



The New/Old

NA Way

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The New/Old NAWAY Magazine

Volume 31

April - May 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

The New/Old NA Way

Table of contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Geographically Isolated Addicts: | 1 |
| Regardless of the Twelfth Tradition, there are still some big personalities in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous | 1 |
| Gods Purpose; Inspired and taught by Loving NA Predecessors | 3 |
| A Poem Written by a Recoverin Addict | 5 |
| David Moorhead's attorney letter after his death R.I.P. | 6 |
| Don't take your home group for granted | 8 |
| Clips of Group Reports | 9 |
| OUR SENSITIVE EGOS | 12 |
| RD report for region January 19th 2020 | 14 |
| Anonymity and Selfless Service is What Recovery is All About in the End | 17 |
| Reflecting on N.A. in the Netherlands | 19 |
| History Article | 22 |
| Tradition Four: | 23 |
| Life on Life's Terms | 24 |
| Fear | 26 |

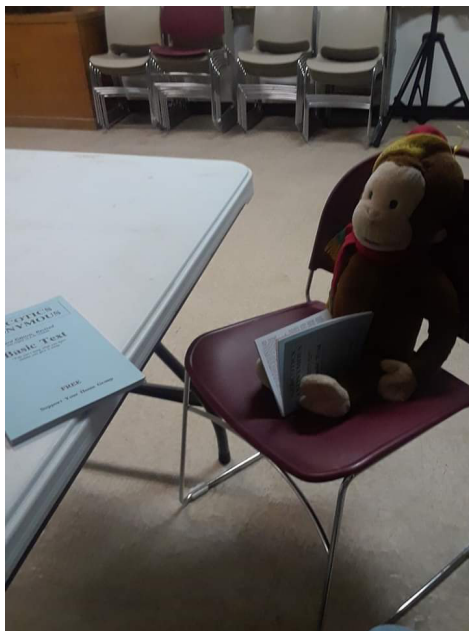
My Gratitude Speaks
When I Care
And When I Share
With Others
The NA Way

Geographically Isolated Addicts:

Some of us find ourselves Isolated from the Fellowship around us or there may not be NA around us at all. Sometimes we find ourselves in a place where not all Groups believe in Total Abstinence and our Twelve Traditions. We feel like a minority, and not a part of the Fellowship in our city or town. Unity is a must in Narcotics Anonymous. That's not to say there may be controversies that arise when some don't believe in the same message as we do. Let's face it, Fellowship around us may have changed. Many Groups and Areas do not believe in Total Abstinence or the Twelve Traditions.

So how can we stay connected with addicts like ourselves? Many of us have started Groups, we keep the doors open to carry a clear message of Recovery to the addicts who still suffer. This is what we call: Unity of Action. We can connect with other Groups and Addicts at the Fellowship Service Conference. We can use the phone to communicate with Addicts, and the internet. Radio Free NA is a great tool most of us use to communicate. We no longer need to stay in isolation. We are alive & free today.

Written by an Anonymous Addicts



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

[You know who they are.]

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

people go back out, they leave a lot of bewildered recovering addicts stumbling around, wondering what went wrong.

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

[How can that be possible?]

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

The truth is reputation is fleeting. That's because it is nothing more than how others perceive me.

And if anything occurs that causes them to change their perception of me, then my reputation is changed forever, and possibly at the cost of my recovery.

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

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

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



protect.

[Have integrity.]

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

[Learn anonymity.]

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

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

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

**Written By. Anonymous
Member, USA**

God's Purpose; Inspired and taught by Loving NA Predecessors

The Hope group is very blessed to be a part of our Loving Free Givers here.

About 6 months ago went to a meeting at a treatment center in Omaha, when got out of the car in front of the treatment center a drunk man was pissing all over the side of his truck, in the next vehicle they

were smoking crack or meth. Was wishing had a pistol right off but then my street way's kicked in and God helped remove my fear. There were a large numbers of addicts all over in front of the mission across from the treatment center. This young pretty girl, sitting in the grass, got up I thought to say hello, she had pissed her pants blatantly and sat right back down I guess to adjust. Before the entrance there was an inmate that I knew well for 18 years at the pen he was all over this Blonde they were sitting in the street.

The gracious chair of the meeting said it was amazing anybody could stay clean there, for what was going on outside. The poor chairperson had no welcome tags for newcomers, or any NA literature. I had some NA keychains my wife had made in Arequipa and gave them out to the newcomers.

My heart bled sitting there as many childhood memories flowing through me as my Grandmas old house is a few blocks down the road. In the summers of the 60's and 70's my cousin and I ran all over the place in the very spot this misery was going on. It was worse to me then slums of D.C. where I grew up & this nightmare is alive today in wholesome Nebraska USA.

The "Grateful Wake Up Group" when notified of this tragedy made more than 100 basic texts for the center; with our Hope group we

also donated 200 welcome dog tags. They said no one had ever donated any NA anything for this center. We were invited to give a PI presentation to the new director, after the presentation; he said they should start utilizing the 12 steps.

Our groups keep on donating there, a worker there called and said she was in NA, she told the story of how she had been made to stay at the mission by a Police Officer when was at the end of her road or she would have frozen to death, she never left. Her entire life is now dedicated to helping addicts; guiding them to NA. I took my wife and kid to meet her, she really appreciated the donations and wanted step working guides to copy, so we gave here more free NA lit.

Feels like am making amends to my Grandparents neighborhood and my father whom miss every day, he was a fascinating humanitarian and teacher. If by using NA I can give back to society 1% as much as my dad did this makes me feel worthwhile. We could not wait to share this story with members that help us give back, it is another huge highlight of our recovery lives, helping us to stay clean.

Fascinating reward from this one experience; the next day following our first meeting at this center, my family was at the downtown Omaha YMCA; a member at that meeting staying at the mission from Chicago. Saw me and said

is this your wife from Peru? I said yes; he told her the homemade NA key tag she had made meant so much to him and hugged her. My wife does not get to see all the rewards we get being free givers. She has put up with me and helps out with and supports our service. This Brother has given me much credit with my amazing NA loving wife ha-ha.

Not sure how fellow members that do not support free literature could have allowed this opportunity to pass by in their area? This form of service is the most rewarding part of our recovery; the freedom of our beautiful 12th step and our invigorating tranquil feelings we are allowed to receive working our 5th tradition.

Without ASIS & all free givers everywhere this may have never happened. As without the support of free givers all over the world, we may have folded up, caved in or chickened out. As the majority of Nebraska members constantly demean & pressure free givers here to only buy unaffordable lit from the 501c nonprofit using the NA name. Some would prefer to be in the popular region crowd that is run by the 501c and to hell with the still suffering addict, whom does not care what edition basic text they get. WE HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER. The war on addiction is forever.

Thank you so so much Paul H.

A Poem Written by a Recoverin Addict

*I can't do anything right
I can't feel love,
I don't belong,
anywhere.*

*When I take you in
All the pain goes away
Just for today*

*Then I come down
Lower than before
Can someone Help Me
Anyone, God, no one,
As I head out the door,
To do just one more*

*Addiction is an illusion,
a lie, an empty promise,
that steals my joy, my laughter, my
love, and my soul.*

*All that I am,
I give it for you,
I sell it for you,
I steal it for you.
Whatever it takes,
I betray myself down to my inner core
Just to do one more*

*But what if today, July 5, 2019
I try another way
Just for this one moment
I'll go to NA*

*Surrounded by recovering addicts
Maybe I won't head out the door
To do just one more*

*What if the NA literature is right?
I can start fighting the good fight
With your help, maybe We can save
me*

*I still feel scared, confused, and unsure
But I'm desperate, frightened, and
tired
but finally, finally, I am not alone
Just for this moment, I won't do just
one more*

*I'll do 90 meetings in 90 days,
and get lifted out of the haze.
I'll join a home group,
And get a sponsor,
With your help,
We will overpower the monster
So just for today, I won't do just one
more*

*Everyone living the NA program is
getting well,
We've all had to crawled outta hell,
Today we are powered by empathy,
compassion, and love,
Decisions come easier, since we've lost
the confusion*

*All of us here are FRCNA 38, are
Shattering the Illusion!
I am here to spit the truth,
"...that an addict, any addict, can stop
using drugs, lose the desire to use, and
find a new way to live."
WE DO RECOVER!*

By Just another addict.

David Moorhead's attorney letter after his death R.I.P.

To: Scott J. Fields, Esquire
Synnestvedt & Lechner
2600 One Reading Center
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

July 22, 1992

Re: World Service Office, Inc v.
David Moorhead
S & L File No. 17047

Dear Scott,

I have been advised that my client David Moorhead has died on July 14, 1992. Since his death, I have been contacted by several concerned Fellowship Members who are willing to step forward as a substituted party defendant to proceed on David's behalf under Federal Rule 25.

The necessity of continuing this action would be for the Court to monitor the WSO compliance with the January 1991 Settlement Order and the April 1992 Motion to Commit the Intellectual Property Trust Document as done under the Court's supervision.

Over the last weekend, I met with several members of the

Fellowship and had the opportunity to hear at great length the dissatisfaction with the manner in which the World Service Office has proceeded with compliance under the Motion committing the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust.

The Motion quite specifically requires that the World Service Board and a RSR-Working Group "solicit" additional input on the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust for presentation to the Fellowship in the 1993 Conference Agenda Report.

There has been no know effort made to schedule any workshops, there has been no know mailings submitted to the RSR's respecting the manner and procedure that the home groups can submit review and input for the Trust Document nor has the NA Way or World mailings even mentioned solicitation of input.

George Hollahan in his letter to me of June 3, 1992, sets forth a deadline for input of October 1, 1992, however, provides no instruction on how input can be submitted and to whom.

I am concerned that your client is not acting in good faith. Please have your client advise as to what steps are being taken to solicit input and how input can be received.

Further, in George Hollahan's letter dated June 3, 1992. Mr. Hollahan provided me with copies of draft "Minutes" of several pages of day Four of the WSC and also several pages of day Five of the 1992 WSC.

I also received a cassette tape of the proceedings that took place at the conference on Wednesday morning, April 29, 1992. I was literally shocked by the representation made by your clients that their legal counsel had instructed them that the Moorhead legal action had no effect whatsoever on their ability to go forward with the submission and approval by the Conference of the World Service Board of Trustees Motion No. 8, "The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust"

I do not understand whether this claim by your clients is indicative of the lack of communication between legal counsel and the WSO, a simply blatant disregard for the authority of the Court while a legal action in the nature of a Motion for Preliminary Injunction was pending.

This concern is compounded when one considers the strong feelings Judge Pollak expressed initially and were again clearly evident during the Court conference call session held the morn-

ing of the vote on the Motion to approve the Intellectual Trust Document. (I enclose a copy of the transcript).

Finally, last week I received an Order entered by Judge Pollak in a drafted form setting forth that my client's Motion for Expedited Proceeding be denied. Was this Order generated by your request without advance notice to me or was it Court generated? In any event, Judge Pollak correctly modified the Order to add the words "as moot" to the denial of the Preliminary Injunction and Expedited because of the result of the conference vote on Wednesday, April 29, 1992.

I would be suspect that the Court will entertain a conference call to be made aware of the progress of your client receiving input and the documented disregard for the authority of the Court under the continuing jurisdiction.

Please advise as to your availability.

Very truly yours,

Greg B. Emmons

Greg B. Emmons and Associates, PC

Don't take your home group for granted

The things we take for granted are usually the things we lose to the disease of addiction. The home group we belong to is no exception.

We should let our fellow members know how much they mean to us; anything can happen in life. We might lose our friends to the disease, or any other illness for that matter. Some members might choose another path, or some just disappear without a explanation.

How does your gratitude show itself in how you live today? Have you told anyone that you love them today? Have you helped anyone? These are important questions to ask ourselves on a daily basis if our aim is to grow spiritually.

Just as our personal recovery our home group needs spiritual maintenance. We have a set of principles to make sure that ties that binds us together are stronger than those who could tear us apart. We really need to apply them so that our home group isn't lost to powerful and deranged egos. Our atmosphere of recovery is what makes people come back, so take really care about it.

As been said so many times before, communication is so important to both our personal and our Groups growth. I sincerely hope that the members of the

home group I belong to doesn't sit in silence if I'm on my way out the door, but It's a two way street, it's our responsibility to make use of the eyes and ears in our home group.

Here I am taking for granted that everyone have an experience and understanding of a home group.

Here's mine.

A home group is where I feel at home, where I can be "raised up" with spiritual principles. In a home group I know most of the people by heart.

The home group have members and are run by a loving power being expressed in a Group Conscience.

For the home group I belong to total abstinence is very important to secure a safe environment for the addict looking for recovery.

Most of the time we love each other better. We are doing all our services ourselves, such as PI and all other "high level" services within a Group setting.

It's not an address, it's family.

Our level of commitment to our home group will be encompassed by our gratitude for this new way of life.

We should treat one another with unconditional empathy and acceptance. We are One, without the One we have no one.

So, make sure to tell your home group how much they mean to you as often you can, and if you haven't found a place to call home

yet, you're always welcome to the home group I belong to.

We are waiting for you. We love you.

Written By An: Anonymous Addict



Clips of Group Reports

Our Home Group is THE WAR IS OVER! out of Findlay, Ohio. We read out of the Baby Blue every meeting aside from the second Tuesday of the month we have a speaker. We give away Baby Blues to all that need them, and now Baby Blues are all over our area being put into the still suffering addicts' hands! We read the readings out of them,

then read a chapter, step, or tradition, then share around the room! Lots of love at our meeting, no support to NAW\$. Attendance is usually 20-35 addicts; it is a closed meeting... everyone loves the dog tags... Love the idea for the open PI meeting from Grateful Wake Up followed by closed meeting!!!!

So grateful to have a Home Group! It wasn't until we started this meeting and started getting into the traditionalist end of things that I could see the difference between just a meeting, and Home Group. One of our members joined our HG last week, he's a newcomer. He got picked up Friday night on an old charge. We took him a Baby Blue in jail and showed him some HG love, it meant the world to him. Our HG means the world to us. Mass gratitude tonight :)

Never Alone. Never Again. Tyler



Our HG is the Zwolle Group in Zwolle the Netherlands. We have 4 closed meetings in Zwolle and 1 closed meeting in Lelystad. Attendance right now is around 3-10 addicts at every meeting. Good atmosphere and addicts find us through our webpage, meetings lists/flyers and posters. We read the Grey Book, Third Ed. Rev, with original 4th & 9th Tradition, and translate the IPs and other literature that's open for review and input.

Home Group in the Netherlands

We are getting back to doing a public information meeting at least once month to boost are attendance, we have the clean time here, a few newcomers, however it would be great to get the information back out there What is NA and How it Works again. All are meeting are closed four meeting a week here in Allentown PA.

In Loving Service
Autonomous addicts



Hi I'm Tom, a member of the Unity group in Roermond (NL). We started our first (closed/drug addicts only) meeting 2 years ago at Tuesday Jan 2. 19.30 pm. With 3 likeminded addicts. Starting to read from the 3-edition revised basic tekst Dutch translations that came out of the translations project. We grew fast to at Some point even 40 attendees and after a year we started another meeting at Friday night (same group) were we read from the Grey book. Now we are at roughly 25 addicts every meeting and you can notice it's starting to get a group were people feel safe. The last 2 GC meetings (that for now we do every month) there were some good discussions were people were not afraid to speak their minds.

Although it's scary sometimes it's mostly beautiful to see addicts grow and recover together in a HG keep up the good work!

love you all 🙏



I'm from South Jersey.

My home group is: "The Most Perfect Vehicle Group of Narcotics Anonymous". We are a closed meeting for addicts only or those who think they might have a drug problem. We are a Grey Book Study and also a Review and Input Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month. We meet every Tuesday at 149 South Main Street, Woodstown NJ 08098 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We do not participate with NAWS in any way, shape, or form.

We are a part of ASIS. We do Public Information around town and the county we reside in. We also believe in our Twelve Traditions and do not verify attendance papers.

In Service



Our HG is the Grateful Wake Up Group in Norfolk NE. We would love to have you come to a meeting sometime. We have a open PI meeting each Monday through Friday from 830-845 where we read the reading "Who Is an addict", "What Is the Narcotics Anonymous Program". and "Why are we here" We then ask if there are any questions regarding NA, the various service structures, or anything NA related. Then after a short break we have a closed meeting

for those seeking help with their own addiction. This has helped many understand why our meeting is closed. Why we do some of the things others might talk trash about. The closed meetings have helped addicts open up more also as there are no outside influences just addicts supporting addicts by carrying our primary purpose.

In Service

The Members of the Grateful Wakeup Group. Norfolk NE. USA



Billericay Freedom group have decided to hold another 'Unity Day' this summer on Saturday 18th July in Little Burstead venue, Billericay UK. Full Flyer/ details will follow soon. Please save & share the date if you can make it would be great to see old and new faces. Final agenda TBC, it will be fairly informal we expect though, meeting, fellowship and of course the BBQ! Thanks. Matt



So, this all started 2 years ago when the Unity group started. We got together with the 4 of us and made guidelines for the group. One of them was to participate in ASIS. This didn't mean we did not go to our local area service meetings. We showed up every 2 months and were available for questions from other groups or just told what we were doing and were we believed

in. We thought it also was a good way to show our good intentions and maybe be involved in local H&i and P&I. This was not Always easy and people we shared recovery and meals within the past were now talking bad about us and our group (they made up all things and reasons:) instead of working together to further our primary purpose. But every time we talked about it with other members or our sponsors, we could see that it was mostly fear and lack of understanding of the traditions that caused all this. And then 3 months ago a GSR decided (this motion did not come from his group) to put up a motion at the end of the service meeting stating that the groups in the area that were on the ASIS website should be removed from their website and it passed. So, we talked about it in GC and decided to send a letter to area pointing out what we thought was wrong about their decision and substantiate this with our traditions. The next ASM the area chair pointed out to the GSR's that there were some valid points in the letter, and they decided to look at it again and turn back there first decision to remove us. Now the area chair called with our Dutch RD and a week later this letter (see previous post up) from the RD got online. Also, a lot of the GSR's are getting more and more interested and open minded now for what we do and why we do it.

A view days ago i even got a Phone call from the chair of the area basically thanking us | (our group) for keep standing on principles the last 2 years and being that lone voice.

I really think being there and showing up made and is making a difference.

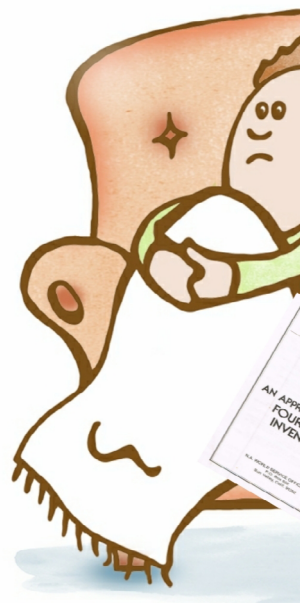
In Service A Member from the :
Unity group in Southern Netherlands

OUR SENSITIVE EGOS

Were you offended by the word our? If so, you're probably in the right place. Our sensitive egos are referred to much in our literature. Yet how often do we really take a look at how our ego is affecting our lives? How often do we truly humble ourselves enough to ask ourselves if our ego is getting in the way? Ego has been referred to as Edging God Out, Easing God Out, and I am sure there are other acronyms for it. Just thought of another one Extremely Giant Opinion. How can we Surrender our egos and become more God centered rather than self-centered?

What if we see an example of it right away in our Steps. In NA one of the adaptations of our Steps was adding WE to the beginning of our first 11 Steps. We also have we in our 12th Step in the middle of it. Have you heard of the WE book? Some addicts referred to our writings during the literature confer-

ences as the WE book. It is all over our program. Me must become WE if WE as a Fellowship are to survive. How then do we still hear things such as addicts saying NA is a self-ish program? It is because they still haven't Surrendered that selfishness. Service should never be about self. If it is, we lose the gift of service and it becomes a chore instead. Sure, at first, we need to learn to put our recovery first, but by choosing to not put ourselves in harm's way and loving ourselves we actually are loving society as a whole. Think about it if we continue our self-centered, self-obsessed ways not only do we suffer, but society as a whole will suffer also. We will stay a part of the problem rather than a part of the solution.



So, to remove our sensitive egos we must become part of the WE of Narcotics Anonymous.

Our first Step helps to humble us and make us ready for the rest of the process involved with our Steps. Each of our Steps help more and more with the removal of our sensitive egos. We should have a understanding of how our disease works against us by the time we are ready for the process to continue onto Step 2. We continue through the process being humbled more and more each Step we take. Learning to live the Steps rather than working the Steps is a great thing also. Our lives become a living prayer where we have been granted the Serenity to accept, we can't change we have the disease

of addiction. We can accept our responsibility for our recovery. We must humble ourselves and learn to accept suggestions from those who have been where we are and took the leap of faith necessary to grow.

This doesn't happen overnight. Our Step 12 said before "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of those steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs." This was referring to those being the first 11 Steps, and then WE carry the message and practice these principles (referring to the Traditions) in all of our affairs. How many in NA have truly had a spiritual awakening as a result of the first 11 Steps? Sure, I believe all of us can have an awakening of some sort just by reading the Steps, but truly for our lives to be touched by each Step is something many may never experience. When those Steps touch our lives, we have no choice anymore but to surrender self. Service all of a sudden becomes much more than about us. We are able to listen better. We have less answers rather than more (yet we actually have more). We become humbled. No longer can we let petty things like our sensitive egos get in the way of our recovery.

Written by: An Anonymous Member, USA



RD report for region January 19th 2020

This report is translated from Dutch to English. [Click here](#) for the original Report.

CAR-motions All Areas have by now gotten a presentation from the Alt-RD and me about the CAR motions. We are pleased that there is pretty much talk about it, and that substantive discussions arise.

Accessibility groups on the website na-holland.nl I got a question for help from RCM South about the following: He got the question presented why an ASIS-group is not allowed on the na-holland.nl website. The RCM in question could not justify that with his conscience. In that same period, reflection had led me to a review in my point of view/opinion concerning ASIS. This led to a phone call in which the RCM and me agree that ASIS-groups, like all other NA-meetings, just meet the six points and that a disagreement about a service structure and about the literature to offer falls under group autonomy. We believe that this issue should be put on the regional agenda again.

The six points that an NA group must meet in order to be one:

1. All members are drug addicts, and all drug addicts are eligible for membership.
2. As a group, they provide for their own needs

3. As a group, their sole purpose is to provide assistance to drug addicts in order to recover by applying the Twelve Steps of NA.
4. As a group they are not affiliated with organizations outside NA.
5. As a group, they have no opinion on issues outside of NA.
6. As a group their per-policy is based on attraction rather than on promotion

I have recorded the following from the minutes of the two ASIS Fellowship Conferences: Groups from the ASIS structure indicate that they miss the connection to the rest of the Fellowship, and that they are excluded. They also indicate that they do not make anti advertising against meetings of the NAWS structure (there is criticism about the NAWS structure), while it is said from various service levels from NAWS-structure not to attend ASIA meetings in particular, and the ASIS meetings are being held from the na-holland website. An article by me, that was published in May, was certainly not reconciling in tone. I withdraw that piece in it's entirety with apologies to all groups and NA members who feel affected. In my opinion, exclusion is not something that belongs to adults in recovery: it is a program of connection. Given the similarities instead of the differences:

- All groups from ASIS and NAWS have the same primary purpose:

to carry the message to the addict who still suffers and believe that every addict can stop using, lose the desire to use and find a new way to live.

- All groups from ASIS and NAWS use recovery literature by addicts for addicts
- All groups from ASIS and NAWS are autonomous to decide which NA-literature appears on the table.
- They all meet the six points.

In the context of NA-unity, should all meetings have the same literature on their table? No. The first tradition revolves around unity within the NA group, not uniformity. The latter would also be a violation of the fourth tradition: that a group or service structure is dictating what should happen at another meeting. The unity that prevails within an NA group is what an individual cannot do alone. Group conscience determines which recovery literature the group feels comfortable with, a loving God is involved. If groups decide to print Baby Blue books to give away for free to the newcomer (not for sale), NAWS inc. will not like that, but it is not against the traditions. Printing the Baby Blue Basic Text is not only done by ASIS groups, there are also NAWS groups or hybrid groups who have Baby Blues and the Gray Book on their table. NA is more than just the vision of the World Board alone.

4th and 9th tradition

The biggest difference between the Baby Blue and the 5th edition of the Basic Text is in the explanation of traditions 4 and 9 (the traditions themselves are the same). The Baby Blue contains the original explanation of the traditions, as mentioned in the earlier editions of the Basic Text. These were formulated during years of work on the creation of the Gray Book, the rough original variant of what later became the Basic Text.

What's different?

In fact, it's all about one thing: how people look at service boards and committees. The original explanation states that they are not part of NA; this provision has been deleted in the later explanation. The difference can be seen in the second paragraph of Tradition four and the last paragraph of Tradition nine.

Below you can see the original versions in their entirety; the words omitted in the later version are underlined.

(tradition 4, 2nd paragraph)

Someone might ask: "are we really autonomous? What about our service committees, our offices, activities, and other things that take place in NA? "The answer is that these things are not NA. They are services that we use to help us in our recovery and to further the primary purpose of our groups. Narcotics Anonymous is a commu-

nity of men and women; addicts who meet in groups and use a certain set of spiritual principles to find freedom from addiction and a new way of life. Everything else is not NA. These aforementioned services were set up by involved NA members who offer their help and experience to make our way easier. Whether we use these services is up to the group.

(tradition 9, last paragraph)

Next, the Ninth Tradition defines the nature of the things that we can do to help NA. It says that we are allowed to create service boards and committees to serve the needs of the

fellowship. None of them has the power to rule, censor, prescribe, or dictate. They exist solely to serve the fellowship, but they are not part of Narcotics Anonymous. This is the nature of our service structure as it has developed and as described in the NA Service Manual.

CAR-motion 4

I have recently seen many emotions arise around motion 4, and this is a big one. The point is that pieces of book length may no longer be copied, unless permission from NAWS, inc. is given. What would the consequences be if motion 4 was adopted?

- At present, the step guide is formally seen as a draft version, and is being printed on behalf of Region at a local printer (at this stage, that of NAWS inc.) This is

sold for cost price € 3.62. You can also copy, but the price is competitive enough to not necessarily have to do that, the moment the step guide is ever “final”, it can only be printed on behalf of NAWS, inc. and the price is € 7.95. It may not be copied.

- The translated version of the Just for Today circulates widely throughout the Netherlands Region. You can make prints of the file, put a binder at the meeting with all Just for Todays in it, and many people also receive a Just for Today through email or, like me, through WhatsApp. If there is a definitive version of the Just for Today in the future, you can only buy it for (current price) € 8.40. The binder with home prints has to be taken off the table. To send the Just for Today via e-mail or socials you need permission from NAWS, inc.

In the context of the group autonomy, Tradition 4, it is up to the groups whether they agree with the further curtailment of this as I have just shown. (The determination that World Board believes that only NAWS, Inc. literature should be on the table has been around for a long time). Also considering Tradition 5, by the way, because the message is (due to a price barrier) is made less accessible to the newcomer, let alone the addict that still suffers.

Anonymity and Selfless Service is What Recovery is All About in the End

Usually, at the end of the meeting, the secretary mentions our 12th Tradition and then, more often than not, feels compelled to also tell us their opinion of what the 12th Tradition means to them. It usually goes something like this; "And what that means is, what you hear here stays here," and then the rest of the group says in a chorus "here, here, and just for today we won't drink beer;" or another one that I have often heard is the one about. "I can say that I was here, but I can't say that I saw you here." I sometimes wonder why they bother to express their opinions at all, they sure don't seem to feel any compulsion to explain to us what any of our other 11 Traditions mean!

This behavior is, I believe, totally inappropriate because neither one of the above examples relate to our 12th Tradition. Instead, they refer to "personal anonymity," and therefore relate to our 11th Tradition and not our 12th Tradition. When I hear ignorance like this being shared at our meetings by the trusted servants of the groups, the very members that hold the responsibility to uphold the atmosphere of recovery in our home groups, the guardians of the purity of our N.A.

message, I can only assume one of two things; our trusted servants do not work our Traditions in their life or they are aware of them only in a very superficial way without having any clue of the tremendous depth of Spirituality available to us in our 12 Traditions.

When our Basic Text tells us that Anonymity is "the Spiritual Foundation of ALL our Traditions," we must realize that our spiritual foundation is the basis of our spiritual principles. Our foundation, Anonymity, is what is most important and must always come first. Our Foundation is that upon which everything else is built and that which supports and holds steady all that comes after it. We are after all Spiritual beings and Anonymity is the foundation of our very existence.

Our Spiritual Foundation (Anonymity), therefore, is the basis of our Spiritual structure. Everything we are and do depends upon Anonymity.

1). Anonymity is WHO we are, our name is, and we are all members of Narcotics Anonymous.

2). Anonymity is WHAT we are, we are a Spiritual Fellowship based on Spiritual principles instead of on ego-based individual personalities.

3). Anonymity is WHY we are, we are addicts who must join each other in Unity and Anonymity in order to be able to recover. Not one of us can ever recover on our own in isolation.

We must all surrender our individual welfare into the wholeness of Anonymity for the sake of our common welfare, which must always come first because our personal recovery depends upon N.A. Unity. Anonymity is the foundation of Unity. First, we must accept the Spiritual Principle of Anonymity into our lives, we must know in our very hearts that we are the same as everyone else in the rooms. There can be no doubt! There can be no difference between us at all, for the slightest feeling of difference brings with its automatic separation and thus isolation. Recovery evaporates in isolation. And then disease can drink its fill!

The feeling of safety and belonging, the knowledge of being supported and being taken care of by God at all times is available to all of us. This is the greatest feeling! God extends a safety net so that even when we fall, we are still always safe. We destroy our individual egos which the disease feeds upon and surrender into the wholeness and oneness of Unity. It is at this point that we can be really successful in working our 12th Step and 12th Tradition and attempting to always practice "Principles before Personalities" in all our affairs, day after day. We recovering addicts are in fact Spiritual Warriors of sorts who must be ever



vigilant.

This, by the way, is not just an intellectual exercise. At the practical level we achieve progress and ultimately success in this critical area of our recovery through the increasing practice of selfless service. I don't mean just the fact of our participating in the existing "service structure," by chairing this committee or that committee. As a matter of fact, I am really sad to say that the chances for participating in the existing N.A. "service structure" seem to dwindle more and more each day. Instead of continuing to be an always open and expanding participatory vehicle for all of us to be able to grow together in selfless service it has instead turned more and more into an exclusive club where only a lucky few, can enter and even be "Paid cash," for service. The disease is REAL happy!

That new way to live that we must all find, and which is our only alternative other than jails, institutions and death is talked about in the BasicText (We do Recover). That new life must be about service in all our affairs'. As our Spirit awakens, we become real instruments of our God's will. We slowly become channels for Gods' Love to all that cross our path. We lead by example.

**Written By" An Anonymous Addict
In the Mid Nineties, USA**

Reflecting on N.A. in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands there are today a bunch of Groups and pockets of members curious for N.A., our History and in understanding for the need for Traditions.

These members are re-doing/ re-shaping ('restoring' maybe the best fitting term) Narcotics Anonymous to a more or less reflection of N.A. in the Original form and undid a great deal of the Naws works/games (and Anda & Treatment what-ever-flies-mentality).

This diluted N.A. goes back now 30 Years

in the Netherlands. We (the Autonomous Groups - mostly registered by Asis, participating in the (E)FSC and found on www.NAhelp.nl webpage) are still standing after 5 nearly 6 years and having had numerous threats, attacks, manipulations and scare-tactics.

We got deleted and called NON-NA, addicts were warned leave our meetings, and they were told/instructed to start meetings in towns (and on days/times) where we have our meetings in a way to bread us out, there have been members that approached facilities and organizations and warned them about us... many addicts and Groups have experienced this World Wide and some as far back as the early '80's. We, in the Netherlands, are not unique in this.

Our Groups however flourish today, and our meetings are loving/kind/good vibes and carry a clear N.A. Message. We got shitload of exciting service stuff happening and have deep impact on Europe and the World with books being printed and shipped at cost. We have a bunch of events our Groups host, all of these not-for-profit and with the intent to make us better carry our message. We as Groups are Self-sufficient and take no outside contributions. The best thing that happened in this situation was indeed being kicked-off the National Site and being called NON-N.A. (even though our literature is pretty clear on what is and what is not N.A. ;))

We are not a mere (vocal) minority voice* here in the Netherlands although we are like 10% compared to size Naws Region. We believe in 'Traditional' N.A. ; where there is no room for Concepts, where we believe strongly in Group Conscience and a loving God, where we follow Traditions, where we believe in literature by-addicts-for-addicts trough open-participation, where we believe that there should be NO newcomer-tax on our message, where we don't need payed Professionals and/or expensive jet set Travel Club to rule and censor us.

In the Netherlands, although a couple of members meant really well (!!) and I respect them for

keeping doors open/starting N.A. in the Netherlands, they went off the path from the get-go.

They even took liberty to change our name into N.A. 'Anonieme Verslaafden'

(Anonymous Addicts) instead of keeping it just Narcotics Anonymous.

And they called the Dutch Fellowship N.A. 'Holland' (instead of the Netherlands).

-> Holland is only a small part of Netherlands, basically the West.

Not even starting to talk about the quality of some of the translations (even manipulations) of our literature, sidetracking and changing the content and diluting our Message. Now, also in mainstream N.A. many members recognized these 'mistakes' and people all over ask questions on these matters. There is even talk of changing the N.A. name back to Narcotics Anonymous at Regional level.

(Very curious what Naws will tell the Region of the Netherlands to do with all the redundant literature with a name that no longer reflects the Dutch conscience ;)

We, as a movement/collective of young N.A. Groups and members, are growing in numbers in the Netherlands, we are gaining momentum. We have members all over the Netherlands opening their hearts/minds/ears/eyes/spirits to what we voice and what we stand for. More and more members see

we are not just a bunch of arrogant, rebellious, self-centered dicks, or even N.A. Nazi's or criminals (for printing giving away our message) who try to kill addicts by standing on Total Abstinence, as we were called more than once. Yet the see us more and more as committed N.A. members that take on bunch of service and responsibility, have a huge love for N.A. and passion for this new way of life, and help by getting our message out to addicts that still suffer and that our meetings are safe, well organized, open and welcoming...

If you are a drug-addict you are ALWAYS welcome at our meetings (regardless the edition of Basic Text you prefer), there will always be coffee and hug. and a clear message of N.A.

What I personally like a lot, is they we don't go to other Groups and/or Area /Region trying to control and or dominate (I must say it's been sitting on hands and trying to surrender the negativity and focus on the solution.... as I personally like to rant and pick fights) but we basically just tell them where we get our understanding from, supply facts about our History, Court cases, etc and the ESH from people that we t before us, some even helped write the Basic Text (Grey) and help build N.A. from a vision found in our Basic Text and invite them to check for answers, check for facts, come to their own

understanding instead of parroting party-lines from Naws Structure.... and we basically regard Naws as the out-side issue they are.

And this process goes slow (well, slow, we are quite young, only 6 years tops I guess), but we are creating a Tsunami of Love and we are not to be stopped (unless we divert yourself from the Traditions and as a consequence pretty sure we goof it up big time like 'good' self-willed addicts do ;))

I'm curious for the future, it's an exciting time to be part of N.A. in the Netherlands and I'm looking forward to seeing the day, into not so far future, were we will fluid the Lowlands with the Dutch translated Baby Blue Basic Texts. This is going to create ripples, and may it affect many, many lives of addicts (their families & friends, and society at large) in a positive way, that no addict need die from the horrors of addiction without having had a chance to hear our message.

**in loving service,
an Anonymous Member**

###

Note:

To be clear; I believe we are NOT a mere Vocal Minority World-Wide either with this Movement... we are everywhere and with the Internet it's harder and harder to hide and cover the lies, smokescreens and manipulations that Naws is creating and members find like-minded

members and Groups everywhere and we are creating better Information sharing by the day. I do believe we are scattered and there are many factions (mainly due to Personalities acting up instead of focusing on Principles; but hell, that's logical isn't it, with us addicts). I pray daily these factions come together in a Group-Conscience based Service—Structure (like A.S.I.S. through the (E)FSC aka (European)Fellowship Service Conference ; where we can set aside personal differences and let go of resentments and ego's and do what the BasicText instructs us.

History Article

I'd forgotten about this. For a brief period, at the very end of 1983 and early in 1984, I was the secretary of the World Literature Committee. I had previously been the vice chair of World Lit for most of 1982, after Page C. became chair.

My focus then was on NA History. While I was secretary, we took up reviewing this manuscript, which was proposed by an addict with long term clean-time (for those days - I think he had over 10 years, which was a whole lot then), named Jet from Phila. Area.

While this had a lot of good information in it, and brought a unique perspective to living clean, we had a number of concerns about potential tradition violations in the content. I never knew what

happened to it after I stepped down from my involvement in NA World Lit (I was just a tad burnt-out by then, to put it mildly, and got to a point where focusing on my own recovery had to be my priority).

I just acquired this last week, from JoJo B., and am finding it fascinating reading. There's a letter to the fellowship in the beginning of it, dated 11/15/1983, from the WSC-Literature Subcommittee (i.e., World Lit) announcing this was ready for review, and pointing out the committee's concerns about the potential tradition violations. I seem to remember the debate over this at the Literature Conference in Jamison, Pa, that took place right before this - that was one of the most contentious conferences I'd been to.

The Living Clean that eventually came out much later bore very little to no resemblance to this one. I think I'll read that after I read this, just for comparison sake. My understanding is that one had much more hired professional writer involvement. I still prefer how we used to define "N. A. Literature". It was, simply, anything "written by addicts, for addicts". That was the stuff that spoke to this addict's heart and resonated with my soul.

Tradition Four:

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

First let's take a look at the Sixth Edition says.

"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 not subject to outside control. Every group has had to stand and grow on its own. One might ask, "Are we truly autonomous? Don't we have service committees, offices, activities, hot lines, and other activities in NA?" They are services we use 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. The services that we mentioned are the result of members who care enough to reach out and offer help and experience so that our road might be easier." Basic Text page 66 Sixth Edition

Next let's take a look at what the Approval Form says.

"The autonomy of our groups

is necessary for our survival. The 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, hot-lines, 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." 1981 Approval Form Basic Text page 32.

So, we can clearly see the difference here. The Sixth Edition states having no autonomy outside of the known service body "NAWS". It doesn't give the Group freedom of choice whether or not they want to utilize services where they choose.

Autonomy gives our Groups freedom to act on their own to establish their atmosphere of recovery, serve their members, and fulfill their primary purpose.

So, what happens when a service body tells the Groups they cannot be autonomous? The Group either follows their direction of dictation or chooses to not utilize their services. Area Service Committees and the World Services have been known to remove autonomous groups who print their own literature from their meeting lists, yet if Each Group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole, how is this affecting other Groups or N.A. as a whole? It doesn't.

If a Group verifies attendance papers next door, and our Group does not, does it affect us? It would affect N.A. as a whole. Somewhere down the History timeline an outside enterprise sent an addict into N.A. to verify their attendance paper, whether it was for the Courts or probation offices, and it has affected many Group's atmosphere of recovery. Many Groups and Areas believe it is a service to the addict, or that it's helping them. There are many things that we can do to express our autonomy, we always need to understand that there's other Traditions also in place that prevent us from doing things like this.

Groups have the freedom to

print their own literature, print their own meeting lists, participate with a service structure or not; that is their freedom. They can write literature in an open participatory process and approve it within their Group. They can choose to be an open meeting or a closed meeting, have speakers or study literature.

"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 actions ahead of time, then all will be well."

When all is said and done, we guard our autonomy so we can fulfill our primary purpose to carry the message to the addict that still suffers.

**In Service
Anonymous Member**

Life on Life's Terms

My meditation and prayer is finally back on track after my father's death. and life has returned to "as normal as it gets"... I had grieved his death before he died...it was obvious what was coming for him... 2 weeks before he passed I cried my

eyes out after a visit where he could not talk, it was just starting to rain from the sky and from my eyes as I walked toward the parking lot, I felt words, important words rushing into my head, that were the words describing my feelings, which I had struggled for years to identify and define, and I wrote this -

*“How fitting the rain after a visit,
The old man uttered no words,
He sat and drooled on his shirt
How fitting the rain after a visit,
Thirty more minutes in the books,
of a life beyond its’ prime, long gone,
How fitting the rain after a visit,
We sat in silence that half hour,
I told him, “I love you”, then I left,
How fitting the rain after a visit,”*

and after 10 minutes, the tears stopped, and did not come again until “TAPS” was blown by the US

Army at his funeral service.

Death, we all will die. Live without being a pain in the ass to each other. Love each other, and if you’re really lucky, someone will love you back just the way you need to be loved... that may take a lifetime to find.

So, waking at 3 am to meditate for an hour when no one will call, and the doorbell will be silent, and it’s just me and the stars in the sky on a short quiet walk in my neighborhood seems to do the trick.

I still have to tell some people of dad’s passing. I have no idea who I told and who I didn’t tell, as the phone got so busy. now there are other things to do. They will find out or they won’t. oh well....

By an Anonymous Addict USA



Fear

I got scared yesterday. I was watching some COVID 19 updates and I had read an account that a lady from Vernon BC Canada posted about her infection and recovery from COVID. It's a pretty unpleasant virus. I get that most of us are not going to die even if we get the virus, but it is pretty serious. What freaked me out was that I'm now essential services - I work in a medical lab where we help thousands of people every day who need testing for typical things like diabetes and such.

It's not just about me and my health. It's working closely with people and affecting their health. It's about bringing COVID 19 home and affecting my wife's health. It's about stopping at the store to grab some milk and affecting the public's health.

It would be nice in some ways to just remain ignorant. Self-obsession is the core of the disease of addiction. Recovery is about getting outside of yourself and thinking of others, or so I was taught. Yesterday morning I was at a telephone meeting of Narcotics Anonymous. You could tell the other people on the call were mostly regulars, who loved and cared for each other. One member was almost 30 years clean and shared. She was sitting in an emergency room in the USA, crying because she had a bad

cough and the hospital was full. She was scared and wanted to leave. She was frustrated that she couldn't get help. Everyone was supportive, loving and encouraged her to stay.

So, we started an online meeting last night and 5 people attended. It was cool to look after myself and try and be there for others too. It felt like those other people benefited as well. Part of me wishes I could get laid off and stay home, but I guess I should be grateful for a job and the opportunity to serve my community. It's interesting to always be looking for that balance.

Just for Today

Written by An Anonymous Addict From Canada



Report Stockpile Historical Perspective Group

Due to the corona crisis we are not able to give you an accurate update on the stockpile. The meeting facility closed down before we were able to get the information we needed.

The Report will be updated in the next volume. Thank you for understanding.

Report Stockpile Europe (Hengelo)

The Report will be updated in the next Volume. Thank you for understanding.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS ZOOM HISTORY DAY 2020

Saturday, April 4th, 2020

PROGRAM

10am PST, 11am MST, 12pm CST, 1pm EST
Vito from Florida with 60 years clean

11:30am PST, 12:30pm MST, 1:30pm CST, 2:30pm EST
Chester Y from South Dakota with 40 years clean

1pm PST, 2pm MST, 3pm CST, 4 EST
Antoinette B from Virginia with 38 years clean

2:30pm PST, 3:30pm MST, 4:30pm CST, 5:30pm EST
Bo S from Georgia with 45 years clean

4pm PST, 5pm MST, 6pm CST, 7pm EST
Billy A from Pennsylvania with 40 years clean

**(Each speaker will share 1 hour with a half hour
of question and answers in between meetings.
Open share for all after the final speaker.)**

ZOOM MEETING #540 288 409

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
WOODY TOWN NJ, 08098

Post-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

SOUTHJERSEYNARCOTICSANONYMOUS@GMAIL.COM

RAY D (610) 428 - 9923

POSTPONED

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

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

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

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

Name: _____ E - Mail: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State:

_____ Zip: _____ Phone Number (____) _____-

Group Name _____ **Register by June 1, 2020**

Amount \$100.00 Check NO. _____

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





1st Annual North Eastern Coast
TRADITIONALIST
Gathering
July 11, 2020

454 Fort Mott Road,
Pennsville NJ 08070
Fort Mott State Park
{Pavilion 2}

9:00am - 7:00pm

Potluck Lunch & Dinner

Grey Book Reflection

Meeting, Speakers,

Fellowship, & BBQ

Hosted by

The Historical Perspective Group

The Most Perfect Vehicle Group

The Rabbit Meeting

A Different Look Group

Spiritual Solution Group

Matt F (856) 803-8857 Bill C (610) 809-9771



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
or email to nahelp.nl@gmail.com

Contact: 0031642091629

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

Annual 12 Step Retreat

February 19, 20, 21, 2021

Das [Dutch Village Inn](#)
150 East state Route 14
Columbiana, Ohio 44408

What to expect: Speakers, Discussion, Coffee,
Real NA Old School Recovery!

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

Pre-Register by Emailing stepretreat@yahoo.com

NO addict EVER turned away!

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

Prices are subject to change

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

Call Hotel @ 330-4825050

Upcoming Events

HISTORY OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Date: March 21st, 2020

Woodstown, NJ

15TH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP SERVICE CONFERENCE FOR N.A.

Date: June 26th thru June 28th, 2020

Hamburg, PA

1ST ANNUAL NORTH EASTERN COAST TRADITIONALIST GATHERING

Date: July 11, 2020

Pennsville, NJ

5TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP SERVICE CONFERENCE FOR N.A.

Date: September 17th thru September 21th, 2020

Ambt Delden, The Netherlands

ANNUAL 12 STEP RETREAT

Date: February 19th thru February 21st, 2021

Columbiana, Ohio

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

Weblinks

www.nahelp.org

Contact: nahelp.org@gmail.com

World

www.nahelp.nl

Contact: nahelp.nl@gmail.com

The Netherlands

www.freerecovery.org.uk

United Kingdom

www.nahelp.se

Sweden

Contact: AntligenFriaNA@gmail.com

**GET
INVOLVED!**

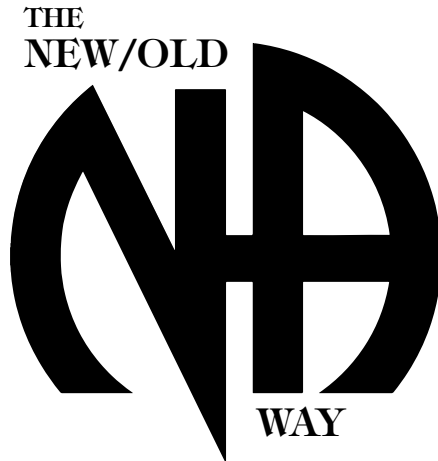
WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

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

WWW.NAHELP.ORG

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

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



".. 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

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