

Share the Miracle

In a workshop at the second Multi-Zonal Service Symposium (September 2016; Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA), members were asked to share their personal experience in response to the prompt: “Describe how our message was carried to you and how that inspired you to serve NA.” Excerpts of their writing are shared here.

In the early 1990s, I was part of a small group of recovering addicts who were convention junkies, and we were beginning to get involved in service. One weekend, we all jumped into a car and drove to somewhere in Mississippi for a thing called the Southern Zonal Forum. We were all welcomed as participants and we all had an equal voice and vote. We didn't argue and we learned a lot. We are all still clean today and we are all still involved in service. One served on the World Board, one was a World Service Conference Cofacilitator, another serves on the Human Resource Panel, and two of us are regional delegates.

Tim C, Kentucky, USA

Many years ago, I was at an AA conference in St. Louis and I started seeing people at nearby restaurants wearing different badges. I found out they were in town for the World Convention of NA, so we ventured over to the NA convention and found a new home! Until then, my husband and I had participated in both fellowships, but we were of service only in AA. After our WCNA experience, we started to help NA grow in our community and we became involved in NA service exclusively. So, thanks to WCNA, I will serve NA until the day I die!

Sally J, Illinois, USA

After lying in the hospital for two weeks fighting for my life, some people came in and shared about how I didn't have to live this way anymore... For that I am responsible, in kind, to do the same and maybe make a difference in someone else's life like the profound change that occurred in my life.

I got clean and found NA when I was living in a juvenile facility. When I was released and moved back home, the NA community there was comprised of three older men, myself, and three meetings. The NA members taught me about the program, reaching out, sharing, and being of service. I started a young people's meeting when I was 16. I watched our NA community grow, young people stay clean, more meetings start, and our area being formed over the next few years. That same NA community welcomed me home years later when I came back from a relapse. There are now seven meetings, many members, filled service positions, and the message is being carried. That is why I serve.

Kelsey E, Wisconsin, USA

I joined a home group and went to my first area service committee meeting with someone who was a group service representative. I was hooked from there on. I witnessed the example of imperfect people doing the right thing to help keep alive and maintain what gave meaning and purpose to many who would otherwise be dying from addiction. I wanted to be a part of that.

Dell E, Tennessee, USA



Long before I found my bottom, NA was calling me. I remember every night at 3:00 am, the radio would blare, “Do you have a drug problem? We can help.” When I finally reached the point where I had to do something, the helpline number from that public service announcement is what helped me get to NA. I've been doing public information/public relations service since I had just a little over a year clean, sharing NA information at schools and recovery fairs, and assisting hospitals and institutions in making its connections. Funny how that 15-second PSA saved my life and has allowed my desire to grow, stay, and serve.

Brian F, Ohio, USA

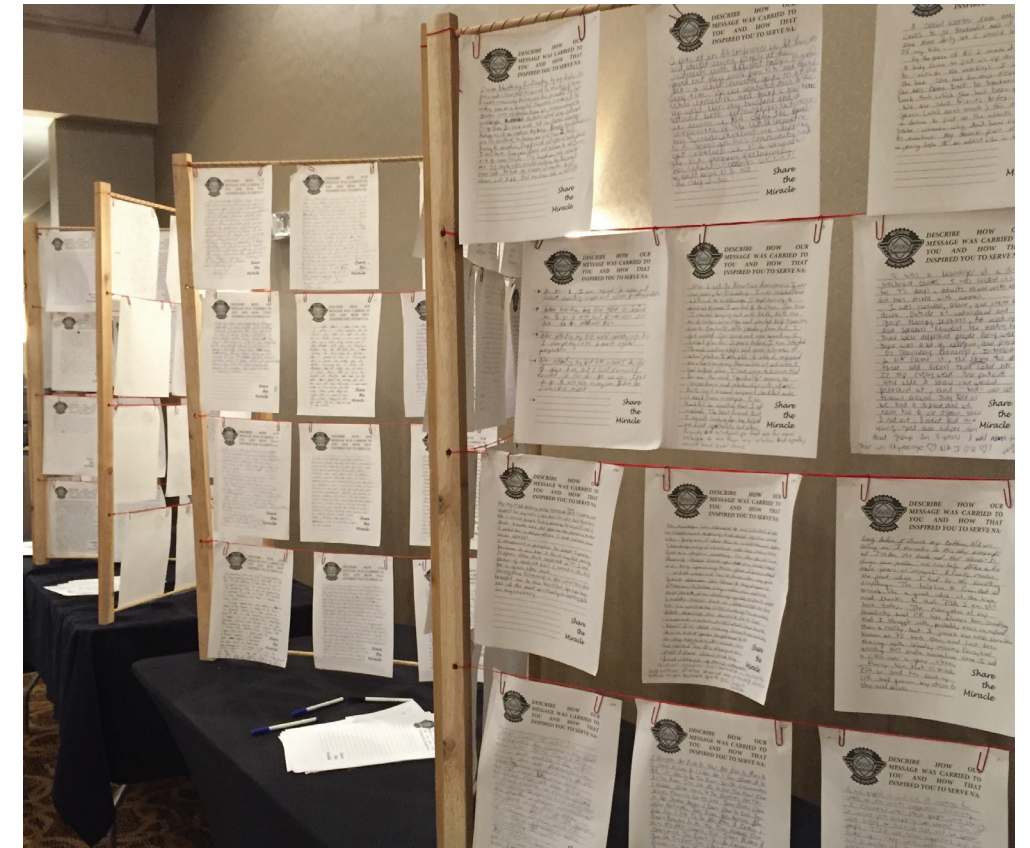
Early in recovery, while I was still in treatment, I went to a book study where the section “Who's an Addict?” was read. They would read a little and then share—and they were all talking about me! I said, “What's going on here?!” An older gentleman leaned over and said, “That's right, boy, you're in the right place. You just keep coming back!” A man told me that however many times I used, that was how many meetings I would need. I laughed and said there weren't that many meetings! His sponsor turned to me and said, “Then you need service.” And I've been here, doing service ever since.

Larry C, Texas, USA

When I first attended group conscience meetings, I had no ability to make a decision, let alone to believe I had a right to an opinion. I picked a member with nine years clean and always voted the way he did. Then one day, I had my own opinion that was different from his. I raised my hand and I was allowed to speak my own thoughts. I found my voice, I found myself; I mattered! Twenty-six years later, this still applies. My sponsor taught me that sometimes when I stand on principle, I may stand alone. Yet I am never truly alone because our principles are spiritual.

LeaAnne H, Texas, USA

I was in a long-term treatment center, and one of the ways to get out to an NA meeting earlier than everyone else was to make coffee and set up for the meeting... for the first time in my life I felt a part of something.



I came to NA on paper and just wanted to get through my signatures. Somewhere along the way, I began to understand I had finally found a place where I belonged. I wanted everyone to have a chance at the fire I felt inside. I starting being a sponsor and soon sat on the area service committee. I became vice chairperson and participated in public relations and policy and procedure efforts. I loved it so much and had such a great mentor in our area chair that I inquired about regional service. I was amazed to be elected as our region's alternate secretary and then as alternate delegate. I have loved learning to carry the conscience of my region. This is the most selfless position I have ever held. It has given me so much humility and truly turned me into a person that I—and others—love to be around.

Sam B, Texas, USA

I'm gay and I grew up in the rural Midwest, never, ever fitting in... As an introvert, I appreciate being a part of something bigger than myself—on my terms. NA offers service opportunities appropriate for each of us, no matter what.

Facing prison, I sought NA to make myself look better to the judge. The prospect of being clean didn't really appeal to me. Had I known then that I would still be here, I'm not sure I would have walked into that first meeting. Sponsorship steered me to service work early on, starting with hospitals and institutions. Every time I participate in a meeting or H&I panel, I find new gratitude for the program and those who went before me. As a member, it is my responsibility to help make sure NA is here for the future.

Misty K, Iowa, USA