

THE
NA Way
MAGAZINE®

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN PRINT ♦ 1982 – 2012

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THE
JOURNEY
Continues



THE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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

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From the editor

To celebrate the final issue of *The NA Way Magazine's* thirtieth anniversary, we're reprinting previously published stories and offering some NA Way history. This required hours and hours to review 219 issues spanning 30 years. There are so many moving and important stories. How could we choose just a handful from thousands?! Of course, we asked NA members, current and former NAWs staff and editors, and a variety of trusted servants to offer their memories; and we did our best to present a representative handful of articles in the space we have available.

One group of trusted servants was stellar (as usual) in its contribution to this process. From the beginning, NA Way editors have been supported by dedicated NA members who help ensure the integrity, validity, and relevance of our magazine. Originally dubbed *The NA Way* subcommittee, it's been called a review panel or editorial board, and is now known as The NA Way Workgroup. These NA members from around the world (currently seven hailing from Australia, Iran, South Africa, and the US) share their experience, strength, hope, humor, analyses, caution, fears, feedback, and guidance—and it is impossible to imagine compiling *The NA Way Magazine* without them. We don't do a lot of public accolades in NA, but these folks and their predecessors certainly deserve a loud round of applause and warm hugs on a regular basis. As a matter of fact, maybe this would be a good month to offer the same to all of the trusted servants who work to help carry the NA message.

De J, Editor

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

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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.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ FEATURE

Dear Fellow Member,

We have some exciting news. The 1982 World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous has formed a new subcommittee to, "Administer the publishing of a monthly magazine on recovery from addiction the NA way."

The NA Way, our magazine, can become a reality with your help. We need articles on recovery from addiction, personal experiences on sharing our message of recovery, spiritual and inspirational articles, tales of humorous and thought-provoking growth experiences, stories about becoming productive responsible members of society, reflective one-liners with impact, personal, and group experiences in practical application of our traditions. WE NEED YOUR INPUT.

Charter subscriptions will cost \$8.00 for twelve issues until the end of the Twelfth World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous. We believe this will be enough to get us started. A financial report will appear in each issue so there will be no question of accountability.

We will print all articles anonymously. Your support will help make our dreams a reality: to have a monthly forum for NA recovery, a journal to unify our Fellowship worldwide.

In loving service,
The NA Way

This letter introduced the first issue of *The NA Way* in September 1982. Since then, our magazine has been coordinated by a team of NA member trusted servants, World Services staff, and dedicated editors. Here is a small sampling of the editors' NA Way experiences from past issues and email correspondence:

It was/is to come out monthly, to focus on recovery from addiction the NA way. It should include clear, simple, definitive essays/articles. We were dedicated to the idea that the magazine be pure in concept and expression.

Jim M

The dream is that the fellowship accept the magazine, embrace it, subscribe to it and read it; for people to see it as a central part of the fellowship's effort to carry the message.

Ron H

Its readers can find personalized sharing with which to identify, and it is in a form that can be shared again and again.

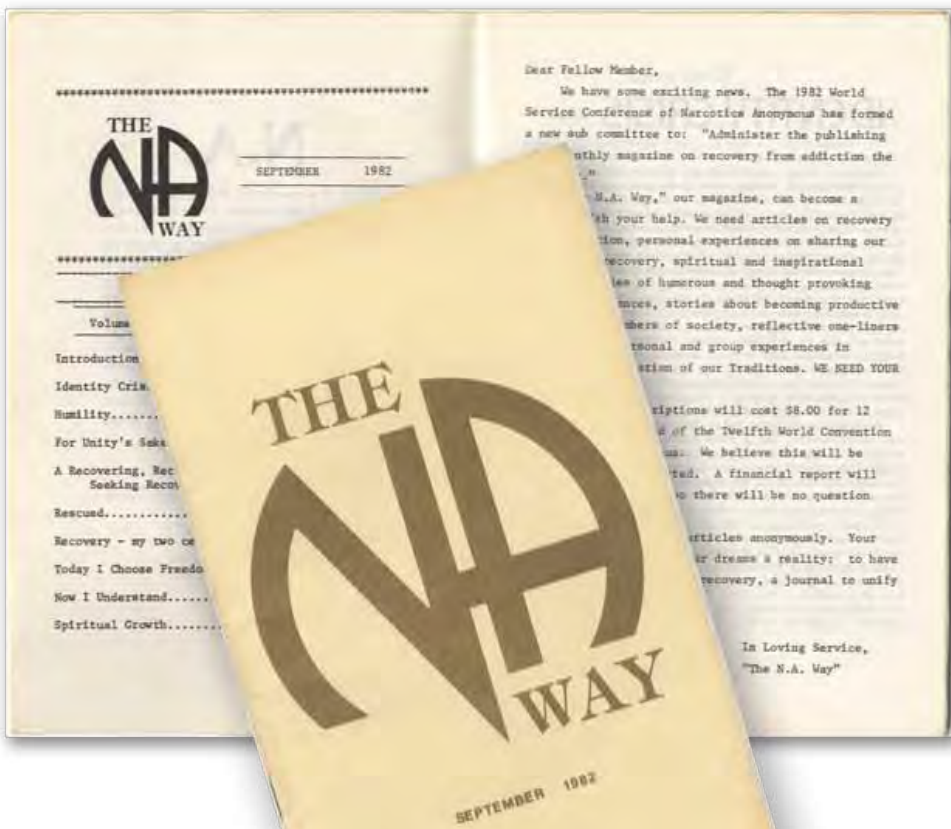
Andy M

I thought *The NA Way's* forum was important because it gave the fellowship a place to hear others' viewpoints.

Cynthia T

For this special **[20th anniversary issue]**, we delved into the magazine's archives...Reading the thoughts and heart-felt sharing of members who were published in those earlier editions brought back so many of my own personal experiences in early recovery.

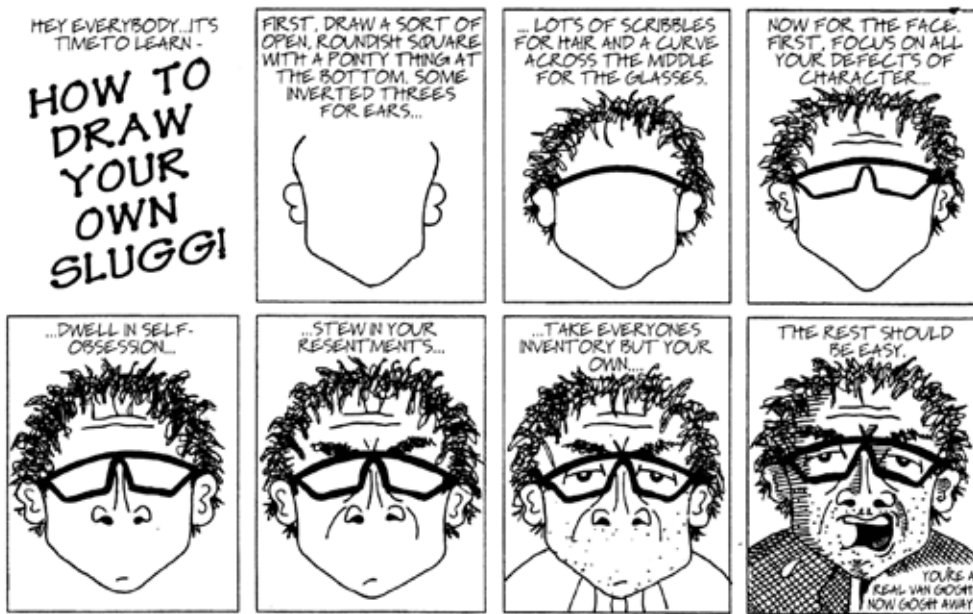
Nancy S



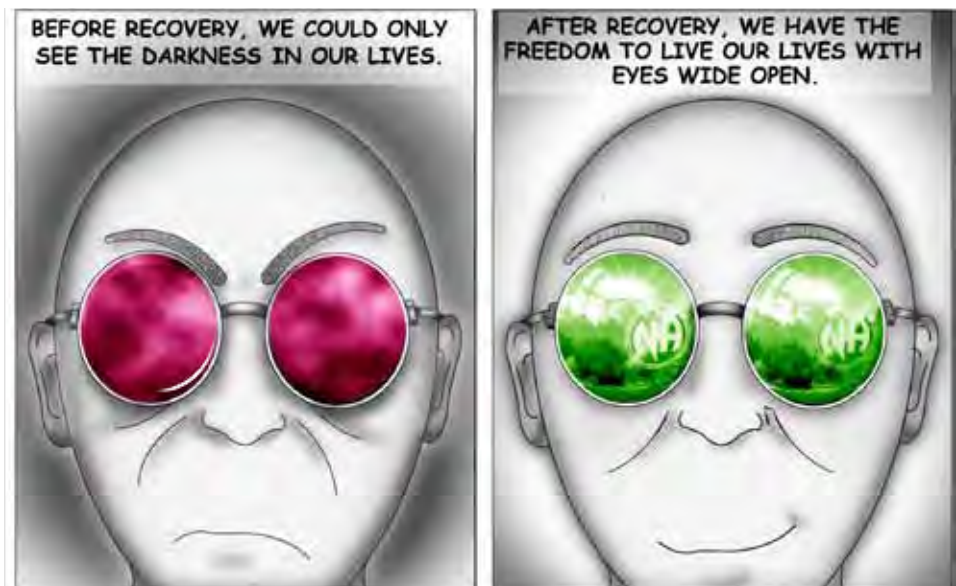
Home Group

The Home Group comic strip was introduced to NA Way readers in January 1989: "You see them every week in your own home group. Now you'll be seeing them every month in *The NA Way's* new comic strip..." Each unique character played his or her role to look at our disease and our recovery from a humorous point of view. They stirred up some controversy and hit a few sensitive nerves, especially Slugg, "the perpetually angry, the eternally resistant, the extraordinarily miserable member."

In an effort to offer a more modern Home Group, Slugg and his pals were retired in [October 2001](#). A "kinder, gentler" set of characters took the Home Group stage starting in [January 2002](#). They seemed to have a more global view of NA and recovery, and by the end of the sixth panel, they managed to learn or teach some sort of lesson. After the January 2009 issue, our Home Group members went about their own personal business as *The NA Way* transitioned to a more varied approach to recovery humor, offering members' artwork, jokes, and other amusements. As we celebrate the magazine's thirtieth anniversary, we look back at two of our favorite Home Group comic strips.



[July 1998](#)



[October 2002](#)



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
October 2006

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



Keep it simple

Before I found the Fellowship, I believed that life was a complicated matter and I was proud of my complicated approach to it. I arrogantly believed myself the possessor of exclusive knowledge about “where it was at.” The idea of a simple approach to life or thinking was an alien mystery to me.

I brought this ability to complicate things with me into recovery, and I have to guard against it every day. I have to remember that a day without a drug is a good day. I have to insist on the simple truth that going to meetings and staying clean are the two most important things in my life today. When I complicate my recovery, I eventually realize that I’m starting to try to control it, and that I am exercising self-will

Paralysis by analysis is one of the major symptoms of my illness: I will use any amount of complicated thinking to rationalize my actions and deny my feelings. A good example is my approach to the Second Step. I started by deciding that I’d had a spiritual awakening and that I had sussed God’s will. My God seemed rather irrational and complex. Although I wanted conscious contact with this God, I knew I didn’t have it.

I had set up my own intellect as God and was continuing to fight the reality of my situation. When I did find my Higher Power, it was through surrender, willingness, and honesty. I found that my Higher Power loved simplicity. For me, self-honesty is the best part of simplicity, and dishonesty the most dangerous of complications. I am afraid, even as I write this, of complicating just through trying to explain. It is said that we are complicated people, and that the program is simple. When I complicate my thinking, I am fighting the program; when I keep it simple, I give my Higher Power and the meetings a chance to work on me and for me.

*N, London, United Kingdom
April 1985*

God, gurus, and the promise

A turning point in recovery came for me at about 18 months clean. It had taken that long for me to work Step One. Yes, I tried for a year and a half to exert power over my disease of addiction. I was drug-free, yet my actions were still being controlled by obsession, compulsion, and impulses! It was through these repeated experiences of failure that I finally could feel and believe in my absolute powerlessness, not just over drugs—they had been out of my life for a while then—but over my addiction, as our First Step says.

All this led directly to Steps Two and Three. All seemed well. However, these steps proved to be another long and confusing struggle. It is this struggle, and some insight that came from it, which I would like to share with the Fellowship.

Since I knew beyond question that I did not hold the answers to my problems, I went looking elsewhere. I found help in many places. Addicts, nonaddicts, so-called “divinely inspired methods” all seemed to offer something. Confusion set in! Other people were doing the same things, so I decided to step back and watch them.

After many months, I began to get some insight. It seems that all of these resources were being turned into “gurus” of sorts. Many of us, in a fervent search for recovery, had received guidance from one source or another. We were now taking these sources and transforming them into all-powerful answers to life’s problems.

It is difficult to explain, but somehow, others and I were looking to individuals or individual methods for recovery. It was a new way to use people, places, and things. Instead of incorporating these resources into recovery, many of us turned our recovery over to another person or organization.

The destructiveness of all this soon became apparent as a much clearer picture of my disease emerged. Denial, in the form of refusing responsibility,

was full-blown. I had been trying to have someone else do my work while refusing to take Step Two and Three. This was stifling not only my own recovery, but the recovery of others as well. By looking to individuals, I was helping them to believe that they had more power than they did. I was placing my own life and the lives of others on the line!

I began to search for a Higher Power that was greater than myself and my other resources. I found this greater power in NA. It works through groups, areas, regions, world service conferences, and the Fellowship; but not necessarily through any individuals. And it is mine. And it is not a guru. And it has no name. And it does not change other people to be the way I want them to be. And by its very existence it leads me through the steps to the one promise made in the Basic Text.

Our Basic Text states, “Narcotics Anonymous offers only one promise and that is freedom from active addiction, the solution that eluded us for so long. We will be freed from our self-made prisons. (Basic Text, “More Will Be Revealed”)

This promise does not ensure a perfectly packaged life for me or anyone else. It simply gives me the opportunity to pursue it. I can go after what I want and periodically evaluate my motives and methods. When necessary, I can accept defeat on some things in life.

These notions and experiences are very dear to me. In fact, they are important enough to give away. They are yours if you want them!

*SS, Colorado, USA
October 1985*

How I came to believe

The room was packed. It was my second meeting, the first being in a detox center where I was staying. I searched the crowd, catching the eyes of the clean-cut people who had introduced me to NA. We nodded and smiled at each other. I watched as people called out greetings, hugged, laughed. I wished that someday I could be like that.

I didn't get much out of that meeting, or so I thought. The speaker was very moving, and I marveled at how he could pull himself up out of the gutter and accumulate many years clean. Being a little housewife druggie, I found it hard to relate to the bikers and street people, until I started identifying with the feelings. I suppose I expected a lot out of these meetings. Cure me. Love me. Make me feel good about myself. Right now or sooner!

The phrase, "Keep coming back!" seemed to stick in my head, so I did keep coming to meetings, and eventually I got a sponsor.

At first, I was really turned off by the mention of God. After attending more meetings, I began to understand more about the program and my own personal choice in the matter. Reading the Basic Text and talking to my sponsor helped. I saw that other members had and were using some sort of Higher Power to guide their lives, and it was really making a difference. I had prayed to God in the past, and came to the realization that he probably heard me fine, but it takes a lot of willingness and patience to hear, understand, take this guidance, and use it.

My sponsor suggested that I sit quietly each day, read a small poem, prayer, or meditation, and just open myself to the possibility that there was something out there—a greater, loving, powerful force, just for me.

I prayed to my God for the willingness to believe and trust. I heard it said that God works through people, places, things, so I asked him to show me. Turning it over to God was giving me some trouble. Why should he have to deal with my mess? Wasn't it my responsibility? My

sponsor convinced me that God really wanted to help me handle things, and I tried hard to believe and let God.

Well, a wonderful and moving coincidence did occur in my life, and it made me the believer I am today. What a wonderful gift to receive! Love this recovery stuff!

BC, *British Columbia, Canada*
November 1995

Is atmosphere about paint colors?

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

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

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

because I felt it was more like a treatment center than an NA group.

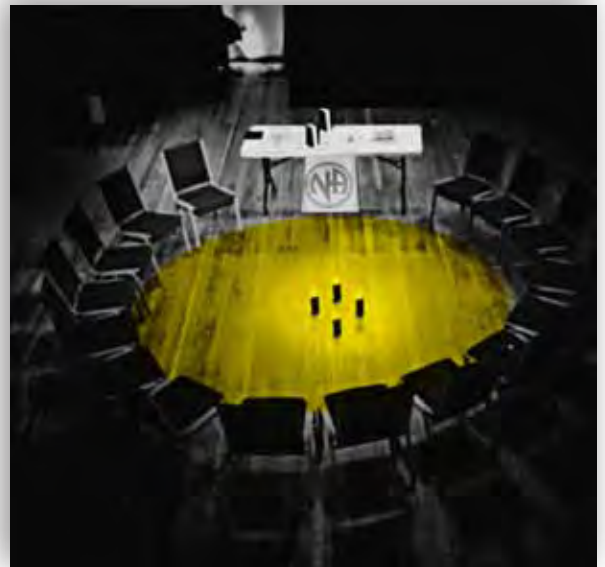
On one occasion, I met a member who was an old-timer in the area, and I expressed to him my doubts about what was happening in this group. He told me that he and some other members were attending a newer group, and said that I could go there if I wanted to, but he also suggested that I stay in my home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

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

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

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

Joel O, *Mexicali, Mexico*
[October 2005](#)



Chris M, *California, USA*
[October 2005](#)

A tale of two keytags



Missouri

It was almost 4:00 am. I was covering a guy's overnight shift at the airport and I was in a really bad space. It had been a rough couple of months; I was just feeling down on myself and feeling depressed—and a friend had just passed away, too.

I headed to the humongous conveyor belt where everyone's luggage was waiting. The morning flights were full and the conveyor was jam-packed. I was standing next to my supervisor (who's not in the program, but knows that I am), separating bags on our belt, when I saw it: a suitcase with a white keytag on it.

I yelled, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa! Look what we have here!" I pulled it off the conveyor to look at the name tag, thinking that maybe it was someone I knew. The name wasn't familiar, but I saw the LAX destination and the name of some guy named Bob from California. I said to my supervisor, "I'm gonna get one of my keytags and put it on this guy's bag."

"I wouldn't do that," he replied.

I shot back, "I know you wouldn't, but I would! That guy's gonna trip when he gets to LA and sees my tag on there." I put the bag back on the belt and ran in to get one of my keytags, but then had to find the suitcase again. Pretty soon, it was my supervisor who excitedly called out, "There it is; it's coming back around!"

As I attached my black keytag, I thought maybe there were other recovering baggage handlers working at LAX who would see our tags, too. As I put the suitcase back on the belt, I felt good, happy. I had been in such a bad space, but seeing that white keytag and imagining the owner's response when he saw mine touched my heart.

Later that day I shared at a meeting about what happened, and a then a guy told me that a woman he knows saw a picture of the suitcase on her friend's social networking page. I don't have a computer, so I went to the woman's house and saw it: a picture of our keytags together on that suitcase—and comments on it from about forty recovering addicts from all over the world! I'm a tough guy, but I stood there and cried looking at that. I thought I'd just give a guy a laugh, but it turned into so much more. And now I have a new friend, too. I call him Keytag Bob.

Lloyd L, Missouri, USA
[January 2010](#)

California

I recently traveled to the community where I grew up to attend to matters for my youngest brother, who has been disabled with a severe form of cerebral palsy all his life. His health had taken a downturn and I had to arrange for him to receive hospice services. Needless to say, the trip involved some hard discussions, and facing my baby brother's mortality was not easy.

The trip there was a tribulation in itself. I arrived ten hours later than planned because of mechanical problems, weather delays, and missed connections. This meant there wouldn't be time for me to attend a meeting while I was there. However, I finally made it to my daughter's house, where I was energized by the love of her four children.

The morning I was to return home, I met my brother at his favorite restaurant so I could explain the upcoming changes. He didn't like what I was telling him, but indicated that he would go along with the changes. He began asking me for kisses, and we shared more kisses than we had in quite a while.

It was a long flight back. We landed at LAX in a dank rain, which matched my mood. This trip was one of the hardest weekends I had experienced, and I was worn out emotionally and physically. At the luggage carousel I spied the back of my suitcase. For many years I've used a white NA keytag as a luggage identifier, but imagine my surprise when I reached for the bag to discover a black keytag had been added somewhere along the way. I snapped a picture with my phone and uploaded it to my social networking page with the caption "We are everywhere."

The next day a friend from Missouri let me know that at a meeting the night before, a member who is a baggage handler shared about seeing a white keytag on a piece of luggage while he was at work. He recounted how he added one of his black keytags, thinking about what reaction the suitcase's owner might have at the end of the trip. A couple of weeks later I was put in contact with that baggage handler, and I was able to express my thanks to him for the reminder that recovery is always available to me and that I was not alone.

Bob, California, USA
[January 2010](#)

Recovering without god

A few months ago I was sharing in a large meeting about using the group as a power greater than myself. An addict approached me after the meeting and asked me, "So you don't believe in god?" I replied that I didn't. She then went on to tell me that she was sure there was a god and that I must have been going to the wrong churches all my life. All I could do was chuckle inside and thank her for her observation.

While this type of occurrence is not mean-spirited, I can assure you that it is common and unwanted. When I came to the rooms of NA I was told that I could have any higher power I wanted as long as it was loving, caring, and greater than me. The NA group met all those requirements. I have used the group since I found NA, and here I am, more than eight years later, still clean and serene.

Atheists in recovery are either few and far between or just a very quiet bunch. We tend to keep our nonbeliefs to ourselves because there is a stigma attached to not believing in god. But every so often, one of us will make it known that we have been recovering without god. I felt alone for a very long time because my nonbeliefs were in direct opposition to what most people felt was the only way to get clean: with god. Even our literature stresses belief in a god, albeit a liberal interpretation so as to not offend us nonbelievers.

I struggled for a long time over whether or not I should "come out of the closet" with my atheism. When I finally did, I was surprised at the support I received, not only from friends in recovery but from nonaddicts as well. What I have discovered is that I do not need to believe as everyone else does to recover. I have discovered that I do not need to pray to something I do not believe in to work the steps. Do not get me wrong; there were many people both inside and outside the rooms who made it very clear that they feared for my soul and that they believed I was wrong, but that was a minority. I have realized

through working the Twelve Steps that I do not have to prove myself to anyone but myself. I am a living example that an atheist can recover.

One thing I hope to see in the future of Narcotics Anonymous would be for the rooms to be more accessible to those who do not believe in any supernatural higher powers. I know that progress takes time. When I meet other atheists in recovery, I encourage them to share with others that it is okay to not believe. Anyone, whether Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jew, atheist, or of any other faith, can recover from the disease of addiction using the Twelve Steps. I do not and will not use the term "god" when sharing because I believe it denotes certain ideas about a supreme being, which I don't believe in, but I do appreciate and respect those who do.

Part of what makes me keep coming back is the love and tolerance we share within the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous. I encourage others to think about what they are sharing in meetings. Does it make everyone in the room feel welcome, or does it marginalize someone? We as members have to stay vigilant to make sure EVERY addict who wants recovery can get it and feel welcomed. Thanks for letting me share.

Rip W, Missouri, USA
April 2011

Lingering in the moment

When the moment of silence for the addicts who still suffer is mere seconds, followed immediately by the closing prayer, I always hope that those addicts aren't suffering too much at the moment – and I also add a mental note of apology to them for our hastiness. It's kind of a thing with me. After all, I used to be someone else's "moment of silence." I'd like to think that one of the reasons I got a chance at NA recovery is that those who came before me lingered a bit in that "moment."

AJ H, New Jersey, USA



Invest in Our Vision

Those of you who read *The NA Way Magazine* regularly are surely familiar with the “Invest in Our Vision” series featured during the past couple years. For those who aren’t, you can have a look at past issues online at www.naway.org.

The “Invest in Our Vision” series is meant to promote continued awareness of the importance of self-support in NA. Services provided on local, regional, and worldwide levels can’t be done without support from NA groups and members. In this issue, we’re providing some facts and figures regarding NA services.

Did you know...?

- [IP #28, Funding NA Services](#), focuses on how groups can support the services provided at all levels and includes a suggested Seventh Tradition group reading for use in NA meetings.
- [IP #24, Money Matters: Self-Support in NA](#), offers a discussion of the spiritual principle of self-support and how it affects our personal recovery and the NA Fellowship as a whole.
- [The Group Booklet](#) and IP #28 both include suggestions for how groups can contribute funds to all levels of NA service.
- According to regional reports submitted at WSC 2012, the total amount of annual contributions received by regions was just under \$1.4 million, while annual expenses for services was over \$1.7 million.
- For the 112 regions that reported to the WSC, services included:

• Regional helplines	79
• Regional conventions:	98
• Area helplines	444
• Area conventions	279
• Regional PR activity	96
• Regional websites	105
• H&I panels total	5,204
• RSOs	46

- During the 2010–2011 fiscal year, 10.2% of NAWS income came from fellowship contributions. In the past five years, the highest percentage to come from fellowship contributions was 12.8% (2007–2008) and the lowest was 8.7% (2009–2010).
- Since its initial publication in 1983, the Basic Text has increased from roughly \$8 to the current price of \$11, and IPs have gone from \$0.15 to \$0.22 (for most titles). In that same time period, the average retail price of hardcover books in consumer markets has grown from about \$13 to more than \$30.
- During the 2010–2011 fiscal year, NAWS distributed more than \$410,000 in subsidized and free literature to emerging and developing NA communities around the world.
- Over the past three years, an average of 84% of total contributions to NAWS came from NA communities in North America.
- Between WSC 2008 and WSC 2012, the total number of meetings worldwide grew by 16.5%, from 53,038 to 61,800 meetings per week. In the US and Canada, growth over the same period was 8.4%, from 26,779 to 29,019 weekly NA meetings.
- Every two years, NAWS pays the travel and lodging expenses to bring delegates from each region around the world to participate in the WSC. The total cost to host the 2012 WSC was more than \$480,000.

In the face of inflation and ongoing economic strain, NAWS has worked hard to reduce expenses wherever possible—in some ways this has helped to increase our efficiency, while in other instances the services we provide have been affected. Approximately \$100,000 has been saved as a result of our efforts to update and streamline *NA Way* [subscriptions](#), and this effort has resulted in an increase to well over 15,000 electronic subscribers.

If you found some of these facts interesting, be sure to check out the *NAWS Annual Report*, which can be found online at www.na.org/?ID=ArArchive. (Publication date for the annual report is January of the following year.) You can also request financial reports from your areas and regions through your GSRs or RCMs to stay up-to-date about the types of services being funded by contributions on a local level.

If you have stories to share regarding self-support and/or funding NA services in your community, don’t hesitate to email them to naway@na.org!

Scan with your
smartphone



NA members can make one-time and recurring contributions directly to NA World Services at www.na.org/contribute.

Inspired by Our Primary Purpose

Issue Discussion Topics

Issue Discussion Topics are subjects that addicts in NA communities around the world focus on in discussions and workshops throughout the two-year conference cycle. This cycle's IDTs are linked to the World Service Conference theme, "Inspired by Our Primary Purpose," which comes from the introductory paragraph of [A Vision for NA Service](#): *All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous are inspired by the primary purpose of our groups. Upon this common ground we stand committed.*

We need your local involvement in these discussions so that you can provide us with your ideas and feedback. All three of the [Issue Discussion Topics](#) relate directly or indirectly to the Service System Project, and these are also issues that will be reflected in the Traditions book, a project that will start later this year. We often say our diversity is our strength. These are issues that need to accurately reflect our diversity for both projects. There are three IDTs for the 2012–2014 conference cycle.

Supporting Our Vision

This topic is a carry-over from the last conference cycle when two of the three IDTs were Self-Support and [A Vision for NA Service](#). This IDT combines these two in the hopes of raising awareness throughout the Fellowship about both our vision and the resources and responsibility needed to realize it.

Our vision is that one day:

Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life.

Although we have made great strides in this area, we still have a long way to go to make this a reality in many locations, cultures, and languages. It can seem overwhelming at times. Perhaps Jimmy K said it best in the quote below, which reminds each of us that every effort, regardless of how small, can make a difference.

This IDT addresses what we can do to further the growth, health, and development of our fellowship and fulfill our primary purpose. We know that not many of our members want to talk about money,

You know, I said many times a long time ago that a man without a dream is only half a man, and a fellowship without a vision is a farce. I still believe that. I know damn well that we can find our fulfillment living a day at a time here; and, a day at a time, our vision and our fellowship can become a greater reality.

This is part of a dream come true; and a dream envisions great changes, but progress demands many small actions. A dream doesn't come true because of one group of people or one man or two men or three men, it comes true because a lot of people work at it, because a lot of people put an effort into it, because a lot of people buy the idea and carry it forward.

Jimmy K, NA Twentieth Anniversary Dinner

As we discuss collaboration, we want to consider questions like: How do we work together more effectively in our groups, areas, regions, zones, and at world services? What gets in our way?

Group Conscience

The original title of this IDT was “Group Conscience, Delegation, and Accountability,” and this session still covers all of these principles. We’d like to encourage a Fellowshipwide discussion about how these principles work together and complement one another. What decisions do we make on a group level and what do we delegate? How do we hold a service body accountable if we are delegating “the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it”? These are the sorts of questions this IDT asks us to consider.

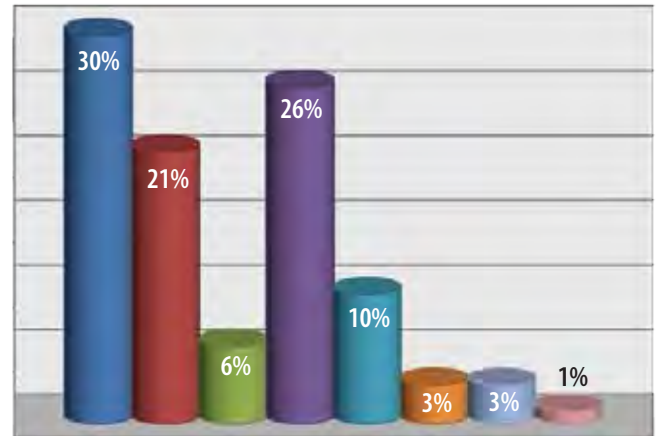
This is clearly an issue where local practices differ greatly. We asked delegates attending the 2012 WSC how their regions reached a conscience about WSC matters. Only 60 of the 112 reports we received even attempted to answer this question, and their answers are shown below as a percentage of the respondents. Most of these were evenly divided between a group tally, a regional assembly of some form, and an area tally.

So, clearly, how we apply the ideals in our literature varies in different NA communities. Share with us both what your local practices are, but also why your NA community does it this way. We value and need your experience.

Our direction in service comes from a God of our understanding, whether we serve as individuals, as a group, or as a service board or committee. Whenever we come together, we seek the presence and guidance of this loving Higher Power. This direction then guides us through all our actions.

It Works: How and Why, Tradition Two

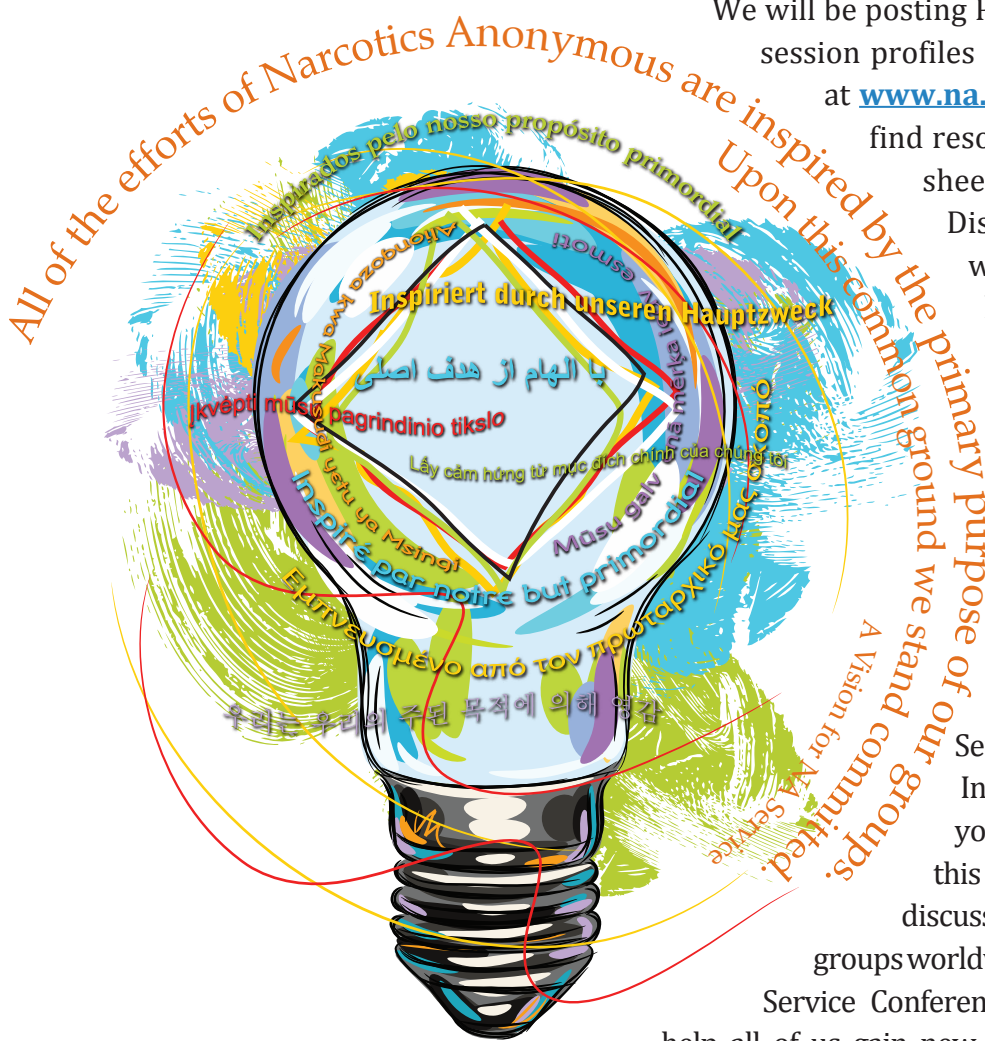
How Regions Gather CAR Consciences



■ Group tally	30%
■ Regional assembly (those who take a group tally at the assembly are counted above)	21%
■ RSC	6%
■ Area tally	26%
■ Member tally	10%
■ RDs only	3%
■ Don't discuss WSC matters	3%
■ Through zonal forum	1%

Groups share information and guidance with the boards and committees serving them. Then these boards and committees report back to the groups to which they are responsible, describing their operations, discussions, and plans. Responsible service boards and committees consult the groups in matters directly affecting them and seek direction from the groups in matters not already covered by existing policy.... Whenever possible, organized service work should be kept distinct from the groups so that they can remain free to simply and directly fulfill our primary purpose, addict to addict. The boards and committees we do organize, we organize on the basis of need only, using the simplest guidelines possible.

It Works: How and Why, Tradition Nine



We will be posting PowerPoint presentations and session profiles to go along with each outline at www.na.org/IDT, where you will also find resources like handouts and note sheets to help you facilitate Issue Discussion Topic workshops. We will also be looking into ways to help you send your workshop results to us. Information will continue to be updated throughout the cycle on this page.

We hope you devote some time to discussing these IDTs in your NA communities and send input on the IDT questions to NA World Services (worldboard@na.org). In addition to what you gain in your NA communities through this process, the input from your discussions helps us better serve NA groups worldwide and informs the next World Service Conference. We hope your workshops help all of us gain new awareness, find solutions, and talk together about how to improve the ways we carry NA's message—inspired by our primary purpose.

Each group has but one primary purpose—

to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

Tradition Five

Inspired by Our Primary Purpose

IDT profiles and handouts are available at www.na.org/IDT

WCNA

Registration will open in December

THE JOURNEY Continues

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, USA
29 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2013

NA'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

"The Journey Continues" in Philadelphia, a city steeped in US history and bursting with modern diversity—a perfect place for us to gather. Stroll the cobblestone streets in the old town section, climb the 72 steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art "Rocky-style," and celebrate NA's worldwide fellowship.

Die Reise geht weiter

PLEASE HELP US PLAN WCNA 35

A registration-required convention allows us to better provide just the right facilities and events for an anticipated number of attendees. Your pre-registration supports our efforts to most effectively and prudently plan WCNA.

PRE-REGISTRATION OFFERS:

- One-of-a kind pre-registration merchandise
- Access to event tickets before they sell out
- Better seats at ticketed events (seats are assigned by your registration date)
- Admittance to the merchandise store on Thursday (onsite registrants have access Friday)
 - The opportunity to be an integral part of a successful WCNA!
- All other non-ticketed convention activities, including dances and entertainment events like the live music coffee houses.

YOUR early action supports OUR early planning!

Early Bird Pre-registration before 31 January 2013: **\$79**

Pre-registration 1 February – 31 July 2013: **\$89**

Onsite *limited* Registration: **\$99**

(As always, a limited number of newcomer registrations for those in their first 30 days will be available, too.)

PRE-REGISTER TO
GUARANTEE YOUR SPOT
IN PHILADELPHIA!

SUBSCRIBE TO WCNA UPDATES
AT WWW.NA.ORG/SUBSCRIBE
FOR DIRECT UPDATES.

*We are so grateful to have found recovery, to be living clean,
and to know, wherever we are in our travels – the journey continues.*

Living Clean: The Journey Continues

A jornada continua

2013

World Convention of NA 35

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

29 August-1 September 2013

www.na.org/wcna

Call for Potential Speakers & Evaluators

As we prepare for WCNA 35, we are seeking potential convention speakers. Cleantime requirements are five years for workshop speakers and ten years for main speakers. In addition, workshop speakers must be preregistered for WCNA 35. If you or someone you know is interested in being considered as a workshop or main speaker at WCNA 35, please send us the information below, along with a speaker recording, if available, before **31 March 2013**. CD recordings can be sent by mail or MP3 files can be submitted electronically.

We are also asking for volunteers with at least five years clean to participate in the WCNA 35 speaker evaluation process. The commitment requires reviewing speaker recordings over the next few months (January-April 2013). If you are interested in serving as a speaker evaluator, please send us the information below before **28 February 2013**.

You can find this form and the most current WCNA information on our website at www.na.org/wcna.

And to stay up to date with all of WCNA 35 happenings, we encourage you to e-subscribe to *WCNA Updates*, at www.na.org/subscribe.

workshop speaker

main meeting speaker

speaker evaluator

first name _____ last/surname _____

address _____

city _____ state/province _____

country _____ postal code _____

cleandate _____ telephone _____

email _____

If this is a speaker submission, choose one:

I want to send an mp3 file of the speaker, (we will send you information on how to do this)

I am sending a CD recording of the speaker

Name of person submitting recording _____

Submitter's telephone _____

Submitter's email _____

Complete this form online at www.na.org/wcna.

Email this information to wcna@na.org

or print and send form by post to: NA World Services; WCNA 35 Speakers; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA

[e-subscribe to *The NA Way* & other NAWS periodicals at www.na.org/subscribe](http://www.na.org/subscribe) 17

Picture this

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



Photos reprinted from previous issues showing Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, South Africa, Spain, United States, and Uruguay.



Readers of the former publication, H&I News were familiar with H&I Slim. For those of you who haven't had the pleasure, H&I Slim is the ultimate "H&I kinda guy." He hangs out in hospitals and jails all over the world. You might say he's always in the know, and always on the go. When *The NA Way*

Magazine format changed to its current version, H&I Slim was included in the new *NA Way* family. This was H&I Slim's first column in that [October 1997](#) issue.

Dear H&I Slim,

There are a lot of H&I commitments at correctional facilities in my area, and it's been hard for panel leaders to find members who can get clearance—not to mention that it seems like members don't want to do these panels at all.

I could probably go on some of the panels. I have the required cleantime to get clearance, and I have the time to give, but some of my friends tell me I have nothing to offer incarcerated addicts because I have never been arrested.

I thought we were all the same in NA. One of our readings tells us that it doesn't matter what we have done in the past. I'm scared, but I feel I might have something to give, and I know that my area H&I committee could use my support. What should I do?

Confused but Willing

Dear Confused,

Our fellowship's message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live; that the freedom from active addiction we've found through the Twelve Steps can be theirs, also. Each of our stories varies in individual pattern, but the message is always the same.

The purpose of an H&I meeting is the carry that message to addicts who aren't able to attend regular NA meetings. The spiritual principle of anonymity helps us recognize our similarities, not our differences. You're right. It doesn't matter what or how much we used, who our connections were, or what we have done in the past. Today, we focus on the solution to our problem: recovery. Any addict with a willingness to share and who is capable of carrying a clear and consistent NA message is perfectly suited for H&I work.

Our readers write

Dear NA Way,

I want to commend you folks for the excellent work you have been doing. I look forward to getting *The NA Way* every month. Right now I am working on board a ship and it will be forwarded from my house. I sincerely hope everyone is in good health.

MM, Louisiana, USA
[September 1987](#)

With change comes growth

I commend the people in NA for making this new magazine and offering it to readers such as myself. I'm service-oriented, so of course I read the motions in the CAR, and at first they concerned me. My first thought was, "No more *NA Way*!" But I understand the problems you face. And in fact, the changes happened as they were meant to happen...I am able to look at this from other viewpoints, not just my own. I know that we have to consider the greater good. With change comes growth.

Thomas F, Maryland, USA
[October 1997](#)

Gracias NA Way

I am sending you this letter to thank you for sending me the magazine these past eight years. It is a very important part of my recovery. The magazine has been my companion all this time. The first time I sent a letter requesting a subscription, I doubted that you were really going to send it to my house, since I live so far away. I lacked faith and, after a month waiting for it, I gave up and no longer expected it to be delivered. I didn't know the magazine was published quarterly! I cannot explain to you the excitement and joy I felt when I received my first copy. I felt that I was a part of something big, really big. More than ever, I felt that I was not alone anymore, that I have fellow friends all over the world who feel the same things I feel: happiness, new discoveries, sadness, and every feeling a recovering addict goes through. I started sharing the magazines with the group and a lot of friends in the fellowship, and we read of new information and experiences. The information about service and the wisdom other members share are a very important part of my recovery. For all this is my eternal gratefulness. I love you, good luck and keep on!

Ariel A, Buenos Aires, Argentina
[April 2007](#)



CALENDAR

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

Argentina

Cordoba 23-25 Nov; Argentina Regional Convention 20; Hotel Luz y Fuerza, Villa Giardino, Córdoba; www.na.org.ar

Canada

Ontario 9-11 Nov; Canadian Convention 20; Delta Meadowvale Hotel/Conference Center, Mississauga; www.canadianconvention.com

Mexico

Sonora 23-25 Nov; Desierto Area Convention; Penasco del Sol Hotel, Puerto Penasco; Valenzuela541@aol.com; Valperaza@hotmail.com

Netherlands

South Holland 23-25 Nov; Netherlands Area Convention; Engels, Rotterdam; reg@ncna.nl; www.ncna.nl

Turkey

Antalya 9-11 Nov; Turkey Region NATA Convention 10; Hotel Suix Lara, Antalya; www.na-turkiye.org

Venezuela

Anzoátegui 16-18 Nov; Venezuela Regional Convention 7; Hotel Venetur de Puerto La Cruz, Puerto La Cruz; www.navenezuela.org

United States

Alabama 16-18 Nov; Greater Birmingham Area Convention 17; Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham; www.alnwfl.org

2) 18-20 Jan; Central Alabama Area Convention; Renaissance Montgomery Hotel, Montgomery; event info: 334.315.0133

California 23-25 Nov; Southern California Regional Convention 33; Ontario Convention Center/Double Tree Hotel, Ontario; www.todayna.org/convention

2) 4-6 Jan; Humbolt Del Norte Area TAC Convention 13; Red Lion Hotel, Eureka; www.TAC-Convention.org

Connecticut 4-6 Jan; Connecticut Regional Convention 28; Hilton Stamford, Stamford; www.ctnac.org

Florida 9-11 Nov; New Path Group Rainbow Weekend 15; Fort Lauderdale Marriot North, Fort Lauderdale; www.rainbowweekend.org

2) 22-25 Nov; Palm Coast Area Convention 31; Double Tree, Palm Beach Gardens; plamcoastna.org

Illinois 3-6 Jan; Chicagoland Regional Convention 25; Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Chicago; www.crcofna.org

Massachusetts 30 Nov-2 Dec; South Shore Area Anniversary 27; Radisson Hotel, Plymouth; www.nerna.org

Missouri 29-Dec-1 Jan; Freedom to Change Convention 19; Embassy Suites, Kansas City; www.kansascityna.org

New York 16-18 Nov; Eastern New York Regional Convention; Long Island Marriot, Uniondale; www.nanewyork.org

2) 18-20 Jan; Nassau Area Convention 10; Long Island Huntington Hilton, Melville; www.nacna.info

Ohio 23-25 Nov; Greater Cincinnati Area Convention 14; Kings Island Resort & Conference Center, Mason; www.nacincinnati.com

2) 4-6 Jan; Central Ohio Area Convention 24; Renaissance Hotel, Columbus; www.nacentralohio.org

Pennsylvania 16-18 Nov; Tri-State Regional Convention 30; Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Seven Springs; www.tristate-na.org/st2live.htm

Tennessee 21-25 Nov; Volunteer Regional Convention 30; Chattanooga Choo Choo, Chattanooga; www.vrcna.org

Utah 9-11 Nov; Utah Regional Indoor Convention 14; Prospector Square Lodge, Park City; www.cvana.org/convention.htm

Virginia 11-13 Jan; Central Atlantic Regional Convention AVCNA 31; Hotel Roanoke/Conference Center, Roanoke; www.car-na.org/events.htm

NAWS PRODUCT UPDATE

Just for Today

Numbered Collector's Edition

A special hand-numbered, limited quantity collector's edition, commemorating the two millionth copy.

Item No. 1115 Price US \$30.00



Living Clean: The Journey Continues

NA's newest book is about the practice of recovery in our daily lives, in our relationships, and in our service to others.

Item No. 1150 (hardcover) Item No. 1151 (softcover)
Price US \$8.75



ePub Books

Available on Amazon and iTunes

This does not constitute an endorsement of or affiliation with these vendors.

Amazon (all titles): <http://tinyurl.com/clolqz>

iTunes (all titles): <http://tinyurl.com/9zj5f3x>

	Amazon		iTunes	
Basic Text	\$8.90	7.60 €	\$8.99	7.99 €
It Works	\$5.90	5.20 €	\$5.99	5.49 €
Sponsorship	\$5.90	5.20 €	\$5.99	5.49 €



English

2011 Membership Survey

Item No. ZPR001001 Price US \$0.26

Information about NA

Item No. ZPR001002 Price US \$0.26

Bengali

এন.এ. কার্যক্রমে জীবনযাপন

Item No. BE-3109 Price US \$0.22

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নারকোটিকস্ অ্যানোনিমাসে স্বাগতম

Item No. BE-3122 Price US \$0.22





Brazilian

Importância do Dinheiro Autossustentável em NA

Item No. BR-3124 Price US \$0.48

Mantendo os Serviços de NA

Item No. BR-3128 Price US \$0.32

Danish

Offentlig information pøg NA-medlemmer

Item No. DK-3115 Price US \$0.22

Til Jer i behandling

Item No. DK-3117 Price US \$0.28

German

Mitgliederbefragung

Item No. ZPRGE1001 Price US \$0.26

Informationen über NA

Item No. ZPRGE1002 Price US \$0.26



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स्पोन्सरसिप

Item No. NE-3111 Price US \$0.22

Polish

Sponsoring

Item No. PL-3111 Price US \$0.22

Dla uzależnionych w trakcie terapii

Item No. PL-3117 Price US \$0.28

Spanish

Encuesta a los miembros

Item No. ZPRSP1001 Price US \$0.26

Información sobre NA

Item No. ZPRSP1002 Price US \$0.26

Turkish

Rehberlik

Item No. TU-3111 Price US \$0.22

Coming soon

Living Clean: The Journey Continues Commemorative Edition

This distinctive, hand-numbered edition will be available in limited quantity in December.

Item No. 1155 Price US \$30.00

Greek

Basic Text

Ναρκομανεις Ανωνυμοι

Item No. GR-1101 Price US \$7.50

Hungarian

Basic Text

Narcotics Anonymous

Item No. HU-1101 Price US \$7.50

Turkish

An Introductory Guide to NA

Adsız Narkotik'e Giriş Kılavuzu

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WCNA Merchandise
spirit&unity
is available online!
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Clothing, caps, mugs, travel mugs, specialty items
like screen/eyeglass cleaning cloths & other
WCNA merchandise, too.
Treat yourself or buy a gift for a friend or sponsee/sponsor.
All sales are final and quantities
and sizes are limited to stock on-hand.

Living Clean: The Journey Continues

Our Basic Text assures us that more will be revealed, and our experience bears that out. More has been revealed in the years since those words were written, and more continues to be revealed every day that we live clean and practice the principles of recovery. We grow as individuals, and we also grow and mature as a fellowship. As we learn from our experience, we pass on that knowledge... This book is not a catalog of advice, but rather a collection of experience, strength, and hope about living clean as we experience it in our daily lives, in our relationships, and in our service to others.

Preface

Living Clean book study groups

We wanted to start this group before the World Service Conference, but we waited until the Conference approved the book. It's not that we don't still love and believe in the Basic Text, but *Living Clean* has given those of us with some cleantime something new to look forward to. We have members with a range of cleantime, including six regular members with more than 20 years clean. The book seems to have little starbursts of information and inspiration. It's fresh again.

Carl P, California, USA

The Fah Mai* Group started in November 2008 and we began reviewing *Living Clean* 2 January 2012. Seven to ten of us meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm, usually with an average of two newcomers per week, along with members who have up to 19 years clean. By a group conscience decision, we keep readings to no more than one paragraph per member because we have found the weight of the material so condensed and meaningful. One of our group's co-founders said, "This book is refreshing and assists me in understanding how to apply our spiritual principles practically in everyday life situations. I'm very grateful for this additional tool to continue living clean."

Bevan P, Bangkok, Thailand

*in Thai, "fah mai" means new skies, new beginnings, or new horizons

Now Available!

Released 28 September 2012

Meeting Chairperson's Format

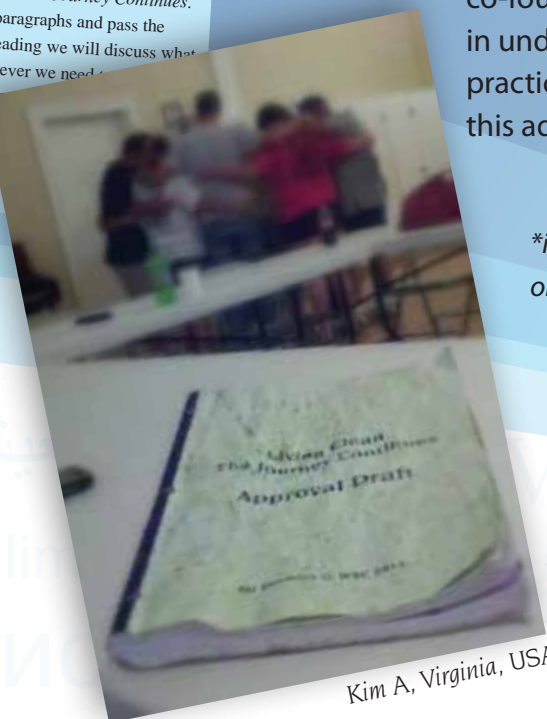
Welcome to the Tuesday night *Living Clean: The Journey Continues* Book Study Group of Narcotics Anonymous. My name is _____ and I'm an addict.

I'd like to open this meeting with a moment of silence for the addict who still suffers, followed by the Serenity Prayer...

This is a literature study meeting and we are studying *Living Clean: The Journey Continues*. We each read a few paragraphs and pass the book around. After reading we will discuss what we have read or whatever we need to discuss.

Today we are on Chapter _____. We will be reading from page _____.

(Chairperson starts the meeting by passing the book around.)



Kim A, Virginia, USA