

THE
NAWay®
MAGAZINE

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



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NUMBER FOUR

A meeting happens when two or more addicts gather to help each other stay clean.



(Basic Text, Chapter Two)

WCNA-32 highlights ● Word search ● Picture this: Helsinki, Finland
New service pamphlets ● WCNA-32 ASL DVDs
Basic Text Sixth Edition Approval Draft ● Circle of sponsorship
Membership survey ● WCNA-32 merchandise available online



THE
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OF
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From the editor

When we finally come to NA, after suffering through our addiction, many of us believe we have "earned our seats" in this fellowship. What matters, though, is what we do once we sit in these chairs. We have the opportunity to change ourselves and our lives, seek a spiritual path, and give back through service and sharing our recovery. Sometimes we notice empty chairs when we look around the rooms. Who's missing and how can we help them find NA? Are there empty seats because some don't feel welcome? Are there members who need our support who are ill, have relapsed, or have simply drifted away?

This issue includes several topics related to our NA seats. You'll read about a rural community that pooled resources, an addict who got clean at sixteen, addicts dealing with illness and life changes that took them away from meetings, and some who are missing from our meetings. Several addicts share here about their experiences at WCNA-32 in San Antonio, Texas, USA; where we filled thousands of seats at workshops, meetings, and events. And we can't forget the empty chairs left by those among us who have died. Though they are missed, we can say thanks for all they gave to us from their seats here in NA.

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."

Cover photo: The Real Deal Group, Hollywood, California, USA, and a WCNA crowd.

WCNA-32

Her tenth world convention

My WCNA-32 experience started the day online registration opened on the first of December 2006. A sponsee called to ask, "Did you register yet?" Of course I had; I'd been waiting patiently for the day and time to arrive! Then, everyone was asking, "Are you going to world?" And then, in the two weeks before the convention, there were e-mails, text messages, and calls to and from NA friends around the country. I wanted to know: Who will I see at WCNA-32?

I was sleepy on the flight from San Francisco to Denver, but the flight from Denver to San Antonio was delayed, and I spied a service symbol on a nearby woman's T-shirt. I introduced myself, we hugged; and then there was a flurry of introductions and hugs, which attracted others of "us" waiting for Flight 848. We talked about previous world conventions, trying to figure out what year the convention started occurring every two years instead of annually, whether Toronto came before or after Chicago, and the first world convention attended by members from Japan—and how we mobbed them with hugs! For me, this would be my tenth world convention, and I was as excited as the day I drove to Portland in 1990!

When I finally landed in San Antonio, I wanted to run to baggage claim, but I was caught in a moment of gratitude when I saw a banner in the airport: "Welcome WCNA-32!" Wow! We're here!! I told my taxi driver about WCNA—people celebrating and having fun clean! After a quick hotel check-in and an equally quick change of clothes (it was hot and really humid there), I ran across the street to the convention center for my pre-registration packet and merchandise, and then I joined the line for on-site merchandise sales.

By that time I'd hugged about 150 people, some I knew and some who just smiled at me. (Isn't that NA-speak for "hug me"?). As I stood in line, I was looking around the adjoining space in Bridge Hall (the NA World Services on-site office), with banners dropped from the high ceiling, people standing in line for coffee and sweets, displays of NA memorabilia, an *NA Way Magazine* area, home group registration, and literature sales. Standing in line for merchandise is a sort of ritual, and I don't mind it because I've met so many great people standing in WCNA merchandise lines over the years. Once

inside, I made my mug collection more complete and spent my limit on goodies for sponsees and friends back in San Francisco.

My volunteer shift in merchandise didn't start until 7:00 pm, so I had time to socialize, find a sponsee, meet more people, and collect more hugs. The energy of recovery carried me through a blur of workshops, volunteer commitments, step work with sponsees, comedy shows, and speaker meetings. My time as a cashier in merchandise allowed me to hug addicts from Bahrain, Kuwait, Brazil, Colombia, Canada, and Japan, as



WCNA-32 theme projected on a building, just outside of Sunset Station, the site of the convention kick-off festival.

Bill O, Wisconsin, USA

well as many fellow Americans. My time helping in the NA *Way* area gave me the opportunity to meet Jimmy K's daughters and another member from Japan. In both of these areas of volunteering, I got to work with some incredible people, both NAWS staff and other volunteers.

I spent time with my sponsor, from Missouri, and with sponsees from Wisconsin and Nevada. I was able to reconnect with addicts from the Midwest, where I got clean and spent the first nine years of my recovery, and with friends from New York, Hawaii, and points in between. I shared meals and recovery with old and new friends. There were people there I only see at world conventions, some of whom I'd missed for a number of years—and how glad I was they were there! On the shuttle to the Alamodome, the different languages that swirled around me gave me a good sense of how worldly we are.

This is some of what happened. How it felt is harder to express. My heart was overflowing; gratitude filled me with joy, and the awe I felt gave me goose bumps. Watching members being kind to each other, being polite in the community, and supporting newcomers was love in action, a testament to the presence of a Higher Power. The idea that any addict (even me) "can stop using, lose the desire to use, and find a new way of life" came alive for me in San Antonio.

Jennie C, California, USA



Paducah and Edinburgh

As I was talking with Brian S of Edinburgh, Scotland, we discussed some of the differences between meetings and the atmosphere of recovery in our home areas. NA meetings began in Scotland around 1983, thirty years after our fellowship was born in Southern California. We talked about the differences in cleantime in meetings. He said that words like "grand-sponsor" are virtually non-existent in his local NA community. He was excited about being part of the growing NA community in Scotland.

Brian was attending his third world convention. He said he enjoys the love of the fellowship and the spirit of recovery present at conventions. He has traveled around the world to attend NA's world conventions, and wishes that one day WCNA could be held in Edinburgh.

Getting to know and sharing with addicts, one-on-one, from different corners of the world truly reminded me that "no addict anywhere need die from the horrors of addiction."

Kevin R, Kentucky, USA

Sweet sixteen

Upon arriving at my first world convention (WCNA-32), I felt overwhelmed by joy. I saw thousands of people from different places and backgrounds in peace with each other. I also felt blessed to have this opportunity and to have survived addiction. Initially, I planned to travel with some friends and to celebrate my sixteen years clean at the convention. Even when they backed out, I never considered cancelling. It was my destiny to attend the convention. At first, I felt a little anxious because I felt alone, but then I went to the first meeting and got a hug. I was home.

I'm so grateful to my sponsor, who shared his world convention experiences with me. Once I got to WCNA-32, I called him every day to share my experiences with him and my sponsee. One time I called, crying—tears of joy, for a change.

As I write this, on the first of September, I am celebrating my sixteenth year clean. I can't express my gratitude for recovery and for our worldwide fellowship. How sweet it is!

Margaret T, New York, USA

Recovery village

It's 6:20 pm on Thursday, and the excitement is building. Thousands of people are pouring in as music fills the Alamodome, and dancers in brightly colored costumes draw the crowd's attention. The stage is backdropped with what appears to be mountains of spiritual principles in blue, green, red, and yellow. The positive energy I have felt since I landed in San Antonio is evident here at the WCNA-32 kick-off meeting.

As the speaker shares, everyone seems able to relate to the behaviors we recognize, and we can't help but laugh because the insanity mirrors our own struggles. He shares about how his introduction to NA was his first spiritual awakening into a new way of life. I sit here in tears, even after eighteen years of hearing stories about the trek from addiction to freedom, because it speaks to the core of who I am.

The second speaker brings us to the place we see if we close our eyes and remember the end of the using road. She reminds us that it's what we feel inside that brings us to our bottom. I relate to the value she places on honesty, humility, integrity, and honor. She shares about her hero being the addict in recovery who shared enough with her to spark the new sense of hope that led her to freedom. I pray that God will use me as someone's hero.

Thousands of people file out in an orderly fashion into Sunset Station, an amazing mini-city of lights, music, and smells of food. Buildings on both sides look like a scene from a western movie. We walk past food vendors, restaurants, several different bands, and dance clubs—all filled with recovering addicts. It's an entire village of conventioners, celebrating life clean. It is one of the most invigorating and exciting times I've experienced in all my years of recovery.

The message of hope and promise of freedom tugs at my heart. What greater power can there be to an addict in recovery than knowing that addicts all over the world share our hope and dreams of a life of freedom from addiction? That only happens through one addict helping another. Through this message, our spiritual hands reach across oceans and continents to carry hope into the hearts of the hopeless.

Dianne H, Wisconsin, USA



Kwa siku ya leo

Perhaps my most exciting moment at WCNA-32 was holding the new welcome keytag in Swahili. On one side: Karibu! (welcome) and on the other side: Kwa siku ya leo (just for today). The moment I had it in my hand, I was ready to take the next flight home to share it with my home group. I have never been so excited about some simple translation work. For me, this welcome key tag in Swahili represents the hope of our message, the hope that, some day, any addict from the region I come from will find the doors open to an NA meeting, and with it, a new way to live.

This was my first world convention, and I was asked to speak for a few minutes. I had never spoken to so many people in my life before. While I used, I could barely speak, even in a small group of friends. I had lost all the confidence

I'd ever had. Yet, there I was at the Alamodome for the Saturday night main meeting, sharing to the largest group I've ever spoken to, but I was unshaken. Why? It's because I knew that no one there would judge me, that my fellows were all rooting for me, whatever I had to say. I know this to be true, from the bottom of my heart, because many times I am the one exercising goodwill by listening to what others have to share. I have learned this new way to live just by staying clean, going to meetings, and being a part of the NA process.

On the last day of the convention, at the Unity Day celebration, someone was reading one of our usual meeting readings. He could barely read and, like him, tears of gratitude welled up in my eyes. That was my time of tears at the convention. I thank NA for replacing my old tears of pain and deep, deep sorrow with new tears of joy and deep, deep gratitude.

On the Monday after the convention, I went to the convention center to post a letter, only to find an empty hall. How sad and lonely it felt. I recalled thousands of addicts who smiled in these corridors, laughed joyously, hugged each other, made the place look and feel so alive. I realized that NA, and our world convention, are made up of our people—not the beautiful convention center, the Alamodome, or the hotels. It's the hugs, love, and sharing I witnessed first-hand on such a massive scale that makes NA what it is. Every time I saw an addict hug another, I felt as if I was giving and receiving the same.

Ujumbe wetu ni tumaini letu, ahadi yetu Uhuru! (Our message hope, our promise freedom.) Long live NA!

Bonnie N, Nairobi, Kenya

American Sign Language DVDs

DVDs of all WCNA-32 main meetings are now available with American Sign Language translation. To order yours, just click on the World Convention link at the bottom of our web page (www.na.org) or go directly to <http://www.siattend.com/Conference.aspx?cid=241&aid=10> The White Booklet will also be available on ASL DVD late November at http://www.na.org/online_literature_sales_entrance.htm or by contacting NAWS Customer Service.



Group (mis)readings

We've all stumbled on our words while reading aloud at an NA meeting, right? Here are a few mis-readings as remembered by several NA members:

We have no *irritation* fees or dues.

Andrea L, New Mexico, USA

I/*We/You* can, however,
be arrested at some point ...

Jana B, Wisconsin, USA and Courtney H, Missouri, USA

Just as freedom for the individual comes from the Twelve Steps, so freedom *from* the group springs from our traditions.

Just for today,
I will be unafraid of my thoughts ...

Susan W, Pennsylvania, USA

Our traditions protect us from the *international* and external forces that could destroy us.

Thinking of alcohol as different from other drugs has caused many great addicts to relapse.

Wayne VW, Rhode Island, USA

S X W T G U K X Q J K P U Y H
W G R I E F Y L O M C R S E H
J R A N U C U J T R H L U M H
L A X Y T S S T E P S C R R C
D T K T T G C N H R Y A R E B
E I L D E R X L I S H Y E M P
U T P R O J A H B G R G N O O
O U I V B J Y D B N M I D C U
V D Y B Y P L N I I S H E W E
S E R V I C E D J T U N R E F
X S M B H F S K M E I O L N Y
S N L U Q O T M I E C O Z Q T
H M G N W S P S M M Y I N T Y
T V Y I D E T E N K S S E S B
I B N T I K S A N I T Y I Y G
A D W Y T J P A D E N Y B R T
F J T Y B S N W U B M U I D S
L R E L A T I O N S H I P S C
Y N U W I L L I N G N E S S B
K T N H C W D R C L Y N H P T

WORD SEARCH

- Traditions
- Unity
- Willingness
- Surrender
- Steps
- Service
- Sanity
- Relationships
- Meetings
- Newcomer
- Hope
- Faith
- Gratitude
- Grief

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Staying clean for the long haul

I got clean when I was sixteen years old, not because I wanted to, but because I was forced into treatment by my parents. Prior to that, I lived in a nice suburb and never had to live on the streets, never ate out of dumpsters, was never arrested, raped, or molested, and I never sold my body for drugs. I was an above-average student on the high school gymnastics team. I knew my using was getting out of control, but I didn't think I was an addict. I thought addicts were people who shot heroin or did all those things I'd never done. My goal in life was to finish high school, go to college, and live like John Belushi and the characters in the movie, *Animal House*. Beyond that, I really had no goals.

After about two weeks in rehab, I had a spiritual awakening. I realized that if nothing changed, nothing would change. I wanted to be something in life, but I didn't know what that was. I didn't have any direction at home from my family, nor did I have a suitable peer group to point me in the right direction.

I left rehab thirty days later and immediately started going to meetings in the area. NA was small back in 1982. We only had two meetings a week in my area. We didn't have much literature; the Basic Text hadn't been published yet, so we used the Little White Book and borrowed other fellowships' literature to get a better understanding of the steps. My first sponsor had five years clean, and we began working the steps. She was very involved in service and taught me the importance of giving back what was freely given to me. As I was starting the recovery process, the hardest thing for me was learning how to behave like an adult as I was becoming one. There were not a lot of young people who stayed clean in NA when I first came around, so most of my recovery peers were older than me. Most were in their forties, but a lot of them had what I wanted: peace, serenity, family.

It has now been twenty-five years since that first day in rehab, and I have not picked up since then. I am now forty-one myself, and I have had an amazing journey. I am a miracle, and I have gratitude in my life every day. Relapse is not a necessity and has not been a part of my recovery. I have dealt with hopelessness, desperation, shame, guilt, and embarrassment in recovery; whatever has crossed my path, I have forged ahead and kept going with as much dignity as I could. I have made many mistakes throughout the years, but I have also made so much progress. My dreams have come true and have far surpassed what I thought possible. I am now married and have a son. I have nice things, a white picket fence, great friends, lots of fun, and many choices of meetings to attend. We have about 140 meetings each week within thirty minutes of my home. I continue to stay in service at the group and area levels. I sponsor fellow addicts, and I continue to spread the message of recovery wherever I go. I am blessed with a God of my own understanding who guides and protects me always. I am simply the luckiest girl in the world!

Shelly SS, Nevada, USA

Illness and recovery

Hello, my name is Lisa, and I'm a grateful recovering addict. Five years ago, I became very ill with Crohn's disease. I had to have multiple surgeries to correct some very serious problems. I had to be treated in a hospital eight hours away from my hometown, and one of the hardest things to deal with was not being able to see my two amazing sons every day. I spent weeks and weeks in the hospital, on and off, for three years. One day as I sat in my hospital bed, with IVs running left and right, I asked my sponsor, "Why me?" She replied, "Why not you?" I had felt so disconnected from my higher power for so long that it was time for me to finally connect and ask for help and strength to get through this hard time.

Being an addict and having to take nine different types of medication to control inflammation and pain was a big challenge. I had learned that being an addict doesn't mean I have to suffer in pain, and that it is okay to take prescribed medication. If I ever felt that I was tempted to use the medications to "escape," I would call my sponsor and talk to her about how I was feeling. I'm never alone, and while I was in the hospital I called the NA helpline and asked for local members to visit me and have a meeting with me—and they did. They called me every day, supported me, and made me laugh.

Today, I have survived some major surgeries and I have an ostomy (a surgical opening in the body to an external collection device). I like to refer to it as my "Godstomy," because it saved my life. Without it, I wouldn't be alive today to share the message of hope and recovery. I don't take any medication at all, now, and I believe that I'm an inspiration to other recovering addicts. I have a lot to be grateful for, and I made it through, one day at a time.

Lisa P, Ontario, Canada

Principles before personalities

Egocentric fear is the most current manifestation of my disease, because it tends to maintain itself in the background, acting in an imperceptible manner, disguised by justification. When I have good feelings or intentions, it will try to warp them into feelings of superiority or inferiority, and it never allows me to establish any sense of balance.

A female member arrived at our group, and I was attracted to her. She was beautiful, she dressed the way I like women to dress, and she had an appearance that awakened my attraction to very young women. I looked at her and felt that she was responding to me. I tried to avoid her gazing at me, but it was difficult for me to avoid it. I knew I had to recognize that she was a newcomer and respect her, but I lost my perspective on why I had to do so.

One day, I talked to her, and she told me that she liked reading good books and listening to good music; immediately, I felt that God had put her here for me. I told her that I was attracted to her, but that I should respect her. She told me not to worry, and immediately my insecurity made me believe she was not interested in me. I told myself I would respect her, but that if she slipped, I would not be able to control myself; but then she explained to me that what she meant was that she didn't see a problem in us getting to know each other.

Of course, she was a newcomer. I was the one who should have known better, and I didn't, but I decided to respect her anyway. I wanted to follow the rules, because my sponsor and fellow members who have more experience told me that was the best thing to do, that a relationship probably wouldn't work, and that if one of us left the other, one of us might use again. In spite of all these things, it was still difficult for me to distinguish why I couldn't do the right thing, which was to place principles first and take care of her as a fellow member in recovery.

One day, as I was reading the "fear" section of the Fourth Step in the *Step Working Guides*, I suddenly realized why it was so difficult for me. It was egocentric fear that caused me to want to prove to myself that I could still conquer a beautiful young girl. My egocentric fear led me to believe that if I didn't engage this woman in a relationship, another actively using addict would, and then I would feel like I, who had so much recovery to give to the newcomer, would have to save her from the grip of an active addict with bad intentions—but, in the end, what were my real intentions? I knew I had to be honest and face the hard task of placing principles before personalities. Despite my attraction and affection, I wanted to do what was right for our recovery. So, just for today, I will respect my fellow members, no matter how old they are, what race or sex they are, their religion or lack of religion. I will place principles first, even if those principles contradict my self-will.

Carlos B, Estado Mérida, Venezuela

Reward #10,842

About a month ago, my son had a going-away dinner. He had graduated from high school four years earlier and had been working and sharing a house with three others. He told me they were good friends, but he couldn't keep any food in the refrigerator because his roommates ate what he bought instead of providing for themselves—so, he was off to a culinary school in Las Vegas to study to be a chef.

At the dinner, I gave my son my eighteen-year medallion to take with him. His eyes welled up, and we had a long hug. He told his grandmother what I had given him, and he started to cry because it meant so much to him.

Thank you, NA, not only for my life, but for my son's life, too.

Casey T, California, USA

Circle of sponsorship

This may seem like a morbid topic, but I have been to enough NA funerals to see how lost sponsees feel after their sponsor dies. It may be easier if a sponsor relapses and dies, because then it is clear that a new sponsor must be found. But when a sponsor dies clean, there is a tendency to idealize them and to have difficulty finding a new sponsor.

There may be those who are reading this who want to remind me that this is a just-for-today program, and talking with sponsees about death can wait until death is at hand. I have sat with enough dying people to know that their condition makes it unlikely that they will be able to have clear, clean discussions as they are dying. Sometimes they are sleeping or unconscious, other times they are delirious. There can be fear about having difficulty breathing, or peace with one's attention directed toward "the next life." It is just rare that the dying sponsor in his last moments is focused on giving sponsees words of wisdom about what to do next.

There are a couple of things to cover in the "when I die" talk with my sponsees. I like to begin by reassuring them that I am not suicidal or dying of any illness. This conversation is difficult enough without freaking them out, thinking that my death is imminent. Then I like to ask them to not idealize me or romanticize who I am. I have defects that have not yet been removed, and idealizing me will just make finding the next sponsor more difficult. My style of sponsorship is not to encourage them to deceive themselves or others about anything, including who I am.

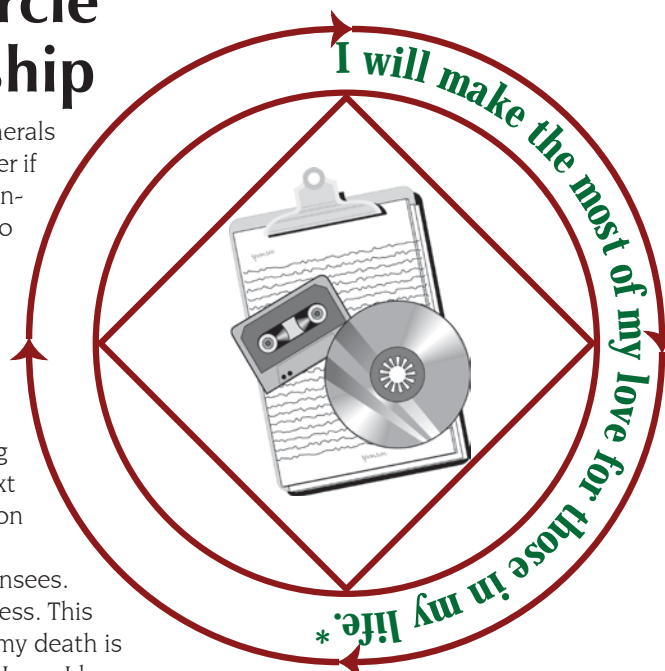
I give each sponsee a packet containing my personal step-working guides (both a hard copy and a disk), articles I have written, and recordings of any of my speaking shares. I want these to be shared, not hoarded. I want my sponsees to be able to pass on to their sponsees what I have given them. I also want them to enrich these materials with their own experiences.

I tell each sponsee that the phrase, "pick a sponsor who has what you want," is meant spiritually and does not relate to material possessions. Other than the stuff mentioned in the previous paragraph, none of my sponsees will be getting any keepsakes, nor will they be mentioned in my will. It is crucial for me to keep the sponsor-sponsee relationship clean and free of any conflicts of interest.

Finally, I want my sponsees to know that it is okay to feel sad without relapsing, wanting to kill yourself, self-medicating with an obsession, or dropping into a depression. The God of my understanding gave me all my feelings and does not wish me to either deny or obsess about any of them.

In closing, my relationship with each of my sponsees is different, but at the time of my death, my wishes for each of them will be the same:

- Know that I love you.
- Write me a good-bye letter expressing gratitude, fears, and resentments. Go someplace pretty and read the letter aloud, and then burn it.
- Be loving to each other and to any members of my family who survive me.
- Seek a new sponsor after thirty days who is as different from me as possible. My death is an opportunity to enrich your recovery. It is not the time to seek a clone who will safely take you where you have already been.
- Work the steps with your new sponsor.
- Attend NA meetings on a regular basis.
- Be of service to NA, even when you do not feel like it.



While my hope is that each of my sponsees will outlive me, I would like a decent crowd

of mourners at my funeral; however, I know that this may not be the case. Because of this, it is important to suggest that they have the "when I die" talk with their sponsees—and with me, also. I have buried two sponsees, so I know how much difference it makes to know what someone's wishes are before they go.

I hope you take what you want and leave the rest from this article, and that it makes this transition easier for you and for those you sponsor.

Craig PW, California, USA

Editor's Note: Craig PW, a frequent contributor to The NA Way Magazine, submitted this article in January 2005. Earlier this year, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He passed away on Friday, 21 September 2007.

*Just for Today, p. 242

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

The greater the base

I am a grateful recovering addict of nineteen years. My recovery has taken place in the rural United States, and I would like to share some of what I have experienced in regard to how the Fourth Tradition applies to NA in small communities.

I have been fortunate enough to visit and attend meetings in some large cities in the USA. I have encountered groups that hold multiple meetings each week—some three or four times a day, seven days a week. The meetings within these groups have a variety of formats. I have noticed that in these multiple-meeting groups, there are leaders who serve, not "addicts who govern." The addicts in these groups approach service as a shared opportunity.

So, why can't this happen in rural NA? Can't our differences be set aside so that addicts can work together to better attract newcomers? In the description of our symbol in the Basic Text, we read, "The greater the base (as we grow in unity in numbers and in fellowship), the broader the sides of the pyramid, and the higher the point of freedom."

Why does a community of approximately thirty recovering addicts need five or six separate NA groups? It has been my experience that when each meeting is a group, the door is open for self-will. If we divide the thirty addicts into six groups, we have about five home group members in each group. Of those five, at best, two or three may show up at business meetings. So, where's the exchange of ideas, group conscience, and unity? What happened to "I can't, we can?"

The comment I hear a lot is, "Our meeting is autonomous," but this is not what the Fourth Tradition says. It states, "Every NA group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole." A group (not a meeting) is autonomous, which means having the right or power of self-government.

If the group is strong, and we have a group conscience aligned with God's will, our decisions and answers come from the group conscience, not from individuals such as those who have been around longer. Through unity and fellowship, we attract newcomers as well as oldtimers. Many times I hear the question, "Where are the oldtimers?" We tend to look to our longer-term members for solutions, and it is difficult to be the person who is depended upon for answers all the time. Involving more members in the group and the group's business meetings allows oldtimers to just be addicts in their home groups, instead of always being looked to for answers and direction. To an addict with some clean time, this is an appealing concept.

Members of multiple-meeting groups only have to attend one business meeting per month, and because more members attend the business meeting, there is a better opportunity to reach a true group conscience instead of being influenced by individual personalities. Multiple-meeting groups also seem to promote unity. With several meetings operated by one group, there are enough people to fill service positions, because the resources of several meetings are combined in one group. One GSR represents the whole group, instead of having one GSR from each meeting.

Here's an example of this idea in action. Two years ago, two groups in our rural community decided to combine into one group. We added two more meetings, so the group had four meetings per week at two different locations, with varying meeting formats.

At a recent home group meeting, we had nineteen addicts at the recovery meeting, and fourteen stayed to support the group's business meeting. We exchanged ideas, discussed how to better carry the NA message, and filled most of the group's service positions, with more than one willing addict nominated for some positions. The treasurer's report was given, and we were all excited to learn that our group could donate the largest monthly donation from a group in our area's history.

One of the group members made a motion to add another meeting to our schedule. Unanimous group conscience decided to table this motion until the next month so that an ad hoc committee could first consider details like time, location, format, and whether our group would be able to support another meeting. In the meantime, the Monday morning group was struggling to keep its doors open, due to limited resources, so they asked to join our group. After adding that meeting, and adding a Friday night meeting based on the ad hoc committee's recommendation, our group now has six weekly meetings.

The base of our home group is changing and growing in a spirit of unity and fellowship, and we are proving that "together, we can!"

Bob S, Wisconsin, USA

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



Helping to realize our vision



WCNA 32—Professional Panels

For the first time in the history of NA world conventions, NA World Services hosted two professional workshops at WCNA-32. One focused on cooperation with criminal justice professionals, and the other on cooperation with medical and treatment professionals. Over 500 NA members and professionals from the San Antonio, Texas, USA, area, attended each workshop.

The criminal justice panel was comprised of a former director of volunteer services for the Texas Department of Corrections, a current Addiction Services Bureau chief for the New Mexico (USA) Department of Corrections, and the immediate past CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and past executive director of the National Drug Court Institute in the United States. In the dialogue with members following the professional presentations, members discussed the influx of drug court clients into meetings. They explored the idea of holding "new-member workshops" at the courthouse that would function as introductory NA meetings. They also discussed the concept of meeting in-custody addicts when they are released. They took an especially close look at some of the issues that could keep NA members on the outside from doing this, particularly in larger criminal justice facilities.

The medical and treatment panel participants included a physician who is the director of operations for a treatment center in Texas, a physician from Texas specializing in addiction and substance abuse medicine, a lobbyist based out of Washington, DC, USA, and a physician who works in treatment in New Mexico. Their discussion with our members focused on welcoming clients who are receiving medication as part of their treatment as well as those who receive drug replacement medications. The newly released service pamphlet, *NA Groups and Medication*, was highlighted as a resource that may help groups maintain an atmosphere of recovery and focus on our primary purpose. Additionally, the physicians asserted that NA needs to make a concerted effort to become part of every medical school's curriculum. The physicians said that none of them received more than six hours of addiction training during their years of schooling.

NAWS Professional Conferences

Over the past six months, NAWS participated in eight professional conferences. Participating in these conferences allows us to work toward our vision that "one day Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery."

NAWS Literature Distribution and Convention Workshop

9–10 November 2007
in Woodland Hills, CA

We will begin at 10:30 am
on Friday and end at 6:00 pm
on Saturday.

This workshop offers a unique opportunity for convention committee and literature distribution trusted servants to discuss and share best practices. So, if you distribute literature or plan conventions, come and join us!

Register or download flyer:
[http://www.na.org/nawsevents/
event-reg.htm](http://www.na.org/nawsevents/event-reg.htm)

Professionals in the treatment, medical, and criminal justice fields increasingly consider NA as a program that can help support their clients' recovery. Annual conferences we participated in recently include: American Probation and Parole Association (Atlanta, Georgia, USA); Federal Probation Association (Nashville, Tennessee, USA); American Society of Addiction Medicine (Miami, Florida, USA); American Jail Association (Nashville, Tennessee, USA); National Association of Drug Court Professionals (Washington, DC, USA); Institute for Integral Development (Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA); and the American Corrections Association (Kansas City, Missouri, USA). At most of these events, local service committee members helped NAWS by providing information about Narcotics Anonymous to professionals and obtaining their contact information for follow-up with literature and presentations.

We also participated in three Recovery Month Planning Partners meetings in Washington, DC, including the annual Recovery Month Kick-Off events in September.

Cooperative Events

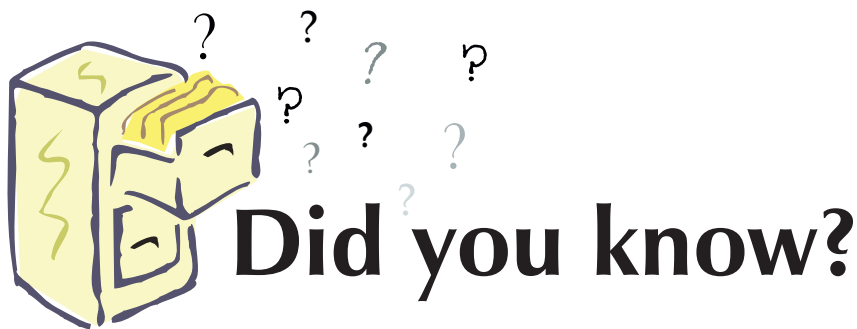
A part of our vision statement that seems to generate special enthusiasm among members of the fellowship is "that one day: NA communities worldwide and NA World Services work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery." NAWS cooperated with local and regional service committees to provide an NA presence at no less than twenty-one regional and international events and confer-

ences, mostly attended by treatment, corrections, and public policy professionals during these past six months! These events took place in ten US states and seven other countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, England, Slovenia, Sweden, Colombia, and Canada. In all these efforts, NAWS worked in partnership with the local service committees with the goal that "every addict in the world has a chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture" of recovery. The reports, pictures, and emails that NAWS received after the conferences tended to illustrate the fun members had and their enthusiasm for carrying the message of recovery through public relations. Thank you for your continuing service and recovery energy.

Public Relations Handbook

Many members may be aware that there was a price increase on the PR Handbook to US\$8.5, effective 1 September. With the addition of addenda and tabs, it became necessary to increase the price. The handbook is nearly double its original size, with more addenda pieces included than originally anticipated. Those who obtained the handbook prior to the addition of addenda and tabs may purchase the addenda package separately for US \$3.50.

We would like to hear about your experiences with the handbook. Have your areas and regions considered Chapter Three, "Effective Services" and utilized the Area Planning Tool? Have your area committees used the principles contained within Chapter Two for discussion? Has H&I used the "Criminal Justice" chapter, and has your phonelines committee used the "Phoneline" chapter with its addenda? We would love to hear of your successes and challenges with the handbook.



The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous has come a long way since our beginnings in 1953. We have grown from that first meeting in Sun Valley, California, USA, to more than 44,165 weekly meetings in over 127 countries worldwide. Our history is rich with diversity, and we want to share the facts of that history with you—the little-known facts and tidbits of information others might not otherwise know. Share your interesting NA facts with us by email at naway@na.org, by fax at 818.770.0700, or by postal mail at *The NA Way Magazine*; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.

Did you know... at WCNA-32 and World Unity Day 2007, nearly seventy-five NA members served as "roving reporters?" They interviewed other members, distributed a variety of questionnaires, and reported on their WCNA and Unity Day experiences.

Did you know... almost 500 roving reporter questionnaires, thirty-one articles, and 130 "Letter to the Editor" feedback forms were submitted to *The NA Way Magazine* at WCNA-32 and Unity Day events?

Did you know... nearly 300 new electronic subscriptions were submitted at WCNA-32? To enter your electronic subscription, just go to www.na.org/naway/naway-toc.htm or email us at naway@na.org

New service pamphlets

Several service pamphlets are being developed as resources for groups and service bodies. The idea for the "SPs" came about from a motion at WSC 2006 after lengthy discussions about the time required for service material development (two to four years) and the desire to capture the results of discussions at workshops and from the Issue Discussion Topics in a more timely manner. The motion was overwhelmingly supported and adopted. As your World Board, we have tried to be sensitive to the trust that was placed in us to deliver this type of material to the fellowship.

The first group of pamphlets was distributed to conference participants and at the world convention, and they are available for purchase as well as online at http://www.na.org/servicemat/service_material.htm. Now is the time for your feedback to us on these pieces. As always, it is our members' input that will help us provide relevant resources in a more timely way.

The SPs have a distinct design, making them easily distinguishable from recovery IPs. Service pamphlets are not intended to be recovery literature or to be used as the basis of a discussion during a recovery meeting. They are our best attempt at collecting some of the more successful practices in our fellowship in dealing with sensitive or difficult topics. They are similar to what has previously been released as NAWS Bulletins and should be treated in much the same way.

The format is wider (in between the size of our IPs and our booklets), but they still fit in our standard literature racks that accommodate booklets. Instead of bearing a "fellowship-approved" or "conference-approved" logo, the new SPs bear a corresponding "board-approved" logo. The five SPs that were approved in July are:

Disruptive and Violent Behavior

This piece is aimed toward groups looking for possible solutions to issues of disruptive and violent behavior at NA meetings.

Group Business Meetings

While all groups are autonomous, this pamphlet includes thoughts on effective group business meetings and a sample format and discussion topics.

Group Trusted Servants: Roles and Responsibilities

This piece summarizes and updates information from *The Group Booklet* and describes group service positions.

NA Groups and Medication

This is a resource to help groups maintain unity as they navigate issues about which individual members hold a wide variety of opinions and feelings.

An Introduction to NA Meetings

Our meetings can seem strange and uncomfortable to those new to our fellowship. This piece may be a resource for referring professionals and a welcoming introduction to visitors and to newer members. (This piece has been pulled pending further discussion about the definition of the word "clean.")

These SPs can be adapted and improved at any time, based on responses we receive from the fellowship. Let us know how they work for you, whether we've missed anything, and ideas for other pieces you'd like to see developed. You may email us at worldboard@na.org or write us at NAWS; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409-9999. In the near future, we hope to put finishing touches on the following three pieces: *What Is NAWS?*, *Leadership*, and *The Benefits of Service*.



After literally years of updates on this project, we are happy to report that the approval draft of the Sixth Edition Basic Text is published. You can download copies for free from our FTP site or you can purchase copies for \$8.00, which includes shipping and handling. See the project page on our website for more information: www.na.org/conference/bt.

The cover essay for the draft includes details about the history of the project, changes to the draft since it went out for review, motions related to the Basic Text that will be in the *Conference Agenda Report*, production issues, and our discussions about translations policy.

And while we've said it many times already, it bears repeating: a big thank you to all who participated in this project—conducting workshops, writing material, and sending input on the review draft. Thanks, especially, to workgroup members who spent three years and countless hours working on this project. We send them our heartfelt gratitude. Together we have managed to put together a Sixth Edition draft that we can all be proud of.



2006-2008

Fellowship Issue Discussions

Who's Missing: Long-Term Members

At workshops around the world, members with considerable clean time have been identified as one of the populations frequently missing from our rooms. In some NA communities, experienced members no longer attend NA meetings or participate in service. These members have much to offer our fellowship. We know that our groups, service committees, and members can reach out and encourage long-term members to return, but we also know that each individual member is responsible for his or her own recovery. So what might an individual consider in making the choice to return to the fellowship?



Go to

www.na.org/IDT/IDT.htm

**for all the latest info
on Issue Discussion
Topics, and to participate
in Online
Issue Discussion
Bulletin Boards!**

There will be resources available in this section to help you facilitate discussions and information about submitting your input. These resources are routinely updated, so be sure to check back regularly for new information.

How do I participate in NA when it is no longer my whole life? How do I reach out for help from people I don't know or who have less clean time than I do? Will I be allowed to have a "bad day" in spite of my considerable clean time and still be accepted? How do I go back to a fellowship that is different from the one I left?

Usually, our solutions in recovery lie in spiritual principles—some of them the same principles we learned about when we first got clean, and some that are new to us or that we may not have practiced as much. For example, living in recovery today may mean living in balance and including our recovery in that balance. Early in our recovery, we filled our nights with meetings and our weekends with service commitments, conventions, conferences, dances, and workshops. We replaced our old friends with recovering friends, and we developed a "habit of recovery." As we grew in our recovery, we welcomed relationships, jobs, nonrecovering friends, and new types of recreation into our lives. We may have found we couldn't maintain our recovery practices when they weren't our whole world, and our program suffered; but we can seek balance in our lives and recommit to our recovery. If there are others this will affect, we include them in our decision to return to NA, recognizing the need for balance in the time we devote to our recovery and to our other relationships.

When we first return to NA, we may feel like a newcomer again. The people may be different, the topics and formats may seem strange, the number of people in the meeting may have grown or dwindled, and even the demographics of members may be different—but it is still NA, the fellowship where we got clean and learned to recover. We can practice humility by introducing ourselves, by asking for hugs and phone numbers, or by sharing in the meeting that we have been clean awhile but have not been coming to meetings. If we have special needs, we can identify them and ask for help. Lasting friendships in NA have started with requests like this. When a group responsibility or service commitment becomes available, we can volunteer for it. This helps us get to that meeting every week, just as it did when we were new. We can still make time for recovery, and our program doesn't have to include meetings every day and service commitments every weekend.

If we are honest and open-minded, we will see that NA is not so different after all; that there are recovering addicts at meetings who have a lot to offer us, and many we can help. We may discover that our passion for NA has never really gone away. We can learn to love recovery in NA again, and learn to balance that love with our commitments outside of NA.

We may find that we still miss other long-term members with whom we got clean. We may find that the topics at some meetings are not relevant in our lives today. If that is the case, we can invite our long-term recovering friends to come and speak at or lead a meeting. We can suggest topics that will be attractive to those with extended periods of recovery. We can even start a new meeting and ask old and new recovering friends to help us support it. We can listen to the group service representative's report and offer assistance to the area or regional service committees on issues that are familiar to us or are similar to those we grappled with in our earlier service commitments. We may not be able to devote a Saturday or Sunday afternoon every month to our ASC, but we can still be of assistance on certain issues and projects.

Our "recovery muscles" are not very different from the muscles in our body. Since we haven't been actively flexing our recovery muscles, we'll need to get back into shape. If we have stayed clean for an extended period of time while not practicing those things that are important to our recovery, we must have had a very strong foundation in the first place. But we can't expect to stay clean on that foundation alone. We return to those practices that help us "keep what we have." We honor our gift of recovery by recommitting to our program and our fellowship, and working toward the balance we seek in our lives. When we do this, our recovery enhances every other gift in our lives.

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.).

This is our group from Helsinki, Finland. The group name is "Idän ihmeet" which is Finnish for "East Side Miracles." The group was established in 1994 and has held meetings every week except during a few short breaks. Today, our group is quite strong, with many active members, good spirit, and newcomers. We meet two times a week and use a variety of formats, including speaker, topic, steps, and traditions meetings. We even have a women's meeting once a month.

Reijo "Repe" S, Helsinki, Finland





We, too, do recover

I got clean in a very large city in the eastern United States where the NA meeting list is literally the size of a small book. Having suffered the pain of powerlessness and unmanageability long enough, I decided it was time to make my very first NA meeting, but I had no idea which meeting to choose. I was terrified to attend a meeting near my lower Manhattan apartment building. (My neighbors couldn't possibly know I was an addict, and I certainly wasn't going to tell them now.) I didn't want to go very far out of my way. (If, as I suspected, I didn't like the meeting, I would need to score—fast.) Above all, nobody could recognize me. (I am a terribly important person.)

I felt a rush of hope when I found several gay and lesbian meetings (listed as "special interest" meetings). Nervously, I walked into my first NA meeting and, surrounded by my gay brothers and lesbian sisters, felt safe for the first time in years. That relief didn't last long: The speaker worked as a copy editor at the newspaper where I was an editor. I listened to her share, raised my hand when they asked for anybody willing to be a sponsor, and, before the Serenity Prayer, ran from the room as fast as my little addict legs would carry me. This was not what I intended, but that was the day the drugs stopped working.

During WCNA-32 in San Antonio, I was struck by how quickly we seemed to focus on whether or not we actually need the common needs meetings that so many members fought so long and hard to have. There have been thirty-two Narcotics Anonymous world conventions. Finally, we had gay and lesbian workshops, actually listed in the convention program instead of scribbled on some tattered scrap of paper pinned to a back wall. There was a gay and lesbian dance included in the entertainment line up. And who can forget that heart-wrenching moment when a beautiful transgender sister stepped up to the Unity Day podium and read those inclusive words from the "We Do Recover" section of our Little White Book: "It is available to us all."

I have many gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender addict friends who got clean before the fellowship ever heard of gay and lesbian, special interest, or common needs meetings. I am so grateful they braved the hostility and homophobia they've so often described. Regardless of how, where, why, or when we got clean, can we give each other the very acceptance, tolerance, compassion, and unconditional love that we so desperately crave from our families and society at large without tearing apart the fabric of unity that makes us the proud recovering leather queens, college jocks, corporate stars, trannies, homemakers, children, and parents we have fought to become?

I know that I—an openly gay, HIV-positive man—would never have had the courage to set foot in NA had it not been for those "special interest" meetings. I also know there are many g/l/b/t addicts who got clean in NA long before these meetings took root. What I fail to understand, however, is why it continues to matter to so many of us which is the "right" or "better" or "correct" way to get clean! We all have bad hair days, but for heaven's sake, can we stop splitting that particular hair?

Can we, as a community of recovering g/l/b/t addicts, stop focusing so much on the "right" way to recover, the "right" meeting to attend, or the "right" opinion to have about things that continue to divide us, when the newcomer screaming for a way out of their despair and pain demands that we put aside our differences and focus on our similarities?

In short: Let's all just get over it! We're here! We're queer! We're clean! Whether or not we attended the g/l workshops or went to that dance, can we please all stand up and say, "Thank you, NA! We appreciate these gestures of inclusion, acceptance, and love more than mere words can ever convey."

Mark H, South Dakota, USA

Membership survey now available

For the first time ever, the membership survey that takes place at each world convention is being offered outside of WCNA. It is available online (<http://naws.org/surveys/index.php?sid=1>) and in a printable paper version (<http://www.na.org/PR/index.htm>).

This information helps us get a better picture of who we are as a fellowship and assists in our efforts to explain NA to professionals and nonmembers. Completing the form online saves paper and data entry, but we will happily accept paper copies. Paper copies may be mailed to NA World Services; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409.

We will collect surveys until **31 December 2007**. We hope you'll complete it and take copies to your groups, areas, and regions for others to fill out. And remember; please complete only one survey per member.



CALENDAR

NA groups and service bodies can publicize events in *The NA Way Magazine* and in our online calendar at www.na.org. To submit event information for the online calendar and the magazine, just click on the "na events" link at www.na.org and follow the instructions. (If you don't have Internet access, fax your event info to: 818.700.0700, attn: NA Way; or mail it to: *The NA Way Magazine*; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.) Only multi-day events are printed in the magazine. Events remain on the online calendar until the week after the event. Please submit information according to the magazine publication schedule below.

Issue	Submit event info by	For events taking place during
January.....	5 October	second week of January through first week of April
April	5 January	second week of April through first week of July
July	5 April	second week of July through first week of October
October	5 July	second week of October through first week of January

Australia

New South Wales 1-3 Feb; Byron Bay Convention; A&I Hall, Byron Bay; write: Byron Bay Australia; Box 495; Byron Bay, New South Wales, Australia

Bahamas

Nassau 1-4 Nov; Bahamas Area Convention Celebration 18; Wyndham Nassau Resort and Crystal Palace; hotel rsvns: 242.702.4200; event info: 242.544.7619

Belgium

Brussels 19-20 Jan; De l'ombre à la lumière (From shadow to light); École Altitude Cents, Brussels; event info: 32487942246; www.na.be

Canada

Ontario 15-17 Feb; Toronto Area Convention 5; Crowne Plaza Toronto Don Valley, Toronto; hotel rsvns: 877.474.6835; www.torontona.org

Quebec 29 Feb -2 Mar; Youth Convention 12; Sheraton, Laval; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 514.608.9489; speaker tape deadline: 31 Dec; Quebec Region; 6120 La Fontaine St; Local #150; Montréal, Quebec, Canada H1N 2C1; www.naquebec.org/cjna-ycna/

Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo 16-18 Nov; Santo Domingo Area Convention 6; Hotel Don Juan Beach Resort, Santo Domingo; hotel rsvns: 8096879157; event info: 8092598666; www.algomasserarevelado.com

France

Paris 22-24 Nov; Eleventh Bilingual Convention; Faculté de Jussieu, Paris; www.narcotiquesanonymes.org

India

Kolkata 14-16 Dec; Kolkata Area Convention 6; Galudih Inn, Jharkhand; event info: kolkatanaconvention@yahoo.com

Uttaranchal 22-24 Nov; Delhi Area Convention 7; Bharat Scouts and Guides Camp, Raiwala; hotel rsvns: 011.26251207; write: Delhi Area India Region; DACNA 7; Box 47; New Delhi, 110001 India

Indonesia

DKI Jakarta 30 Nov-2 Dec; Jakarta Area Convention 6; Graha Wisata Kuningan, Jakarta; write: Jakarta Area Service Committee; Jl. Wolter Monginsidi No. 18; Jakarta, Indonesia

Ireland

Munster 26-28 Oct; Irish Regional Convention 22; Oriel House Hotel, Cork; hotel rsvns: 00353.21.4208400; event info: 00353861612661; email: f_fogarty@yahoo.com; or bertobin@msn.com; www.na.ireland.org

Israel

Eilat 15-17 Nov; Israel Regional Convention 8; Herods Hotel, Eilat; hotel rsvns: 97235656011; event info: 972546272700; www.naisrael.org.il/english/eventse.htm

Mexico

Baja California 26-28 Oct; Convención Baja California 15; Grand Hotel, Tijuana; hotel rsvns: US: 866.472.6385, Mex: 01.800.026607; event info: US: 818.765.5593, Mex: 664.188.5957

Sonora 23-25 Nov; First Convención Área Desierto; Penasco del Sol Hotel, Rocky Point; hotel rsvns: US: 800.259.6976, Mex: 01.638.383.0302; event info: US: 928.246.6186, Mex: 653.518.4693

Philippines

Cebu 1-3 Feb; Pilipinas Regional Convention 13; ECOTECH Center, Cebu City; hotel rsvns: 63.9189379851; event info: 63.9209511494; www.napilipinas.org

South Africa

KwaZulu Natal 26-28 Oct; South Africa Regional Convention 14; Natalia Beach Resort, Durban; event info: 27.82.9072725; www.na.org.za

Thailand

Phuket 3 Nov; First Annual Thailand Regional Unity Day; Karon Elementary School, Karon; event info: 1.206.255.4622; www.na-thailand.org

United States

Alabama 23-25 Nov; Greater Birmingham Area Convention 13; Sheraton Civic Center, Birmingham; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 205.447.7320

2) 18-20 Jan; Central Alabama Area Convention 11; Governor's House Hotel and Convention Center, Montgomery; hotel rsvns: 866.535.5392; event info: 334.240.6946; www.alnwflrscna.org

California 23-25 Nov; Southern California Regional Convention 28; Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 626.917.0303; www.todayna.org

2) 11-13 Jan; TAC 8 (formerly TriArea Convention); Konocti Harbor Resort and Spa, Kelseyville; hotel rsvns: 800.279.4281; event info: 530.527.8520; www.TAC8.homestead.com

3) 18-20 Jan; San Fernando Valley Area Convention; Marriott Burbank Airport, Burbank; hotel rsvns: 818.843.6000; event info: 818.943.2175; www.todayna.org

Colorado 26-28 Oct; Colorado Regional Convention 21; Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Longmont; hotel rsvns: 303.776.2000; event info: 720.318.4924; www.nacolorado.org/crcna

Connecticut 4-6 Jan; Connecticut Regional Convention 23; Stamford Westin, Stamford; hotel rsvns: 203.967.2222; event info: 203.887.3467; www.ctrcna.org

Florida 26-28 Oct; Rainbow Weekend 10; Fort Lauderdale Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale; hotel rsvns: 954.334.9233; event info: 954.701.0013; www.rainbowweekend.org

2) 9-11 Nov; Unidos en Recuperacion 3; Grosvenor Resort Hotel, Orlando; hotel rsvns: 800.624.4109; event info: 321.439.2194; www.orlandona.org/unidos/Spanish

Idaho 26-28 Oct; Pacific North West Convention 30; Doubletree Inn, Boise; hotel rsvns: 208.343.1871; event info: 208.433.1199; www.sirna.org

Illinois 9-11 Nov; First Lake Borderline Area Convention; Radisson Inn, Northbrook; hotel rsvns: 800.333.3333; event info: 847.338.4479

2) 16-18 Nov; Joliet Area Convention 10; Holiday Inn, Crystal Lake; hotel rsvns: 815.477.7000; event info: 815.730.7436

3) 3-6 Jan; Chicagoland Regional Convention 20; Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont; hotel rsvns: 847.696.1234; event info: 773.440.2971; www.chicagona.org

Kentucky 18-20 Jan; Louisville Area Convention 18; Executive West Hotel, Louisville; hotel rsvns: 800.626.2708; event info: 502.648.5759

Maryland 23-25 Nov; Free State Regional Convention 15; Waterfront Marriott, Baltimore; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 410.825.9024

Massachusetts 18-20 Jan; Boston Area Convention 13; Sheraton Framingham, Framingham; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 617.445.5553

2) 25-26 Jan; Twin Jam 2 Group Anniversary; Holiday Inn Holidome, Holyoke; hotel rsvns: 413.534.1155; event info: 413.626.5198;

Michigan 22-25 Nov; Metro Detroit Regional Convention 9; Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 586.222.5431; www.michigan-na.org/metro_detroit_region

Missouri 2-4 Nov; St. Louis Area Convention 4; Sheraton Chalet Hotel, St. Louis; hotel rsvns: 314.878.1500; event info: 314.761.6343; www.slacna.blogspot.com

2) 28 Dec-1 Jan; Freedom to Change New Year's Convention 9; Hilton KCI, Kansas City; hotel rsvns: 816.891.8900; event info: www.ftckc.com

Nevada 2-4 Nov; Sierra Sage Regional Convention 12; Circus Circus Hotel and Casino, Reno; hotel rsvns: 800.648.5010; event info: 775.972.6997; www.sierrasage.org

2) 10-13 Jan; Southern Nevada Area Convention 22; Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas; hotel rsvns: 800.634.6753; event info: 702.302.1498; www.snasc.org

New Jersey 23-25 Nov; Northeast New Jersey Area Convention 13; Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, Somerset; hotel rsvns: 800.222.8733; event info: 862.368.6118

2) 30 Dec -1 Jan; Bergen Area Convention 14; Somerset Plaza Marriott, Somerset; hotel rsvns: 800.238.3198; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Dec; www.bergenarea.org/events.html

New York 26-28 Oct; Fall into Open Arms 2; Kutsher's Country Club, Monticello; hotel rsvns: 800.431.1273; event info: 845.590.3545:

2) 9-11 Nov; Western New York Regional Convention 12; Holiday Inn, Grand Island; hotel rsvns: 716.773.1111; event info: 716.837.8546; www.nawny.org

3) 11-13 Jan; Nassau Area Convention 5; Huntington Hilton, Melville Long Island; hotel rsvns: 631.845.1000; event info: 516.731.6011

North Carolina 4-6 Jan; Spiritually High in the Land of the Sky 23; Crowne Plaza, Asheville; hotel rsvns: 800.733.3211; event info: 828.215.0412

Ohio 23-25 Nov; Greater Cincinnati Area Convention 16; Holiday Inn Eastgate, Cincinnati; hotel rsvns: 513.752.4400; event info: 513.225.9635

2) 4-6 Jan; Central Ohio Convention; Crowne Plaza, Columbus; hotel rsvns: 800.228.3429; event info: 614.445.7150; www.nacentralohio.org

Oklahoma 2-4 Nov; OK Region Fall Spiritual Retreat; Camp Waluhili, Chouteau; www.okna.org/fallretreat/index.htm

2) 8-9 Dec; Women's Spiritual Retreat and Jammie Party 12; event info: 405.926.7154

Pennsylvania 16-18 Nov; Start to Live 25; Seven Springs, Champion; hotel rsvns: 800.452.2223, phone message 092807

South Carolina 18-20 Jan; Upper South Carolina Area Convention 28; Embassy Suites, Greenville; hotel rsvns: 864.676.9090; event info: 864.593.8337

Tennessee 21-25 Nov; Volunteer Regional Convention 25; Knoxville Marriott, Knoxville; hotel rsvns: 800.836.8031; event info: 865.692.0854; www.vrc25.org

Texas 16-18 Nov; Texas Unity Convention; Redwood Lodge, Whitney; hotel rsvns: 254.694.3412; event info: 832.704.0687; www.tucna.org

2) 18-20 Jan; Tejas Bluebonnet Regional Convention; Westin Oaks Hotel, Houston; hotel rsvns: 713.960.8100; www.tejas-na.org

Utah 9-11 Nov; Utah Regional Indoor Convention 9; Prospector Square Lodge and Convention Center, Park City; hotel rsvns: 888.286.3030; event info: 801.414.9389; www.utahna.info

Vermont 8-10 Nov; Champlain Valley Area Convention 18; Wyndam Hotel, Burlington; hotel rsvns: 802.658.6500; event info: 518.561.0115; www.cvana.org

Virginia 11-13 Jan; Virginia Regional Convention 26; Hotel Roanoke Conference Center, Roanoke; hotel rsvns: 540.985.5900; www.thevrcc.org/html/avcna_commitee.html

Wisconsin 26-28 Oct; Wisconsin State Convention 24; Park Plaza Hotel, Oshkosh; hotel rsvns: 920.231.5000; event info: 920.688.2422, 920.651.0306

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