

**Bringing the NA program**  
***Online***  
**to jails and prisons**



# What to consider for online meetings:

- ▶ Getting started
- ▶ Technical issues - working with IT
- ▶ Security changes but still important
- ▶ Literature delivery
- ▶ Reentry programs - a separate challenge
- ▶ Beyond Covid-19



# Getting Started

- ▶ Develop an inside champion – Chaplain or Volunteer Coordinator
  - ▶ Goal is to make a presentation to the correct decision maker to make it happen
- ▶ Get permission from the decision maker: Warden or State Director of Prisons
- ▶ Have a meeting that hopefully includes:
  - ▶ Warden
  - ▶ IT dept head
  - ▶ Head of Security
  - ▶ Watch Commander for the time of the meeting
  - ▶ Chaplain or Volunteer Coordinator



# Technology

## ▶ Access:

▶ Wi-Fi

▶ Internet

▶ Telephone

▶ Mail



## ▶ Applications:

▶ Zoom (preferred)

▶ Google Meet, WebEx, GoToMeeting, etc.

▶ Custom or older Apps

▶ The facility selects the app, NA adapts

# Technology

If Wi-Fi exists and is sufficient

- ▶ A cart that has:
  - ▶ Laptop with Wi-Fi capability
  - ▶ Projector to show meeting against the wall or screen so all inmates can all see
  - ▶ Speakers
  - ▶ Necessary cables and extension cord

If inmates are allowed to speak, they can come up one at a time to the laptop microphone



# Technology

## ▶ If no Wi-Fi exists

- ▶ An internet connection that may be in a dedicated room such as education or visitation
- ▶ Laptop or desktop with internet connection
- ▶ Projector to show meeting against the wall or a screen so inmates can all see
- ▶ Speakers
- ▶ Microphone
- ▶ Necessary cables

If inmates are allowed to speak, they can come up one at a time to the microphone or podium



# Technology

- ▶ If no Wi-Fi and no internet exists
  - ▶ Telephone meetings
- ▶ If no Telephone
  - ▶ Speaker CDs on a CD player
  - ▶ NA recovery material on CD/DVD



# Security

- ▶ Make as few changes as possible! Everyone is watching and any security issues will have a bad effect on NA as whole. This is new and it has consequences beyond Covid-19.
- ▶ Use only the NA volunteers that were already cleared or use the standard volunteer clearance procedures. Anything else, get it in writing.
- ▶ Some facilities may have fewer restrictions but not many. Again - Get it in writing.
- ▶ Prisons and jails may require a picture of the cleared volunteers or the volunteer may be required hold up a badge or drivers license to start the meeting.
- ▶ Inmates needing to be anonymous can turn off their video.



# Security

- ▶ The security people are concerned with unauthorized people passing messages.
  - ▶ Gang related messages.
  - ▶ Information used to smuggle contraband.
- ▶ The panel meetings should be encrypted and password protected.
- ▶ The ID of the meeting and password should be carefully handled.  
Email or text only to the people cleared for that meeting and authorized staff at the facility.



## Literature and NA Materials

- ▶ NA literature should still be donated to the facility either by dropping off at the site or using the postal service to mail materials.
  - ▶ This should be done regardless of the state of online meetings.
- ▶ If the staff is OK with it, ask them to pass some out during the panel meeting.
- ▶ After checking with the staff that it is available, refer to the NA material in the facility library at the end of the meeting.
- ▶ Consider donating speaker CDs if the facility allows.
- ▶ The facility can print most literature free of charge.



# NA Literature



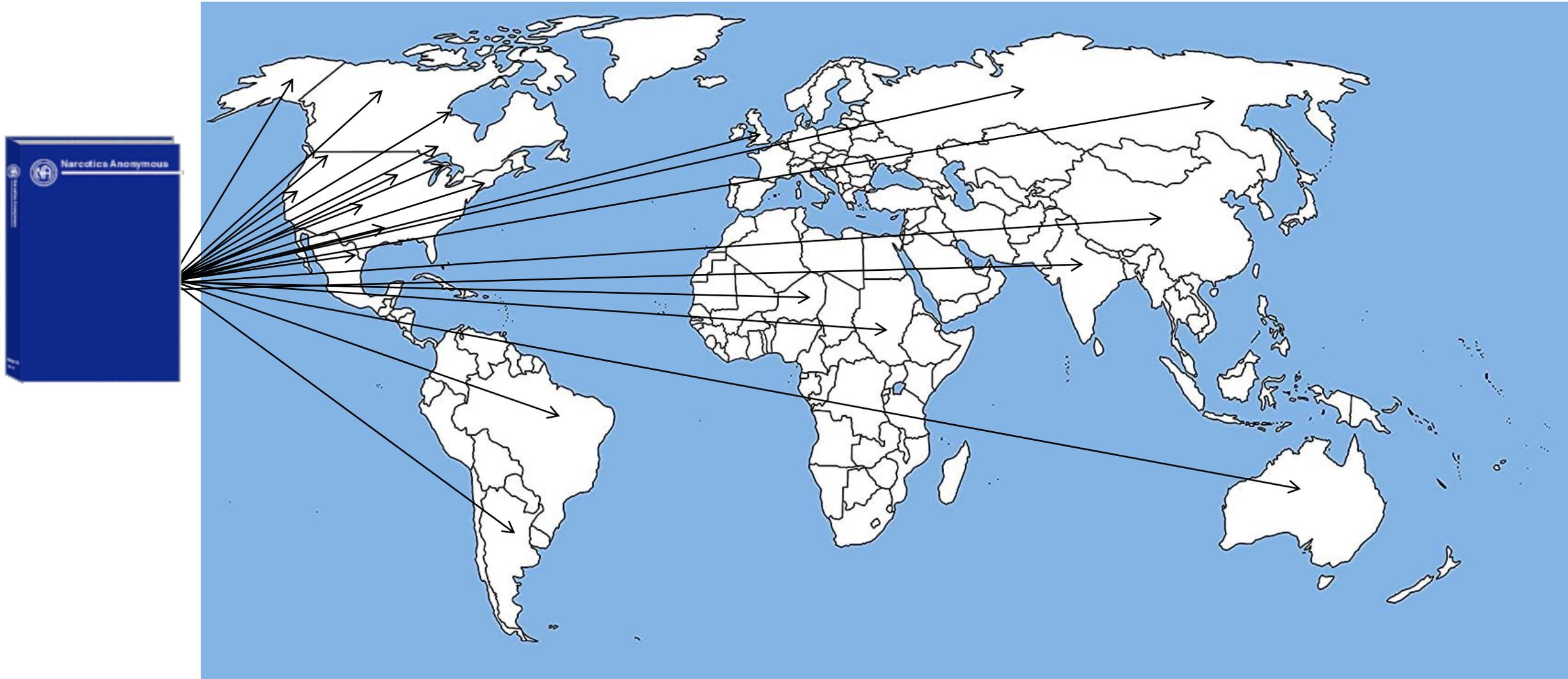
# Don't Forget Reentry Programs

- ▶ This is often neglected and should have a PR/H&I presentation regardless of the state of online or physical meetings.
- ▶ Most facilities have a reentry program. Contact the Reentry manager and do a joint NA PR/H&I presentation to them. The goal is to get the facility to go to the local and world NA websites and print off meeting schedules and possibly other NA materials such as IPs to be given to people being released. This includes prisons, jails, and treatment centers.
  - ▶ Material should include meeting schedules, hotline numbers, and for the time being, instructions to get online and also phone only meetings. May need to update frequently.
  - ▶ In the case of prisons, this may require working with the facility IT personnel to allow access to the NA website.

# A Vision Beyond Covid-19

- ▶ Crisis also means opportunity!
- ▶ Many prisons are in remote areas away from where the most NA volunteers live. After things are up and running online in one facility, NA PR/H&I people can use working examples to encourage bringing the NA message to more remote facilities.
- ▶ Visualize a special event where a single NA panel that has a circuit level speaker with clearance broadcasting online from their home (no travel costs) to multiple cell blocks in multiple facilities across the USA or even the world. Similar to prisons joining the World Convention of NA.
- ▶ Can be recorded for playback in different time zones.

# A Vision of Carrying the Message of Narcotics Anonymous



# Resources and contacts

## ▶ World Services

▶ Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.  
PO Box 9999 - Van Nuys, CA 91409  
USA Tel. +1/818.773.9999 Fax +1/818. 700.0700  
Website: [www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

- ▶ NA In Connecticut: [www.nact.org](http://www.nact.org) (800) 627-3543
- ▶ NA in New York: [www.NewYorkNA.org](http://www.NewYorkNA.org) (212) 929-7117
- ▶ NA in New Jersey: [www.nanj.org](http://www.nanj.org) (732) 933-0462
- ▶ Follow-up: Rio Grande NA PR coordinator  
Tom K. (408) 857-3438 [tom@tomkondo.com](mailto:tom@tomkondo.com)

Backup slides if needed

# Focused Pamphlets for the Public

- ▶ **Membership Survey:** Contains the results of a biennial survey of 28,495 NA members.
- ▶ **Information about NA:** Includes facts about the history of NA, organizational philosophy, and membership demographics.
- ▶ **NA: A Resource in Your Community:** This pamphlet provides information about local NA services that may be available such as public service announcements, phonelines, literature sales, and NA presentations for health fairs, schools and professional conferences.
- ▶ **Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment:** This pamphlet is intended for professionals who prescribe medication to treat drug addiction. The service pamphlet *NA Groups and Medication* listed in the pamphlet contains a broader discussion of NA members and other medications.