



JANUARY 1999
VOLUME SIXTEEN
NUMBER ONE

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



Symposium

NA in the year 2025

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Have you ever wondered what NA will be like in the next millennium? Will all meetings be held by computer—or perhaps by telepathic communication? Will there be some strange new kind of drug that brings newcomers to us with problems we can't now even imagine? Might there even be a software package called Narcotics Anonymous? Will a "cure" for addiction be invented? DNA manipulation? A pill? (We'd probably prefer the pill.)

To get some perspectives on this question, we asked some of our leadership to share with us their visions of what NA might be like in the year 2025.

From a special worker to a member of the World Board, each of the four people whose visions follow focus on different parts of the NA program, its fellowship, and its future. They explore new meanings and potential, and shed light on some of the challenges we currently face.

.....

GEORGE H

WSO Executive Codirector

2025. So far, yet so near. For a group of folks constantly trying to stay in the here and now, looking ahead twenty-six years can be awfully challenging. Even for myself as an individual, I am really not sure what to expect that far in the future. Then to look at the fellowship! My oh my, what are we then?

The progress of technology will affect us both personally and as a fellowship in the next twenty-six years. Our methods of carrying the message today, in person, addict to addict, could become obsolete and remembered only in the sharing of our old-timers by 2025. Meetings may only exist as they are carried through the air and received on a special channel through your watch, TV, or computer. Meetings will come to you, and you may be able to choose from meetings across the world that you select from the WSO website. Groups no longer have much overhead—no coffee or tea. "Rent" becomes your weekly access fee to the site, and literature can be read, heard, seen, and smelled, all at your fingertips. Your Seventh Tradition contribution is automatically deducted from your bank account each week.

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THE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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The NA Way Magazine welcomes the participation of its readers. You are invited to share with the NA Fellowship in our quarterly international journal. Send us your experience in recovery, your views on NA matters, and feature items. All manuscripts submitted become the property of Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Subscription, editorial, and business services: PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9099.

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From the editor

There are bound to be many things that will shape NA in the next twenty-five years. The symposium's contributors mentioned new technology as perhaps one of the most potent forces for change in Narcotics Anonymous in the next millennium. Craig R's forecast of the expected changes in the correctional and treatment industries and his call for NA as a whole to prepare for these eventualities could well be applied to almost any area of NA service.

I'd like to add that although our destiny may be shaped by others in part, the way we respond to outside forces is really up to each one of us. Whether we use those forces as opportunities to grow or justification for infighting will affect our future much more than the challenges themselves.

Cindy T, Editor

Our readers write . . .

"What can I do?"—what members need to know

When I go to meetings outside my area, the "What Can I Do?" reading is often omitted from the group's readings at the beginning of the meeting. I believe this leaves out a very important part of how we work a program in Narcotics Anonymous.

I have found support and guidance in parts of that reading throughout my recovery—especially during the tough times. As a newcomer, I needed the direction that is contained in that reading. It told me that I had to begin at Step One, and why. Then it said I could move on to the following steps. It told me what to do if I ended up going back to prison, and it told me what to do when recovery gets tough. Many times in my recovery it has been vital for me to know that I can put myself on a five-minute basis of not using, and there is written assurance that it will get better.

Continued on page 6

The NA Way Magazine welcomes letters from all readers. Letters to the editor can respond to any article that has appeared in the NA Way, or can simply be a viewpoint about an issue of concern in the NA Fellowship. Letters should be no more than 250 words, and we reserve the right to edit. All letters must include a signature, valid address, and phone number. First names and last initial will be used as the signature line unless the writer requests anonymity.

The NA Way Magazine, published in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish, belongs to the members of Narcotics Anonymous. Its mission, therefore, is to provide each member with recovery and service information, as well as recovery-related entertainment, which speaks to current issues and events relevant to each of our members worldwide. In keeping with this mission, the editorial staff is dedicated to providing a magazine which is open to articles and features written by members from around the world, as well as current service and convention information. Foremost, the journal is dedicated to the celebration of our message of recovery—"that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live."

You may never have to meet with your sponsor. He or she will just show up on a screen in your living room with your new step assignment. You got your ultimate sponsor by sending a set of "qualifications" to a central database and received a list of potential sponsors from which you chose. You called up several video segments of personal histories and listened and watched intently until you related. Whew! Enough already! I could go on and on but I think your imaginations get the picture pretty clearly.

Now that the destination is in focus, what about the journey? How will our traditions hold up? Will NA's message become impersonal, somewhat canned, more or less effective? How will the discovery of a cure for addiction affect us? I do not have the answers to these questions, but they are some of the things that come to mind when I think about where we are going in the next quarter century. The changes in the world around us during this period will be nothing less than incredible. So how will we adapt as a fellowship and what can we do now to meet the challenges ahead?

Certainly, one of the things that made NA necessary was the unparalleled identification process of one addict's empathy for another, that special understanding so vital to our recovery. Books and tapes have expanded our ability to put our message out there, but they are limited in scope. Nothing has been as successful in overcoming our initial skepticism about recovery as hearing with our ears, seeing with our eyes, feeling with our hearts, addict to addict, in our meetings. Technology will challenge that, and it will be up to us to preserve it and remind ourselves constantly how precious it is.

The Twelve Traditions came about as a result of early group experiences—looking back through history at other similar movements and looking carefully at what caused them to fail. The next twenty-six years will surely put our traditions to the test. Just look at what is happening around us today with much of the Internet technology still in its infancy. How we understand and define our groups will be challenged along with

our traditions of self-support, autonomy, and anonymity. And what about how we'll relate to the public? Today's means of promotion may very well become tomorrow's means of attraction. After all, what we do today in PI would have seemed outrageous to many of our early members.

As you can see, I am a bit concerned about the future and what it will mean to the fellowship. I also have a great deal of faith that we will be able to see ourselves through it successfully. We just need to be prepared for the challenges—not too quick to change, but not afraid to change, either.

•••••

JEFF S

Member,

NAWS Human Resources Panel

Hello, sweetheart. Can you hear me okay? I hope you can see the crowd from my wrist viewer. This doesn't do it justice, I'm afraid. I'm sorry you can't be here. You would be so impressed. Make sure that you sign on to channel NA1435 on the World Wide Web right after we disconnect—that's the English-language channel. We're broadcasting in ten other languages simultaneously on NA1436-NA1445. It should start in a half hour or so.

I still can't believe I'm at WCNA-41. Can you believe our fellowship has grown this much? But it's like you always said, "As long as we focus on the Twelve Traditions, we'll be fine." This has got to be the reason that unity is at the top of the list. Who would have thought we'd ever fill a stadium with more than 100,000 drug addicts to celebrate recovery from addiction?

All the work we did over the years was worth it. Remember the controversy at the turn of the century? That stuff seems so trivial now. I'm so grateful that we were able to move past it. Most of the people at this convention don't know anything about all that—thank God. They're just focused on their recovery.

You should see some of these kids. They've got spikes coming out of places I can't even describe. I'm afraid to hug some of them, but they come up to me with open arms anyway. You'd laugh at the way they ooh and aah when I show

them my tattoos. They think it's a "real trip" to see an old bald fart like me with a fully tattooed chest. Of course, I laugh hysterically whenever they say "a real trip." That phrase has come and gone twice since the 1970s.

Hold on just a second, honey. I'm walking into the meeting and they're starting the clean time countdown. Of course, I don't get to stand up first at this convention—they're starting with more than fifty years clean.

Here we go; they're calling thirty-six years. Wow! It looks like there's more than 100 of us! I thought I'd seen it all, but this is something else! The roar is deafening as we all jump for joy when the speaker asks, "What about the time we can all celebrate, just for today?"

Now they're asking all the newcomers to come up and get their Eighth Edition Basic Texts. I wonder if they're asking the newcomers which language they want. I hope so. They've got all forty-two languages on display at the on-site WSO. That brings tears to my eyes. We did all this together. There isn't anyone here who could stay clean alone.

Listen, I've got to go. Make sure you watch on the Internet. I can't wait for the alternative merchandise store to open. I bet the holographic T-shirts from Minnesota will sell out. We always have the coolest stuff.

•••••

BELLA A

World Board Member

It's 6 April 2025, and I've just returned from my home group, Double Bay Steps in Sydney, Australia, where I celebrated thirty-nine years clean. It was a great night. All my old friends who could still make it up the stairs were there. My sponsees brought their sponsees who brought their sponsees. I cried with gratitude while I shared, but that isn't unusual for me.

The meeting looked like some kind of old folks' reunion meeting. In many ways, it was—full of old-timers with decades of clean time talking about seizing the day and coming to terms with their own mortality. It certainly looked and sounded very different from my first NA meeting, where everyone was rather

young and just coming to terms with the notion of giving up drugs.

The younger people appeared to be paying attention to us "oldies" during the meeting, but as soon as the Serenity Prayer was said, they gathered together to talk about what is happening with them.

NA has been struggling with the generation gap for some time. At first, it was just two generations of addicts in the rooms talking about different drugs and life experiences; now it's three or four generations.

Given the speed with which specific drugs and treatment programs change, it is exhausting to try to keep up with them. If I'm at a meeting with a lot of young people, I sometimes think I need a translator to help me understand the slang. However, when the talk is about feelings and internal struggles, I relate just as much as I always have.

There are young people's meetings and young people's conventions. The group of young members changes every few years as the young people turn into older people. Before you know it, the meetings with a youth focus are full of old-timers who need to let go and let the new young people determine the group's direction. It's hard enough for us addicts to let go, much less admit we are no longer young. This has been a struggle with many of the young people's meetings.

Those of us who are getting on in life have also formed common-interest meetings. We need to talk about dealing with poor health and death and missing our friends and partners who are no longer with us. We need to talk about letting go of our children, changing our commitment to service, remaining open to change in the fellowship, and how the process of coming to believe goes on and on.

We have rosters and sign-up sheets to visit members in hospitals and nursing homes, taking recovery to those who are no longer able to attend regular meetings. "Additional needs" is a busy area of service these days.

The debate over "What Is a Drug?" continues to this day. Though we seem to have settled the question on some things, certain segments of the fellowship are now pressuring the World Board to issue a paper on whether or not Viagra is a mood-changing drug. Of course it's an outside issue, but they probably wouldn't declare it a drug regardless. All the male members of the World Board (only thirty-five percent of the current membership) would have to resign. Just kidding!

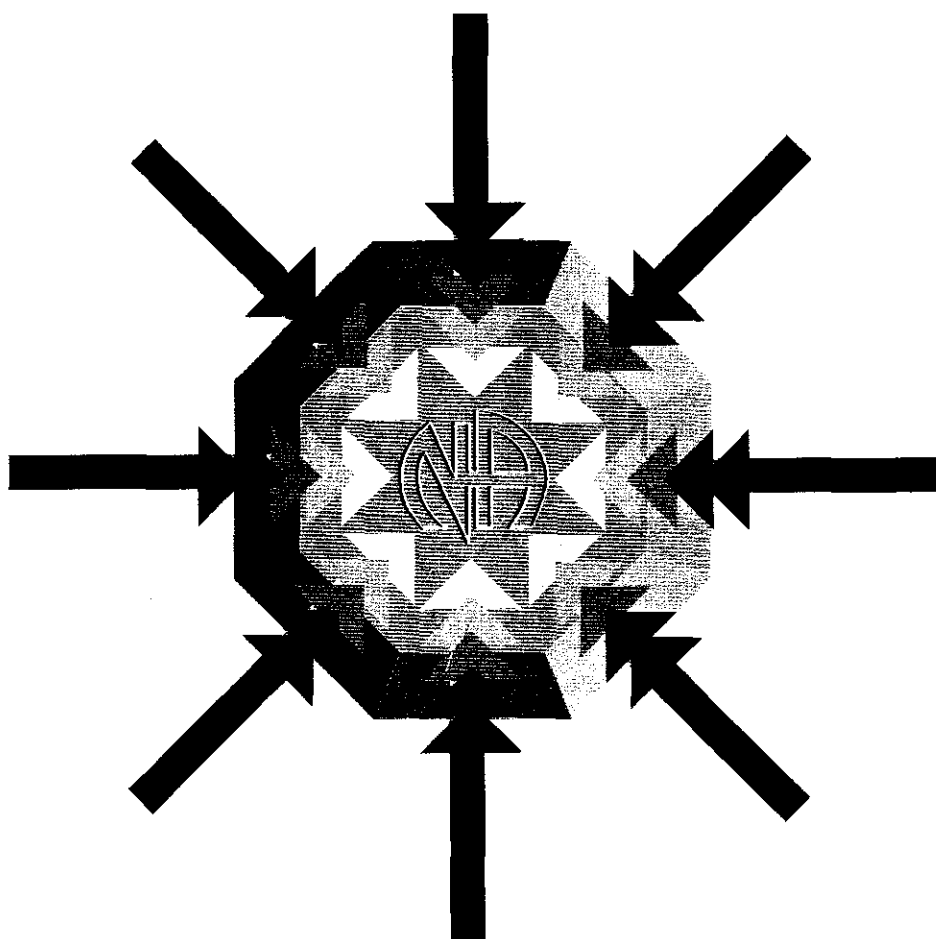
Changing my commitment to service and letting go has been difficult for me. I am a person whose recovery has always included service. I know that when I've fallen into thinking I've been to enough NA meetings (5,303!), it has always been my commitment to service that kept me coming back.

I have served NA at the group, regional, zonal, and world levels. I remain just as hopeful and inspired as I was in May 1986 when I took on a group service representative's position. It was my great privilege to be involved in the World Service Conference in 1998 when we made that historic decision to become one consolidated entity called NA World Services.

In the first couple of years following that decision, we simplified direct services to the fellowship, and in so doing we were able to provide more service to more members. This took the NA message to communities we had only dreamed of contacting in 1998: Central Africa, Tibet, Timor.

We have developed culturally sensitive literature and service material for aboriginal cultures coexisting with westernized communities. We discontinued the giant unwieldy WSC and began devoting our fellowship's resources to holding zonal forums and discussion-based world service meetings in conjunction with the world convention.

Speaking of the world convention, WCNA-41, which was held last year in Mandela City, South Africa (formerly



Johannesburg), was great! We had meetings in thirty languages, with local NA communities hosting workshops. The theme of "Unity in Diversity" wasn't just talked about; it was demonstrated. The main meeting was held in a football stadium and was simultaneously translated into ten languages (fortunately for me, one was English). The meeting was broadcast on the World Wide Web to local NA communities, correctional institutions, and interested members of the public all over the world. The topics of workshops included "Grandparenting in Recovery," "Virtual Meetings and the Seventh Tradition: How Do We Pass the Basket in Cyberspace?" and "Voting Rights at Service Meetings." The more things change, the more they remain the same, it seems. I hope that I can make it to WCNA-42 in St. Petersburg in five years.

Though there are many, many NA meetings held in cyberspace, there is a lot of controversy about them. Proponents say they're absolutely necessary, they're the only kind of meeting some addicts can attend, and all addicts should be treated equally. Others say that these meetings can't possibly offer the same empathy and support to addicts that a traditional meeting can. People can project any image and name that they want into the virtual environment, so some may not even be addicts. Even though things are more sophisticated in cyberspace today than they were a quarter century ago (for instance, two members can now project images of themselves hugging into the virtual environment instead of typing (((hug))) to one another), it is still only a mental exercise. It doesn't have the same effect as the real thing.

I myself keep in touch with other "old-timers" through personal video-mail, but as I get older I find that I treasure real contact with other addicts, and I get myself to as many meetings as I can.

The message that most of us old-timers carry is still pretty simple. We know we need to maintain contact with a Higher Power, and we know that we need to live one day at a time. Even more importantly, we need to make each one of those days count, because we now understand profoundly that those days are really all we have.

••••• CRAIG R World Board Member

Fast-forward about twenty-five years and imagine what you will look like.

Okay, we don't have to go there. I have to admit that such a vision might be a little frightening for some of us. Instead, let's imagine what NA will look like. Come with me as we travel in time to the year 2025. Whoosh! We're there!

We now have NA meetings in almost every country in the world. The Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, and *Just for Today* are published in more than fifty languages. There are branches of the World Service Office on the East Coast of the United States, in the Midwest, in Australia, Africa and Asia, and several in South America and Europe. World Services is financially secure as a result of increasing direct contributions from NA groups. NA members put way more than a dollar in the basket. (Of course, a dollar isn't worth what it used to be.) In turn, we've invested in more services to the fellowship and have kept literature prices far below what other twelve-step fellowships charge for their books. In fact, Narcotics Anonymous is recognized by governmental agencies and by health and correctional industries throughout the world as the program of choice for drug addicts.

H&I service is still called H&I service despite many discussions over the years about finding another name or acronym that better describes H&I work. Oh well, if it works, don't fix it. The fact is that jails and institutions are still the end result for all those whom addiction doesn't kill outright. Society has continued to struggle with how to deal with addiction, debating punishment vs. treatment, and the compromise seems to be that most correctional institutions now have separate drug treatment units within the main facilities. Hospital-based treatment units have all but disappeared. In response, we have focused most of our H&I resources on the prison-based units. Almost every correctional facility on the planet has inmate-run NA meetings, all of which participate in the larger NA communities through various means. Most are able to link up with ASC meetings by

teleconferencing. NA members who were recovering in institutions demanded (and rightfully deserved) the opportunity to recover just like anyone else: in regularly scheduled NA meetings, not just "H&I meetings."

In fact, service is a big thing with NA members in prisons. With the help of the new H&I Handbook that was approved in 2017, incarcerated members do H&I service within their own institutions. Members from the established groups in prisons bring H&I panels into the prison treatment units. The therapeutic value that arises from this level of identification is truly without parallel. They also do PI service by posting flyers all over the facilities to inform the "public" about the weekly meeting schedule. The various groups within each institution have sometimes found that they need to form their own area service committee to discuss issues that are relevant to the groups within the facility and NA as a whole.

H&I panels that work with residential treatment centers focus on helping the addicts in those facilities make the transition from the treatment center to living "outside" and going to NA meetings in the community. NA has developed a number of new informational pamphlets and other literature to help newcomers become part of NA, building a foundation and growing from wherever they first connect.

Returning to the present day, we can see that our challenge is to recognize that these changes are coming and to plan for them now rather than waiting for them to happen and then try to make plans. Our contact with the public is going to increase twenty-fold. We are meeting with and making presentations to professionals and organizations that would have been inconceivable a few years ago. These contacts are going to result in growth for us. People are going to know that NA can help addicts find recovery, and they're going to ask us to do so. We need to make good on our message of hope and promise of freedom when those addicts come to us. We need to be creative in our thinking and courageous in our actions as we prepare to meet our destiny and fulfill our legacy. ♦

When I was jonesin' bad, I recall repeating the words, "Put yourself on a five-minute basis" to help me stay clean. Sometimes five minutes was what I needed to make it through. Sometimes I needed more than five minutes. But the words I heard in meetings rang true. Minutes did grow to hours and hours did grow to days, and I did break the habit and gain some peace of mind. And the miracle happened: The need for drugs was lifted from me and I started to live.

I had 2½ months clean when my sister died from this disease. I used these lines then as well—not only to stay clean but also to deal with the pain and anger and confusion that I felt. There were a couple of *weeks* of putting myself on a five-minute basis, working Step One, putting myself on a five-minute basis, working Step Two, putting myself on a five-minute basis, working Step Three, repeat.

Meetings, the help of my sponsor (boy, was I glad I had a sponsor), reading the Little White Booklet, and following those directions over and over got me through one of the toughest times in my recovery. It also taught me that I could make it through *anything* without picking up.

I also used the five-minute basis principle when I chose to quit smoking. At first I could only stay abstinent from cigarettes for one minute at a time, but soon it became five minutes, and so on, and once again those words that I heard read at meetings rang true. I could list many other times in my recovery when I have used these few lines to help me keep going.

Many groups have made the decision to omit "What Can I Do?" because there are a few sentences relating to being institutionalized. Maybe it's not often that there are institutionalized members at our meetings or functions (open meetings), but when there are, I feel it's important for the direction that is given in those few sentences to be read.

For me to listen to a few sentences which don't apply to me *today* is a small price to pay to hear those other sentences that I need to use in my daily recovery. The reason I put emphasis on the word "today" is that no one knows what might happen tomorrow. I'm reasonably sure that I won't be put in an

institution in the near future, but what about that newcomer who is looking at the possibility of doing time or that person who is struggling to stay clean and ends up institutionalized? I have heard members share about using those lines as a source of hope and direction after hearing them in a meeting—then going to jail or treatment. Those members came back to meetings and are around today.

I believe that "What Can I Do?" should be read at both open and closed meetings. It is important to us as individual members and to those who are hearing our message for the first time. Please read it at your meeting. There may be someone there who needs to hear it.

Anonymous

Who are we carrying the message to?

Last year, I went to an area convention in my home state. I was shocked at the high registration and room cost. I was even more surprised that all social functions, except speaker meetings and workshops, had an entry fee. I kept thinking, "How could a newcomer afford this?" Sure enough, when they had the clean time countdown, there were only six people with less than thirty days. Looking at the hundreds of addicts in the room, I wondered, "Who are we carrying the message to?"

When a convention misses the point of our primary purpose, I simply do not return. I have participated in a convention committee, and I always watch the same struggle emerge: Are we going to cater to the addict who still suffers, or are we going to make this a profitable event? I know that both goals are achievable in the same convention.

Can a few hundred addicts have fun at an NA dance with a DJ? Or is a top-rated band a requirement? Should we spend our money on food for the hospitality room or on music to eat breakfast by?

NA is growing in numbers and spirituality in Southwest Louisiana. Our groups are self-supporting. I have yet to see a newcomer or anyone without the price of entry turned away from a function. We have the same expenses

as many other groups and areas. We have had to get creative to get into the solution. Food is often donated by organized service committees. Members of the fellowship provide entertainment.

Perhaps the people I work with on a daily basis are unique. Most of them could not afford to go to a regional convention, much less a world convention. After paying for transportation, rooms, and the registration fee, there wouldn't be any money left for functions.

Most addicts I know like to do things on a grand scale. WSO downsized; perhaps our conventions could reorganize as well.

Thank you for allowing me to express my deep concern. NA has saved my life. I want to make sure every addict is offered the same opportunity.

Glenda H, Louisiana

Of titles and politics

The new *NA Way* is fantastic! It's a wonderful solution to the problem of not having enough subscriptions to finance production and distribution of the old *NA Way*.

I do, however, have some serious concerns:

- 1) Listing service positions held by contributing writers. In the sections called "Sharing" and "Service," I counted eleven articles. Of those, five listed the service positions held by the authors. I find that an unfortunate addition to a magazine that is published for a fellowship in which the principle of anonymity is invaluable. Some of my reactions to that are as follows:
 - a) Is the importance of service based on the number or nature of positions an individual holds, or is it based on the internal changes an individual experiences while doing *any* type of service?
 - b) Is it possible to list an individual's service position without also implying that the person's view is more correct or carries more weight than someone else's view?

Recovery in cyberspace:

where to find it, how to enjoy it

If you have never gone searching for recovery in cyberspace, you might be surprised at the results of your first search. There is a wealth of meeting schedules, personal homepages that are recovery-oriented, and of course our NA World Services web site with information on our international fellowship, our literature, and events worldwide at www.na.org.

In addition to the World Wide Web, there are many recovery-based discussions on IRC (Internet Relay Chat). Regular meetings are held daily on different IRC servers. When there is no scheduled meeting, these IRC channels serve as a virtual clubhouse where addicts from all over the world "have coffee" and discuss a variety of topics, from computer upgrades to relationships, sponsorship, kids, cats, and everything else. Hugs are represented by brackets {{{{{{hug}}}}} or parentheses (((hug))).

Regular meetings also take place by email. A topic is sent out twice weekly with a digest of sharing which has been sent in to the group "secretary." This is possibly the best way to share, since it is not "real-time." Sharing ranges from newcomers introducing themselves to loners who have no local meetings reaching out, to addicts from countries across the globe sharing on a step or tradition or the last convention in Istanbul, Turkey! Just like our face-to-face (f2f) meetings, there is no "cross talk" allowed, and individual discussions are kept outside the group, with members emailing each other one-on-one.

There are also NA discussion groups on Usenet, the newsgroup portion of the Internet. Unfortunately, these newsgroups are unmoderated, and some fall into the category of "flamewars" or "trollfests," basically arguments and opinion-throwing on every aspect of recovery—a good example of personalities without principles. Anyone trying to make peace is summarily ignored, and unity is a fantasy, with the loudest mouths governing and not being of service to anyone. Another downside of the newsgroups is the proliferation of "spam," or junk email unrelated to the discussion topic.

Just like the rest of our fellowship, there are those who are here to recover, and those who are just here. In any case, there have been quite a few times when there was nobody answering the phone when I called for another addict, and I was able to find the fellowship I needed online.

I have sponsored people on the Net and have asked for suggestions when I didn't know where else to turn.

E-mail has also allowed me, as newsletter chair for my area, to share our newsletter electronically with other areas, from Michigan to South Africa.

If you want to know the power and scope of the Narcotics Anonymous program, get on the Internet, and you will finally feel the global nature of our steps and traditions in action. Take what you need, and leave the rest. Look for the similarities, and ignore the controversies and the differences. Love is a language we all can understand. The Internet brings the gift of recovery to the isolated and enables us to build unity by meeting and sharing with other addicts all around the globe.

Dave H, California

Staying clean through grief and loss

On 10 September, my mother's birthday, she was diagnosed with cancer. She had two tumors in her brain and two more on her left lung. We were told she had four to six months to live.

At first I was angry. I hadn't rebuilt my relationship with her like I wanted since being in recovery. I thought I would have plenty of time, so I only checked in with her by phone.

To deal with my feelings, I immediately started sharing about them in meetings. By doing so, I was able to find a woman who helped me a great deal.

I remember praying to my HP, asking Him not to let my mother suffer as I had seen so many times in my work. (I work in the medical field.) I asked that He take her painlessly and with dignity.

About a month and a half later, I got a call at work from my niece saying that my mother had fallen. She didn't sound hopeful. I left work and went home to change. By the time I got to the hospital, my mom was unconscious. She had been through a course of chemotherapy and she only had a few strands of hair left on her head.

I will never forget the feeling of powerlessness I had when I first walked into my mother's hospital room. I knew that I was losing her. I held her in my arms and told her all the things I wanted to say to her and made all the amends I needed to make. The God of my understanding was answering my prayer—she wasn't in any pain. When she took her last breath, I was holding her.

I felt as if someone had reached into my chest and ripped my heart out. I have never felt such pain as I did at that moment. Blessedly, I had no idea that it was going to get harder over the next few days. I ended up being surrounded by family members who were constantly drinking, which was the way they chose to deal with their pain.

My disease came to life. I was feeling very unsafe in the presence of my family and all that alcohol. I found myself praying to the God of my understanding, and I ended up chairing an NA meeting, realizing that my God was doing for me what I couldn't do for myself.

I began to reach out to my friends in the program like never before. Sharing the pain I was in made it real. At this point, I honestly wanted to use. I had never dealt with a death before, and it was devastating. I went home to call my sponsor and I got her answering machine. I remembered she was out of town and wouldn't be home till later that night. I called someone else and got another machine. I slammed down the receiver and screamed, "God, help me!" A name popped into my head. I picked up the phone and dialed a number that I don't have memorized but somehow knew at that moment. _____

answered. The next thing I knew, I was crying in her arms in front of my house. I choose to call that a miracle.

This all happened on Sunday, the day my mother died. I had four more days of pure hell, going here and there to make all the arrangements—the mortuary, the florist—writing an obituary and doing all the other things that needed to be done for her funeral. I felt numb, shocked, and in a trance—all rolled up together. Her funeral was on Thursday and everything was so perfect.

Though I have cried a lot from the moment I lost her, I'm now getting a sense of the finality of this. I can never pick up the phone to call her again. The loss I feel is so great I can't put it into words. I took two weeks off work to go to meetings and give myself the space I know I need right now to begin my grieving process. My friends and family in NA have helped me so much during this hard time.

In the middle of all this, my sister, who has been on methadone for a long time, came home and is in the detox center here. This I also choose to call a miracle.

I am especially grateful to my NA family who have literally saved my ass these last two weeks: my sponsor, my sponsor's friend Chris who babysat me and kept me from getting loaded, and

my HP, of course, who did for me what I couldn't do for myself.

It is because of my 2½ years of recovery, because I've worked the Twelve Steps to the best of my ability, and because I have a loving Higher Power in my life today that I am able to live life on life's terms. It's because of all this that I am able to stay clean no matter what. You can, too.

Dawna H, California

I found a new home

A while ago I moved to a new area. I knew it would be hard to leave my home area, all the people I got clean with, my sponsor and sponsees and my fellow service junkies. I did all the things that people suggested to make the transition easier. I called the new area in advance to get a meeting schedule. I asked a friend who lived in my new state to be my sponsor when I arrived. I was all set.

When I arrived, I started attending meetings in my new area. As I had been taught to do when I first got to NA, I walked up to people after meetings and introduced myself. Often I would just get a blank stare for a moment, then they would turn back to their conversations. I asked for phone numbers and was given a few, but I was mostly told, "I'll give you my number after I've seen you at a few more meetings." Since I had no car, I asked people I met at the meetings if I could call them for rides sometimes. Seemed like no one in the area lived near me, so it was nearly impossible to find rides. I went to a convention in the region and found it just as difficult to break into the cliques to meet people. After a while I even thought about attending some other fellowship, but I just couldn't do that. I'm an addict, and I belong in NA no matter what.

Then I went to a convention in a different part of the state. It felt so different from the first one. When I introduced myself to strangers I got hugs, conversation, and phone numbers. I left there convinced that NA was the same out here as it was at home; I just hap-

pened to live in an area with some unfriendly people.

At that convention someone told me about a meeting they really enjoyed, so I thought I would try it out. What a great atmosphere! The first time I went into the room, everyone said hello. They asked my name and where I was from and how long I had been clean. They offered to be there for me any time, day or night. This was recovery the way I knew it back home, a place where everyone was welcome, hugs were plentiful, and no one had to feel alone. So I went back, again and again. Every time I went I had the same experience, and now I get to welcome people I don't recognize from previous visits. It is warm and comfortable and I know that people there truly care about me.

Where did I find this perfect NA meeting? In cyberspace. At the convention I attended, I collected email addresses along with the phone numbers. When I go into that room on the Internet, it's like going to coffee after a meeting with all my friends—but these friends are located all over the United States and sometimes even around the globe. Service junkies get together to discuss service junkie things. Newcomers are given all the usual suggestions and encouraged, and people are welcomed back from relapses. We look at photos of people's new babies and trade smart remarks. If there is one person in the room suffering, he or she is not left alone. At least one other person always makes sure to stay in the room with a suffering addict. And when it is time for a meeting, we go into another cyberroom, say the Serenity Prayer, and have a meeting just like in the live world, except without smoke breaks or outside conversations.

Have I given up on live meetings in favor of cyber-recovery? Of course not. I still attend the same meetings I was attending before I entered the realm of cyber-recovery. But now I have dozens more people in recovery I can talk to on a daily basis, whatever time of the day or night I want to. I have found that my friends on the Net are there for me when I am traveling.

Just recently, I had to go to another state for a school-related conference. I

was a little nervous about being away from my family and friends for ten days. Online friends in the city I was going to be visiting gave me their phone numbers, then came to my hotel to take me to a meeting. It was so great to put faces to the names on the screen and to share the meetings in their area for a while.

What I have found on the Internet is simply another way to reinforce my recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. Now when I give people suggestions about how to stay clean in NA, I will tell them to go to meetings every day, get a sponsor, collect and use phone numbers, read the Basic Text, and, if possible, hook into the Internet. Now more than ever, for me, NA means "Never Alone."

Maria T, California

Honesty on the line

When I had about three months clean, I bought a computer. Of course, I had to be online. I signed on, found chat rooms, and immediately looked for NA rooms. There weren't any at the time, so I found generic "recovery rooms." My very first screen name was "Xcoker1994." With a screen name like that, active addicts knew what my drug of choice was and would email me looking for help to get clean, so I made Twelfth Step calls via the Internet. I "talked" to people, and I would try to convince them to flush whatever drugs they had left. Then I would tell them to call their local NA helpline and get to a meeting. I would also tell them they were welcome to email me or find me online. I even sponsor some women online today.

The bad thing about online recovery is that you don't truly know who is behind any screen name. People are sometimes afraid of rejection. I was working online with a woman who was trying to get clean and just couldn't do it. She thought we would give up on her. So she decided to change her screen name and introduce herself as a twenty-one-year-old woman in college. Thinking we

had a brand new newcomer, we worked with her as best we could.

About three months later, I left on a trip that would take me right to her town, so I told her I wanted to meet her face-to-face. At first she thought I was kidding. But when I got close to her town, I called her. She realized I wasn't kidding, and so she confessed who she really was. It was time for her to get honest with herself and everyone else. She contacted all the people who had been trying to help her online and told them what she had done. She had a long battle. She kept relapsing. It went on for two years, but we never gave up on her. She has almost two years clean today.

I have an online sponsee whom I Twelfth Stepped. We have never met in person. She goes to live meetings and has a support group where she lives. We are in contact every day, either by phone or through the Internet. We work the steps together. We have become very close over the past three years. We have children who are the same age, and they are online friends as well. Her three-year-old sings to me every night on the phone before she goes to bed. Sponsoring this way is an awesome experience. I didn't think it would work out, but she now has three years clean.

There is a lot of recovery online today. There are meetings online that are formatted just like live meetings. We have speakers, step discussions, beginner discussions, and open discussions.

I am very grateful for online recovery. I have recovering friends all over the world. Online recovery saved me from relapsing quite a few times in early recovery. It doesn't replace real live meetings, but it sure helps when you're having a hard time in the middle of the night and need to talk to someone. You can usually find a recovering addict online.

Vicki L, Florida

Face-to-face beats interface

When I began to hear about NA meetings on the Internet, I thought I should see what it was all about. I had been online since the old days when a 2400-baud modem was *the* status symbol of a computer geek. Back then, you saw a nice, blue screen with stationary text. No colorful images. No buttons to "click" on. In fact, most personal computer owners rarely interfaced with other computers on the Internet of those years. Electronic Bulletin Boards were all the rage, but there weren't any dedicated to the topic of recovery in NA.

It wasn't until the early 1990s that recovery meetings began happening on some of the commercial networks. I found a meeting online and started "going" to it. It was interesting and new to me, so I kept going.

It didn't take too long for me to become disenchanted with the way the meetings were conducted, the way people shared, and the feelings I had after I left the meeting.

The online meetings were so slow! I couldn't keep myself in the mood for recovery. Watching someone type thirteen sentences for seven minutes was agonizing!

The meetings didn't hold my attention. I would go cook some food, answer the front door, stop by the bathroom, and come back to the computer to find the same person sharing. I would take even longer breaks, come back to

the computer, and scroll up to see what happened while I was gone.

I became unpopular in some of the online meetings because I would cut and paste large amounts of personal writing from my files on step work I was doing. I thought it was not only efficient, but good, deep, emotional sharing as well. However, others felt it wasn't honest because it wasn't spontaneous. I didn't understand their logic, but I respected their feelings and so stopped doing that.

Then I became disturbed with the tone and substance of some members'

deny some uncomfortable fact about my life or to prop up my poor self-esteem. I've learned to forgive others and myself for that. But on the Internet, it seems doubly easy for us to use anonymity as a shield from others who are online. To me, it doesn't build trust in my heart. I don't like that.

One of the things that really drew me to online meetings was the opportunity to hear from addicts all around the world. I still like that part. However, I realized that for me, I had to go to "real" meetings to get what I needed from re-

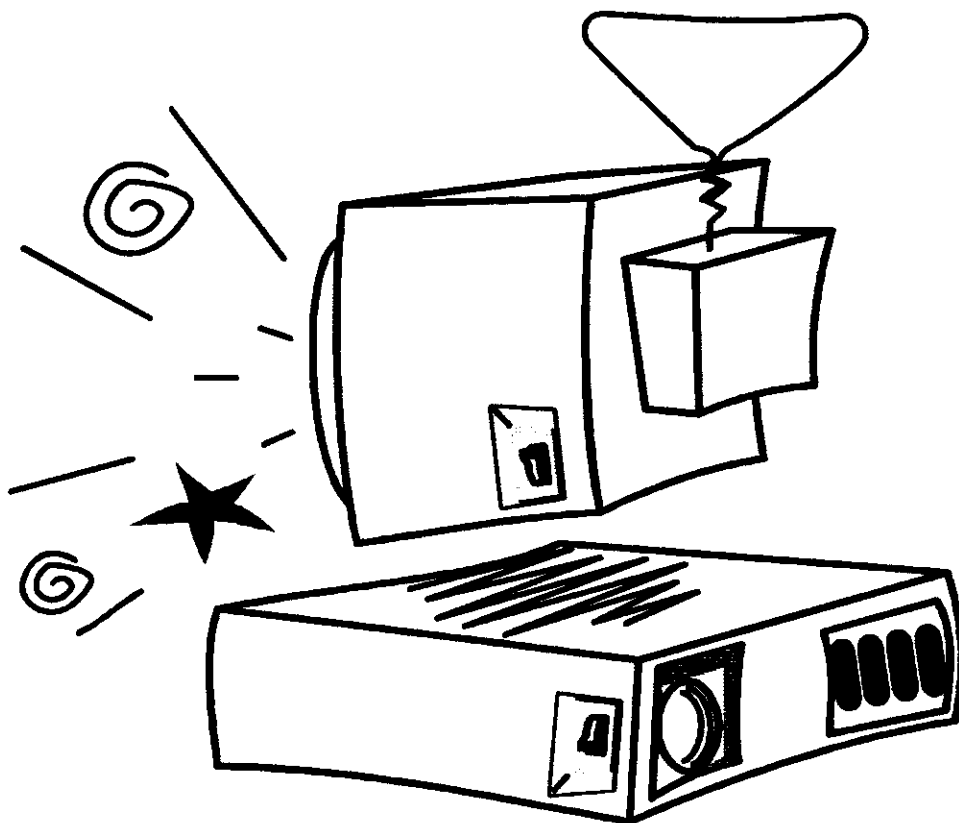
covery. There's a feeling I get from looking another addict in the eye that I don't get from watching text scroll across my computer screen.

Then I saw that some members wanted to have these online meetings registered as groups with the WSO. I didn't see the point, and it seemed like they were more concerned with being online and proud of it than they were with carrying the message. These NA members were vehement about their right to put "literature" on the "table" (that is, to have copies of NA litera-

ture available for downloading despite the fact that we haven't been assured our copyrights will be protected in this environment).

I really believe that online meetings can be a great tool for us to use in our recovery, especially for those NA members who are geographically isolated from other members. It's like the telephone; I use it as a tool in my recovery, but it doesn't replace my need for a face-to-face meeting with another addict to share the message of recovery.

Erik R, Hawaii



sharing. I began to distrust the motivations of those sharing online. Why? I don't know—maybe just because they sounded so *right* and always had something to say on every topic.

I then realized what was missing—the look that passed between one addict and another that said, "Here's the message. That's what I came here for." I didn't feel the ring of truth coming through the online sharing.

I'm not naïve. I know that "live" sharing in meetings isn't always honest either. I know this because I've lied to



SERVICE

On correcting our view of corrections

*by Pete C, past member
World Service Board of Trustees*

I served on the WSC H&I Committee during the "Handbook Years"—that is, during the formative years of what is now called "H&I work." At that particular time in NA's history, we were pretty vigilant about how we fulfilled our commitments at prison meetings.

In late 1984 and early 1985, we had been kicked out of prisons in Texas, Tennessee, and several other locations due to the behavior of some of our members. We wanted to ensure that we had every base covered and every possible scenario envisioned and remedied before it could result in us being kicked out again.

Today, I am grateful that we were so vigilant. The impression we have made on the correctional community in the past ten years is remarkable. Our members' conduct and service record are a shining example for all to see.

In 1995, I was sent to Washington, DC, as NA's representative to the US Department of Justice Forum on Volunteers in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The keynote speaker was the Attorney General of the United States, Janet Reno. Imagine my surprise when she mentioned Narcotics Anonymous in her remarks—not AA, not GA, not a generic reference to "twelve-step programs," but Narcotics Anonymous by name. When she finished her address, she came off the podium and greeted the participants. When she got to me and read my name tag, she leaned down and whispered in my ear, "You're from NA. God bless you." Then she related a story about a man she had sent to prison when she was a federal judge. After serving his time, he had returned to her to thank her for sending him to prison because he had found NA and gotten clean there.

I believe that was one of the proudest moments of my life.

Besides being a wonderful story, the above proves a point. NA has matured in many places beyond what most of us imagined in the 1980s. We now have incarcerated members with many years clean. It's become a common scenario for an addict to get charged with a crime as a result of his addiction; then, after staying clean while the case was being tried, get sentenced to prison with a substantial amount of clean time, and stay clean and start institutional NA meetings while serving his sentence.

The nature of NA's presence in correctional facilities has changed a great deal in recent years. In many areas, inmate-operated meetings with no outside participation are the norm. These meetings are started in a variety of ways. The most common is that someone on the correctional staff starts the meeting. Though H&I panel meetings seemed more common in the 1980s and early 1990s, the practice of professionals starting NA meetings has its roots in NA's infancy. The earliest meetings that were called Narcotics Anonymous were started by professionals in prisons in Lexington, Kentucky, and New York.

I am cautiously optimistic about the prospect of so many new meetings starting in institutions. The caution comes from the fact that when someone other than an experienced member starts an NA meeting, it has the potential for developing in ways that wouldn't actually fit NA's purpose. Also, meetings where no member is experienced enough to "give it away" worry me.

Now that the practice of professionals starting NA meetings is again on the rise, we need to develop clear, concise guidelines for professionals to use when starting NA meetings. This guide could include information about how to access the service structure, and perhaps a reference to the Institutional Group Guide approved at WSC'98.

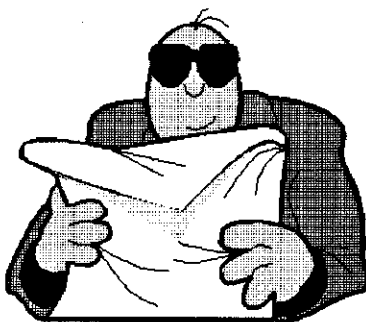
In addition, we need to develop some type of literature aimed at incarcerated members who have little or no contact with the outside fellowship. There is such a need among this community for literature that will help them work a program while incarcerated. One of my favorite portions of our current literature is from the Little White Booklet in the "What Can I Do?" section. It actually addresses members who are locked up: "If you are in an institution of any kind and have stopped using for the present, you can with a clear mind try this way of life. Upon release, continue your daily program and contact a member of NA. Do this by mail, by phone, or in person. Better yet, come to our meetings. Here you will find answers to some of the things that may be disturbing you now."

Another possible solution to the dilemma of isolated institutional groups would be to encourage the development of home groups in the penitentiary. The service structure could be accessed by an outside member serving as GSR or an inmate GSR could participate by mail. He or she could give group reports and participate in group conscience decisions of the fellowship (and extend that opportunity to the group's members). It might require a little extra planning or adjustment to the ASC meeting's format, but so what? Its value in helping other addicts would far outweigh its small cost in inconvenience.

I realize that some may view my ideas as blasphemous; however, it's time for

a radical change in the way we've approached recovery in institutions. We need to go beyond the idea that if it's in a prison, it's H&I. NA meetings that take place in institutions are still NA meetings. The addicts who attend those meetings have the same right to membership guaranteed by the Third Tradition as addicts seeking recovery on the streets. We need to acknowledge that in the future the majority of our mem-

bership will come from correctional settings and allocate our resources accordingly. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that our fellowship hasn't made it a priority to provide recovery literature for incarcerated members—just check the world services budget for the last few years and, of course, the allocation in your local service committees. ♦



H&I Slim

Readers of H&I News are familiar with H&I Slim. For those of you who haven't had the pleasure, H&I Slim is the ultimate H&I kinda guy. He hangs out in hospitals and jails all over the world. You might say he's always in the know, and always on the go. Got a question about H&I? Need some help? Write H&I Slim in care of WSO.

Dear H&I Slim,

I am a recovering addict who is incarcerated. I recently received my first two issues of the *NA Way* and hope to receive many more.

In the July 1998 issue, you answered a letter and said, "It is never a good practice to give out our personal phone numbers to the residents of any facility." I (almost) resent this statement.

Because of caring members in the Ft. Lauderdale area, I now have a sponsor and some good friends. Is the man in the institution any different from the man on the street? This seems very closed-minded. Any comment?

Incarcerated and recovering

Dear I and R,

In our conference-approved *H&I Handbook*, we discourage providing personal phone numbers or addresses in both treatment and correctional settings. This is based on the collective experience of NA members involved with H&I service throughout the years.

We also have to avoid favoritism. If one NA member coming in on an H&I panel were to provide his phone number to one inmate, why not to everybody? This probably wouldn't be practical.

What we usually do is offer the NA helpline number, so the incarcerated addict can find a meeting once he is released. If the incarcerated member is going to be released to our own area, we may also offer a meeting directory and tell him where our home group is.

Our guidelines are meant to protect NA as a whole as well as individual members. In the past, there have been incidents resulting from members giving out personal phone numbers and addresses that cast a negative light on NA. One of these incidents is one too many; anything that may potentially block or delay a suffering addict finding recovery is something we have to avoid.

H&I Slim ♦

Just us

*by Jimmy K, past member
WSC H&I Committee*

They were in a formal restaurant, the type of place that yuppies or business types would frequent. The menu was moderately expensive, more than most of them would usually pay for lunch. The ambience was serene. Tables were joined together, chairs rearranged. There were at least eighteen people in the group. Some joked and laughed. Everyone was smiling.

The waiter was more than attentive. He knew he was in for a treat with a group this big. What? A crowd this size, and no one is drinking any alcohol? Maybe he's seen the same before. Hopefully, he has.

After the usual discussion of food choices, questions about the soup of the day, and so forth, they all ordered. One was short on money. No problem; two others would cover his portion of the check. They just wanted to be together. They were all friends, some old, some new.

They were a sight to behold, a combination of different types: long hair, short hair, beards, ponytails, black T-shirts, tattoos. They drew everyone's attention like a magnet. Other patrons looked over; the gaze of some lingered.

Two older women who were sitting nearby just went ahead and stared. They couldn't help but overhear the chatter of conversation. They began to look bewildered. Perhaps they were wondering if this was a motorcycle gang of some kind, or maybe the road crew of a rock-and-roll band—except they were all wearing some kind of badge....

Finally, one of the women decided to put her curiosity to rest. She walked over to where the group was seated, excused herself for being nosy, and asked if they would forgive her for asking who they were.

One of the group smiled broadly. "Think nothing of it, ma'am. We're just the World H&I Committee on a lunch break from the world services meeting of Narcotics Anonymous in downtown Providence, Rhode Island," he replied.

This same scene is played out at different levels, in different languages, in every area and region of our fellowship. We are distinctly visible to the public and very noticeable in all that we do. Most important, we do have a special purpose: to carry the message of hope and freedom to the addict who still suffers. ♦

Reaching out to groups in need

*by Jim P, Chairperson
Capital Area Outreach Committee*

The Capital Area Outreach Committee has been active for more than four years. We're part of the Carolina Region. We'd like to share our experience with providing outreach services in the hope that it may benefit others.

With the rapid growth of NA in our area, the principles of unity, communication, and selfless service have become much more challenging to practice. In some cases, the needs of our area have grown beyond what the H&I and PI committees can provide. Sometimes these needs don't quite fit into the scope of either H&I or PI.

Our solution: an outreach committee. It serves us well to have a committee specifically for the purpose of reaching out to struggling groups in the spirit of understanding and support. It's a privilege to share our experience, strength, and hope whenever we have the opportunity. It's a joy to be of service and give back to the groups what was so freely given to us.

One of the most exciting areas upon which we are now focusing is institutional outreach. There are self-sustaining groups "behind the walls" that have a desire to participate in our area service structure. Sometimes we are the only link to the rest of NA for a group in one of these facilities.

There are many ways we serve these groups: Together with the H&I and PI committees, we make regular presenta-

tions to prison staff. We also do workshops for the NA members inside about maintaining an NA group. Lately, we have been given the opportunity to attend an institutional group every week. This group is very strong in our area. It has an outside GSR who attends the ASC meeting every month.

We hope that outreach services will continue to grow throughout our fellowship in the spirit of understanding and cooperation, and strengthen our membership and the principles we live by.

If you'd like to contact our committee directly, you can write to us at:

Outreach Committee
c/o Capital ASC
PO Box 50196
Raleigh, NC 27650



Public Information service in the next millennium

*Erik R, past Chairperson
WSC PI Committee*

Looking into the future is, for most of us, a daunting, fearful endeavor. Fearful or not, with the coming millennium almost upon us, a time for reflection seems in order for ourselves as we move on to the next century.

I have been involved with public information service since I had thirty-four days clean. Many days have passed since I volunteered to answer the helpline at our regional service office. From those early days of recovery until now, I have been blessed with the honor of serving our fellowship in many trusted servant roles, one of which was leading the final World Service Conference Public Information Committee.

I worked with many special workers and trusted servants at world services in the nine years I served on the WSC PI Committee. I learned so much from

co-workers in service that I am humbled when I look back on the young, arrogant man who attended his first World Service Conference in 1993! To those many teachers, I am greatly indebted for the knowledge and vision passed on to me as a trusted servant.

In the last years of my service to the WSC PI Committee, I observed how world services and the fellowship as a whole did or did not fulfill our primary purpose. Although we are maturing and growing in our communication with the public about who and what we are, there are still millions of addicts worldwide whom we are not reaching with our message of hope. What can we do in the future to fulfill this spiritual obligation? How will public information be different in the coming century?

One of the problems we've had with our public information services is the lack of shared experience within the fellowship. Communication is sorely lacking at all levels of service. One of the ways we've tried to correct some of our problems was to gather information and experience from PI committees around the world and compile that knowledge into a better, more detailed *Guide to Public Information*. We believed that updating, refining, and adding new material to the handbook was and should continue to be an integral part of the support offered to local PI committees by NA World Services. It is my personal hope that we will continue to update our PI handbook at least every ten years.

For those of us in the United States, we are well aware of the need to train our trusted servants at all levels. Multi-Regional Learning Day events are the staple in providing trusted servants with the experience, strength, hope, and materials to maintain and improve our PI skills (among other NA services).

Many of us in service have seen the "reinvention of the wheel" time and again because we didn't prepare or train our newest trusted servants in public information activities. And what about the newly formed NA communities that lack even the basics like translated recovery and service materials? How do they get the message out to the community (and the addict who still suffers)

without the availability of NA members with the skills?

Starting in 1995, the WSC PI Committee and the World Service Board of Trustees began a project to create a training guide for local service committees. We hoped that one day, World Services would provide support and materials for training trusted servants to provide services such as literature, PI, H&I, and translations. We created a draft paper called "Train the Trainer." Its purpose is to train members of the fellowship in a specific service and pass on that training so that we are consistent in our PI presentations. We also wanted to enable trusted servants to continue the training and be able to pass on skills to future trusted servants. I foresee World Services bringing about real training to the fellowship on a worldwide basis in many languages, enabling greater growth of the fellowship.

Another observation I made was that there is a profound lack of support by World Services to local NA communities in responding to professional events occurring in their cities or countries. Many opportunities to communicate with audiences that could profoundly affect the lives of still-suffering addicts were lost. Invitations to participate in professional events sent by government and non-government organizations to the WSO were often not pursued because of the lack of funding and, in my opinion, a dysfunctional service structure.

However, there is hope! Before we started a World Board to replace our ineffectual world service structure, we came to agreement on vision and mission statements for our services. Part of the Vision and Mission Statements for World Services concerns a commitment to work in partnership with local NA communities. I foresee World Services helping local trusted servants with presentations at professional events that are deemed meaningful for fellowship development. It has already begun to happen in the Asia-Pacific NA communities.

The NA community in Singapore developed contacts within some governmental and nongovernmental organizations into an opportunity for a presentation on NA. Local health profession-

als, social workers, nongovernmental assistance staff, and correctional officials had been brought together by a common need: a concern for treating addicts in Singapore. This was quite an eventful moment in the history of the Singaporean NA community. It shows the changing attitudes of the Singapore community in dealing with the still-suffering addict. They were ready to hear the message.

The Singaporean NA community contacted NA members within the Asia-Pacific Forum (APF) for assistance. The APF in turn sought assistance from World Services. Recognizing this as the right opportunity to serve, World Services gave financial support for two experienced trusted servants to coordinate and make the presentation at this important event. One member, Garth P from Sydney, Australia, formerly served on the World Service Board of Trustees. The other member, Ramli S from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, served on the WSC PI Committee.

These two members worked with the local PI and H&I committee members on the presentation, giving them much-needed experience and spiritual support. (I know how important it is just to have an experienced member standing with you when you face the fear of giving a presentation!)

The Singaporean NA community can now be seen by this segment of the Singapore community as members of a worldwide fellowship whose program of recovery works. Over the years I've come to know that one concern expressed by many PI committees in a new, growing NA community is the perceived lack of credibility of the program by the public. Showing ourselves as a *worldwide* organization is very important.

I expect to see local PI and H&I committees cooperate more and more fully with each other in their service to the fellowship and the still-suffering addict. Already, we are seeing these committees being merged in several newly formed NA communities—even in older ones such as in California.

Our experience is teaching us that much of what these two committees do is harmonious. The only real difference is in the audiences upon which we

focus. In the last years of the WSC PI and WSC H&I Committees, we worked on many joint projects and met together many times. It became very clear that there was much we could do to help the addict who still suffers by working together. I believe we will do more and more toward achieving this common goal as we move into the next century.

What about the Internet and the World Wide Web? As technology advances and more of the world's population becomes part of a global village, we will communicate and disseminate information to more professionals and the general public than ever before. However, I believe that there will be a greater impact on how we communicate and share our experiences in service (and recovery) with each other, overcoming the barriers of distance, time, and costs. No matter how far we go with technology, it's safe to say that there will still be many addicts who will not access us through the computer. A simple poster at a bus stop, a radio public service announcement, and a recovering addict sharing his or her experience, strength, and hope on the telephone will always make the difference in the still-suffering addict's life.

Will public information services change in the coming years? The basics will not. But we will have changed.

As I work the steps in my life, I see the past is placed in its proper perspective and the future opens up to the greatest of all possibilities: the sharing of this new way of life with other addicts still suffering the pain of active addiction. For myself, I found the public information committee to be the best place for me to offer love for my Higher Power by service. The millennium is yet another opportunity to search our experiences for a vision of what our future can be. May the blessings be for you and your acts of selfless service in NA. ♦

One area's experience with making a presentation to high school students

*by Shaun H, past Vice Chairperson
Southwest Area PI Committee*

I recently got a call from one of the local "continuation" high schools asking our area PI committee to make a presentation to its students. Being new to the vice chair's position, I did what I was taught and asked for some time to organize it rather than impulsively promising to be there the following afternoon.

After a month had gone by, I realized I wasn't going to be able to pull the resources I needed from our area. We definitely needed young addicts so the students to whom we would be speaking would be able to identify. Having been involved in other areas of service, I knew to ask for help—from the World Service Office, the region, and other areas.

I called my sponsorship "sister" who was then the adjoining regional PI chair and asked for the cavalry to be sent. She put me in contact with the vice chair, who said he'd be glad to help. I also called a friend who had been involved in the WSC PI Committee.

My heart skipped a few beats when we set off on the day of the presentation. There was considerable trepidation on my part since I had never before taken part in a PI presentation, but these two more experienced PI guys soon put me at ease.

We introduced ourselves at the school, and the staff showed us to the media room. We asked if it was possible for us to have some time alone with the students, and then began to set up our information pamphlets, books, and meeting directories. We got through our readings and I asked the kids to write down what they thought NA was.

When we asked the kids if any of them were negatively affected by drug abuse,

most of them raised their hands. From their tone, we figured out that they were on familiar terms with the use and abuse of drugs. We got a lot of feedback and asked them if they had any questions. We couldn't answer their questions indirectly, so we got pretty honest with them.

I later explained that it's important to gauge your audience and respond according to their needs. A traditional presentation wouldn't have gotten across to these kids. They would have perceived it as cold and would have been alienated.

That's when I began to realize how important it is to ask for help. All I had to do was ask, and these two guys were willing to show up and show me how to do a presentation. That's what the service structure is about. If you're new in service, ask people who have been doing service longer how to do things. Then listen. Service, like recovery, is to be shared.

Some of the kids wouldn't make eye contact with us. Some were obviously already in trouble with drugs. There were maybe one or two kids whom we may have touched. But the miracle lies in the fact that if any of those kids ever have a drug problem, they'll know where to turn if they want help.

After the presentation, we again asked the kids to write down what they thought NA was. Then we stayed for a while, saying good-bye and talking informally to the kids. One came up and told us he was a member of NA.

In the parking lot, we read over what the kids had written about NA before and after our presentation. Here are a few samples:

Before: Drug ananamus (sic) is to tell how drugs are and the effects are.

After: Narcotics Anonymous is about helping people so they don't learn the hard way and mess up their lives.

Before: It is about telling us what drugs are and what they do to you. How they affect your life long-term and short-term.

After: I think now that it's the same except these people [who talked to us] are recovering addicts, so they can relate to what we feel and they know why we do it. Telling us how they were and how things really are helped.

Before: NA is a bunch of people who talk to people who use drugs and help them learn what drugs do to their bodies and maybe help them try to stop.

After: Now I think that NA is people who have used drugs, but don't anymore, talking to other addicts and helping them try to stop using.

I was so grateful to have reached them, even just briefly. It was exhilarating! My first PI presentation was a success, and I stayed clean one more day.



Ten issues important in NA today

*by Omer G, Billy H,
and Ronda M, OK Region*

Narcotics Anonymous in the central United States seems to be at a standstill during the 1990s after its phenomenal growth during the 1980s. The publication of our Basic Text in 1983 and the groundswell of treatment centers on the scene then moved us into a new dimension as a fellowship. We came of age. In Oklahoma, we went from ten groups scattered throughout the state in 1984 to seventy groups and meetings in 1990—we grew 600 percent in six years. Anyone who was there during this growth remembers the excitement and unity.

Times have changed. Treatment centers are fewer, and we are still not considered the fellowship of choice by most treatment centers, even those dealing primarily with addicts. We are left with issues that need to be addressed if we are to grow in the 21st century.

We have identified ten issues we believe are critical to our future growth and our ability to offer NA to all comers. These ideas come from several workshops conducted over a two-year period at various Oklahoma NA events. We believe positive discussion and action on these ideas are the seeds that will produce strong growth in the next century.

Clear message – One disease, one message. A drug is a drug, including alcohol. "Alcoholic-addict" is redundant. Those of us with experience in recovery identify only as addicts in meetings, but we never embarrass someone in a meeting because he or she doesn't yet understand our First Step.

Sponsorship – NA sponsorship in Oklahoma is lacking. A few people and groups do a fine job, but we have a large number of addicts with several years clean who do not sponsor anyone. They are not giving back to our fellowship. Their excuses do not make sense if our Twelfth Step is true. Consequently, we are not getting newcomers into the steps. We are not teaching the principles of powerlessness, trust, and unity, much less about our disease concept. Going it alone without a sponsor or sponsees leaves us no one to share our hopes with or turn to during a crisis. What do you do when asked to be a sponsor? Do you say "yes," or do you make excuses?

Staying here and making a commitment to a home group – Many of us were told to keep coming back by members who have now disappeared into another fellowship. Each of us needs to ask ourselves if we believe in NA strongly enough to stay here, make a commitment to a home group, and be there no matter what. Only doing these things will stabilize our old-timer base for future NA growth.

Working it out – Rejecting gossip, working through differences and conflicts instead of changing groups and avoiding people. Seeking common ground with other recovering addicts. Forgiveness, forgiveness, forgiveness.

Giving back to NA – Say "yes" when you are asked to do something for NA. Give back by chairing meetings, offering rides, and sponsoring new people. Your story matters to someone who is trying to come to believe in NA, the group, or a Higher Power.

Reaching out to older members – Do we call older members when we have not seen them in a while, or do we shame them by calling attention to their ab-

sence when they do show up at a meeting? Repairing the erosion of our old-timer base begins with each one of us.

Comparing NA to Alcoholics Anonymous – We tell newcomers not to compare their personal program with someone else's program, not to judge their insides by another's outsides. Then we turn around and compare NA to AA. Comparing NA to other programs is counter-productive. NA stands on its own.

The destructive criticism of our service structure – Oklahomans complain that service meetings are long and nothing gets done, when in fact addicts work hard organizing H&I meetings, selling literature, arranging area events, and answering more than 500 calls a month on our helplines. We do not have the luxury of criticizing our service structure any longer.

Cooperate fully with Naranon –

A strong Naranon means a strong NA, because addiction is a family disease. Recovering addicts do better when their family members are in recovery also. We must cooperate with Naranon as fully as our traditions allow. Welcome potential Naranon members to our open meetings. Encourage them in their Naranon efforts in one-on-one talks.

The basket – Our meetings and service structure are kept alive by our donations. Members who do not have money to give should never be embarrassed or made to feel "less than" for not giving. If we are to encourage people to give, we need to do so through sponsorship. Do we explain to new members the spiritual principle of self-support and giving our fair share? Do we encourage addicts to chair meetings, set up chairs, and make coffee as a means of supporting the group? Members who are able to should give more than they were giving when they were new.◆

*Support your
local service
committee!!!*

- 2) Addressing issues that are or will be before the fellowship for a decision at the World Service Conference.
 - a) Isn't the *NA Way* too small to provide an adequate forum for the expression of our fellowship's full range of ideas?
 - b) Shouldn't discussion of issues that are up for a vote at a future World Service Conference be held within the groups, areas, regions, and appropriate service committees?

I look forward to your feedback on the concerns I have expressed.

Mindy A, Missouri

Editor's response

First of all, let me say that we very much appreciate letters such as yours. Our responsibility to the fellowship obligates us to constantly think about what we're doing and to try our best to make decisions based on spiritual principles and the desires of the NA Fellowship.

A bit of history about the *NA Way* might be in order. The World Service Conference approved changing the format of the *NA Way* at its annual meeting in 1997. The proposal included ceasing publication of the *PI News*, the *H&I News*, the *WSO Newsline*, and the *Conference Digest* in order to incorporate material of the type that had been featured in those publications into the new *NA Way*. Those publications had often included the names and positions of trusted servants involved in world service projects.

Consequently, when the new *NA Way* was put together, nobody gave a second thought to the idea of articles being published under the name and position of the author. It was simply a continuation of the practice that already existed.

Upon reflection, we believe that this practice is actually beneficial for two reasons. One, including the service position in the author's byline gives our readers some insight into the author's perspective; it isn't intended to give additional weight to the author's views, just to let people know where their ex-

perience lies. Two, NA members seem to like to know who their trusted servants are. It promotes accountability and also gives those who are looking for guidance the name of a person to contact for help. You'll notice that an article in this issue from the Capital Area Outreach Committee also includes its mailing address. We love the idea of experienced trusted servants helping other members develop services. The importance of service in NA is apparent on many levels: It carries the message; it encourages NA members to work together and develop relationships with one another; and, as you mentioned, it has a positive effect on a person's internal development.

Your second question—regarding the *NA Way*'s appropriateness as a forum for discussion of issues facing NA as a whole—is also thought-provoking.

While we're certain that the NA Fellowship develops a group conscience on matters in the *Conference Agenda Report* just as you described—in groups, service committees, etc.—discussion also happens in many other places: at restaurants after a meeting, at special forums convened for discussion, on the phone between friends or trusted servants who have worked together, and so forth.

Allowing for discussion of issues facing NA as a whole in *The NA Way Magazine* gives any NA member, even ones who may be isolated, the opportunity to be more informed. World service leadership has been hearing for years about apathy at the area level when it comes time for *Conference Agenda Report* discussions, even that many NA members have never seen a CAR and probably aren't sure what it is.

But the *NA Way* will come right to your mailbox if you ask for it. It isn't an

intimidating size, and you can read it at your leisure. Members who may not be willing to delve into the CAR or dedicate a Sunday afternoon to their area's CAR workshop can find out about issues that concern all NA members by reading the *NA Way*. Who knows? They may even find something that sparks their interest enough to cause an increased involvement in service.

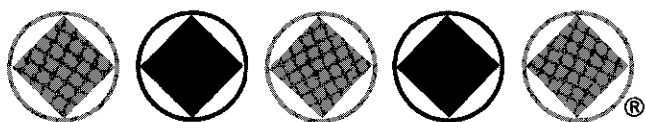
We're not sure if a "full range" of views can ever be expressed in one place, but the experience of hearing the views of NA from around the world had only been the privilege of the select few attending the World Service Conference until just recently. When the *NA Way* began actively seeking to be the "International Journal of the NA Fellowship" by publishing in five languages and taking other steps to encourage the participation of a larger group of members, others finally had that same privilege. The *NA Way* has a circulation of approximately 28,000, and while we're sure there are some members out there who have never heard of the *NA Way*, it's still the most widely distributed publication NA has ever had.

I hope this response has provided you, and all our readers, with some insight into the thinking of the staff and trusted servants responsible for producing the *NA Way*.

However, as staff and trusted servants, we pay attention to the fellowship. If, in the future, fellowship input suggests that we make some changes to the way the *NA Way* is produced, we'll certainly take some action. We follow what we believe to be the desires of the fellowship as a whole in all our endeavors. The more we hear from our readers, the more accurately we can gauge those desires. —Ed. ♦



The NA Way Magazine welcomes letters from all readers. Letters to the editor can respond to any article that has appeared in the *NA Way* or can simply be a viewpoint about an issue of concern in the NA Fellowship. Letters should be no more than 250 words, and we reserve the right to edit. All letters must include a signature, valid address, and phone number. First names and last initial will be used as the signature line unless the writer requests anonymity.



CALENDAR

INDIA

Maharashtra: 22-24 Jan.; 6th Bombay Area Convention "Darkness to Light"; committee: +91/22/7651905; or email: NAbombay@hotmail.com

Manipur: 19-21 Mar.; 1st North Eastern Regional Convention "Indeed a Miracle"; State Youth Centre, Khumanlampak; to reach committee place a person-to-person call to the following between 7pm and 8am Indian Standard Time: Kamad +91/385/220450; Patty +91/385/225670; between 10 am and 4pm IST call Wawa +91/385/310011 or Anand +91/385/310803; or write: NERCNA-1, c/o IASC, PO Box 93, GPO Imphal 1, Manipur, India

NEW ZEALAND

South Island: 22-24 Jan.; WORKIN Campvention; Flock Hill Resort, Arthurs Pass, Canterbury; committee: +64/3/465720; or email: jlynch@tekotago.ac.nz

PHILIPPINES

Manila: 12-14 Feb.; Philippine Convention; San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati; committee: namaila@yahoo.com or tat@epic.net

SPAIN

Barcelona: 2-4 July; 16th European Convention and Conference; committee: +34/972/369910 or +34/93/4425324 or +34/910/733897; or email: GCC00000@santandersupernet.com; or write: XVI ECCNA99 (Sitges), Apdo. Correos 22-273, Barcelona, 08015, Spain

SWEDEN

Blekinge: 26-28 Feb.; 12 Years of NA in Sweden Celebration; Malmo; hotel rsvns: +46/704476526; committee: +46/40/231215; or fax: +46/41/65017; or email: ph@vastervang.ystad.se or timer59@hotmail.com

SWITZERLAND

Leysin: 19-21 Mar.; 5th Swiss Convention "Spring Cleaning"; committee: +41/22/7936221; or email: CSNA5_1999@hotmail.com; or write: CSNA-5, PO Box 181, CH-1000, Lausanne 9, Switzerland

WEST INDIES

Bermuda: 9-11 Apr.; Bermuda Islands Area Convention "Serenity in Paradise"; committee: (441) 292-7163 or (441) 295-5300; or email: gbotelho@ibl.bm

UNITED STATES

Alabama: 15-17 Jan.; Central Alabama Area Convention "Free at Last II"; Holiday Inn, Montgomery; hotel rsvns: (334) 264-2231; committee: (334) 613-0157; or email: vlightford@aol.com

2) 26-28 Feb.; 3rd North Alabama Area Convention "Out of the Darkness, Into the Light"; Holiday Inn, Decatur; hotel rsvns: (256) 355-3150; committee: (256) 229-6501 or (256) 351-2986; or write: Box 3432, Florence, AL 35630

3) 26-28 Mar.; 2nd Greater Mobile Area Convention; Clarion Hotel, hotel rsvns: (800) 982-9822; committee: (334) 602-0906 or (334) 457-7747; or write: Box 9622, Mobile, AL 36691

Arkansas: 9-11 Apr.; 6th Annual "Hangin' in the Fort" ARVANA Convention; Ft. Smith; committee: (501) 494-7433

California: 29-31 Jan.; 4th Annual San Fernando Valley Area Convention "The Journey Continues"; Burbank Airport Hilton; hotel rsvns: (800) 445-8667; committee: (818) 990-3404 or (818) 831-7084 or (310) 399-1385

2) 30 Jan.; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; committee: (760) 323-0169 or (760) 778-8730

3) 19-21 Feb.; Central California Regional Convention; Doubletree Inn, Ventura; hotel rsvns: (805) 643-6000; committee: (805) 736-1757; email: kfactor@silcom.com; or write: Box 3908, Simi Valley, CA 93093; to submit speaker tapes call: (805) 486-3373; convention website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~silo>

4) 27 Feb.; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; committee: (760) 323-0169 or (760) 778-8730

5) 27 Mar.; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; committee: (760) 323-0169 or (760) 778-8730

6) 1-4 Apr.; 21st Northern California Regional Convention; committee: 240 Howland St. #C, Redwood City, CA 94063

7) 2-4 Apr.; 8th Southern California Spring Gathering; Burbank Hilton; hotel rsvns: (800) 445-8667 or (818) 843-6000; committee: (714) 577-9392 or (619) 260-8059; or write: Box 2783, Orange, CA 92859-0783

8) 24 Apr.; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; committee: (760) 323-0169 or (760) 778-8730

9) 29 May; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; committee: (760) 323-0169 or (760) 778-8730

10) 26 June; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; committee: (760) 323-0169 or (760) 778-8730

11) 31 July; Lower Desert Area Birthday Bash Meeting and Dance; committee: (760) 323-0169 or (760) 778-8730

Connecticut: 8-10 Jan.; 14th Connecticut Regional Convention; committee: (860) 667-8215; or (860) 246-9255; or email: Tony12@aol.com or Silvara@rh.edu

Florida: 9-11 Apr.; Daytona Area Convention "An Oceanful of Miracles"; Ramada Inn Ocean Front; hotel rsvns: (800) 654-6216; committee: (904) 253-8962 or (904) 676-2409; or write: Box 741468, Orange City, FL 32774

2) 23-25 Apr.; Conch Republic Area's "Recovery in Paradise VII"; Knights Key Campground, Marathon; committee: (305) 294-0522 or (305) 292-1067 or (305) 295-7312; or write: Box 4217, Key West, FL 33040

3) 22-24 Oct.; 1st Mid-Coast Area Convention; committee: (561) 272-5999

Georgia: 18-21 Feb.; Georgia Regional Convention; Historic Columbus Hilton; hotel rsvns: (706) 324-1800; committee: (770) 991-3612 or (404) 629-1802; or email: kathamp@aol.com

Illinois: 25-28 Feb.; Joliet Area Convention; Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Bolingbrook; hotel rsvns: (630) 679-1600; committee: (815) 726-5750; or write: Box 336, Joliet, IL 60436

Indiana: 5-7 Mar.; Indiana State Convention "Living the Dream"; Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis; hotel rsvns: (317) 872-9790; committee: (317) 535-9553 or (317) 392-2549 or (317) 251-8497; or write: ISNAC-6, c/o IRCC, PO Box 501481, Indianapolis, IN 46250

Kansas: 2-4 Apr.; 16th Mid-America Regional Convention; Ramada Inn, Hutchinson; specify code "MARC" for hotel rsvns: (800) 362-5018 or (316) 669-9311; committee: (316) 662-7491 or (316) 662-1139; or email: tiger2@southwind.net

2) 23-25 Apr.; Mo-Kan Area Convention; Mount Convention Center, Atchison; committee: MHansen272@aol.com; or write: MKACNA-III, c/o 714 N 3rd St., Atchison, KS 66002

Kentucky: 15-17 Jan.; Louisville Area Convention; committee: (502) 774-5361

2) 2-4 Apr.; 13th Kentuckiana Regional Convention "Recovery Tour"; Hyatt Regency, Lexington; hotel rsvns: (800) 233-1234 or (606) 253-1234; committee: (606) 226-9394; or write: Box 8345, Lexington, KY 40533

Louisiana: 28-30 May; 17th Louisiana Regional Convention; Shreveport; committee: (318) 861-0945 or (318) 747-8400; or email: markmong@worldnet.att.net; or write: Box 8535, Bossier City, LA 71113

Maine: 11-13 June; Nature of Recovery; committee: (207) 623-9240

Massachusetts: 5-7 Mar.; 8th New England Regional Convention; Sheraton Fencroft Hotel, Danvers; hotel rsvns: (800) 325-3535; committee: (508) 672-2673; or email: MKrusz@aol.com; or write: Box 3492, Fall River, MA 02722

Michigan: 1-4 Apr.; 7th Detroit Area Convention "Spirituality Starts Here"; Westin Hotel, Detroit; committee: (313) 361-4214 or (313) 839-8199 or write: Box 32603, Detroit, MI 48232

2) 1-4 July; 15th Michigan Regional Convention; Valley Plaza Hotel, Midland; specify code "G5810" for hotel rsvns: (800) 825-2700, committee: (248) 545-2179; send speaker tapes to: MRCNA-15, 220 East 9 Mile Road, Ferndale, MI 48220

Missouri: 11-13 June; 14th Show-Me Regional Convention; Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City; committee: (753) 582-0436; or email: rfisher@maain.missouri.org

Nevada: 1-4 Apr.; 13th Southern Nevada Regional Convention; Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas; committee: (702) 247-6168 or (702) 432-5585 or (702) 361-2700

New Jersey: 28-30 May; 14th New Jersey Regional Convention; Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Cherry Hill; hotel rsvns: (800) 257-8262 or (609) 428-2300; committee: (609) 259-0006; or write: Box 7274, Colonia, NJ 07067

New York: 19-21 Feb.; Rochester Area Convention "Recovery is Possible"; Hyatt Regency Hotel, Rochester; hotel rsvns: (716) 546-1234 or (800) 233-1234; committee: (716) 288-7232 or (716) 458-8001; or email: scarlet1@frontiernet.net; or write: PO Box 485, Rochester, NY 14603

2) 19-21 Mar.; 1st Bronx and Westchester Areas Convention; Westchester Marriott; hotel rsvns: (914) 631-2200; committee: (718) 329-4718; or email: D666Storm@aol.com; or write: 1214 W Boston Post Rd., Suite 298, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

3) 19-21 Nov.; 1st Eastern New York Regional Convention "Recovery in the East"; Crowne Plaza Hotel; committee: (718) 527-5473; or email: EZLou10@aol.com

North Carolina: 8-10 Jan.; Spiritually High in the Land of the Sky Convention; Best Western Biltmore West Hotel; hotel rsvns: (800) 528-1234; committee: (828) 253-8789

2) 5-7 Mar.; Capital Area Family Reunion; North Raleigh Hilton; specify code CFR for hotel rsvns: (919) 872-2323 or (800) HILTONS; committee: (919) 832-5204; or write: NCCAFRANA, c/o 1412 Riverview Road, Raleigh, NC 27610

3) 12-14 Mar.; Greater Charlotte Area Convention "Bound for Freedom 14"; Sheraton Airport, Charlotte; hotel rsvns: (704) 392-1200; committee: (704) 567-8050 or (704) 532-0372 or (704) 344-8018 or (704) 545-1933; or write: Box 31547-52, Charlotte, NC 28231

4) 1-5 July; Carolina Regional Convention "Freedom to Live IV"; Holiday Inn Market Square Convention Center; hotel rsvns: (336) 886-7011; committee: (336) 273-4204; or email: crso@bellsouth.net

Ohio: 26-28 Feb.; 3rd Toledo Area Convention; Wyndham Hotel, Toledo; hotel rsvns: (419) 241-1411; committee: (419) 244-2768; or write: TACNA-III, Box 20018, Toledo, OH 43608

2) 28-30 May; Ohio Convention; Sandusky Holiday Inn; hotel rsvns: (419) 626-6671; committee: (440) 234-0393; or email: LeMmeow@classic.msn.com

3) 13 June; Trumbull Area June Picnic; Waddell Park, Niles; committee: (330) 399-3030

4) 11 July; Trumbull Area July Picnic; Waddell Park, Niles; committee: (330) 399-3030

Oklahoma: 15-17 Jan.; 9th Norman Winter Convention; Super 8 Hotel, Norman; hotel rsvns: (405) 329-1624; committee: (405) 912-1152 or (405) 858-0610 or (405) 366-1807

2) 9-11 Apr.; 13th Oklahoma Regional Convention "Back to Basics"; Trade Winds Central Inn, Oklahoma City; hotel rsvns: (405) 235-4531; committee: (405) 947-3757; or email: alodell@busprod.com

Pennsylvania: 12-14 Feb.; 15th Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference; Lancaster Host Resort; hotel rsvns: (717) 299-5500; committee: (610) 370-2516 or (610) 376-2747 or (717) 392-2796; or write: Box 4655, Reading, PA 19606

South Carolina: 22-24 Jan.; Upper South Carolina Area Convention; Embassy Suites, Greenville; hotel rsvns: (864) 676-9090 or (800) 362-2779; committee: (864) 242-6824 or (864) 233-5685 or (864) 576-2322

2) 12-14 Feb.; Just For Today 10, A Decade of Recovery; Hilton Head Island Beach and Tennis Resort; Hilton Head; hotel rsvns: (800) 475-2631 or (803) 842-4402; committee: (803) 790-0608; or write: Box 23523, Columbia, SC 29224

Texas: 2-4 Apr.; 14th Lone Star Regional Convention; Harvey Hotel Dallas/Ft. Worth; hotel rsvns: (972) 929-4500; committee: (972) 245-8972 or (800) 747-8972; or write: LSRCA XIV, c/o LSRSO, 1510 Randolph #205, Carrollton, TX 75006; convention website: www.lsrma.com

Virginia: 8-10 Jan.; New Dominion Area Presents AVCNA-17; Holiday Inn Koger Center South, Richmond; hotel rsvns: (804) 379-3800; committee: (804) 288-8115 or (804) 560-7589 or (804) 798-5216; or write: Box 35289, Richmond, VA 23235

Washington: 26-28 Feb.; Circle of Sisters Women's Convention "If You Want What We Have..."; Sea-Tac Marriott; committee: (425) 640-7368; or email: NAPauly1@aol.com; or write: Box 3547, Everett, WA 98203

Wisconsin: 1-3 Jan.; 4th Greater Milwaukee Unity Convention; Grand Milwaukee Hotel; hotel rsvns: (800) 558-3862; committee: (414) 963-4487 or (414) 760-6151

WSO PRODUCT UPDATE

The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides

Item No. EN-1400 Price US\$6.95

Outreach Resource Information

Item No. EN-2113 Price US\$2.25

Additional Needs Resource Information

Item No. EN-2114 Price US\$2.25

Institutional Group Guide

Item No. EN-2115 Price US\$3.50

Self-Support: Principle and Practice

Item No. EN-3125 Price US\$0.25
In quantity of 100 or more US\$0.23

Accessibility for Those with Additional Needs

Item No. EN-3126 Price US\$0.20
In quantity of 100 or more US\$0.18

Portuguese

For those in Treatment

Se Está em Tratamento

Item No. PO-3117 Price US\$0.25
In quantity of 100 or more US\$0.23

PI and the NA Member

A Informação Pública e o Membro de NA

Item No. PO-3115 Price US\$0.20
In quantity of 100 or more US\$0.18

Swedish

NA: A Resource in Your Community

En resurs i samhället

Item No. SW-1604 Price US\$0.30
In quantity of 100 or more US\$0.28

PI and the NA Member

Offentlig information och NA-medlemmen

Item No. SW-3115 Price US\$0.20
In quantity of 100 or more US\$0.18



Statement of ownership, management, and circulation

(publication required by US Postal Service)

The NA Way Magazine (ISSN 104655421) is published quarterly. There is no subscription charge for this publication. The office of publication is at 19737 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA 91311. Mailing address is PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409. The managing editor is Cynthia Tooredman. The NA Way Magazine is owned by the NAWS, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, and there are no other bondholders, mortgagees, or security holders. The status of this corporation has not changed during the twelve months preceding this filing.

At the time of filing

Extent, nature of circulation	Average no. of copies in preceding 12 months	Actual copies 10.1.98
total	26,000	31,000
dealer sales	0	0
mailed subs	24,774	26,548
total circulation	24,774	26,548
free distribution	3,950	4,086
total distribution	28,724	30,634
copies undistributed	75	150
returned	0	0
total	28,799	30,784

Certified, correct, complete

Home Group

THE YEAR IS 2025.
ALL HELL HAS BROKEN
LOOSE. THE CONTINUOUS
RE-FORMATting OF THE
SERVICE STRUCTURE HAS
FINALLY RESULTED IN THE
REFORMATting OF ADDICTS.
WE HAVE DIGITAL PHONES.
WE HAVE DIGITAL T.V..
NOW WE HAVE
DIGITAL RECOVERY!

