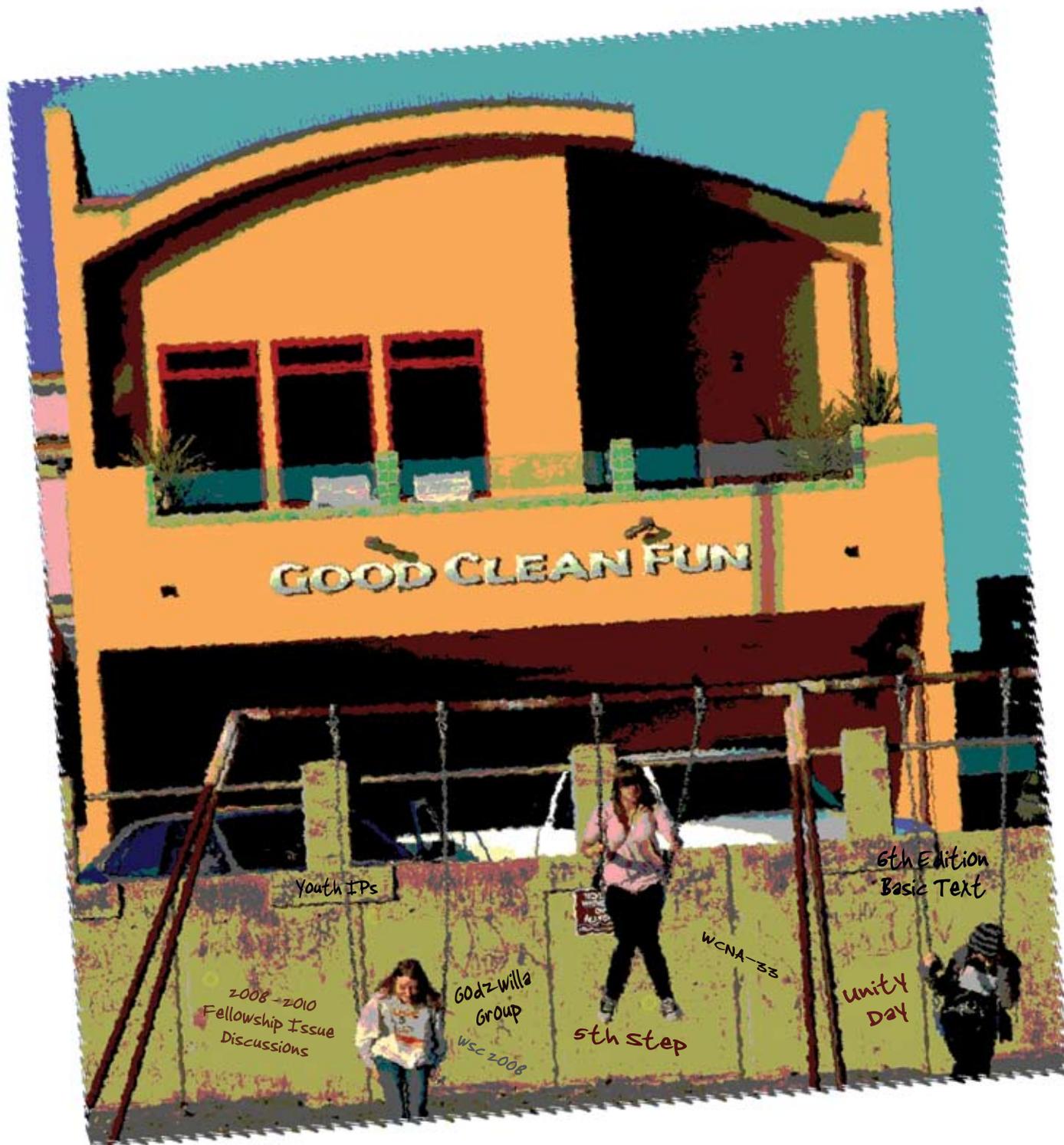


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# From the editor

What's your story? I wondered today what might be *the* story I have to tell. So many ideas swirled through my head, I couldn't settle on one. And then I remembered that as NA members, we have the opportunity everyday to share our stories. Who are you becoming as you grow in recovery? What was it like when you...? When you feel lost, what helps you reconnect? Where will your dreams take you? How does service enhance your recovery? Why do you keep coming back?

Whether in meetings or literature, addict-to-addict, or here in *The NA Way*, our stories answer all these questions and more. We help each other stay clean just by sharing. We do our best to provide a mixture of those stories from members with diverse experiences here in *The NA Way*. If you haven't submitted something, maybe it's time. Check out our web page at [www.na.org/naway/naway-toc.htm](http://www.na.org/naway/naway-toc.htm). And we don't care if you know how to spell "anonymity" or which words are capitalized; we can edit all that. We just hope to be one of the places where NA members find recovery. So...what's your story?

De J, Editor

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

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

Cover photo: Good Clean Fun, De J, California, USA

## Moving in

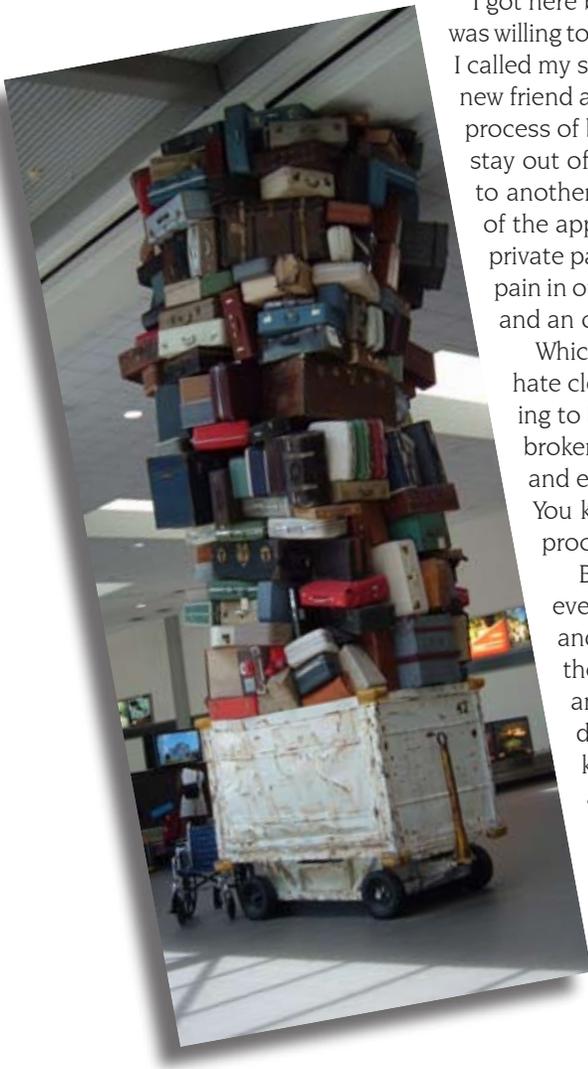
Before I worked a Fifth Step I was just visiting Narcotics Anonymous, a tourist, not a resident. I came in with all these bags and suitcases of emotional debris, the accumulated garbage of a failed life. There were torn photographs from shattered relationships, two marriages that went south, friendships scuppered to clear the decks for my season in addict hell, dried flowers from my legion of dead comrades, those dead of AIDS long before I got here, and that gangrenous fester from dear old Dad, long ago cauterized with a dirty Band-Aid and stashed in a corner to rot. Oh, there was so much garbage I toted and clung to, a blanket of it to shield me from you and the help I needed. The whole monstrous gallery of self-portraits of what I was and can so easily be again: wife abuser, failure at school and work, bad son, bad brother, liar, cheat, thief, pervert, degenerate. All this evidence insisted that change was impossible.

I got here badly beaten. Clearing myself of the drugs left me so bare and exposed I was willing to stick around for the two interminable months it took to make a real friend. I called my sponsor every day and followed suggestions. I began to believe that if my new friend and my sponsor could stay clean, so could I. I began to trust you, and the process of being restored to sanity began. A part of that restoration was learning to stay out of my head. When the harpies of self-doubt begin their howling, I call out to another addict. When those rotting birds of obsession attack, I bare the scene of the approaching crime to God and pray for the obsession to stop. When some private pain insists no one will ever understand, I speak up in a meeting, pour that pain in our communal Ganges, and become part of recovery again. With open ears and an open heart, I learned a little about peace, quiet, love.

Which, of course, hardly prepared me to clear and scour the "wreck room." I hate cleaning, but I did it, because I wanted more of the peace I found from going to lots of NA meetings. I reassembled the torn photographs, examined the broken marriages, fished up the scuppered relationships, revived the flowers, and even debrided some of those putrid, weeping wounds from dear old Dad. You know, it wasn't so bad. I made a drama out of it because I like drama. I procrastinated because I was afraid.

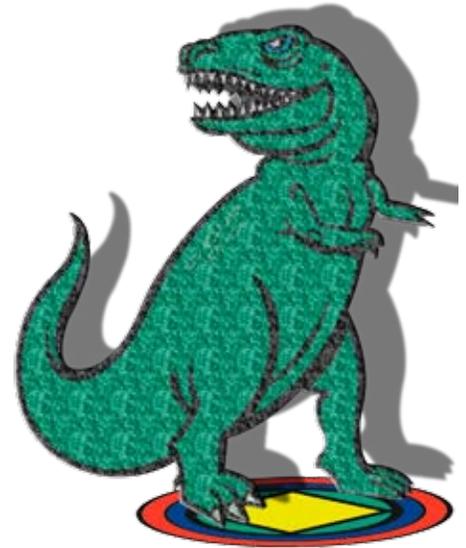
But this was all old stuff I had stumbled around in for years. None of it was ever safely put away, so I catalogued the whole gruesome and lovely array, and on the appointed day I took all those bags and suitcases and upended them at my sponsor's feet. He spewed some awful swill from his own past, and I loved him for it. I droned on for hours and he listened, smiled, nodded, encouraged, and seemed to love me even for all these things that kept me hating myself. On that day when I admitted to God, myself, and another human being the exact nature of my wrongs—my conviction that behind the cracking paint and peeling wallpaper there was nothing at all or, worse, something that needed to be hidden—was effectively disproved. Another human being, an addict like me, showed he loved me not just despite, but because of the harm I had caused and the pain I felt. Working a Fifth Step permitted me to invite that old life to the new one I had found here. I had unpacked. I was here to stay.

*Brie S, Maryland, USA*





## What's in a name?



### Central New Jersey, USA

There was a group whose format focused on the Third Step. One of the group members contributed an inflatable green monster to the group, and from then on the group was known as The "Godswilla" Group.

## Overheard at a meeting:



"Alcohol is a drug" followed by:  
"Duh! Broccoli is a vegetable!"

*Jennie C, California, USA*

A nervous reader was tackling the reading, *How It Works*, and he read, "Thinking of alcohol as different from other drugs has caused many great addicts to relapse."

*Wayne VW, Rhode Island, USA*

### Washington, DC, USA

This story is about fifteen years old, so it may not be possible to corroborate it, but the tale goes that a GSR went to the Washington, DC Area Service Committee, and he was furious:

"We've been asking for our name to be corrected in the meeting list for six years, and in every publication it's there and it's wrong. The misprint has attracted some members, and others are now suggesting we stick with it for consistency, but the group founders have had it UP TO HERE with being ignored!"

The area chairperson responded, "And you're representing the Joynuts Group?"

"No! The group is called *Join Us!*"

*Andrea L, New Mexico, USA*

### Wisconsin, USA

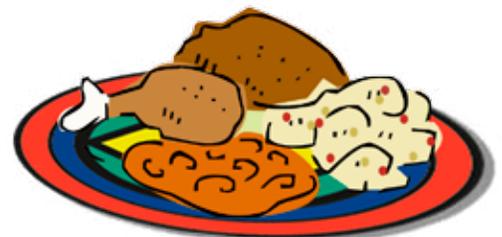
Many areas and regions have, well, interesting event names. Here are a few from the Wisconsin Region:

**Hug-a-Fool** – the annual April Fool's Day speaker meeting and dance that begins with an elaborate opening ceremony conducted by a member dressed in a jester's costume

**Family Holiday Gathering** – a potluck, speaker meeting, and dance held in Madison, that includes a midnight game of croquet on the snow-covered lawn of the state capitol building

**Where the Hell Is Muscoda?** – a simple dinner, meeting, and dance in a very small town of about 1,400 people along the Wisconsin River, known for being hard to find and its annual Morel Mushroom Festival

**Cold Turkey** – celebrating recovery through consumption of, you guessed it, cold turkey and other Thanksgiving dinner leftovers, along with a day of fellowship, board games, and a speaker meeting





# The greater good

I've learned that I can stay clean by helping other addicts, but something that I've always found a bit perplexing is whether or not I can change for the better. The best answer I can give is "maybe." Staying clean and changing for the better don't always go hand in hand, and I've heard many addicts share about both.

My experience is that there is a greater good to be served. Whether I am with my sponsor, in my group, in my ASC, or in my RSC, there is always something bigger than what I'm involved with. I think that once we have five or ten or fifteen years clean, we have a debt to that bigger something, to the greater good. I'm not saying everyone must follow one path or keep moving along the service structure in NA—not at all. I'm saying that what I had to do was find a way to contribute to the betterment of the fellowship that saved my life. It's actually a requirement for me. If we want NA to be here for other addicts, especially those close to us, we need to do something specific about it.

There is always service, many levels and many opportunities of all types for just about everyone. However, if someone doesn't want to be involved in direct NA service, then we can and should support those who *are* being of service. I can help others make sure that they follow through, provide the oral and written reports required, or that they stay focused on the purpose of their subcommittee or board. It seems that it really is our responsibility to support our elected/appointed servants avoid the "traps" of structured service like irresponsibility, out-of-control ego, loss of focus, or falling prey to the myriad control issues that can arise in the service arena.

I can serve the greater good on a one-to-one basis or in a service committee, but it's important that I carry NA's message, pass along NA's steps and the NA approach to working them, and especially, strive to help the NA service structure stabilize and grow. If we all get what we need through our program, then we can help NA grow and we can be connected to the worldwide fellowship. It's really that simple.

I've learned from others that local NA communities change and grow when an old-timer reaches out for a long-distance sponsor to learn NA's steps, when communities rely on NA's literature for their step work and service, or when our members become willing to make a commitment to ask for help from experienced members in other places and other parts of the world. For many years our members had to take the experiences of other organizations and interpret them for application to the disease of addiction in our own program. Today, I am convinced that NA members don't have to do that anymore and, in fact, we don't serve the greater good when we do.

I want to encourage others to find what they do best and where they can do it, and then serve the greater good with passion and dedication. If an addict chooses to do this on a one-to-one basis, that can be just as beneficial as fulfilling a commitment in the service environment. I think we owe it to new members and people we sponsor to help them learn the NA message and learn how to help NA be a credible and viable path for addicts to follow in recovery. Our loved ones may need NA some day, and we want it to be here for them. To do less is a compromise and shortcut I'm not willing to take. I hope others don't compromise, either.

If one definition of "spiritual" is "non-self-centered," as our literature implies, then serving the greater good isn't a bad thing at all, and it can probably be one path to becoming a better person.

*Anonymous, Colorado, USA*

## It works

I want to express my gratitude to NA and an addict from Arkansas who proved that the program is working in our lives. One day at WCNA-32 in San Antonio I put two one hundred-dollar bills in my pants pocket, folded neatly, and another eighteen dollars in the other pocket. I went to a couple of meetings and to the "Aging and Sagging" workshop where the leader talked about being forgetful and losing things. Well, I went to the food court and realized that the two one-hundred dollar bills were missing, that I had lost them. I looked and looked in every pocket, hoping I had just misplaced the bills, but they were gone. My husband and I and another addict from San Diego prayed and asked the spirit to return the money, if I was supposed to get it back.

I walked over to the convention information booth and asked if anyone had turned in two one hundred-dollar bills, and the trusted servants working there said no, but encouraged me to check back in a couple of hours, so I did. Two hours later the women working the booth said someone had found my money, and they gave me a telephone number to call. I called and an addict from Arkansas answered and said she wanted to meet with me to return my money. She told me she had found the money on the way to the convention from her hotel, and wondered to herself what she should do. Within an hour she had the opportunity to find out.

I was pretty emotional at that point, witnessing the program working in our lives. I am grateful to know in my heart that this program works in the lives of many addicts all around the world, and this is just one story of how it is working.

*Cynthia Z, California, USA*

## The (w)hole in my heart

I was about eighteen months old when my brother, who was about half my age, and I were put into the foster care system. When I was about six years old we ended up at the home of the family that would eventually adopt us. I have since learned that we had been in six other homes by the time we landed there; by then I felt completely unloved and unwanted. I remember at five years old thinking to myself that one day I would have a little girl and she would know that she was loved and wanted. I silently carried this promise, this dream, throughout my childhood and into my teens. Although I didn't have a clue, my Higher Power had a plan for me.

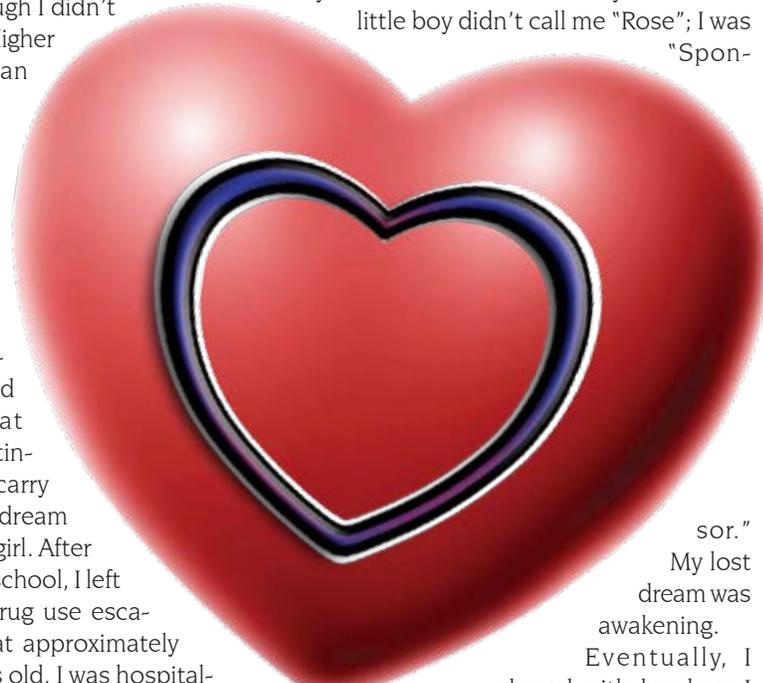
In my late teens I had some health issues and the doctors said I would never conceive naturally. I didn't really understand what all of that meant, so I continued to silently carry my promise, my dream of having a little girl. After graduating high school, I left home and my drug use escalated. In 1985, at approximately twenty-five years old, I was hospitalized to have my gallbladder removed. During the procedure the surgeon discovered cysts on both of my ovaries, so he removed those, too. When it was all over, I had only a piece of my left ovary remaining. My Higher Power's plan was in motion.

Still carrying my silent vow, I went on with my life and drug use. In 1987 I became pregnant! I was ecstatic, but my drug use was also at its heaviest level yet. The same day that my pregnancy was confirmed, I had a miscarriage. A year later I went into detox, and then rehab. In 1990 the doctors found a tumor that

was left on my ovary. I was advised to have a complete hysterectomy. I did, and from that day forward I carried a huge hole in my heart. I was never going to be able to realize my promise that my little girl would know she was loved and wanted. My dream was lost forever. I still didn't know that my Higher Power had a plan for me.

Then, in 2004 when I was three years clean, a young woman came dashing into my life one night, and left it just as quickly the next. A couple of months later she reappeared and asked me to be her sponsor. I began to sponsor her and spend a significant amount of time with her and her three very young children. She grew up in group homes, having lost her mother tragically when she was twelve years old. We became very close. Her

little boy didn't call me "Rose"; I was "Spon-



sor."  
My lost dream was awakening.

Eventually, I shared with her how I felt about her and her little family, that I couldn't love them more if they were my own blood. I said that I could not sponsor her anymore because I loved her more as a daughter than as a sponsee. She began seeing, and eventually married, a young man who was also in recovery. She became pregnant and I was blessed with the privilege of watching my little granddaughter come into this world. We are teaching her to call me Nanny, Granny, Nana—whichever she ends up saying.

I have a daughter! I have a son-in-law! I have four beautiful grandchildren! And

I no longer have a hole in my heart. My Higher Power did for me what no human could. I shared this story at my celebration this year and I was very proud to ask my daughter to present me with my six-year medallion.

Rose S, New York, USA

## Fighting for life

I have been a member of NA since 1999 and I have been receiving *The NA Way Magazine* for more than a year. This marvelous fellowship saved my life in all aspects, because besides being an addict, I am HIV-positive. As if that was not enough, I also learned that I have hepatitis C.

This program gave me back not just the freedom to live, but also an emotional balance to face the heavy obstacles and prejudice that come with these diseases. If it was not for this program, for sure, I wouldn't have the strength to face these challenges. But here in this wonderful fellowship I have learned how to live and how to fight for my life. Using this program only to stop using is a huge waste. This program changed my life.

I have been HIV-positive for nineteen years and I am thirty-nine years old. I believe that spiritual principles are the major discovery of all time. More than ten years ago, my doctor told me that I had no chance. My immune system was very weak and the disease was very strong in my body. I used more and more, and at that time there was no effective medication. I learned about the NA program and started to live it. I understood then that my life was one day at a time. I was applying the principle of living just for today not only to my recovery, but also to living and to finding emotional stability that I had never experienced before.

Today I live a full life and I am able to overcome barriers that seemed insurmountable. This program brought about a real miracle in my life. I am respected by my fellows as a source of hope because of what I have been through. In the same way, I use my fellows as models for my recovery. I believe that nothing is

coincidence and a Higher Power has a huge purpose in my life. One of those is for me to serve as an example to my loved ones, my brothers, other addicts, and those who are HIV-positive. I know that the heart of our recovery is one addict helping another. I would love to have this letter published because I believe that identification is without doubt the best tool of recovery.

I think it would be impossible to express my gratitude. My gratitude takes over my entire being.

Rogério S, São Paulo, Brazil



THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS  
**THE NA Way** MAGAZINE

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# Our readers write

## Why was that in *The NA Way*?

I was surprised to see the letter from a gunner in Iraq coupled with a request for NA members who happen to be in the military to share their experience, strength, and hope with readers (April 2008). I thought that when you got to an NA meeting it didn't matter what your job was. Indeed, is not recovery a "challenge" for many NA members, not just those in the armed forces? Why should the armed forces be special and different? What happened to principles before personalities? Or was this a subtle attempt to inject...politics into the pages of *The NA Way Magazine*?

*Anonymous, Shropshire, UK*

## Thanks for including that in *The NA Way*

If you're an NA member in the armed forces, you're not unique, and you're not alone! For the first few years of my recovery, I thought I was the only person in the world on active duty in NA. My disease told me I was different and that I didn't fit in, but I've discovered that this disease doesn't discriminate and nobody is immune. My bottom was no different than anyone else's: isolation, loneliness, despair, confusion, destruction, and insanity. I had no idea what the traditions were when I got clean, but the principles of the Twelfth Tradition were critical. Narcotics Anonymous is available to everyone! Stick around and you will meet many others in your situation. I did. Welcome Home!

*Anonymous, Arizona, USA*

## Editorial response

We received several responses to our call for articles from NA members who have served or are serving in military service, and to the article from Willie J (an NA member deployed with the US military). Many who wrote shared similar experiences and thanked us for including this article. However, a few inquiries challenged this content, and we thought it was important to respond to those concerns. The call for submissions was printed in both the January and April issues of the magazine and we ran Willie J's letter in the April issue. Including these pieces was not done with any intent to promote or imply support of any government, country, or specific military or political activity. *The NA Way* is an international publication that has no opinion on issues outside of Narcotics Anonymous.

In recent issues, we included stories from members who stayed clean through difficult circumstances, who are parents, trusted servants, newcomers or long-term NA members; who work in pharmacies or on work crews; who live in rural or metropolitan communities. The article from a member staying clean while deployed in another country is just one of the many experiences shared in the April issue, along with an article about making amends from a woman from Germany, one from a member in Spain sharing about generosity, and another from a Connecticut member about her growth through service.

One of the ways the NA message is carried is through our literature and periodicals. We know that our disease can lead us to see our differences instead of our similarities. Most of us hear a message from someone with whom we can identify that helps us decide to stay, or that helps us get through specific challenges in our recovery. In the same way that we learn from and identify with one another in meetings and in one-on-one sharing, our books, information pamphlets, and *NA Way* articles can be a source of identification and hope for other NA members. It is always our goal to publish articles from NA members with a broad range of recovery experiences to fully represent our worldwide fellow-

ship. It was with this spirit of inclusivity that we called for articles from these NA members. Tradition One tells us that "we share a common desire to stay clean" and that "we are accepted for who we are, not in spite of who we are." (Basic Text, Tradition One) Our diversity is one of our greatest assets; we hope all *NA Way* readers find something they can relate to in each issue and that we continue to reflect every member's feedback, concerns, and recovery experiences.

*De J, Editor*

# PR Update



The public relations session at WSC 2008 highlighted our professional and cooperative events and the results of the 2007 Membership Survey. Did you know the average length of cleantime in NA, as reported in the Membership Survey, is 9.02 years? We are staying clean in NA and we have members with substantial cleantime. With the information reported in the Membership Survey, we can demonstrate to professionals the inaccuracy of the misperception that there is "no recovery in NA," and this helps us in achieving one of our long-sought goals – for NA to be perceived as a viable and credible program of recovery.

## Cooperative events

Cooperative events are generally conferences that attract professionals from a specific geographic area. NAWS usually participates in national and international conferences, but NA communities that have a PI/PR subcommittee and willing members may partner with NAWS on such events. NAWS partnered with regions/zones for over forty cooperative events in 2006–2008. We work together on conference registration and literature for distribution at the conference, and NAWS serves as a resource to the local PI/PR subcommittee. Members who attend these conferences tend to be surprised that some professionals have never heard of Narcotics Anonymous. NA members collect contact information from conference attendees; and follow-up with attendees is imperative for our credibility to be maintained. Most NA members are energized by their participation in these events, and they realize there is more work to be done to have all professionals view Narcotics Anonymous as a credible program of recovery. Members who learn of a conference in their locale can contact their area or regional PI/PR subcommittee to see if there are plans to participate, and NAWS is always just a phone call or email away.

## Upcoming PR activities

Public relations efforts are important both within NA and outside of NA, and this work is ongoing. The 2008 WSC supported three PR-related activities. Our booklet, *In Times of Illness*, is for NA members coping with illness or injury, chronic medical ailments, or co-occurring illnesses, and who may need medication following surgery or for these types of illnesses. This booklet can also be a resource for professionals who refer potential members to NA. Many of us have heard from professionals that they are reluctant to make referrals to NA because they believe our members tend to be intolerant toward people who need medication to function normally. Revision of *In Times of Illness* is one project that will help clarify that there are times in recovery when life on life's terms presents itself and medication may be required. These life situations and our members' experiences will be included in the revisions to this booklet.

NAWS also plans to hold focus groups for professionals from the medical, treatment, and criminal justice fields in an effort to continue to build cooperative relationships and assess what they need to confidently refer their clients to NA. We have used these types of focus groups in past cycles to gather information and feedback from professionals who work with potential NA members. The medical panelists we met with at WCNA-32 indicated that a maximum of six hours of instruction on addiction and recovery was included in the curricula for medical residency programs. Two goals of this project are to create informational literature aimed toward specific professional disciplines and to find ways to have relevant information about NA included in the academic curricula in these fields.

Our third PR aim for this cycle is to create an introductory booklet for PR, which may be called something like "PR Basics." Its focus will be to provide information for members who wish to be involved with PI/PR and want to gain a basic understanding of this service. This booklet was identified for development with the approval of the *Public Relations Handbook*, so we hope to complete it within the next two years.

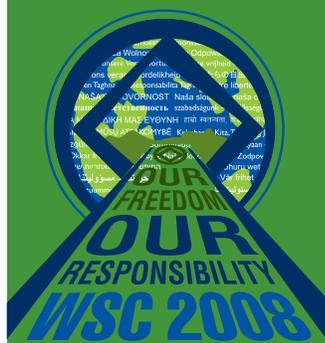
## pr@na.org

We now have an email address available (pr@na.org) for members to submit their PR experiences, questions, and concerns, and a NAWS PR team member will respond directly. We are always interested in PI/PR experiences from various NA communities, so we hope to hear from yours soon.

# WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 2008

The World Service Conference (WSC)... is the nerve center of our fellowship. Our conference is the one time and place where all of our world services come together.... Every two years, regional delegates, the members of the World Board, and the executive director of the World Service Office meet to discuss questions of significance to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole....

*A Guide to  
World Services in NA*



Inspired and guided by the theme, “Our Freedom, Our Responsibility,” the 2008 World Service Conference came together 27 April–3 May in Woodland Hills, California, USA. In an ongoing effort to move toward a discussion-based conference, the WSC “test-drove” and approved new rules of order founded upon **consensus-based decision making**. These changes are included in the 2008-2010 version of *A Guide to World Services in NA*.

The conference approved two **new projects** that will span two conference cycles and seven projects slated for the 2008-2010 cycle, some of which are ongoing and/or considered essential services, and another project that will be undertaken as resources are available. Approved projects include:

- **Business Plan Workgroup\***
- **Fellowship Issue Discussions\***
- **Workshops\***
- **Public Relations\***
- **Leadership Orientation Material\***
- **Targeted Literature\***
- **Service System** – Begins with developing a vision statement for all NA services; will span two conference cycles and frame discussions about service structure improvement.
- **“Living Clean – The Journey Continues”** – A two-conference-cycle project for a book on issues we deal with in recovery, including topics prioritized in literature surveys going back to 1999.
- **Self-Support Pamphlets** – Develop two new pieces to replace our current self-support pamphlets—one a simple graphic representation of the ways we can contribute; the other a discussion of self-support as a principle.
- **Service Material** – Allows for work on a variety of service topics covered in current and discontinued handbooks if resources are available to do so.

\* *Considered essential services or ongoing projects*

WSC '08 **seated seven new regions:** Egypt, El Salvador, Nepal, Nicaragua, North Carolina, Poland, and Southern Brazil.

The conference discussed and further defined the **service material development process** initiated at WSC 2006. These changes are included in the 2008-2010 version of *A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous*.

**By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts** was approved unanimously, and will replace our existing IP #13, *Youth and Recovery*. This decision was followed by an overwhelming majority approval of **For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA**. These new pieces will have a fresh, new appearance and style, distinctly different from our existing IPs.



The 2008 World Service Conference made history with the **passing of the Sixth Edition Basic Text motions at 19:26 pm on 29 April 2008**. Unanimous consent of these motions marked the first changes to the Basic Text in two decades. This resulted in a standing ovation and a rousing song to celebrate approval of a truly international Basic Text that reflects the diversity and strength of our international NA Fellowship.

## Elections Results

### WSC Cofacilitators

Jack H, Washington/No. Idaho Region  
Jimi S, Chesapeake-Potomac Region

### World Board

Jim B, Chicagoland Region  
Junior G, Brazil Region

### Human Resource Panel

Margaret H-M, Tejas Bluebonnet Region  
Paul F, UK Region  
Valerie D, Carolina Region

# OUR FREEDOM, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

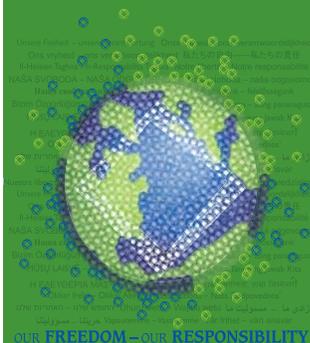
## 2008 2010

BUILDING  
COMMUNICATIONS

OUR FREEDOM, OUR  
RESPONSIBILITY

LEADERSHIP

Discussion questions for *Building Communication* and *Our Freedom, Our Responsibility* follow. We will post session outlines and handouts on the web for these topics, along with similar material on the third IDT, *Leadership*. Conference participants loved the new material on leadership we introduced at WSC 2008, and they're eager to hold local workshops with this material. Now you can, too.



For more information  
go to

[WWW.NA.ORG/  
IDT/IDT.HTM](http://WWW.NA.ORG/IDT/IDT.HTM)

# FELLOWSHIP ISSUE DISCUSSIONS

The process of fellowship issue discussions continues to grow and evolve, allowing us to continually strive to work better, both at local levels and as a worldwide organization. Over the previous cycle, we discussed *Building Strong Home Groups*, *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?*, and *Our Service System*. These discussions have provided us with ideas and input that helped in the creation of tools for the fellowship, including the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet, service pamphlets, and leadership modules. These discussions also had an impact on the projects approved at the 2008 World Service Conference.

The theme for WSC 2008, and for this conference cycle, is **“Our Freedom, Our Responsibility.”** Many of our biggest challenges seem to involve putting what we believe into action at every level. This includes taking the time to have a thorough, honest look at our home groups to see how we can improve, and being willing to step outside of our comfort zone and work extra hard to carry our message to addicts who may think that they don’t belong here, because we know they do. This also means that we need to exercise the courage to step up and try new ideas in our service system. As our Basic Text states, “We learn that we are growing when we make new mistakes instead of repeating old ones.”

The Issue Discussion Topics for the 2008-2010 cycle are *Building Communication*, *Our Freedom, Our Responsibility*, and *Leadership* (sound familiar? it should!). These topics all carry forward aspects from our discussions during previous conference cycles. Communication has been one of the important elements of our discussions on *Infrastructure* (2004–2006) and *Our Service System* (2006–2008). The topic of responsibility has come up in response to the common refrain we’ve heard in discussions throughout the fellowship for years, that our service efforts in many places are hindered by apathy and a lack of participation. Leadership similarly has been a topic of fellowshipwide discussion for several conference cycles now and continues to be a focus of our efforts throughout the service structure.

We all need to begin to recognize our personal ownership and responsibility for the success of NA in carrying our message and achieving our vision. By improving and diversifying our communications at every level, we can broaden awareness in the fellowship about what is happening in the NA service system. And by encouraging greater personal and collective responsibility for that service system, we can begin to develop an atmosphere of leadership among our trusted servants, as well as an increased desire to support the work done on behalf of NA groups worldwide.

As we have done in the past, we will develop session profiles with step-by-step outlines to help members facilitate workshops on these topics. These profiles, information about the Issue Discussion Topics, and topic-oriented online discussion boards will all be available on our website at <http://www.na.org/IDT/IDT.htm>. As we did in 2006–2008, we will use fellowship input from the first half of the conference cycle to refocus these discussions mid-way through this conference cycle, so be sure to check back often and watch *The NA Way Magazine* for updates.

*We attend meetings and make ourselves visible and available to serve the Fellowship. We give freely and gratefully of our time, service, and what we have found here. The service we speak of in Narcotics Anonymous is the primary purpose of our groups. Service work is carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. The more eagerly we wade in and work, the richer our spiritual awakening will be.*

Basic Text,  
Step Twelve

## OUR FREEDOM, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Most of us came into Narcotics Anonymous with no clear sense at all of what “freedom” meant. The only freedom we really understood or wanted was the freedom to be left alone to pursue our self destruction without interference. Of course, NA changed all of that. Staying clean, working steps, getting involved, and building relationships with others and a Higher Power all have had a part in changing how we see freedom today.

Recovery starts with the freedom not to use, and the freedom to change progresses to the freedom to live our dreams. As the Ninth Step essay in our Basic Text tells us, “In time many miracles will occur.” Indeed, each of us who has been clean for any appreciable period of time, has seen those miracles unfold in his or her life. Where once we were afraid to leave our house or our neighborhood, now we travel and cross borders without fear. We have the freedom to build healthy relationships, to make choices, and to live comfortably.

Through NA we are given the ability to create lives of meaning. We are the makers of our lives, not just the “takers” of what is given to us. Freedom is a gift that we cherish. We show that we cherish that gift by being of service. Just as the “miracles” about which the Ninth Step essay speaks are the result of the work we’ve done in the eight steps before it, most of us come to understand that the price of freedom is responsibility. Many of us were “drafted” into NA service when we were relatively new in the program because someone, often our sponsor, told us it is what we “have” to do. We let ourselves be dragged to group business meetings and service committees. When we participated we were taken out of isolation and we learned to care. We may have even taken a position and served to the best of our ability because we felt we owed that much to NA. Over time, we come to see that we owe it to ourselves as well. Being of service to others is a part of our Twelfth Step work, and the spirit of service comes to infuse all areas of our lives. We know we have to give it away to keep it.

What’s more, we *want* to serve. This is our fellowship and it feels good to take responsibility for its well-being. We have been given a precious gift and we must look after it. Though many of us got clean in places where there were plenty of NA meetings and literature, the health of NA rests with us, now and in the future. We have had an evolution; initially, we may have just done what we were told to do—willing, if inexperienced, worker bees—but we become self-motivated trusted servants. We have developed a sense of self-worth through being productive, giving members of the NA community in which we live, work, play, and recover. We come to understand that responsibility is not a burden; it’s just as much of a gift as freedom. We are citizens of a worldwide NA community and it’s a privilege to contribute however we can.

The questions that follow invite us to talk about that understanding—how we put it into practice and how we can help others reach it. We have a responsibility to protect our freedoms. Those of us who are active participants have made a transition from seeing responsibility as something we have to do to something we want to do.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do I exercise my sense of responsibility in NA?
2. How can we help inspire others to become willing to share that responsibility?

It's worth taking some time to reflect together or individually on our collective future: What would the fellowship look like if we all reached this point and took responsibility to make sure that others have an opportunity to experience our way of life—that no addict need die without having heard the message of NA?

## BUILDING COMMUNICATION

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. When it comes to NA service, the links in our chain are often weakened by poor communication. Reliable, consistent communication is a challenge in Narcotics Anonymous. In order to have effective services that help us better carry our message of recovery, we need to strengthen our communication at all levels of the service structure.

The unity we foster through effective communication helps keep our fellowship alive and growing. Most members embrace the importance of unity and the desire for every addict to experience freedom from active addiction. In our efforts worldwide, we are consistently motivated by the vision that one day, every addict in the world should have the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life.

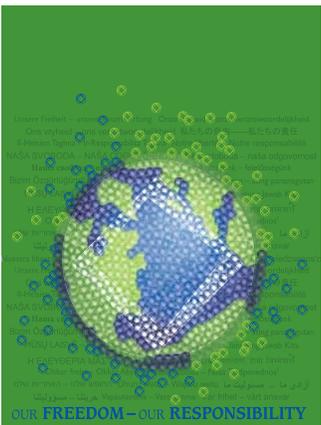
When our communication is impaired, our ability to carry the message is compromised. On a fundamental level, getting the still-suffering addict to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting depends on reliable and timely communication. We need accurate meeting directories, a working phoneline, and good relations with professionals who come into contact with addicts.

Areas, subcommittees, regions, zones, and world services all perform services on behalf of our groups so that those groups may better focus on our primary purpose. Clear, consistent communication is crucial to build the trust necessary to delegate the authority to carry out these tasks. Yet, at every level of service, we seem to struggle with deciding what needs to be communicated, who needs to receive that information, and how to best to deliver that communication.



*The purpose of our services is to help our fellowship fulfill its primary purpose: to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Honest, open, straightforward communication is essential to both the integrity and the effectiveness of the NA service structure.*

*Twelve Concepts for NA Service, Eighth Concept*



Session outlines and handouts for the IDTs, including *Leadership*, will be posted at [www.na.org/IDT/IDT.htm](http://www.na.org/IDT/IDT.htm), where you can also access the IDT discussion boards.

Our Eighth Concept reminds us “Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.” We rely on the integrity of our communication to maintain our services. We have an interdependent chain to share information and experience: member ↔ group ↔ area ↔ committee ↔ region ↔ zone ↔ world services. On every level of service, it is our responsibility to make information available. Integrity in this case means doing our best to keep everyone informed. Only through careful guidance and reporting can we ensure that we are delegating—not abdicating—our responsibilities.

We believe that we have both the desire and the experience in NA to come up with more effective communication tools and practices. We have heard from some areas and regions that they strengthened communication by providing a summary of decisions and discussions that members could readily understand. Others report that trusted servants connect with members just by making their reports interesting and giving presentations of the material.

We hope that discussing these questions over the course of the upcoming cycle will help us share our best practices and build upon our successes. Please feel free to choose one or two to discuss. You can have ongoing discussions over the course of several months, returning to select another question if you wish. Whatever approach you take to the discussion questions, we just want you to communicate the results to us so that we can share your input with the rest of the fellowship.

These questions focus on the chain of communication in NA. Your answers will depend on your experience in NA service and your familiarity with the different “links” in that chain. In other words, if you hold a workshop on these questions at an ASC, members might focus most closely on communication to and from subcommittees or groups and the ASC, or perhaps to and from the ASC and the region. On the other hand, discussing these questions at a regional level might prompt members to focus more closely on communication between world services and the RSC or on how information gets passed from the RSC to the ASC and back.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is working well in our communication across the different levels of NA service?
2. What are the communication links that need improving?
3. In what ways can I contribute to improving these communication links in NA?
4. What actions would help us build an effective chain of communication throughout our service structure?

**OUR FREEDOM, OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

# Dear delegate

## Messages from WSC 2008 to WSC 2018

First of all, welcome to the WSC. This is an opportunity to meet addicts in recovery from all over the world, from all walks of life; but more important than that, you will learn the true meaning of fellowship, service, and recovery. I come from a country of 7,000 islands and forty dialects, so as you can see, communication is a problem. However, the most important thing I've learned here is that no matter where you are from or who and what you are, NA members at the WSC will make you feel at home and a part of the solution, helping to provide the strength and courage to carry the message to the still-suffering addict and to invite others in recovery to get involved in service. Service is an opportunity to have a new and better way of living. To me, service is a new outlook in my life, a second chance to be truly happy and satisfied.

*In fellowship,  
Tico A, Philippines Region*



If you are feeling a little (or a lot) overwhelmed, know that you are not alone. As the 2018 WSC proceeds throughout the week with over 150 regions representing the more than 100,000 weekly meetings, please remember that the unity that brought NA this far must be maintained. 2018 will be the year NA celebrates having the Sixth Edition Basic Text translated into every language known to mankind. Back in 2008, when the WSC approved this Sixth Edition, we had no idea of the impact it would have on the development of the entire fellowship worldwide, nor did we realize the fervor with which translations projects would proceed. In 2018 NA World Services must rewrite our vision statement because it is no longer a vision, but a REALITY. Please give the World Board and the WSC your input in developing this new vision, as they do want and welcome the open communication.

*In fellowship,  
Lisa D, Alabama/NW Florida Region*

It's probably your first WSC, and you feel nervous and shaky. You probably think that you are the only one who's here for the first time, so get in mind that most of the delegates are here for their first time and they feel exactly the same as you feel. Do not forget that this is the only 2018 WSC. Let yourself be nervous, but don't forget to have fun, enjoy, and feel every moment. You are allowed to sound as stupid as you like or less funny than the others because you are the best new kid in town and it's your job to feel that way. After the first day, try to focus on your duty as a delegate and open your mind for things that your region needs the most. Say hello to the 2028 delegate for me.

*Yuval B, Israel Region*

At this year's WSC, participants were asked to share their experience, strength, and hope in letters to the 2018 conference. A sampling of their letters is included here.

I am sitting alone here at the WSC in 2008, and they are asking me to write to you. I don't know where you come from, or who you are; all I know is that I already love you. I am here because my region and my HP brought me here, and I have come to understand the great level of commitment that those who came here before me had, those who worked for the welfare of our fellowship, and today I have that commitment inside me. When your moment arrives in 2018, I want you to know that you can count on me to help you, the same way I was helped by those who greeted me when I got here. I am grateful that I was the first female delegate of my region, and this motivated me; it was a dream to have been a delegate of my country. Today I reinforce my commitment to continue being part of this NA family, and I want to continue working for those who are not yet here. I ask you to make decisions in this conference that are guided by a Higher Power, as we are doing for you today.

*Danixa C, Panama Region*

My name is Andrey, I'm an addict. I'm the Western Russia regional delegate alternate and this is my first World Service Conference. This is really the heart of the NA service structure, the place where our groups' and regions' experience, love, and hope become one power—the power of service—and you are a part of this power. I'm a part of your history and you're a part of my future, but we come together with one message of recovery—you and I, and other people all around. And that one who is dying now from the disease will not die because we'll make the voice of the message louder! Try to be an effective servant. Try to work hard, and in the end everybody will hear the message! I send you my support, my love, and my experience!

*In fellowship,  
Andrey G, Western Russia Region*

This is my second WSC as an RD. When I arrived in the USA and I had to go through customs, an officer asked me why I was coming to this country, and I answered that I was coming to the World

Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous. He asked what NA was. Everyone who was in line behind me was able to hear me. I felt ashamed. I approached the counter, and using the little bit of bad English I knew, I tried to explain to him what the program was about. Finally he authorized me to enter and I kept walking, but I was feeling very uncomfortable. I began to go over my feelings, trying to figure out why I felt like that, and I remembered that part of our literature says, "In the path to our freedom the last thing we lose is the stigma of being an addict." I understood that I had not accepted my disease in its entirety, and that customs officer did not expose me in front of all those tourists at the airport; he exposed me to myself, to the truth that I am still ashamed of my condition as an addict.

I wish that you can arrive at WSC 2018 with your head held up, without any shame, grateful for continuing to work to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

*Hugs,  
Martin G, Uruguay Region*

My name is Kathy B, and in attending the 2008 conference, I dream of and hope for a more unified and diversified fellowship so that all addicts can and will feel a part of NA. This is my first conference, and I feel very passionate about a few of the motions and topics for discussion. The motions that touch me the most are the ones regarding the new IPs—the one for young people in recovery and the one for the parents of young people. These IPs answer many questions, which will hopefully keep young people in the rooms of NA with support from the group and their families. I have seen so many young people come in, get cleantime, and then leave because they start to question if they are really addicts because they are so young. The Issue Discussion Topic "Who's Missing?" is another area that is so important. I hope we can come together at this conference to try to find ways to bring members into the rooms of NA and to keep them coming back. I have such a love for this program, and doing service

work at this level has shown and taught me how equal we all really are, and how important each voice is in NA.

*In fellowship,  
Kathy B, Chicagoland Region*

During my time serving as part of a delegate team I have seen us move, ever so slowly, toward consensus-based decision making. In 2008 we decreased the WSC Rules of Order from eleven pages to five, and an abbreviated table of the rules went from two pages down to just one half of a page. I believe we have started a process that will lead to all decisions throughout our fellowship being based on consensus, and every addict will be able to be a part of that process. My hope for you is that this evolution will be complete by 2018 so that you can reap the benefits of a process that started more than ten years ago during my time on a delegate team.

*Good luck to you and Godspeed,  
Denise T, Pacific Cascade Region*

# Primary purpose

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

*The Group Booklet, p. 1*

## My favorite Sunday

It's the first Sunday of the month, my favorite Sunday in Narcotics Anonymous. It's area service committee day! I excitedly get showered and ready. Oh, you read it correctly; I said "excitedly." In the eighteen-plus years I have been doing service, I have never before seen our groups and area on a roll like they are now.

I would like to tell you a tale of the journey of a recovering area. In 1989 the area service representatives (ASRs, the past trusted servant role comparable to our current regional committee members, or RCMs) didn't want to participate in a service meeting they felt was oversized and out of control. So, with only five groups and all the confidence (ego) of recovering addicts with between one and five years clean, we formed our area. We broke out our service handbooks and went to work.

As time went by and more groups formed, the area grew. In about five years we moved to a larger meeting hall, bought cabinets to store literature, and settled into the new digs. With ten groups and committees for H&I, PI, events and activities, and literature distribution, we were moving along. Things looked promising.

As time went by, resentments grew. The words "area circus" were murmured at every business meeting, and participation dropped. We were becoming what we left: oversized and out of control. Too many commitments were being filled by too few addicts, for too long a time. For years it went on like this. The area still grew in meeting locations, groups saw increasing attendance, and members were getting more long-term clean-time, but the same few were doing all the service work. A growing resentment toward our region resulted in our area not participating at that level, so we then had no RCM. We were alone—the place no recovering addict should be, never mind a whole bunch of us! We held area anniversary picnics, groups celebrated their growth, H&I filled more facilities with meetings, and the need for more trusted servants grew, but the call was still left unanswered. Our ASC meeting announcements seemed to fall on deaf ears, but the discouraged few plodded on and prayed that things would improve. We sent out flyers calling for support; we brought sponsees to service meetings, hoping they would stay and get the "service bug." One night, a dedicated sponsee and I made a vow to put Narcotics Anonymous back into our service! We read the *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*, attended regional meetings, and talked about service everywhere, and about the need for service in our recovery.

In 2004 it all changed, and it wasn't slow. By 2005 we had fourteen out of seventeen GSRs attending regularly. The H&I subcommittee grew to over twenty-five members, and PI was up and running. We were bowling and skiing and having spiritual brunches, thanks to our E&A committee. More than \$1,000 worth of literature was sold each month, with no back-orders. Policy was being written and reviewed. Most importantly, we all felt like we wanted and needed to be there.

Fast-forward to the February 2008 ASC meeting. We begin at 2:00 pm with the policy subcommittee while the lit people set up. H&I starts at 2:30. PR and E&A have to meet on different days now because, you see, there are too many members to meet in one place! By 3:30 thirty-five NA members are buzzing around, hugging, gathering info, finalizing reports, and calling the copy center to tell the RCM we forgot something. "If we email it to the copy center, can you bring it with you?" At 4:00 pm we start the

ASC committee meeting and roll call is taken to determine the quorum count. All committee chairs are present, and fourteen out of seventeen GSRs are ready to go. We discuss issues, we laugh, we debate, and we vote according to group conscience. At 5:30 we form a circle and pray to keep our serenity.

God willing, and with my desire to use removed by the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous, I will celebrate nineteen years clean this year. I have been a member of an area service body in NA every year of my recovery. Never have I been so humbled and satisfied at how an area has embraced the *Twelve Concepts for NA Service* and the principles of the traditions. I often sit and ask myself, "How did an area of so many discouraged members grow so quickly to become so effective? How did an area with only seventeen groups become so purposeful?" I think back to the many announcements we made at meetings: "You need NA service in your recovery, and we have the place to serve. Come to area!" I remember asking addicts to stop saying "area circus" and, instead, to encourage members, no matter how much cleantime they have, to show up and help. I remember the long drives we made to pick up members who wanted to serve but couldn't get there. And my thoughts go back to the night two addicts, with the guidance of a higher power, decided: "Let's put Narcotics Anonymous back in our NA service."

*James B, New York, USA*

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



# 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 44,165 weekly meetings in over 127 countries worldwide. Our history is rich with diversity, and we want to share the facts of that history with you—the little-known facts and tidbits of information others might not otherwise know. Share your interesting NA facts with us by email at [naway@na.org](mailto: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** the first NA Membership Survey was distributed at the 26th World Convention of NA in St. Louis, Missouri, USA in 1996, and has been distributed at every world convention since then?

**Did you know** in 2007, for the first time, the survey was available online? It was also mailed along with *The NA Way Magazine*, which significantly increased the total number of responses and allowed incarcerated members to participate?

**Did you know** the average age of NA members was 41 years in the 2003 survey, and 42.8 in 2007? The 2007 survey also identified that 3% of responding members were between the ages of 14 and 20 years.

**Did you know** "NA member" was listed by 44% in 2003 and 58% in 2007 as the respondents' greatest influence to attend their first NA meeting?

**Did you know** the 2007 survey included a question regarding quality-of-life improvement areas, and greater than 80% of those surveyed reported improvement in family relationships and social connectedness since coming to NA?

**Did you know** the complete 2007 Membership Survey is available online? Just go to: [http://www.na.org/PR/NA\\_Membership\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.na.org/PR/NA_Membership_Survey.pdf)





# World Convention of NA 33

Barcelona, Spain — 19-23 Aug 2009

## Love without Borders

Excitement is mounting for WCNA-33 in Barcelona, and many of you have contacted NA World Services for registration, travel, and hotel information. It is our hope to have information and pre-registration available earlier than normal to allow you plenty of time to plan. We'll post information on the website at the World Convention page (<http://www.na.org/WCNA/>) and we will also email updates directly to you as soon as they're available if you subscribe online to the convention newsletter, *WCNA News*, at <http://portaltools.na.org/PortalTools/subscriptions/Login.cfm>.

We'll also be seeking convention speakers and volunteers to assist in the speaker evaluation process. Cleantime requirements are five years for workshop speakers and speaker evaluators, ten years for main speakers. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a workshop or main speaker at WCNA-33, please send your CD or electronic audio file along with the form below. Those of you with at least five years clean can help the World Board identify possible speakers for the convention by reviewing and evaluating potential speakers. Please submit the following information to be considered for this service:

Speaker

Speaker Evaluator

full name \_\_\_\_\_

street address \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_

state/province \_\_\_\_\_ country \_\_\_\_\_ postal code \_\_\_\_\_

daytime telephone \_\_\_\_\_ evening telephone \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_ potential speaker's cleandate \_\_\_\_\_

name of person submitting CD \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your CD or electronic audio file along with the contact information listed above by email or post to:**

**wcna@na.org**  
NA World Services  
WCNA-33 Speakers  
Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA



# World Unity Day 2008



30 August 2008

30 August will be our worldwide day of unity. At one moment it is the same day around the entire world...

In a spirit of unity, we will join together around the world and

say the Serenity Prayer at the same time... You may have an event, you may join together with some friends, or you may just take a moment to yourself as we pray together on this day of unity.



**Remember NA's 55th anniversary and 25 years since the initial release of our Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*.**

Or, if you don't feel like waking up at 3 o'clock in the morning, at some point during the day on 30 August (hopefully in a meeting), take a moment to reflect on our worldwide fellowship and say the Serenity Prayer for the addict who still suffers. A simple prayer that for one moment we will say together as a fellowship...no telephone link, no big event.

12:00 a New Zealand • 1:00 a Samoa • 2:00 a Hawaii, United States 3:00 a Aleutian Islands, US  
4:00 a Alaska, US • 5:00 a California, US 6:00 a Colorado, US • 7:00 a Western Ontario, Canada • 8:00 a Bahamas  
9:00 a Rio de Janeiro, Brazil • 10:00 a Greenland • 11:00 a Cape Verde • 12:00 p (GMT) Greenwich  
1:00 p London, United Kingdom • 2:00 p Warsaw, Poland • 3:00 p Tel Aviv, Israel • 4:00 p United Arab Emirates  
5:00 p Karachi, Pakistan • 5:30 p India • 6:00 p Bangladesh • 7:00 p Thailand • 8:00 p China  
9:00 p Korea • 9:30 p Northern Territory, Australia • 10:00 p Queensland, Australia  
11:00 p Russia (Zone 9) • 11:30 p Norfolk Island, Australia

For more information visit [www.na.org](http://www.na.org) or call 818.773.9999



# CALENDAR

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

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Submit event info by</b>	<b>For events taking place during</b>
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

## Argentina

**Buenos Aires** 3-5 Oct; Primero Convención Metropolitana; Santa Casa de Ejercicios Espirituales, Buenos Aires; event info: 54.11.156.634.2226; rsvns: 54.11.155.982.1526

## Brazil

**Rio de Janeiro** 25-27 Jul; Convenção Carioca 9; UERJ, Rio de Janeiro; event info: 55.21.82749593, pablosuela@hotmail.com

## Canada

**Prince Edward Island** 29-31 Aug; Canadian Convention 16; Delta Prince Edward, Charlottetown; event info: 902.314.1554; rsvns: 800.268.1133; registration: 902.436.2613; [www.ccnaconvention.org](http://www.ccnaconvention.org)

## Colombia

**Valle del Cauca** 16-18 Aug; 17 Convención Regional de Colombia; Hemiciclo Concejo Municipal, Cali; rsvns: 3172785326; event info: 3146326630; [www.nacolombia.org](http://www.nacolombia.org)

## Denmark

**Skanderborg** 1-3 Aug; Give Your Dreams a Chance Convention; Audonicon, Skanderborg; [www.nakonvent.dk](http://www.nakonvent.dk)

## Dominican Republic

**Distrito Nacional** 14-16 Nov; Convención Algo Mas Sera Revelado 7; Hotel Don Juan Beach Resort, Santo Domingo; rsvns: 809.687.9157; event info: 809.697.4073

## Finland

**Southern Finland** 25-27 Jul; European Convention and Conference 25; Paasitorni, Helsinki; [www.eccna25.org/en/index.html](http://www.eccna25.org/en/index.html)

## Japan

**Nagoya** 26-28 Sep; Japan Regional Convention 5; Nagoya Congress Center, Nagoya; event info: [jrcna5th@live.jp](mailto:jrcna5th@live.jp); [www.najapan.org](http://www.najapan.org)

## Mexico

**Baja California** 1-3 Aug; Primera Convención Area Puerto; San Nicolas Resort Hotel, Ensenada; event info: 01152.646.136.7842, 01152.646.140.0160; rsvns: 01152.646.176.4070; registration: 01152.646.138.1278; [www.bajason-na.org/CAPNA-1.html](http://www.bajason-na.org/CAPNA-1.html)

**2)** 24-26 Oct; Convención Baja California 16; Grand Hotel, Tijuana; event info: 858.277.6438, 619.618.5201; rsvns: USA-866.472.6385, Mex-01800.026607; speaker tape deadline: 15 Sep; write: Area Baja Costa, Region Baja-Son; CBCNA; PMB80; Box 439056; SanDiego, CA 92143-9056

## Netherlands

**North Holland** 5-7 Sep; First Netherlands Convention; Het Sieraad, Amsterdam; write: Netherlands Convention; Box 11976; 1001 GZ; Amsterdam, Netherlands

## New Zealand

**Wellington** 24-26 Oct; More Will Be Revealed Convention; Rutherford House, Wellington; event info: 64.4.9347280; [www.nzna.org](http://www.nzna.org)

## Sweden

**Gotland** 4-7 Sep; Unity Fårö; Sudersand, Fårö, Gotland; event info: 46.0.736.197721; [www.nasverige.org](http://www.nasverige.org), [www.gosnad.se](http://www.gosnad.se)

## Switzerland

**Fribourg** 3-5 Oct; Convention Suisse; Centre Réformé, Charmey; [www.narcotiques-anonymes.ch/nouvelles.html](http://www.narcotiques-anonymes.ch/nouvelles.html)

## Turkey

**Mugla** 10-12 Oct; Turkey Area Convention; Hotel Pelin, Fethiye; rsvns: 90.252.622.10.80; event info: English-301.482.0280, German-90.555.357.32.02; [www.na-turkiye.org](http://www.na-turkiye.org)

## Uruguay

**Florida** 19-21 Sep; Uruguay Regional Convention 9; Centro Recreativo Paso Severino, Florida; event info: 59899347772, 59829013282, [cruna9@gmail.com](mailto:cruna9@gmail.com); [www.nauruguay.org](http://www.nauruguay.org)

## Venezuela

**Distrito Capital** 14-16 Nov; Convención Regional de Venezuela 5; Circulo Militar de Caracas, Caracas; [www.na-venezuela.org](http://www.na-venezuela.org)

## United States

**Alaska** 22-24 Aug; Kenai Campvention; Church of God Camp, Sterling; rsvns: 907.283.6522; event info: 907.252.5336, 907.252.1939

**Arizona** 12-14 Sep; Mt Lemmon Bash Campout; Mt Lemmon Campground, Tucson; event info: 520.576.2508, [www.natucson.org](http://www.natucson.org)

**Arkansas** 8-10 Aug; Central Arkansas Area Convention; Crowne Plaza, Little Rock; rsvns: 501.223.3000; event info: 501.765.1940

**2)** 17-19 Oct; First Arkansas Regional Convention; Austin Hotel, Hot Springs; rsvns: 877.623.6697; event info: 918.208.1851, [pat\\_pater@yahoo.com](mailto:pat_pater@yahoo.com); [www.arscna.org/rsc/arscna](http://www.arscna.org/rsc/arscna)

**California** 18-20 Jul; Napa Solano Women's Spiritual Retreat; Golden Pines RV Resort and Campground; event info: 707.310.5596

**2)** 15-17 Aug; Mountain High Campout; Camp Richardson Resort, South Lake Tahoe; event info: 530.541.2245; registration: 530.541.2245

**3)** 3-5 Oct; Rainbow Convention 13; Hotel Whitcomb (formerly Ramada Inn), San Francisco; rsvns: 415.626.8000; registration: 415.948.1345; www.sfna.org

**Connecticut** 22-24 Aug; Forever Green Campout; Camp Cedarcrest, Orange; event info: 860.306.9158, 860.268.4539; rsvns: 203.799.2150; www.ctna.org/activities/08\_08/ghacampout\_08

**Florida** 1-3 Aug; Big Bend Area Convention 11; Residence Inn, Tallahassee; rsvns: 850.329.9080; event info: 850.566.0940, spiritkeeper89@yahoo.com

**2)** 29-31 Aug; South Florida Regional Convention 14; Deauville Beach Resort, Miami Beach; rsvns: 305.779.5360; event info: 954.921.6180, shultz003@yahoo.com; registration: 305.321.0576; www.sfrca.org

**Georgia** 17-19 Oct; Coastal Area NA Camp-In; General Coffee State Park, Nichols; rsvns: 912.384.7082

**Hawaii** 10-12 Oct; Western Service Learning Days 22; Makaha Resort and Golf Club, Honolulu; rsvns: 866.576.6447; event info: 808.228.9584; www.wslsld.org

**2)** 16-19 Oct; Hawaii Regional Convention 16; Maui Prince Hotel Makena Resort, Makena, Maui; rsvns: 888.977.4623; event info: 808.344.6708; www.na-hawaii.org

**Indiana** 12-14 Sep; Central Indiana Area Convention 5; Adams Mark Hotel-Airport, Indianapolis; rsvns: 800.444.2326; event info: 317.529.6203; registration: 317.809.6332; www.naindiana.org

**2)** 19-21 Sep; First Northwest Indiana Area Convention; Radisson Star Plaza, Merrillville; rsvns: 219.769.6311

**Louisiana** 28-31 Aug; New Orleans Area Convention 10; Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans; rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 504.220.7306; registration: 504.202.2023; www.neworleansareaofna.org

**Maine** 19-21 Sep; Miracle Convention 25; Notre Dame Spiritual Center, Alfred; event info: miracle25@namaine.org; www.namaine.org

**Maryland** 19-21 Sep; TriCounty Area Unity Retreat 2: A River of Hope; Lions Camp Merrick, Nanjemoy; event info: 301.751.3953; registration: 412.628.5059; www.cprna.org/events

**Massachusetts** 1-3 Aug; Granite State Area Convention; Four Points Sheraton Boston Logan Airport, Nashua; rsvns: 800.333.3333; www.gsana.org

**2)** 5-7 Sep; Spur Of The Moment Campout 11; Camp Marshall, Spencer; event info: 508.767.1097, 978.884.7153, 508.435.4807

**3)** 26-28 Sep; Sisters In Spirit; Craigville Conference Center, Craigville; event info: 774.263.2960, 774.888.7876

**4)** 3-5 Oct; First Berkshire Area Convention; Crowne Plaza, Pittsfield; rsvns: 413.499.2000; event info: 413.841.9512; www.berkshirena.org

**Michigan** 15-18 Aug; R & R at the Fort; Camp Fort Hill, Sturgis; event info: 269.625.0282; www.michigan-na.org/sw\_michigan/sw\_michigan

**Minnesota** 1-3 Aug; Hopefest Campout 4; McGowans Farm, Mankato; event info: 507.386.0481, nahopefest@yahoo.com

**Mississippi** 10-12 Oct; Mississippi Regional Convention; Quality Inn, Tupelo; rsvns: 800.424.6423; event info: 662.415.0868; www.mrscna.net

**Missouri** 12-14 Sep; Miracles Group Campout 6; Big Elk Camp and Canoe, Pineville; event info: 417.782.3312; registration: 417-782-3312

**2)** 3-5 Oct; Discover Recovery Spring Campout; Cuivre River State Park Campground, Troy; event info: 618.520.6895, 618.520.0502

**Montana** 8-11 Aug; Holland Lake Campout 15; Holland Lake Campground, Group Area, Seeley Lake/Condon; event info: 406.756.8487, 406.253.0860

**Nebraska** 15-17 Aug; Unity Days Campvention 15; Trails West YMCA Camp, Scottsbluff; rsvns: 308.632.5705; event info: 308.783.1425

**2)** 26-28 Sep; Nebraska Regional Convention 25; Howard Johnson Riverside Inn, Grand Island; rsvns: 308.384.4100; event info: 308.383.5612

**New Jersey** 8-10 Aug; First Hudson County Area Convention; Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel and Conference Center, East Rutherford; rsvns: 201.896.0500; event info: 973.343.8552; www.nanj.org

**2)** 17-19 Oct; First Greater Atlantic City Area Convention; Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, Atlantic City West; rsvns: 800.782.9237; event info: 609.271.8157, 609.350.3278

**New York** 22-24 Aug; ABCD Regional Convention; Crowne Plaza Albany, Albany; rsvns: 518.462.6611; event info: 518.465.7343; www.abcdna.org

**2)** 29 Aug-1 Sep; Recovery in the Woods 20; Camp Pioneer and Retreat Center, Buffalo; event info: 716.602.0316; www.nawny.org

**3)** 12-14 Sep; Suffolk Area Convention 8; Melville; rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 631.423.1600; www.longislandna.org

**North Carolina** 15-17 Aug; Twin City Area Convention 11; Embassy Suites, Winston-Salem; rsvns: 800.362.2779; www.tcana.org

**2)** 5-7 Sep; Fall Shindig Campout; Steele Creek Park and Campground, Morganton; event info: 336.973.4701, 336.262.6333; www.crna.org

**Ohio** 5-7 Sep; Friendly Valley Retreat; Camp OYO, West Portsmouth; event info: 740.250.1709, 740.464.4681

**Pennsylvania** 22-24 Aug; The Journey Continues 12; Camp Harmony, Hooversville; www.lmhana.com

**2)** 5-7 Sep; Little Apple Area Convention 22; Holiday Inn/Crowne Plaza, Allentown; rsvns: 610.433.2221; event info: 484.951.7597, 484.553.0418

**3)** 19-21 Sep; Williamsport Area Convention 11; Best Western, Lewisburg; rsvns: 570.524.5500; registration: 570.322.6220; www.marscna.org/events

**South Carolina** 15-17 Aug; Welcome Home 13; Marriott, Columbia; rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 803.518.0400; www.crna.org/areaevents

**South Dakota** 19-21 Sep; South Dakota Regional Convention; Elk Creek Resort, Piedmont; rsvns: 800.846.2267; event info: 605.321.7299; registration: 605.381.5171; www.sdrna.org

**Texas** 15-17 Aug; Texas Unity Convention 100; Redwood Lodge, Whitney; rsvns: 254.694.3412; event info: 832.704.0687; www.tucna.org

**2)** 26-28 Sep; Serenity in the Sand; La Quinta Resort, South Padre Island; rsvns: 800.753.3757; event info: 877.540.6734

**3)** 17-19 Oct; Alive And Kicking Group 35th Anniversary; Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel, Houston; rsvns: 713.688.0100; speaker tape deadline: 1 Sep

**Vermont** 14-17 Aug; Back To Basics Campout 24; Wallingford Boys Camp, Wallingford; event info: 603.209.1552; www.gmana.org

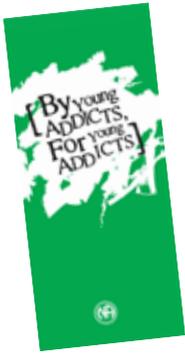
**Virginia** 1-3 Aug; Almost Heaven Area Convention 22; Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, Front Royal; rsvns: 304.496.9242; event info: 304.283.9077; registration: 304.496.9242; www.rovna.org/events/aug3ahac.pdf

**2)** 29 Aug-1 Sep; Labor Day Weekend Campout; Lutheran Retreat Center-Hungry Mother State Park, Marion; www.mana-e-tn.org

**Washington** 17-19 Oct; Pacific NorthWest Convention #31; Marriot, Seattle; rsvns: 206.241.2000

**Wisconsin** 5-7 Sep; Let Loose 3; Wyalusing State Park-Hugh Harper Indoor Group Camp, Bagley; rsvns: 608.996.2261; event info: 608.343.8842; www.bigriversna.org

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## English

IP No. 13:

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For Young Addicts*

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ir įstaigose ir NA narys*

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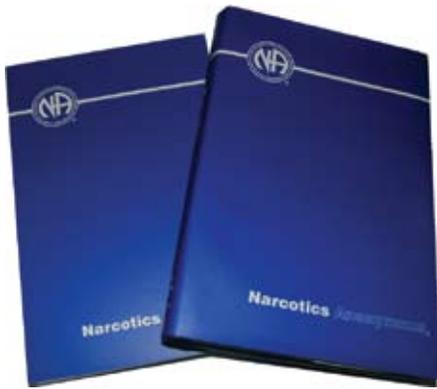
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