

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.



“ ... 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

## *Conference Agenda Report*



*Special edition*



The New/Old NA WAY Magazine  
Volume 29 Special Edition  
January 2020

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)**

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## Upcoming Events

### ANNUAL 12 STEP RETREAT

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

### HISTORY OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Date: March 21st, 2020  
Woodstown, NJ

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

Date: June 26th thru June 28th, 2020  
Hamburg, PA

### 5TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP SERVICE

#### CONFERENCE FOR N.A.

Date: September 17th thru September 20th, 2020  
Ambt Delden, The Netherlands

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

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## Weblinks

[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: [antigenfriana@gmail.com](mailto:antigenfriana@gmail.com)  
Sweden

# The New/Old NA Way

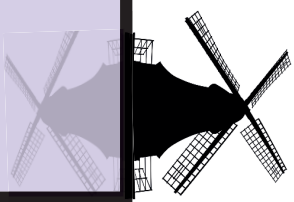
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**My Gratitude Speaks  
When I Care  
And When I Share  
With Others  
The NA Way**

17th - 20th September  
**2020**



**Location:**

Kroeze Danne, Kappelhofsweg 14  
Ambt Delden, the Netherlands

Price: € 125,- (All-Inclusive)  
Possible to pay in terms

**Register at [www.nahelp.nl](http://www.nahelp.nl)**  
or email to [nahelp.nl@gmail.com](mailto:nahelp.nl@gmail.com)

Contact: 0031642091629

## 15th Annual Fellowship Service Conference for N.A.

When: June 26th thru June 28th, 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) 428-9523 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# W

elcome NA members,

We had another great year of growth as a Fellowship this last year with another great conference in Hamburg PA. Just a reminder again that if any new proposals are coming from Groups they need turned in right away in writing to a trusted servant at the FSC as there are to be no motions made on the conference floor. Communication is an area that we are truly growing in, and this has been another great year of growth in that area. The motions were finalized on January 1st, 2020 and we have those motions in this report. This includes all of the input that the Groups that made the motions took from other Groups. There are two versions of total abstinence that will be up for approval. Both will be included in this CAR. The other IP's up for approval will be included also. Proposals come to the conference in June, and then the Groups that brought those proposals have until January 1st of the next year to make changes before they become motions. It is important for Groups to communicate with each during the time from the end of the conference in June until January so that any concerns or suggestions can be made during this time. Some motions will not be included from before as there are no Groups that have stepped forward to carry those motions. There is also one motion that will be included by precedence set last year. That Group is now a meeting so no changes could be made to it. After this year if it does not pass it will either have to be picked up by a Group to carry it, or it will not go on also. It is such a privilege to be part of a service structure that is directly responsible to the Groups. Motions only come from Groups so if there are things your Group feels needs changed please bring your proposals to the conference. This year the conference will be recorded so that we can ensure that we have accurate minutes, and that there is no confusion between what happened at the conference. One suggestion that was made was for Groups to bring written reports or send written reports

to the secretary if they want. This will help make sure things are clear from how each Group stands as well as help make sure nothing is changed from what Groups have concised before the conference. We are here to serve the Groups so if there is any way we can serve please let us know. Can't wait to see you in June.

In loving service,

Eric D

2020 Chair Servant

Fellowship Service Conference (for Narcotics Anonymous)

Eric D 1-402-640-2471

Erik F (co chair) +31646711134, erikfiselier@hotmail.com



*History*  
of NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



Hosted by The Historical Perspective  
Group & The Most Perfect Vehicle Group  
of Narcotics Anonymous

**MARCH 21, 2020**  
**8:00 AM – 10:00 PM**

**149 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WOODSTOWN NJ, 08098**  
**Potluck Lunch & Dinner**

"We are not giving up.  
We are sitting here for the ones  
coming after us. We are sitting here  
for the addicts not born yet. We must  
keep these doors open." Jimmy K



MATT F (856) 803 - 8857  
SOUTH]ERSEY]NARCOTICS]ANONYMOUS}@GMAIL.COM

RAY D (610) 428 - 9923

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

# *Motions*

To be Group Conscience by the Groups of the 2020  
F.S.C. If there are any suggested changes please contact the  
Group that proposed the motion. Changes can be made until  
december 2019.

## **MOTIONS**

### **MOTION 2019 H**

GSRs, ASRs, RSRs, or any other Representative empowered  
by a Group to bring its conscience may not submit reasons for  
votes unless the Group has instructed them to do so, even if  
they have knowledge of such.

This motion failed with 78,6% approval from Groups. This  
motion can be brought back if a Group chooses to bring it  
back. **The Group that made this motion has become a meet-  
ing. So it would have to be picked up by a different Group  
if it does not pass in 2020.**

Contact: Chubs – Phone (775) 990-3509

### **MOTIONS FROM A DIFFERENT LOOK GROUP 2020**

#### **Motion number 2020 A**

The Groups of the FSC approve the IP "A view of NA Groups  
Conscience"

#### **Motion number 2020 A, Intent number 1 :**

To provide in information as a blueprint for understanding  
Group Conscience, establishing an atmosphere of recovery to  
protect the integrity of the NA message.

#### **Motion number 2020 A, Intent number 2:**

To copyright this IP.

#### **Motion number 2020 B**

The Groups of the FSC approve the IP "Total Abstinence".

**Motion number 2020 B, Intent number 1:**

To define what being clean is in NA.

**Motion number 2020 B, Intent number 2:**

To copyright protect this IP.

Motioning Group Contact: Alan F. – Phone (215) 499-0864

## **MOTIONS FROM HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE GROUP NA 2020**

### **Proposal:**

**Motion number 2020 C.**

To approve We are not Doctors I.P.

**Intent:** To clarify our message concerning this issue. This I.P. has been out since 2010 for input and review and has no input since 2012 so we feel it is time to approve the I.P.

**Footnote:** It is already approved by are Home Group and Other Home Groups in NA. It is on many of tables that Groups have approved this I.P. it has gone through the test of time.

**Motion number 2020 C.**

To approve the I.P. Total Abstinence

**Intent** to clarify our message of Total Abstinence within the Fellowship of NA. This issue is a major concern within the Fellowship where we are allowing a corporation to define our message as being other than total abstinence. This I.P. clarify our message of total abstinence. It also has been out since 2013 for input and review with no input coming since 2013.

**Footnote:** It is already approved by are Home Group and Other Home Groups in NA. It is on many of tables that Groups have approved this I.P. it has gone through the test of time.

Motioning Group Contact: Bill A. – Phone (484) 951-3305

Willing to do whatever it took to

Recover. Our Message of Hope and Promise of Freedom was well received for the most part.

The challenge of the N.A. Message was not an issue. Either it was Accepted or not. Today in N.A., in my experience, is getting more and more difficult to Carry the N.A. message. The newcomers that are coming in today, mostly the ones that are coming out of rehabs, are not only resistant to our Message and Principles but are contradicting it. The N.A. Literature that's written by professionals don't help either. I find myself arguing and defending our Message instead of carrying it. A lot of newcomers are on some type of medication for the Treatment of addiction. Some are newly put on some type of medication for depression and anxiety. These new members are not giving N.A. a chance. Those Steps are design to lift obsession and cravings, as well as treating depression and anxiety. Some H&I committees, around the country, are censoring what speakers say as not to offend the rehabs, or go against their policies, etc. That's fine it's not our job or message to tell rehabs what they should be doing or not doing. Part of the Message of Narcotics Anonymous is Abstinence from

all drugs in order to Recover.

In other words, we don't use drugs to Recover. We use Twelve Spiritually based Steps and Traditions. How can we leave the important Principle of Abstinence out, It is the Cornerstone of our Program? Newcomers that are not on any type of the medications, mentioned earlier, is a rarity. When you tell them, they can't work on any Steps till they're completely Clean, they catch an attitude and don't attend the HG anymore. They usually find a Sponsor that agrees with their idea of what's Clean. I have 2 Sponsee's now and they're both clean over 7 years and are completely clean no additives. When I'm asked to Sponsor people, I first ask them if they're on any medication and if so, do they have a plan with their doctor to get off of them. Then and only then can we do any work. Meanwhile they can attend meetings and call me if they wish. Needless to say, it's getting more and more difficult to Carry This Life Saving Message of Narcotics Anonymous.

**Written By. Anonymous Addict  
USA**



their home group like the rest of us, and a big vote at world powerful enough to cancel us all out. Where are the spiritual principles in this?

The boards and committees exist NOT FOR THEMSELVES; they is not self-created bodies; they were formed to better serve the groups, areas, or regions which created it. They may be just as aware as the GSR's, ASR's, or RSR's what others feel; but it is their job to SERVE, not to RULE. Voting power is rulership, as sure as it is the power to have one's way. The assertion that "there is no us and them in NA" is very nice. It all depends on the mental set of the addict. Those who have observed power cliques at work might regard it as naive. I have seen bad behavior and us-vs-them mentality on both sides of every issue you could name. Pretending that there are not or have not been pitched battles between the ins and outs, complete with strategy meetings and dirty tricks campaigns on BOTH sides, might sell on the newcomer. The reality, I deeply regret, has been different. I've seen plenty of mischief, but I still have great faith in NA and the loving God who cares for us IN SPITE of the foolishness and self-will we exhibit every day. Consider, though, that for some

addicts, there is no such thing as enough. It's not enough to have the power and prestige of being the regional treasurer; they also want a vote. It's not enough to be an area H&I chair, with considerable influence, a voice at area and the joy and privilege of service; they also want a VOTE. Well, I'm sorry, they're not getting my vote, or that of my home group, area or region. A loving God still speaks through the groups. Thank God! And until they get the vote, the trusted servants do not govern.

**Written By: An Anonymous Addict In the Mid Nineties**

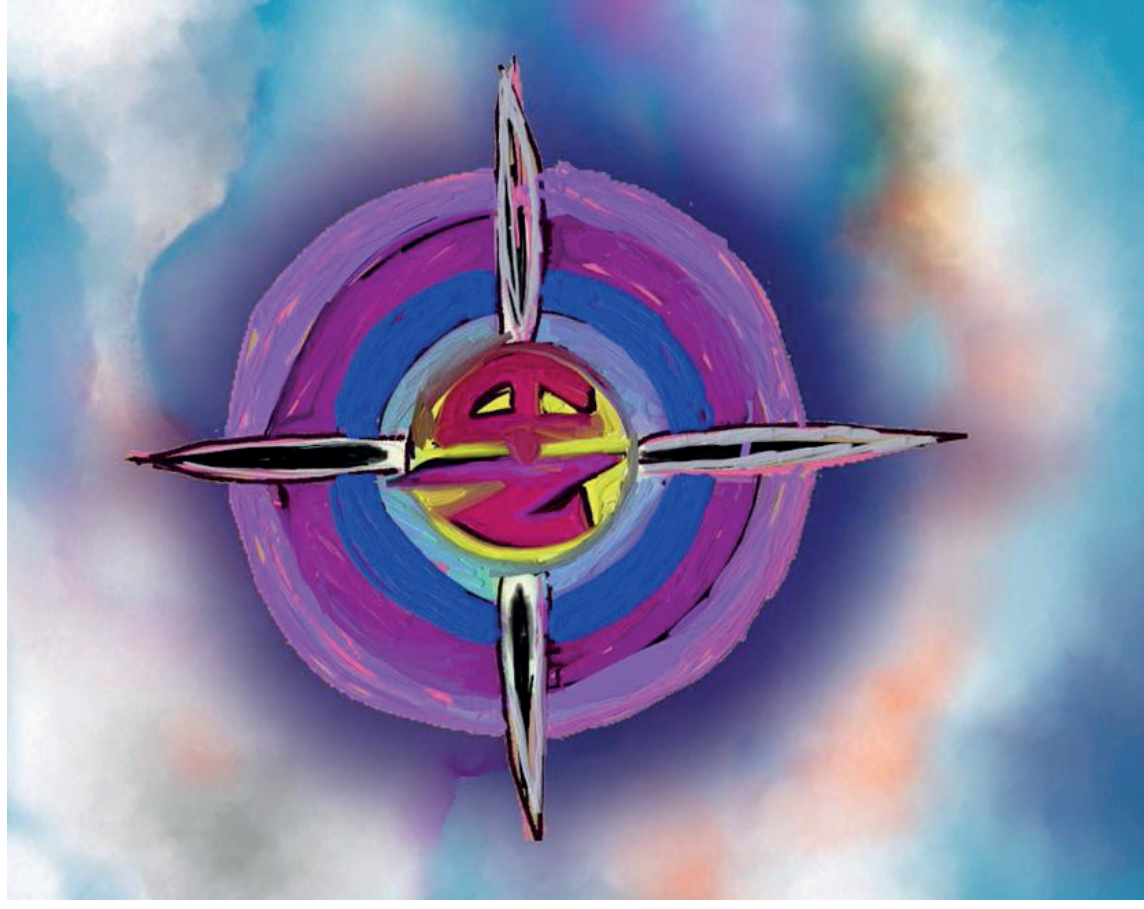
## **Resistance to Our Message**

Our Primary Purpose is to carry the N.A. Message. We carry the Message and God delivers it. That's an easy enough concept to Understand and Accept. It clearly states our Responsibility in that aspect. Our Literature says that an addict can't be forced to stop using. An addict will stop when they're ready. We plant the seeds and Hopefully it will take root when it supposed to, if at all. Some of us came into N.A. decades ago. It seems that back then addicts came in with a desperation, that they were

# **LINK TO THE THE IP PRINTFILES FOR THE 2020 MOTIONS:**

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

or go to the **homepage** on [nahelp.org](http://nahelp.org) and click the link



## Email

E-mail:

LivingProof1984@...

Subject:

Complete abstinence

Message:

Hello, we are addicts who formed a literature committee and are updating the 1983 version of Living Clean. We would like to add a new section called "complete abstinence" and would like to use much of the content from your IP Complete Abstinence. May we have your permission to use this content? Also, we would like to know once we have finished with our update of the document, if you would be interested in helping out by sending the document to all your Home Groups for feedback/input and final approval. That would be great! Our goal is to create a fellowship approved updated Living Clean (Getting Clean) without involving NAW\$.  
***In Loving Service, Living Proof***

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <http://www.anonymifoundation.org/contact.html>

**Response from a Request for the Anonymi Foundation through [www.nahelp.org](http://www.nahelp.org)**

*Anonymi Foundation  
P.O. Box 4404  
Allentown PA  
18105*

Yes, you guys have permission to include complete abstinence in your input. Hopefully this we will rise to the top where it becomes a worldwide input and review process and approval by addicts for addicts through N A Home Groups. We grant permission, already for reprint and use as long as it is not for profit. Hopefully you guys will give credit to the I.P. You also may use the Anonymi Foundation for copy right purpose and for protecting your material for your Home Group.

*Anonymi Foundation Elected Agent for the Foundation By N A Home Groups Through the Fellowship Service Conference*

Bill Allen  
Matrxmclub@...  
1-484-951-3305

## Full Participation Revised

Ever since I was a teeny

tiny little boy in service, I have observed officers being questioned, coming back with: "What's the matter? Don't you trust your trusted servants?" Often said in a tone of voice that made the hair stand up on the back of my neck like fingernails on a blackboard. The issue always came up when officers (group, area or region) had made decisions without consulting group conscience.

Almost always, the appeal was made that "the groups are uninformed; they don't really care anyway; and we experienced members have a far better grasp of what's good for the fellowship." I hope that by now the hairs are standing up on the back of YOUR neck, too. If there's one thing we addicts have in spades -- that characterizes our very disease -- it's denial. We can be in the very thick of addiction and actually believe we're doing the right thing. The one thing that acts as a check on this is the Spirit Of We. God MAY speak through our group conscience; and as He is our ONLY (i.e. "but one") and ultimate authority, I always feel safer when group conscience is consulted, however

mixed the results might seem, than when only the certainty of a few experienced members is consulted.

Trusted servants serve at the pleasure of the electorate; more urgently, their service is a PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. As tough as service is, when we hold a position we have been entrusted with a position of honor! That in itself is a great reward. And we are given the chance to serve the fellowship that saved our lives, another wonderful blessing and reward; and we get to be in the middle of interesting and exciting business which is a great training for coping with responsibility in everyday life, which is yet another reward!

As rewarding as all this service is, in our arrogance we think that this is not enough; we want power too! WHAT ELSE do you describe it when one person has the same voting power as a whole area or region? How can it be mistaken as anything else but power? And more importantly, why would a trusted servant want that kind of power?

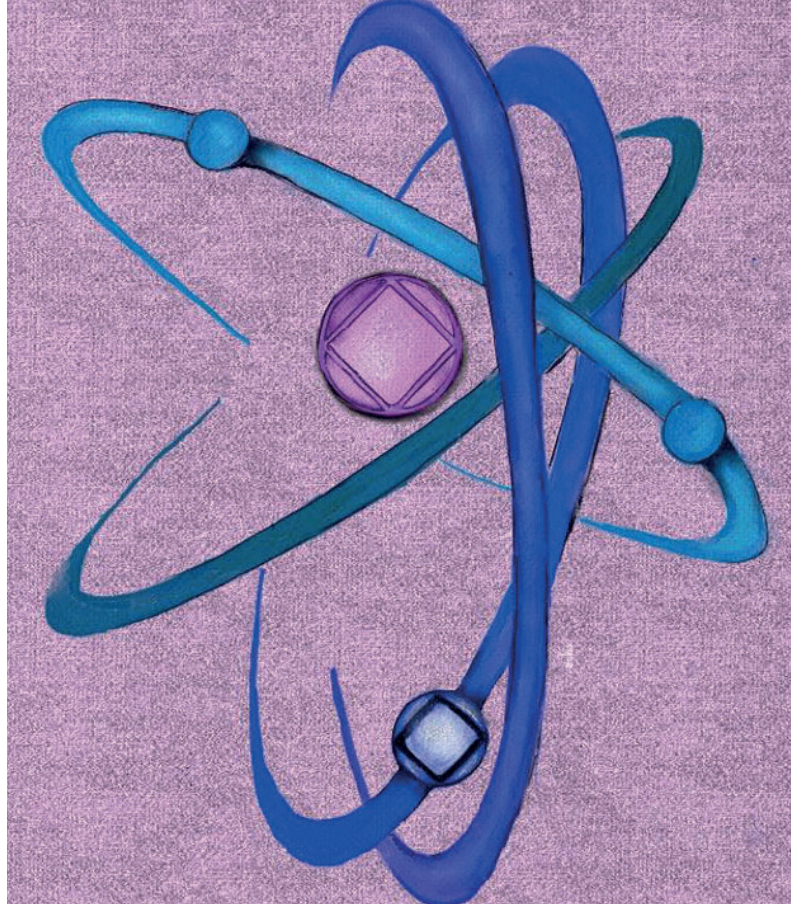
My region of thousands of addicts, many of them highly intelligent and well-informed, are justly curious as to why just one world trusted servant should have both a little vote in

self-seekers soon find that they are on the outside, causing dissonance and eventually disaster for themselves. Many of them change; they learn that we can only be governed by a loving God as expressed in our group conscience.

The most significant event in Narcotics Anonymous history since 1995 is the entirely independent development of the Iranian fellowship. The WSC should pause and consider what's working and what

isn't. The significant changes in the FIPT will only deepen the chasm between NAWS supporters and the anti-NAWS movement. Clearly this idea of free/low cost literature needs to be evaluated and priority should be the reunification of all NA members. The WSC and NAWS represent a dwindling number of groups and they appear to be trying to use travel funds to promote the NAWS brand.

**Written by Anonymous Addict  
From Canada**



*Anonymi Foundation  
P.O. Box 4404  
Allentown PA  
18105*

I also need to communicate this communication to the N A Home Groups who have elected me as there agent for the Anonymi Foundation so it will be posted on Radio Free NA and sent out to all NA Home Groups who participate in the Fellowship Service Conference if there are any issue they will direct me to communicate that with your Group's.

*Agent for the Anonymi  
Foundation  
In Loving Service Bill Allen*

### **I was asked what Recovery meant to me.**

Recovery from Addiction is about more than just abstinence from all mood- and mind-altering drugs. Obsession and Compulsion strike whenever we confuse our wants for our needs. We confuse our wants for our needs whenever Denial obscures our belief in our value as human beings. Our belief in our value is obscured by Denial whenever we are caught up in Resentments of our Past or

Fears of our Future. Loving ourselves for who we are seems impossible when we are denied this present moment. Not loving ourselves leaves us fearing the judgement and wrath of a Power greater than all of us, that all of us are truly too small to understand. Fear blocks our relationship with that Power. True Humility, and Self-Acceptance help me recognize the difference between a person, and a behavior. Not all of a person's behaviors are lovable, but they can be understood. Humility and Self-Acceptance are the keys to Recovering honest and guileless relationships with myself, my Creator, and my fellow creations.

For no particular reason or reason, I wish you all Recovery.

**By: Anonymous member USA**

**“We can only  
carry the message,  
God delivers it.”**

**Quote by Roberto**

## The Most Perfect Vehicle – Group Report.

We formed our group in August of 2019, we began searching for a place to meet. We had our first meeting on September 10, 2019.

On that day the facility gave us the keys, and we opened the doors.

We immediately started printing fliers and asking local businesses downtown if we can post them on their windows and bulletin boards. Everyone was very welcoming and allowed us to put our fliers up. We meet every Tuesday 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We have been studying the Grey Book by reading a paragraph at a time and opening the floor for sharing on the paragraph. We started with flip flopping the format from a Grey Book study on week one of the month to a Literature Input and Review meeting on the second week, and then back to the Grey Book on the third week. We later discussed the format and changed it to Open Participation Input & Review meeting on the fourth week of the month.

We are a Closed meeting for addicts only (no children) and we do not verify attendance papers.

We do not belong to and are not registered with an area,

region or NAWS inc.

We recently had an incident with the local area identifying us as something that wasn't Narcotics Anonymous. All they knew was there's a new meeting that did not register with them, and we do not verify attendance papers. One person threatened to call our facility to see what we were doing and where our money was going. We wrote a letter to them explaining our Groups Autonomy and what we do at our Group. We haven't had any issues with them since.

We are the only group in town that believes in Group Autonomy, Total Abstinence, and the 12 Traditions.

We have had a steady three in attendance and sometimes up to around ten.

We've seen a few local addicts come, and one of them was coming weekly until recent. We are under the impression that some of the addicts from the local groups have made this addict feel uncomfortable. He saw how the other groups were causing disunity for no reason at all. They would corner him outside of the other groups and ask him why he was coming to our Group. We haven't seen him in a few weeks,

We try and take a Group Inventory as much as possible

in income for the three years listed. The only expenses NAWS reports on the consolidated statements produced are \$189,336 for distribution costs over that 3-year period. A total inventory and where the remaining profits of \$584,239 were spent during the three years is not reported.

Iran is under sanctions that prevent Payam Omega from transferring profits to NAWS but there are alternatives. Iran actively trades with the European Union, China, Japan and many Asian countries and has a well-educated population. Iranians are free to travel and have significant recent experience with Fellowship Development. NAWS expenses fall into 4 categories; Events (\$0.45 million) Conference/WSC Support (\$2.02 million), Literature Production/Distribution (\$3.22 million) and Fellowship Development (\$3.28 million). The WSC could assign any or a portion of these to Payam Omega and reduce literature prices in North America by as much as 30%. The WSC could halt all travel costs for NAWS staff which is an estimated \$2-3 million that is hidden in the 4 categories which seems excessive given the lack of results. Iran has the largest conventions in the world, well beyond the attendance of the

NAWS sponsored world convention. If NAWS continues to fund services using profits of literature sales, then the fair application of that policy needs to be discussed by the WSC and adopted for the future. Reducing overheads and operating on member contributions would allow them to reduce the price of literature and could ignite growth not seen since the 1980's in North America. Any version of the Basic Text includes the following section; (last two paragraphs, TRADITION TWO "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.")

Those of us who have been involved in service or in getting a group started sometimes have a hard time letting go. Egos, unfounded pride, and self-will destroy a group if given authority. We must remember that offices have been placed in trust, that we are trusted servants, and that at no time do any of us govern. Narcotics Anonymous is a God-given program, and we can maintain our group in dignity only with group conscience and God's love.

Some will resist. However, many will become the role models for the newcomers. The

literature available in Narcotics Anonymous which is the 'Basic Text'. Some segments of the Fellowship have always supported the idea of 'free' or 'low cost' literature and produce alternative literature including 'The Grey Book' and 'Baby Blue' versions of the Basic Text. Low cost production and distribution is what Iran was able to do with their Farsi Version.

The 'Basic Text, hard cover, English language' that NAWS used in 2015 cost \$359,091 to print in (\$336,900 in 1995) and produced \$2,081,468 in income (\$1,801,996 in 1995). Most years they sell about 250,000 copies. In fact, this single item over the last 25 years remained an average of about \$350,000 to print and then sell for \$2,000,000 and currently accounts for about 20% of the revenue for NAWS. That works out to over a 400% markup. This is in stark contrast to what is happening in Iran. Reviewing the Annual Reports produced by NAWS, the Regional summaries produced by the Iran Region and a detailed look at the independently audited financial statements produced by Millar Kaplan of the NAWS Corporation will help to build a somewhat blurry picture. We know that today about 30% of the literature currently produced

by NAWS is in Iran and the approximate markup is a much lower 50% which is very close to cost. Iran sells about 120,000 Basic Texts or roughly 30% of the total. This is critical concept of 'free' or 'low cost' literature is supported by some members and has fueled the distribution of Grey Books and Baby Blues for decades. How many groups use these or how many books are distributed is not reported by the WSC or NAWS.

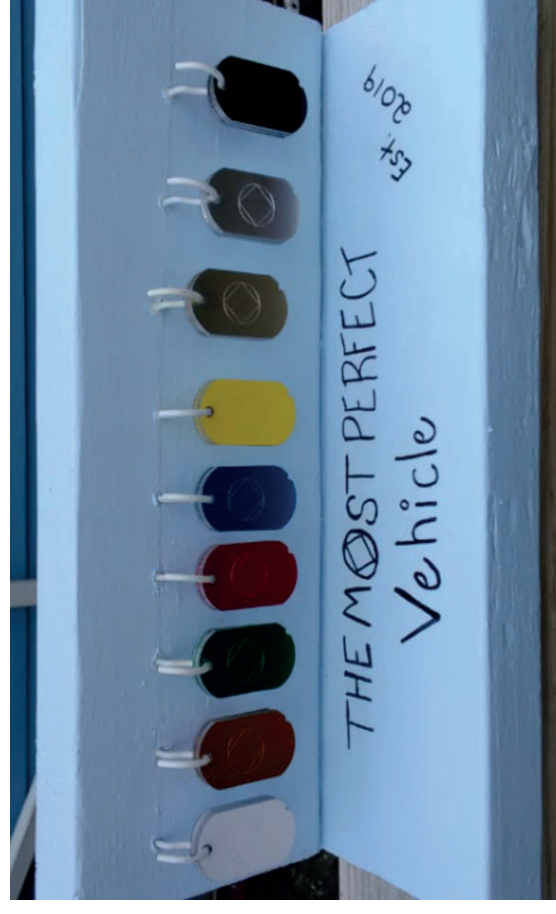
The first time Iran had participated in a WSC was 2006 and NAWS reported 1100 groups. Iran Region attended the 2008 WSC and reported 2564 groups hosting 11256 meetings. Iran appears to have always been self-supporting off member contributions, never requiring profits from literature sales. In 2011 NAWS formed a non-profit entity in Iran called Payam Omega which operates very much like a non-profit company in North America and assumed production of literature. Each year, Millar Kaplan are provided copies of the reports of Payam Omega that were produced by an independent auditor. In 2018 financials, Iranian auditors report incomes for Payam Omega of \$261,182, \$224,450 and \$287,943 for 2018, 2017 and 2016 which Millar Kaplan noted. This is a combined \$773,575

and making sure we are making everyone feel welcome. We are carrying the message to the addicts who still suffer.

In December, for New Year's Eve we are putting on a Speaker Jam. We have four speakers, three from Pennsylvania and one from Florida. We are planning to get the literature table stocked with more Baby Blues for this event. We will be serving a free dinner and we will be Fellowshiping all night. We welcomed all the addicts from the local areas to come out and hear the message. We are also looking to get a History Day going in March, and we are

going to sit down with the Historical Perspective group and discuss it. We are also looking forward to hosting a Literature Conference on Labor Day, as long as the facility will allow us to use the facility on them days. There is a ton of work to be done and it will never be complete. From our Public Information to writing literature; there's always work for us to do. We look forward to coming to the Fellowship Service Conference in June and participating in our Group's first Conference.

**Written by Home Group  
NJ USA**



## Medication for Illness and Clean Time.

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I've been on chemotherapy on and off since 2005, for Leukemia. I don't share while I'm on any kind of chemo because steroids and prednisone are part of that regimen, and I'm not Clean at that point. It's usually about two weeks then I'm off of the chemo till the following month. It didn't mean I relapsed, I'm just not Clean while under some of the medication that goes with the actual chemo. You have to look up all meds they prescribed to see if they are mind and mood altering or contain benzos or sedatives, even Benadryl. More recently my cancer is worst, and I'm being prepared for a stem cell transplant, to save my life. My immune system was so low that I caught several infections forcing me a two month stay at the hospital. The side effects plus the antibiotics caused a lot of pain and rashes all over my body that were also painful. I was prescribed pain meds to lower pain and the stress to my body, the pain was causing, making my illness worst. I lost 50lbs from not eating for six weeks, almost died if I didn't eat. I was released without being detoxed because I was still taking antibiotics and by

this point, I was also addicted again, and couldn't go through any withdrawals. I went home with outpatient meds, including the one pain med. My domestic partner controlled the dispensary of all my meds and hid them from me. I haven't been home more than 2 weeks before returning to the hospital for more chemo, so I'm still on a 12-hr. slow release dose of 15mg of this pain med. I do start to feel withdrawal about the 14th hour. I struggle with my Clean Time. I'm willing to change my clean date, but my Sponsor and many older members say I don't have to because I'm not using it to replace the Steps. I speak to my doctors about getting off and they say because of the extreme pain of withdrawal under chemo and stem cell transplant preparation, my body will produce stress that will make my cancer worst. I'm planning with my doctor's supervision to wean off the pain med before January. I will make that decision with God about my Clean Time, after getting off of them. My clean date is 2/25/90, although it's a good milestone the big 30, I never wore my clean time on my sleeve. I've always believed in "Just for Today" and "Daily Reprieve" so I don't care about what my ego is telling me. I

## Invest in our vision (without Iran)

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The Narcotics Anonymous World Service (NAWS) corporation has released the 'Conference Agenda Report' which are a list of motions for the Fellowship to review and vote on with some supporting information. Motions come from various sources including the World Board who manage the affairs of the NAWS corporation and service bodies who participate in the biennial (every 2 year) World Service Conference. The next WSC is in spring of 2020. The CAR includes significant changes in the 'Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust' which allows the NAWS corporation to control the production and use of the Narcotics Anonymous logos and literature. Control of publication rights is very important to NAWS. If you examine the Annual Reports available online from the NAWS corporation, you see that over 80% of the revenue comes from the sale of literature with little if any change in over two decades. The CAR report is aptly named "Invest in our vision" but the single critical phrase that I noticed on the CAR report was 'without Iran' on page 5. The effects of the Iranian Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

has been nothing short of breathtaking and an examination of the numbers reveals a great deal.

In the 1990's the World Service Office, Inc (which would eventually become NAWS in 1998) decided to tighten control of the use and production of literature. This was likely a reaction to individuals, groups, and service bodies who were not supportive of NAWS and used alternative literature sources. The WSO initiated a lawsuit that they lost, and an agreement was reached but never honored by the World Service Office, Inc (NAWS). The FIPT was formed and adopted by the segments of the Fellowship who supported the WSO/NAWS corporation. During this same time, unrelated and probably unaware of these new rules, a few addicts returned to Iran from the United States. They sought to continue their recovery by fulfilling the primary purpose of members of Narcotics Anonymous which is to carry a message of hope to the still suffering addicts. This dedication resulted in growth beyond anyone's wildest dreams. The rapidly growing Iranian fellowship translated (from English into Farsi), printed and distributed a wide array of literature including the most significant

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 Form 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 staying 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.

**Put Together by Concerned Members of the NA Fellowship**



know in my Heart I didn't use or relapse. But I do care about Complete and Total Abstinence. In my HG if you use medication for the treatment of addiction or any of its symptoms, or just using just to use then that's a relapse. Our Literature says under extreme pain under doctor's care we can use medication. But it doesn't give us a license to use. It mentions to stay in the hospital and detox before going home. It was unfortunate and dangerous that I couldn't. I really respect Spiritual Principles and I have to put Principles before my and other's personalities. Although it's not a relapse, my Heart still struggles with my lack of Abstinence regardless of the reason. I also have to remember that we celebrate Clean time in NA not the actual Recovery. I knew an addict that celebrated 20 yrs. and robbed a bank a couple of months before he celebrated, others that celebrate are 13 Stepping, some still beat their wives, and some are stealing, and they still celebrate because they didn't use. So, I'm following NA policy and Tradition about Complete and Total Abstinence. Regular antibiotics don't usually contain mind- and mood-altering chemicals, some do. I always ask all my doctors about the meds before it's put

in my body. I also Google all the meds, before I agree to take them. Sometimes there're alternatives to some meds that are safer. In fact, I've earned the name Doctor with most nurses, because I ask a lot of questions. Remember our Literature says our Recovery is our Responsibility not the Doctors. That's my ESH

**Anonymous from NY, USA**



## A Letter to a Suffering Addict

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*Before you start to get all paranoid, this letter is sent to all suffering addicts, not only to you. Please give yourself a break and read it.*

*I can hear you say, "I'm no addict, and I'm definitely not suffering!"*

*I still want to take a few minutes of your time to let you know that we care. "And who are you?" you might ask. We are addicts who have found a new way of life, we call ourselves Narcotics Anonymous.*

*But before I go into that, I would love to ask you some questions.*

*How do you feel? Are your life filled with stress, drama, anxiety and fear? Didn't the Tony Montana plans come true? Are you hiding from the ones that love you?*

*You need to know that you're not alone, neither in experience nor in life. It doesn't have to be like this. What you need to do is quietly surrender and believe just for a second that there is a way out, that there's hope for you as well. We're usually both feel and are being called hopeless. Society doesn't understand our problem and I hate to tell you, you're the problem, not the drugs or other people, places and things. We have a disease you and I, and it's called addiction.*

*How many times have your mind wondered off thinking about drugs during this short period of time? It just doesn't stop, does it? It's called obsession and it's one of the primary symptoms of our disease. Do you have any control over how much and when you use? Are you satisfied with just one fix, pill, drink or take? Can you stop when you want to? Probably not. It's called compulsion and it's another primary symptom of the disease of addiction.*

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 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



### 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, 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.

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

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.
2. 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.

**Approval Form 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

*It doesn't have to be like this. There's many addicts who have found another way to live. We meet regularly to help each other to stay clean. You don't have to wait for another jail sentence or overdose to get help, we're here for you now, we need you. You can surrender even if you haven't lost everything that's precious to you, but if you continue to use be prepared to lose everything that's dare to you.*

*You can get clean and loose the desire to use, all you need is a desire to get clean and be willing to try some simple suggestions on how to get and stay off drugs. There's even more, we can even recover! We can change and we can live and love again.*

*So, the next time you get outside, look for one of our posters and get to a meeting. We are waiting for you. We love you and we care.*

*Never Alone.*

*Anonymous member of Narcotics Anonymous.*



## **“God Has Us Even, When We Don’t Have Ourselves.”**

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So, it has been said that “God has us even when we don’t have ourselves.” This has been playing more and more true today to where I can’t avoid posting this today or avoid my God anymore.... about 6 months ago I had got ahold of my old drug deal to make arrangements to get high. After the situation didn’t happen and I didn’t get high and talking to my sponsor about the situation. He said, “My God had me then, even though I didn’t have myself.” I feel and think of my God in big-ger and different ways today, due to that situation.

Today anytime I decide to go back to my old stomping grounds I have a plan, which I usually get after prayer and meditation. Which the plan usually is I set out where I am going and stick to it, to asking my sponsor if he can or will go with me back to my old hometown. Or even if it is needed for me to go back for whatever situation, because a lot of times it is my will telling me to go back. Yet my God is so much bigger than that and has been doing so much more for us and me than that.

Lately my personal life has been a struggle, not to where I have been wanting to use. But hard to have faith, trust and hope in God. Let’s put it this way, my God laughed at me and has showed me why I need to have faith, trust and hope. He has help me with my struggles and fear, to where standing in the light now it almost is too much and I want to react with excitement. Making decision that is still doing the right thing for the right reason. Forgetting though to have my loved ones involve and forgetting about their feelings. So, guess it’s one of those thing to where we can be humbled by our God yet still react in our will. That probably make no sense or contradicts itself.

With this happening in the personal life and seeing this I don’t want it to reflect on my Home Group. Because they do and have shown me on how to act and live. It has been seen that our Home Group has been growing in a lot of way. Not only in the services that we are providing but also in numbers. There has been about 2 to 4 more addicts thinking about joining our Home Group. Which is awesome, and we need to remember our traditions and our integrity. I feel that they need to have a home and to

be of service. Yet we need to remember our traditions. And I can’t let my own opinions be a part or our Home Group doesn’t matter how my God has been playing in my personal life I have already seen that I have reacted in a way that I shouldn’t have.

And that I need to step back and seeing my God’s will and plan. Not only for myself, others and my Home Group. But to slow down and just enjoy his will for me, for others, and for my Home Group. This will bring some consistency in my roller-coaster of life and feeling, but also with my relationship with God. To when things may get tuff in which they will the hope in God will give peace and courage to surrender and be ok. When the ups and downs happen there will be trust in God that won’t have a reaction but and action of Gods will to it betters the whole. And faith to believe that some things need to happen so that God has may happen in life.

God didn’t want me to use 6 months ago and doesn’t want me to use ever again, and neither does N.A. No Matter What Happens good or bad. There is a God and we don’t have to use.

PS. Grateful to be clean and have a Home Group. Humble to have a God today that is

showing me to slow down and practice integrity.

## **The Great Manipulation**

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Here is the manipulation that took place to create the Basic Text - 1st Edition and remove “ALL ELSE IS NOT NA” from the Basic Text.

*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-Alternations-of-Basic-Text-Traditions-4-9.pdf>