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There are no kings or pawns in NA



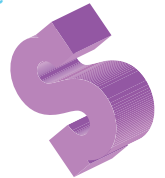
We all have opportunities to...others in recovery



One thing is clear: each of us has a specific idea about...



A... is someone who helps us reach a goal





THE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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From the editor

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year seems an odd thing to do in mid-October. You see, we have to complete the major pieces of the magazine at least two months in advance, which places one of our program's precepts of living just for today in an interesting juxtaposition. It is one of the challenges we face when working on a magazine that is produced quarterly like *The NA Way*. So, with that said, we at *The NA Way Magazine* would like to wish our wonderful NA Fellowship a happy 2005!

This year proves to be an exciting one. The words of a popular US singer/songwriter, "The times, they are a-changin'..." come to mind and certainly are prophetic as we enter this New Year—especially for your magazine. We welcomed three new workgroup members and a new WB member. World Pool members Gail D from New York, Keith N from Tennessee, and Red Y from New Zealand join current members Marc S from Canada and Sheryl L from Pennsylvania. Rounding out our editorial workgroup is Muk H-D, WB member from New Jersey, who takes over the helm from Tom McC (Hawaii). We also said goodbye to Dana H from Indiana. We want to thank both Tom and Dana for their service and contributions, in this addict's opinion, to the creation of some very thoughtful issues of the magazine over the past two years.

As our fellowship matures and continues to change on a daily basis, we witness how the international language of recovery is spoken and embraced in countries all over the world. Included in this issue is a report on NA in Iran from a trusted servant living there, as well as information about the current Basic Text project. You will also find the registration flyer for WCNA-31 being held in Hawaii, USA, in September 2005. Another item of interest is an article from the World Board examining leadership in NA. We think you will agree that this January edition of the magazine makes a good read!

One thing we all can agree on is that change is constant, and that if we do not change the addict who enters the rooms of NA, we will surely use again. I have sometimes fought change in my life like a Rottweiler puppy clinging to her bone, not letting go no matter what. Whenever I do that, I usually get a bloodied lip, sore teeth, and an aching heart. And while some changes are terribly painful and scary, I usually find that I emerge not only as a *changed* person, but stronger, too. Today, at the age of fifty-three, I no longer fear change, at least not as much as I did in the past! I welcome it, knowing that any change—good, bad, or ugly—will give me an opportunity to become a better me.

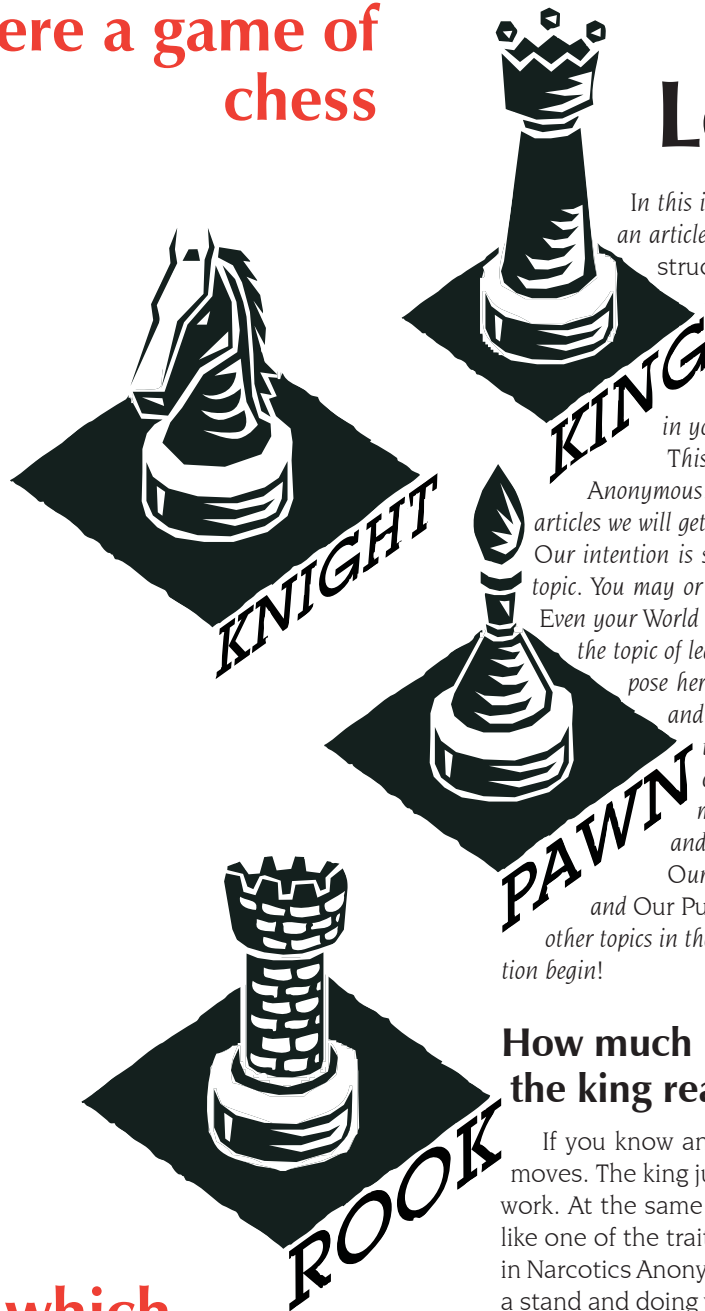
May you all have a year filled with goodwill, happiness, serenity, and most of all, change.

Nancy S, Editor

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, 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."*

If recovery
were a game of
chess



Leadership in NA

In this issue of The NA Way Magazine we, your World Board, are presenting an article on Leadership. The October 2004 issue presented articles on Infrastructure and Our Public Image. These are topics we will be discussing extensively over the next year and a half. Our approach to these issue topics is different from the last conference cycle. We are not looking to publish the definitive article on what any of these topics mean. We are looking to raise awareness and to motivate you to talk about these issues in your group, with friends at coffee, or maybe even at a service workshop.

This article is the first of a series we will be writing on leadership in Narcotics Anonymous. We will start by talking about leadership in its broadest sense. In future articles we will get more specific about leadership as it may apply to our service structure. Our intention is simple: to raise some issues and make you think about this important topic. You may or may not agree with some of the things we present in this first article. Even your World Board does not necessarily agree on everything here, which tells us that the topic of leadership is even more important to talk about as a fellowship. Our purpose here is not to define leadership but to present you with some information and get you thinking about it. One thing is clear: Each of us has a specific idea about leadership, and no one piece of literature or bulletin could capture all of our own personal experience or view of what that is. The most we can hope for is to get you to express that viewpoint in sharing and listening to others.

Our goal is to hear from you on this topic, as well as on Infrastructure and Our Public Image. We will be presenting discussion about this article and the other topics in the near future. We hope that you enjoy this first article. Let the conversation begin!

How much power does the king really have in chess anyway?

If you know anything about chess, you know that the queen makes all the moves. The king just stays back on the board while the other pieces do the real work. At the same time, the way in which a king operates in chess may also be like one of the traits of an effective leader—the ability to delegate. If leadership in Narcotics Anonymous were a game of chess, who would you be? Are you taking a stand and doing work that is meaningful to addicts? Do you think you have the title “king” in your community? Who *are* the real leaders? Who are the members who help other addicts learn how to stay clean? The truth is that our position and title in this often serious game of recovery do not necessarily measure our ability to be leaders. Anyone who helps another addict stay clean is a leader, whether you are a member who has so many sponsees that your phone never stops ringing, or you are the newcomer who has just celebrated thirty days clean

...which
piece would
you be?

and points out the meeting's literature rack to the addict who just identified as attending their first NA meeting. Even the pawn can struggle to make it to the other side and become a queen. We can learn how to be leaders in NA. These are just some of the ideas about leadership that we begin to discuss here.

There are no kings or pawns in NA

We used this analogy to get your attention and make you think. In reality, all of us are just NA members—no one person is more important or more valuable than another. Each day, we show up and do the best that we can do. For some of us, that may mean getting deeply involved in service, and for others, that may mean just staying clean today. Whatever it is you are committed to doing today, by standing up for that you are exercising leadership. Many of us have heard that “if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.” To stand up for something, to stand up for recovery, is the most important form of leadership we have in Narcotics Anonymous. There are no kings or pawns in NA—just *members*. And only you can decide whether you are a member or not.

It is our members who are the leaders we are talking about. So then, why does the word *leadership* conjure up so many different ideas when we try to apply it to our personal recovery? We may think that leading in recovery applies only to those people who are in service or who seem to have titles in our local communities. In reality, leadership in Narcotics Anonymous describes anyone who is trying to help other addicts stay clean. In NA, leadership is simply someone helping another person reach a goal. Narcotics Anonymous has no kings or pawns; we only have people who are willing to lead us in our recovery and in service. Our literature says that “if you want what we have to offer and are willing to make the effort to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps.” Sometimes we may be the one who has what another addict wants, and other times we may be the addict making an effort to reach out to someone who has what we want. We all have opportunities to lead others in recovery. And we may even be leading

when we ask another member for help and guidance. It is often said that those who ask for help are really helping the other addict to stay clean by allowing them to serve someone other than themselves. Serving is one of the most important aspects of leading in NA.

When we talk about leadership we are talking about those who are serving NA. For this reason, it is important to talk about leadership. We can continue just talking about particular issues like unfulfilled service positions, or we can take a stand by focusing on some solutions. When we seek solutions we are demonstrating leadership. A lack of leadership could possibly be the underlying problem with *Infrastructure* and *Our Public Image*, the issue discussion topics for the next two years. Initiating discussions about these two topics is an example of taking a leadership role in our local fellowship.

A leader is someone who helps us reach a goal

But who has the power to initiate the discussion? It does not have to start in a formal service setting. It can start before the recovery meeting, or over coffee at the meeting-after-the-meeting, or in the car ride home. It is you, *the member*, who has the power to be a leader. Everyone who showed up for her or his recovery today has something to share. All of the people who assist in coordinating efforts to reach our goals are leaders: the members sharing in your home group, or answering the phoneline, or speaking on a panel, or reaching out to a newcomer, or picking up chairs after a meeting. We appreciate the leadership we find in our sponsors, or through a friend's help, or in a member's commitment to a service position. Each person has the ability to initiate discussion about things that are important to our fellowship. Through this, they are leaders.

Some things for us to discuss may be leadership in the form of the “addict with two days clean saying to the addict with one day clean, you never have to use again.” Can everyone lead? Can everyone find a place in the fellowship to help others in recovery? Recovery is the

goal that we all have in common; it is the unifying purpose of our work in Narcotics Anonymous. It is through accomplishing this common goal of recovery that our leadership may emerge. Leadership is not something bestowed on one or two people in a group; it is something that develops through our pursuit of recovery. From our very first days in the program, we begin to learn about leadership—both being led and being a leader. Sometimes we learn more from being led (such as the way we can seek guidance in working the steps). Sometimes we learn about being leaders through the example of our sponsor. And sometimes we lead by sharing how we got through a new experience and stayed clean. In Narcotics Anonymous, we have the freedom to lead in so many different ways.

It is this freedom that gives leaders the ability to help us accomplish our goals as a fellowship. We are grateful for the broad range of ways that we can demonstrate leadership, because without it, the phones do not get answered, people do not get directed to meetings, directories do not get printed, literature does not get to the newcomer, people do not get phone numbers, and ultimately, all that we do cannot get done. Leaders in Narcotics Anonymous make it inviting for someone to come in off the street and begin to share in meetings. They give us the inspiration, motivation, and courage to stay clean just one more day. Leaders in NA show up, even if we do not, and they stay clean to welcome us back into the rooms. Being of service in any capacity can be burdensome and lonely at times. Often we may want to give up or give in. But we truly cannot survive without all the different forms of leadership in the fellowship, and that's why it's so important that we talk about it.

We must talk about it because we need leadership to keep meetings open so that addicts can find NA. We need leaders so that even the most basic services we provide get fulfilled. Right now our leaders are answering phones and directing someone to their first meeting. They have figured out how that phone system works and have coordinated the phone slots for each week. No one leader is more valuable than another. The

phoneline volunteers could not have coordinated the entire phoneline schedule at the same time, and the coordinator could not answer the phone every time it rings—but together they are all helping to make sure that the ultimate goal of an addict finding a meeting is reached.

That helping spirit seems to come naturally for some and is learned for others, but these are certain qualities that most leaders demonstrate. That help sometimes comes in a simple willingness to step back for the greater good of the group. But in helping others, leaders in NA make a personal commitment to staying clean; leaders know that, no matter what is going on, a clean day is a successful one. Leaders show up for their commitments, regardless of what is going in their lives, and leaders try to learn from all of their experiences. Leaders try to carry the message of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous to addicts, and they try to practice the principles of Narcotics Anonymous in their own affairs. They have a passion about NA that keeps them talking about recovery long after the meeting has ended, standing in the parking lot with a newcomer until that newcomer is ready to go home.

But even while leaders are tirelessly working to help us, what seems to get in the way of us embracing them? Why are we so resistant to the idea of leadership? Why do we look at leadership as a bad word? "I don't want anyone telling me what to do," we say defensively. We may resist the idea of calling these people in NA leaders, but maybe that is because we do not really know what we are talking about when we say that word. Maybe we could consider the ways we get confused about the difference between what is dictating and what is loving guidance or direction. What leadership qualities do you or your friends demonstrate in your everyday life?

Maybe we still think that there are not really any leaders in NA, but only trusted servants. In that case, we may turn to our literature, which says that "the heart of NA beats when one addict helps another." Taking the time to help another, either through our words or through our actions, is what it might mean to be a leader. If the newcomer is the lifeblood of the fellowship, then our

personal leadership could be the heart that keeps our fellowship alive. It is this heart, this way in which we help others find the courage and faith we have found, that keeps us from perishing.

Our Twelfth Step teaches us that we can only keep what we have by giving it away. In that giving, we help others to reach their goals and become leaders themselves. If our personal recovery depends on helping others, and helping others is a fundamental part of leadership, then we can only recover by *cultivating* leadership. This is not something to save for a service meeting. Our personal recovery hangs in the balance between asking for help and freely sharing our experience; it hangs on our own reliance on leaders and on the cultivation of new leaders.

This is not the end of this conversation; this is the beginning. Now, it is your move.



Cultivating Leadership in NA is one of the projects selected at the 2004 World Service Conference. Our work on this project depends on your involvement. We will continue to talk about this important topic. Look for a deeper discussion about leadership and leadership cultivation in a future issue of The NA Way Magazine and NAWS News. In the future these discussions will include material on the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts in relation to leadership. Please check www.na.org/conference for the latest information on this and other world service projects. Send us your thoughts and discussion results. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing this discussion.

Our readers write

Dear NA Way,

I am writing in response to the feature article "It doesn't matter..." in the July 2004 issue of *The NA Way Magazine* (Volume 21, Number 3).

The first line of the article says, "I hope that sharing my story here will help another suffering addict." Well, it has helped me so much, and I had to write to tell you my story.

My clean date is 1 June 2002. On 31 August my son turned twenty-one. Over the years, he has rejected my cards, presents, and attention. He acts cold toward me, and I cannot blame him. I have not been there for him since he turned six years old.

Every year I hope he might let me back into his life—even just a little. I related to how, in the article, the author said that she thought about her son "every hour of every day of every week of every month of every year." That is exactly how I miss my son. Even though I constantly told him that I thought about him *always*, I doubt he ever really believed me.

I also related to how she did not think it would be spiritual to interrupt her son's life by trying to locate him. I knew where my son was, but felt as she did, and did not want to interrupt his life. I felt such pain as I read her words: "Who was I to try to be his mother after all these years? I just brought him into the world—I was *not* his mother."

My story, however, does not end the way hers did. She was reunited with her son. I am still waiting for my son to allow me to be a part of his life.

I cannot change the past, but I do want to be a part of his future. I pray that writing this and sharing it will help someone as her article helped me. I pray that in God's time, my son will be in my life again.

I know as long as I stay clean there is a chance that it will happen one day.

I hope that you will print this letter because it was reading the article in July that helped me, and just maybe my sharing will help someone in return.

With gratitude,
Georgene K, New York, USA

Many Voices, One Message: Revising our Basic Text

Q: What has been through five editions but hasn't changed?

Most of us felt "different," in one way or another, almost all of our lives. NA is home for us because, at last, we have a place we feel we belong. But for many of us, that sense of being "a part of" did not come the minute we walked through the doors of our first meeting. Listening to others' stories helped us to identify, and some of us remember the moment when we first heard someone speak or share and we thought to ourselves, "That sounds just like me."

It has been more than twenty years since our stories were first collected for the Basic Text. Much in NA has changed over those decades, and now the time has come again for our gratitude, as a fellowship, to speak. Over the next few years, we will be collecting members' stories and experience to include in a revision of the Basic Text, which will be up for approval in 2008. We hope that a revised personal stories section will better reflect the diversity of NA today, speaking to *all* of our members as well as the addicts who have not found us yet.

This is the first of what we expect will be regular reports in *The NA Way Magazine* about the Basic Text project. We also will give updates in *NAWS News* and on our website: <http://www.na.org/conference/index.htm>.

We made a decision

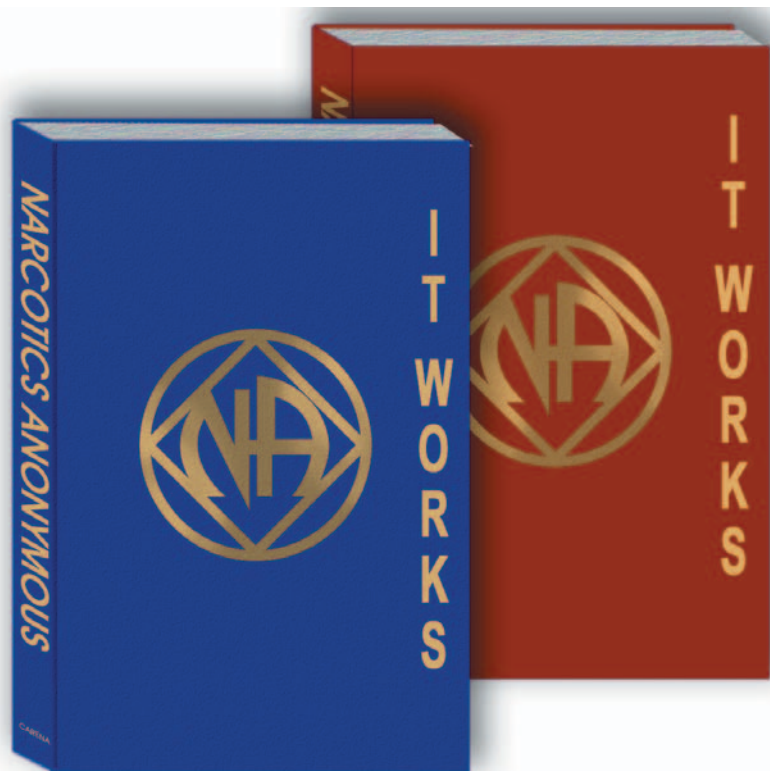
The story of revising (and not revising) the Basic Text is as long or short as one wants to make it. Those of you who are interested in the history leading up to this particular project can see the essay beginning on page 15 of the 2004 *Conference Agenda Report*: <http://www.na.org/WSC2004/car-toc.htm>. In a nutshell, the 2004 World Service Conference passed a motion that ended six years of deliberation ... at last, we have made a decision.

What did we decide?

The motion passed by the conference approved work on revisions including replacing some or all of the personal stories, adding a new preface to the Basic Text, and adding a brief introduction to the personal stories section. No changes will be made to Chapters One through Ten or to the existing preface and introduction.

It's a new day

One of the main motivations to revise the personal stories section of the text is to capture the experience, strength, and hope of our diverse fellowship. NA really is a worldwide fellowship. When the Basic Text was first approved in 1982, there were about 2,700 weekly NA meetings, almost all of which were in the United States. Today we have more than 30,000 weekly meetings in 116 countries. And our growth hasn't just been geographic; our fellowship has a richness of age, ethnicity, clean time, sexual identity, and personal experience we could only dream of more than twenty years ago.



A: The personal stories in the Basic Text.

We know NA can work for all addicts, but how can we best illustrate that? If we hope for a selection of personal stories that distills the broad variety of experience of our members, we will have to try a broad variety of approaches. When we say we will be collecting personal stories for a proposed new edition of the Basic Text, that does not simply mean we will send out a solicitation like a *News Flash*, see what we get, and select the best of the lot to include in a revised stories section. But that is only part of the story. We are talking through all kinds of new ideas for the revision itself and the means to accomplish the revision.

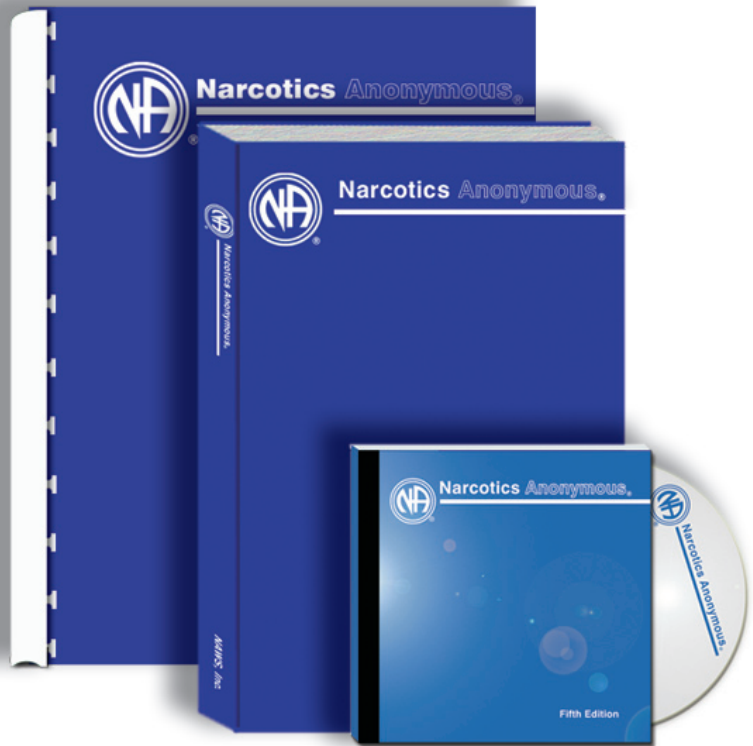
Some new ideas about content

As we reported in the *Conference Agenda Report*, one of the ideas we have is that all of the stories need not have the same structure: what it was like, what happened (how I found NA), how it is now. What if some stories began in later recovery or concentrated on a particular experience or spiritual principle? Should we divide the personal stories into sections? Should we include sections with a number of short experiences or quotes from members focused on one topic? These are some of the topics we are discussing. We should have more decisions to report as our work progresses.

Going to any lengths

In order to collect stories that truly represent the colorful and lively voices of our members, we know we will have to try a variety of approaches. A blanket solicitation like a *News Flash* won't capture it all. This project will force us to develop new and innovative ways of seeking the experience of members. Of course, we will want to cast a wide net by sending out a general call for stories in *The NA Way Magazine* and on our website, www.na.org. You can expect to see something posted sometime after the January World Board meeting.

This kind of general call for story submissions is a good start, but we want to remove as many obstacles as possible for people to share their experience. Members for whom English is a second

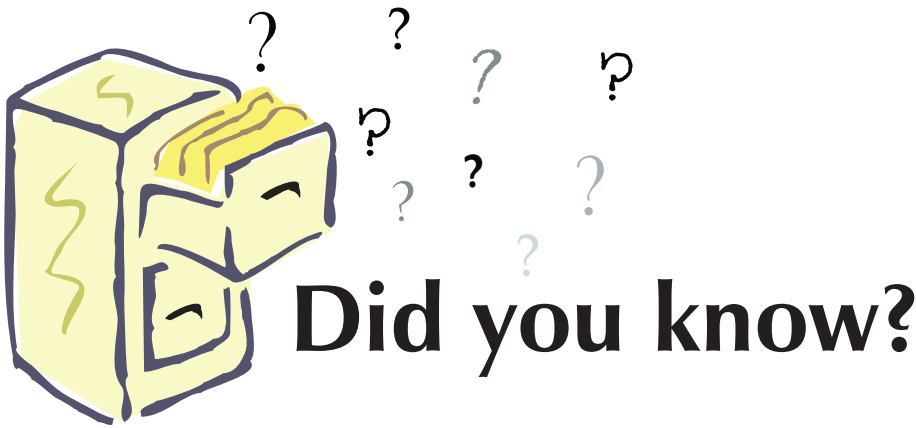


language, or members who are not skilled writers, or even members who are less likely to volunteer themselves may not respond to such a solicitation. To continue the metaphor, that wide net is a great vehicle to catch a certain kind of fish, but one net and one casting area is not the best way to catch the widest variety of sea life. We expect that key members of local NA communities may help us by having workshops or forwarding names of storytellers. We hope to draft tools to help people tell their stories, and we may interview specific members or help them to write their stories in other ways.

Just as many of us got involved in service not because we volunteered ourselves, but because we got a friendly "suggestion" from our sponsor or others, some of us may not step forward to tell our stories without encouragement. At this point, we aren't ruling out any method to collect our members' experience. Stayed tuned for updates as we continue to work on this exciting project. More will be revealed...

"The unity
described in our First Tradition
is not the same thing as uniformity.
Our membership is richly varied,
made up of many addicts from widely
differing backgrounds. These members bring with
them a variety of ideas and talents. That diversity
enriches the fellowship and gives rise to
new and creative ways to reach
addicts who need our help."

It Works: How and Why, pg. 127



The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous has come a long way since our early beginnings in 1953. We have grown from that first meeting held in Sun Valley, California, USA, to over 31,700 weekly meetings held in over 113 countries worldwide. Our history is rich with diversity, and we want to share the facts of that history with you, the little-known, as well as the well-known. If you have an interesting and historic fact, send it to us at naway@na.org or NAWS, Attn: *The NA Way Magazine*, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

NA in Iran

Did you know ... Iran has NA meetings in 106 cities?

Did you know ... the ten Iranian cities with the most NA meetings hold 570 meetings each week?

Did you know ... there are 180 meetings in Tehran alone?

Did you know ... Narcotics Anonymous is over ten years old in Iran?

Did you know ... NA was started by a few Iranian members who joined NA in the USA and Canada and then moved to Iran?

Did you know ... Ashrafi Esfahani, Andisheh, and Mehdi zadeh are some of the names of NA groups in Iran?



Dear WSO,

Thanks for your assistance, as well as the materials you sent us. We tried to follow your instructions to the best of our ability and increase our PI activities. Thank God, we have been very successful so far.

Since May 2004, we have sent a lot of panels to make presentations about NA to high-ranking government officials, and religious leaders, and I should say that all of these efforts have worked out well. It is usually very hard to meet our officials, as you have to go through a lot of stages to set an appointment with them. They are usually skeptical about nongovernmental organizations because, in the past, no NGO has been successful without the government's aid, especially in the field of addiction.

However, once we meet the officials, introduce the NA program to them, and give them accurate information about NA, they all become willing and supportive. They even understand some of the principles of our program, although they do question why we call ourselves addicts after years of recovery, why we accept anyone as a member regardless of sex, age, etc., and why we do not impose any control over religious beliefs. So far, every PI effort we have had in this regard has had very good results.

We realized that all the efforts put in against NA and that have denounced our fellowship actually worked the other way around and for the benefit of NA in Iran.

The thing that worked the best here for NA was our Seventh Tradition. One thing that attracts our officials to NA is that we never have asked them for any money or financial support—and even if they offer us such, we humbly turn it down. Most of the NGOs here are looking for financial aid from the government, and anytime an NGO contacts our officials it usually is because they are going to ask for some assistance. So the officials all approve of our tradition of self-support, and they all confess this may be a big reason why NA is so successful and growing every day. They suggest that we should keep up like this!

I once read an interview with an official from the United Nations in Iran. The reporter asked him if they give any financial

Continued on pg. 17



"Our primary purpose is at the heart of our service. With guidance from a loving Higher Power and a clear focus on this purpose, NA groups become a channel for the healing power of recovery. Narcotics Anonymous exists to help addicts find freedom from active addiction."

It Works: How and Why, pg. 159

How it works

My name is Kiran. I am from Nepal. With only eight months clean, I had to move to Qatar (on the Persian Gulf) for a job. It was very hard, as I was told that it was too early in my recovery to make such a move. I had to make that move due to some family reasons.

I was serving as treasurer in my home group in Damak. My fellowship there gave me lots of courage and support before my departure. One member gave me a copy of *The NA Way Magazine* and told me to contact the NA World Services staff to sign up for a subscription. I was told that the magazine would help me if I could not find any meetings in the Gulf. I can still remember the hugs we gave each other before I left.

When I reached Qatar, I felt very lonely, especially since with the language barrier there was no one for me to communicate with. So many obsessions came, but one sentence from the program hit me: "No matter what happens, you must not use."

I finally decided to email *The NA Way Magazine*. I did not even hope to get a quick response, but someone wonderful from the WSO quickly responded to me and spread the word about my isolation in the Gulf.

Soon, an NA member from a nearby country contacted me and managed to give me his phone number, as well as the numbers of some NA members in Qatar. The WSO has already entered my address in the database to receive a subscription to the magazine, and I am hoping to receive it soon.

The whole thing happened so quickly that it was amazing to have all this without putting in much effort—except having the desire not to use. I am planning to write more after getting connected with the fellowship from here. Thanks to NA, the WSO, my wonderful fellowship, and my Higher Power.

Kiran K, Doha, Qatar

A message carried

Recently I went to Havana, Cuba. A week after I arrived, I sought out and encountered a group of addicts who were very dedicated to their recovery, especially the service aspect.

At my first meeting, I was a bit nervous about giving away the two Basic Texts and my *Just for Today* and *It Works: How and Why*, which I intended to donate, because I had seen funds and materials disappear in NA before. I soon abandoned my fear and gave the books to the meeting coordinator that evening. He then gave them to the person in charge of literature for the group and pleasantly surprised me by showing me how developed they were in their service structure. Upon my arrival in Cuba, I was not even sure that NA existed there!

I arrived at those meetings with five years clean and a firm foundation of service to the fellowship, which I shared with the group when they invited me into their service body as a trusted servant. Instead of me giving a lesson about service, which is what my preconception was, we engaged in a mutual exchange of ideas.

They taught me a lot about how to help newcomers and make the newcomer feel welcome at his or her first NA meeting. Here in Havana, when newcomers arrive at their first meeting, the leader dedicates the meetings to them. The leader then asks that the sharing be directed toward these members about how the program works and letting them know that they are the most important people at the meetings.

I was also informed that the founding members of NA in Cuba had made an attempt to carry the message all the way to Santiago de Cuba. That was a huge goal, considering that it is an eleven-hour train ride from Havana to Santiago. It is also surprising because the round trip ticket cost 72 Cuban pesos (\$3 US), and it is common for a Cuban's monthly salary to be about 125 Cuban pesos (\$5 US).

It is my extreme pleasure to report that, despite these economic hardships,

there is a group of addicts in Cuba that is passionately dedicated to carrying the message of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous.

Anonymous

Opening Paths

We have traveled many roads during our drug addiction, but that is not important anymore. The road we have ahead of us is to stay clean and improve our lives. When I received the NA message, I was in a twelve-step-oriented hospital, and it did not matter to me that the literature they were using was from another fellowship. I only wanted to get out of the hell of drug addiction.

When those NA members carried the message to me, something came alive inside of me, which made me understand that I was experiencing the magic of identification through a Higher Power. These members planted the NA seed, and today I am the fruit that grew from the seed. I am grateful to these members from the H&I subcommittee, because they gave a message of faith, hope, and strength more than thirteen years ago.

Today I thank God for giving me the opportunity to be part of that subcommittee, and although I was never in prison, I was a prisoner of my addiction. You do not have to be incarcerated in an institution to carry the NA message. It is better to let a Higher Power guide us in our path. Our Higher Power knows where He will place each one of us so we can continue carrying the message to the addict who still suffers.

I am part of the H&I subcommittee of the Metro Area in our Puerto Rican Region, Region del Coqui PR. Presently I am of service as panel chairperson in the Las Malvinas Prison in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. I have made this service part of my life because I am grateful. I cannot do it alone, and when I visit the prison on Saturdays with other NA members, I awaken a flame of hope inside of me, a flame that first came alive when I initially received the NA message.

There are no coincidences in my life today; everything has to do with a Higher

Power greater than me. I have been of service at this institution for more than a year, and for the first time in the history of NA in our Region del Coquí, we founded our first NA institutional group in June 2004. God opened another path inside a prison.

Opening Paths is the name that was chosen by the inmates' group conscience of the Azul section. What else can we ask from God as we understand Him? Today we continue carrying the message of faith, hope, and strength. They have their own group now. My fellow NA members, this is one of the biggest gifts that I have received from God and NA. I can continue thanking Him for receiving the message during a moment of desperation, when I was in that psychiatric hospital.

My life goes on, but today I try to let God choose my path. The steps have changed my life, and the traditions have taught me to live in unity with you, Narcotics Anonymous. Today, service is part of my life, and for that reason I am grateful—just for today.

Luis B, Carolina, Puerto Rico

It's Faster at www.na.org...It's Better at www.na.org...Register Online at www.na.org

Mail/Fax Convention Registration Form from 1 December 2004 through 29 July 2005.

After 29 July 2005 You Must Register Onsite!

First Name _____ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Last Name _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Address _____

City _____

Province/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Email Address _____

Telephone _____

PART 1

All merchandise listed in Part 1 may be purchased until 31 May 2005, after which, NO refunds, cancellations, or exchanges can be made.

QUANTITY PRICE TOTAL

*Pre-Registration _____ @ \$65 = _____

Special Coffee Mug _____ @ \$10 = _____

Commemorative T-Shirt _____ @ \$18 = _____

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____

Men's Embroidered Silk Hawaiian Shirt _____ @ \$79 = _____

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

Women's Emb. Silk Hawaiian Shirt _____ @ \$79 = _____

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

WCNA Beach Kit _____ @ \$39 = _____

Includes: Commemorative Beach Bag & Large Plush Beach Towel, Flip-Flops, and After Tanning Body Lotion

Total Part 1 \$ _____

PART 2

Late Registration (1 June thru 29 July 2005)

*Late Registration _____ @ \$70 = _____

Total Part 2 \$ _____

*Includes admission to Kick-Off Hawaiian Festival to be held Thursday in the late afternoon prior to the Opening Meeting.

Absolutely no cancellations, exchanges, or refunds after 29 July 2005 for registration or events.

Convention starts at 12:00 PM on Thursday, 1 September and ends at 2:00 PM on Sunday, 4 September 2005, with the exception of the Sunday Evening Mahalo Cruise.

Make checks/money orders payable to WCNA-31 and mail to: WCNA-31, c/o NAW's, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

Fax credit card registration to 818.700.0700. For more information call 818.773.9999 ext. 200.

City _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

PART 3

Event tickets may be purchased until 29 July 2005 or while supplies last. Purchase includes round-trip shuttle transportation if needed.

QUANTITY PRICE TOTAL

Thursday Hawaiian Luan & Dinner _____ @ \$55 = _____

Held on a private beach after the Main Meeting

Friday Jazz/Blues Luncheon _____ @ \$35 = _____

Friday Comedy Show _____ @ \$30 = _____

Saturday Unity Banquet _____ @ \$45 = _____

Saturday Concert _____ @ \$65 = _____

Sunday Evening Mahalo Cruise _____ @ \$65 = _____

Includes dinner and meeting from 8-11 PM

Newcomer Donation = _____

Total Part 3 \$ _____

PART 4

Amount and Method of Payment

ADD Part 1 or 2 \$ _____ + Part 3 \$ _____

= GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Method of Payment: Check/Money Order (US Dollars)

AMEX VISA MC Discover Diners Club

Credit Card # _____ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Cardholder Name _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

WCNA-31

me na pilialoha

register online at www.na.org

**ONE
FELLOWSHIP
MANY
FRIENDS**

**1-4 SEPTEMBER 2005
HONOLULU, HAWAII**

Hotel Reservation Form – Mail/Fax

Convention rates may not be available after 29 July 2005. Online reservations generate immediate confirmation. Mail/fax reservations receive confirmation within 15–30 days.

PART 1

First, Last Name _____ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
 Province/State/Country _____
 Telephone _____
 Fax _____
 Email Address _____
 Additional Guests _____

PART 2 – Rooms are assigned when form is received. If 1st choice is not available, next available choice will be assigned.

IF MORE THAN ONE ROOM IS REQUIRED, PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM.

Hotel Choices: 1st _____
 2nd _____ 3rd _____
 Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Special Request: Smoking Room ADA Equipped
Room Type: Economy Standard Garden Ocean
Bed Type: (Single) 1 Bed / 1 or 2 Persons
 (Double) 2 Beds / 2 Persons (Triple) 2 Beds / 3 Persons
 (Quad) 2 Beds / 4 Persons 1 Bedroom Suite
 If my bed type is sold out, please place me in a single-bedded room to keep me in one of my choice hotels.

PART 3 – \$200.00 deposit in US dollars is required for each room. Deposits are forfeited on cancellations after 29 July 2005. My signature below confirms that I read and understand this policy.

Signature Required _____
Method of Payment: Check/Money Order (US Dollars)
 AMEX VISA MC Discover
 Credit Card # _____
 Cardholder Name _____ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
 Signature _____
 Exp. Date _____ Billing Zip Code _____
 Make checks/money orders payable to and mail to:

WCNA/Conference Direct
 17206 Lancaster Highway, Suite 508, Charlotte, NC 28277
Fax reservation line: (803) 753-9079
 NA World Services, Inc. is not affiliated with any hotel or travel agency listed. We simply enter into contractual agreements in order to provide members with discount pricing.

It's Faster at www.na.org... It's Better at www.na.org... Register Online at www.na.org

WCNA-31 WILL BE HELD AT THE HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER AND THE HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE RESORT.

HOTEL: All rates are in US dollars and include a small rebate to pay for facility and shuttle costs. Wheelchair access shuttles also available.

1. Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort & Spa

Headquarters hotel located directly on the beach, 8 blocks to the Convention Ctr. 3 pools, many shopping and food outlets. ALL ROOMS ARE NONSMOKING BUT YOU MAY REQUEST A ROOM WITH A BALCONY ON WHICH YOU CAN SMOKE.

Room Type	Single/Double	Triple	Quad
Garden View	168	198	228
Ocean View	189	219	249
1 Bdrm Suite w/ sleeper	336	366	396

2. Ala Moana

Across from the Convention Ctr and adjacent to large shopping center and food court.

Room Type	Single/Double	Triple	Quad
Kona Tower (Economy)	104	134	N/A
Waikiki Tower (Standard)	124	154	N/A

3. Doubletree Alana Waikiki

Comfortable, affordable hotel just 3 blocks from both the Convention Ctr and the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Standard	120	150	150
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4. Holiday Inn Waikiki

Budget rooms with pool 6 blocks to Convention Ctr. and Hilton. Standard

Standard	99	109	109
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5. Westin Hawaii Prince

Deluxe rooms on Marina next to the beach with pool and spa. Only 5 blocks to Convention Ctr.

Ocean View	154	154	N/A
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6. Marriott Renaissance Ilikai

Oceanfront next to the Hilton and 6 blocks to Convention Ctr.

Standard	150	180	180
City View with Kitchen	170	190	190
Ocean View with Kitchen	180	210	210
Deluxe Ocean View	180	210	210



TRAVEL

INFORMATION

are available on all major airlines through **Classic Custom Vacations.**

NEW! PAYMENT PLANS NOW AVAILABLE FOR AIRLINE TICKETS!

Make your reservation with just \$100 deposit and pay the balance 45 days prior to travel.

Payment plans only apply on tickets for travel within the USA. Special terms and conditions may apply to payment plans.

Want to see the islands of Kauai, Maui, or the Big Island of Hawaii before or after the convention?

Three nights in a two or three bedroom condo on Maui with a rental car start at \$262 per night plus airfare!

Two nights in a resort hotel with rental car (based on double occupancy excluding airfare):

❖ Kauai starting at \$289 per person ❖ Maui starting at \$314 per person ❖ Big Island starting at \$315 per person!

❖ **Call Classic Custom Vacations for information and reservations at 800.711.2491**

Monday – Friday, 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM Pacific Time & Saturday 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM Pacific Time



Are you a “taker”?

I have very good news! We in Latvia* asked the European Delegates Meeting to help pay for our delegates to go to the next European conference, and the EDM approved our request. In February 2005, our delegates will go to Spain to share their experience. We are all so happy about it.

I am very happy that we are growing and have contacts with the WSO and EDM. It means that we are not just a little group of people, but a piece of the huge Fellowship of NA.

I was one of the first people to find recovery when NA was formed in Latvia. We are about five years old, and I remember everything about how it got started. I remember how many doubts we had, but now I can really see that it is working! Everything is working—our traditions, steps, and sponsorship—including everything else that we took so lightly in the first place. It works!

The only problem that we have now is that not a lot of people want to be in service to others and take responsibilities. I came to an understanding about two years ago that this is what I need to do in order to stay clean. Before, I was just a taker, so becoming a giver probably happens after some time in the program. I will celebrate seven years soon, and it is not like I am waiting for it to happen. It seems ironic that I have been clean now for seven years, and that I used for seven years. This is very new to me, and it feels like I am looking at life differently now—like inside out. I feel sad and happy for myself, all at the same time, because I know that there is no way I want to go back. Never.

Over all we have three functional NA groups in the city of Riga. That makes a total of five groups all over Latvia, at least those groups where the traditions and principles are practiced. The rest are in rehabilitation centers and are only for those in the rehab, so I am not sure we can consider them NA meetings.

Some of us are in the middle of getting ready to go to the Lithuanian convention and workshop. We have a great relationship with the Lithuanian NA community, and we are going to celebrate seven years of NA in Lithuania. The event will take place in September in the city of Palanga, which is on the Baltic Sea and is beautiful.

Thanks again for all of your help.

*With love and respect,
Olga B, Riga, Latvia*

(*Latvia is a country in northeastern Europe and is one of the Baltic States.)

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, page 1

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



Here is an innovative solution to storing literature for a home group. The Welcome Home Group, which meets Thursday nights in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, had lots of literature and supplies with limited storage space at the church where they meet. So some handy group members got together and built this literature display box.



What innovative solutions has your home group come up with to store supplies and literature? Send us your pictures.



What is it about medication...?

At the heart of the evolution of Narcotics Anonymous is the belief that we are guided by a loving God made manifest in our group conscience. Because individual members fall short, we utilize this revered process when important decisions affecting the fellowship as a whole need to be made.

In order to change and grow, it is necessary, individually and collectively, to reevaluate our old ideas and behaviors so that we can either replace them or expand on our existing beliefs. The revision of existing publications and the creation of new NA-approved literature is a reflection of the growth of our fellowship on a global scale.

Fortunately, most of us choose to accept the collective wisdom of the fellowship; however, when members who find themselves in the minority refuse to relinquish opposing points of view, our unity is compromised and members suffer. In over sixteen years of recovery, I have seen this type of dissension result in varying degrees of harm, ranging from mere annoyance to outright catastrophe. Of particular concern is the medication issue.

Since 1992, Narcotics Anonymous' position regarding the use of medication has been clearly stated in our NA-approved pamphlet, *In Times of Illness*: "Narcotics Anonymous as a whole has no opinion on outside issues, including health issues. The ultimate responsibility for making medical decisions rests with each individual."

Enter the NA purists.

Does this sound like a familiar scenario? An NA purist raises his or her hand and starts telling everyone that if they are taking medication, they are not really clean because our Basic Text states that this is a program of complete abstinence. Please correct me if I am wrong, but I believe the pamphlet *In Times of Illness* came into being through the same process of group conscience as did our Basic Text. I can only speculate that the group conscience of the World Board of Narcotics Anonymous regarding this issue did not swing their—i.e., the purists'—way. What I can say with confidence is that, whenever a small group of individuals take the stance that they are right and the whole world is wrong, something is amiss.

In my area, there have been dire consequences following the NA purists' misrepresentation of Narcotics Anonymous. I know firsthand of psychiatric admissions that have resulted from this type of sharing, and worse. One NA member who moved here from Florida reported knowing of an actual suicide that occurred because a newcomer discontinued his antidepressant medication after hearing a purist share that he was not clean.

Another suggestion of the purists in my area is for all those on psychiatric medications to form a twelve-step program for the dually diagnosed. This is a slap in the face to members who, after recovering in the Narcotics Anonymous program for many years, have found it necessary to take medication in order to maintain their mental health.

When confronted, some purists simply shrug and say they are not responsible for the feelings of the injured party. What a perfect way to continue running on self-will. If we all jumped on that bandwagon, we could eliminate all the steps after Step Seven because we would never need to become willing to make amends in Step Eight!

As the medication controversy rages on, I wonder how many more will suffer. My first tendency is to enter the fray in heated debate, but once again I turn to the literature of Narcotics Anonymous for the answer. The Basic Text's essay on the Second Tradition states, "The self-seekers soon find that they are on the outside, causing dissension and eventually disaster for themselves."

In my area, those who have withdrawn from the evolution of the NA Fellowship have formed a home group of their own. It is no small irony that they have adopted the same name as another group of dissenters who refused to surrender.

Bruce W, Pennsylvania, USA

What should be shared?

What should be shared in meetings is a subject regularly debated in my area. I would like to put in writing my view and experience and ask the opinions of other addicts around the world.

The sharing of problems and anxieties about housing, money, relationships, etc., can be beneficial. Someone may hear and have enough experience to offer some helpful suggestions and/or solutions. What I do not understand is the need to share about these subjects in a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. Surely a meeting in which this type of sharing is done would be called a "self-help" group, which NA is not.

A Narcotics Anonymous meeting is a group of addicts who come together to help each other recover from their addiction to drugs. The way we have found that works for us is through the Twelve Steps, which, when worked, bring us closer to God and help us recover.

This is the message the newcomer needs to hear—how we recover, our experience of how we did it, how we work the steps, and how we get in touch with a Higher Power. The message is not about listening to endless moaning and complaints about life, about how our relationships are working out or not,

about how hard it is to make a living, or about how the boiler is not working. None of these things will cause us to relapse if we are working the steps and have faith in God.

The newcomer needs to hear how the obsession to use drugs can be lifted and how he or she can recover.

Would any of us walk up to a stranger in the street and start telling them all about our problems? Why is it expected that this is all right to do in an NA meeting?

So often I hear the same people sharing the next installment of their lives in a meeting. I have also shared this way in a meeting because I thought that was the way to share. I have sat there, not really listening to anyone else's troubles because I have been too wrapped up in my own, planning in my head how I can identify with the main "share" and smoothly link it to what is going on with me. For a while the pain is lifted, but the situations are still the same. The problems are still there. In the end, nothing is gained by stealing sharing time just so I can bore my fellow addicts.

Many times I have shared painful things in a meeting, only to have someone say to me after the meeting, "So how's things?" They were not even listening to me, too busy in their own head—but then, I did not listen to them either! I became so involved with my own problems that I felt I had nothing to give, so I gave nothing except my self-pity.

It was a downward spiral.

I kept what I had by giving it away. It was only then when a few good friends of mine pointed out that the steps and God may just help me with my self-centeredness. I was without hope, and I am convinced that, without their help, my future would have seen me using or taking my own life. On the outside, I had everything to be happy about; on the inside, I was dying.

What I shared and heard (when I bothered to listen) in meetings was not helping me. Thank God for the friends who cared enough and were honest enough to tell me that it was not my difficulties that were hurting me—it was my lack of a program.

I changed my sponsor to someone who actively encouraged working the steps, and I worked them, regaining my

faith in a Higher Power, as well as my passion for life.

On the outside, nothing has changed—not my partner, my job, where I live—but on the inside, I am at peace most of the time. No longer is there the need to bitch, gossip, or put others down. Whenever I find myself doing those things, I look at what part of the program I am not working. I usually find that seeking out a newcomer and making them feel welcome helps me.

This is what I share in meetings: how I am recovering. And guess what? I keep what I have by giving it away. Where before I dreaded talking to newcomers because I felt I had nothing to say, it has now become easier. I *do* have something worth saying, and I can now listen, too.

Some addicts share in meetings that *only* the program, God, the steps, and sponsorship should be shared. I think perhaps this is equally damaging to our fellowship. How can anyone dictate what others are allowed to share in a meeting? Tradition Three clearly states, "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using." It does not say we *have* to share in a certain way. We can only guide through our own experience.

Recently someone gave me tapes of various conventions, including the world convention and smaller UK ones. I was both amazed and disappointed by what I heard. Some of the speakers did not even mention a Higher Power, never mind the steps, service commitments, sponsorship, or helping others—although there was plenty mentioned about relationships, pets dying, and a message of "don't use no matter what." But they did not tell me how they stayed clean.

If it was possible for me to just "not use no matter what," there would be no need for me to work the steps and to have faith—but that was not possible. Without either the program or drugs, I would crack up. "No matter what" is not enough for me!

Do not keep it a secret. Please do not be scared to share the message. It is really so simple: Work the steps, find a Higher Power of your choice, and help others. Tell everyone how you got clean and how you stay clean through everything life throws at you.

I also became concerned when people shared about other addictions like food, gambling, and sex. There are other fellowships for these addictions. If there is no meeting of such a fellowship nearby, it is easy to start one, but please do not bring these outside issues into a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. Not all addicts suffer with other addictions, and it can be very confusing to newcomers. Sharing about these other addictions is usually justified by the speaker saying, "NA is about all addictions." If they really believe this, then why not count their clean time from the last time they acted out on their other addictions?

The message is being watered down, people are relapsing, and many may die. They do not need to.

Do not drive addicts out of the doors of Narcotics Anonymous by sharing about your childhood traumas, partner troubles, or the dog dying.

Our Basic Text was created in the hope "that through the development of a conscious contact with God, no addict seeking recovery need die without a chance to find a better way of life." (*Narcotics Anonymous*, pg. xiii)

The way to develop a conscious contact with God is through working the Twelve Steps. This, I believe, is the message that was given to us, and the one that newcomers need to hear.

Sally H, Dorset, England

aid to NGOs that are active in the drug or addiction field in Iran. He answered, "Yes, we give money to all, except two NGOs. One is NA, which does not accept any outside contributions, and the other ones are NGOs that have not contacted us yet!"

Even though several offers of financial support have been made to NA by our government, these offers all have been turned down with humility. Actually, we were informed by the officials that NA is the only NGO that does not accept financial support in Iran. The officials are quite astonished by that fact.

Anyway, our PI activities have worked so well that a couple of days ago we were informed by our government that NA has been chosen as the most successful NGO in Iran, and they want to present NA with a trophy (no financial value). But as they will make television reports of this ceremony, we explained our Eleventh Tradition and told them that we cannot send any of our members to take the trophy. They can announce that NA has won and that they will send us the trophy after the ceremony.

And last, but not least, the officials confirmed to us that their long-term policy is to let NA grow in Iran. They informed us that, due to the social and political situation, we may sometimes face problems, but we should not be disappointed, and we should let time solve those problems. We should also maintain our contact with the officials with whom we have spoken.

All of the above has created an environment that allowed us to hold a national convention here in Iran, and we received full cooperation and moral support from our government and our officials. Even our vice president sent us a greeting message, which was read by one of our members before the opening of the convention.

We received full recognition by our officials, as some of them attended our open meeting, and since then two national newspapers have written full-page articles about NA and our convention. The most prominent newspaper called it the "best gathering ever to happen in Iran."

The attendance of over 12,000 recovering addicts at this gathering has caused our community and officials to recognize

us as a reality. Recently we were invited to send our PI panel to a lot of different places as a part of the seminars our government holds on the drug issue. In three days, we are supposed to attend a seminar held by the Iranian Police Force on drug issues.

In Iran, the most active organization in the field of drugs and addiction is the Drug Prevention Committee. The first NGO they have invited to send PI panels to different gatherings is Narcotics Anonymous.

*Respectfully submitted,
Siamak K, Tehran, Iran*



Translation of the certificate plate on the trophy that was presented to NA:

Appreciation Plate

Exaltation of public health in our society through prevention, cure, and reducing of social damages caused by use of drugs is indebted to endless efforts of NGOs which their honest fervor and intelligence is admirable.

Narcotics Anonymous of Iran

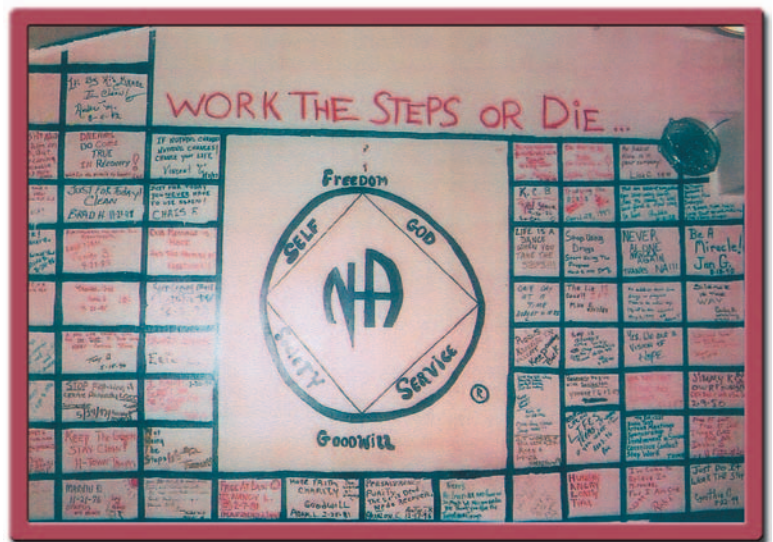
This Appreciation Plate is presented to your society in order to admire and appreciate your efforts as an active NGO in the field of addiction. We wish your NGO an ever-increasing success.

*Ali Hashemi, vice president
and head of the
Drug Prevention Organization
of the Islamic Republic of Iran*

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.).

Debbie B, Secretary for the New Freedom Group, writes: "If you are looking for the best—the very best—home group in the world, look no further! We are the New Freedom Group and the New Beginnings Group of Texarkana Area, Arkansas Region. The pictures are of our meeting room and our recovery wall. Our wall is full of NA sayings and upbeat notes from our members and visiting out-of-town members. Though we have two separate groups, we are very much a family, and we meet in one place. Between our two groups we have ten meetings a week—five open discussion, a Basic Text book study, an It Works: How and Why book study, a Just for Today topic, and two candlelight meetings.



Our groups formed about twenty years ago, and our area will have its annual convention (TACNA XXI) in February 2005. We have been in our present location for about ten years. Our meetings are growing each day. Some nights it is standing room only! We have some great members who have as many years clean as we are old. Most importantly, we have some awesome recovery here in Texarkana. Please stop by and come see us."

Debbie B, Texas, USA



CALENDAR

We encourage you to publicize your event by having it published on our website and in *The NA Way Magazine*. You can inform the WSO about your event by fax, phone, or regular post, or through our website. We encourage using the website because you can check to see if we already have a listing on your convention, and, if not, you can enter your own convention information. It is then reviewed, formatted, and added to the online convention calendar on our website in approximately four days. Just go to www.na.org, click on "NA Events," and follow the instructions.

Convention announcements entered through the website and those received by other means are also given to *The NA Way*. *The NA Way* is published four times a year in January, April, July, and October. Each issue goes into production long before its distribution date, so we need a minimum of three months' notice to ensure your event will be published in the magazine—that's three months before our publication date. For instance, if you want your event published in the October issue, we need to know by 1 July.

Australia

New South Wales: 25-27 Feb; Spiritual Retreat; Collaroy Centre, Sydney; email: timb8@hotmail.com

Bermuda

Southampton: 8-10 Apr; Serenity in Paradise Convention V; Wyndham Bermuda Resort & Spa Southampton Beach, Bermuda; hotel rsvns: 800.WYNDHAM; event info: 441.295.5300, 441.293.0999; speaker tape submission deadline: 8 Jan 2005; write: Bermuda Islands Area, Box DV690, Devonshire, Bermuda DVBX

Canada

Ontario: 4-6 Mar; Toronto Area Convention IV; Wyndham Bristol Place Hotel, Toronto; hotel rsvns: 800.996.3426; speaker tape submission deadline: 31 Jan 2005; write: Toronto Area, Box #5700, Depot A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1N8; www.torontona.org/events.htm

2) 29 Mar-1 Apr; ORCNA XVIII; Crown Plaza Hotel, Ottawa; hotel rsvns: 800.227.6963; write: Ottawa Area, Box 5939, Depot A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P3; www.orscna.org/orcna/index.htm

Quebec: 4-6 Mar; Youth Convention IX; Day's Inn Hotel, Montreal; speaker tape info: 514.313.9788; speaker tape submission deadline: 31 Dec 2004

India

Maharashtra: 24-26 Feb; BACNA XII; Goa, India, Mumbai; write: BACNA, Box No 1953, GPO Mumbai, Maharashtra, India 400 001; www.nabombay.org

Italy

Rimini: 29 Mar-1 Apr; Italian Convention XXII; Hotel Continental, Rimini; Fax: +39.0541.393743; email: stefania.silvano@libero.it; www.na-italia.it

Mexico

Baja California: 4-6 Mar; Convención Area Baja-Cachanilla; Hotel Colonial, Mexicali; hotel rsvns: Mex: +01.800.026.58.88; USA: 800.437.2438; event info: 686.567.9516, 760.641.6782; speaker tape submission deadline: 5 Jan 2005; write: Area Baja-Cachanilla de region Baja Son, 120-A Rockwood Ave, PMB 44-758, Calexico, CA 92231-2748

Peru

Lima: 20-22 May; XI Convención Regional Peruana XI; Lima; More info to follow

Philippines

Cebu: 11-13 Mar; PNARC X; Tambuli Beach Resort, Cebu; hotel rsvns: +63.918.9379851; event registration: +63.918.9379851; event info: +63.917.9477345; speaker tape info: +63.918.9379851; speaker tape submission deadline: 28 Feb 2005; www.napilipinas.org

United States

Alabama: 14-16 Jan; Free at Last VIII; Guest House Inn Hotel & Suites, Montgomery; hotel rsvns: 334.264.2231; event registration: 334.613.3985; speaker tape info: 334.868.0426; event info: 334.538.0774; write: Central Alabama Area, Box 230572, Montgomery, AL 36123-0572

2) 4-6 Feb; Out of the Darkness, Into the Light IX; Holiday Inn, Decatur; hotel rsvns: 256.355.3150; event info: 256.383.3512, 256.381.8041; write: North Alabama Area, Box 2404, Florence, AL 35630

3) 18-20 Mar; Greater Mobile Area Convention; Mobile Marriott, Mobile; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 251.391.1898, 251.648.1689, 251.438.2438; speaker tape info: 251.895.4278; write: GMACNA VIII, Box 6561, Mobile, AL 36606

California: 14-16 Jan; Monterey Bay Convention; Monterey Convention Center/Portola Plaza Hotel, Monterey; hotel rsvns: 831.649.4511, 888.222.5851; event info: 831.384.8670, 831.359.0115; event registration: 831.601.8751; write: Monterey and Santa Cruz ASC, MBCNA, Box 932, Marina, CA 93933; www.mbcna.org

2) 14-16 Jan; San Fernando Valley Area Convention X; Burbank Hilton Hotel, Burbank; hotel rsvns: 818.843.6000; speaker tape info: 818.838.6202; write: San Fernando Valley Area, Box 1806, Burbank, CA 91501; www.nasfv.com

3) 18-20 Feb; Central Coast Regional Convention XIII; Ventura Beach Marriott, Ventura; hotel rsvns: 800.228.9290; event info: 805.934.7998; write: Central Coast Region, Box 2170, Santa Maria, CA 93457-2170; www.ccrna.org

4) 25-27 Mar; Spring Gathering XIV; Sheraton Gateway LAX Hotel, Los Angeles; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 714.235.2775, 562.856.7087

Connecticut: 7-9 Jan; Connecticut Regional Convention XX; Stamford Marriott Hotel, Stamford; hotel rsvns: 203.357.9555; event info: 203.865.6232

Florida: 20-23 Jan; Sixteenth Annual Spiritual Retreat 2005; Gold Coast Christian Camp, Palm Beach County; hotel rsvns: 561.373.7673, 561.373.7673, 561.649.1877; write: Palm Coast Area, Palm Coast Spiritual Retreat, Box 20984, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-0984; www.palmcoastna.org

2) 17-20 Mar; North Dade Area Convention of NA; Miami; hotel rsvns: 305.446.9000, ext 3102; speaker tape info: 786.295.9711; event registration: 786.229.3367; event info: 954.443.8225; write: NDACNA, Box 42-0217, Miami, FL 33242-0217

Georgia: 7-9 Jan; Peace in Recovery XVII; Sheraton Augusta Hotel, Augusta; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event registration: 706.364.6173; speaker tape info: 706.364.2934; event info: 706.364.3464; write: Central Savannah River Area, Box 2484, Augusta, GA 30904

2) 3-6 Feb; GRCNA XXIV; A New Day, A New Experience; Wyndham Columbus Hotel, Columbus; hotel rsvns: 706.324.1800; event info: 706.325.5230, 404.452.1731, 229.244.0274; www.grcna.org

3) 4-6 Mar; Spirituality Is the Key VI, The Therapeutic Value of One Helping Another; Renaissance Pine Isle Resort & Golf Club, Lake Lanier Islands; hotel rsvns: 800.468.3571; event info: 706.543.5393, 770.297.8362; speaker tape submission deadline: 31 Dec 2004; write: NEGANA, Box 907911, Gainesville, GA 30503

Hawaii: 22-24 Apr; 21st Annual Oahu Gathering of NA; Boy Scout Camp, Mokuleia, North Shore; event info: 808.486.2441; speaker tape submission deadline: 31 Jan 2005; write: Oahu Area Gathering, Box 2337, Honolulu, HI 96822-2337; http://www.na-hawaii.org/Main_Pages/HI_Gatherings

2) 1-4 Sep; WCNA-31; 31st World Convention of NA; Honolulu; write: NA World Services, 19737 Nordhoff Pl, Chatsworth, CA 91311; <http://www.na.org/nawsevents/event-reg.htm>

Idaho: 8-10 Apr; Southern Idaho Region Convention XVI; Sun Valley Lodge, Sun Valley; hotel rsvns: 800.786.8259; event info: 208.732.5706, 208.735.2243, 208.731.9244; write: MVANA, Box 261, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0261; www.sirna.org

Illinois: 6-9 Jan; Chicagoland Regional Convention XVII; Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago; hotel rsvns: 312.565.1234; event registration: 708.754.4573; speaker tape info: 773.386.1188; event info: 773.263.6246; write: CRC XVII, Box 5319, River Forest, IL 60305-5319; www.chicagona.org

Indiana: 11-13 Mar; Indiana State Convention XII; Freedom to Surrender; Holiday Inn Convention Center, Columbus; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event info: 317.884.0984; speaker tape info: 317.884.0667; www.isnac.com

Kentucky: 25-27 Mar; Kentuckiana Regional Convention; Executive West Hotel, Louisville; hotel rsvns: 1-800-626-2708; event info: 502.290.1164, 502.449.4280, 502.339.2956; www.louisvilleareana.org

Louisiana: 27-29 May; LRCNA XXIII; Recovery: The Path to Freedom; New Orleans Hilton Riverside, New Orleans; hotel rsvns: 800.445.8667; event registration: 504.220.8585; speaker tape info: 504.621.8887; write: Louisiana Region, Box 8451, Metairie, LA 70011-8451

Maryland: 15-17 Apr; Dreams Do Come True; Ocean City Convention Center, Ocean City; hotel rsvns: 301.839.4425; event registration: 301.839.4425; event info: 301.839.4425; speaker tape info: 301.839.4425; write: CPRCNA, Box 29, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0029; www.cprcna19@cprcna.org

Massachusetts: 7-9 Jan; BACNA X; The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers, Boston; hotel rsvns: 800.225.2008; event registration: 617.778.3949; event info: 508.653.2342; write: Boston Area, 398 Columbus Ave, Ste 278, Boston, MA 02116; www.newenglandna.org

2) 4-6 Mar; NERC XI, In the Solution; Sea Crest Resort & Convention Center, North Falmouth; hotel rsvns: 800.225.3110; write: New England Region, Box 2033, Center Abington, MA 02351; www.newenglandna.org

Michigan: 28-30 Jan; South Western Michigan Area Convention; Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo; hotel rsvns: 269.343.3333; event registration: 269.353.7773; speaker tape info: 269.808.2176; write: South Western Michigan Area, Box 50746, Kalamazoo, MI 49005; email: KalamazooArea@Michigan-NA.org

Minnesota: 1-3 Apr; MNAC XII; Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis; hotel rsvns: 800.233.1234; write: Minnesota Region, MNRSC, c/o UMSSO, Sabathani Center, Ste 115, 310 38th St, Minneapolis, MN 55409; <http://www.naminnesota.org/mnnac/mnnac.htm>

Missouri: 4-6 Feb; Cabin Fever Prevention Convention; Lodge of the Four Seasons Resort, Lake Ozark; hotel rsvns: 888.265.5500; event info: 573.449.2044; event registration: 573.582.1386; write: Cabin Fever Prevention Convention, Box 413, Columbia, MO 65203; www.midmissourina.org

Nevada: 24-27 Mar; SNACNA XIV; event info: 702.581.7167; write: Southern Nevada Area, Box 46376, Las Vegas, NV 89114-6376

New Jersey: 18-20 Feb; Ain't No Stopping Us Now; Newark Airport Sheraton Hotel, Newark; hotel rsvns: 973.690.5500; event info: 973.497.1598

2) 25-27 Feb; Cape Atlantic Area Convention; Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood; event registration: 609.487.7057; event info: 609.335.1548; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Jan 2005; www.pearlofrecovery.com

3) 1-3 Apr; Capital Area Convention Road to Recovery IX; Recovery Is a Gift; Ramada Inn of East Windsor, Hightstown; hotel rsvns: 609.448.7000; event info: 609.394.7237, 609.585.9713, 215.369.9224; speaker tape submission deadline: 18 Feb 2005; write: Capital Area Convention, Box 2464, Trenton, NJ 08607

New Mexico: 18-20 Mar; Rio Grande Regional Convention XVI; Opening the Door to Recovery; Santa Fe Courtyard by Marriott, Santa Fe; hotel rsvns: 800.777.3347; event info: 505.438.9206; speaker tape info: 505.670.9961; event registration: 505.310.1760; write: Rio Grande Region, Box 4848, Santa Fe, NM 87505; www.riograndena.org

New York: 28-30 Jan; Nassau Area Convention II; Hilton Huntington, Melville; hotel rsvns: 800.HILTONS; speaker tape info: 516.369.0062; event registration: 516.322.1061; write: Nassau Area Convention Committee, Box 531, Hicksville, NY 11801-0531

2) 5-7 Feb; In the Spirit of Love Convention; Holiday Inn, Waterloo; event info: 315.879.4088; write: Finger Lakes Area, 64 Seneca St, Geneva, NY 14516

3) 18-21 Feb; Circle of Sisters VIII; The Wind Beneath Our Wings; Marriot Hotel, Brooklyn; hotel rsvns: 888.436.3759; event registration: 917.990.4477; speaker tape info: 718.882.8217; event info: 718.251.7042

North Carolina: 31 Dec 2004-2 Jan 2005; Spiritually High in the Land of the Sky Convention XX; Holiday Inn Sun Spree, Asheville; hotel rsvns: 828.254.3211; speaker tape info: 828.686.0785; write: Western North Carolina Area, 620 Old Lytle Cove Rd, Swannanoa, NC 28778; email: ericfive@aol.com

2) 25-27 Feb; Freedom by the Sea IV; Sea Trail Resort & Conference Center, Sunset Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.624.6601; event info: 910.815.3147, 910.791.3474, 910.254.0988; write: Freedom by the Sea Convention, Box 561, Wilmington, NC 28402

3) 22-24 Apr; Bound for Freedom XX; Hilton Charlotte & Towers/Convention Center, Charlotte; hotel rsvns: 800.445.8667; event info: 704.891.0896, 704.449.3791, 704.536.1543; write: Greater Charlotte Area, Box 3306, Charlotte, NC 28233; www.charlotte-na.org

Ohio: 11-13 Feb; TACNA VIII; Through the Steps Our Message Is Hope & the Promise of Freedom; Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event info: 419.537.0073, 419.243.4081; write: Best Little Area Service Committee, Box 20018, Toledo, OH 43610

2) 4-6 Mar; Cleveland Area Convention II; Holiday Inn-Westlake, Cleveland; hotel rsvns: 440.871.6000; event info: 216.752.7151, 216.581.6590, 216.470.3396; write: Lake Erie General Services, Box 22448, Beachwood, OH 44122

Oklahoma: 28-30 Jan; Norman Winter Convention XV; Holiday Inn, Norman; hotel rsvns: 405.364.2882; event registration: 918.225.4685; event info: 405.525.6578

Oregon: 20-22 May; Pacific Cascade Regional Convention XII; Riverside Inn and Josephine County Fairgrounds, Grants Pass; hotel rsvns: 800.334.4567; event registration: 541.956.2191; event info: 541.479.5941, 541.472.9136; write: Southern Oregon Siskiyou Area, Box 521, Grants Pass, OR 97528; www.sosascna.com

South Carolina: 21-23 Jan; USCANA XXV, The Door Is Open, and the Path Is Endless; Hilton Hotel, Greenville; hotel rsvns: 864.232.4747; event info: 864.232.8603, 864.242.5732, 864.409.1074; write: Upper South Carolina Area Convention XXV, Box 1372, Greenville, SC 29602-1372

2) 18-20 Feb; Recovery at Work IV; Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Hilton Head Island; hotel rsvns: 800.845.8001; event registration: 803.750.0291; write: Greater Columbia Area, Box 3957, Columbia, SC 29230

Texas: 7-9 Jan; Texas Tri-County Area Convention V; Galveston Hilton, Galveston; hotel rsvns: 409.744.5000 (code TTC); event info: 713.294.8929, 409.925.0597, 409.256.0285; write: Texas Tri-County Area Convention V, Box 178, Rosharon, TX 77583; www.TTCANA.org

2) 4-6 Feb; Tejas Bluebonnet Regional Convention VI; Omni Marina Towers Hotel, Corpus Christi; hotel rsvns: 800.TheOmni; event info: 361.882.3219; write: Tejas Bluebonnet, Box 10539, Corpus Christi, TX 78460; www.tejas-na.org

3) 25-27 Feb; TACNA XXI; event info: 870.772.6974, 870.773.2287, 903.792.8112; write: Texarkana Area, Box 6321, Texarkana, TX 75501

4) 24-27 Mar; Lone Star Regional Convention XX; Sheraton Grand Hotel, Irving; hotel rsvns: 800.345.5251; event info: 800.747.8972; write: Lone Star Region, 1510 Randolph, Ste 205, Carrollton, TX 75006; www.LSRNA.com

Virginia: 7-9 Jan; Virginia Area Convention XXIII; Hampton Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Hampton; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event registration: 757.928.0509; speaker tape info: 804.413.2035; event info: 757.246.3044

2) 18-20 Mar; TACNA V; Let the Healing Begin; Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth; hotel rsvns: 888.839.1775; event info: 757.487.0597, 757.724.4300; speaker tape info: 757.406.7054

Wisconsin: 1-3 Apr; Little Girl Grows Up IV; Ramada Inn, Milwaukee; hotel rsvns: 414.764.5300; speaker tape submission deadline: 18 Mar 2005; write: Little Girl Grows Up, 811 North 16th St #123, Milwaukee, WI 53233; email: MASTERMOM2K@aol.com

A service opportunity

Here is a bit of history: at the 1984 World Service Conference, a motion was carried, "That each area be requested to hold a fundraiser for the benefit of WSC in July of each year and send the proceeds of such fundraiser to world services; the first to be during July 1984." What better way to be of service, make a contribution to our fellowship, and help ensure that "Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life...." It is not too late for your area to start planning now for a July activity!

ALOHA!

WCNA-31 is just a short nine months away!

Don't forget we need **speaker tape evaluators** to help the World Board with the process of identifying potential speakers for the world convention. You must be willing to listen to and evaluate about 100 tapes between February and May 2005. For more information and forms to download and fill out, visit www.na.org/WCNA31/index.htm. You may also contact us at events@na.org.

Want to speak at WCNA-31? We need your help with finding workshop speakers. Clean time requirements are: ten years clean for main meetings and five years clean for workshops. Workshop speakers will be selected from the convention's pre-registration list. For more info, contact us at WCNASpeaker@na.org.

We look forward to seeing you at this worldwide celebration of our recovery in the Polynesian paradise of Honolulu, Hawaii on 1-4 September 2005.

MAHALO!

WSO Product Update

English

Sponsorship

"The heart of NA beats
when two addicts share their recovery."

Illustrated with members' first-hand experiences, this newly-released book on sponsorship in NA celebrates the richness of differences and variety of experiences in the worldwide Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. Softcover only.

Item No. 1130 Price US \$7.00



NA Medallion Journal

Embossed front cover has an imprint of our recovery medallion (also may hold a medallion) with sewn-in satin bookmarks.

Journal will be available in two colors:

Black, Item No. 9401 Price US \$15.00

Terra Cotta, Item No. 9402 Price US \$15.00

Coming soon

New Medallion Design

This new design, available in Spring 2005, wraps the existing text from the Gratitude Prayer around the center of the medallion and changes our current Roman numerals to Arabic numerals.

Check our website, www.na.org or our shopping cart www.na.org/online_literature_sales_entrance.htm, for a release date.

WSO Product Update

Arabic

Keytags

Welcome through Multiple Years

Item No. AR-4100-4108
Price US \$0.37/each



French

Group Reading Cards (7-card set)

Addition of "We Do Recover"
reading card to our existing set

Item No. FR-9130 Price US \$2.50

Italian

The Group Booklet

El Manuale del gruppo

Item No. IT-1600 Price US \$0.63

IP No. 11: *Sponsorship, Revised*

La Sponsorizzazione, Revisionato

Item No. IT-3111 Price US \$0.21



Spanish/Castilian

Group Reading Cards (7-card set)

Addition of "We Do Recover"
reading card to our existing set

Item No. CS-9130 Price US \$2.50

Third Step Poster

"Many of us have said,"
is added at the beginning
of the poster.

Item No. CS-9075 Price US \$0.80

IP No. 11: *Sponsorship, Revised*

El Padrinazgo, Revisado

Item No. CS-3111 Price US \$0.21



Slovak

Keytags

Welcome through Multiple Years

Item No. SK-4100-4108
Price US \$0.37/each



Lithuanian

IP No. 5: *Another Look*

Kitu žvilgsniu

Item No. LT-3105 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 7: *Am I an Addict?*

Ar aš priklausomas?

Item No. LT-3107 Price US \$0.21

Hebrew

It Works: How and Why

זה עובד: איך ולמה

Item No. HE-1140 Price US \$7.70





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Total printed copies	31,125	31,500
Requested subscription—outside county	30,858	31,337
Requested subscription—in-county	0	0
Total requested subscription	30,858	31,337
Free distribution	210	100
Total distribution	31,068	31,437
Undistributed copies (office uses)	57	63
Total	31,125	31,500
Percent requested circulation	99.3%	99.68%

Certified, correct, complete Nancy Schenck

Home GROUP

WHEN CHOOSING A LEADER...WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR?

