working together to carry NA's message of hope to those we haven't yet reached will result in greater unity for our fellowship. Our efforts to reach people whose common needs have not been met will provide a gateway into our fellowship that hasn't existed until now. When those members gain freedom from active addiction, they will have a choice about the extent to which they wish to identify with other recovering addicts. The diversity of our fellowship continues to be its strength, and by opening more doors to our rooms, we can only experience more freedom in our ability to grow and change.

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



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



The *NA Way Magazine* presents the experiences and opinions of individual members of Narcotics Anonymous. The opinions expressed are not to be attributed to Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, *The NA Way Magazine*, or Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Submissions to the magazine may be mailed to *The NA Way Magazine*; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA. They can also be faxed to us at 818.700.0700, or emailed to naway@na.org.

And...uh...

"Hi, my name is Bubbles, and I'm an addict and an alcoholic...uh...I mean I'm an addict and...an addict. Well, anyway, back when I was drinking and drugging...I mean, using and...Ugh! What I meant to say was, back when I was taking drugs and alcohol...I mean, drugs and, um, drugs...Argh! In any case, now that I'm clean and sober...oops, I mean clean and..."

As ridiculous as this mumbo-jumbo reads on paper, it comes out sounding that redundant to me every time I hear someone introduce himself or herself as an "addict and an alcoholic" or talk about being "clean and sober." Not that I would ever directly criticize someone (or even gently correct them) for the way they share. There is, after all, only one requirement for membership in NA, and it doesn't have anything to do with how we introduce ourselves or share in meetings.

Instead, I share on an NA message, limit my meeting attendance to NA, quote only from NA literature, and have found that most members eventually come around to a similar perspective if they stick around long enough. I also share, whenever it's relevant, that NA is sufficient—even abundant—in its ability to provide optimal recovery... that I don't need to supplement my NA program by attending meetings of any other twelve-step fellowships, learn my recovery out of any other twelve-step textbooks, or work with sponsors in any other twelve-step programs.

In my old home group back in Tennessee, we used to read a "clarity statement" at the beginning of every meeting, which went something like this:

"We are presented with a dilemma. When NA members identify themselves as 'addicts and alcoholics' or talk about living 'clean and sober,' the clarity of the NA message is blurred. To speak in this manner suggests that there are two diseases, or that one drug is somehow separate from the rest, requiring special recognition. Narcotics Anonymous makes no distinction between drugs. Our identification as addicts is all-inclusive, allowing us to concentrate on our similarities, not our differences."

John D, Rhode Island, USA

World convention growth brings exciting new changes and challenges

WCNA-32 to expand benefits offered to pre-registrants

Over the last ten years, the World Convention for Narcotics Anonymous has tripled in size. We continue to strive to make each world convention a unique celebration of recovery, and it's exciting to share that celebration with so many recovering addicts. At the same time, this extraordinary growth makes it increasingly challenging to plan and stage the event.

This article is meant to provide information about our three overarching goals in planning and staging the convention:

- 1) We design the convention with no intention of generating income for NA World Services.
- 2) We strive to enhance the convention experience for registrants.
- 3) We try to make the convention accessible to as many members as possible.

Sometimes these goals work against one another, however, requiring us to perform a very delicate balancing act in responsibly handling the fellowship's funds.

Did you know that the world convention is not designed to generate profit or revenue for NA World Services?

We carefully consider historical data to project potential attendance at each event. We are always mindful not to unduly risk the fellowship's funds in the planning of the event. For example, we purposely plan to sell out of merchandise before the event ends so that we don't spend money producing merchandise no one will purchase. Similarly, we project attendance conservatively, building only a small "pad" into the number of registration packets we order. These are just two of the many areas of convention expense that demand careful scrutiny and accurate planning in order for us to be responsible with the fellowship's funds.

Did you know that one of our primary goals is our constant focus on convention registrants?

We do all we can to enhance a registrant's experience at the convention. Today, your WCNA registration includes more events planned during the convention, and we look for ways after every convention to improve our processes and procedures. In 1996, we started offering pre-registration merchandise as a way to make sure that those who registered in a timely fashion would have access to merchandise without having to stand in line. In response to requests for WCNA-32, we will be significantly expanding the range and quantity of pre-registration merchandise offered for sale. In the past we have typically offered three to four items, but for WCNA-32 we will offer twelve different items, and we will expand the women's apparel offering wherever

possible. We will also open the merchandise store sometime Wednesday afternoon—the first time it will be opened so early in the convention—and for an initial period we will provide first access into the store for convention pre-registrants only.

Along with these benefits, we are making it easier for pre-registrants by eliminating the late registration fee that was previously imposed if you registered during the last sixty days before the convention—but we will still have a more expensive fee for on-site registration. This extended pre-registration period will give members eight and a half months to register for the convention and to purchase pre-registration merchandise. Pre-registering for the convention is the biggest way you can help us plan for your participation in the convention, by allowing us to accurately project attendance and costs in advance of the event. Pre-registering will also save you money by avoiding what will be a significantly more expensive on-site registration fee than we have charged at previous world conventions.

Note: One way to afford paying for your registration before the cutoff date would be to save just \$2 a week over the course of the pre-registration period.

Did you know that we have always strived to make the convention as accessible to as many members as is logistically and financially possible?

We encourage all attendees to register, but we have never yet required registration to attend recovery meetings. As we grow, however, this presents new challenges. Actual attendance at our world convention is at times up to 33% higher than the number of paid registrants. For example, in San Diego our attendance was around 22,000, but only 14,000 chose to pay for convention registration. Our continuing growth has meant we are outgrowing many convention centers and arenas—and the larger the convention gets, the more our meeting-related costs increase. In San Diego, only two-thirds of the attendees absorbed these costs. Currently, convention registrants cover approximately \$300,000 in expenses to offset the cost of providing access to meetings for those who choose not to register.

We realize that the registration fee for a world convention is higher than the registration fee for a local convention, but these are not equitable comparisons. A world convention held in North America costs almost \$3 million to produce. We spend more money on sound, video, translations, and facility-related fees for WCNA recovery meetings than most regional conventions spend on their entire event. Convention registration is used to cover most of those costs. Additional expenses, like the cost of unplanned shuttle buses or last-minute printing of registration badges, are incurred when more people show up at the event than the number we have planned for. Please help us make WCNA-32 an enjoyable and memorable event for you by pre-registering for the convention as early as possible.

We also have a growing problem with people making multiple room reservations and cancelling them at the last minute. This puts the fellowship's funds at risk because it makes it more difficult for us to fulfill our contractual obligations to the hotels and reservations company. Reducing the proliferation of multiple reservations also makes more rooms available to members on a first-come, first-served basis. It is like not saving seats in a meeting and allowing those who show up first to have the best seats. You will see a new room-cancellation policy for this convention.

All of these realities must be carefully balanced against our commitment to be responsible with fellowship funds while striving to provide a unique, high-quality celebration of recovery that is inviting to everyone. We are committed to continuing to look for ways to improve our staging of the convention so that we enhance your convention experience with each event.

Note: For the most updated WCNA-32 information, to request a registration flyer, or to volunteer for service at the convention, please visit www.na.org/WCNA32/index.htm. Convention registration and hotel reservations will open 1 December 2006.



We're looking to lasso speakers for WCNA-32

Howdy y'all! As we start preparing for our worldwide celebration of recovery in San Antonio, Texas, 29 August to 2 September 2007, we need your help identifying potential convention and workshop speakers.

Clean time requirements are ten years for main meetings and five years for workshops. Workshop speakers will be selected from the convention's pre-registration list. So if you know a member who meets the requirements, has a great message, and is planning on going to the convention, submit their name for consideration!

To submit names and/or tapes, complete the form below and send it to the WSO via mail, fax, or email. Recommendations/tapes for speakers must be received no later than 31 December 2006.



Person to be considered as a speaker _____
First Last

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

Daytime Telephone () _____ Evening Telephone () _____

Email _____ Clean Date _____

Person submitting speaker _____
First Last

Telephone () _____ Email _____

Please fax or email completed submission form to 818.700.0700 or renee@na.org.
 Mail to: NA World Services; WCNA-32 Speakers
 PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409

PLEASE NOTE

While tapes are not required in order to be considered to speak at the convention, they are very helpful. All members are encouraged to submit one if possible.

WCNA-32

Speaker tape evaluators needed...

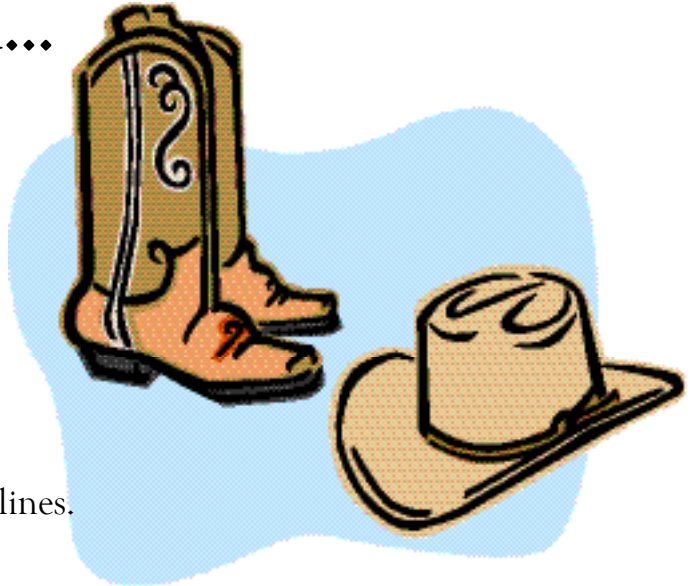
One of the many parts of the speaker selection process for the world convention includes a name/tape submission from members of the fellowship. You can help the World Board identify possible speakers for the world convention by listening to and evaluating about 100 tapes between January and May 2007.

Qualifications:

Five years clean time, willingness to serve and commit the necessary time, and ability to work with short deadlines.

To Be Considered:

Please complete and submit the attached form by 31 January 2007. You **MUST** also have submitted a World Pool Information Form that is available on our website at www.na.org.



Name _____ Clean Date _____

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

Day Telephone () _____ Evening Telephone () _____

Email Address _____

Please Note: If you have submitted a tape and/or request to speak at WCNA-32, you may not serve as an evaluator.

Send completed forms to:

NA World Services
Speaker Evaluators
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
Fax: 818.700.0700 Email: events@na.org

If you have additional questions, please call 818.773.9999



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 Provence 24-26 Nov; Convención Regional Argentina XIV; Hotel Luz y Fuerza, Mar de Plata; www.na.org.ar

Australia

Queensland 13-15 Oct; Australian Regional Convention; Tallebudgera Recreation Centre, Gold Coast; hotel rsvns: 61.422.064 143; registration: 61.411.478 914; www.na.org.au

Bahamas

New Providence 3-5 Nov; Celebration XVII; Cable Beach Resort and Casino, Nassau; hotel rsvns: 800.222.7466; event info: 242.327.6200, 242.702.4200 ext 6703; registration: 242.422.5470

Canada

Ontario 3-5 Nov; Ontario Regional Convention XX; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Toronto; hotel rsvns: 877.474.6835; www.ccnaconvention.com

India

Sikkim 9-11 Nov; Sikkim Area Convention II; Sambhala Resort, Gangtok; event info: 919434448617, 919832388837; speaker tape submission deadline: 31 Oct; sacna_2@yahoo.co.in

Indonesia

DKI Jakarta 17-19 Nov; Jakarta Convention V; Graha Wisata Kuningan, Jakarta; event info: 62.81510010750, 62.8176408182; write: Jakarta ASC; Jalan Wolter Monginsidi No 18; Jakarta 12310 Indonesia

Mexico

Aguascalientes 7-8 Oct; Campamento Unidad y Servicio I; Cabañas Túnel de Potrerillos, Aguascalientes; event info: 52.449.977.0809, 52.449.162.1808

2) Baja California 27-29 Oct; Convención Baja California XIV; Grand Hotel, Tijuana; hotel rsvns: 01.800.026607 (Mexico), 866.472.6385 (USA); event info: 818.765.5593, 925.753.5074

New Zealand

Canterbury 20-22 Oct; Aotearoa Regional Convention X; Arts Centre, Christchurch; event info: 64.3.3795842; registration: 64.3.9807995; www.nzna.org/events.htm

Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo 17-19 Nov; Convención de Area de Santo Domingo V; Hotel Don Juan Beach Resort, Boca Chica; hotel rsvns: 809.687.9157; event info: 809.330.2316 (Spanish), 809.259.8666 (English); www.canav.happyhost.org

South Africa

Gauteng 27-29 Oct; Woza Freedom Regional South African Convention XIII; Sizanani, Bronkhorstspruit; event info: 27.82.5601757; registration: 27.82.4904040; www.na.org.za/convention

Venezuela

Distrito Capital: 24-26 Nov; Convención Regional Venezuela IV; Hotel Avila, Caracas; hotel rsvns: 58.212.5533490; www.na-venezuela.org

United States

Alabama 3-5 Nov; Greater Birmingham Area Convention XII; Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 205.240.7560; registration: 205.253.2156

Alaska 13-15 Oct; Alaska Regional Convention; Millennium Hotel, Anchorage; hotel rsvns: 800.544.0553; event info: 907.333.3462, 907.245.0545

Florida 27-29 Oct; Unidos En Recuperación II; Grosvenor Resort Hotel, Lake Buena Vista; hotel rsvns: 800.624.4109; registration: 321.276.7611; www.orlandona.org

2) 23-26 Nov; Serenity in the Sun XXV; Comfort Inn and Best Western, West Palm Beach; hotel rsvns: 516.689.6100; event info: 561.856.3358; www.palmcoastna.org

Hawaii 26-29 Oct; Hawaii Regional Convention; Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort, Kailua-Kona; hotel rsvns: 808.322.3441; www.na-hawaii.org

Kansas 10-12 Nov; Miracle Area Convention; Holidome Convention Center, Lawrence; hotel rsvns: 785.841.7077; event info: 785.979.1731, 785.550.3669

Maryland 24-26 Nov; Freestate Regional Convention XIV; Waterfront Marriott, Baltimore; hotel rsvns: 410.385.3000; event info: 410.686.4575, 410.319.6031

Michigan 23-26 Nov; Through Change Comes Freedom VIII; Detroit Marriott at Centerpoint, Pontiac; hotel rsvns: 248.253.9800; event info: 313.255.6339, 313.460.5186; http://www.michigan-na.org/metro_detroit_region

Mississippi 20-22 Oct; Mississippi Regional Convention XXIII; Days Inn, McComb; hotel rsvns: 601.684.5566; event info: 601.212.9063, 601.954.9645

2) 3-5 Nov; Mississippi Gulf Coast Area Convention XXIII; University Inn, Hattiesburg; event info: 561.315.0450

Missouri 3-5 Nov; St Louis Area Convention III; Sheraton Chalet Hotel, St Louis; hotel rsvns: 314.878.1500; event info: 314.591.0947, 314.302.0848; www.slacna.blogspot.com

New Jersey 3-5 Nov; NorthEast New Jersey Area Convention XII; Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick; hotel rsvns: 732.873.1234

New York 20-22 Oct; Western New York Regional Convention XI; Holiday Inn Resort and Conference Center, Grand Island; hotel rsvns: 716.773.1111; event info: 716.837.8546; registration: 716.602.6815; www.nawny.org

Ohio 24-26 Nov; Greater Cincinnati Area Convention; Kings Island Resort Conference Center, Cincinnati; event info: 513.293.3462, 513.652.5369

Pennsylvania 17-19 Nov; Start to Live XXIV; Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion; hotel rsvns: 800.452.2223; event info: 412.351.4469, 412.401.5215

South Carolina 26-29 Oct; Serenity Festival XXIV; Springmaid Resort Conference Center, Myrtle Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.770.6895; event info: 843.381.9030; www.serenityfestival.org

Tennessee 22-26 Nov; Volunteer Regional Convention XXIV; Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville; hotel rsvns: 888.627.7060; event info: 615.793.2972; registration: 615.646.0200; www.vrc24.com

Texas 6-8 Oct; Esperanza Area's Twentieth Anniversary and Frolic in the Woods XV; Garner State Park, Concan; rsvns: 512.389.8900 or www.tpwd.state.tx.us; event info: 210.861.6822; www.eanaonline.org

2) 20-22 Oct; Best Little Region Convention XIX; Sheraton/Clarion, Lubbock; hotel rsvns: 806.747.0171; event info: 806.252.2300

Utah 10-12 Nov; Utah Regional Convention; Prospector Lodge and Convention Center, Park City; www.utahna.info

Vermont 10-12 Nov; Champlain Valley Area Convention XVII; Wyndham Hotel, Burlington; hotel rsvns: 802.658.6500; event info: 518.420.7000, 518.570.6842; registration: 518.566.0595; www.cvana.org

Washington 3-5 Nov; Western Service Learning Days XX; Sea-Tac Marriott, Seattle; hotel rsvns: 800.314.0925; www.wsls.org/wsls20.htm

Wisconsin 20-22 Oct; Wisconsin State Convention XXIII; Telemark Resort, Cable; hotel rsvns: 877.798.4718; event info: 715.468.4574, 715.635.2033; www.wsnacna.org

Coming soon

Public Relations Handbook

Approved at WSC 2006, this new handbook will replace *A Guide to Public Information*, and will be available to the fellowship soon.



Newly Designed Color Poster Set

Due to overwhelming response at WSC 2006, we are making available the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts poster set, colorfully encircled by thirty-four published NA languages. This poster set will be updated annually as we add new languages.

Pocket-Sized Books

Like its hardcover counterpart, this pocket-sized softcover Basic Text is designed to fit easily into pocket or purse at just 3.5 x 5.5 inches.

It Works: How and Why joins the pocket-sized collection sporting a handsomely printed hardcover. This 2.75 x 4-inch version is accompanied by a handy magnifying glass.

You can take it with you! *Just for Today* will also be available as a 2.75 x 4-inch pocket-sized softcover book.



Hospitals and Institutions Handbook Audio CD

Soon, the audio cassette tape included with the *H&I Handbook* will be replaced by an audio CD. All audio content remains the same and the CD will be stored in a two-hole-punched protective sleeve to fit in your three-ring binder. CDs will accompany handbooks as soon as the existing inventory of cassette tapes is depleted.

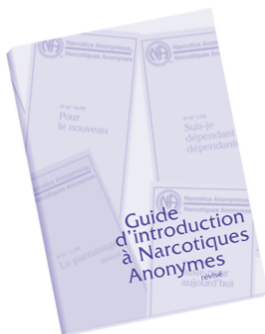
WSO PRODUCT UPDATE

French

*An Introductory Guide to NA,
Revised*

***Guide d'introduction à
Narcotiques Anonymes,
révisé***

Item No. FR-1200 Price US \$1.70



Lithuanian

NA: A Resource in Your Community

***Narkomanai anonimai:
Ištekliai jūsų vietovėje***

Item No. LT-1604 Price US \$0.32



Hebrew

Just for Today, Revised

רק להיום, נוסח מתוקן

Item No. HE-1112 Price US \$7.70



Hindi

IP No. 11: *Sponsorship*

स्पांसरशिप

Item No. HI-3111 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 15: *PI and the NA Member*

***Visuomenės informavimas
ir NA narys***

Item No. LT-3115 Price US \$0.21

Icelandic

Group Reading Cards – Set of Seven

Item No. IS-9130 Price US \$2.50

Norwegian

The NA Step Working Guides

***Anonyme Narkomane
Veiledninger til trinnarbeid***

Item No. NR-1400 Price US \$7.30

Italian

It Works: How and Why

Funziona: come e perché

Item No. IT-1140 Price US \$7.70



Russian

NA White Booklet

***Анонимные
Наркоманы***

Item No. RU-1500 Price US \$0.63



Thai

IP No. 1: *Who, What, How, and Why*

ใคร อะไร อย่างไร ทำไม

Item No. TH-3101 Price US \$0.21



Join the World Pool

Here's your opportunity to give back what was so freely given to you!!!

- ❖ Send in your World Pool Information Form.
- ❖ Trusted servants for NA World Services projects and elections come from this pool.

Visit our website at www.na.org/HRP/hrp-wpif-pt1.asp to access and submit an interactive form.

You can also reach us by letter or phone at



HRP

NAWS

PO Box 9999

Van Nuys, CA 91409

or 818.773.9999

or email us at hrp@na.org

Home GROUP

