

THE VOICE

OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

February 1978

One more time is an expression that most of us use when we want to hear or see something again, only this time it means that one more time we are going to start a newsletter for N.A. The fellowship around the world is asked to join us with contributions of all kinds. What are you doing that the rest of us should know about? What have you done that has worked out well for you that you can share with the rest of us? What are you going to do that we can all help support within the structure of N.A.?

UP FRONT - LET'S COMMUNICATE - WORLDWIDE

Send YOUR Contributions to:

The Voice
Box 622
Sun Valley, Ca. 91352

"MY gratitude speaks...when I care and when I share with others the N.A. way.

DATELINE: OMAHA-LINCOLN, NEBRASKA*****

N.A. in Omaha has just plugged into an information and referral agency that covers several counties and is run by the community. It acts as a referral service for N.A. Referral has come from people who have heard about N.A. on the local radio stations.....Mary L. has received word that Dodge City, Kansas has started a meeting (A.D.A.P.T. Group) a while ago....

Institutional Committee-The group at The Nebraska Center For Women in York, Neb. that started a year ago is doing well. This is one of the area's first groups in a reformatory. The Hastings Regional Center (State Hospital) has an Alcohol and Drug Program and in that center they are having an N.A. meeting that has been going on for about a year and doing well. A number of contacts from Drug Centers are very interested in N.A. A couple of drug counselors from as far away as Iowa have had their clients contact N.A. in Nebraska....

Activities - N.A. has an added benefit in this area in that there are several large social functions available: picnics every other month are usually attended by at least 100 people...hiking at state parks adds to the enjoyment and excitement in living a clean and sober life....

The N.A. Midwest Regional Service office now has a post office box (P.O. Box 80434 Lincoln, Neb. 68501) and they have received mail from seven (7) different states, some of which include North and South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas (statewide), Minnesota, Iowa and Colorado....

Misc. Tidbits: Police officers have been referring several addicts to N.A. and several members have been asked regularly to go into hospitals to give N.A. talks. Patients at Lincoln General Hospital are allowed to go to outside N.A. meetings.

8th WORLD CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN HOUSTON

DATELINE: HOUSTON, TEXAS*****

Kathy H. has contacted us to let us know that the N.A. 8th World Convention has been set and will be held September 21-24 at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston. October was preferred however, the hotel was booked solid for that month. September seemed best since November tends to get pretty close to all those year-end holiday seasons. The room rates will be \$30 for a single; \$21 per person for Doubles; \$15 per person for triples and \$13 per person for quads. The hotel will be holding a block of 200 rooms for N.A. until 21 days before the convention (Sept. 1), when they will be released afterwards on a first-come-first-served basis. Flyers to come out soon...

Kathy H. also shared some beautiful thoughts in her letter: 'We are all excited about this convention and so grateful that it will be here next year! We really do need it--already our attendance at our regular N.A. meetings has boomed. Quite a few of the members from the original N.A. group 4 years ago (which almost folded) have come back to the meeting.....We really enjoyed this year's convention--fantastic!--and were quite moved by the support and 'heart' of all you Californians! Thank you again--you are beautiful--and we hope to see 'y'all' here this year!'

Several new meetings have started just since this last convention in San Francisco

DATELINE: HOUSTON, TEXAS (Continued)*****

Anyone who is interested in further convention details may contact their address below:

8th World Convention of N.A.
P.O. Box 27627
Houston, Texas 77027

Found in an old letter at W.S.O.:

"The way they can tell that an addict in Texas has reached his low is when being a Texan just isn't important anymore...Man, that's humility!"

DATELINE: PENNSYLVANIA*****

Scranton-Wilkes Barre N.A. now has a 24 hour telephone answering service that is being manned by N.A. members on a set schedule. The system is call-forwarding which allows members to be involved in their own home. By calling this number, places where meetings are held, general information, or rides to meetings are all available. The only requirement for volunteering for 12 step calls is 90 days sobriety. Their number is: 717/344-9527.

Outreach, a program set up to get N.A. awareness to the news media, is now in its second phase in Scranton-Wilkes Barre. Local stations now announcing N.A. is here and it works include: WARM, WEJL, WEZX, WDDL, WGBI-AM & FM and two television stations: WNEP AND WBRE. Sunbury also reports announcements on two local radio stations and soon will be on the college stations in their area. Most help has been through public service announcements.

(Note: In some areas a good source of help with advertising & PR is your local Ad Council, a non-profit organization that offers aid & suggestions to other non-profit organizations. -ed.)

Area Service Committee of Northern Pa. - Each of the 16 N.A. meetings in this area send a General Service Rep. to a meeting each month. ASC (Area Service committee) supplies literature to groups; makes meeting lists; sets up Regional Service Meetings with Philadelphia; sets guidelines for group meetings; helps new groups get started; organizes a "Willing to Share" list; initiated the "Outreach" program; sends donations to W.S.O. and is currently involved in coordinating plans for an East Coast Convention in the future. (right on, guys!)

"If I leave the program and go out again and start using then I'm no longer an addict; it's just that every five minutes of my life I'm unlucky."

Frank S.

*****NOTES FROM THE WORLD SERVICE OFFICE*****

As you will remember, at the 7th World Convention it was decided that we would hold the N.A. World Conference separately each year. This year the World Conference will be held April 1st & 2nd, 1978 in Los Angeles. Full details as to times and place will be forthcoming in the near future.

For those of you area delegates and representatives who will be coming, a housing committee has been getting together to provide you with accommodations at different members' homes. Please let us know AHEAD OF TIME when you will be arriving so we can set this up with you. Please contact the World Service Office at: P.O. Box 622 Sun Valley, Ca. 91352 or call us at: W.S.O. - 213/764-4280 or call Greg P. - 213/763-8193.

We hope to see representation from the Canadian groups at this conference.

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It is good to hear that other places have started Club houses for clean addicts. The first "Survivor's Club" in San Fernando Valley grew from a need for a place for clean addicts to meet with each other in a setting other than N.A. as such. In keeping with our 6th Tradition, this has been working out well. Other areas where club houses have started are Pennsylvania, Florida and Northern California. There are others around...please let us know where you are so that those of us who are traveling can contact you.

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The World Directory of Meetings will be out in less than 30 days. Contact the World Service Office for issues.

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Hey, Bill F. in Calgary, B.C....how about that French translation?

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Hello Down Under! It's good to know your groups are growing! And although you may not be able to make the Conference this year, we will be in touch with all developments. If anything transpires that would affect N.A. as a whole, you will be notified. We need some input from all you diggers, okay?

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Pennsylvania: Get your delegate out here for April! We are anxious to have representation here from your area!

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The Southern California Institutional Committee, which was formed about nine months ago, has drawn up a set of guidelines for use by an Institutional Committee. They include information for setting up an Institutional Committee and carrying the message into government institutions. Anyone may obtain a copy of this format by contacting the So. Calif. Institutional Committee: P.O. Box 712 Sun Valley, Ca. 91352. Also available are labels for 32 oz. literature collection cans to be used when getting your literature funds together. Institutional Committee meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Survivor's Club after the noon meeting. All N.A. members are welcomed to attend.

In Memory Of...

One of our Trustees and a man who stated many times how proud he was of being a member of N.A. died near the end of 1977. Jack Whaley was one who was uniquely himself. He spoke his convictions and "told it like it was." Jack died sixteen years clean. He challenged some of us but most of all he met the challenges of daily living in his own way. He will not be forgotten.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Although things at first did not go quite as well as I had hoped, living in California these past few months has been a dynamite growing experience! I am especially grateful to the fact that there are so many N.A. meetings here and am grateful for all the help and love that has been given to me by my fellow N.A. members. Meetings here are quite a contrast from my hometown of Rochester, N.Y. where we struggled for four years to keep our small (but clean) gathering of members together. When I left we still had 2-5 members. This is one of the important reasons why I feel the strong need of a newsletter. It was by receiving such a newsletter a couple of years ago, that I was given a little more strength to "keep coming back" when all else seemed to be failing. I have seen proof that this program works whether there are three gathered together or fifty. If you are in a small remote group, it is your strength and inspiration that reminds us of where we once were and continues to give us the gratitude that reminds us of where we once were and continues to give us the gratitude that we still need today. (Jimmy K. once told me "The hardest thing about starting an N.A. group in an area where none exist is summed up in one simple word: Perseverance." Knowing & accepting this helped me to really begin to grow in this program.)

We hope this newsletter will bring you some ideas that perhaps will help you to grow. We also need your ideas, support and strength to keep this going. The main reason newsletters are hard to keep going is due to lack of input... won't you help us grow too, and share with us. Let's keep this one going!

If something you have done has worked, let us know about it. Were you able to finally get a meeting started in a hospital or institution? If so, remember that in some areas of the country people are still trying and have failed. How did you go about it? What worked and what didn't work?

What was your personal spiritual experience? Have you recently gone through a crisis that brought you closer to your Higher Power or the program? One or two page stories are a large way in which we can share with others throughout the country how we are living the N.A. Way....Perhaps you have a suggestion on what you would like to see printed in the newsletter. Let us know!

If we get enough input, we would like to make "The Voice" a monthly. Please write TODAY and share your ideas, stories and suggestions. Any information received by February 24 will be put into the March issue.

Lia A.