

WWW.NAHELP.ORG

Your Fellowship Magazine
Share...
and be shared with..

*Like it was when NA was new and young and life or death intense:
You matter to us so we will tell you the truth as we know it with
nothing held back.*

THE
NEW/OLD
NEW
WAY

"... so that no addict seeking recovery need ever die..."

We publish your input -- the opinions presented are not necessarily
those of the New/Old NA Way or Anonymi Foundation

The New/Old
NA Way



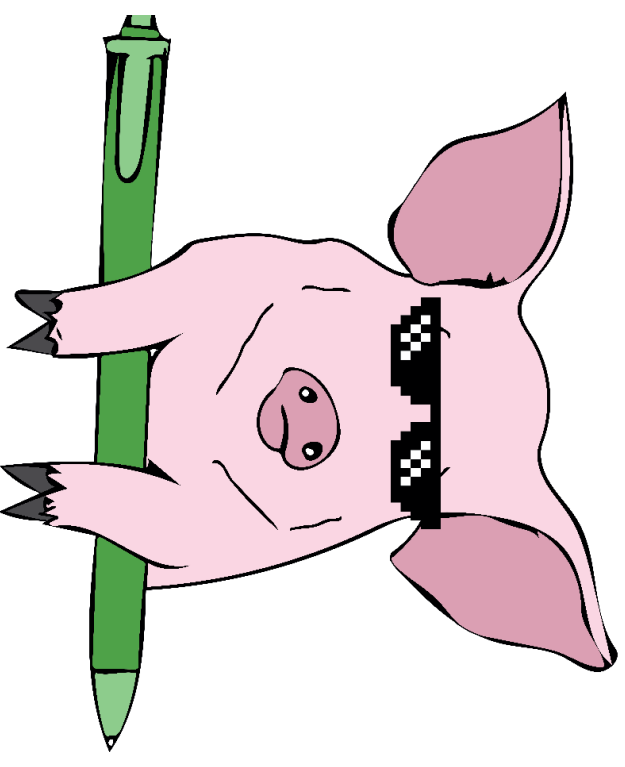
Volume 23
June - July 2019

WWW.NAHELP.NL



The New/Old NA WAY Magazine
Volume 23
June - July 2019

This magazine was written in open participation
by members of the Groups of The Anonymity Foundation
and members of the Groups who participate in the
Fellowship Service Conference and the
European Fellowship Service Conference



Stugg Life

The New/Old NA Way

Table of contents

Dear N.A. Members	1
How do we best carry our message of hope and promise of freedom?	4
In 1984 the course of N.A. Service changed (In Spanish)	6
What was Narcotics Anonymous? (Part 1)	7
Addiction is a solution to impossible situations	10
God's Will or Luck?	12
Group Report from Greatful Wake Up Group	13
Identity Crisis	14
Give it away - The NA Way	15
My first Literature Conference Experience	16
The Importance of Communication	18
Are addicts still killing addicts?	19
Guidance to Complete Abstinence	20
From an Anonymous Member...	21
Step Series: Ten, Eleven, and Twelve	23
Upcoming Events	26

**GET
INVOLVED!**

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Please send your articles, event information, comics or other input to nahelp.org@gmail.com

The Groups of Northern Columbiana County Area of Narcotics Anonymous present...

Annual 12 Step Retreat

February 21, 22, and 23, 2020

Das [Dutch Village Inn](#)

150 East state Route 14
Columbiana, Ohio 44408

What to expect: Speakers, Discussion, Coffee,
[Real NA Old School Recovery!](#)

only \$5.00 for the weekend if you pre-register - \$10.00 at the door

Pre-Register by Emailing stepretreat@yahoo.com

NO addict EVER turned away!

Rooms start at \$94 per night for 2 adults
(\$10.00 additional for each adult)

Prices are subject to change

Reserve your room by January 1, 2020 mention you are with the
NA retreat to get the discounted price

Call Hotel @ 330-4825050

**My Gratitude Speaks
When I Care
And When I Share
With Others
The NA Way**

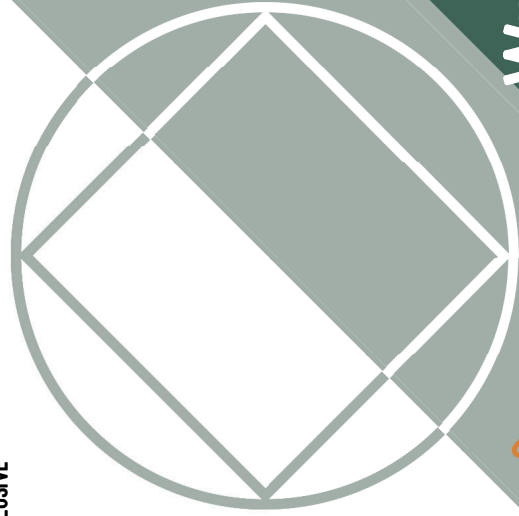
The 4th annual

E.F.S.C. for N.A.

WHEN:

10-11-12-13 OCTOBER 2019

€ 125,- ALL INCLUSIVE



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AT MAHEL.P.NL

WHERE:

BUITENGOED DE PANOVEN

PANOVENWEG 18

6905 DW ZEVENAAR

THE NETHERLANDS

CLICK FOR WEB PAGE

Dear NA Members

Dear NA Members, I'm sorry you have been excluded from the kind of service I was able to participate in. I deeply regret that you can't experience the same benefits from participation in NA service as I have. I don't understand why it was deemed necessary to close the literature process so that any addict who wants to participate is denied the opportunity to do so.

The first miracle occurred prior to my arrival in NA, the Basic Text. That made my commitment possible. When I saw the book, I had no need to alter one single word in order to identify with what was written. The approval form had my total approval; it fit me like a glove. When I heard members of the literature committee share about what it had been like to go through the process of writing the text, I wanted those feelings too. I wanted the special connection they shared. I wanted the spiritual awakening I heard expressed as they talked about the process. I wanted "more."

I made the commitment to recover exclusively in NA in February 1982. I was just in time to be able to experience the camaraderie the fellowship had to offer in what I believe was its purest and most spiritual form. There were so many of us, so widely spread apart, and we set aside petty differences to accomplish common goals, especially the survival and growth of NA. The basic text being written in conference, by groups of addicts was an impossible phenomenon. Nevertheless, it happened, and a miracle was

accomplished; they produced a book on recovery from addiction with an agreed upon concise and clear message. Having achieved that, they were ready to go on and create more literature.

At the 1982 World Service Conference, I watched the vote take place to accept that text to be printed as our own book of recovery. How excited most of us in attendance were! That there was resistance to the text being approved was incomprehensible to me, but I saw the resistance and heard plenty of resentment expressed.

I also thought it was odd that one of the people who had introduced me to NA gave me, an RSR-Alt. from a different state, a motion to submit to the Conference, telling me that he didn't think it would pass if it came from him. Why would that make a difference? Weren't we supposed to be placing principles before personalities? Somewhat perplexed, I did submit the motion, and it passed. There would be an H&I Handbook for use by groups, down to the World Level of Service. A motion was also made to create a fellowship-wide magazine on recovery from addiction, the NA Way Magazine. I showed up at the venue for the first H&I Handbook workshop, thinking I'd help by cleaning up or perhaps fixing sandwiches. I was sure there would be something I could do. Quitting school in the 11th grade had robbed me of confidence and self-esteem. I had slid through the three years of school prior to that with minimal effort. It never occurred to me that I might be able to help write literature; when I was asked to participate in editing, I actually laughed. The thought

was ridiculous to me. We gathered in an old farm house and split into small groups. I was put in a group with two men both of whom had previous experience working on literature. When they said the three of us would be working in a small bedroom upstairs, my comfort level dropped. There were no chairs in that room. But when we went up there, got up on the bed and lined up with our backs to the wall and started working. My dis-

“...full blown NA Magic!”

comfort quickly disappeared. Patiently, in the next few hours I was walked through the process and a wonderful thing happened. I developed two new friends, one of whom I still feel a strong emotional bond with, thirty years later.

The next day, I was put into another group with several women I didn't know. In the hours that passed, working together toward our common goal, more bonds of friendship were formed. We shared frustration, exhaustion, and lots of laughter and excitement. Later, one of those women would ask me to sponsor her and that relationship was a delightful gift.

It seemed strange to me that in just a few days, I had amassed a group of people with whom I had experienced what I can only explain as "magic." We accomplished the supposed impossible. We set aside our egos and began the process of creating literature that would help change the lives of thousands of addicts. I couldn't understand the strong bond I felt with these

people, how was it possible that could happen in just a few days? Then someone pointed out that in the hours we worked together over that weekend, we had spent the same amount of time together as if we'd shared sev-

eral months of home group meetings. It was beyond amazing to me.

After that, I showed up at several workshops for editing the NA Way Magazine. After a few mistakes, I

developed the knack of editing input into a usable form to share in print a message that would exclude no one. In the process, I got more of the magic: the phenomenon of a seemingly instant bonding of kindred spirits working together for a spiritual common goal. A very special spiritual awakening: NA

Magical! Back at home, we received a flyer for a gathering at Thanksgiving "Consciousness in Memphis", Tennessee, and immediately decided to participate. That weekend our mission was to edit our White Book and Informational Pamphlets. Our group split up and I joined a few addicts working on the White Book. As we read through the booklet and paused to re-work that piece to better express the clarity of our message, I began to feel that unique bonding of spiritual purpose. Hours later, full blown NA Magic!

A few weeks ago, thirty years after that Thanksgiving weekend, I was preparing to attend an NA History Conference in Atlanta. A woman I've known

14th Annual Fellowship Service

Conference for N.A.

When: June 14th thru June 16, 2019

Where: Hamburg, PA Place. Olivet Mountain Camp

1540 Mountain Ave.

Hamburg, Pa 19526

Cost: \$95.00 per person

Price includes all meals (and lodging if needed)

There is no registration fee all money goes directly to pay for the facility and food Write checks payable to Historical Perspective Group

For More Information: Contact Historical Perspective Group

(610) 428-9923 Ask for Ray: or e-mail — matrixmatchclub@yahoo.com

Check Out Our Web www.nahelp.org/ Send check to: A.S.I.S. For NA

P.O. Box 4404 Allentown, Pa 18105 Write checks payable to

Historical Perspective Group of NA (Bring sheets, pillows, Towels and soap everything else provided)

Name: _____ E - Mail: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone Number (____) _____ - _____

Group Name _____ **Register by June 1, 2019**

Amount \$95.00 Check NO. _____

(Adversity does not build character, it Reveals it.) More Will Be Revealed.....



Upcoming Events

14TH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP SERVICE CONFERENCE FOR N.A.

Date: June 14th thru June 16th, 2019
Hamburg, PA

4TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP SERVICE CONFERENCE FOR N.A.

Date: October 10th thru October 13th, 2019
Zevenaar, The Netherlands

ANNUAL 12 STEP RETREAT

Date: February 21st thru February 23rd, 2020
Columbiana, Ohio

Your event here? Send information to nahelp.org@gmail.com

Weblinks

www.nahelp.org

Contact: nahelp.org@gmail.com
World

www.nahelp.nl

Contact: nahelp.nl@gmail.com
The Netherlands

www.freerecovery.org.uk

United Kingdom

www.nahelp.se

Sweden
Contact: AntigenFriaNA@gmail.com

and loved for years wrote on Facebook that she was attending and sharing at a workshop at the upcoming conference. She sent me a message asking for input and I suggested she contact another friend who could help her more than I. Afterwards, I picked up my phone and called her, and we were talking about our early days in service and trying to remember where it was that we met. It just seemed to both of us that we'd just always known each other. Each of us remembered working on that White Booklet. I shared what I remembered about that weekend, and she did the same. As she was talking about her input, it was as if I travelled through time to our shared weekend. I remembered thinking how brilliant and more socially sensitive she was as she gave her input. NA Magic, revisited.

A few years after my participation in the literature writing and editing, I began to take classes to get my GED. I became somewhat impatient in those classes, because I knew the material being covered. I decided to skip over all but the math preparation section of those classes. When the day came to take the test, I was frightened that I'd made a mistake. As I finished the test and got up to leave, I felt panic. I was done early; perhaps I should go back and review my work. Deciding not to second-guess myself, I handed in my test and left.

Some weeks later, I received my results in the mail and nervously opened the envelope to read the dreaded insert. I read the congratulations; I'd passed and looked over the form, somewhat confused. It looked to me as I hadn't

really done very well. Knowing I'd passed felt great though, and I set the results aside. A week later, I received a phone call and the caller identified himself as the head of the Adult Education Services in my locale. I felt a moment of panic. I thought he was going to tell me there had been a mistake and I hadn't passed after all, but as I listened, I was amazed. He explained that I had passed in the 95th percentile, which meant I did better than 94% of the people who take that test. He wanted to meet with me so he could understand what I had done to study for the test. I gathered the end-results of many of those workshops, the H&I Handbook, a few copies of the NA Way Magazine, the White Book, and a PI Handbook, and went to that meeting where he asked me to share about my experience by speaking as Valedictorian of that GED Class. I turned down the honor of Valedictorian; I was speaking at a convention on that weekend, and I didn't earn my GED by preparing through their classes. I showed him the literature on which I'd worked and explained how it had been created, introducing him to him the Miracle of NA.

When I later earned my Associates Degree in Legal Studies, I knew how I got it. Open participation service in Narcotics Anonymous.

The growth of the fellowship, its spread around the world is the culmination of our dreams. Yes, NA is different than it was in the 80's. I would never choose to go back to limited meetings and almost no literature. I neither want nor expect NA to stay the same. What I do want is for the spiritual benefit of

open participation service to be reinstated so that the miracle can continue. Why should we spend thousands of dollars for professional writers when we have a fellowship full of talent?

After the World Service Conference this year, and my History Conference weekend, I've been having conflicting emotions. I feel so sad that our service structure has changed to restrict participation, seemingly a little more each year. Delegation instead of group conference directed service is completely upside-down me. And then there are repeating flashes of renewed hope. There are still enough of us "dinosaurs" or "predecessors," around who have stayed clean and remember the spirituality we developed during those marathon service meetings where our souls seemed to bond. Perhaps, if each of us who achieved the divine benefits of open participatory service shares openly and clearly the benefits we received through that process, the magic we experienced that was almost tangible, maybe these ongoing changes which have restricted participation and caused our literature to be written by professional writers can be reversed. Hopefully, it is not too late. Perhaps you who are newer in recovery will catch the excitement and want the magical spiritual awakenings we have been so blessed with. It is my ongoing prayer this change occurs; however, it can only happen if you are aware of what you are missing.

***In Loving Service,
A Predecessor in NA
From the USA***



How do we best carry our message of hope and promise of freedom?

Needs Input New Literature Being Written

We stay totally abstinent from all mind altering and mood changing chemicals.

- We give.**
- We love.**
- We share.**
- We inform.**
- We pray.**
- We listen.**
- We hug.**
- We stay.**
- We live it.**

**“God, protect us and provide for us.
Guide us and illuminate us in the path
of our recovery, grant us courage,
commitment and strength.
Teach us to care and give without
reservations. Make us aware of
gratitude and principles.
Help us to recognize your presence
around us and let our lives be a
reflection of your love.”**

Originally Written By: Greg R.
Re-Written by The Recovery First Group NA
To Reflect the We Version

be able to do a Fourth step fearless. So we can welcome that journey into our makeup. With Trust, Faith and our ability to have faith to turn are will and lives over to the care of God we can admit the exact nature of our wrongs in the Fifth Step. Having built a Relationship with God and Spiritual Principles we now trust ourselves another human being and God to admit that exact nature of our wrongs without reservations. Now that we have found out are exact nature of our wrongs, we can now trust God to heal us by asking and having faith that God can and will remove our defect of Character in God time, which leads to the Seventh Step were we ask God to remove are shortcomings so we stop acting out on them. It is the Step we continue cleaning up are actions of the harming others that we create by acting out on are defeat of character. We learn to listen to our hearts; we learn to be Humble and ask for God help in this area to give us awareness of are actions and the harm we cause by these actions. We start to feel the spiritual healing that God gives us through His Power. This leads us to the Eleventh Step were through these experiences we continue the healing journey through Prayer and Mediation to improve upon the Relationship we have been developing with God of our understanding. We have learned to talk to God and have learned to hear Gods voice through silencing our mind to grow in Gods Image.

Step 12

“Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of those steps” we have arrived at the twelfth Step each Step has led us

to awakening of our spirit to have developed us into a spiritual being. From the start from step one through Step Eleven we are developing ourselves from a self-centered human being to a God Centered Spiritual Being. As a result of these accumulated spiritual awaking’s “We have had a Spiritual awaking as a result of those steps we practice these principles in all affairs and try to carry the message to the suffering addict” What are these principles? Some would say these principles are those they have been throughout the steps Other would say it is the principles within the twelve traditions. Both are right the steps taught us how to clean up are past and make up for the damage we have caused by are addiction and are self-centered behavior. They have taught us how to maintain ourselves were we can grow in the spirit of God. The Traditions teach us how to communicate as a fellowship and communicate as a Group. They teach us how to serve, they teach us the principle of humility of working together for a common goal carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. We learn to put are ego aside for the betterment of the Group. We learn the principle of anonymity through the foundation of our traditions. This is the principle of a spiritual awakening where we become of pure spiritual being, being faceless, sexless, colorless, it is where we become of spirit. As spiritual being, we can change the world, one addict at a time, one group at a time make a reality of being of service.

We stay totally abstinent from all mind altering and mood changing chemicals.

We came to NA because we were beaten by the disease of addiction, we wanted out. When we used, we couldn’t shut down our feelings anymore. We needed to stop or die. Was it possible to live without drugs? People we met in Narcotics Anonymous said that it was, just for today you don’t ever have to use again, they had a glow in their eyes and they even seemed to enjoy living without using. The program of Narcotics Anonymous works, but ONLY if we’re totally abstinent from ALL mind altering and mood changing chemicals. We have a spiritual program and a Higher Power of our own understanding that will replace ALL drugs. If we think we need some sort of medication to help us to live we haven’t really tried our program for real, or maybe Narcotics Anonymous isn’t something for us.

We share.

In order to further our primary purpose do we share our experience, strength and hope to the still suffering addicts, we have been exactly where they are. We have experienced the pain that addiction caused us, but we also experienced freedom by follow the examples of those who walks before us and the experience, strength and hope they shared with us. We have the solution and by sharing it we save lives, including our own.

We inform.

We need to be known, be on the map so addicts know where to find us.

We are anonymous not secret. We can do this in different ways, how is up to the groups. We may put up flyers, send letters to institutions that deal with addicts and go there to inform what NA is, make ourselves available for those who needs and wants our way of life.

We pray.

We listen.

God works through people, places and things. By keeping an open mind and listen we can get knowledge of Gods will for us. By listening to one another we show that we care and understand what we are going through. It is a powerful experience to just have someone who listen to what we actually say, because that someone has been there too.

We live it.

We need to live the program for it to work and when we do that, we are examples for people to see, "if he/she can, so can I". It's not just what we say that matters it's what we do. We can sit and sound really good at a meeting but outside of the meeting we don't apply any of what we just shared on, it was just empty words, and people see that. So, to best carry our message we need to apply the message.

Started by the Swedish Home Group

In Need of Input

In 1984 the course of NA Service changed – In Spanish

ESTE ESCRITO LO PUBLICO UN COMPAÑERO DE NA.... En 1984, el curso del Servicio de NA cambio; en realidad, volvió a ser lo que había sido durante años, pero yo era demasiado nuevo (5 años) para date cuenta entonces! En la CSM de 1983, surgió la moción "... que el único voto de RSR en la CSM" surgió después de haber sido distribuida a todos. la confraternidad para consideración y voto en los Grupos de NA ("... aquellos a quienes sirven" a los que la CSM era (es) Directamente Responsable) el voto de los miembros votantes de la CSM fue tomada: y esta moción fue aprobada por 1 sobre el número requerido por una mayoría de 2/3. En este punto el La confraternidad de NA había declarado claramente a través del proceso de Conciencia de Grupo que queríamos que la CSM se mantuviera de la manera más simple con el proceso de conciencia de grupo, y que exigimos que la CSM sea más claramente responsable de aquellos a quienes servían. Después algunos comentarios secundarios, el Presidente de la CSM declaró que la moción fracasó porque el número de votos sí cayó 1 de los 2/3 de los que se registraron en la votación nominal anterior (ahora la votación en sí misma fue una votación nominal) - esto fue una declaración sin precedentes de cambio en el procedimiento de votación en la CSM impuesta arbitrariamente por el presidente y el parlamentario. Otras dos cosas sucedieron en ese momento

Y, justo después, compartiré cuando esto haya tenido tiempo de hundirse un poco ... En retrospectiva, los Servicios Mundiales de NA en ese momento habían declarado claramente que no cumplirían con la 2 y 9 Tradición ... poco después de que empezaran a vender nuestro libro con un descuento a Hazleton: claramente que se negaron a cumplir con la 6 Tradición ... Inmediatamente después de esta política de servicios mundiales "por encima de las tradiciones", cerraron el comité de literatura y contrataron a profesionales. Escritores que se niegan a respetar la 7 Tradición. Estuve allí y le debo a usted y a todos los recién llegados a NA desde entonces por no hacer más ... no hacerlo suficiente - para ayudar a nuestro mundo Servicios para acatar nuestras tradiciones ... Todo mi servicio más allá de mi servicio al grupo de origen al que pertenezco es mis enmiendas Nosotros, en NA, no tenemos disposiciones para ser "atendidos" por ninguna entidad: junta o comité a menos que esa entidad sea directamente responsable ante nosotros ... así que En realidad, todo lo que ha sucedido desde ese voto fue llamado derrotado y la CSM optó por desafiar la conciencia de grupo de NA. Todo lo hecho por los servicios mundiales desde entonces no tiene nada que ver con NA. sin embargo, todos sabemos que tiene influencia. Un hombre sabio dijo una vez que sabe la verdad y que la verdad te pondrá libre ... ahora sabes la verdad, por favor, ayúdame a ver cómo nos establece. Libre... Jim M. (RIP)



Step Series: Ten, Eleven, and Twelve

After finishing our ninth step we are left with the next three Steps that will maintain our recovery. These steps maintain our relationships with ourselves, other people, our relationship with God and with society as a whole. It also helps with communicating with the fellowship as we engage in carrying our message to those who suffers.

Step 10

This is the step that we continue taking our daily inventory and how we interact with others. It says, "We continued to daily inventory and promptly admitted when we were wrong." That means we take our inventory throughout the day. We do not have to wait to have for the day to end to take our inventory, we also do not have to wait to put people on our 8th step list to admit when we have wronged them. We can do it promptly it immediately when we recognize it. It can even be in the middle of harming another person are even in a meeting when we are sharing. We can see it in the faces of others when we are harming them. We can stop an. d immediately correct what we have done and let the person are Group Know we have wrong them. We also can take are inventory before we comment to someone. We do not have to react to others even if when they have said things that have hurt are feeling We can take a look at ourselves and why it hurt our feelings, is there truth in what someone has said are do we feel there is a grain of truth

to it? Has it bought something up from the past that has not been dealt with in are recovery? We need to talk it over with our sponsor before we react and cause harm. Before we go to bed and call it an evening go over the 10th step inventory to not let something undone that we can do in the day. Get it off our minds that it dose not repeat itself in the days are month to come. Clear our minds before the day closes so we can correct ourselves.

Step 11

This is the step we first hear of mediation in the Steps. It says" We have sought through prayer and meditation to improve out conscience contact with God as we understand him", Now we have arrived were we have a understanding of God. In the Third Step it said we turned our will and Lives over to the care of God as we understood him, so we went to those who went before us who had an understanding of God through there 11 Step for guidance in the steps. Now that we have arrived at the 11th step you say we need to pray for a better understand God and then mediate to improve that relationship. Yes, we have been building a relationship with God since the second step , in the second step we are building a relationship with the principle trust in a power greater than ourselves .In the Third Step we are building a relationship with faith and action of that principle of trust in that Greater Power than of Ourselves defined as God in the Third Step. We turn our lives over to the Care of God in Our Third Step which allows us to

By making sure I have something that's even more important than a good reputation, and that is character. Don't get so caught up in my image - or how others see me - that I forget who I really am or wish to be.

Character comes from practicing the principles of this program in all my affairs, from living the life expected of a recovering addict. Practice honesty. An honest person has nothing to lose because there are no lies or false facades to protect.

[Have integrity.]

If you always do the right thing for the right reasons, others will trust you and have faith in you.

[Learn anonymity.]

Remember that the most important person in NA is the one just walking in the door, and that the rest of us are here to serve, not to be catered to.

Protect the recovery of others as much as you do your own and you will find friends who will stick with you even in the toughest times. So, work on building your character instead of a reputation. A true reputation will follow on its own, and it will endure a lot longer.

"We keep what we have only with vigilance ..."

What was Narcotics Anonymous? (Part 1)

Narcotics Anonymous, from their literature states; (Basic Text, Drafted and distributed in February 1981 and approved in 1982, page 19) "N.A. is a non-profit fellowship or society of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovered addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean." From humble beginnings in 1953, a Fellowship of addicts emerged that were having a significant impact on those who suffered from the disease of addiction. Many who had achieved success in their struggles with addiction embraced the idea that a solution had been found. The application of spiritual principles involved in 'helping each other stay clean' resulted in a desire to create literature so that others could experience the joys of living a new way of life, free from active addiction. Many groups participated in the first World Service Conference (WSC) in 1976. They sought to establish a service structure and continue to hold conferences to this day. Clearly the 12 traditions apply to the groups and only the groups. The word 'group' is used throughout the traditions. What would a service structure look like?

Members work the 12-steps of NA into their lives and applied the 12-traditions of NA in their groups. It is the basis of their recovery. (Basic Text, "Who is an addict", page 18)

Due to our Fifth Tradition [Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who

still suffers]. and Twelfth Step [Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs], our primary purpose in life is to stay clean by carrying the message to the addict who still suffers.

The number Narcotics Anonymous Groups were growing rapidly in the late 70's and early 80's. They sought to organize and produce literature. The most significant achievement was the creation of the Basic Text which was released as an approval draft in February 1981 and approved for publishing by the groups in 1982. There were concerns about the content from some members who had been empowered to service the needs of a growing Fellowship. The World Service Office (WSO) and Board of Trustees (which became Narcotics Anonymous World Service Inc, or NAWS for short in 1998) made changes that dramatically affected the content of the Basic Text that was approved the groups. The result was dramatic as an angry fellowship realized what had been done. One change was regarding Tradition 4 and the relationship between the groups and the service structures that were created by the groups. Sue E, Chairman of the board issued a letter to the Fellowship dated March 1, 1983 that attempted to explain the reason for the changes (which was widely available at the time, and still in the possession of members from that time). The underline was added for emphasis;

In tradition four the book states that "SERVICE COMMITTEES ARE NOT NA"



and later in the same paragraph states "ALL ELSE IS NOT NA" clearly indicating that they are not a part Narcotics Anonymous. The book further states "whether to utilize these services is up to the group." This would allow any group to do whatever the group chose to do and continue to call them-

selves an NA Group, leaving the fellowship

no recourse but to allow them to do so...We

believe it was not the intention of those

members of the Literature Committee

who selflessly devoted 100's

of hours and \$1,000's of dollars to provide the fellowship

with our book, nor those members of the Board of Trustees who personally worked on and reviewed the material, nor the fellowship who approved the book, to place the Service Structure outside the Traditions or the dictates of the fellowship.

One of the committees formed early on was a Literature committee. Both the Chair of the committee (Page C.) and the entire committee that existed in 1983 issued letters revoking the writes of the WSO (NAWS) to publish the book in response to the changes. (Committee letter available for viewing here)

When we learned that they were going to contract another printer

print Our Book, with the changes, without consulting the Fellowship, we were appalled [appalled]. Our Book is the epitome of Group Conscience. We spent an approximate 360,000 man-hours and some \$75,000.00 writing Our Book.

What happened after was political maneuverings and power struggles as various factions sought to control the production and distribution of literature.

The rift created exists today and curtails the efforts of the groups to fulfill their primary purpose to carry the message to the still suffering addict. As literature prices grow, more groups are looking to alternative service structures and the NAWS corporation has taken the literature hostage with the creation of the FIPT (Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust) which essentially seeks to guarantee that only NAWS Inc. can legally produce literature for sale to the Fellowship.



Tradition 8 and 9 state: (Basic Text, any version, first published in 1982);

8. Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

9. NA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

It's the task of groups to create an atmosphere of recovery so that any addict can recover. Members find that

comer was able to get off all the drugs prescribed to them for anxiety, depression and sleeping aid. It took months, to get off all drugs and this member is celebrating Clean time and is Recovering from addiction by working the First Step, writing on the First Step, reading the IPs and writing on several Step guides, with the Help of the Sponsor and their newfound Higher Power. This newcomer didn't concern themselves with Clean Time they thought they had beforehand. Just the Clean Time they have now. We're very happy about their process, Courage, Dedication and Honesty to work a Living Program of Narcotics Anonymous. We Encourage this newcomer to Share their experience of getting Clean through Complete and Total Abstinence at other meetings they attend. It can be done if the newcomer has the Desire, Humility, Open-mindedness, if not at least the desperation it takes to Recover in this Program of Narcotics Anonymous.

Thank you N.A. for saving their Life. In Service

Written by Anonymous

From Sweden



From an anonymous member...

Regardless of the Twelfth Tradition, there are still some big personalities in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

[You know who they are.]

They love to be the center of attention at every meeting and function they go to, and have their little entourage of recovering addicts who follow them wherever they go. And, unfortunately, sometimes these "personalities" go back out, as any of us are susceptible to if we don't do what we have to for our recovery. But when these people go back out, they leave a lot of bewildered recovering addicts stumbling around, wondering what went wrong.

[How did this great recovery giant go back out?]

[How can that be possible?]

Well, I can go back out very easily, if my program is built on reputation without character. Let me explain. If I have a strong, likable personality and the gift of gab, then I can become very popular at a lot of the NA meetings and functions I go to. Add to that a few years under my belt, and I can gain quite a reputation with those who are misinformed about the Traditions.

The truth is, reputation is fleeting. That's because it is nothing more than how others perceive me. And if anything occurs that causes them to change their perception of me, then my reputation is changed forever, and possibly at the cost of my recovery.

[So how can I insure that I won't fall victim to the "reputation curse"?)

Abstinence and even some Recovery. This harm sometimes extends self to hurting others. An example is targeting other newcomers with our sexual motives. Distractions such as this can cause newcomers to not focus on their Recovery and cause relapse and possibly death. Forming Relationships with these newcomers can cause death by a relapse, over a broken Heart, when the Relationship doesn't work out. Our Literature warns against moralizing, judging and gossiping against each other. This behavior causes addicts to leave N.A. and possibly relapse and die by addiction. Are we carrying a message of death to newcomers by coding them while they're still using? Are we enabling them to use other drugs to Recover? Are we guilty of some of these behaviors? Are we still hurting each other and ourselves? Is the enemy of Life, "addiction", still permeates as part of the disease of addiction? Are Addicts Still killing Addicts in Recovery, in Narcotics Anonymous?

Written by Anonymous



USA

"Take my will and my life.

Guide me in my recovery.

Show me how to live."

Third Step Prayer

Guidance to Complete Abstinence

One of our Newcomers to our HG is Celebrating over 5 months Clean from all mind mood altering chemicals, drugs, medication. This young in age member came to us almost a year ago.

They were still attending outpatient rehab and was on several forms of medications for anxiety, depression and sleep medications. The HG has a format that describes what we consider Clean to pick up a key tag in its format. Although this member did pick up the first 2 key tags, they weren't Clean. After becoming a HG member and choosing a Sponsor at our HG, the Sponsor soon found out the list of medications this member was on. The Sponsor reiterated our NA message about Clean Time. The Sponsor guided the newcomer to speak with the doctors to wean off these drugs carefully and with time. The newcomer agreed, meanwhile the newcomer did not collect any more key tags or announce any clean time. The newcomer respected our not Sharing under the influence policy during the meeting except for introducing themselves as an addict. The newcomer was informed by their Sponsor that they were unable to work any Steps till they were completely off all medications including any sleep aids. The newcomer called the Sponsor every day, made coffee at the HG every week. The newcomer was given the IPs, and the Baby Blue to read as information about what N.A. is about and our Message. Working closely with the Sponsor and the doctor the new-

atmosphere is best when we see each other as equals and is the reason we remain nonprofessional. Neither of these is true in-service structures. Service bodies are created to serve the groups, and not the newcomers and therefor are not Narcotics Anonymous. Service bodies would benefit from professionals, and often we see members who are professionals like lawyers and accountants contribute greatly to the fellowship when they act as trusted servants to the Fellowship. In 2010, The Department of Justice for the state of California issued a 2nd Delinquency letter to Narcotics Anonymous World Services Inc (NAWS) for failing to file the appropriate paperwork for the years 2003, 2005 and 2008 to maintain their charity status. Clearly, they would benefit from both professionalism and organization. They are compliant now, but the loss of charity status, and the special workers employed by NAWS Inc placed the copywrites in jeopardy. The traditions should only apply to groups and not the service structures and this mistake emphasizes why service structures are outside the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

6. An NA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

10. Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Service structures can fail, and it will not damage the reputation of Nar-

cotics Anonymous if they were outside the Fellowship. The service structures should be fully engaged in serving and being accountable to the groups who created them. The idea makes even more sense to see our service structures as outside issues from a financial prospective. Groups can contribute to the service structures in the same way they pay rent or buy coffee but because we created those structures, they are fully accountable to the groups.

Tradition 7 (Basic Text, all versions) "Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." This tradition only makes sense for groups. NAWS Inc. is willing to sell literature at a profit to any organization or individual and has become dependent on the profits of literature sales. The spiritual principles that underly this tradition allowed the World Literature Committee to raise the \$75,000 needed to create the Basic Text. The Service structures (WSO/NAWS) who relied on profits at the time (and still to this day) took control of the production and in so doing violated the spirit of freedom and generosity in which Narcotics Anonymous operates. Part 2 of the follow up article will discuss Tradition 9 changes. Those original addicts who worked for hundreds of thousands of manhours and raised tens of thousands of dollars are due the respect they deserve in creating the Basic Text.

**Written by An
Anonymous Member
From Canada**



Addiction is a solution to impossible situations

Impossible situations are things that arise in our lives that have no solution. Chronic pain, an unhappy relationship, financial issues or even simple boredom can become impossible to deal with. When addicts are trapped by these situations, an addict can turn to actively using to deal with those feelings. Everyone identifies with the sacrifices they make daily in their lives in order to achieve balance. It is easy to fall into the trap of wanting things to be different. "Wouldn't it be nice if things were different" is uttered in an offhand way when the difficulties of life catch up with any of us. Difficult situations that are unresolved become impossible situations. The same dangerous thinking lurks on the other side of life too. Those idyllic moments, moments of joy and serenity can become equally impossible to maintain for any person. Addicts are again drawn to the lure of getting and using those moments again and again as they strive to be happy and never deal with conflict. For various reasons, many people come to Narcotics Anonymous because they have identified within themselves that active addiction is the only solution available to them right now. In the beginning, members of NA were able to identify with others because of patterns of drug use, but as members return to the program, they learn that addiction is more than the substances they used.

(Narcotics Anonymous Basic Text, Grey book (Version 2), chapter 1, "Who is an addict", Page 5) "Addic-

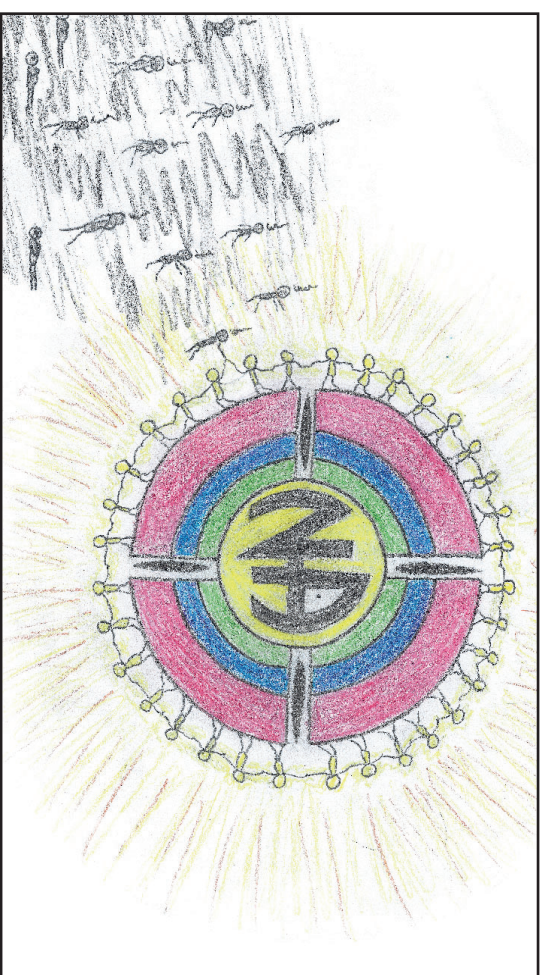
tion isolated us from people except for the getting, using, and finding ways and means to get more." This statement is powerful for an addict at any stage of recovery and not just when we are new. Vigilance requires that an addict consider all aspects of their lives, and all manifestations of the disease daily. It is the reason they do the steps and work with a sponsor. (Basic Text, Chapter 2, "What is the Narcotics Anonymous Program", Page 19) "We are recovered addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean" and "We are not interested in what or how much you used or who your connections were, what you have done in the past, how much or how little you have, but only in what you want to do about your problem and how we can help." This is a part of the message in the literature that invites members into the solution. People who have no problems are no longer in the solution as are the self-seekers who have little or nothing to offer to others. Many members will join groups in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous with the purpose of staying clean. Groups host regular meetings for addicts to attend. (Narcotics Anonymous Group Booklet, published 1997, Page 2) "The quality of an NA meeting is directly dependent on the strength and solidarity of the NA group which sponsors it." Participation in a Group is the foundation of recovery in NA. (Narcotics Anonymous Group Booklet, published 1997, Page 1)

The best source of solutions for the group's problems, in most cases, is the group itself. "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps,"

Are Addicts Still Killing Addicts?

When addicts are in active addiction, they hurt one another as well as others. Active addicts sell drugs to each other, sometimes the drugs lead to death. They sometimes rip each other off, and sometimes that can lead to bodily harm and even death. Our Ninth Step suggests in some cases not to do direct Amends, to people we have harmed, if it causes more harm, so it suggests that we don't. What happens to these addicts that we harmed in active addiction? Who actually makes Amends to them? Our Literature talks about that most of all we harmed ourselves and suggest that we make Amends to ourselves by including ourselves on the Eighth Step list. Finally, to change in the Ninth. The fact that we don't make Amends to other addicts can lead us to keep hurting addicts, intentionally or not, and to

ourselves as well. Although our Message consists of carrying the message to another suffering addict, we can subconsciously do it out of Gratitude and to stay Clean ourselves. The question is does, this lack of Amends make it easier for us, after coming to N.A., to keep hurting ourselves and each other, either intentional or unintentional? Our Literature mentions that when we were using, we were slowly committing suicide. It goes on to say that addiction is a cunning enemy of "Life". Recovery in N.A. happens over time and not overnight. We are still subject to hurt ourselves. Some of us are still participating in risky behaviors that can harm us. Some of us still or begin smoking cigarettes which is harming ourselves and maybe those around us. Some of us overeat to our detriment. Some of us have unprotected sex with high risk partners. These are some examples of us still hurting us even after



The Importance of Communication

Communication is key for our recovery and growth, we communicate with other recovering addicts, our sponsors, God, other members and groups to learn about recovery, our history and our traditions among others. For our personal recovery we need to communicate with God, when we pray, we talk, we ask God for help and when we meditate, we listen for God's answers. We also communicate with our sponsors for guidance in our step work and sponsees to guide them in their step work by sharing our experience, strength and hope with each other. This program works by one addict helping another, is that even possible if we don't communicate? Think about it, when we share at meetings, we communicate our experience, strength and hope, and receive others too.

"Understanding these Traditions comes slowly over a period of time. We pick up information as we talk to members and visit various groups" (Basic Text 3rd edition revised, page 4-3).

As groups we need to communicate with members within the group so that we together can carry the message to the addicts that still suffers, and we need to communicate with other groups to learn about our Traditions.

All healthy relationships acquire communication. We can communicate in a number of ways. We communicate love and empathy at our meetings, we do so by hugging each other, listening to one another and by telling each other on our bullshit. We communicate

how our Program works in the way we live, that's how we attract newcomers. We tell on ourselves when we feel like isolating. We learn by doing and we communicate both our successes and failures with other Groups, so that we can learn from both the good and the bad. We will grow in Unity and population by communicating. How would the dying addicts find us if we wouldn't inform the public where we are at, and what we are about? Having a message to carry implies the importance of communication -- it's even our primary purpose. We need to keep our message pure, not altered to fit everyone. We learn a lot about having relationships in our Steps, we learn about how to keep those relationships and our Fellowship alive in our Traditions. Fear is the main roadblock to communication, it holds us back from being a part of, to let others get to know us. How are we going to carry and further our message if we don't communicate? Communication isn't always derived from words, from what we say, but rather from how we act. We need to show how our Program works, we need to reach out, we need to stay visible and available. This magazine is an example of members communicating worldwide. Sometimes we need to be encouraged by more experienced members to have the courage to take part of the trail of communication. We need you! The time of silence and apathy is over.

Written By:

an anonymous addict

From Sweden



our Twelfth Step says, "we tried... to practice these principles in all our affairs." When we collectively apply the insight received from that spiritual awakening to our group's problems, we call that group conscience. Common sense, open minds, calm discussion, accurate information, mutual respect, and healthy personal recovery enable a group to deal effectively with almost anything that comes its way.

By completing a set of steps, addicts can achieve an awakening of the spirit. Continued involvement in a Group teaches addicts how to apply spiritual principles in their lives. To facilitate the efforts to stay clean, members of any group will need a clearly defined purpose and work together to resolve common problems by arriving at a group conscience.

The Narcotics Anonymous literature says, (Basic Text, Tradition 5, Page 83) "Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers". How this is achieved is "In our groups we share our experience, strength and hope and this is our message that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs; lose the desire to use again; and find a new way to live." The first part of the message is

simple and clear. An addict can stop using drugs. Some members arrive free of drugs, and some struggle to free themselves of drugs for long periods of time. Addicts can return to self-medicating their impossible situations at any time and this is called a relapse. The goal of the individual member is always complete abstinence. During times of illness addicts may return to drug use, under the care of professionals but the goal is always to return to complete abstinence. Members of NA always strive to be inclusive regardless of their personal opinions and remember that as a Fellowship they are (Basic Text, Our Symbol, preface) "a universal and total program that has room within for all manifestations of the recovering and wholly recovered person."

Losing the desire to use must mean more than simply losing the desire to use drugs. The focus is on addiction, and not specific substances in the first step. Some members do struggle with a desire to return to drug use. Other members will come to see that recovery itself has become an addiction as they return time and time again to patterns of behavior that serve nothing but themselves despite remaining clean. New ideas about addiction are



emerging as the Fellowship grows. Service-based recovery are people who get caught up controlling and manipulating rather than proper service; which is operating with the full support of the Fellowship. Some members seek event-based recovery enjoying the best of what is available and never wanting to deal with the conflicts that make up any fellowship. Self-seekers will always find themselves outside the Fellowship. Avoiding or causing drama can be as big an addiction as any drug, so learning to deal with conflict is why the 12 traditions are applied to the groups. Sometimes the best a member can hope for is to walk away from toxic situations and serve the Fellowship in other ways, never forgetting the primary purpose and the means by which that is achieved.

Finding a new way to live is the goal of anyone who chooses to be a part of the Fellowship and how they are to achieve ongoing recovery. (Basic Text, Chapter 4, "How it works", Page 28) "We believe that the sooner we face our problems within our society, in everyday living, just that much faster do we become acceptable, responsible, and productive members of that society." By meeting regularly, and helping each other, addicts begin to learn about spiritual principles and apply them in their daily lives. An addict's regular commitment to regular attendance, sharing and caring with and for other addicts will guarantee a manner of living that ensures our recovery continues.

**Written by An
Anonymous Member
From Canada**



God's Will or Luck?

There's a lot of speculations on how people personalize God and think and treat God like a cosmic bellboy, for instance; some members say God saved them from their addiction and that plenty of times they should've been dead. I think this is them considering themselves special and favorable in God's eyes. Meanwhile many others, including innocent babies, died from this disease and other diseases. Are they saying God chose them to live while many others die? I think we chose God and followed the path after we were lucky enough not to die in our active addiction. It was our Surrender and commitment to this God given Program. If God saves us shouldn't those that relapsed shouldn't have died, or does God give his favorites only one chance at Recovery. It rains on the righteous and unrighteous, everyone is subject to death, no one knows when or how. We have to stop using God like a cosmic bell boy. We chose God, He didn't choose us. Once we are saved by the Grace he provides EVERYONE we can continue to stay alive by following that Spiritual Path, by Helping others. We can choose Life or Death, sooner or later everyone dies. Sometimes not by choice. God is Good all the Time.

ditions. I got the same spiritual feeling of acceptance and belonging, that I haven't experienced since I walked into my first Narcotics Anonymous meeting, the feeling that is described by many of us as, "coming home", or "finding our tribe".

The unity there was incredible. Anyone who showed up was encouraged to participate. No one was looked at differently for any reason. I heard it said, "that if you have one day clean you can help us write this literature". The spiritual principle of anonymity was truly taken seriously among the people there and not just given lip service.

We met great folks there from Florida and Ohio who have been really committed to producing the meditation book that we were gathering to work on. We also met some friends from North Carolina who were discovering the open participatory process for the first time. It was great to see that the people who had been doing this labor of love longer than the rest of us didn't treat the newcomers to the process any different. It was the opposite. They made us all feel welcome and just as much a part of as them.

As the weekend came to a close, I was very grateful to have experienced something I never thought I would ever be a part of. There is something very spiritual about literature "for addicts by addicts". It's just the way it's supposed to be. The fact that it is done any other way seems profane to me now. I don't understand how anyone that's not an addict can describe pain they have never felt, explain insanity that has never actually gripped them.

It's like trying to describe to someone a sound they have never heard or a color they have never seen. It has no soul, but we all recognized that the first time we picked up and read a gray book. In my opinion, Narcotics Anonymous literature written by professionals is written by people, and Narcotics Anonymous literature written "for addicts, by addicts" is spiritually inspired and written by the hand of a loving God.

In closing, if you've never participated in writing Narcotics Anonymous literature, don't let that opportunity pass you by. Don't sell yourself short by thinking you can't do it, or that you have nothing to offer. It's a spiritual experience, and spiritual experiences are what recovery is all about.

**In Service
Anonymous Addict
From Tennessee**



illustration, what I think and feel, tell the story behind the picture. I got really inspired and got right to it.

The NA symbol in the middle with recovering addicts doing their work in the Program, becomes attractive. We stand united in a circle (with the help of our Traditions), holding each other's hands, we give, and we get from one another. I drew the people without faces, in an attempt to illustrate us being equal within the principle of anonymity. We are addicts. We stand firm with our both feet in the Program. We do the footwork. I drew the people small and Narcotics Anonymous big. Wanted to draw the importance of several hands reaching out to the still suffering addict, because alone we can neither help others or ourselves. We carry out our message together. We drew the suffering addicts in black, intoxicated, sad, miserable, desperate and confused. Some are dead, because that was our reality, and that's the reality for many out there today. Our purpose is to show a new way of life. It's possible to be free and to get a better life than we ever could have realized/dreamed of.

My kids said that the ones I had colored black looked like they were suffering, that they looked like zombies. My kids also said that the ones in the circle looked like they were feeling good. One of my daughters told me to draw some light between the people and also a light coming out of the symbol, to represent Power. I said - of course! The darkness between the suffering addicts represents the destructive force we were powerless over. Today we are

granted daily power if we choose to Surrender and hand over our will and our lives to the care of a loving Power, who some of us call God. We need to carry our primary purpose in our hearts and be willing to give it away - the NA Way, in any given moment.

Thanks for showing me the way.

An anonymous member



Sweden

My First Literature Conference Experience

A phrase that I have heard many times since beginning my journey of recovery is, "that if you want what we got, then do what we do". I've always believed that, but the problem with the phrase is that until my experience at the G.B.S.A. Literature Conference in Pikeville KY, I haven't had the opportunity to experience the process of open participatory literature writing, like many of my predecessors who came before me got the opportunity to do.

Traveling there also gave another home group member and myself the opportunity to meet and fellowship with other people in recovery who are members of home groups that operate outside the corporate service structure. I doubt the other people in attendance had any idea how big of a deal that was for us. Here in East Tennessee we are the only home group that I know of, at this time, that operates outside the corporate structure and stands on strict adherence to the tra-



meetings to include an open PI meeting at the start of our meetings, in which cards can be signed and we will explain what Narcotics Anonymous is and why we are there. Following this brief open meeting, we will then continue with a closed meeting for addicts only. This is for the protection of the anonymity of members to our meetings.

Our group has also been working on strengthening our home group, with members regularly participating in service such as making coffee, setting up and cleaning up for meetings, regularly holding group conscience meetings, and members committing to chairing meetings during the week. During our group conscience meetings, the group has been going over motions for the upcoming ASIS conference. The group also agreed and has committed to purchasing and bringing back books from the conference. And exciting new news has come out that one member is planning on starting a new meeting in Wayne as early as mid-summer. The group has been doing a lot of wonderful things, and we are excited to see what growth occurs moving forward.

Group report from Grateful Wake Up Group Norfolk Nebraska

Our group has been primarily focusing on unity, inclusion, and solidification of our group conscience.

In terms of unity, we've continued doing our best to keep good relations with all other groups, but as we all know, this isn't always the easiest task. There has been some word unofficially that the Grateful Wake Up group has been removed from the official NA meeting list, though the official list PR person has not notified our group of this. So more is to be later determined. This has, however been an ongoing threat, so as such, our group had decided we will be doing our own PI by placing fliers in the community for our group's meetings.

In regard to inclusion, we have discussed as a group reformatting our

From: Group report from Grateful Wake Up Group



Identity Crisis

For many years I pondered the philosophical question; "Who am I?" I searched for meaning in life through fantasy after fantasy. I sought purpose for my existence in cause after cause. Finally, desperate for an identity to reconcile my diverse personality, I began to expand my consciousness through drugs, from hippie to hype. I searched the world over for stories about drugs and the culture surrounding them. I scoured the realm of pills from doctors, the best and the worst of liquid potions. I went from upholstered sewers full of disco-glitter to cribs cluttered with filth on the nod. Nowhere could I find me. Not in the dealer, not in the jet setter, not in the biker, nor in the burn-out. I came to this Fellowship totally lost. Not knowing who or what I was. I knew that I'd tried to be many things and had failed. I knew who and what I wasn't. My life only got worse when I used drugs - I wanted to stop. My would-be helpers tried to convince me that I was an "alcoholic", but I knew alcohol was only an occasional substitute. They tried to appease me by suggesting that I was a cross addict, but I didn't have any splinters in my shoulders from carrying crosses - I wasn't addicted to crosses. Well, maybe then I might be a dual addict (they were truly trying to help me surrender), but my possessions didn't include matched swords or pistols - I wasn't addicted to dueling at all. In exasperation they put it to me that I must be a poly-addict. However, to the best of my memory, I'd never smoked or shot or swallowed a

bit of plastic. I survived the psychology and the would-be helpers caught up in their own chemical denial. I came to an N.A. meeting and finally heard something that made sense, I was a person whose whole life and thinking had become centered in drugs in one form or another. Very simply, I am addict! Now I knew what all that numbo jumbo about keeping it simple meant. Eventually I was able to surrender to the idea of being powerless over my addiction, my life had become unmanageable. Today I realize that chemical identities are just a very insidious form of denial. My recovery is based on powerlessness over addiction, not powerlessness over drugs. I'm sick, getting well the N.A. way, recovering from addiction. I don't think that I can recover from drugs. My body, and maybe my mind can get over their effects. Drugs are not incurable; addiction is. I can recover from my disease if I accept my powerlessness over it and work the steps on that basis. My denial is strong, the strongest part of my addictive thinking. I'm sure that my denial could lead me to say that I'm a drug addict, an addict/alcoholic, a cross addict, a chemically dependent pill head, or any one of a number of complex chemical/personality labels. The Fellowship of N.A. taught me to identify myself according to my condition. I am an addict. None of the chemical symptoms of my disease; none of the drugs I used are any more important than the others. As an addict, I am addicted to all mood

changing chemicals whether I used them moderately, excessively, and even if I never used them at all. I'm an addict,

recovering from addiction through the N.A. Program. The chemicals I used are not even the most important symptoms of the disease that I'm powerless over...today. Total surrender can lead to unlimited recovery. To participate in my disease through denial of it would be to reserve a place for relapse: to limit my recovery, I need to participate in my recovery at meetings where addicts help each other recover from addiction. I'm grateful for the gift of knowing who and what I am. I'm no longer caught up in the aura of drugs. I've surrendered to the N.A. Program and don't need to participate in any denial based on a chemical hierarchy. I choose un-fused recovery expressed through my simple identity. I am, very simply, an addict.

**From New Awakening's
Newsletter, Originally Published
in The NA Way 1982**

**Written By:
Anonymous Addict
From the USA**



Give it away - the NA Way

Thanks to Narcotics Anonymous and my God, as I understand God, I can be part of life and feel included in my kids' welfare, my friends in NA's welfare, and my own welfare. It was requested if someone could do some illustrations for articles in the New/Old NA Way, and I felt like I would love to do that. I really love being creative. I was a bit doubtful, what if it isn't good enough? but I handed it over and just did it with an open mind and heart. I asked my God to work through me and got a clear picture in my head. I lit candles, had some good music on, got us some candy, and the kids was drawing themselves right beside me. We were completely present together. 18 months ago, I was in active addiction, but today I can do what's best for me and the kids. When I was drawing this piece, new pictures kept coming up, and I understood the clear message of NA even more. So very grateful that I get to do this. My sponsor suggested that I should write an article about the

