

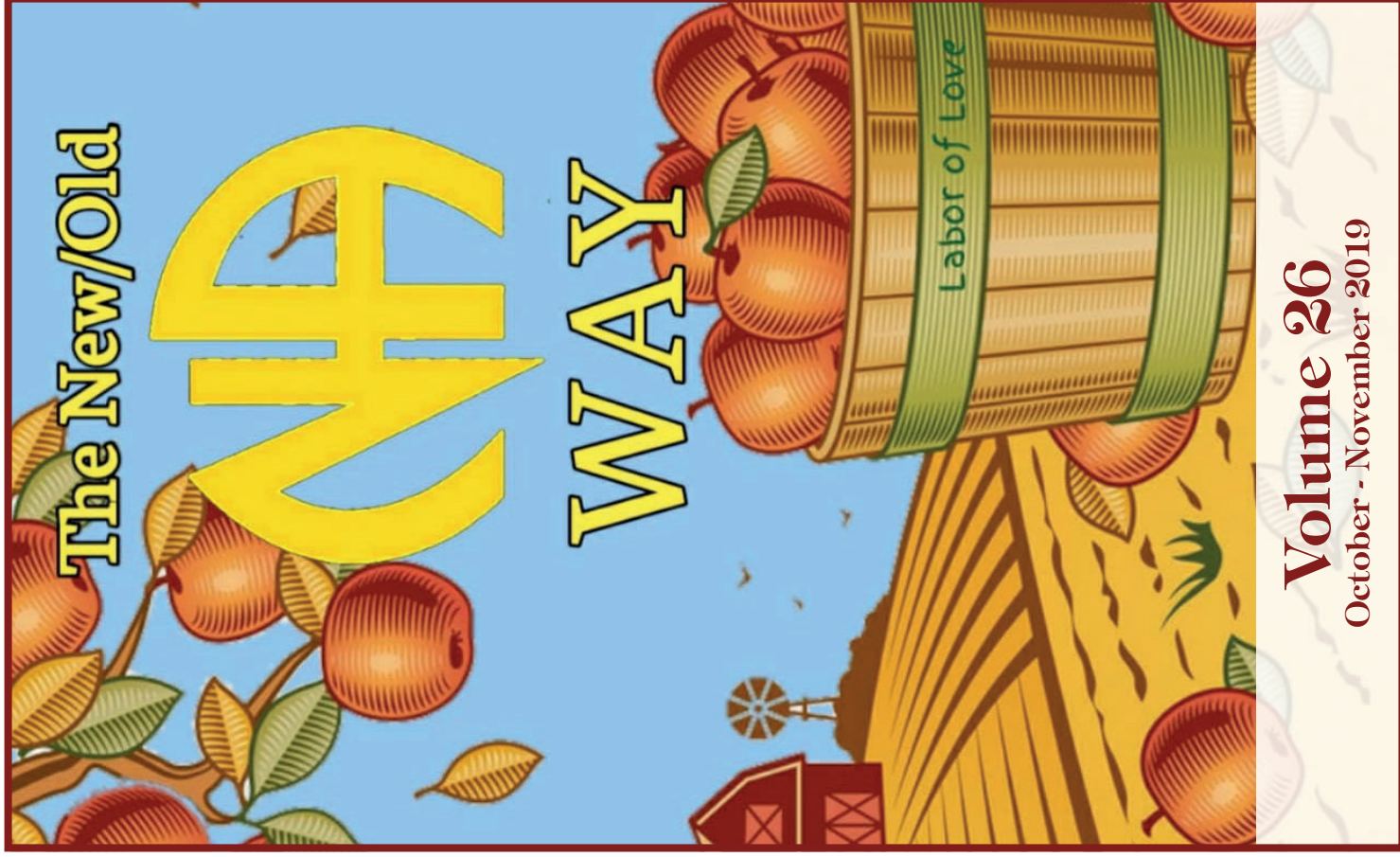
Your Fellowship Magazine  
Share...  
and be shared with..

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/OLD**  
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



Volume 26  
October - November 2019



The New/Old NA WAF Magazine

Volume 26

October - November 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

**GET  
INVOLVED!**

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

Please send your articles, event information, comics or other input to

[nahelp.org@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.org@gmail.com)

# The New/Old NA Way

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*Many of us have said, "Take my will and my life. Guide me in my recovery. Show me how to live."*

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

15th Annual Fellowship Service  
Conference for N.A.

When: June 28th thru June 29th, 2020 Where:

Hamburg, PA Place: Olivet Mountain Camp 1540

Mountain Ave. Hamburg, Pa 19526

Cost: \$100.00 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](mailto:matrixmatchclub@yahoo.com)

Check Out Our Web [www.nahelp.org/](http://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, 2020

Amount \$100.00 Check NO. \_\_\_\_\_

(Adversity does not build character, it Reveals it.) None Will Be Reversed.....



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## Upcoming Events

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

Date: October 10th thru October 13th, 2019  
Hamburg, PA

### NEWYEARS EVE MARATHON SPEAKER JAM

Date: December 31st, 2020

Woodstown, NJ

Hosted by The Most Perfect Vehicle Group.

### ANNUAL 12 STEP RETREAT

Date: February 21st thru February 23rd, 2020

Columbiana, Ohio

### 14TH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP SERVICE CONFERENCE FOR N.A.

Date: June 26th thru June 28th, 2020

Hamburg, PA

Your event here? Send information to [nahelp.org@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.org@gmail.com)

## Weblinks

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[www.nahelp.org](http://www.nahelp.org)

Contact: [nahelp.org@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.org@gmail.com)  
World

[www.nahelp.nl](http://www.nahelp.nl)

Contact: [nahelp.nl@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.nl@gmail.com)  
The Netherlands

[www.freerecovery.org.uk](http://www.freerecovery.org.uk)

United Kingdom

[www.nahelp.se](http://www.nahelp.se)

Contact: [antigenfariana@gmail.com](mailto:antigenfariana@gmail.com)  
Swede

## Transformation

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It's a beautiful thing the transformation we do in recovery. Do you remember how it was out there using? The pain, the desperation? We could not handle any area of life. For many of us, our living was reduced to an animal state, we were unable to express our thoughts and feelings, or even to feel at all. Some of us where homeless and our families and loved ones stayed clear from us and our destructiveness. Some of us worked very hard to try to maintain a facade that everything was alright, but the truth shined through the cracks. Nonetheless, everything circled around the getting, using and finding ways and means to get more.

We tried to transform our reality to something manageable, so we either numbed or hyped ourselves with drugs. Those close to us could see how we transformed into someone they no longer recognized, both physically, mentally and spiritually. Many of us even tried to avoid our own reflection in the mirror. We needed some sort

of transformation, we needed help. When we face these two choices, to change or die, were ready for the ultimate spiritual transformation - Narcotics Anonymous. We bring spiritually dead people back to life.

*"We forget the social graces, acquire weird habits and mannerisms, forget how to work, forget how to express ourselves and show concern for others and we forget how to feel. We, as recovering addicts, have to relearn things forgotten and learn what we have missed." Grey Book*

*"We bring spiritually dead people back to life."*

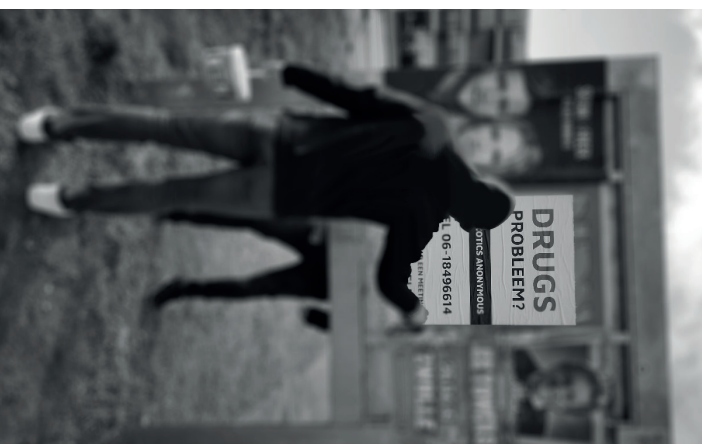
We carried feelings of worthlessness; we were ashamed of who we were. We thought that we were not good at anything, that we always failed, and that we were not worth the ground we walked upon.

When we got clean those feelings of worthlessness follow us, we feel that we are not good at anything or that we have nothing to contribute with, we are afraid to make everything worse just as we did when using, so maybe we choose to not be a part of because of these things. Other addicts supporting us through these times helped us find the gifts

we have that were hidden from ourselves by our disease. The great part the program works when we live it. It is a gift to see a newcomer come back to life, that is what the program can do with us. We become human beings again. Addiction took everything from us, and now we learn how to live and regain that what was taken from us. Our personalities.

There will be times where it all seems useless. It is in these moments that those who stay, will see what we mean with Transformation.

### **By Anonymous Addicts**



## **Gratitude: An Action Word**

Gratitude is not just saying "Thank you" or the feeling that things are going our way, it's much more than that...

When using we were not that grateful of anything, we basically destroyed anything that came in our way; relationships, physical things and our own lives. Our loved ones maybe tried a lot to help us, to try to save our lives. We were not grateful for those things; they were but obstacles between us and our using. We could be jealous of other's and wished people no good in life, because we have had such a "shitty luck" so should other's.

When we reached the end of the road, we were granted a choice, either do we continue this path, to jails, institutions and death. Or try a new way of life.

When we receive a gift from someone today, if we are grateful, we will take care of that gift, maintain it and care for it. If we are grateful for it, we do not throw it in the dumpster.

NA and God have granted us the gift of life, freedom! And if we are grateful, we will take care of that gift, do the actions necessary to maintain that gift, and want that gift for others.

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](mailto: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

How we do that is through the program of Narcotics Anonymous; working the steps with guidance from our sponsor's, pray and meditate daily, searching for Gods will, go to meetings, communicate with other addicts and get involved in service, to help carrying the message so maybe others also can experience that beautiful gift of life.

The message we carry needs to be clear, so addicts are granted the opportunity to accept or decline our way of life, we cannot adapt the program to every individual's life, but we can adapt our lives to the program.

We are grateful for God's grace and Narcotics Anonymous, because of that do we give back, help fulfilling our primary purpose, to contribute with any means we can, and try to live according to the principles we were thought by God and NA. We do not take for granted that everyone else will put in the work and do all the service, so we don't have to, that is not gratitude. We give freely and gratefully of our time to serve. We share our experience, strength and hope on recovery and how we apply the spiritual principles in our lives. We need to care for each

other, help each other recover from this disease and to carry the message to the addicts who still suffers.

" My gratitude speaks... When I care and When I share with others the N.A. Way." – BasicText

Our gratefulness is shown in how we live, not in what we say. We hear that a grateful addict won't use. A grateful addict does more than that. We give, we love, we care, and we carry our message to the still suffering addict. Things we take for granted are the first things we will lose to the disease of addiction.

### ***From Anonymous Addicts***

### **Finding the real NA way.**

I found NA with the help of a professional, I was recommended to try a meeting as I had asked them for help. My life at this point was falling apart, I couldn't hold a job, my family told me to get help or they would seize all contact and my emotional state was as dark as a winter night. I decided to get help, not for me but for my family. I still thought I would be able to stop when I wanted to. As it turned out I could not. I went to a meeting, crying and praying for the strength to stop,



then went and used that night again. This happen a couple of times and I had to realize that I was incapable of leaving it behind me. So, I asked for more help and got the opportunity to leave my hometown. I cancelled my apartment and started on a new path.

After leaving my hometown I stayed in an institution for some time. This is where I got clean and this is where I really found my place in NA. I could see that the way to staying clean was the NA way. What I didn't know back then is that there is not only one way to follow the NA way and had no idea what I would find later on in my recovery.

I got my first sponsor while in the institution, she was young, clean and she was something in NA. She was the one that everybody talked to at the meetings and she did service on district level, which back then was the goal in my recovery. During my last month before going back to my hometown I came in contact with another homegroup. This homegroup felt more recovered, saner and more at home than any group so far, but I was leaving to go back home.

So, I went back home. I started do all the service I could in my new Home Group, and I went to all the meetings I could.



# The 4th annual E.F.S.C. for N.A.

**WHEN:**  
10-13 OCTOBER 2019

START 10TH OCTOBER 15:00 (3PM)  
END 13TH OCTOBER 13:00 (1PM)

€ 125,- ALL INCLUSIVE  
IT IS POSSIBLE TO PAY IN TERMS, PLEASE PAY THE  
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PANOVENWEG 18  
6905 DW ZEVENAAR  
THE NETHERLANDS  
[CLICK FOR WEB PAGE](#)

**REGISTER  
AT NAHELP.NL**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!**

**THE MOST PERFECT VEHICLE  
GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

*New Year's Eve  
Marathon Speaker  
Jam*

**December 31, 2019**  
**149 South Main Street, Woodstown  
 NJ, 08098**

- 6:00pm Dinner (Free)**
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Grey Book Study**
- 9:00pm - 10:45pm Speakers**
- 11:00pm - 12:30pm Closing Speaker  
 & Clean Time Celebration**

**Closed Meeting - Addicts Only - No Children  
 No Verification Papers Signed**



I opened meetings and then even more meetings; I was getting involved in the district were all the cool NA people were. In the same time, I was in contact with an addict that was telling me about this book him and some other addicts were translating. These were addicts that were a part of the homegroup were I saw real recovery for the first time. Some of these addicts were addicts I had come to respect and listen to during my early recovery. I went to visit this homegroup a couple of times and I heard about this step working guide that peaked my interest. I looked at the guide and compared it with what my sponsor was suggesting I do and finally made my choice. I wanted to do this guide, the guide that spoke to me and that look precise and on point in relations to the other one. The issue now was that my current sponsor did not want to guide me in this guide, she also was against the book that was connected to the guide and as a result I left her. At this point I was around 8 months clean.

As a result of me wanting to do a specific guide my next sponsor was a woman that was willing to guide me in the guide I wanted. At the same time, I left my hometown once again and moved to the city were my real

homegroup was. The book was now finished, and we started our first NA meeting that used the Baby Blue. My sponsor was supportive, and my focus went in to learning about this real NA way and the history that was behind it.

All was well for around a year. I worked in the step working guide and with the help of God and NA I started to live life again. I did a lot of service but compared to the last homegroup we all did, not just me and one more, we opened more meetings and we grew as individuals and as a group. We had some issues in the group and as a result I learned the value of doing service for the right reasons. We also opened meetings in another city and grew as a group.

But around one year after finding a sponsor that supported the literature I saw as my NA way we had a situation in one of our meetings. We got a visitor that was heavily medicated and the discussion on total abstinence was brought to the group. I, of course, asked my sponsor about this and was told that it was up to her and her doctor and that the group had nothing to say about this. This is where I started to question my sponsor and what she was saying. I talked with the group and a lot

of other addicts and I could not come to terms with this. I tried to accept her opinion and did not bring it up again. His made it impossible for me to talk freely with her and I got to feeling more and more depressed. I got panic attacks again that I had been relieved from since early recovery. I did not know what to do. At the top of all this it became clear that my sponsor was on medication herself, she did not think this was an issue, but at my core I felt something else. In the end I was driving out in the country and I finally saw the truth; she was not the one to guide me anymore. I was at the state that I was contemplating getting on medication myself since life was getting so unmanageable again. I surrendered to the fact that I was going to have to leave her and be on my own.

But I was not on my own, I had my homegroup and they helped me stay clean and find the motivation to recover for my sake again. The helped me get a daily program and they carried me through the hard times. It took a couple of months before I got the opportunity to find my current sponsor. I had decided that I wanted what some of the members in my homegroup had gotten by this time, a daily program and

## Donations for the Literature Stockpile

We are seeking donations to build a book stockpile in the USA for the Grey Books and the Baby Blues. This way there never has a delay on the book order ever again. In order to build this stockpile we are looking for a first shipment that contains 5000 Baby Blues and 3000 Grey Books. The total cost for this order including shipping from Europe to the U.S. is \$8800.00. Hopefully Groups will help in this area and also individual members can donate for this cause. The current balance for the Stockpile is \$3535.00 and we will continue to keep Groups posted about where we are on raising the money. Donations can be made through various methods.

1. Sending checks or money orders to the Historical Perspective Group.  
Historical Perspective Group NA  
P.O. Box 4404  
Allentown PA 18105
2. PayPal. Our address is [historicalperspectivena@gmail.com](mailto:historicalperspectivena@gmail.com). Make sure to use the Friends and Family option.
3. Zelle. Account number is: 610-428-9923 (USA only)

For any further questions please feel free to contact us through email [matrixmatchclub@yahoo.com](mailto:matrixmatchclub@yahoo.com) or by phone: +14849513305.

In Loving Service,

The Historical Perspective Group

**Balance as of 09/07/2019 is  
\$3621.15**

ing clean and carrying the message of recovery. Our Steps and Traditions are set down in a specific order. They are numbered, not random and unstructured. They are organized, but this is not the type of organization referred to in the Ninth Tradition. For the purpose of this Tradition, "organized" means having management and control. On this basis, the meaning of Tradition Nine is clear. Without this Tradition, our Fellowship would be in opposition to spiritual principles. A loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience is our ultimate authority.

The Ninth Tradition goes on to define the nature of the things that we can do to help N.A. It says that we may create service boards or committees to serve the needs of the Fellowship. None of them has the power to rule, censor, decide, or dictate. They exist solely to serve the Fellowship, but they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous. This is the nature of our service structure as it has evolved and been defined in the N.A. service manual.

The text in this download can be copied

<http://www.nauca.us/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/1981-11-Basic-Text-Approval-Form-White.pdf>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eWdw8DP1nXAP-2Mz1U8AmQnmceH9XpSMvA9oIq77p/QT4/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R469ZMs0N9XzsiKj5KMbx-wdysdn0KjVg/view?usp=sharing>

a new way of life. So, I went to Holland and I asked my current grand sponsor for help. I knew he could help me find someone that would help me find the recovery I wanted, and he came through.

Today I have daily contact with my sponsor for around 7 months. During this time, I have found surrender with her help and I have found a new level of freedom that I didn't think was possible. She has helped me see what I need to change and what I really can't change at all. She has gotten me to the point where I only see an opportunity in everything that happens in life. Even a panic attack triggered by one of the biggest traumas of my past is with her help an opportunity to learn.

In my recovery I have experienced NA in different ways, but I know today in my heart that I have finally found the real NA way.

In recovery is that we get to know ourselves and see that we have good parts, we get to experience success, find our self-worth and that we can contribute! One powerful thing is that we can save lives, we are the only ones that can help suffering addicts, it's up to us to help them, it's our responsibility, that is a gift that truly is great, that means we have transformed

from worthless to lifesavers. We show by example that none of us are worthless, that every addict who wants to can lose the desire to use and find freedom from active addiction. The Gray book talks about how we gradually come back to life and become a member of society again. That it is great to see an addict with one day clean tell a newcomer that no addict need ever die from the horrors of active addiction

**An Anonymous Addict From Sweden**



## Group Report 'No Matter What Group Hengelo'

We have 4 meetings a week, 2 Grey Book studies and 2 Basic Text studies. We also study Traditions once a week. Our Homegroup consist of 12 members. Our Group registered at Asis and is totally News free. We use and give out Traditional literature. PI is in infant-stage, we printed

flyers, business cards, we have phone line and webpage that is run by members from multiple Groups in the Netherlands (NAhelp.nl). We have a member who translates weekly a part of the Grey Book. Our Group (and Iikeminded Groups) got a lot of heat and negative attention from Naws structure and we are labelled Non-NA. This because our stance on Total Abstinence as described in the Basic Text and because we use/print/distribute Traditional NA literature and don't participate in Area/Region. Area/Region has an active approach on telling members and outside organizations (like treatment industry) to not visit our meetings yet the addicts that visit our Groups/ meetings are in general very excited about our message and our atmosphere of recovery. Our Group (and Iikeminded Groups) took a beating, but we stand firm. We have steady attendance at our meetings, we get around average 6to8 members at our monthly Group Conscience/ Business Meetings. We are financially healthy. At our meetings we share a pure & clean NA Message of Total Abstinence.

There are a bunch of committees and workgroups that spun of from our Homegroup. Proj-

ects like; the EFSC weekends (this year will be our 4th annual event), translations-day for the Baby Blue, we support (and produce) a lot of recovery literature and send these out worldwide at cost price and donated lots of literature to addicts & Groups worldwide. All funds are used to carry the message. Members from our Group are also highly involved in the NA Way newsletter, writings of different pieces of literature and the writing/formatting/re-styling Traditional literature, and we have participated in the different Podcasts from Swan/Radio Free NA.

## One Members Reflections on Their Inventory

A valuable tool for addicts who choose to participate in Narcotics Anonymous is the personal inventory. It's also one of the most destructive tools we learn in recovery when used incorrectly. For many addicts, the typical approach is to attend meetings regularly, find a sponsor and work thru the steps. Some members use a process of questions and discussions to complete the steps that have been passed on for decades. The NAWS Corporation has

regularly at a specific place and time for the purpose of recovery provided that it follows the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous. There are two basic types of meetings: those which are opened to the general public and those closed to the public (for addicts only). Meetings vary widely in format from group to group. Some are participation meetings, some speakers, some question and answer, some special problems discussion.

Despite the type or format a group uses for its meetings, the function of a group is always the same: to provide a suitable and reliable environment for personal recovery and to promote such recovery. These Traditions are part of a set of spiritual principles of Narcotics Anonymous, and without them, N.A. does not exist.

We say that for N.A., autonomy is more than this. It gives our groups the freedom to act on their own to establish their atmosphere of recovery, serve their members, and fulfill their primary purpose. It is for these reasons that we guard our autonomy so carefully.

It would seem that we, in our groups, can do whatever we decide regardless of what anyone says. This is partly true. Each group does have complete freedom, except when their actions affect other groups or N.A. as a whole. Like group conscience, autonomy can be a two-edged sword. Group autonomy has been used to justify the violation of the Traditions. If a contradiction exists, we have slipped away from our principles. If we check to make sure that our actions are clearly within the bounds of our Traditions; if we do not dictate to other groups, or force anything upon them; and if we consider the consequences of our action ahead of time, then all will be well.

Approval Copy 1981 9th Tradition essay

### TRADITION NINE

*"N.A. as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."*

This Tradition defines the way our Fellowship functions. We must first understand what N.A. is. Narcotics Anonymous is addicts who have the desire to stop using and have joined together to do so. Our meetings are a gathering of members for the purpose of stay-

In Tradition 4, the circled lines are,

1. The answer is that these things are not N.A.
2. All else is not N.A.
3. Whether we choose to utilize these services is up to the group.

In Tradition 9, the circled lines are,

1. None of them has the power to rule, censor, decide, or dictate.
2. but they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous.

Here is a Side by Side comparison

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fPS70BZkfFuCyUK84Rqmvvg-mo-uRP1zbS/view?usp=sharing>

Approval Copy 1981 4th Tradition essay

#### TRADITION FOUR

*"Each Group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other Groups, or N.A. as a whole"*

The autonomy of our groups is necessary for our survival. A dictionary defines autonomous as "having the right or power of self-government...undertaken or carried on without outside control. "This means our groups are self-governing and are not subject to outside control. Every group has had to stand and grow on its own.

One might ask, "Are we truly autonomous? What about our service committees, our offices, activities, hotlines and all the other things that go on in N.A.?" The answer is that these things are not N.A. They are services we utilize to help us in our recovery and to further the primary purpose of our groups. Narcotics Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women, addicts meeting in groups and using a given set of spiritual principles to find freedom from addiction and a new way to live. All else is not N.A. Those things we mentioned are the result of members caring enough to reach out and offer their help and experience so that our road might be easier. Whether we choose to utilize these services is up to the group.

A Narcotics Anonymous group is any meeting which meets

produced a step working guide that is for sale at many meetings which is popular with new people. Whatever route you have taken I wanted to share my experiences with a step 4 inventory.

A lot of members start the steps in treatment centers. Treatment centers do not always to understand the nature of the program and the importance of unity to our fellowship. I needed an understanding of the 12 traditions in order to apply the work that I did in the steps. Clients will abandon the 12-step process after they have completed step 5, where they share the personal inventory that they take in step 4 with another individual or staff. The rooms of Narcotics Anonymous are full of treatment center victims. This endless cycle of abuse continues when they relapse and go back to treatment, starting another step series, always looking at recovery in Narcotics Anonymous as a self-help program. I never believed the steps were never intended to make you a better person but simply to take the focus away from self-obsession to a more spiritual focus. Clearly a less self-obsessed life might improve my living conditions but there are no guarantees. A spiritual life can involve sacri-

fications of money, time and selfish desires. Some of my most destructive traits took years to unlock and expose to the light of a spiritually centered life.

6 "Recovery and Relapse", The Narcotics Anonymous, IP No. White Book, and Any version of the Basic Text contains the phrase;

*"By the same token we have observed some members who remain abstinent for long periods of time whose dishonesty and self-deceit still prevent them from enjoying complete recovery and acceptance within society."*

How can my dishonesty and self-deception manifest itself in daily living? This can be difficult to diagnose alone. I've always found it critically important to have a sponsor and a group I attend regularly. What part does Narcotics Anonymous play in the process? [Basic Text, Version 2 (Grey Book) Chapter two, "What is N.A."]

*"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. This is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs."*

I believe that we were recovered addicts when we help others and recovering when we tell others what we want to do about our problems and how they can help. Narcotics Anonymous was a safe place where we co-exist as equals, regardless of clean time or intentions beyond a simple desire to stop using. Some members struggle with active addiction for a while or taper off from drug replacement therapies like suboxone or methadone. I was taught that the program begins as I work the steps completely abstinent. My experiences in completing the steps mimic what the basic text says: (Basic Text, Version 2 (Grey Book), Step 12) "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."

From my observations, practicing these principles in all our affairs is a struggle and in some cases the principles were completely abandoned in some of my affairs early in recovery. Today is a different story and I feel clear in my mind and surrounded by the love of a healthy and vibrant fellowship. Bob Stone was not a member, but he was the first executive director of the World Service Office for Narcotics Anonymous which would morph into the NAWS corporation. He remarked in his book ("My Years With Narcotics Anonymous", Originally published and copyrighted in 1997 by Hulon Pendleton Publishing L.L.C.) at how petty members with significant clean time were, but his experience was with a small segment of the fellowship who were trying to manage a rapidly growing fellowship in the 1980s and early 1990s. Narcotics Anonymous is a spiritual movement and grows organically every day in other parts of the world without the need to be managed. I believe members acted dishonestly or allowed their self-deceptions to influence changes in our fellowship that had a far-reaching impact. Growth halted quickly in North America. The solution for them was to make service structures and events part of NA against the wishes of the Fellowship. The groups had already approved the original literature which referred to anything outside a group as not a part of NA.

With the changes, unfortunately, members who have never fully recovered can build entire lives inside the fellowship by filling their time with events and service work. Today members use the terms

it was noticed that an error was made with respect to Traditions Four and Nine. A special meeting was called of the Three World Service Arms of Narcotics Anonymous, and the error was corrected.

<http://magshare.net/narchive/NArchive/1983/01-22-1983-Open Letter to the Fellowship.pdf>

The Altered Basic Text 1st Edition was printed:

The fellowship wanted to know what was changed since the Groups Conscience was not involved in the decision to change our book. The first of many times Group Conscience was subverted. Here is the response we got:

*March 15, 1983*

*To: The Worldwide Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous  
From: The WSC Administration Committee*

*In response to many inquiries regarding exactly what changes, deletions and/or corrections were made in Traditions Four and Nine of the Basic Text (referred to in both the WSC Literature Committee Chair's letter of March 1, 1983 and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees letter of March 1, 1983), we are enclosing copies of the exact changes made. They are circled for your clarification.*

*In loving service,*

*Bob Rehmar, Chairman*

*WSC 82-83*

<http://magshare.net/narchive/NArchive/1983/1983-03-15%20%20Letter%20from%20WSC%20Administration%20Comm.%20-%20Tradition%204%20and%209.pdf>

## The Alteration of the 4th & 9th Traditions in the Basic Text between the Approval Copy & the 1st Edition.

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Minutes from BOT Meeting on November 13, 1982

Dear Greg,

*Enclosed are the minutes of our last meeting along with Tradition 4 and 9.*

*I felt it important enough to agree to the following changes or deletions in the Big Book.*

*As the Traditions supersede all other material, I felt it would make the service manual worthless as well as cause serious problems. As it leaves the group has the sole power and as you know someone would pick up on that and tell the fellowship where to go.*

*If the fellowship thinks that these are important, they should be in the service manual, not the Traditions.*

In Fellowship,

Chuck

<http://www.nauca.us/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/1982-BOT-Alterations-of-Basic-Text-Traditions-4-9.pdf>

Then we got this:

January 22, 1983

TO: OPEN LETTER TO THE FELLOWSHIP

FROM: BOARD OF DIRECTORS/WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

RE: NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS TEXTBOOK (HARDBACK)

In November 1982, during the proofreading of the galleys,

like event-based recovery or service-based recovery in a derogatory fashion to describe these behaviors. If events and service structures were outside enterprises, then members who have fully recovered would eagerly participate rather than being driven away by the lies and deception that can exist. Members use the inventory process as a weapon to drive away others and question their motives. Service bodies should be fully accountable to and supported financially by the groups. Some service structures function remarkably well and appears related to the strength of the unity of those groups who participate fully or substantially without the need to inventory each other. Look and see for yourself the effectiveness of service structures when they are accountable to the groups. Social media has opened the door to healthy fellowships around the world.

All members can freely exist and participate in NA as equals regardless of their place in the journey to complete recovery. The personal inventory I took laid the foundation for the rest of the work I did in the steps and traditions. The daily practice of applying spiritual principles in all my affairs continues. When I struggle with this practice in

some affair, I ask for help from other members in the group I'm a member of. New people and a growing fellowship strengthen my recovery and offer me more freedom with each passing day. The diversity of my group gives me the opportunity to apply the traditions in my life and further strengthens my practice of applying spiritual principles. The stigma of being an addict is no longer a barrier. I can fully contribute to society and participate in all the world has to offer. The greatest freedom is from self-obsession as I remain vigilant in carrying a message to the still suffering addict.

**An Anonymous Addict From  
Canada**



## Why are There Seven

### Editions of our BasicText?

Was it necessary to create seven editions of our Basic Text? Well, yes and no. "Yes and no," you say, "that doesn't make any sense." You're right, it doesn't. To understand that "yes and no" answer, we must look at the history of how and why the Text was changed, starting with the First Edition. The first fellowship written and group conscience approved Basic Text was released for a short time (1983), then quickly recalled when it was discovered that individuals at the World Service Office had made unauthorized and unapproved changes to the 4th and 9th Traditions text. (2) Clearly, the unauthorized version could not be further distributed, and after the Fellowship demanded that the correct version be printed and distributed, the Second Edition was published immediately. It's worth noting that most informed members today recognize that the 2nd edition is/was the only Basic Text that was group conscience developed and approved.

Not to be deterred, the "powers that be" at the WSO and WSC still felt threatened by the clear understanding in our Traditions that demand

that N.A. groups have "the power" in N.A. Service. (3) Without sending their editing back to the groups in the standard way (distribution to all registered N.A. groups with ample time to deliberate, pray and make decisions), the WSO deleted, through a manipulation of accepted voting procedures of the WSC, deleted clear language defining the 4th and 9th traditions. It was reported by the WSO that the groups had responded (and apparently really quickly) in favor of the deletions and produced the 3rd Edition. What wasn't reported by the WSO that many groups and members of NA left the fellowship at that point, believing the WSC had violated, and would continue to violate the Traditions. In 1985, the World Service Board of Trustees, without any notice to the fellowship, formed a closed "literature committee" off limits to fellowship input, which ultimately manufactured the "Little White Book, newly revised." This was offered to the fellowship for approval only, with no review and input phase. But approve it the fellowship did, and the Little White Book changes were applied to the Basic Text. Thus, was born the Third Edition, Revised. (See how errors in that work

## Do we still believe this today?

Narcotics Anonymous is built upon a few ideas that are not part of the twelve steps we use to recover from addiction. For example: ... "this is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs;" "we have no dues or fees, no pledges to sign, no promises to make to anyone, we are" ... addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean ...." Part of the philosophy Narcotics Anonymous was built upon included the idea that: "... Jail did not help us at all, Medicine, religion and psychiatry... (had) no answers for us we could use." To recover from addiction. Our earliest and most basic comprehensive literature was written by those addicts who cared enough to give it away so they could keep it. The writing was open to any member who wanted to help and all of it was reviewed by the entire fellowship who were encouraged to input any changes or additions they thought were helpful. This method must have offended some folks who seemed to think they were more qualified to write than the entire fellowship. A very limited faction of members re-wrote part of our stated philosophy to: "... Most

of us ended up in jail, or sought help through medicine, religion and psychiatry. None of these methods was sufficient for us." Changing our entire relationship to those institutional entities. Now we are saddled with this erroneous perception. We have drug replacement members calling themselves clean because some therapist told them that they were. We need to inventory our service errors, particularly those we made because of elitism and closing our services to full fellowship participation, and the dishonoring of complete review and input.

**Written by an NA member that goes by Anonymi.**



**ANONYMI**

*A world-wide NA Home Group designed to provide our trusted servants (whose service has sometimes isolated them from their local groups) with the love and understanding they need to survive.*



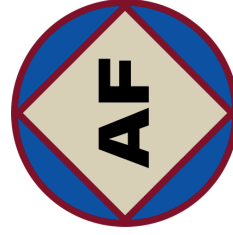
to support our services and to further our primary purpose. Unfortunately, there is little left over once a group pays its way. Sometimes a committee is formed to put on an activity to raise funds. These efforts help and without them, we could not have come this far. N.A. services remain in need of money, and even though it is sometimes frustrating, we really would not have it any other way; we know the price would be too high. We all have to pull together, and in pulling together we learn that we really are part of "something greater than ourselves."

These statement in our Basic Text only deal with the NA home Group creating a committee within the Group for the purpose to fulfill their Primary Purpose of the Home Group ability to carry the message through providing information to the Public and H-I into Prison and rehabilitation centers. However, the committee should be dissolved once they have for filled their purpose directed by the NA Home Group ...However this should be avoided if all possible, we should rely on spiritual direction of God involved in are NA Home Group Conscience, through prayer and meditation. A Surrender to a Greater Power

will should be the example a NA Home Group utilizes for guidance concerning the issue of money.

All the money is supposed to come from members. Why do we need to "sell" shiny things to ourselves to get money to pay our bills? Reach into the same pockets and pay our way. You want to have a dance then have a self-supporting dance, just to pay for the dance. You need money for a special PI project then ask the groups to ask the members. If they want it, they will provide the money & GC.

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threaten recovery even today. (4)) Around that time, the WSO Board realized that the Text was a cash cow. The book was sold for a high price, higher even than was originally agreed to by conference participants. Looking for ways to increase profits, they contracted with the Hazelden Foundation, the largest supplier of treatment-related material, to sell the book. Unfortunately, Hazelden did not like our grammar and content. They did not like the 'addict to addict' context that we can relate to, and wanted the book edited to their perception of a "professional standard," including their perceptions of the treatment industry. So the closed World Lit Committee and the WSO asked the fellowship for an okay to edit the Basic Text once again, making "grammatical changes" without distorting the meaning. (just like the "non-substantive" changes they are asking for in the 2012 CAR). (5) Unfortunately, the professional writer they hired without a group conscience decision from the fellowship went much further than the WSO motion directed. The resulting 4th edition was clearly written for other professionals and changed the meaning of much of the clearly understandable language we addicts use. Additionally, before the re-written 4th edition was even approved by the fellowship, the WSO had accepted funding

from Hazelden for it, and thousands of copies were published and distributed widely. Clearly, the 4th Edition should have never been written, much less re-written by professionals without the fellowship's approval. The fellowship certainly felt that way and demanded that it immediately be recalled. In yet another unprecedented move by the manipulation of conference procedure, the WSC combined the 3rd Revised and 4th Edition, giving birth to the 5th edition, a compromise that satisfied Hazelden. The kicker is the fact that book distributors like Hazelden pay a wholesale price for our literature – far less than you and I, or our Home Groups, are required to pay. Hazelden then turns around and sells it for a profit! It's corporate money, property, and prestige in action – a walking, talking 6th Tradition violation. The 5th edition stayed with us for quite a while. Fast forward about five years, around the same time that World Services informed the fellowship there were significant “fund flow” problems, they suggested a 6th edition, changing only the stories in the second half of the book. However, once again, this idea did not come as a request from the fellowship. Nor was

it ever suggested (or dreamed of) by the fellowship that when new versions of the Basic Text come out, that suddenly older versions would become unacceptable/” non-approved” literature. (Not a bad marketing technique to REALLY amp up the sale of new versions.) The fellowship was allowed to vote on what stories would be put in the 6th edition...BUT we were not asked to decide on which stories were taken out. Once again, that kind of decision fell to those who believe they know better and had made themselves more powerful than Group Conscience. We, in our programs of recovery, take inventories then change our behavior to support our recovery. Perhaps a clear view of a service inventory should include some simple adjustments to our literature policy. An appropriate action by the RD's at WSC 2012 would be to deny the request for unbri-dled editing rights to be given to the WB. Other appropriate actions might include that whatever version of the Basic Text a member bought first be declared to be “Approved NA Literature” for that member.

***In Service Anonymous Addict USA***



## **What about Fundraising?**

Does Fundraising have any place in the NA Communities? Let take a look at the 7th Tradition of Narcotics Anonymous and what it says to us spiritually.

“Tradition Seven Every NA Group ought to be fully self – supporting, declining outside contributions.”

What does it mean to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions? Does be self-supporting mean we as the NA Communities pay our own way, however that means only the NA Group pays it on way. We here so often that the 7th tradition states that we pass the basket to pay are own way than we also hear we are doing a fundraiser to fund our

services that the groups have set up, whether it be for H-1, P-1, a convention are for the group to pay its rent.

Are we really self-supporting, declining outside contributions when we are involved in getting others to be part of charging for are services through a charge for the function? Do we as a fellowship believe in that statement in the Basic Text where it states that if it is Spiritual that the money will be there? Do we Trust that God will be involved in our spiritual process of giving from the heart? Do we Trust our membership will come through to fund our services that they have conscience to set up to assist in carrying our message to the addict who still suffers?

Do we pray before we pass the basket and make it a spiritual body of the meeting? Do we study the 7th tradition so are Group members understand what the 7th tradition actually means? Does the 7th tradition have more than a financial matter in meaning when it comes to being self-supporting?

*“We need money to run our group: there is rent to pay, supplies and literature to buy, We take a collection in our meetings to cover these expenses and whatever is left over goes*