



Narcotics Anonymous Purist Newsletter

May 2011

Hello again Brothers and Sisters
in recovery.

So once again I don't have to
much to talk about ...

I have been busy with work and
the USFA (Which is why this
months newsletter is late) I do
hope you enjoy this months
newsletter it seems to be taking a
new direction once again.

I started this months newsletter
with a little story about me. I hope
you all enjoy.

I also have had some great input
this month with a beautiful poem
and a great article called
Complete Abstinence.

Jeff

To the Fellowship of NA,

I would like to start this issue of the purist with an article from me. My name is Jeff and I'm an addict... I got clean in 1988 at the age of 16 In Staten Island NY. For the first 3 years of my recovery I went everywhere with my 5th edition Basic Text and my radio. I wore Tie Dye tee-shirts and ripped jeans and I quickly got the nick name Tie Dye Jeff.

With 5 years abstinence I got married, my life quickly became a living hell. At 10 years abstinent I went to prison, I got paroled to PA went back to prison for 16 months and I now live in Wilkes-Barre PA and have for the last few years. When I came to Wilkes-Barre I got involved in service to give back to this fellowship that never kicked me to the curb regardless of how I have acted.

I became the Area Secretary, then the RCM of the area. I did my job as both to the best of my ability and was told by many I did a good job. When my time as RCM was up I became the Literature chair of the Mid-Atlantic Region for 2 years. To get guidance as the new Literature Chair I called the World Service Office and asked for the World Literature chair only to be told there is no such position any more. I could not believe my ears, what happen to them? At this point I was very disturbed to find out that the World board had taken over the standing committees and the board of trustees place. I was confused and nothing seemed to make sense to me. Was I gone from NA service that long???

I started to rebel. I then realized my home group would not listen to ANYTHING I had to say because of it. I started going to meetings out of town and I could not believe my ears or my eyes. I watched someone in NJ get a key tag for his 20th year clean and when he was asked how it works he said "by going to NA and AA meetings". WTF?! That is when I started the Purist Newsletter. I had to find out if there were any like-minded members left in NA. My list started off at about 50 members and

quickly grew to 1200. I found a Splinter group of NA (I won't give the name because I do not in anyway indorse this group) through this process.

I thought that this splinter group was the answer to my prayers and for 2 years I followed them around and looked up to them until I saw their true colors. I saw group conscience meant nothing if one of the founders did not agree. This left me with many more questions. I asked for all their policies and practices and could find no answers in it. I quickly got upset with them and walked away. I got a call one day from a close friend who was a part of the splinter group for a long time. He talked about something called the USFA. They were going to meet in Wichita, KS so I put in a motion at my homegroup to walk away from the splinter group and to get info on what the USFA was going to be. The motion passed.

I became a member of the then "CORE GROUP" and there were many different people involved. Some from different splinter groups and a few Narcotics Anonymous members. I showed up in Wichita for the first US Fellowship Assembly not knowing what to expect. The feelings and emotions I went through while in Wichita were amazing. On Sunday morning when the microphone went around the room I started to cry because the love I felt was just as beautiful as the love I felt when I first got clean. There were over 250 people there that weekend and I learned so much.

I found out how wrong I have been for attacking NAWS. I found out how much NAWS is really needed. I found out that one of NAWS's biggest problems is the US fellowship. NAWS has so much work to do and every 2 years it gets bogged down with US based motions. How can NAWS do the job it is meant to do if the US keeps holding it back? This is why so many people feel the USFA is the answer to these problems. Sure there are some that disagree and that's ok because their voice needs to be heard too. Many feel that this is an outside issue, I just can't see that. It's the members, groups and areas of NA that are putting this event together. The beautiful thing about NA is that everyone is right because everyone's voice is equal and of importance.

I support this movement!!! I have even gone as far as stopping my attacks on NAWS, I have stopped production on my Anti- NAWS tee-shirts, I have pulled off all my anti NAWS stuff off all the sites I belong to. Does NAWS still do things I don't agree with? YES!!! But do I need to bad mouth them for it? NO!!! If I were to live like that, I would be alone because everyone does things I don't agree with.

Anyway... I just wanted to share my thoughts with you all. I know some will disagree with me, some will agree just remember the motto of this newsletter is "Where every voice matters".

Hi my name is Melissa and I am an addict. I just celebrated one year :) I was thinking about a topic for my birthday meeting and decided to talk about tradition five.

"What is our message? The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom. When all is said and done, our primary purpose can only be to carry the message to the addict who still suffers because that is all we have to give."

Basic Text pg. 68

This is one of my favorite traditions. I learned about this program because one of my friends carried the message. I saw his life change and when I was ready to change I knew who to ask for help. In a way I believe that he saved my life. He showed me that I didn't have to use no matter what and that someday I would lose the desire to use. He didn't try and promote anything or sell NA he just told me his story. That is all any us really do. I know that I don't want to hear advice when I go to meetings. I am here to hear your experience, strength and hope. I know that our primary purpose is to carry the message but the only way to do that is to stay clean and follow the spiritual principals.

I know that a lot of newcomer don't know much about our traditions and I think that is sad. I read our literature and get involved in service because that is what is suggested. That's what someone told me to do to stay clean. I have been bringing up traditions at meetings because sometimes that's the only time any of us hear about them. I know that following these traditions keeps our fellowship "alive and free"

My Daily Inventory

Memory of 6 months clean

Lies

In my season of growing old

I thought about

all the lies I told

all had valid reasons

at the time

in my mind

Now how sad to see

All of those reasons

were honestly lies to me

If I could give

some parting gift

on life and how to live

especially to my family

In a pretty box with bows

I would want all to know

and to understand

that self dishonesty

destroys the soul of man.

I remember being 6 months clean . I was in my home group for a business meeting. A old timer told me i didn't know shit about the traditions. I told him i did (i didn't understand them) I got angry stormed out of the meeting. You know, How could he, imma kill him, I'm deleting him from facebook, i'm not going to that meeting anymore, i hate him.

Typical addict response. I called my sponsor told him the earth shattering experience. He said he is right. You don't know shit about the traditions. I was devastated. Then i was like ok you guys are right. So i started the read the traditions. Read the basic text , it works how and why, miracles happen. About the Traditions and history. I also watched the traditions come to life as i remained in a home group and got active.

I was called on my shit. When i get called on my shit i act up. Think vengeful, getting even, getting violent, gossiping, being in the disease. Today i surround myself with people who call me on my shit still. I don't overact the way i did before. I know they care about me. I can see that today. I'm grateful i am not perfect i got things to work through.

The people i call on their shit say that's gods business,not yours, i'm not perfect. I understand that. They stop talking to me, they delete me from their online circles or circles in general. I do it in a loving and tolerant way. I'm not hard core do or die motherfucker approach.

What's kept me in the solution are the 2 statements i found in our basic text. I wish people could see these statements. I just call people on their shit when it makes NA look bad. The worst thing i could do is surround myself with people who are in recovery and don't call me on my shit. I'm grateful for the circle i surround myself in. If your my friend you will call me on my shit. I hope you got 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 of them.:)

Lies by Dale A.

I AM POWERLESS

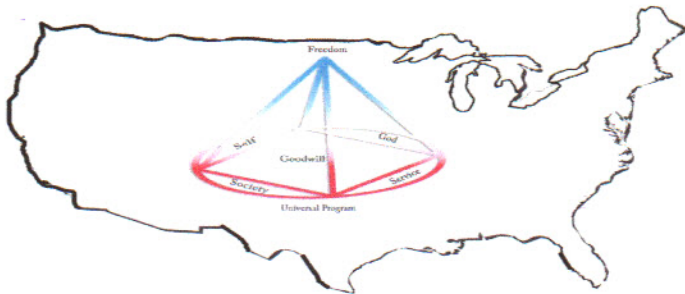
I am powerless over my addiction; my life is unmanageable. I cannot make it alone. Left to my own devices, I will be trapped forever. Not by anything outside of myself, but by the encircling wall of my own false beliefs. I live in the lies and fantasies that tell me things are not really as they are. The Truth is, things are NOT as I see them, nor as I fantasize them.

We have two choices: To move towards ultimate Truth and recovery; or pursue the insanity of our disease and be forced to continue the cycle. My every thought and action will be based on FAITH, TRUST, LOVE, and FORGIVENESS. Should I falter or slip along the way, I must not give up my journey for I cannot. I can only postpone the outcome.

My disease and my ego are one in the same. The longer I stay clean, the clearer it becomes that we addicts are not as unique within the human race as we would like to believe. We simply pursue our self-destruction with more enthusiasm. The consequences of practicing our defects are more immediate and apparent for us than for "normal" people. It is this very curse however that blesses us, for it is the catalyst that drives us back to God when inertia and apathy would let us slip away into self-centered complacency. We are on a journey without distance to a goal that has never changed. That goal is to be at one with God. The method is the steps of Narcotics Anonymous. The vehicle to carry us will be love and forgiveness for ourselves and all others.

The promise of recovery is freedom.

In Narcotics Anonymous we are given a choice and a chance to be free of active addiction and the limitations of self-obsession, self-hate, and self-destruction. We often talk about a choice, but sometimes forget that there is more than one choice. When we deny an addict the right to reject our way of life, then we also deny them the opportunity to choose our way of life and have a chance to recover. Recovery and freedom are not automatic; they are contingent on our choice, our commitment, our courage, our willingness, and our ability to apply spiritual principles in our daily lives. We never have to use again against our will; we can be free.



What people are saying about the USFA

Tradition 9 in H&W, p 192 states, "the ninth tradition empowers the GROUPS to establish a service structure." It goes on to say, "We orga...nize them SOLELY to serve Us, not to establish a complex governing bureaucracy. The ninth tradition is far from complicated; in fact, it speaks throughout of simplicity." p.193 The principles in Tradition 9 are what guides and inspires the formation of the USSC. Very basic for basic needs. Needs that, in my opinion, can be met through our basic subcommittees operating in parallel with area subcommittees. In fact, we should operate in parallel with each other, because anything else is not "without parallel"- Our parallell subcommittee needs are not being fully met currently on a national level. Let World serve the entire planet, including the USSC. That is what they are supposed to do anyway, per Tradition 9. Let the USSC serve the regions, areas, groups, on up to the sole addict, here in America. A need whose time has come.

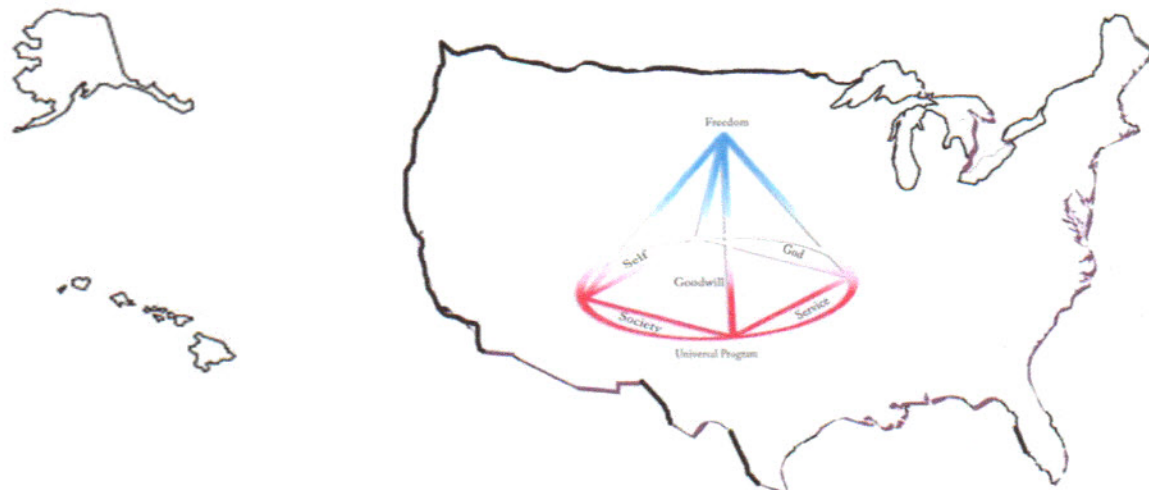
Complete Abstinence

Complete abstinence along with a close association with other recovering addicts and a program of recovery (NA) is my experience and that is what I will share about. Hopefully that will help someone else discover that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use drugs and find a new way to live. I know it may not be the only way to get clean, but it's the only way that I got clean. The consequences for "using" will continue to be revealed, whether it's by prescription or off the street. Unfortunately it's still jails, institutions and death. I am grateful I don't ever have to use again. Just for today. I will have a program. I will follow it to the best of my ability and that means I share what I know, complete abstinence.



United States Fellowship Assembly II for Narcotics Anonymous

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