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From the editor

What values guide us in supporting our fellowship? How many times was the Basic Text viewed within thirty days after it was posted at www.na.org? What defines and strengthens our home groups? Can we “get by” if we’re not working the steps or connecting with a sponsor? These questions—and more—are addressed in this issue. Of course, there are no definitive answers to some, but our members’ experiences certainly provide valuable insight.

We’re grateful for the ideas submitted for the new public relations column name, which is brought to us each issue by your world board. We chose a simple and succinct name: “Public Relations News.” We hope you’ll continue to respond to information in the PR column and the rest of the magazine, because *The NA Way* depends on your input and responses.

We also want to say thanks for all the “ah-ha” experiences shared during the past year. Now, we challenge you with a new idea: We want to hear about your funniest recovery encounters, embarrassing moments, fall-on-the-floor, laugh-out-loud experiences. We know it’s all about carrying the message, so let’s fulfill our primary purpose with a big dose of laughs and giggles mixed in!

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 artwork adapted from October 1994 *NA Way Magazine*



What I value

I used to dread the day when the past year's income tax returns were due. Of course, when I was using, I assumed I was exempt from needing to pay taxes, so I rarely filed. I also figured that since the government seemed to have enough money of its own, I had license to get creative those few years I did happen to send in a tax return. In other words, I cheated.

After I was clean a couple of years, I was blessed with a sponsor with whom I was able to get honest about my resentments against authority and the government. Although I admitted my negligence in not paying taxes, I thought I might get a pass from my sponsor when it came to making amends. I had all kinds of justifications and rationalizations: how paying my back taxes might harm my family or might lessen my ability to gain employment and benefit my community; or that the government had stolen land from people all around the world, so it wasn't righteous enough to take my money. I was prepared to talk my way out of this obligation with all my remaining slickness, but my sponsor would have none of it, and simply told me to pay the taxes I owed. He assured me that I'd feel relieved once I had completed this and the other amends on my list. After several years of payment schedules and tight budgeting, I no longer owed anyone any money, including Uncle Sam. It's hard to describe how right my sponsor was when he reassured me that these amends would allow me to feel freedom and relief.

I don't dread tax time anymore. Don't get me wrong; I'm not overjoyed at turning over my cash. But I understand the obligation, and I'm willing to comply with the laws. In fact, I've found that preparing my taxes has encouraged me to take an annual financial inventory. It's been amazing to see just how much I spend on different items. In a sense, it's a good way to see what I value. This is especially true when I look at my spending in areas beyond the necessities of housing, food, and utilities. I can tell you I'm not a big theater- or moviegoer, and I like to buy many more books than I read.

This annual obligation has also helped me take a good look at what causes, charities, public service organizations, and relief efforts I support. The amount of money I donate has grown as my earning ability has increased. I suppose that makes sense, since everything we consume has increased in price over the years. When I got clean, a gallon of gas cost \$1.25; a pack of cigarettes was \$1.50; a loaf of bread cost 55 cents; and water was free since it came out of the faucet and went straight into a glass. Back then, I put \$1.00 in the basket.

Many things have changed since I got clean. Most of the things I consume have doubled or tripled in price. Now I am fortunate enough each year to be able to donate an amount almost as great as the dreaded back tax bill I owed when I first got clean. Yet, this year I realized I'm still putting \$1.00 in the basket, and I haven't established a system of regular, planned giving to the fellowship that saved my life.

Maybe this year my selfishness really jumped out at me because I have so many blessings—including a recovery anniversary that ended in a zero, my children's graduations, and the birth of my first grandson. While I've used a small amount of my financial resources to help others, I have neglected to make Narcotics Anonymous the same priority in my giving as it has been to my success and happiness. The only reason I have for this negligence is that it's a manifestation of my self-centeredness and stingi-

I realize that my \$1.00 in the basket today is about the same as putting in twenty-five cents when I got clean.


ness. I know that donations to the group, area, region, and world services benefit many addicts, both those in recovery and those still struggling to hear the message. I know what it costs to mail books and pamphlets, organize meetings and conventions, maintain office space, and pay workers. I know the cost of carrying the message to suffering addicts has increased tremendously, whether those people reside in South Africa, North India, or East New Orleans. And I realize that my \$1.00 in the basket today is about the same as putting in twenty-five cents when I got clean.

So this year I've decided to do something about it, and here's my plan:

- ◆ I'll put at least \$2.00 in the basket, and when I can spare it, \$5.00. That's the equivalent of the inflation rate of a gallon of gas.
- ◆ On my recovery anniversary, I'll donate \$10.00 to NA World Services for every year I've been clean.
- ◆ I'll set up a monthly donation plan to NA World Services, just like I have with other organizations. (I went to the NA website and found it's pretty easy to do this by using the donations portal.)
- ◆ I'll remember to share my blessings—when I get a bonus or a raise, I'll make sure that my giving reflects my good fortune.

I know I might not work this plan perfectly, but I've learned from so many of my friends in the fellowship that if I really commit to this, and have some continued encouragement, I'll be successful and will find more of that freedom my original sponsor told me about. He's dead now, but I'm sure he would be happy to know that I'm continuing to grow in my recovery.

Khalil, Georgia, USA

A A A AH-HA! 

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

My "ah-ah" moment happened ten years ago when I found an NA meeting. It was in the basement of a church in Santa Maria da Feira, in northern Portugal. It was love at first sight: a crowd of good-looking people in a smoky, dark room. As the meeting went along and I listened to everyone sharing, I remember thinking to myself, "I am just like these people! I've been looking for something like this all my life!" I've never forgotten the faces, the sharing, and the "Welcome" keytag I received. The group didn't have any keytags, but one member, who was also named Carlos, offered me his own.

Carlos C, Lousada, Portugal



My "ah-ha" moment came when I had been in NA three months. I was twenty-eight years old and had partied for fourteen years, so I had serious doubts and fears about staying clean. I understood about changing people and playgrounds, and I did make those changes, but I had a "what if?" in the back of my mind. What if someone offered me a drug? Would I be able to turn it down, or would I snatch it up like a long-overdue fix? At three months, just such a situation happened. An old acquaintance who knew I was clean, but had forgotten, offered me my all-time favorite. My response was as smooth as silk. I said, "No, thanks, I don't do that anymore," which took me totally by surprise. I couldn't believe that came out of this addict! This is really what I call a double "ah-ha" moment, because at that time I knew there was hope for me and that there was a Higher Power. I wasn't alone that night, and for that I am grateful.

Melody J, Nebraska, USA

NO THANKS!
WHAT IF?

Surrender

Surrender is my favorite spiritual principle. When I act on it, I usually realize that had I surrendered way back in the beginning of the situation, I would have saved myself a whole lot of suffering.

One way of surrendering is to “turn it over” to my Higher Power. It’s amazing that when I ask, I get an answer—not always the one I want, but the one that works if I surrender to it.

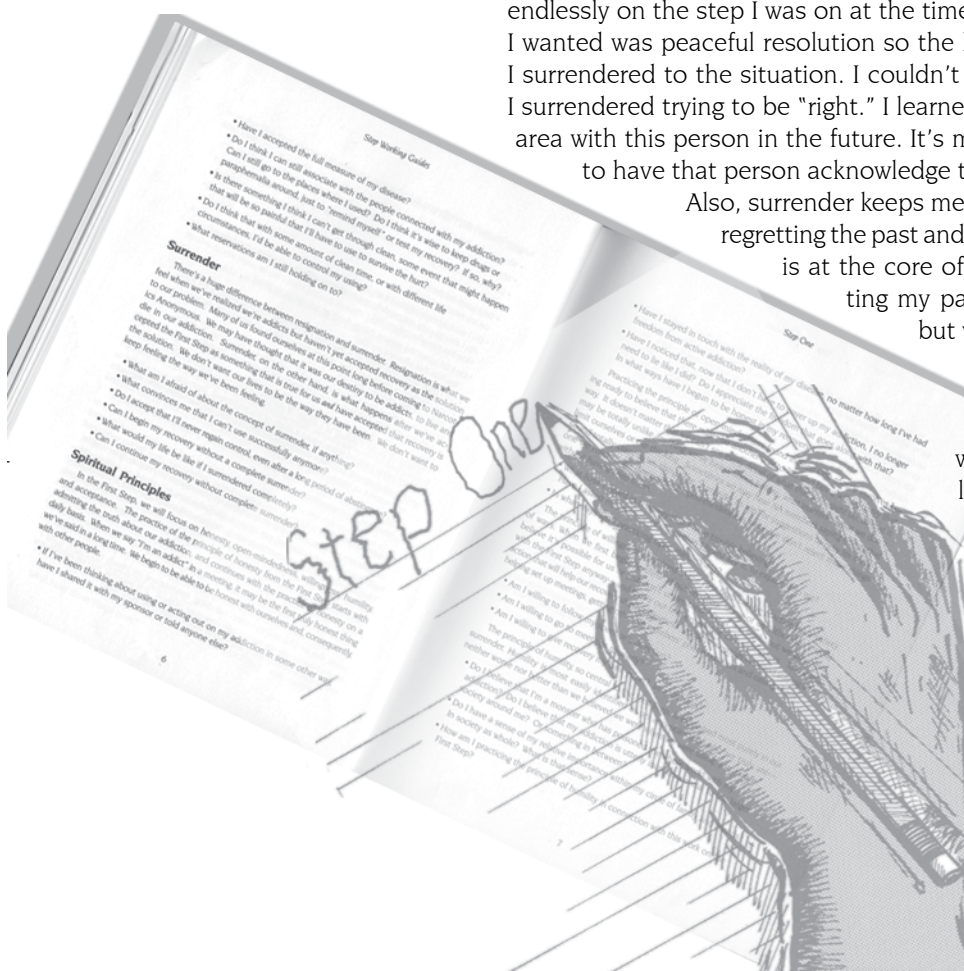
Seven years ago, when I started working the steps from the *Step Working Guides* with my sponsor, the answer to my prayers for guidance would usually be to surrender to the situation and write on whatever step I happened to be on at the time. Somehow that step—whichever one it was—would give me a perspective that I could understand and accept.

One of these times, a conflict arose between myself and someone I love. I wrote endlessly on the step I was on at the time. I finally came to the conclusion that what I wanted was peaceful resolution so the knot in my stomach would go away. Finally, I surrendered to the situation. I couldn’t change the other person’s perceptions, so I surrendered trying to be “right.” I learned that I need to do things differently in this area with this person in the future. It’s more important to me to have serenity than to have that person acknowledge that I am right.

Also, surrender keeps me in the “now.” My disease loves it when I am regretting the past and worrying about the future. Self-centered fear is at the core of our disease. I’ve done my share of regretting my past and anticipating disasters in the future, but when I can be in the moment and admit my powerlessness over the past and future, I can be serene and content.

One day while I was first in detox, I was outside smoking a cigarette with a fellow patient. He asked me for my definition of success. After thinking for a moment, I answered that success, to me, was being able to put my head on my pillow at night and feel at peace. When I surrender to my powerlessness, I am able to do that. Maybe that’s why surrender is my favorite spiritual principle—because it allows me to feel that my life is a success.

Cathy Y, Barcelona, Spain



Parting sorrow

My name is Shawn. I'm a recovering addict and a member of the Hole in the Wall Group at Oregon State Penitentiary. I started using at age five or six with my older brother and the drug dealer who lived in our camper in the backyard. From age eleven on, I was raised in boys' homes and cages as addiction took its natural progression from my early using to the extremes. I can't remember really having fun or enjoying being high. It was just an escape, a numbing of the reality that was my life—anything to change the feelings or shut them off, even for just a few miserable hours. But no matter how fast or far I ran, I couldn't get away from me! No matter where I went, there I was.

Today I've chosen to live my life clean, facing my problems and feelings head-on. What a relief that has turned out to be. I know God didn't design me to be high and disengaged from life.

***No matter
where I went,
there I was.***

Not too long ago, my best bro and I were selected to interview each other for a public radio project: a collection of oral histories that were recorded all over the United States, aired on the radio, and stored in the Library of Congress. My friend shared about his certainty that he would someday be released from this institution. Twenty-five days after our interview was played on the radio, my friend was found dead of an overdose on the floor of his cell.

This guy was a loving husband and father with thirteen children and twelve grandchildren. He had a larger-than-life persona and knew how to be a friend. If anyone needed help, he was always there. He was a gentle giant of a man. He started showing up at meetings, but his attendance was sporadic. I thank God we had enough of a program to love him no matter what. He had a lot of anger,

shame, and despair in him. Sometimes he would talk about it, but he could not—*would* not—work the steps.

My friend died of our disease, and not a day goes by that I don't miss him and feel the pain of this loss. My grief cuts deep. He has now found his freedom and peace. Every day, I remember that no matter what, we don't have to end this way. Today, I know the scope and true meaning of powerlessness.

Shawn F, Oregon, USA

Everything to gain

I was convinced early in my life that no one truly cared for or loved me. I would go to whatever extremes necessary to gain any type of friendship. I found myself among those who used drugs. I wasn't pressured to use by my new friends, but they seemed so happy, and I wanted what they had.

As I used, I began losing family, friends, possessions, and self-respect. I was in the process of a divorce when I began another relationship, but I didn't trust myself, so how could I trust anyone else?

My finances were in ruin as well. I pawned everything I owned. I should have been the owner of the store because so much of what was in there was mine. I was always able to keep a job, but everything I earned went to drugs. I had the desire to stop using, but didn't know how. I had relied on myself for too long. I developed into a controlling, self-centered, inconsiderate woman. I was killing myself.

A moment of clarity sank in one day when five friends came to my apartment. One had fifty cents, another had a quarter, and among all of us, we had five dollars. Though we were all hungry, needless to say we didn't purchase food, and the drugs we bought simply made the cravings worse. I realized my drug use was only a small symptom of my problem. I needed help. I knew I couldn't do this anymore. I was desperate and

needed to surrender my will for God's will in my life. I went to the daycare to say good-bye to my children. I packed a few items, quit my job, and left my apartment with everything in it. When I went into rehab I had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

I had tried to keep a home, a job, and my children; but I was powerless. It was when I surrendered that I began my spiritual awakening. In working the steps, I saw that my behavior patterns had stayed the same. Through working Steps Four and Five, my issues became more apparent and I have been able to understand many defects of character that formerly led me astray. God's help also allowed me to overcome many shortcomings. I strive daily to become stronger, to love myself for who I am, and to be of service to another suffering addict. The steps produce a new way of living, and they have provided me with hope to make it one more day. I have to say that, for me, Steps Four and Five made the biggest difference in my world. There is no doubt that if I don't change, my clean date will.

Regina C, Texas, USA



Self-sponsorship

During my recovery, I've periodically lapsed into sponsoring myself. If I were the only addict who had ever done this, it would be humiliating, but not worthy of writing an article for *The NA Way*. However, it seems this resistance to allowing others to help us is common among addicts. So, if you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, then maybe you, too, have some experience with self-sponsorship:

1. When you were new, did you resist getting a sponsor, because you didn't want anyone telling you what to do?
2. Was your first sponsor a "temporary" sponsor, because you feared making long-term commitments?
3. Have you asked someone to sponsor you, and then not called for days, weeks, or months because you didn't know what to say?
4. Do you not call your sponsor because he or she appears to be busy or tired?
5. Have you changed sponsors three or more times because you didn't like their feedback?
6. Do you avoid calling because you don't want to hear what your sponsor will say?
7. Do you ever feel grateful that you got your sponsor's answering machine?
8. Have you lied to your sponsor?
9. Have you taken service positions without talking to your sponsor first, and then felt overwhelmed by the demands of the positions? Did you ever quit a service position without talking to your sponsor first?
10. Have you ever really needed to talk to your sponsor, but when you called, said you were just checking in?
11. Did you ever wait to call your sponsor about a problem until you figured out the solution?
12. Do you talk to your sponsor about day-to-day activities, but not about the steps and your recovery program?
13. Do you give yourself reading or writing assignments on the steps, instead of asking for help?
14. When you have a sponsee with a problem beyond your experience, do you seek your sponsor's experience?
15. Have you asked your sponsor for direction on an issue, only to be reminded that you have not followed the direction you were already given on the same problem? Or, do you argue with your sponsor and refuse to follow his or her direction?
16. Did you ever start over on step work or an inventory because it was so long since you had worked on it that you couldn't find your previous writing?
17. Have you kept a sponsor who was physically ill and unavailable, rather than asking someone else to sponsor you?
18. When your sponsor died or moved away, did you resist getting another sponsor because no one could ever replace him or her?

Simply put, self-sponsorship is the resistance against seeking and accepting the love and experience of a sponsor. This can lead to delayed or inferior solutions to the problems we face, isolation from fellow addicts, and eventual relapse. Not all sponsors are perfect—but even with their imperfections, allowing a sponsor to help can significantly increase the likelihood that we'll be able to stay clean and have more rapid relief when we do face troubles.



If you don't have a sponsor, find someone who is available and has a working knowledge of the Twelve Steps. If you haven't been calling your sponsor, start calling on a regular basis and express interest in working the steps. If your sponsor is genuinely unavailable, then find a new one. If your sponsor suggests that you do something, try doing it and check out the results, rather than arguing against it. Remember that you don't have to have the solution to a problem before discussing it with your sponsor. You are not an imposition; you are providing your sponsor a chance to fulfill our primary purpose and to experience the joys associated with being of service to another addict.

Despite my periodic lapses into self-sponsorship, all of the significant, positive, life-changing experiences in my recovery have occurred through working the steps with a sponsor. Give yourself a chance to let go of your mistrust, anger, resentment, fear, and loneliness and get a sponsor. As they told me when I got here: Try it for thirty days, and if it doesn't work, we'll refund your misery.

Craig PW, California, USA

Our readers write

“Dr. Death”?

The point of the public relations column in the January *NA Way* is well taken. Being a pharmacist in recovery, I remember going to a regional workshop and being shunned by another NA member who was making a public information presentation to members of my profession. I still remember being called “doctor death.” Medical treatment seems to be a gray area for both healthcare professionals and recovering addicts. Society pushes the notion that drugs are the cure-all for every situation and symptom. The truth of the matter, for me, is that neither NA nor the healthcare profession addresses this problem clearly.

NA has changed my life, but I still have high blood pressure. Antibiotics, cough drops, and anti-depressants seem to be thrown out the window when we talk about total abstinence. This is part of that gray area. I am not one to cite passages from the Basic Text, but this one has helped in my recovery:

There is no safe use of drugs for us. Our bodies don't know the difference between the drugs prescribed by a physician for pain and the drugs prescribed by ourselves to get high. As addicts, our skill at self-deception will be at its peak in such a situation. (Basic Text, p. 98)

As addicts, we must be aware of this. A healthcare professional will not know of our addiction unless he or she is told. Most have no experience being an addict, nor do they have a concept of recovery. Our literature also states that we are ultimately responsible for our recovery. Working closely with a sponsor, working the steps, and being honest about our disease are all great suggestions. As addicts, we can share our concerns with healthcare professionals by providing information about addiction and recovery. This will, at minimum, make them aware that our recovery is a primary concern during a time of illness, and that they are a part of our recovery.

Don B, Texas, USA

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 had 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, I am eternally grateful. I love you. Good luck, and keep on!

Ariel A, Buenos Aires, Argentina

From ah-ha to ha-ha

HA-HA-HA

We have enjoyed “ah-ha” stories from members around the world during the past year. Thank you for sharing those shining moments with us. Now, we hope you will consider sending us another kind of recovery experience.

HE-HE

We want to hear about the funny times in your recovery!

HE-HE

Send us the stories that make you laugh out loud, comments and sharing you've overheard in meetings that make you grin, service tidbits that have helped you maintain your recovery—and sense of humor—along the way.

As always, you can forward your experience to us by email at naway@na.org; by fax at 818.700.0700, attn: *NA Way*; or by postal mail at *The NA Way Magazine*; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.

YUK-YUK-YUK

HO-HO

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.).

Addicts in the alley

Addicts in the Alley Step Study meets Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in Concord, California, USA. We adopted this name for our group when we had to move from a church where we had been meeting since the group first started over fifteen years ago. The church decided not to host evening NA meetings due to problems caused by bad behavior at other meetings in the facility.

We only had a week to find a new place, so we had an emergency business meeting. Several people researched new locations, and we gave the group secretary a vote of confidence to choose the location and negotiate rent. Three days later, a local bowling alley agreed to rent meeting space to us. The owners

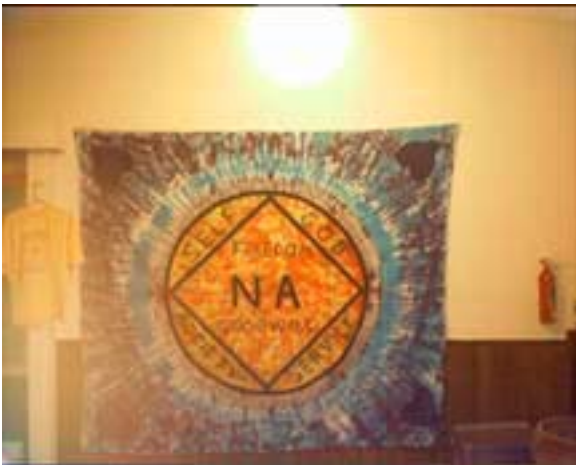
were grateful for the help one of their family members had found in our fellowship, so they didn't want to accept any rent; but our secretary explained the Seventh Tradition and negotiated a reasonable rent.

Our meeting format was changed a number of times over the years without benefit of group conscience, and we began to have concerns about behavior in front of the meeting place. We voted to make a few changes in the format, including the addition of language on the Fourth Tradition from *It Works: How and Why*. We also decided the secretary must have completed work

on all twelve steps in order to be elected, and each speaker must have worked the step they are asked to share about.

Just for fun, we have a weekly drawing for T-shirts, speaker tapes, or NA books. Usually, the winner of the drawing gives a book to a newcomer. We are very proud of our tie-dye wall hanging with the NA service symbol on it—and of the fact that we carry a clear NA message of recovery at our home group.

Jeff R, California, USA



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

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!

Are we having fun yet?

I am the current chairperson of a public information subcommittee that is accountable to the body we serve, an ASC with sixty home groups. I was formerly a PI subcommittee chairperson at both the ASC and RSC levels. In my early service, I usually served either on a small PI subcommittee of one to three volunteers, or as a "subcommittee of one." This was not by choice, but out of necessity. I must admit that my character defects may have discouraged otherwise willing volunteers from serving. In early recovery, I felt a driving force to control to the point that nothing in my life worked well.

My hair is now more gray and sparse than it was then, but not my willingness to be of service to the NA Fellowship. I have more experience with step work and service. In my active addiction (until I was forty-three years old), I was a desperate loner, trusting no one. Now, at twelve years clean, I am more trusting. Instead of being mired in cynicism, and condemning my service commitments to certain destruction based on my personality, I now have a new outlook on people, NA service, and life in general.

Our ASC's PI subcommittee has an equal distribution of responsibilities and authority. We split up the work and the authority needed to accomplish our tasks so that our subcommittee consists of six PI subcommittee "panels":

- Helpline
- Presentation
- Press
- Public Relations (with a sub-panel: professional database management)
- Media Resource
- Multimedia

Each panel has a leader who operates and oversees activities in accordance with a set of guidelines that we call a "standard of operations." As a subcommittee, we have agreed on these standards of operation.

The panel leaders are part of a fixed number of members of the PI subcommittee. As the subcommittee chairperson, I work closely with each of the panel leaders, giving and taking instructions, and providing and receiving monthly reports which, when compiled, comprise my monthly report to the ASC. That's how we maintain our accountability to our ASC. Instead of the worn-out monthly lament of the PI subcommittee chairperson's report, we now have great—and fun—things to report.

With this distribution of authority and responsibility throughout the subcommittee, we have experienced the benefits of more effectively carrying the message and helping our NA groups fulfill their primary purpose. Instead of me being the only one recruiting volunteers to complete our work, each of the panel leaders recruits and orients (in a learning-day format) the many volunteers needed to more effectively carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Our volunteer numbers have increased from

a few to nearly sixty willing volunteers who are both well-led and well-trained. Each volunteer is now involved in bits of PI service work instead of huge workloads. We now have masters of particular tasks, where we used to have "jacks of all trades, masters of none."

We involve newcomers in ways best suited to them without overwhelming them. For example, at a presentation for professionals, we have newcomers read, "Who Is an Addict?" or "What Is the Narcotics Anonymous Program?" No one is excluded from NA service work on this subcommittee.

I just wanted to share some hope with NA *Way* readers. We're having fun doing NA service work! While working together, we laugh and enjoy fellowshiping. We utilize service-oriented literature like *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*, *Twelve Concepts for NA Service*, and chapters from our books on the traditions. We also draw upon the experience of our predecessors. By doing this, we are experiencing the joy of serving the fellowship we so dearly love.

Anonymous, New Jersey, USA



2006-2008 Fellowship Issue Discussions

Taking the next steps...



Go to

[www.na.org/
discussion_
boards.htm](http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm)

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

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

Around of workshops on the Issue Discussion Topics has provided us with an impressive volume of fellowship input. Generally speaking, reactions to these topics have generated similar responses all around the world. Discussions have been lively and seem to give members fresh ideas and perspectives to take home. All of this positive energy will help as we shift the focus of these discussions to dig a bit deeper. As a fellowship, we're beginning to connect the dots between our strengths and our challenges. With your help, we can continue that process in the upcoming round of discussions.

The workshops we facilitate in your communities are also meant to be training sessions, but you don't have to participate in our workshops to hold your own. We encourage groups, areas, and regions to work with one another and hold your own issue discussion workshops to raise awareness, increase fellowship dialog, and provide us with your input. We strive to develop sessions you can facilitate on your own with minimal planning and preparation. You can find session profiles to help you conduct workshops at http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm. We hope you will send us your input on the Issue Discussion Topics, as well as the session profiles.

Building Strong Home Groups

For this topic, we asked workshop participants about the distinctions between meetings, groups, and home groups. We also asked about the strengths of home groups and how they benefit personal recovery, the atmosphere of recovery, and the local NA community. Members sent a clear message that we all have some very specific ideas about what a home group *should* be. Many members shared about the challenges their groups face as they try to reach these ideals. It seems that we know how we want our home groups to look and feel, but we can't always see how to get there.

The next section of this article is a resource called "Qualities of a Strong Home Group," with fellowship input from *Atmosphere of Recovery* and *Building Strong Home Groups* workshops. These qualities are separated into three categories: *Ideals, Practices, and Roles*.

Home Group Qualities – Ideals

Ideals	Principles demonstrated by the group and its members	
	❑ Consistency and Commitment	❑ Principles in Action
	❑ Spirit of Service	❑ Positive Perspective
	❑ Benefits of Service	❑ Intimacy and a Sense of Home

A group's ideals are the principles that the group and its members demonstrate in their week-to-week affairs. These ideals express themselves in countless ways. Some groups reach these ideals smoothly and naturally; other groups work hard to meet their potential.

Consistency and Commitment refers to home group members who regularly attend and support the group. Members become accountable to the group and for the group when they participate in both the meeting and group service. Participating consistently sends a clear message to newcomers. They get to see the same people time and time again in their early recovery. If actions speak louder than words, our ongoing participation can do more to carry the message than what we share in the meeting.

Spirit of Service means that members serve out of gratitude and a personal desire to see the group succeed, not because they feel obligated or guilty. The spirit of loving service is best spread at the home group level. Those who are not yet involved in service will be best attracted by what they see and learn from those who are.

Benefits of Service refers to personal growth that comes from service to the group. The group offers one of the most direct opportunities to give what we have in order to keep it. The group puts us in touch with newcomers and with other members with whom we might not normally spend time. This connects us to our community and it sends a message to the newcomer of how to stay involved.

Principles in Action includes accountability, responsibility, humility, patience, tolerance, sincerity, unity, and perseverance, among others. Members who practice these principles grow and change as individuals as they help to strengthen their home group. Strong home groups demonstrate these principles in business and recovery meetings.

A Positive Perspective is when the group helps members gain a hopeful outlook on the world. A strong home group encourages members to dream big, but to stay in touch with reality. As the group challenges itself to improve efforts to fulfill the primary purpose, group members get to see progress in action. The group can work together to identify realistic goals and look for ways to reach them. Members will begin to learn how to do the same thing for themselves. The group's goal of carrying a message to still-suffering addicts is humble, but the results—addicts staying clean—are miraculous. Strong home groups teach us to work toward simple goals and reach amazing heights, instead of dreaming outlandish dreams and going nowhere.

Intimacy and a Sense of Home comes as members work together to try to accomplish group goals and find ways to better carry the message. Members also get to know each other and help each other to grow, change, and reach our own personal goals.

Home Group Qualities – Practices

Practices	How strong home groups operate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe, Positive Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Good Public Relations
	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Principles	<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage Diversity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Nurture All Members

A group's practices are its deliberate, specific efforts to enhance the atmosphere of recovery and move toward the ideals of a strong home group.

A Safe, Positive Environment helps to bring our Third Tradition to life. A group must create an atmosphere of acceptance and respect for all members. A simple way to start could be to ask people who attend to turn off cell phones and refrain from cross talk. People feel safe when they are welcomed into meetings, when home group members remember their names, when they know the meeting will be there every week no matter what, and when they see the same people show up regularly. Groups might not have control over who shows up and who engages in disruptive behavior, but they can choose how to react. Strong home groups can show appreciation to members who attend regularly. They can also stand up firmly to disruptive behavior so members feel safe. We make sure that disruptive members know that they are welcome, even if their behavior is not.

Groups can **Teach Principles** to members. The principles of recovery in the steps, traditions, concepts, and all of our literature are great material for group discussion. Groups can raise awareness of principles through topic discussion or literature study meetings, or with group workshops. They could even discuss a spiritual principle at the monthly group business meeting. There are countless ways to study recovery principles at the group level. Try some new ideas in your group, and see what works best for you.

Self-Support is one of the many principles that groups can explore in this manner. The IP *Self-Support: Principle and Practice* can provide ideas for discussion. Members can explore how they, as a group and as individuals, can contribute to the common welfare of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

Good Public Relations deals with the way the group's actions reflect on NA as a whole. The group can explore whether or not their meetings provide an attractive example of NA (especially in open meetings), or whether or not they have a good relationship with the provider of meeting space.

To **Encourage Diversity**, groups can make an effort to welcome and meet the needs of addicts of any background. They can also work to make sure that they do not tolerate any behavior that might alienate other members.

Nurture All Members doesn't just mean all home group members; it means all NA members, especially newcomers. Groups help members find recovery, not just abstinence. The group must encourage members to grow and change in their recovery. Groups and members can help each other in a lot of ways: showing up on time and staying for the entire meeting; working the steps and sharing our experience, strength, and hope in the meeting; and showing positive care and concern for other members, new and old. The actions of the group and its members form the basis of the group's character, which will affect the group's roles in and out of NA.

Home Group Qualities – Roles

How a group interacts with NA and the community		
Roles	<input type="checkbox"/> Evolves with Members	<input type="checkbox"/> Model of Service
	<input type="checkbox"/> Establishes a Network	<input type="checkbox"/> Unity and Credibility
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gateway to Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive Message

A group's roles are the ways it interacts in and out of NA. This includes the role the group plays in members' lives, the role it plays in the NA service community, and the role it plays in the community at large.

A strong home group **Evolves with Members**. The personality of the group will grow and change as its members do. Consistent and reliable home group members give the group a sense of character, and new members help keep the group fresh and dynamic.

Establishes a Network refers to how the group connects newcomers to members who provide guidance in recovery and service. Newer members look to older members for experience and support with their personal recovery, and also for their understanding of service. Older members also demonstrate the fact that recovery and service are ongoing processes that only stop when we do.

Model of Service means that the group helps new members understand how our service system operates, how to be of service, and what different positions mean. The group should encourage newer members to learn these things by working with one another.

The group should also provide a **Gateway to Service**. The principles of advancement and continuity put members in touch with service to the group and to other levels of the service system. Strong home groups expose their members to the service community by encouraging them to attend service meetings and to keep up with what's happening at area/region/world.

Unity and Credibility refers to the unity groups establish in the service structure and the credibility they create in the community. Groups that actively contribute time and resources to their area service committee help to establish and maintain unity in the local NA community. That unity, which must start with the groups, enhances NA's credibility as service efforts become more efficient and responsive to local needs.

The **Positive Message** we send to the community is that NA members are not only gaining freedom from active addiction and finding new ways to live, but are also learning to take on responsible and productive roles in society. That message will enhance the credibility of NA and help us reach more addicts.

Building Strong Home Groups Worksheet

Groups can use the new group worksheet (see next page) to find out what issues they can look at and improve. Beyond the group level, talking about the worksheet in your service bodies can give you some ideas about the issues in your communities.



Building Strong Home Groups Worksheet



This worksheet is meant to help NA members strengthen their home groups. Use it in your group business meetings to find ways to grow and improve. The idea of longer business meetings isn't always appealing. If needed, the group can schedule an extra business meeting or have a get-together on a separate day. In a spirit of giving, a little extra time goes a long way to strengthen the group so it can better carry the message. To make the process quick and smooth, hand out copies of this sheet in advance and try to get as many group members as possible involved. The worksheet includes a list of home group qualities in three categories on the back of this page.

1 Identify Areas for Group Improvement

For each category (*see list on the back of this page*), members can choose one or two items the group can improve, before or during the business meeting. Compare lists or vote. Address the top issues, one at a time.

2 State the Issues

The group should briefly discuss what needs to be improved in each area they chose, one at a time. Remember, keep it simple! Don't get too wrapped in the problem; move into the solution.

3 Brainstorm Solutions

As a group, discuss solution ideas. Remember, there are no bad ideas and there is no need to debate. One idea that won't work might lead to another that will. Focus on ways to make progress; don't worry about being perfect. Small improvements are better than no improvements.

4 Choose the Solutions

Choose the ideas that most members agree on. If needed, this can be done by a simple vote.

5 Make Decision(s)

From the brainstorming, look for simple, practical actions the group can take to implement the solutions. Be specific about *who* will carry out the action, and *how* it should be done.

Example

Area for improvement: Practices – Public Relations

The issue: meeting facility complains about noise and mess after our meetings, and they never know who to talk to about the problem.

Brainstorming/choosing the solutions (votes):

- let people know about noise (2)
- announce in meeting format (5)
- also mention trash/cig butts (3)
- have someone stay to clean up (5)
- give the facility phone numbers (4)
- have someone check in monthly (5)

Decisions:

- Add statement to meeting format about keeping noise and mess down.
- Group secretary will give facility our contact info and check in monthly.
- Get a “clean-up” person each month to make sure we don't leave a mess.

Ideals	Principles demonstrated by the group and its members
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistency and Commitment – People can count on our meeting and trusted servants. <input type="checkbox"/> Spirit of Service – Members serve willingly with gratitude for NA. <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits of Service – Trusted servants demonstrate growth that comes with service. <input type="checkbox"/> Principles in Action – Members live NA principles and share about them in our meetings. <input type="checkbox"/> Positive Perspective – The group and members dream big and share our successes. <input type="checkbox"/> Intimacy and a Sense of Home – We help all members feel like a part of the fellowship. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Practices	How strong home groups operate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and Positive Environment – Our format keeps us focused on recovery. <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Principles – The group discusses the steps, traditions, and literature. <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Support – Members give time and resources freely to support the message. <input type="checkbox"/> Good Public Relations – Our group reflects well on NA as a whole. <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage Diversity – The meeting reaches all newcomers and welcomes them home. <input type="checkbox"/> Nurture All Members – Group members are supportive and challenge each other to grow. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Roles	How a group interacts with NA and the community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Evolves with Members – Members’ personal growth strengthens the group. <input type="checkbox"/> Establishes a Network – Our group puts newcomers in touch with experienced members. <input type="checkbox"/> Gateway to Service – Members introduce newcomers into group service, then beyond. <input type="checkbox"/> Model of Service – Our group prepares trusted servants to work well at other levels. <input type="checkbox"/> Unity and Credibility – We work with other groups and ASC in a spirit of cooperation. <input type="checkbox"/> Positive Message – Group members are an example of NA changing lives for the better. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Group Notes (use extra paper if necessary)

- ① **Area for improvement** _____
- ② **The issue** _____

- ③ **Brainstorming** _____

- ④ **Choosing the solutions** _____

- ⑤ **Decisions** _____

Building Strong Home Groups








This round of discussions will shift our focus. We will spend less time identifying solutions and more time exploring how to act on those solutions. The input you give will shape the resources that we develop to assist groups. So far, we have received input about the need for tools or IPs that could raise the awareness of issues such as the importance of having a home group and the benefits of doing service. Some members have shared that group tools would really help, like printable information for group trusted servants (how to be a group secretary, how to lead/chair a meeting, etc.). We hope to get a better idea of what should be on this list from discussions in the months ahead.

As a start, we have used current input to outline a basic tool to help groups identify ways to grow and change. This tool can be used in business meetings to help groups think about practical ways to become stronger. As individuals we benefit from personal inventory; groups can, too. We hope that discussions on this topic will help groups find new ways to approach challenges. We also hope you will share your experiences with us.

THE GROUP...



SHARES...

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Strength and Courage |  |
| Friendship |  |
| Peace and Serenity |  |
| Love |  |
| GOD |  |



Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why

Narcotics Anonymous continues to grow and change as a fellowship. Our most important goal is to improve our efforts to reach the addict who still suffers. We have come an incredibly long way in pursuit of this goal, but we can still make progress.

Input from the fellowship has consistently pointed out that we are not reaching all of the addicts in our communities. Sessions on *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why* since WSC 2006 continue to drive home the point that our local NA communities have population gaps. However ambitious it is, one point of our vision statement expresses the ideal to which we strive—that “every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture.” This means we strive to make it possible for them to find us, and when they come to us, we strive to give them what we have *in a way they can receive it*. We have made progress with this, but we still struggle in many places to reach minorities of language and culture. There are thousands of Spanish-speaking meetings in the world today, for example, but they continue to struggle in communities where Spanish is not the predominant language.

We tend to underestimate the power of that initial identification. We all seem to look for people who look like us, used the way we did, or have similar experiences to ours. We especially do this when we’re new. Many of us share that we don’t quite remember what we heard in our first meeting, but that we remember how we felt. Our message is hope, the feeling we get when we think NA might have something to offer us. To get that hope, we have to suspend our disbelief for a moment and accept the idea that maybe—just maybe—we too can stop using and find a new way to live. A newcomer in a meeting full of people who are like each other but not like him or her will probably feel a genuine sense of alienation. We say that “our diversity is our strength,” but we are often afraid to discuss diversity. We focus on our similarities to find common ground with other members, but that doesn’t mean that our differences disappear. We need to be careful not to get so wrapped up in similarities that we refuse to acknowledge our differences. If we do so, we might rob newcomers of the chance to relate. We know that we share at least two things in common with all other NA members—addiction and recovery. Newcomers might admit that they are addicts, but we can’t offer them our message of hope that they too can recover unless they can see a place for themselves in our fellowship.

Fellowship input has also shed light on a few important aspects of the issue. For starters, the portion of the addicted population that is missing from our meetings is different from one community to the next. In order to take local action, each NA community will have to take a look around, in the fellowship and out, to see who isn’t hearing our message. Once we have determined who is missing, we can ask ourselves a couple more questions. First of all, do these groups of people ever find NA in the first place? If they do, why aren’t they coming back?

Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why Questions for Service Bodies

If there are segments of the local population that never seem to be exposed to NA, then we need to look at our local service efforts for solutions.

1. **What public relations gaps or misconceptions about NA in our community can our service bodies work to resolve?**
2. **What outreach work can we do to spread the word about NA to potential members?**

Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why Questions for Groups and Members

If there are types of people who find NA but aren’t coming back, we can look at what we do as groups and as individuals to make everyone feel welcome. Our program has something to offer everyone; it’s our responsibility to make sure that *our fellowship* is as attractive and accessible as the NA program of recovery. We must ensure that there is room in our NA community for “all manifestations of the recovering person.”

3. As a member, what personal efforts can I make (and encourage other members to make) to reach out to different types of people?
4. What changes can we make at a group level to make sure that we do not alienate members of any background, but instead welcome all?

Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why



It is clear that not every NA meeting will be equally comfortable to all members. The important concern is to know that all of the addicts in our community have meetings where they *can* feel comfortable. As members trying to carry the message, it is our responsibility to identify and overcome the barriers to recovery in our communities. It is part of giving away what was so freely given to us. The answer to “Who is missing?” varies from one community to the next, so each community will have to explore its own answers and solutions. Common needs meetings and targeted literature might play a part in the solution, but there seems to be a lot more that we can do. In some cases, we may see no solution but to wait vigilantly. When we find a chance to reach out, we take it. If there are ways that our service system can get these members into our meetings, and ways that we as individuals and groups can keep them here, then it is our responsibility to do whatever we can. It’s about our Twelfth Step, our Fifth Tradition, our First Concept, and the NAWS Vision. It’s about carrying the message.

Our Service System

We also received a lot of energy and valuable input about this final topic. Members enthusiastically shared a variety of ideas about NA services. The main ideas and concerns were fairly consistent. First, we need to bring the atmosphere of recovery from our meetings into our service system. Second, we need effective and reliable ways to develop leaders in NA service. Third, we need to improve our practices of planning and self-support.

Fellowship input suggests that our current system is too rigid. Standing committees, policies, and guidelines have not always helped us in our efforts to welcome and embrace new members or respond efficiently to community needs. The challenge we face together is to explore new ways to approach our service efforts. Many service bodies have begun to do this already, a little bit at a time. NA World Services will continue to gather your input and frame discussions with the fellowship. The evolution of our services will be a gradual process. We can begin by looking at what is in front of us.

A common vision about what is most important to us at each level of service will help us work together successfully. One of the first steps we can take is to bring some form of planning into our service efforts at all levels. For the areas in which we hope to grow—making service meetings more attractive, leadership cultivation, and planning—tools and resources can go a long way. Some service bodies have offered locally developed tools, which we have made available on an area of our website: http://www.na.org/local_resource_area.htm. We urge other members and service bodies to share their resources. Email them to fsmail@na.org. Also share any ideas about tools that world services can develop to assist your local efforts.

Atmosphere of Recovery in Service

Members consistently point out the value of personal recovery to NA service, especially a strong working understanding of our literature, the steps, the traditions, and the concepts. Some members pointed out that it would benefit trusted servants to see the NAWS Vision discussed more frequently at local levels. Trusted servants everywhere seem to share the firm belief that NA service is a vital extension of each individual’s personal recovery. Many members simply refuse to participate in service beyond the group level, however,

because service meetings tend to lack an atmosphere of recovery. If we apply what we know about strong home groups to our service meetings, they might begin to attract more members to service.

If we can make newcomers to service feel as welcome as newcomers to NA, we'll be off to a good start. Some service bodies make special efforts to bring recovery into their service meetings. For example, some service bodies take time to recognize recovery anniversaries. Others begin their service meeting with a recovery meeting. Still others have moved away from motions and pro-con debate to consensus-based decision making driven by open discussion. Some changes have shown more success than others. As your World Board, we work together to make a list of common values and basic ground rules that we all agree on. We use those to guide the work we do together. Service bodies might consider that as a way to build a sense of community with one another. Members have also suggested an information pamphlet or other basic tools as a way to bring recovery into service.

Atmosphere of Recovery in Service Questions

We would like to hear more about what your service bodies are doing or could do to create an atmosphere of recovery. Be creative with your ideas. Talk about not only your current atmosphere but what might be possible.

1. What steps do you or could you take, as individual members, to bring personal recovery into your service efforts?
2. What actions do your committees and service bodies take or could they take to promote an atmosphere of recovery?

Leadership

The topic of leadership development is directly related to the atmosphere of recovery in our service meetings. Our system of leadership cultivation will rely heavily on what our service bodies do to welcome and encourage participation. Some communities host service workshops and learning days. Others stagger elections or overlap service terms to provide greater continuity and training opportunities. These methods vary in their effectiveness, and members report the most success when they combine approaches and apply them rigorously. Patience is crucial to this effort. Just as we don't recover in thirty or sixty days, so might our efforts at cultivating leaders be gradual. We look forward to hearing what you are doing locally to encourage participation to help leaders grow.

selfLessness
intEgrity
accountAbility
spiritual Depth
honEsty
trustwoRthiness
willingneSs
Humility
faIth
oPen-mindednes

Leadership Questions

3. How can we improve the understanding of the roles and responsibilities for each service position?
4. How can we better train, mentor, and support our trusted servants or potential trusted servants?

Planning and Self-Support

One of the most common challenges for service bodies around the world is a lack of adequate resources. This problem is usually the direct result of a lack of member contributions. Service bodies need funds to accomplish their tasks, but they also need the time and energy of able-bodied members. We all know that we keep what we have by giving it away. We need to raise awareness that self-support is not just taking care of ourselves. We practice self-support by giving time, energy, and resources to the fellowship that makes our way of life possible. Members can contribute more than just money. They can contribute time and energy in service to NA.

Sometimes our resources get caught in one level of service or another. Members might be willing to contribute time and money to the groups and service bodies that serve them directly, but reluctant to help

neighboring NA communities or other levels of service. The spirit of unity in the First Tradition reminds us that supporting NA anywhere is self-support. As addicts we can be driven by the fear that we will not have enough—enough money, enough time, enough people—and we try to hold onto our resources. Yet recovery teaches that we have to give it away to keep it. The principles of generosity and service are spiritual solutions to the self-centered fear at the heart of our disease. Possibilities for our own growth in recovery expand with the strength of NA.

In addition to lacking resources, our service system does not consistently make the best possible use of resources. Planning can help us manage our resources better. Trusted servants have received the Area Planning Tool® (APT) with a great deal of excitement. The APT helps members identify and prioritize issues and make realistic plans to work toward common goals. With this approach, more members take active roles in each stage of the process. Members can feel like part of the solution and help raise the awareness of local service efforts. Areas and regions report great initial successes with this process. We encourage you to practice this tool in your issue discussion workshops and include your input about the APT with the input you send about the IDTs. If we all take this first step to better planning, we can continue to work together to identify other ways to improve our service efforts, make service more fun and more productive, and better carry the message. We welcome all of your input about this tool and the planning process.

Planning and Self-Support Questions

First and foremost, we urge you to use the Area Planning Tool. Let us know what has or has not been working well in your use of the APT or other forms of planning.

5. How have you implemented planning in your local service efforts?
6. What local efforts have helped or could help you address lack of human and financial resources to become fully self-supporting?

Our Service System



Our fellowship has come a long way since we first developed our current service system. The needs of our members and communities, as well as our resources, have changed drastically. We are doing our best to keep up. The areas discussed in this section—An Atmosphere of Recovery in Service, Leadership, and Planning and Self-Support—are places where we can begin to make immediate changes. Many of us remember a time when service committee meetings were shouting matches. We were usually able to hug afterwards and go have dinner or coffee together. Like working a Tenth Step, we're learning that if we serve together peacefully, we won't have to make amends later. Strong leadership can be both a cause and a result of shifting attitudes toward service. The role of our leaders is to create other leaders, to ensure the viability of our message. Our leaders call upon other members to stand up and be a part of the Fellowship of NA and its service system. We encourage each other to give time and resources freely. Our gratitude speaks when we give freely, but it also speaks when we refuse to squander what we've been given. Planning our services carefully helps us to use our resources responsibly.

Once again, we urge you to use the APT and the group worksheet. Send us your input. Tell us what you do to bring recovery into your service meetings, and tell us how you strengthen leadership in your service community. Our service system will continue to evolve naturally as you tell us what works so we can help you spread the word.

* The APT is a resource for Chapter Three, Effective Services, in the *PR Handbook* and can also be downloaded at <http://www.na.org/handbooks/handbook-index.htm>.



2006-2008 Fellowship Issue Discussions

Taking the next steps...

Building Strong Home Groups

Input on this topic led to two new group tools. The first is the "Qualities of a Strong Home Group" sheet. This sheet includes ideas from members around the world about what it means to have a strong home group. To help groups strengthen those qualities, we created the "Building Strong Home Groups Worksheet," a simple resource that outlines basic steps for growth as a group. Use it in your groups and let us know what you think.

Building Strong Home Groups Worksheet

This tool will help you find and discuss ways to improve your efforts to carry the message. Download it with the group qualities sheet at http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm.

Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why Questions

for Service Bodies

If there are segments of the local population that never seem to be exposed to NA, then we need to look at our local service efforts for solutions.

1. What public relations gaps or misconceptions about NA in our community can our service bodies work to resolve?
2. What outreach work can we do to spread the word about NA to potential members?

for Groups and Members

Our program has something to offer everyone. Let's make sure that *our fellowship* does, too.

3. As a member, what personal efforts can I make (and encourage other members to make) to reach out to different types of people?
4. What changes can we make at a group level to make sure that we do not alienate members of any background, but instead welcome all?

Our Service System Questions

for Atmosphere of Recovery in Service

Let us know what you are doing or could do to bring recovery into service. Be creative!

1. What steps do you or could you take, as individual members, to bring personal recovery into your service efforts?
2. What actions do your committees and service bodies take or could they take to promote an atmosphere of recovery?

for Leadership

The goal of strong leadership in NA is to encourage others to become leaders, too.

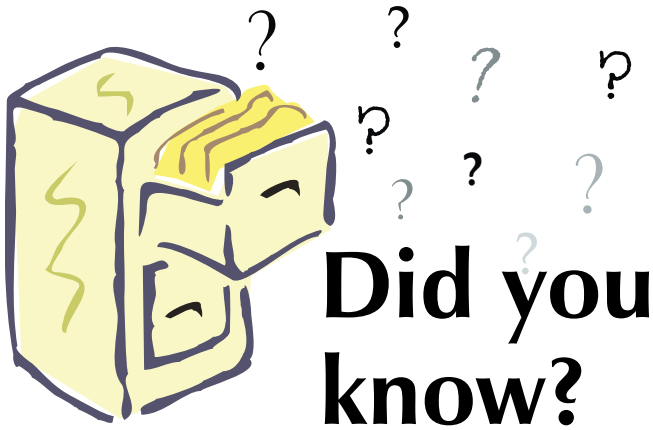
3. How can we improve the understanding of the roles and responsibilities for each service position?
4. How can we better train, mentor, and support our trusted servants or potential trusted servants?

for Planning and Self-Support

Area Planning Tool

We urge you to use the APT to bring planning into your service efforts. Download it at <http://www.na.org/handbooks/handbook-index.htm>

5. How have you implemented planning in your local service efforts?
6. What local efforts have helped or could help you address lack of human and financial resources to become fully self-supporting?



Did you know?

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 40,000 weekly meetings in over 125 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: from the first publication of the Basic Text in 1983 through 2006, we distributed 5,914,342 copies?

Did you know: **the Basic Text, in its entirety, is now available online at www.na.org/ips/eng/index.htm**

Did you know: in the first 30 days it was online, the Basic Text was viewed more than 30,000 times?

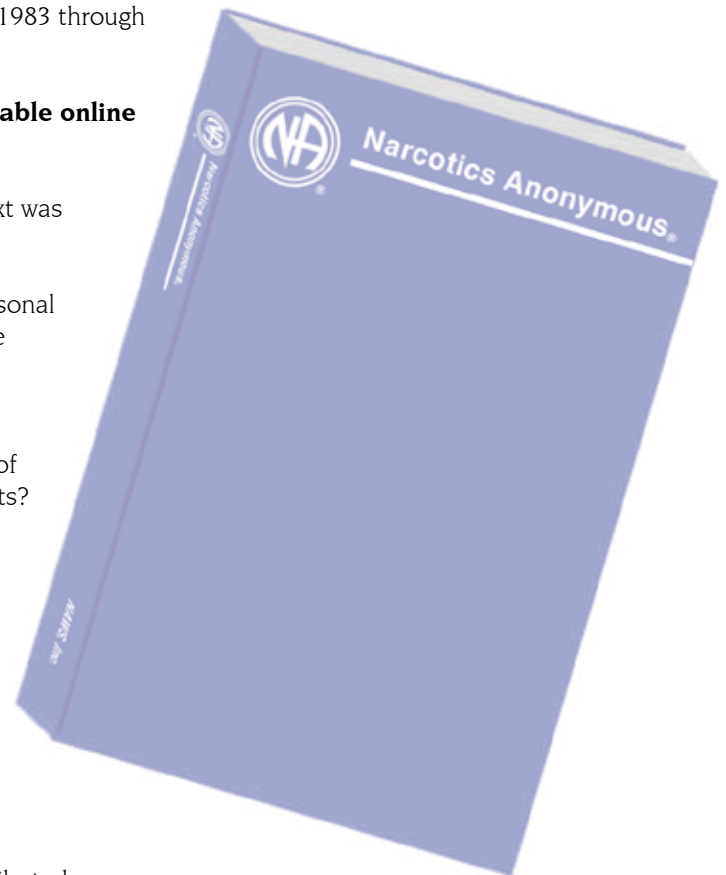
Did you know: in February 2005 a solicitation for written personal experience went out to the fellowship, and we received more than 700 submissions from 34 different countries?

Did you know: the Basic Text Project Workgroup is made up of members from six countries on four continents? These members read and evaluated all 700 submitted pieces—plus the personal stories already published in the English, French, and Dutch Basic Text, and the Swedish and Anglicized White Booklet.

Did you know: we released a draft of the Sixth Edition Basic Text for review on 1 September 2006 to all members who requested one, and to all regions, areas, and conference participants?

Did you know: from that time until 1 February 2007, we distributed more than 4,400 copies by mail, and more than 2,900 copies were downloaded? The draft has been sent to 54 different countries.

Did you know: **for more information on the Sixth Edition Basic Text Project, you can go to www.na.org/conference/bt?**



Youth IPs are available for review and input

The new youth IPs were released for review and input 1 March. The drafts include a new pamphlet titled "By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts" (which would replace the existing *Youth and Recovery* IP) and a piece geared toward parents of young addicts. There's still plenty of time to submit input for this project before the review period ends 31 May.

You can obtain a review copy and submit input online by visiting our website: <http://www.na.org/conference/youth/>, or you can request a paper copy by fax at 818.700.0700, by email at worldboard@na.org, or by postal mail at NA World Services; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409.

We know the youth IP drafts could benefit from a broader range of experience, and we're eager to hear from members about what would help fill these gaps.

As we've previously reported, targeting literature to younger addicts means that these pieces have been created so they speak directly to this population. The new IPs will look and sound different. As your board, we had our own challenges reviewing these pieces. Since the material wasn't intended to speak to us, we had to focus our conversations on whether or not it could be helpful to younger members in NA, and if it was consistent with NA's principles. ***We know that making NA's message more viable to a widely diverse population means that not everything will be in a voice that each of us can relate to.***

We've discussed the challenge of asking members to review pieces not meant to speak to most of us doing the reviewing. We know that asking, "Do I relate to this?" is not the most useful way to approach these IPs. ***What will be most useful is to think about whether the material is likely to help younger members coming to NA.*** Some service committees are organizing workshops to review the

IPs, and some younger NA members are getting together to read and input this material. We also know these new IPs will benefit from the ideas and experiences of members in our worldwide fellowship, and we appreciate your efforts to provide feedback on these pieces.

For those who aren't familiar with the background of this project, it may be helpful to know that the youth IPs came about partly as a result of our fellowship-wide discussions. Our discussions about a group's *Atmosphere of Recovery* identified young people as missing from NA meetings or missing out on NA's message. Our current discussions about *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings* continue to identify young people as a key group. We also receive ongoing requests from professionals for new literature geared toward

young people, and targeted literature for youth was prioritized by the World Service Conference in 2006. Needless to say, there is a substantial need for new literature geared toward young addicts.

Many of us were able to get clean without targeted literature, but we know that some potential NA members didn't stay or that others could have experienced NA's message more easily with targeted literature. We believe that expanding our literature and finding new ways to reach those who haven't yet heard our message is crucial, not only to accomplishing our vision, but to fulfilling our primary purpose.

We look forward to hearing from you as to how we can make these new IPs even more relevant to young addicts seeking recovery from addiction.

Building a service toolbox

www.na.org/local_resource_area.htm

Looking for forms, ideas for workshops and conventions, or fellowship development and outreach tools? The Local Service Committee Resource Area is a place where NA service committees can share locally developed resource materials. These tools are made available so that NA service bodies might benefit from others' experience and work. These resources are not approved or endorsed by NA World Services or the World Service Conference, unless clearly designated otherwise; however, we have also placed in the same location various resources we've developed, which are either approved by NAWS or the WSC. Anyone is free to download these materials and use or adapt them as their local service committee sees fit.

To sign up to share your area or region's resources, please submit information on the website at: http://www.na.org/local_resource_area_form.htm. Currently, only registered areas or regions can upload items to this site. Others wishing to upload should contact us by email at: webmaster@na.org. NA World Services reserves the right to remove any item from this area without exception.





PR Handbook



Interacting with the public

What image does PR bring to mind? Professionals in suits? Advertising executives? For many of us, our first thought is not of NA members standing outside a meeting place; but the *Public Relations Handbook* preface reminds us that NA's relationships with the public stem primarily from how we are observed as we interact at meetings and functions, as we conduct service activities, and even when we represent NA unconsciously in our everyday activities. This echoes the essay on Tradition Eleven in *It Works: How & Why*: "All our members play a part in our public relations, whether or not they're involved in public information work." (p. 206)

With this in mind, we turn to Chapter Four of the *PR Handbook*, "Preparation and Training for Interacting with the Public." We believe there is value in this chapter for all NA members, not just "PI/PR types," because every service committee and member interacts with people outside our fellowship at some time. Hospitals and Institutions panel volunteers have relationships with institutional staff when they conduct H&I meetings and when they make presentations. Phonenumber volunteers receive calls from concerned parents, friends, and healthcare professionals. Even a group's trusted servants interact with meeting-location personnel, and the way a group maintains the meeting facility can impact the way NA as a whole is viewed.

Chapter Four contains training materials and general practices we believe are important in *any* public interaction. Preparation and training can be vital in forming any relationship, whether with the pastor of a local church, the warden of a prison, or the minister of health for a country where NA is largely unknown. Strong relationships, as the *Handbook* stresses, are ongoing, flexible, trustworthy, and respectful, and benefit both parties involved.

In preparing and training, we must ask some basic questions. With whom are we interacting, and what do we know about them? Different people or organizations have their own goals, histories, and world views, and we must consider these differences to know how to appropriately interact with them. What our audience knows about us is also an important consideration. For instance, how might any past experience they have had with NA affect our present interaction?

Using information gathered from the above questions, we can prepare ourselves for how we will interact with the party in question. We want to **create a dialogue**, an exchange of ideas where we not only provide information about NA, but are also willing to listen to their needs, concerns, and what they have to offer us. We want to **communicate effectively**, so we should be mindful to use language that our audience understands (rather than NA slang, for example). We want to **show the audience respect** by dressing appropriately for the situation. Furthermore, taking all of this into account, we want to **rehearse** so that we are well prepared.

Of course, a column in *The NA Way* is not nearly enough space to cover the entire fourth chapter, which includes much more detail about preparation and training, and many tips and ideas for giving presentations of all types. We invite you to read the *PR Handbook* for yourself. Remember, it's free to download from www.na.org. Let us all remember: NA's public relations is the business of each and every one of us!

NA World Services public relations activities

In January and March, we attended the Recovery Month Planning Partners meeting in Washington, DC, USA. This ongoing contact is maintained in the spirit of cooperation, and to serve as a community resource. At the January meeting, we had the opportunity to explain our traditions, particularly our principles of anonymity, to professionals who may refer potential members to us.

NAWS was represented at the American Probation and Parole Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, in February. We have exhibited there for three years, and find that the contact we have with these professionals fosters an increased understanding of NA for those who supervise current and potential NA members.

Partnering with NA communities

The San Diego (California, USA) Imperial Counties Region Public Information Subcommittee and NAWS are working together to carry our message of recovery at two events: the Guest House Institute/National Catholic Council on Alcoholism Winter Conference on Addictions, in January; and the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers Annual Conference, to be held in May. Both events take place in San Diego. NA was actively pursued for the Guest House Conference, and the San Diego PI subcommittee moved quickly and efficiently to fill that need. Good job!

The Colorado Region and the Pikes Peak Area stepped up to provide NA

representation at the Winter Symposium on Addiction Disorders in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA. Also, the Southern Nevada Region PI Subcommittee stands ready to represent NA at the 21st Annual California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators Conference to be held in April in Primm Valley, Nevada, USA.

Combining resources enables us to inform more professionals about NA, broadens the experience of local NA community service bodies, and connects local members with professionals who may refer potential members to NA.

"The Twelve Steps of Madness"

1. We admitted we were powerless over nothing, that we could manage our own lives perfectly as well as the lives of any other people who would allow us to do so.
2. We came to believe there was no higher power for us, and that the rest of the world was nuts.
3. We made a decision to have our loved ones put their lives and their will in our care.
4. We took a fearless moral inventory of all those who we know.
5. We pointed out to everyone we knew the exact nature of their defects.
6. We were entirely ready for everyone else to do the right thing.
7. We demanded that everyone change or get out of our life.
8. We made a complete list of everyone who had harmed us, and we became willing to go to any length to get revenge.
9. We took direct revenge on all these people whenever possible, except when to do so could cost us our lives or put us in jail.
10. We continued taking everybody else's inventory, and when they made a mistake, we quickly and persistently reminded them.
11. We looked for a way to develop a relationship with a higher power that would do everything our way.
12. Having had a complete physical, emotional, and spiritual collapse as a result of these steps, we tried to blame others, and we searched for sympathy and pity in all our affairs.

*Adapted from an article printed in Juntos,
the Ecuadorian Magazine of Narcotics Anonymous*

World Board update

Common needs at the world convention

We've received a number of requests from members for particular kinds of common needs events at WCNA in San Antonio. Because these requests have primarily come from young people and gay and lesbian members, we're planning daily youth and gay/lesbian workshops, and dances for each of those populations. We are also planning women's and men's workshops, workshops for Spanish-speaking members, and workshops that focus on aging and illness.

At this point, we haven't heard from Spanish-speaking members about what would best serve this population at the convention. There's still time for input, and we'd love to hear what would be most useful for these members at the world convention.

As your board, we've discussed the idea that incorporating common needs activities into the world convention schedule doesn't mean holding just one workshop or event. It means a whole track of activities that would seek to enhance the experience of the convention and welcome these populations. These new approaches are a part of our efforts to respond to the fellowshipwide discussions about who is missing from our meetings and how we can better carry NA's message to specific populations. For more information about these discussions, see the Issue Discussion Topic article in this issue. We're looking forward to the convention in San Antonio and to experimenting with new ways of carrying NA's message and welcoming members.

Basic Text update

The Basic Text workgroup is diligently reading fellowship input on the review draft of the Sixth Edition Basic Text and discussing what revisions to make. The review and input period ran from 1 September 2006 until 28 February 2007,

and in that time we distributed more than 7,500 copies of the draft to fifty-three countries. The approval draft, which is the draft that will be voted on at the 2008 World Service Conference, will be published 1 September 2007, and it will also be available as an appendix to the *Conference Agenda Report*. Thank you to all who contributed to the project.

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our message
HOPE our promise
FREEDOM



San Antonio, Texas
WCNA 32
29 AUGUST-2 SEPTEMBER 2007

- ✓ Reserve hotel rooms and check room availability
- ✓ Book your airline tickets
- ✓ Sign up to volunteer during the convention
- ✓ Check out convention updates on events, entertainment, and more
- ✓ Register online

GO TO
www.na.org

Why Register?

Convention registration includes:

- ☛ exclusive early entry into merchandise store on Wednesday and Thursday
- ☛ access to ride the convention shuttle bus system
- ☛ six dances (including two dances specifically geared toward young people and gay/lesbian members)
- ☛ Thursday Night Kickoff Festival (street party) with multiple stages
- ☛ two coffee houses with national entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights
- ☛ two performances of "Rocky Recovery", a recovery-oriented rock opera by NA members from London, England

Most of all, **registration allows us to be fully self-supporting**. A world convention costs millions to plan. We must pay for facility rentals, shuttle buses and transportation for those with disabilities, audio/video and translations equipment for meetings, labor and security, and all the other things that ensure that we have enough seats for all; and that an enjoyable, comfortable atmosphere of recovery is available throughout the event.

GO TO
www.na.org



CALENDAR

We encourage NA groups and service bodies to publicize events in *The NA Way Magazine* and in the online events calendar. To submit event information, just click on the "na events" link at www.na.org and follow the instructions. (Those who do not have Internet access can submit information by fax at 818.700.0700, attn. NA Way; by telephone at 818.773.9999 x179; or by postal mail at *The NA Way Magazine*; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.) We use the online calendar to create the NA Way Calendar, but only multi-day events and events happening between publication dates are printed in the magazine. The magazine is produced approximately three months before publication, and is usually distributed no later than the first week of the publication month. For your event to be included in the *The NA Way Magazine*, please submit information according to the schedule below. For additional event information, visit www.na.org.

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

Queensland 29 May-1 Jun; Greater Queensland Area Convention; Judith Wright Centre, Brisbane; event info: 61.407.738.386, 61.405.979.808; registration: 61.413.547.371

Brazil

Santa Catarina 20-22 Apr; Convenção II da Região Brasil Sul; Bavaria Mar Hotel, Garopaba; event info: 048.9971.6878, 048.9945.6755; www.nabrasilsul.org

Canada

Nova Scotia 18-20 May; Central Nova Area Convention V; Citadel Halifax Hotel, Halifax; hotel rsvns: 800.565.7162; event info: 902.429.8081; registration: 902.434.6849

2) 16-22 Jul; Pig Roast and Campout XVIII; Blomidon Provincial Park, Blomidon; hotel rsvns: 902.365.2457; event info: 902.765.3555, 902.365.2457; www.avanasc.zoomshare.com

Ontario 18-20 May; Ontario Regional Convention XX; Four Points Sheraton, London; hotel rsvns: 519.681.0600; event info: 519.824.6117, 519.936.3254; www.orcnaxx.ca

Germany

North Rhine Westfalia 25-27 May; Convention of the Germanspeaking Region XXIV; Rudolf Steiner Schule, Bochum; event info: 49.170.2955465; www.na-rsk.de/homepage/dcna

Greece

Athens 18-20 May; Hellenic Convention VII; Technopolis, Gazi; event info: 130.6936.6851111, 30.6944.521894; www.greece.gr

Indonesia

Bali 1-3 Jun; Bali Area Convention; Dhyana Pura Beach Resort, Seminyak; hotel rsvns: 62.361730442; event info: 62.812.390.1750, www.na-bali.org

Italy

Rimini 4-6 May; Italian Convention XXIV; Aris Hotel, Igea Marina; hotel rsvns: 390541330007; www.na-italia.org

Panama

Panama City 18-20 May; Crena Panama Bilingual Convention; Riande Continental, Panama City; hotel rsvns: 507.213.0455; www.convencion.na-panama.org

Peru

Ica 18-20 May; Convención Regional Peruana XIII; Casa de Retiro Buen Consejo, Ica; event info: 51.1.9970.6609; <http://groups.msn.com/m7o6n2qg00p944ekai1nm08g01>

Spain

Cádiz 18-21 May; Convención Regional Española; Hotel Colón, Costa Ballena, Rota; hotel rsvns: 956865000; event info: 637756128, 607510387; registration: 6548960003; www.na-esp.org/eventos%20N.htm

United States

Arizona 25-27 May; Arizona Regional Convention XXI; DoubleTree Inn Tucson Reid Park, Tucson; hotel rsvns: 800.222.8733; event info: www.arizona-na.org/arcna

Arkansas 15-17 Jun; Beaver Roundup Campout XXII; Buffalo Point National Park, Yellville; hotel rsvns: 870.449.4311; event info: 870.416.4811, 479.903.1970

California 1-3 Jun; River Cities Ride for Recovery; Fawn Campground, Trinity Lake, Weaverville; event info: 530.365.7625; www.rcaride4recovery.com

2) 15-17 Jun; The Nature of Recovery Convention XXII; Holiday Inn on the Bay, San Diego; hotel rsvns: 800.972.2802; event info: 619.255.077, 619.280.7445; www.sandiegona.org

3) 6-8 Jul; California Inland Regional Convention; Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa, Palm Springs/Rancho Mirage; hotel rsvns: 760.328.5955; event info: 760.322.1872, 951.303.6721; www.cirna.org/convention

Connecticut 11-13 May; Women's Sponsorship Weekend Retreat III; Incarnation Retreat Center, Ivoryton; event info: 203.238.1735; registration: 203.886.7336; www.ctna.org

Florida 26-29 Apr; Fun in the Sun XXIX; The Boardwalk Beach Hotels and Suites, Panama City Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.224.4853; event info: 256.272.8183; registration: 256.394.7787

2) 27-29 Apr; Recovery in Paradise Spiritual Retreat XV; Sugarloaf Key KOA Campgrounds, Sugarloaf Key; hotel rsvns: 800.562.7731; event info: 703.517.0857; recoveryinparadise@yahoo.com;

3) 27-29 Apr; Daytona Area Convention VIII; Plaza Ocean Club, Daytona Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.847.7420; event info: 386.451.6276, 386.789.9847; www.daytonana.org

4) 25-28 May; Gold Coast Convention; Ft Lauderdale Marriott North, Ft Lauderdale; hotel rsvns: 954.334.9233; event info: 954.328.2400; registration: 954.805.0177; www.goldcoastna.org

5) 28 May-1 Jun; Florida Regional Convention; Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village, St Augustine; hotel rsvns: 888.740.7020; event info: 863.683.8224; speaker tape submission deadline: 29 Apr; write: Florida Region; 706 N Ingraham Ave; Lakeland, FL 33801; www.floridarso.org

Iowa 6-8 Jul; Iowa Regional Convention; Holiday Inn of Sioux City, Sioux City; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event info: 712.898.5725; registration: 712.899.8990;

Louisiana 25-27 May; Louisiana Regional Convention XXV; Holiday Inn Convention Center, Alexandria; hotel rsvns: 318.442.9000; event info: 318.445.2864; registration: 318.640.3413

Maryland 13-15 Apr; Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Convention XXI; Roland E Powell Convention Center, Ocean City; event info: 301.516.9078; registration: 301.785.3987; www.cprcna.org

Massachusetts 3-6 May; Celebration of Recovery XX; Wesley Hotel, Oak Bluffs; hotel rsvns: 508.693.6611; event info: 508.696.1031, 508.696.3767

2) 22-24 Jun; First Southeastern Massachusetts Area Convention; Holiday Inn of Mansfield, Mansfield; hotel rsvns: 508.339.2200; event info: 508.989.2112, 508.677.3386

3) 6-8 Jul; Serenity in the Berkshires Campout XVIII; Camps Stevenson and Witawentin, Pittsfield; event info: 413.443.1294, 413.281.8145

Michigan 5-8 Jul; Michigan Regional Convention XXIII; Holiday Inn South, Lansing; hotel rsvns: 800.333.8123; event info: mrcna@michigan-na.org; registration: 517.694.8123,

Minnesota 13-15 Apr; Minnesota Regional Convention XIV; Cragun's Conference and Golf Resort, Brainerd; hotel rsvns: 218.825.2700; event info: 612.605.1129; www.naminnnesota.org

2) 25-28 May; Spiritual Refreshment; Fair Hills Resort, Detroit Lakes; hotel rsvns: 800.323.2849; event info: 701.364.2847; registration: 701.364.2847; www.umrna.org

Missouri 8-10 Jun; Show Me Regional Convention XXII; Clarion Hotel, Kansas City; hotel rsvns: 816.737.0200; event info: 913.302.2656;

Montana 22-24 Jun; Montana Gathering; Symes Hot Springs Hotel, Hot Springs; hotel rsvns: 888.305.3106; event info: 800.990.6262

Nevada 13-15 Jul; California Arizona Nevada Area Convention; Riverside Resort Hotel and Casino, Laughlin; hotel rsvns: 800.227.3849; event info: 928.704.9714; registration: 928.412.1230

North Carolina 20-22 Apr; Bound for Freedom Convention XXII; Blake Hotel, Charlotte; hotel rsvns: 704.372.4100; event info: 704.605.5738; registration: 704.965.3127

2) 4-6 May; Goodwill Campout XIV; Daddy Joe's Campground, Tabor City; hotel rsvns: 877.668.8586; event info: 910.352.1973, 910.380.2201; www.crna.org

3) 11-13 May; Down East, Inner Coastal, Crossroads Areas Convention II; City Hotel and Bistro, Greenville; hotel rsvns: 252.355.8300; event info: 252.363.4999, 252.671.3329

4) 18-20 May; North Carolina Capital Area Family Reunion Convention XVIII; Rocky Mount Holiday Inn, Rocky Mount; hotel rsvns: 888.543.2255; event info: 919.616.6408, 919.395.9810; www.crna.org

Oklahoma 15-17 Jun; Clean-n-Crazy Campout; Hickory Flats Campground, Lake Tenkiller State Park; hotel rsvns: 918.489.5641; www.okna.org

Oregon 11-13 May; Pacific Cascade Regional Convention XIV; Red Lion Hotel, Medford; event info: 541.261.7685; registration: 541.890.4255

2) 22-24 Jun; Timothy Lake Campout IV; Pine Point Campground, Timothy Lake; event info: 971.404.5996; www.pcrna.org/gwv

Rhode Island 8-10 Jun; Sistah to Sistah IV; Canonicus Camp and Conference Center, Providence; event info: 401.726.5977, 401.497.4285; www.gpana.org

Texas 11-13 May; Old School Speaker Jam III; Kingsbridge Community Center, Dallas; hotel rsvns: 972.754.8035; event info: 972.567.3430; registration: 972.754.8035; speaker tape info: 972.567.7354; speaker tape submission deadline: 15 Apr; write: Duncanville NA Group; 4571 Westmoreland Rd; Dallas, TX 75233

Utah 1-3 Jun; Celebration of Recovery XXI; American Legion Hall, Vernal; hotel rsvns: 435.790.0982

2) 9-10 Jun; Summer Celebration of Recovery; Kiwanis Park, Springville; event info: 801.830.5207, 801.473.8877

3) 13-15 Jul; Utah Region Campvention XXIV; Lodgepole Campground, Heber; event info: 435.820.4552, 801.856.0095; www.utahna.info/pdf/Campvention_Flyer__071.pdf

Washington 25-27 May; Washington Northern Idaho Regional Convention; Hilton Vancouver, Vancouver; hotel rsvns: 800.861.8540; write: Lower Columbia Area and Southwest Washington Area; WNIRCNA22; Box 880; Kelso, WA 98626

Wisconsin 1-3 Jun; I Can't, We Campout III; Wildcat Mountain State Park, Ontario; event info: 608.315.0092, 608.779.9675; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 May; write: Big Rivers Area; Box 3765; LaCrosse, WI 54602; www.bigriversna.org.

2) 8-10 Jun; Journeys Convention; Pointe Waterfront Resort, Minocqua; hotel rsvns: 866.666.6060; event info: 715.614.9450, 715.356.7533; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 May; write: Woods and Waters Area; Box 303; Minocqua, WI 54548; www.woodsandwatersna.org

Wyoming 11-13 May; Upper Rocky Mountain Regional Convention VIII; Holiday Inn, Rock Springs; hotel rsvns: 888.465.4329; speaker tape submission deadline: 20 Apr; write: Upper Rocky Mountain Region; URMRCNA VIII; Box 445; Evanston, WY 82931-0445; www.urmrna.org

*The July 2007 issue of
The NA Way Magazine will be
sent in mid-July, a bit later than
usual. The magazine will also be
distributed at WCNA-32 in
San Antonio, Texas. If you end up
with an extra copy, please pass
it along to another addict or to
your home group.*

NAWS product update

English

Newly Designed Color Poster Set

The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts are colorfully encircled by thirty-four published NA languages. This set will be updated annually as we add new languages.

Item No. 9080 Price US \$18.00



Afrikaans

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

Wie, Wat, Hoe, en Waarom?

Item No. AF-3101 Price US \$0.21



Arabic

IP No. 14:

One Addict's Experience...

جربة مدمن مع التقبل والإيمان والالتزام

Item No. AR-3114 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 19: *Self-Acceptance*

تقبل الذات

Item No. AR-3119 Price US \$0.21

Castilian/Spanish

White Booklet

Revised to include individual recovery experiences written by members of the NA Fellowship in Latin America and Spain.



Narcóticos Anónimos

Item No. CS-1500 Price US \$0.63

Group Treasurer's Workbook

Cuaderno de trabajo del tesorero del grupo

Item No. CS-2110 Price US \$1.80



Russian

Basic Text, Revised

Анонимные Наркоманы

Item No. RU-1101 Price US \$9.70



IP No. 13: *Youth and Recovery*

Молодежь и выздоровление

Item No. RU-3113 Price US \$0.21

Slovak

IP No. 12:

The Triangle of Self-Obsession

Trojuholník sebauposadnutosti

Item No. SK-3112 Price US \$0.21



Swedish

An Introductory Guide to NA, Revised

En inledande guide till Anonyma Narkomaner, Reviderad

Item No. SW-1200 Price US \$1.70



Coming soon

English

Public Relations Handbook Resource Material

Partial resources to Chapters 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 11 will soon be published. For more information visit <http://www.na.org>. Please check periodically for updates or if you register with us at our subscription page, <http://portaltools.na.org/portaltools/subscriptions/login.cfm>, you will be notified when updates are published.

Public Relations Handbook including new chapter resources and tabs will soon be available.

Norwegian

It Works: How and Why

Det virker:

Hvordan og Hvorfor

Item No. NR-1140 Price US \$7.70



Swedish

Basic Text, Pocket-Sized Hardcover Version

Anonyma Narkomaner

Item No. SW-1105 Price US \$10.00



Home GROUP

