in Russia… Argentina… Canada… Singapore… Afghanistan

★ Project Updates ★ WCNA 35! ★ Living Clean
One fellowship, many communities

One of the first things I learned working here at NAWS is that there is one Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship made up of many NA communities. This was on my mind while preparing this issue because we have articles from a diverse range of NA communities. As sometimes happens in this magical way, material that found its way to these pages has an uncanny connectedness.

One story is set in Singapore, a country of 63 islands spanning some 276 square miles (about 714 square kilometers), where the Singapore NA community lists eight NA meetings on its website, www.nasg.org. Russia is geographically a polar opposite, covering almost 6.6 million sq miles (about 17.1 million sq km. It can literally take days for trusted servants to travel thousands of miles to a regional or zonal event. Representing another extreme—and literally a polar opposite from the others—comes an enthusiastic “Picture this” from the NA group believed to be the southernmost group in the world. At just 600 miles north of Antarctica, this Argentinian NA community held its first meeting in August 2012.

And, of course, we’re entering NA’s sixtieth year—our diamond jubilee. This issue of The NA Way is a reminder that over time (and sometimes under significant pressure), our fellowship has, indeed, gone from a diamond in the rough to a strong and brilliant gem. Our individual diversity and the depth and range of our NA communities are the facets that together create a strong and brilliant fellowship.

De J, Editor

From the editor
Travel notes

By 5:00 am three other NA members and I had prepared three thermoses of tea, gotten into the car, prayed together, and started the journey from Tomsk to Barnaul to take part in the Russian Speaking Zonal Forum, representing the interests of our region, the Siberia and Far East Russia Region. In the course of our trip, we would deliver merchandise from our second regional convention, make a presentation on behalf of the Tomsk Area PI Subcommittee, and introduce ourselves to World Board and NA World Services staff members who were there to facilitate workshops and support fellowship development efforts.

It took us six hours to drive to the event location, called "Capital of the World Recreation Centre." It was a huge place with a lake, wooden houses, Russian baths (Banya), and lots of benches, gazebos, and sheds where we could pray and meditate. There was also space to have fun, meet people, enjoy tea and hookahs, and play volleyball, basketball, and soccer. And above all this splendor, an NA banner proudly waved in the wind at the top of a flagpole. My fellows from neighboring areas were arriving and you cannot imagine how happy I was to meet them again, to meet new people, and to feel that I’m part of the worldwide NA family.

So, the Russian-speaking Zonal Forum started its meeting on Friday morning. Our zonal forum’s first meeting—and the beginning of the forum—took place in April 2010 at the Western Russia Regional Convention in St Petersburg. In November 2010 we held the second zonal forum meeting in Tyumen. This would be the zone’s third meeting, and the first to be held in our region.

Later in the afternoon I was spending time with my NA friends from all over Russia when I noticed people starting to move toward the main entrance. There was noticeable excitement and we heard, “They have arrived! Let’s go and see!” A vehicle had arrived and several people stepped out. They seemed to be ordinary people, but what set them apart from all the participants.
was their age. They were the representatives of NA World Service, a woman and three men. They genuinely smiled, but I thought they were a little wary because they were barely able to get out of the car before they were immediately surrounded by a crowd of noisy Russian NA members. In spite of this, our visitors bravely and courageously suffered the hardships of the “first wave” of Russian hospitality.

At the main meeting that night, we did geographical and cleantime countdowns. There were NA members from all over Russia, and from Kazakhstan, Iran, Brazil, and USA. Cleantime varied from two weeks to 42 years! Four members from Moscow and Tumen shared their experience, strength, and hope. The room was packed. It happened that I was sitting next to a World Board member from Brazil. I knew that he didn’t speak any Russian, but I was watching him smiling and nodding as he listened. He didn’t need to speak Russian to understand the language of recovery. We share from heart to heart.

After the main meeting the guys from Kemerovo held an evening rap music show with lyrics about their lives as addicts. NA members were still arriving and it was inspiring to see how many people came to share their recovery and service. The most important part for me was the PI workshop. As a chair of Tomsk Area PI Subcommittee, I was going to share our experience with other areas and NAWS—because I knew we did a great job! The presentation itself was a slide show, illuminating the goals and objectives of our PI activities, and our subcommittee’s work methods within the NA Fellowship and beyond. We were able to share our experiences about projects that we are currently working on in our area. I was pleased with the fact that our guests from outside of Russia showed great interest in the workshop. At the end, there were many questions and words of gratitude related to the work we were doing. It was a moment like nothing else I’ve experienced. I was happy and inspired because we were able to arouse interest in PI activities and the desire to serve the fellowship and carry a clear NA message.

The NAWS representatives took part in the zonal forum meetings and held workshops. They asked us about our concerns about recovery, service, and the fellowship in general. We came up with a lot of issues, from having an atmosphere of recovery at our meetings to personal experiences of sexual relationships (a most important topic!). Two of the board members shared their experience, which once again showed us that addiction and recovery have no nationality, language, or other boundaries. This is what really unites us. This is our strength!

As we completed the workshop, our guests distributed some small gifts of literature, journals, keytags, pins, and pens. I wish you could see how happy we were to get that cool stuff. Everybody was taking pictures with our guests visiting from outside of Russia, so you will not find a single member who attended that weekend and didn’t make a picture with them. Some of us wanted to share our personal stories and ask for their experience.

While we were all having fun outside, exchanging gifts, and taking pictures, the zonal forum trusted servants were closed up in a room, still discussing what else they could do for our regions so that the NA message is carried in every city. I admire those people and their service.

That evening our visitors shared their personal experience, strength, and hope. Actually, they could have just sat with us and not said a word, and that would have been enough to fill our hearts with hope and faith. Their stories touched my heart, and when I got back to my hometown, I shared their stories with my fellow members who could not afford to attend the event, continuing to carry the NA message, but on a new level.

We were grateful for the chance to see and spend time with NA members with more than 10, 30, and 40 years clean! We also asked them to tell every NA member they meet back home that we do recover in Siberia, that we do recover when it’s -40 degrees Celsius, and when there is only one NA member in a small isolated town! We are part of the NA family even if you have never heard of us.

Denis U, Tomsk Area, Siberia and Far East Region, Russia

...and when I got back to my hometown, I shared their stories with my fellow members...
Our hearts stayed in Afghanistan

The Afghani NA community

Salam. We are back from our October 2012 Afghanistan trip safe and sound! I thank god and all of you for the opportunity to do this fellowship development service in Afghanistan. I can’t possibly find the right words to express the effects of this service on my entire being. I feel some 20 years younger, and I think the trip had a similar impact on my service companion, Javad, too! The idea of NA World Services and the Asia Pacific Forum cooperating to provide financial and human resources for this trip was extremely attractive and inspiring to me. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

Afghanistan has a total population of around 35 million people who have lived in a conflict zone for many, many years. The effects of past wars can be clearly seen throughout the country. That said, Afghanistan has a more chronic problem in the form of addiction to narcotics. One of the Afghani government officials advised us that addiction in the country affects around 1.5 million people. (The Iranian government also declares the same figure here in Iran!)

NA meetings were started in Afghanistan about two and a half years ago by two members who had found NA in Iran. In 2011, a fellowship development trip from Iran to Afghanistan was organized by the APF. At the time there were some 180 NA members there in two towns (Kabul and Harat). Of those, about 45 members attended workshops during that trip. The good news is that during our recent trip, we found out that there are now around 400 members attending meetings in four cities: Kabul, Harat, Mazar Sharif, and Ghaz-neyn. About 90 members attended our workshops during this trip.

Upon our arrival, we met with the Afghani host committee and decided to dedicate our first workshop to bringing together members from these four cities and asking them about their challenges, problems, and needs. On the first day of our workshops, we split into six small groups and brainstormed the groups’ challenges. They came up with twelve issues which formed the basis of our workshops for the next three days. These workshops were held using small-group discussions, brainstorming, speaker panels, sharing, and questions and answers. Our workshops covered many topics, including Informing Local Communities (neighbors, families, and landlords), Newcomer Support, Atmosphere of Recovery, PR with Professionals, The Twelve Traditions, Recovery in Service, Supporting Trusted Servants, The NA Service System, and, of course, The Twelve Steps (sharing by members).

Finally, amidst the sound of sobbing as the Serenity Prayer was read out by all, our workshop sessions concluded.
**Our PR efforts**

We also took advantage of our time in Afghanistan to provide information about NA and establish relationships with some government and professional representatives who help addicts seeking recovery.

We had a meeting with the landlord of the workshop venue, who is also an influential member of the clergy. He sat through our twelve-step speaker panel and also invited us to lunch with three of his clerical colleagues. We explained NA to them, and they advised that they could see no contradictions between the Twelve Steps and the verses of the Quran.

We visited a government-run rehabilitation center in Kabul where we had discussions with the center’s management and held an H&I panel for the residents.

We met with three officials of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to explain the nature of our program and NA’s presence throughout the world. This office has a good relationship with the Afghani government and promised their full support and cooperation.

It was agreed there and then that liaison meetings would be held between UNODC and members of the NA Afghani PR sub-committee. It was further agreed that NA meetings would be held in six rehab centers that are currently supervised by UNODC. It goes without saying that our Sixth Tradition would be fully respected.

On our last day, with just three hours before our return flight, with our suitcases in hand, we went to a government-run psychiatric hospital where we met with the hospital manager who is an influential doctor and government employee. He was familiar with NA and welcomed us warmly. We thanked him and he agreed to support the local NA community as much as possible.

I have changed a great deal since returning from Afghanistan. My view of life and my feelings for the NA program have shifted to a new level. Now words like surrender, service, higher power, hope, and love have a much deeper meaning for me. I have been a trusted servant from the early days of my recovery in the NA community in Iran, and I have also had opportunities to serve in many different parts of the world. I can say that I have learned a lot from this trip to Afghanistan. This country eagerly awaits the message of recovery, and fortunately, the NA program has found its way into the country.

When addicts in Afghanistan reached out to the NA Fellowship for help, we were given the chance to re-experience our responsibility to carry the message. It also helped us realize again how important and vital it is to have the resources needed to help develop the fellowship throughout the world: money, ideas, and manpower. Now I really understand what “together we can” means. In order for this trip to happen, some members supported the Seventh Tradition basket, some did the planning and prioritization, others did the preparation for the workshops, the addicts in Afghanistan showed willingness, and we took the trip. So, we all did this together as a fellowship and it was truly a WE effort.

We did not spend a lot of money for this trip, but the abundant love we experienced far outweighed the resources that were needed. The venue for the workshops was not nice, and the coffee was awful! However, the energy in the workshops was dynamic and the desire of Afghan members to learn inspired us! It was there that I realized that unconditional love is actually the feeling you get when you are carrying out God’s will. It was as if none of the ideas and words I shared in the workshops were mine. I didn’t know where they were coming from.

The venue of the workshops was close to an area called “The Burned Bridge,” and it is a hangout for using addicts. We handed out bread, IPs (Who is an Addict?) and cigarettes. (Please note that we paid for the bread and cigarettes ourselves and NA paid for the pamphlets and meeting lists). It was a dangerous place as the addicts there are very aggressive towards people they don’t know, especially if you don’t look like you are using drugs. I understood this and I could see the “old me” in them. It was there that I found the meaning of empathy and I was reminded that addicts always respond to honest words. Carrying a personal message of experience, strength, and hope with them was a great feeling. We keep what we have by giving it away. I am truly blessed by being a member of Narcotics Anonymous. Finally, we returned home to Iran, but our hearts stayed back in Afghanistan.

**Mahmoud C., Tehran, Iran**

**Journey**

As I sit here looking out the picture window on the 19th floor of our condo in Singapore, I feel like one of the luckiest people on the planet. Not because of where I live or what material gifts I’ve been given or had taken away, but because I am alive and free. Because of Narcotics Anonymous I have a life that only existed in my dreams. That’s not to say that sometimes life isn’t difficult, because it is sometimes, or that my heart doesn’t get broken, because it does, or that I don’t feel like giving up, because sometimes I do. However, I have a fellowship and a God that change my perception and remind me that feelings are part of the deal. I know I never have to use again. My past is an asset and life is a precious gift that I want to experience fully.

I got clean at the old, old Terra Nova in the Bay Area in 2000. Right from the beginning, I fell in love with the fellowship, the program, and the message of Narcotics Anonymous. I’ve often heard in meetings that some people were asked to write down what they hoped their life to be like or what they expected it to be like in five years. Well I’ll tell you, I couldn’t even conceive of anything like that when I was a newcomer. All I knew was that I no longer wanted my daughters to have a mother who were absolutely ashamed of, or my mother to have another heart attack because of the stress I caused her. I didn’t want to degrade myself anymore and, most of all, I didn’t want to die from the horrors of addiction. Little did I know what I was getting myself into when I found you guys! I had no idea that NA was going to change my life completely, both within and outside of myself.

One of the coolest things I have discovered is that everything I learn in NA and through the Twelve Steps teaches me so much more than what at first meets the eye. It is a multi-layered, multi-leveled program, with a curriculum set by me. I can learn as much as I desire. It is a never-ending well of self-discovery and
spirituality—and being the addict that I am, I want it all!

When I first heard that "lost dreams awaken," I couldn't relate to that because any dream I'd ever had was lost somewhere in my heart; since the disease took away my ability to look inside myself (too scary), I thought my dreams were gone. I didn't realize until later that getting a 30-day keytag was a dream come true, the ability to believe in something, to have hope that there was a purpose for me, was also a dream come true.

I remember when the fog started to lift, when I had about 18 months clean. By that time I had made NA my way of life. I started to ponder things that other people did to enjoy life. I was becoming responsible, I was learning how to be a parent, keep a job, pay my bills, and save money. I was starting to experience the freedom NA promises: freedom to live.

I listened to the announcements at meetings. I heard members announce this convention here and that convention there. I decided I wanted to go. I wanted to travel and I started making plans. The 2002 Florida Regional Convention of NA (FRCNA) in Daytona Beach was my first convention, and I was hooked. I went to my first world convention, WCNA 29, in Atlanta that same year. Since then it has been one adventure after another. The only WCNA I missed was Barcelona in 2009. That year, I used the money I'd saved for the trip as a down payment on a house instead—on the advice of my sponsor. Thank God for sponsors.

I traveled mostly with NA friends. There was a group of us who, if at any time anybody said, "Road trip!" no matter how far it was, we went. I have been to meetings and recovery celebrations in every area in Florida. I have been to meetings in Georgia, New York, Illinois, Maryland, Texas, Louisiana, California, Nevada, Hawaii, the Bahamas and the latest, Singapore. Some of those people I traveled with are now gone. Some passed away clean and some died using; some relapsed and have not found their way back to recovery. But some, I still sit across from in meetings, and we still talk about our next trip and laugh about the fun we had on past treks.

For those people I am truly grateful because we have not only traveled to a destination together, but we are also on the same journey.

So how did this once hopeless drug addict end up living in Singapore? Well I didn't win the lotto, I don't have a prestigious job, and I didn't marry into money. What I did was find a new way to live. I found a God of my understanding that says nothing is impossible. I don't use no matter what, and I am of service to people. I trust my sponsor and I am willing to do the work. I believe God has a plan for my life far beyond anything I could have devised. God knows what I truly desire, and that what I want sometimes isn't good for me. I believe "want" comes from my brain and "desire" comes from my heart—and my HP deals in hearts. I believe I landed in Singapore because someone here needs my help. Maybe it's my partner or maybe it's another suffering addict. I may never know, but God does and that's good enough for me. For now, I'll just keep going to meetings and when a newcomer reaches out, I will be part of the hand of Narcotics Anonymous that reaches back.

Laura G, Singapore

Stepwork... steps work

Last month, after about three and a half years of consistent effort and regular meetings with my sponsor, I completed all the questions in the Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides: from the first question of Step One, "What does 'the disease of addiction' mean to me?" all the way to the last question of Step Twelve, "How will I express my gratitude?" I can truly say that I am a different person today than the woman who walked through the doors of NA, broken, desperate, afraid, and full of self-loathing in March 2009. In our reading, "What Is the Narcotics Anonymous Program?" it says, "Our program is a set of principles written so simply that we can follow them in our daily lives. The most important thing about them is that they work." They are simple and they do work.

I didn't always want to sit down with the stepwork and look at myself, my past, my values, my relationships, my faith. But as I progressed through each step and reflected on the work I had done up to each point, I could see changes. Those changes gave me a reason to continue moving forward. And listening to others share at meetings about how the steps were working in their lives proved to me that there is a Higher Power at work in the Twelve Steps.

I like who I am today. I can look people in the eye. Instead of feeling fearful and alone, I have people I can call and depend on; I have the steps to guide me, and I have a power greater than myself in my life. The steps, the fellowship, love, the universe, truth—and a growing faith and trust in that power. This is, if nothing else, a huge relief! Instead of obsessing and trying (and usually failing) to control and needing to be the center of the universe, I have learned through the steps to let go, to allow life to happen, to be of service, and to show my enormous gratitude through my actions.

In our meeting reading "How It Works," it says, "If you want what we have to offer and are willing to make the effort to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps. These are the principles that made our recovery possible." I have taken this message to heart. With the help of the steps and the unbelievable guidance and dedication of my sponsor, I have begun to experience the freedom from active addiction that the program has to offer. I will continue to work the steps in my life on a daily basis, practicing the principles in all my affairs.

Tracy I, Ontario, Canada
Because of its latitude (about 600 miles north of Antarctica), Rio Grande has very cool temperatures year round. The average temperature is about 11 degrees Celsius (about 52 degrees Fahrenheit) during the warmest months (January and February). Frost can occur throughout the year, and summers tend to be cloudy and very windy. Freak snowfalls can even occur in midsummer.

**Picture this**

NA communities are invited to send photographs of their meeting places and events. Sorry, we cannot use photos that identify NA members. Please tell us the group/event name, location, how long it has been in existence, format or special traditions, and what makes it a unique part of your NA community.

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**Sigamos Viviendo**

On Tuesday, 28 August 2012, we opened the first Narcotics Anonymous meeting of the Sigamos Viviendo (Let’s Keep Living) Group in the city of Rio Grande in the province of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, thus becoming what we believe to be the southernmost NA group in the world. All this was possible thanks to a Higher Power, the support of fellow members, and groups like “Amor y Comprensión” (the Love and Understanding Group) from the city of Jose Leon Suarez, the Hurlingham Group from the city of Palomar, the Castelar Group, other isolated groups, and our regional office.

Our group is located in the cultural center, Yaganaes, 319 Avenida Belgrano. We meet on Tuesdays and Thursday at 6:00 pm. At first, the only member who attended the meeting would share via telephone, but by using this important tool, the telephone, other members began to arrive. They then helped by distributing flyers in public places and posting meeting announcements in the local newspaper. One member maintained his anonymity by painting his face like a mime and wearing a costume so he could distribute flyers. We also appreciate the mother of one of our members, who helps and supports us on Thursdays, when our meeting has an open format. We want to thank everyone who contributed to establish this group. We know we can do this—and that it works when we respect our traditions and concepts.

If someday you come around here, you have an NA group that will greet you with love. Thank you and a happy “just for today.”

Leonardo I, Rio Grande, Argentina
WCNA 35 celebrates the 60th anniversary of miracles happening in NA! For the first time along our journey, we will gather in Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. Many of you already know that Philly is a great city whose unique characteristics will help us create a special and unique world convention. This will also be the last world convention in the US until 2018. We hope you will join us for this special celebration of our recovery, diversity, and unity!

29 August — 1 September

REGISTER ONLINE
WWW.NA.ORG/WCNA
Early Bird
Ends 31 January 2013

Part 1—Registration

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Onsite limited registration will be $99

Total Part 1 $ __________

Part 2—Merchandise

No quantity limits prior to April 2013 when we place our merchandise order. Limited quantities and sizes will be available after that date, so please order early!

| Special Coffee Mug | $15 | $15 |
| Screen Printed T-Shirt | $18 | $18 |
| Embroidered T-Shirt | $20 | $20 |

Total Part 2 $ __________

Part 3—Convention Events (limited quantities available)

For the first time, we are pre-assigning seats for all paid events in the convention center. All seats will be assigned by the date of pre-registration (rather than the date you purchase the tickets). If you want to sit with friends, you will need to either purchase a table for the food events or purchase tickets on one registration. Otherwise, you will be seated with friends you just haven't met yet!

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Part 4—Method and Amount of Payment

Part 1 $ _________ + Part 2 $ _________ + Part 3 $ _________ = Grand Total $ _________

METHOD OF PAYMENT IN US DOLLARS (CHECK ONE)

- CHECK/MONEY ORDER
- AMEX
- VISA
- MASTER CARD
- DISCOVER
- DINERS CLUB

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

CARDHOLDER NAME

SIGNATURE

NA World Services, Inc. is not affiliated with any hotel, reservation center, or travel agency listed. We simply enter into contractual agreements in order to provide members with discount pricing.

Pre & Post Events

For WCNA 35, we have two different types of pre- & post-convention events for you to consider and enjoy.

Pre-Convention Cruise

Cruise the warm, crystal-clear blue waters of the Caribbean aboard The Carnival Splendor on a spectacular Adventure of the Seas! Doze under a palm tree, stroll endless white-sand beaches, and explore exciting ports of call. While sailing, discover how relaxing and just plain fun a week in paradise can be with on-board swimming, spa, casino and shows—or bask in the glow of doing nothing. The choices are yours!

The cruise departs from New York City 21 August and returns 29 August early morning. Buses will transport WCNA attendees from New York to Philadelphia for the convention. Ports of call include New York; San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands; and Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands. Friends and family are welcome, but space is limited, so don't wait to book your cruise! For more information about this cruise or other travel needs visit www.montrosetravel.com/wcna or call Montrose Travel at +1/800.301.9673.

Excursions around Philadelphia

We are working with a company that offers a variety of day trips. The company has many offerings which you can find on their webpage created especially for WCNA 35 attendees: https://www.phillytour.com/local-sightseeing-tours/p48. In order to keep the cost as low as possible, you can book these excursions directly with them.

The Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau has been a great planning partner for this event. Look for useful and interesting information about Philadelphia on their website: www.discoverPHL.com/WCNA35.
As an encouragement to those of you who register and book rooms in our room block by 31 January 2013, we will hold a drawing for three free, three-night stays.

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

While we realize many people book rooms on their own, you really help the convention when you book rooms in our room block. Rates may not be available after 25 July 2013. Online reservations generate immediate confirmation. Mailed/faxed reservations receive confirmation within 15-30 days.

**Part 1—Contact Information**

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**Part 2—Room Reservations**

Please help us plan the best WCNA 35 possible by booking your room in our room block! Rooms are assigned when form is received. If first choice is not available, next choice is assigned. Rooms will be added as space is needed. Please check www.na.org/wcna for the most current information. IF MORE THAN ONE ROOM IS REQUIRED, PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM.

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- (SINGLE) 1 BED / 1 OR 2 PERSONS
- (DOUBLE) 2 BEDS / 2 PERSONS
- (TRIPLE) 2 BEDS / 3 PERSONS
- (QUAD) 2 BEDS / 4 PERSONS

- if my room type is sold out, place me in a single-bedded room to keep me in one of my choice hotels.

**Part 3—Deposit**

$200 cash/check deposit or credit card guarantee is required for each room and is charged at the time of cancellation or 30 days before the event. Any reservation cancelled at any time after the reservation is made will incur a cancellation fee (deducted from cash/check deposits or charged to the credit card used to hold the reservation), based on the following schedule:

- **Hotel reservation cancellations made on or before 1 August 2013 will be assessed a $50 cancellation fee.**
- **Hotel reservation cancellations made after 1 August 2013 will be assessed a $200 cancellation fee.**

My signature confirms my reservation requests and that I have read and understand this policy.

**Signature**

**METHOD OF PAYMENT IN US DOLLARS (CHECK ONE)**

- CHECK/MONEY ORDER
- AMEX
- VISA
- DISCOVER
- DINERS CLUB

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We will have children's badges available free of charge for those aged 13 or under, and accompanied by an adult. A non-registered person attending a ticketed event will be provided access to the building for their ticketed event. The Nar-Anon convention, which will be held in the convention center during our event, has its own separate registration. The Nar-Anon registration provides access to the building and to meetings, but WCNA registration badge is required for access to all other non-ticketed convention activities.

We have moved the price of registration closer to what it actually costs to hold this event, but unfortunately, we are not there yet. Special events and merchandise help to make up the difference. For those who choose to help us in our planning and can register before 31 January, we will offer a $20 discount from the onsite price. There is a $10 discount for those who pre-register from February through July. The number of onsite registrations available will depend on our available space. As always, we will have a limited number of registrations for those in their first 30 days. Please help us plan this event by pre-registering when you are able. Pre-registration determines your seating at ticketed events. Pre-registration also affords you access to the onsite merchandise store on Thursday, while those who register onsite are not allowed access to the merchandise store until Friday.

Registration also gives you access to dances each night, “coffee houses” with live entertainment, and all other non-ticketed convention activities.

Or maybe you are asking, why register at all? We have been forced to move to a registration-required event because of the amount of fellowship funds that have been spent and risked to accommodate those who choose not to register. An event held in a convention center or dome has much different costs than an event in a hotel.

While we realize many people book rooms on their own, you really help the convention when you book rooms in our room block. Rates may not be available after 25 July 2013. Online reservations generate immediate confirmation. Mailed/faxed reservations receive confirmation within 15-30 days.

E-mail address: nasubs@na.org
The numbers listed coincide with the hotel map. All prices are listed per night for single/double reservations. Please visit [www.na.org/wcna](http://www.na.org/wcna) for more information.

1. **Philadelphia Marriott Downtown—$167**
   Situated in the heart of Center City, and the host hotel for WCNA 35, the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown commands a towering presence on the city's skyline. The hotel is conveniently connected to the PACC via sky bridge. Dances and meetings will be held in this hotel.

2. **Hilton Garden Inn Philadelphia Center City—$134**
   Located within Gallery Mall, home to 100+ stores and restaurants, and within walking distance of Independence Hall, and other historic sites. Only a block away from the regional rail and subway station linking directly to PHL and Amtrak. Just across 11th Street from the PACC.

3. **Philadelphia Downtown Courtyard by Marriott—$140**
   This historic hotel is located in the heart of the business district across from City Hall and is one short block away from the PACC.

4. **Hampton Inn Center City—$149**
   Located adjacent to the PACC, making it one of the hotels closest to WCNA 35, the Hampton Inn offers all the traditional amenities, along with special touches only found in an urban downtown setting.

5. **Le Meridien—$167**
   A 4-minute walk from the PACC and located across from City Hall, Le Meridien is a stylish hotel with a 4-star rating, and is also just steps away from Love Park and several entertainment, cultural, and arts venues.

6. **Holiday Inn Express Philadelphia-Midtown—$149**
   Within walking distance to a variety of restaurants and high-end shops located on Walnut Street where clothing sales are tax-free! A 2-minute walk to the Reading Terminal Market, and a 10-minute walk from the PACC.

7. **Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel—$149**
   Located just two blocks and a 4-minute walk from the PACC, guests enjoy the convenient location that puts many of Philadelphia’s sights within easy walking distance.

8. **Embassy Suites Hotel Center City—$140**
   A 10-minute walk from the PACC, and an 8-minute drive from Philadelphia International Airport. Amenities include two-room suites, sofa sleeper, and complimentary breakfast.

9. **Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia—$289**
   This 5-star hotel, with historic landmarks within walking distance, scenic views of Logan Square, and tranquil luxury, is a 10-minute walk from the PACC.

10. **DoubleTree Center City—$152**
    Centrally located on the Avenue of the Arts, 9 miles from Philadelphia International Airport. Enjoy views of the Delaware River and downtown Philadelphia, and is a 10-minute walk from the PACC.

11. **Sonesta Hotel Philadelphia—$142**
    Located near Rittenhouse Square, in Center City, this hotel in the business district is near many popular Philadelphia attractions, and is a 15-minute walk to the PACC.

12. **Holiday Inn Historic District—$145**
    A 15-minute walk from the PACC, this recently refurbished property is also a short walk to many of Philadelphia’s historic attractions.

13. **The Ritz Carlton—$189**
    This spectacular marble replica of Rome’s Pantheon is near City Hall and the business district. This landmark hotel exudes the past’s gracious ambiance while pampering guests in modern luxury.
NA in Russia

On 17-19 August 2012 Moscow hosted the Twenty-Eighth European Convention and Conference of Narcotics Anonymous (ECCNA 28). Two years before that, in 2010, the Russian NA community recognized its 20th anniversary. As we come of age, we gratefully share our story with The NA Way Magazine.

The first Russian NA meeting took place in St Petersburg in 1990. For the first couple of years, NA members also went to AA. A story is often told that during this time that a few addicts started an NA meeting, and eventually every one of them relapsed. But things started to change in 1992. That spring, two NA members from the United States came to Moscow. At the time we were quite confused about the nature of our disease and the message of recovery. Suddenly, we had a chance to actually see two “real” members of Narcotics Anonymous. One of them seemed to have come from a different universe: she had 25 years clean! More importantly, those two women were willing to help us set up our first “real” NA meetings.

On 29 April 1992, the first Moscow NA meeting took place—in a drug rehab facility. The two American women who came to Russia went to every meeting until it was time for them to leave the country. After they left, the group went through hard times. There were moments when only two addicts kept coming back to the meeting, but we remembered what the American NA members had taught us: that two sharing addicts make a meeting. Maintaining this belief helped the group survive.

A Moscow member

For about eight years there was no real communication between the two Russian communities in Moscow and St Petersburg. Each city had quite a few meetings at the time, but the service structure was not developing. In 2000 the first business meeting was held where we sought answers to the question, “What is NA group service?” That business meeting was followed by a draft translation of the Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous. This translation helped us understand the key elements of our service structure.

In 2002 a workgroup was entrusted to establish the RSC. This is how it happened. The St Petersburg Literature Committee dispatched me to the ECCNA in Italy, where I spent all my time at the European Delegates Meeting (EDM). As a result, the EDM found out that along with bears, there were also quite a few recovering addicts walking the Russian streets. But they told me that in order to become part of the EDM we had to have an RSC. In November 2002, the EDM held a fellowship development and service workshop in St Petersburg. In the beginning, the idea to set up the RSC was driven by the desire to become a member of EDM. No one really understood then what the RSC was and why we needed it. Russia just wanted to be part of the European NA community.

A St Petersburg member

In April 2003 we founded our first regional service committee, the Western Russia RSC. We launched a fellowship development subcommittee, which began holding workshops throughout the entire country. NA in Russia grew geographically—from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok, from the Barents Sea to the Sea of Okhotsk; Belarus, Ukraine, and other former Soviet Union republics also joined as guest members. Quite often, the RCMs had to travel thousands and thousands of miles to attend the RSC meeting. As we grew, the Siberia and Far East RSC was founded in 2008, followed by the Urals RSC in 2010.

Already when the WRRSC was born, we had this idea that once we had several RSCs, they would come together into a single structure: a zonal forum. As NA in Russia celebrated 20 years in St Petersburg in 2010, this idea was realized. Now with the Russian Zonal Forum, our RSCs’ activities are not separate. The Forum supports the distant areas. We share Western Russia’s experience, and encourage members to evaluate what is best for their needs. This demonstrates the understanding of the need to develop the Russian NA community as a whole, not just a single RSC.

A Pyatigorsk member

The ECCNA 28, which came to Moscow on 17-19 August 2012, was our first international celebration of recovery. During ECCNA 28 we also celebrated the 20th anniversary of Moscow NA. We had convention-related activities like main speaker meetings, marathons and topic meetings, NA service system workshops, and presentations for the newcomer.

We had a fantastic entertainment program packed with concerts, discos, picnics, contests, kids’ fun, and much more. We saw thousands of recovering addicts from all over the world. It took us almost two years to prepare for the event. It was very ambitious for us to take on such a project, but we tried, and we succeeded! ECCNA provided a burst of energy and activity for the entire NA community! Our sense of unity, our understanding of the fellowship, and our willingness to serve were brought to the next level by this experience. We saw that our common work helped us to achieve great results—and that is priceless.

NA World Services records estimate that in 1998, twelve Russian groups were holding 25 weekly meetings. In 2000 there were some 23 groups meeting 85 times per week. By 2005, we had 40 groups holding 199 weekly meetings throughout the entire country. In just five years, NA in Russia had doubled. In the next six years the number of our weekly NA meetings almost quadrupled. According to our “unofficial” data, just for today, we count 263 groups of the Russian Zone holding 716 weekly NA meetings.

In the Moscow region the number of weekly NA meetings has doubled, and in the St Petersburg region it has quadrupled.

We looked forward to welcoming our NA family to Moscow for ECCNA 28 in August 2012—so we could share the joy of living clean in the rooms, the streets, and the squares of this ancient city. We come of age, we mature. There are members in Moscow who have been clean for almost half their lives! But we are still so young. We argue ourselves hoarse, we disagree and form resentments, and our clean laughter flies over the Moscow roofs like a song—“that no addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction.”

A Moscow member
Did you know: **ECCNA 28** was held at the multi-purpose sports arena known as “Druzhba,” which means “friendship”?

Did you know: the Druzhba is located on the Moskva River, less than 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) southwest of the Kremlin? It took a couple members of the Western Russia Convention Committee 8 minutes, 7 seconds to walk to the site from the nearest metro station, Vorobyovi Gori—but it should be noted that it was raining, so they walked fast!

Did you know: two new ECCNA positions were created to communicate with members traveling from outside of Russia? The guest accommodations coordinator arranged the option for traveling workshop and main speakers to stay for free at the apartments of some 50 local members. The visa coordinator organized the visa process, providing instructions and “insider” details and services.

Did you know: the ECCNA 28 logo was designed in the style of the Khokhloma, the ancient Russian decoration style painted on wooden tableware and furniture? Khokhloma are traditionally black and gold against a red background, but the ECCNA 28 design used traditional NA blue and white.

Did you know: the theme, “Nothing to Fear,” was selected from 15 alternative slogans.

Did you know: 40% of ECCNA 28 attendees came from Russia, 40% were from European countries, and 20% traveled from other parts of the world?
The Service System Project was created to take an overall look at how to improve local services and address some of our long-standing challenges in service delivery. This is the third cycle of the project. For this conference cycle, the World Service Conference approved a plan with two main focuses: field testing and further discussion of some of the ideas in the SSP that need clarification.

We’re calling this a “field test,” not a formal “beta test,” because we are limited by the nature of the test and our time frame. Several communities are providing feedback on their experiences implementing the ideas in the proposals, and we are encouraging anyone interested in trying out any aspect of the proposals to contact us and let us know how we can help. We started the field test in November 2012, and we hope to complete the process by the end of July 2013, which will allow time to include a summary in the 2014 Conference Agenda Report. Although our field test has some limitations and it’s not possible to conduct a truly “scientific” test, we have already learned a great deal and we expect the process will provide important information for us to move forward. For more information on field testing, including several resources/tools that have been developed, see the Field Testing Frame and Tools sections at www.na.org/servicesystem.

There are also some aspects of the proposals that still need to be clarified, such as how to adapt the system to meet the needs of particular communities (such as larger and smaller NA communities), how literature distribution and fund flow might operate in a revised system, the role of zones, WSC seating, etc. For more information on discussions slated for this cycle see the “Ongoing Discussions Related to the Service System Proposals” document in the Related Materials section at www.na.org/servicesystem.

As always, we welcome your questions or concerns. Also, if your NA community is trying any aspect of the proposals such as GSUs, consensus based decision-making, etc., please share your experience with us by emailing servicesystem@na.org. We need your help translating the ideas in the proposals into actual practice on a local level. Updates about the project will be posted online as they are available at www.na.org/servicesystem.
Traditions Book Project

There’s a lot of excitement and many ideas about this project! During this two-conference-cycle project, we hope to achieve broad-based consensus in 2012-2014 by gathering fellowship ideas, input, and source material. After that, we will develop a plan to draft the book during the 2014–2016 cycle.

To encourage discussion and gather input, there are workshop resources and an online input form at www.na.org/traditions. We encourage NA communities to hold workshops, submit their input to the World Board, and provide feedback to us on the workshop materials at worldboard@na.org. And we hope all members will share their ideas and experience using the online input form.

We also plan to create a discussion board for the project which should go live early in 2013, and to frame solicitation of more specific experience on the traditions later in this cycle.

In addition, we would love to receive copies of any traditions resources you and your sponsor/sponsees are using to include with the input. Please send those to us at worldboard@na.org.

An Introduction to NA Meetings IP Project

Nearly five years after its initial publication as a service pamphlet, we are offering An Introduction to NA Meetings for review and input so that it can be included in the Conference Agenda Report for Fellowship approval. On the project webpage, you will find the following resources:

- Online input form
- Cover Memo
- Pamphlet in both current SP layout and review format
- www.na.org/intro

Please send us your input at worldboard@na.org or submit it through the online form.

Living Clean: The Journey Continues

As Narcotics Anonymous launches into its sixtieth year, we are also celebrating publication of our newest book, Living Clean. This collection of our experience, strength, and hope explores recovery in our daily lives, in our relationships, and in our service to others. Throughout 2013, we’ll include Living Clean excerpts here in The NA Way, demonstrating that “the therapeutic value of one addict helping another is without parallel.”

We have many beginnings throughout our recovery. Early on we learn that we can begin our day again at any time. As we progress, we learn that we can always begin a new journey in recovery, and we can start over whenever we need to. We don’t need to blow up our lives to get a fresh start. We may think we are done when, in fact, we are just getting started. When NA has given us all we have asked for, that’s the beginning of a new story for us, a new chapter. The achievement of our goals is a new beginning on our journey…

Chapter Three, “A Spiritual Path”

Together we rise to the point of freedom. We need one another to get there, and one of the most beautiful things we do in the fellowship is support one another in pursuit of our dreams. Sharing our hopes and our successes is as much a part of carrying our message as sharing our fears and difficulties. We have a message of hope to carry. It’s a gift and an obligation…we also find we are able to stay put, follow through, and live the lives we create. Our recovery is something we can trust and believe in. New beginnings are possible anytime we are ready.

Chapter Two, “The Ties That Bind”
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.)

**Denmark**

Esbjerg 1-3 Mar; Syddanmark Area Convention; Praestegardsskolen, Esbjerg; www.nasyydmanek.dk

**Germany**

Berlin 3-5 May German-speaking Region/Berlin Area International Convention; Berliner Stadtmuseum, Berlin; www.binac.de

**India**

Maharashtra 15-19 Jan; Bombay Area Convention 15; Mohili Meadows Resort Mumbai; Mohili Meadows Resort; www.nabombay.org

2) Tamil Nadu 7-9 Feb; Chennai Area Convention 4; YMCA Yelagiri, Chennai; www.chacna.org

**Mexico**

Distrito Federal 28-31 Mar; Mexico Regional Convention 16; Hotel Metropol, Distrito Federal; www.namexico.org.mx

**Nepal**

Surkhet 9-11 Feb; First Sukhet Area Campout; Rara Foodland, Birendranagar; surkhetas@gmail.com

**Norway**

Tysil 13-17 Mar; Tysil Group Ski and Recovery 7; Tysil Group, Tysil; www.nanorge.org

**Philippines**

Cavite 25-27 Jan; Philippines Regional Convention 18; Angel’s Hills, Tagaytay; www.nparc18.weebly.com

**Thailand**

Chonburi 22-24 Feb; Thailand Regional Convention 6; Asia Pattaya Hotel, Pattaya; www.na-thailand.org

**United States**

Alabama 18-20 Jan; Central Alabama Area Convention; Renaissance Montgomery Hotel, Montgomery; Info: 334.315.0133

2) 8-10 Feb; North Alabama Area Convention; Holiday Inn Downtown, Huntsville; Info: 256.874.4083

3) 29-31 Mar; Greater Mobile Area Convention 16; Mobile Marriott, Mobile; Info: 251.751.7849

Arizona 8-10 Mar; Mexico-Arizona-California Convention 4; Shilo Inn, Yuma; www.maccna.org

Arkansas 8-10 Feb; Texarkana Area Convention 28; Austin Hotel & Spa, Hot Springs; Info: 903.244.0513

California 18-20 Jan; San Fernando Valley Area Convention 18; Burbank Airport Marriott, Burbank; www.nasfv.com/convention

2) 22-24 Feb; Central California Regional Convention 21; Bakersfield Marriott, Bakersfield; www.cceinc.org

3) 28-31 Mar; Northern California Regional Convention 35; Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara; Hyatt Regency Santa Clara; www.norcalna.org/nccna.php

4) 29-31 Mar; San Diego Imperial Counties Regional Convention 28; Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, San Diego; www.sandiegona.org

Florida 5-7 Apr; Triple M Group Men’s Spiritual Retreat 5; Cedar Kirk Camp & Conference Center, Lithia; Info: a123dtg@yahoo.com

Georgia 21-24 Mar; Georgia Regional Convention 32; Jekyll Island Convention Center, Jekyll Island; www.grcna.org

Indiana 8-10 Mar; Indiana State Convention 20; DoubleTree, South Bend; www.naindiana.org/events.php

2) 29-31 Mar; Kentuckiana Regional Convention 27; Clarion Inn, Evansville; Info: 812.305.2872

Kansas 5-7 Apr; Mid-America Regional Convention 30; Holiday Inn, Lawrence; www.marcsna.net

Kentucky 25-27 Jan; Louisville Area Convention 23; Ramada Plaza, Louisville; Info: 502.693.8678

Maryland 14-16 Jun; East Coast Convention 17; Washington College, Chestertown; www.eccna.org

Massachusetts 25-26 Jan; South Shore Area 27th Anniversary/World Services Workshop; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brockton; www.nema.org/events

Michigan 28-31 Mar; Detroit Area Convention 21; Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit; www.michigan-na.org/dacna

Minnesota 12-14 Apr; Minnesota Regional Convention; Holiday Inn & Suites, Duluth; www.naminnesota.org

Nebraska 22-24 Feb; Close Encounters of the Clean Kind 26; Marriott Regency, Omaha; www.nebraskana.org

Nevada 19-21 Jul; California-Arizona-Nevada Area Convention 21; Riverside Resort and Casino, Laughlin; www.canana.org

2) 1-3 Mar; Region 51/North by Northwest Area Dopes on Slopes 10; Cedar Breaks Lodge, Brian Head, Utah; www.nxwwana.org

New Jersey 18-20 Jan; NE New Jersey Area Convention 17; Renaissance Woodbridge, Iselin; www.nanj.org/njconventions.shtml

2) 15-17 Feb; Greater Newark Area Convention 7; Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel & Conference Center, East Rutherford; www.nanj.org/njconventions.shtml

New York 18-20 Jan; Nassau Area Convention 10; Hilton Long Island Huntington, Melville; www.nacna.info

2) 1-3 Feb; Finger Lakes Area Convention 25; Holiday Inn, Waterloo; www.flana.net

3) 15-17 Feb; Metro Area de Habla Hispana Convention 8; Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains; www.mahih.org

4) 22-24 Feb; Rochester Area Convention 19; Radisson Hotel, Rochester; www.rochestery-na.org

North Carolina 22-24 Feb; Freedom by the Sea Convention 12; Sea Trail Golf Resort & Convention Center, Wilmington; www.coastalcarolinaarea.org

Ohio 1-3 Feb; Toledo Area Convention 2; Grand Plaza Hotel-Downtown, Toledo; www.blascna.org/

2) 1-3 Mar; Cleveland Legs Area Convention 10; Holiday Inn, Independence; www.naohio.org/Statewide%20Functions.htm

Oklahoma 18-20 Jan; Norman Winter Convention; Holiday Inn, Norman; Info: elizabetha777@aol.com

2) 15-17 Mar; Circle of Sisters Convention 16; Marriott Southern Hills Tulsa; www.circleofsisters.org

3) 12-14 Apr; Oklahoma Regional Convention 27; Sheraton Reed Center, Midwest City; www.okna.org

Rhode Island 8-10 Feb; New England Regional Convention 15; Hyatt Regency, Newport; www.nema.org/events

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South Carolina 25-27 Jan; Upper South Carolina Area Convention 33; Marriott, Greenville; www.crna.org

2) 15-17 Feb; Greater Columbia Area Recovery at Work 12; Marriott Resort & Spa, Hilton Head Island; Info: 803.479.4896

Tennessee 5-7 Apr; First Midwest Tennessee Area Convention; DoubleTree, Jackson; www.mwtna.org

Texas 1-3 Feb; Tejas Bluebonnet Regional Convention 13; Hilton Houston North, Houston; www.tbrcna.org

2) 14-17 Mar; Rio Grande Regional Convention 24; Marriott, El Paso; www.riograndena.org/trcnaxxiv

3) 28-31 Mar; Lone Star Regional Convention 28; Hilton DFW Lakes, Grapevine; www.lsma.com

4) 5-7 Apr; Southeast Texas Area Convention 2; MCM Elegante, Beaumont; www.setacna.org

Utah 1-3 Mar; Region 51/North by Northwest Area Dopes on Slopes 10; Cedar Breaks Lodge, Brian Head; www.nxnwana.org

2) 14-17 Mar; Northern Utah Area Convention 20; Davis Conference Center, Layton; www.northernutahna.org

Virginia 1-3 Mar; Tidewater Area Convention 12; Marriott, Chesapeake; www.tidewaterareana.org

Washington 7-10 Mar; Clean & Free Convention; Ocean Shores Convention Center, Ocean Shores; www.wnima.org

Coming Soon

German

It Works: How & Why
Es funktioniert: Wie und Warum
Item No. GE-1140  Price US $8.10

NAWS Product Update

Living Clean: The Journey Continues
Commemorative Edition
Features full-color leatherette cover, detailed stitching, debossed NA logo, foil-stamping, and gilded edges. Limited quantity collector’s edition is hand-numbered, & includes a unique magnetic bookmark.
Item No. 1155  Price US $30.00

NA: A Resource in Your Community
2012 Version
Item No. 1604  Price US $0.35

Arabic
الأمور المالية الدعم الذاتي في زمالة المدمنين المجهولين
Item No. AR-3124  Price US $0.48
أين تذهب أموالنا التي نتبرع بها في السلة
Item No. AR-3128  Price US $0.32

Greek
Basic Text
Ναρκομανείς Ανώνυμοι
Item No. GR-1101  Price US $7.50

Hungarian
Basic Text
Narcotics Anonymous
Item No. HU-1101  Price US $7.50

Italian
Social Media & Our Guiding Principles
I Social Media e I Nostri Principi Guida
Item No. IT-2207  Price US $0.28

Norwegian
A Resource in Your Community, 2012 Version
En ressurs i ditt lokalsamfunn
Item No. NR-1604  Price US $0.35

Polish
A Resource in Your Community, 2012 Version
Zasoby w Twojej społeczności
Item No. PL-1604  Price US $0.35

Swahili
Nani, nini, jinsi gani, na kwa nini
Item No. SH-3101  Price US $0.22
Je mimi ni mraibu?
Item No. SH-3107  Price US $0.22
Kwa mgeni
Item No. SH-3116  Price US $0.22
Karibu kwenye Narcotics Anonymous
Item No. SH-3122  Price US $0.22

Turkish
An Introductory Guide to NA
Adsız Narkotik’e Giriş Kılavuzu
Item No. TU-1200  Price US $1.80

A Resource in Your Community, 2012 Version
Toplumunuzda Bir Kaynak
Item No. TU-1604  Price US $0.35

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All sales are final and quantities and sizes are limited to stock on-hand.

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