To: The NA Fellowship
From: WCNA 34

Havin' a great time!!!
From the editor

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.

I was perusing NA literature quotations reflecting the WCNA 34 theme, “In the Spirit of Unity,” which I helped gather, but this was the first time I read through all of them, one after another:

Unity is the spirit that joins thousands of members around the world in a spiritual fellowship that has the power to change lives.

While we often think of unity as a feeling or a condition, unity doesn’t just “happen.” The unity underlying our common welfare requires personal commitment and responsible action.

The importance of our unity encourages our groups to look beyond their own little worlds to the common needs of the worldwide NA Fellowship, placing the welfare of the whole before their own.

It Works: How and Why, Tradition One

Before even reading past the quotes from this one chapter, I was overwhelmed as I thought of the many ways we carry the NA message. Welcoming new members in our home groups, Planning an inter-area event to celebrate recovery (and show newer members that we can have fun without using). Passionately discussing how to allocate Seventh Tradition funds to help carry the message, and then humbly accepting and supporting the group conscience. Dedicating ourselves to step work and following the example of those who guide us. Through all of these actions, as we learn and grow in our personal recovery and service efforts, we also help to fortify the ties that bind us—In the Spirit of Unity.

We find that the stronger our individual members are, the more strongly united our fellowship becomes.

It Works: How and Why, Tradition Twelve

De J, Editor

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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 name and last initial will be used as the signature line unless the writer requests anonymity.
Who is an oldtimer?

When I reached 20 years of cleantime and was following the suggestions of the NA program seriously, keeping an open mind, I pondered a topic that interested me. When is an addict in recovery considered an oldtimer in the NA Fellowship? When I celebrated my first year clean, was I already a veteran? When I celebrated two, three, five, or ten years clean? Is an oldtimer the member with more than 40 years clean? I have wondered in silence about these and so many other questions, but I have never posed them in a group meeting, a private discussion, or with my sponsor.

Instead, I forgot this simple curiosity and continued on the road of recovery, applying the Twelve Steps daily. In what seemed like no time at all, I celebrated my 20th NA cleantime birthday, and again this question and other doubts that I had laid to rest in my memories returned. I believe the time has arrived when others call me an “older adult,” an “old man.” In one of my NA home group meetings, an attendee referred to his older fellow members as “these venerable senior citizens.” I don’t remember if I laughed or if I reacted seriously when I heard this strange expression, which of course lacked any connection with reality as far as I was concerned.

Following the NA Twelve-Step program daily allows me to be a good example of living a dignified life to my daughters, and now to my grandson, and to the person who took a risk in her own life in order to form a family with me, my wife. I can see all these matters passing by in the video of my life, and I still continue to make errors. I apologize to those I have failed because of my omissions or actions. All of this is very hard, but it is the reality. I am not an elder, but I recognize, with dignity, that I am an “older man.” I am painfully aware that the monster of my defects occasionally breaks the chains, no matter how much I have chained it in the deepest part of my being; and when this happens, I am a less desirable human being. These occasional situations affect me and hurt a lot, because after having traveled a considerable path in my life within the liberal limits of the NA program, I get away from these limits—and the impact against the hard rock of my reality is very strong. It hurts and takes my internal peace away. The only thing that brings me tranquility and helps me recover this internal peace is practicing Step Eleven, remembering that I am a human being simply and plainly, an addict in recovery.

So, who is an oldtimer? It is my feeling that an oldtimer is not simply an addict in recovery who has spent several years attending NA groups. It is the addict who understands the suggestions of the program with humility and optimism, and who realizes that he has to follow these suggestions to achieve his own freedom. So the first condition to become an oldtimer is to accept, “We admitted we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable” (Step One). From this step on, those who come to understand the freedom of our recovery program, opening our minds, listening with serenity, and adopting our steps, are on their way to becoming oldtimers.

Gonzalo S, Bogotá, Colombia
At the beginning of meetings we always ask, “Is there anyone new or coming back?” Maybe we should also ask, “Is there anyone old and going out?”

“My name is Mary, and I’m an addict.
The topic is humility? I’ll pass…”

Following the collapse of a member’s chair at a meeting: “Hi, my name is Bob, and I’m powerless over gravity.”

Shared by a fiftyish NA member:
“I saw this was a young people’s meeting, and I figured I was emotionally ready.

Sunil B, Mumbai, India
Issue
Discussion Topics

As many members are aware, we have chosen issue discussion topics (IDTs) in past conference cycles to inspire discussion of particular issues and concerns raised by our members. The IDTs have also provided a way for us to gather ideas and input on these topics and even to help in the creation of new tools, such as the “Building Strong Home Groups” worksheet and some of the service pamphlets.

The IDTs for the 2010-2012 conference cycle differ from previous cycles in that they are designed to familiarize members with some of the newest resources approved at the 2010 World Service Conference. Those new pieces include:

- A Vision for NA Service
- In Times of Illness, Revised
- IP #24, Money Matters: Self-Support in NA
- IP #28, Funding NA Services

To help raise awareness of these new resources, we have developed session materials for regional delegates and other local trusted servants to conduct workshops in your communities. These materials are available online at www.naway.org/?ID=2011_IDT.

A Vision for NA Service

A Vision for NA Service, which was developed as part of the Service System Project, was unanimously approved at WSC 2010 to replace the NA World Services Vision Statement. The main difference is that the vision has been expanded to apply to all NA services, beginning with the NA groups. Our hope is that this new vision statement will be an inspiration to all NA members and to service bodies at all levels, and that it will encourage greater unity throughout NA.

The Vision IDT session gives members an opportunity to look closely at all of the components of the vision statement and discuss how each of its points applies to their own personal roles and the roles of their groups and service bodies in working to achieve the aims set out in the vision.

In Times of Illness, Revised

WSC 2010 also unanimously approved revision of the booklet, In Times of Illness. Like the original, the revised ITOI is divided into sections to assist members with specific illness-related challenges. Most of the original material is still included in the booklet, but has been expanded upon and rearranged. New sections in the booklet include:

- Mental health issues
- Chronic illness
- Chronic pain
- Terminal illness
- Supporting members with an illness

The booklet also has updated and expanded material in the sections devoted to members informing healthcare professionals about their addiction, medication in recovery, and emergency care.

The IDT session for ITOI provides members with an opportunity to review each section of the revised booklet and discuss scenarios related to some of those sections.

Please join us for discussions on these topics at WCNA 34 World Board Forums!
The discussion questions encourage members to draw upon the source material and their own personal experience to consider ways to approach illness, injury, medication, and supporting other members through illness-related challenges.

**Self-Support Sessions**

The two new self-support informational pamphlets (IPs) approved at WSC 2010 are meant to address the fact that we consistently face challenges in funding the services we need to better carry our message. Self-support can be a difficult discussion topic in NA, as we often treat money like a dirty word. In many places, we rely on events, literature, and fundraisers, rather than individual contributions from members to pay for our services. We consistently hear in workshops that the best way to improve our level of contributions is through raising awareness, and our hope is that IP #24, *Money Matters: Self-Support* in NA, and IP #28, *Funding NA Services*, will help to do exactly that.

We created two separate sessions for self-support:

- A simpler discussion of the principles of self-support, including individual contributions and the importance to our groups and services.

- An in-depth look at the contents of the new IPs, familiarizing members with the type of information included in each pamphlet.

We offer outlines for both sessions so that workshop organizers can choose the session that seems more appropriate for their members, given the level of complexity and the time allotted for the session.

Coming together to discuss and work through the issues and topics that affect our fellowship always seems to open new avenues to ideas, solutions, and unity. We hope these session profiles are a helpful resource in our members’ efforts. As always, we are open to any input from trusted servants and other members; comments and ideas can be directed to worldboard@na.org.

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**The 2012 Conference Agenda Report**

It’s almost that time of the cycle again—CAR season approaches! The 2012 *Conference Agenda Report* will be published in English on 28 November 2011, and translated versions will be available 28 December. In addition to other items, this CAR will contain the approval draft of *Living Clean* in an addendum, and a motion to approve the text.

There will also be a set of “agreements in principle” about the service system to be voted on at the next World Service Conference. The latest version of the Service System Proposals will also be included to provide background information for the agreements in principle. As always, the CAR will be mailed to conference participants and regions, and it will be available for sale at NA World Services or as a download on the World Service Conference web page: www.na.org/?ID=conference-index.
17 years in Puerto Rico

I came to NA confused, stunned, full of medical and psychiatric diagnoses, and hopeless. I wandered the streets without any recollection of it for three years. Paranoia, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder: They had decided I would have to be hospitalized for life because I was considered a danger to society. The NA message was carried to me in the streets. NA members brought a meeting to me and told me that there was a new way to live and that I didn’t have to use drugs anymore. I was hospitalized and the local H&I committee came to the place where I was receiving intensive psychiatric care.

An NA member believed in me and noticed something in me that I could not recognize. He took me to an H&I meeting in the institution where I was confined. There, I heard the message of a member and I swore he was talking about me. When he ended his share I asked him who had told him my story—and he whispered in my ear that he was talking about himself and that I was not alone anymore. He gave me a strong hug and told me to give him a call when I was ready to leave the institution and he would take me to a meeting. This was 17 March 1994, and I have been clean since then. I was pardoned from the crimes I committed, which was possible because I got involved with service in NA and worked the steps, traditions, and concepts with a sponsor and a support group. I am a productive member of society. I don’t have the need to use drugs. I don’t take any medications and I have the freedom to choose.

My life has meaning today. Working the steps, regular meeting attendance, reading the literature, and sponsorship are essential for me to be aware and responsible in all matters of my life. I have my home group; I meditate on a daily basis, exercise, and eat better; and all of this has been part of my learning process. I have lost two sons during my recovery; I divorced my wife, have been financially bankrupt, and diagnosed with cancer; and none of these things have been reason for me to use again. I haven’t even thought about it. I have made many mistakes while in recovery, and the only thing that I have been able to do without making any mistakes is not using.

Today I dedicate a great deal of my free time to be of service in the fellowship. I actively serve in my home group, as a sponsor, in H&I and PR efforts, and in area and regional conventions. The time I dedicate to service and to attending meetings is more beneficial than when I isolate. Isolation occurs when I fill my time with work, relationships, and other important commitments and I exclude NA from my process. I have experienced situations where I have been able to mature by being present and by observing my participation. When I sit with addicts in recovery and when I share and work the steps, I nurture myself abundantly. As my clean time birthday nears, my soul softens over my emotions and I become fragile, and I also mature. As the years go by, the certainty of the spiritual companionship of my fellow members is so real that even though some of them are already resting eternally (including my two sons and their mother), I perceive their presence through their legacy and memories.
My process has allowed me to interact with fellow members of a different sexual preference, race, creed, or religion, and with people with different perspectives on life; and each one of them has given me the best they can give. Today I can feel the emotions and the feelings that were out of my reach. From being an isolated person because of the consequences of life experiences, today I move in one way or another along the path that each day is filled with experiences: yours and mine, strength and hope.

Jose R, Corozal, Puerto Rico

The dust storm

I was driving south along the highway, headed to the noon meeting, and looked to the west to see an enormous dust cloud. It spanned the entire length of the lake and city, and it was headed east toward the town. I imagined how difficult it would be to breathe if I drove into it. Being able to see the line separating the clean air from the cloud of dust made it very apparent that the air over there was much less desirable to put into my lungs, and I did not look forward to the moment when the city would actually be overcome by the cloud.

I turned left, which meant I was traveling in the same direction as the dust storm. In front of me I saw the clean, clear air that looked very inviting and unthreatening. In the rearview mirror I could see the billowing cloud of dust getting larger and closer. It was behind me, following me, because that is what nature had in store. I was so glad to be ahead of that storm and in the fresh air.

It occurred to me that nature was providing me with a symbolic reflection of my life. I had made a “right” turn, which pointed me in the exact direction I needed to go to get my life out of the dust, dirt, and pollution of the storm that had been brewing in my life for so many years. It was now possible to see that storm in my rearview mirror rather than moving parallel to it, waiting for it to overtake my life.

Prior to finding a new way of living and a new outlook on life, I would have been lucky to have been able to see the storm at all, because most of the time I was smack-dab in the middle of it and didn’t even know it. During the few times in my life when I was on the outskirts of the storm, my addiction, sickness, and unhealthy life would have taken note of the oncoming mess, but my turn would not have been a “right turn.” Regardless of the direction I turned in those situations, it would have inevitably been a wrong turn. I would have pointed myself right at the storm and would have barreled in full-speed ahead, surrounded by pollution and hardship that made it hard to breathe, hard to live, impossible to be happy.

The truth is that when there was no dust storm, no cloud of pollution, no havoc in the air, my sickness would have had me running to the nearest field, kicking the dirt with all my might to stir up enough dust to create that cloud all on my own. You see, if nature or life didn’t give me a cloud to hide in, I was sure to keep kicking long enough to make my own cloud. I always managed to be surrounded by unhealthiness and misery.

I finally have a chance to breathe, and breathe deep; to enjoy the fresh, clean life-lifting air that is available to everyone who is willing and has enough sense to turn away from the storm. I know now that moving forward is the only way I can keep my life out of the dust storm of my addiction.

Brook H, Arizona, USA

Recovery couch

Hello, my name is Shannon and I am an addict. It was just about three years ago this week when a lady drove well out of her way to deliver a flyer about an upcoming NA campout. She said she knew she needed to deliver that flyer, and now she says that she knows I was the reason. At the time I had no idea what NA really was or even if there were any meetings where I was living, but I knew I wanted to live differently. I was so excited that she came all the way out to where I was to bring that flyer. I had the chance to talk to her for a minute, and I can’t explain the feeling I had; it was amazing! I felt like she knew me and had always known me even though we had just met.

I went to that campout, and it was the most remarkable thing I had ever seen. People were staying clean, claiming that they wanted to, and that they had been clean for a long time. (I wasn’t too sure I believed that long-term clean time!) It was almost surreal to me. One of my biggest concerns about getting clean was, “What the heck am I supposed to do if I am not getting loaded?” These people showed me. I moved to a larger town where most of them were from and I did what they suggested. About a year later I moved back home, and I have been struggling ever since. I don’t think I can put into words how I feel, but I’m pretty sure I don’t need to because I think you understand.
The thing that inspired me to write to you tonight is that I couldn’t sleep, so I went to my living room and was munching on some cereal while checking my email, when I saw that I had received the electronic issue of the July 2011 NA Way Magazine. Everything I wrote above is the truth, but it doesn’t come close to the feeling I got when I read that magazine. Since I have been back in my hometown I don’t get to as many meetings anymore, so I just want to say thank you to anyone and everyone who had anything to do with that issue of the magazine. Tonight, because of reading what was shared in our magazine, I believe I can sleep in peace and that tomorrow I can stay clean just for today because of the hope I received from all over the world while sitting on my couch. I owe you, NA. With all of the love in the world, thank you.

Shannon C, Alaska, USA

Reaching out is the beginning of the struggle that will set us free. It will break down the walls that imprison us.

Basic Text, “Recovery and Relapse”

Do you know about Reaching Out? This newsletter is distributed quarterly to nearly 4,000 inmates! It is also used by H&I committees, treatment centers, and addiction professionals as a valuable resource to carry our message of hope. We offer free subscriptions to incarcerated addicts and 20-copy bulk subscriptions for $32.60 per year to committees.

Recently, we introduced a new section in Reaching Out, featuring original logos and artwork from inmates, H&I committees, and ASCs. We believe NA artwork carries a powerful, creative message of recovery. Share your logos and artwork or check out our latest issue at www.na.org/?ID=reaching_out-index.

Please support this effort by subscribing and contributing your experience, strength, and hope. We are always looking for written submissions from those who have a passion for H&I service. We especially love to share the stories of members who found NA while incarcerated and are now recovering on the outside.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Email: handi@na.org
Mail: Reaching Out
c/o NA World Services
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA

While attending WCNA 34 in San Diego, stop by the Reaching Out display in the NAWS onsite office to see Reaching Out artwork and pick up a free copy of the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there.
In the past few issues of *The NA Way*, we have discussed “Invest in Our Vision” in terms of what it means for members and groups to contribute to the larger NA community. We wrote about the rapidly-growing demand for NA in places that experience more challenges in contributing financially to NA as a whole, and we also addressed the issue of what members can do to help make sure that new NA groups are able to be started and supported in places where addicts don’t yet have an opportunity for recovery. These issues speak very clearly to the point in our vision that states, “Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;” and members can easily visit our online portal with their debit or credit card to make a contribution toward realizing that goal.

But as every member who has been of service to NA in any capacity knows, service funds are needed to accomplish our goals at all levels of our service system. There have been some gradual changes over the last few years that have affected the way members contribute to NA. On one hand, we have often heard the observation shared that members at our earliest meetings put $1 in the basket, back in the 1950s and 60s when $1 could buy a lot more than it can today. Most members are happy to give a little more once they realize that they can, and many have already begun to give more as their awareness has grown. When members begin to put more in the basket, our local services become that much more reliable.

Another change that has affected the way we contribute, though, is the fact that more and more members have begun to rely on plastic as their main form of currency. This can be convenient in a number of ways: paying for gas at the pump, having a complete record of transactions available online, or not having to worry about having enough cash to get a coffee before the meeting.

But then the basket comes around, and it seems like everyone is looking at the member who holds a latte in one hand and passes the basket on with the other hand without putting anything in.

Many of us have been there. As society becomes more reliant on credit cards, debit cards, online transactions, and even smartphone transactions, it will continue to become more challenging for NA groups to receive the same types and levels of financial contributions they once did. Maybe the member who forgot to get cash last week remembered this time around, but then maybe two other members who put money in the basket...
2011 Membership Survey

Every two years we attempt to gather information about our members, and the time to gather that information is now! Some may wonder why we want this information and how we use it. One of the aims of A Vision for NA Service is that NA is viewed as a “viable program of recovery.” With members from 42 countries attending the world convention in San Diego, and members around the world participating from their homes, we have an opportunity to demonstrate that we are, indeed, a viable and respected recovery community resource. Presenting ourselves in this way helps us offer hope to others that they, too, can recover.

We want you to join us in this survey. In 2009 we had nearly 13,000 members respond, and we believe we can survey 20,000 members this time. Together, we can let addicts know that we are recovering in Narcotics Anonymous and leading productive, responsible, fulfilling lives.

We are offering members four months to complete and return the survey either online or by fax or mail, or it can be filled out onsite at WCNA 34 in San Diego. We would like as many members as possible throughout NA worldwide to participate. We encourage each of you to spread the word of the survey to your member friends.

You can help by emailing the link for the online version or by distributing paper copies of the survey, collecting the responses, and mailing or faxing them to us.

To complete the survey online, go to http://www.na.org/survey

The deadline for survey completion is 31 December 2011.
1a. **Country of residence** (Check one only)
   a. ☐ USA
   b. ☐ Norway
   c. ☐ Canada
   d. ☐ Brazil
   e. ☐ Mexico
   f. ☐ Sweden
   g. ☐ UK
   h. ☐ Other: ________________________________

1b. **State/Province of residence** (if applicable)
    ________________________________

2. **Gender**
   a. ☐ Male
   b. ☐ Female

3. **Age** _____ years

4. **Race**
   a. ☐ Black (of African descent)
   b. ☐ White (Caucasian or of European descent)
   c. ☐ Latino, Hispanic
   d. ☐ Asian (including Indian subcontinent) or Pacific Islander
   e. ☐ Indigenous
   f. ☐ Multi-racial
   g. ☐ Other: ________________________________

5. **Highest educational level completed**
   a. ☐ High school/Secondary school
   b. ☐ Trade School/Two-Year Degree
   c. ☐ College/University Degree
   d. ☐ Advanced University Degree
   e. ☐ None of the above

6a. **Employment status** (Check one only)
   a. ☐ Homemaker (go to #7a)
   b. ☐ Employed full-time
   c. ☐ Employed part-time
   d. ☐ Retired (go to #7a)
   e. ☐ Unemployed (go to #7a)
   f. ☐ Student

6b. **Primary type of work** (Check one only)
   a. ☐ Manager/Administrator
   b. ☐ Educator
   c. ☐ Medical/Health Professional
   d. ☐ Addiction Treatment Professional
   e. ☐ Other Professional (government, finance, etc.)
   f. ☐ Technical/IT Professional
   g. ☐ Sales/Marketing
   h. ☐ Craft worker/Artisan/Trade
   i. ☐ Laborer/Service Industry
   j. ☐ Clerical/Administrative Assistant
   k. ☐ Transportation Industry
   l. ☐ Other (including self-employed)

7a. **Do you have a sponsor now?**
   a. ☐ Yes
   b. ☐ No

7b. **Are you sponsoring others?**
   a. ☐ Yes
   b. ☐ No

8. **What service commitments do you have in NA?**
   (Check any that apply)
   a. ☐ Hospitals and institutions (H&I)
   b. ☐ Public information (PI) and/or phoneline
   c. ☐ Meeting (secretary, treasurer, coffeemaker, etc.)
   d. ☐ Area service
   e. ☐ Regional service
   f. ☐ World service
   g. ☐ None

9. **How often do you usually attend NA meetings?**
   (Please answer one only)
   ☐ Weekly: ____________ times
   ☐ Monthly: ___________ times
   ☐ Yearly: _____________ times

10a. **Do you attend meetings of any other twelve-step fellowships?**
    a. ☐ Yes (If yes, go to #10b)
    b. ☐ No (Go to #11)
10b. Which twelve-step fellowships do you attend?
(Check any that apply)
   a. □ AA
   b. □ CA
   c. □ GA
   d. □ OA
   e. □ Nar-Anon
   f. □ Al-Anon
   g. □ Other: ______________________________

11. Do you have any family members in a twelve-step recovery program?
   a. □ Yes
   b. □ No

12a. Which one was your main drug used?
(Check one only)
   a. □ Alcohol
   b. □ Cannabis (pot, hashish, etc.)
   c. □ Cocaine
   d. □ Crack
   e. □ Ecstasy
   f. □ Tranquilizers (Klonopin, Valium, Xanax, etc.)
   g. □ Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, etc.)
   h. □ Inhalants (glue, nitrous oxide, etc.)
   i. □ Opiates (heroin, morphine, etc.)
   j. □ Opioids (Oxycodone, Vicodin, Fentanyl, etc.)
   k. □ Stimulants (speed, crystal meth, etc.)
   l. □ Methadone/Buprenorphine
   m. □ Prescribed medication
   n. □ Other: ____________________________

12b. What drugs did you use at any time on a regular basis? (Check any that apply)
   a. □ Alcohol
   b. □ Cannabis (pot, hashish, etc.)
   c. □ Cocaine
   d. □ Crack
   e. □ Ecstasy
   f. □ Tranquilizers (Klonopin, Valium, Xanax, etc.)
   g. □ Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, etc.)
   h. □ Inhalants (glue, nitrous oxide, etc.)
   i. □ Opiates (heroin, morphine, etc.)
   j. □ Opioids (Oxycodone, Vicodin, Fentanyl, etc.)
   k. □ Stimulants (speed, crystal meth, etc.)
   l. □ Methadone/Buprenorphine
   m. □ Prescribed medication
   n. □ Other: ____________________________

13. When is your clean date?
   __________ ___________ _________
   Month  Day  Year

14. When was your first NA meeting?
   __________ __________
   Month  Year

15. Check the three most influential entities in your decision to come to your first NA meeting.
   (Please check only three)
   a. □ NA member
   b. □ NA literature
   c. □ Correctional facility
   d. □ Nar-Anon member
   e. □ AA member or group
   f. □ Treatment facility/counseling agency
   g. □ Family
   h. □ Non-NA friend or neighbor
   i. □ Healthcare provider
   j. □ Court order/drug court
   k. □ Probation or parole officer
   l. □ Employer or fellow court
   m. □ Newspaper, magazine, radio, or TV
   n. □ Member of clergy
   o. □ School counselor, teacher, or administrator
   p. □ Other: ___________________________
16. What influences made you want to stay in NA? (Check any that apply)
   a. ☐ Identification with members in a meeting
   b. ☐ A welcoming, supportive group
   c. ☐ Sponsor
   d. ☐ NA literature
   e. ☐ Service commitments
   f. ☐ Other NA members
   g. ☐ Other: __________________________

17. How important do you think your first NA meeting was in getting/staying clean? (Ranging from 1 as “not at all” to 5 as “very”, please circle your choice)
   1  2  3  4  5
   not at all  very

18. Before beginning your recovery in NA, were you… (Check any that apply)
   a. ☐ Employed?
   b. ☐ Able to retain your own place of residence?
   c. ☐ Capable of supporting your family?
   d. ☐ Maintaining family relationships?
   e. ☐ Able to preserve a committed, intimate relationship?
   f. ☐ None of the above

19. Since coming to NA, what areas in your life have improved? (Check any that apply)
   a. ☐ Stable housing
   b. ☐ Employment
   c. ☐ Education advancement
   d. ☐ Social connectedness
   e. ☐ Family relationships
   f. ☐ Hobbies/Interests

20a. Are you currently taking prescribed medication?
   a. ☐ Yes
   b. ☐ No
   c. ☐ Choose not to answer

20b. What are you taking this medication for? (Check any that apply)
   a. ☐ Mental health issues (depression, anxiety, bipolar, etc.)
   b. ☐ Short-term medical condition (surgery, broken bones, dental work, etc.)
   c. ☐ Chronic health condition (hep C, AIDS, cancer, etc.)
   d. ☐ Drug replacement (methadone, suboxone, bupenor-phine)
   e. ☐ Medical maintenance of health issues (blood pressure, thyroid, hormone replacement, etc.)
   f. ☐ Other: __________________________

You can help by emailing the link for the online version or by distributing paper copies of the survey, collecting the responses, and mailing or faxing them to us.

To complete the survey online, go to http://www.na.org/survey

The deadline for survey completion is 31 December 2011.
last week forgot cash today. We all mean well; we can just be a little forgetful at times.

Our experience has demonstrated that more often than not, our members won’t let their groups or their areas go broke. We have seen groups come up a little shy on meeting space rent at the end of the month, only to have a few trusted servants reach in their pockets and help make up the difference. We have seen members come out to support a fundraising event so the area can restock the H&I literature supply. Our members care about the well-being of NA, so they respond when they see a need and an opportunity to fill it.

As always, though, we do not need to wait until there is an urgent need in order to change our giving habits. Maybe it’s not such a big deal if we forget to grab cash to put in the basket at our home group a couple times a month if the group is still able to get the literature they need and pay the rent. But maybe our group could afford to give away a free Basic Text to a newcomer that is a little more money in the basket. Or maybe the group could contribute more to other levels of service at the end of each month if we made a personal commitment to make it a part of our weekly routine to get cash before coming to the meeting, or if we miss a week, double up the following week. And maybe if the area or region had a little more money, they could afford to put PI posters on public buses or send more books to addicts behind bars.

Investing in Our Vision takes place at all levels, and making sure our groups and service committees have the resources they need to function properly will continue to take further vigilance as we become less and less cash oriented. There may be a time soon when we use smartphones and/or online payment accounts to quickly and easily give money to our groups without using cash, but those technologies will surely bring with them their own challenges, and we will want to take time to explore these options. For the moment, we can all do our part by planning ahead to show up to our meetings ready to contribute as part of our effort to Invest in Our Vision.
Hi friends

CCNA XIX expects to host up to 300 members—smaller than most CCNAs due to the more remote location of Saint John, New Brunswick, on the coast of the Bay of Fundy. Toronto, Ontario, members are planning to rent a bus for the 16-hour drive. Members will celebrate recovery meetings in French and English as The Adventure Continues!

To: The NA Fellowship

From: NA in South Africa

Greetings from...

South Africa hugs the southern tip of the second largest and second most populous continent. Our fellowship development efforts reach throughout South Africa & we’ve touched 12 of the 47 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. We love carrying the message.

Wish you were here!
Greetings from Japan, where 530 members attended JRCNA 7 in early July. Some interesting facts about JRCNA 7:
1. Japanese areas at JRCNA 7 (all of the Japanese areas)
2. Countries of non-Japanese attendees (Korea, Australia, USA)
3. Cups of coffee consumed: 1,350
4. Okinawa doughnuts eaten: 600
5. American doughnuts eaten: 400
6. Kilograms of BBQ eaten: 5.6
7. Members who criticized other members: 0

“**This old Okinawan saying (pronounced Ichariba-cho-day) means, “Once we have met, we are all brothers and sisters.”**

Hello all,
The convention we just had in Trogir (Croatia) was all about unity. Just like the World Convention of NA, our convention theme was “Spirit of Unity.” The first convention took place five years ago and since then NA has reached everywhere in this geographic area. We chose this theme because our region is complete, as Slovenia has now joined the region, too.

Thanks to members who submitted information and artwork:
June Y and Steve S, Okinawa, Japan;
Faik G, England, United Kingdom and Jelena S, Belgrade, Serbia;
Mark J, Johannesburg, South Africa;
Paul C, New Brunswick, Canada.”

Electronic subscribers can click here for a World Unity Day article.
SERVICE SYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE

What’s Happening to Our Service System?

Regular readers of The NA Way Magazine may have noticed updates on the Service System Project in the last few issues. Others have been able to attend one of the many service system workshops around the world. For those of you who haven’t seen those pages or couldn’t make those events (we’ve missed you!), the good news is that it’s not too late to find out what’s going on, and it’s not too late to get involved.

What Do You Mean by “Service System”?

For the last three years NAWS has been talking with interested members around the world about our service system. We put together a project and a workgroup that are collecting best practices and other ideas, and proposing possible changes to revitalize NA service. Our hope is to create a system with all the different parts working together to better fulfill our primary purpose, rather than simply a collection of service bodies that are often short on resources and don’t always function together toward a common goal.

So far, the project has produced A Vision for NA Service, which is intended to serve as a common goal and inspiration for service work throughout NA. This was included in the 2010 Conference Agenda Report and unanimously approved at the 2010 World Service Conference.

We have also published a first and second draft of a Service Systems Proposals report that is packed full of ideas for a revitalized system. However, building a system involves much more than reports and articles in magazines. Our hope is that NA members around the world will continue working together to discuss the ideas from the project. In some places, NA communities are already trying out some of the ideas presented in the proposals. We are interested in hearing from you: What do you think will help improve service delivery in your community?

How Can I Find Out What’s Happening?

The first stop is the Service System Project webpage at www.na.org/servicesystem. Here you can find everything you need to know about the project, including its background, the vision statement, proposals report, project updates, and a range of materials to help local members hold workshops in their home communities.

For those of you planning to attend WCNA 34 in San Diego, the World Board will be hosting three forums devoted to the ideas from the Service System Project. Two of the forums will present the ideas in the proposals and the other will be more of a town hall format, devoted to questions and answers about the ideas. We hope to see you there!

What Happens Next?

The 2012 Conference Agenda Report will contain a series of “agreements in principle,” each of which will express a fundamental part of the systemic changes being proposed. Each agreement in principle will be the subject of a CAR motion, enabling groups to approve each part of a broad base of commonly agreed-upon principles. If this foundational set of agreements is approved, the board will present a project plan for a transition workgroup of some kind, and we will move forward together into the next phase of the project.

For additional and updated information, please visit: www.na.org/servicesystem
Planning Basics

Our fellowship is constantly growing. Gratefully, more members worldwide are finding recovery in NA. In our efforts to better carry the NA message to the still-suffering addict, we have discovered the value of planning. Our first publication that addressed the importance of planning was the widely embraced Area Planning Tool. Our new service booklet, Planning Basics, offers simplified and updated planning concepts. If you have not seen the booklet, please check it out at www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/handbooks/Planning_Basics.pdf.

Our hope is that many NA communities, including those who had success with the Area Planning Tool, will be able to use Planning Basics to make service delivery more effective. Service bodies can take these ideas and apply them to the creation of a new planning process, or to streamline existing practices. Soon after Planning Basics was published, the regional delegate from the Carolina Region sent an email to the World Board, stating that he would “like to stake a claim as being the first RSC to use it.” The region added to their policy the two introductory paragraphs of Planning Basics entitled “Why Plan?” verbatim. We’re excited by this feedback and we hope regions and areas worldwide will continue to embrace this booklet and consider it a valuable resource.

Why Plan?

Quite simply, planning makes our services more effective; it helps us work toward a common goal. A Vision for NA Service reminds us that we strive to work together in the spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying the message of recovery.

We share a common purpose: to better carry the message of recovery. Planning for NA services asks us to think ahead, take time to prepare, and develop action plans to reach identified goals. Opportunities for planning begin with the identification of issues that affect our ability to provide consistently effective services.

One of the key components discussed in Planning Basics is clear communication and the use of a planning calendar. When members are asked to participate in planning, they can see how planning affects all our services. Reviewing current calendars ensures that planning efforts are not in conflict with other ongoing activities. Once dates are identified, the word can be spread to as many members as possible.

In Planning Basics, we emphasize the importance of scanning, or gathering information, at the beginning of the planning process. We are all united in our desire to carry our message to addicts, but in order do this effectively, we need information. We provide ideas to assist you in scanning your NA service community, as well as the larger community where you live. Our goal is to adapt to meet the needs of our NA groups, while taking into account changes that happen around us in the world. Planning, at this stage, involves each and every member—those involved in service, those who used to be of service, and all interested members.

Attending WCNA 34 in San Diego?
We invite you to attend a workshop focused on planning to discuss Planning Basics in more depth. We look forward to seeing you there!
Social media service pamphlet

At the 2010 World Service Conference, there was substantial discussion about the topic of social networking sites and the challenges we face in applying our principles when using them. As a result of that discussion, we have created a draft service pamphlet that is meant to offer members some thoughts on how to uphold our principles when interacting with one another and the general public in online forums. The service pamphlet isn’t intended to encourage or discourage use of these sites, but simply offers some thoughts on how (and why) members can protect our own and others’ anonymity in these settings. We have offered some suggestions for “best practices” and hope that this resource will be useful to members in considering online interactions.

In keeping with the conference’s wishes, the draft service pamphlet is being reviewed by conference participants for a 90-day period. Once that 90-day period ends (approximately 31 October), we will make any final revisions based on input we receive before the piece is made available to the fellowship.

Planning Basics describes a process that can be effectively done in four planning meetings that emphasizes the importance of a “feedback loop.” The first planning meeting focuses on scanning, while the second and third are geared toward developing goals, approaches, and action plans. For our members who have been involved in service and are familiar with the Area Planning Tool, these are not new ideas. In this process, the fourth meeting is focused on monitoring and evaluation, which we also call the feedback loop. This is a vital step that is often neglected. In this stage of planning, we ask ourselves if our goals are met and our plans are accomplishing what we intended. If we forego evaluating our action plans, how do we know if we are on track?

Feel free to share your experience with planning in your NA service communities.

You can email us at worldboard@na.org. We look forward to hearing from you!


Do you have your copy yet?

The approval draft of “Living Clean: The Journey Continues” is available for purchase ($8.95, including shipping) or can be viewed at the link below.

The draft will be included as an addendum to the Conference Agenda Report for the 2012 World Service Conference, which will be released by 28 November 2011. WSC approval requires a two-thirds majority vote in favor by regional delegates. If approved, the book will be designated as “Fellowship-approved.”

For additional information, please visit: www.na.org/?ID=Living_Clean_Project
Dear NA World Services staff,

Just thought you’d like to know that we are alive and well here, and that the services provided by you and the hard-working crew there continue to make a difference in people’s lives. You may get so caught up in making sure developing NA communities have literature and that kind of essential work that you forget your efforts are recognized and appreciated in the Woods and Waters Area here in northern Wisconsin, where we have 36 meetings, a massive geographic area, and our largest city has 7,000 people. Our area covers 15,120 square miles from the top of Wisconsin at the Upper Peninsula of Michigan border to the Minnesota border, and south of that about 140 miles.

Minocqua, the town I live in, has less than 3,000 residents, and is on an island. We now have ten NA meetings each week within ten minutes of my house—all strong and thriving—and Narcotics Anonymous is becoming the predominant fellowship here. We have our little NA clubhouse that we use for four weekly meetings, subcommittees, and fellowshipping. Twenty-one years ago when I moved here, there was one recovery meeting; the first hour was for AA and the second hour was for NA.

Our area hosts an annual convention held in June in Minocqua called the Journeys Convention that brings more than 400 addicts to our island. We just completed our tenth Journeys Convention in June. We offered 28 workshops held on the water (kayak to an island for a sunrise workshop, pontoon workshops, a steamboat workshop, etc.), plus others on hiking and biking trails, in addition to traditional indoor workshops. We offer four music venues and three main speaker meetings during the convention. Our island rocks on Journeys weekend.

Rand W, Wisconsin, USA
Multi-day events and those occurring between publication dates are printed according to the schedule posted online. To enter events or to access event details, visit the online calendar at: www.na.org/events. (If you don’t have Internet access, fax or mail your event info to 818.700.0700, attn: NA Way; or The NA Way; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.)

Bermuda
Southampton 16-18 Sep; Bermuda Islands Area Convention 7; Fairmont Southampton Princess, Southampton; www.nabermudaconvention.com

Brazil
Belem, PA 10-13 Nov; Belem Area Sozinho Nunca Mais Convention 4; Parque dos Igarapés Eco Resort, Belém, PA; event info: tatitunes75@yahoo.com.br

Canada
British Columbia 23-25 Sep; British Columbia Regional Convention 28; Roundhouse Community Centre, Vancouver; http://convention.bcm.ca/
New Brunswick 14-16 Oct; Canadian Convention 19; Delta Brunswick Hotel, Saint John; www.canadianconvention.com
Quebec 7-9 Oct; Quebec Regional Convention 24; Sheraton Laval Quebec, Laval; www.naquebec.org/crqna/index.html

Costa Rica
San José 6-9 Oct; Costa Rica Regional Convention 16; Crowne Plaza San José Corobici, San José; event info: infoconve@nacostarica.org; speaker tape deadline: 15 Sep

India
West Bengal 11-13 Nov; Kolkata Area Convention 7; Mandarmoni, Kolkata; www.nakolkata.org/

Ireland
Waterford 28-30 Oct; Ireland Regional Convention 26; Waterford City Tower Hotel, Waterford; speaker tape deadline: 30 Sep; www.na-ireland.org

Mexico
Tijuana 30 Sep-2 Oct; Baja Coast Area Convention 19; Grand Hotel, Tijuana; hotel rsvns: USA 866.472.6365; Mex 664.681.7000; event info: 664.346.5565; speaker tape deadline: 15 Sep

Nepal
Butwal 25-28 Nov; First Lumbini Area Convention; Thakali Samaj Ghar, Butwal; event info: 977.9806966410; speaker tape deadline: 30 Sep

Norway
Oslo 28-30 Oct; Norway Region East Back2Basic Convention 18; Marienlyst Skole, Oslo; www.ooskkonvent.com

Turkey
Fethiye 14-16 Oct; Turkey Area Convention 9; Orient Hotel, Fethiye; www.na-turkiye.org

Uruguay
Florida 14-16 Oct; Uruguay Regional Convention; Complejo Paso Severino, Paso Severino, Florida; www.na.org.uy

United States
Alabama 16-18 Sep; Alabama NW Florida Region Spiritual Retreat; Cheaha State Park Bald Rock Lodge, Delta; www.alnwf.org
Alaska 7-9 Oct; Alaska Regional Convention 27; Challenger Center, Kenai; www.akna.org

California 23-25 Sep; Area de Habla Hispana Sur de California Convención 6; Double Tree, Culver City; www.todayna.org/espanol.html
2) 14-16 Oct; San Francisco Area Rainbow Convention 16; Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco; www.sfnra/rainbow.html
3) 25-27 Nov; Southern California Regional Convention 32; Ontario Convention Center, Ontario; www.todayna.org/convention/
Connecticut 4-6 Nov; First Westchester Area Convention; Stamford Plaza, Stamford; www.wacna.org/
Florida 23-25 Sep; First Coast Area Convention 11; Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa, Ponte Vedra Beach; www.firstcoastna.org/announcements.htm
2) 30 Sep-2 Oct; Tampa Funcoast Area Convention 27; Embassy Suites USF campus, Tampa; www.tampa-na.org
3) 28-30 Oct; Treasure Coast Area Convention 5; Marriott Hutchinson Island, Stuart; www.treasurecoastarea.com

4) 4-6 Nov; Greater Orlando Area Unidos en Recuperación 7; Ramada Gateway, Kissimmee; speaker tape deadline: 1 Sep; www.orlandona.org
5) 11-13 Nov; Gulf Coast Area Rainbow Weekend 14; Fort Lauderdale Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale; www.rainbowweekend.org/

Georgia 27-30 Oct; West End Area Anniversary 25; Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Atlanta; event info: jordandonald@bellsouth.net;
Hawaii 27-30 Oct; Hawaii Regional Convention 19; Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu; www.na-hawaii.org

Idaho 28-30 Oct; Pacific Northwest Convention; Double Tree Boise Riverside, Boise; event info: 208.571.6040

Illinois 21-23 Oct; Chicagoland Hispanic Metro Area Convention 2; Midway Marriott, Chicago; www.chicagona.org/chana
2) 28-30 Oct; Joliet Area Convention; Oak Brook; www.chicagona.org
3) 4-6 Nov; Greater Illinois Regional Convention 15; Hawthorne Suites, Champaign; www.centralillinoisna.org

Kentucky 5-7 Oct 2012; Bluegrass-Appalachian Regional Convention 5; Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Corbin; www.nakentucky.com/
Maryland 16-18 Sep; Tri-County Area A River of Hope 5; Lions Camp Merrick, Nanjemoy; event info: 301.751.1388
2) 28-30 Oct; Ocean Gateway Area Convention 14; Clarion Fontainebleau Resort, Ocean City; speaker tape deadline: 22 Sep; www.ogana.org

Massachusetts 17-18 Sep; South Shore Area Dinosaur Day 2; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brockton; www.gpmana.org
2) 30 Sep-2 Oct; Berkshire County Area Convention 4; Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort, Hancock; event info: 413.841.7315

Minnesota 7-9 Oct; Inner Cities Unity Convention; Hyatt Hotel, Minneapolis; www.icucweb.com
Mississippi 7-9 Oct; Mississippi Regional Convention 28; Clarion Inn and Summit Center, Tupelo; event info: 662.255.7570
Missouri 18-20 Nov; Saint Louis Area Convention 6; Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, Saint Louis; www.slamcna.com/
Nebraska 30 Sep-2 Oct Nebraska Regional Convention 28; New World Inn & Conference Center, Columbus; www.nebraskana.org

Nevada 4-6 Nov; Sierra Sage Regional Convention 16; Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, Reno; speaker tape deadline: 1 Oct; www.sierrasagena.org/ssrcna.html

New Jersey 18-20 Nov; Greater Atlantic City Area Convention 3; Sheraton Atlantic City, Atlantic City; event info: 609.334.9932
**NAWS PRODUCT UPDATE**

**Miracles Happen**
In our efforts to make this beautiful book more reasonably priced, we are introducing a softcover version packaged with a bonus audio CD featuring a few early recordings of Jimmy K.

**Item No. 1121**  **Price US $10.00**

**New and Improved Acrylic Medallion Holder**
New design includes pin-closure and three interchangeable, 2-sided artwork backgrounds, with recovery language like serenity, love, courage, etc. Displays front and back of medallion.

**Item No. 6099**  **Price US $25.00**  **Price Cut! $18.00**

**Danish**
**Group Reading Cards – Set of Seven**
Updated to include “We Do Recover” reading in the set.

**Item No. DK-9130**  **Price US $4.20**

**German**
**Information about NA**
**Informationen über NA**

**Item No. ZPRGE1002**  **Price US $0.26**

**Finnish**
**Disruptive and Violent Behavior**
**Häiritsevä ja väkivaltainen käyttäytyminen**

**Item No. FI-2204**  **Price US $0.22**

**Hungarian**
**IP No.16**
**Az újonnan érkezőnek**

**Item No. HU-3106**  **Price US $0.22**

**Hebrew**
**The NA Step Working Guides**
**המדריך לעבודת הצעדים**

**Item No. HE-1400**  **Price US $7.70**

**IP No. 13**
**Nuorilta addikteiltä, nuorille addikteille**

**Item No. FI-3113**  **Price US $0.28**
**Italian**

*Just for Today*

*Solo per oggi*

Item No. IT-1112  Price US $8.10

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**Latvian**

IP No. 5

*Cits skatījums*

Item No. LV-3105  Price US $0.22

IP No. 11

*Sponsorēšana*

Item No. LV-3111  Price US $0.22

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**Coming soon**

For release dates, please check our online Product Catalog:


**Tri-Plate Medallions**

To celebrate recovery milestones, four new striking color combinations will be available in September in 18 months, 1 through 50 years, and eternity:

- Translucent Green/Pearl/Black  Item No. 6100 series
- Orange/Black/Pearl  Item No. 6900 series
- Violet/Pearl/Black  Item No. 6800 series
- Gold/Pearl/Black  Item No. 6700 series

Price US $21.30

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**Polish**

Basic Text (Fifth Edition)

*Anonimowi Narkomanii*

Item No. PL-1101  Price US $7.50

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**Swedish**

Basic Text Sixth Edition

*Anonyma Narkomaner*

Item No. SW-1101  Price US $11.00

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**Filipino**

*An Introductory Guide to NA*

*Isang Pangunahing Gabay sa Narkotiko Anonimo*

Item No. FL-1200  Price US $1.80