No matter what
PR follow-up

2020 World Service Conference!
Blood, sweat, and tears
From the editor

It occurred to me that the funniest comedians share stories and observations about simple day-to-day thoughts and events: family encounters, marriage, parenthood, education, and careers; typically mundane daily chores or errands, growing up, discovery; and, of course, relationships and love. These are also subjects of poetry, songs, books, movies and theatre, as well as what we share about in meetings, with our sponsors, in our Step work—and here in The NA Way Magazine, our “meeting in print.”

Although self-support and our Seventh Tradition in NA have a lot to do with money, time, and service, it also applies to what we contribute of ourselves. So, a heartfelt thank you to those of you who share your experience in The NA Way and to all who pass along the magazine to others. If you haven’t yet sent your NA Way submission, we know you have something important, inspiring, or funny to share, so we warmly invite you to invest in your recovery and that of others. Just write what you would say in a meeting and we’ll take care of the details to make it ready to print: naway@na.org.

It’s this spirit of sharing and giving that we identify with and benefit from in NA. We are each responsible for giving to NA. We help cultivate a culture of giving back so newer members understand the impact of our personal contributions of money, time, service, and spirit. We are not all writers, directors, comedians, poets, or playwrights, but we all have something to give, and when we give, we invest in our vision.

There is a spiritual satisfaction in freely giving to support the fellowship that saved our lives. We give what we can, knowing that our contributions become part of a worldwide effort to share recovery. (IP #24, Money Matters: Self-Support in NA)

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.
The full fruit of a labor of love

I was lost for months. It was clear that it was time to move on from my previous sponsor, but I had found myself stuck in fear and complacency. Maybe it was okay that she wasn’t calling me back. Maybe I was asking too much of her to go over my Stepwork. I would tell myself that I was the problem. Maybe I was too needy. Either way, I knew I had to move on; it just wasn’t working. I had to push fear aside and find courage to start reaching out.

Then, I found her. She was amazing, and I knew immediately she was the one. Her consistency in the program, her passion for service, her ideas and information were exactly what I was looking for. It was like I had found my sponsorship soulmate! We would talk for hours about things I didn’t understand; she always directed me to the literature and I would just push along. We would talk about my struggles with my daughter—she had three. She was the best mom I had known to that point. We would talk about my husband and she had had three of those, too! She was there for me whenever I needed her; she was my rock. I was so lucky that I had found the perfect sponsor. Though she may not have been perfect, she was perfect for me.

It wasn’t long before she told me about this exciting idea she had (at least, I was excited about it). She decided that she was going to do a video conference call for all the women she sponsored, together. There were 14 of us and we were spread across three countries and five time zones. I was excited about reaching out and building relationships with people outside my own area. As excited as I was, I don’t think I realized how much work that was going to be for her—having to find time to go over each Step with us individually and also setting up video dates and times that would work for everyone, everywhere. It was a lot. It took a toll on her. She spent countless hours on the planning and organization. I can barely get my eight sponsees together, much less 14! But again, her incredible dedication and passion made things that seemed impossible possible.

It wasn’t long before she told me about this exciting idea she had (at least, I was excited about it). She decided that she was going to do a video conference call for all the women she sponsored, together. There were 14 of us and we were spread across three countries and five time zones. I was excited about reaching out and building relationships with people outside my own area. As excited as I was, I don’t think I realized how much work that was going to be for her—having to find time to go over each Step with us individually and also setting up video dates and times that would work for everyone, everywhere. It was a lot. It took a toll on her. She spent countless hours on the planning and organization. I can barely get my eight sponsees together, much less 14! But again, her incredible dedication and passion made things that seemed impossible possible.

It’s important to note that when this woman first agreed to sponsor me, she told me that she had cancer. She made it very clear to me that her illness did not define her. She didn’t want me to discuss it with her or anyone else. “Don’t ask me how I’m doing. I’ll let you know when you need to know,” she said. I respected that, and never asked her about the progression of her disease. I realize now that having her sponsees do this round of Steps as a group was her way of preparing us for when she passed. She wanted us to have each other to lean on when the time came.
Together we went through all Twelve Steps. It was an experience like no other. I was able to see my own growth, think differently, and even start becoming the mother I had always wanted to be. Though it was my eighth cycle through the Steps, I was excited about doing something new. I love our new Guiding Principles book and wanted to work the Traditions. I knew she had so much information in that brain of hers, and I just wanted to soak it up! But every time I asked what was next for me, she would change the subject and say we could do that, but for now let’s just stay in Steps Ten, Eleven, and Twelve. Disappointed, I would say okay, and I’d ask again in a month or so. Every time, same thing.

What she hadn’t told me was that she was sick again, and this time it was for the last time. I will never forget the day I got that text. I was at my area service committee meeting and I had texted her that morning to ask if she was alright and to tell her that I missed her and hoped we could link up soon. She texted me back, “My situation has changed. I am sorry I have to tell you through text. Call your sponsee sisters and they will explain more.” Words cannot describe the way I felt in that moment. My stomach had just been pulled through my throat, and as I heard the update from my sponsee sister, I fell to my knees and sobbed. She was leaving us. We didn’t know when, but she was leaving. The cancer had progressed too far, and the medication wasn’t working. She was going into hospice care.

Every day I dreaded looking at the phone when it rang for fear that it was the day she had decided to let go. And then I got the call asking if I could come, that she wanted to see me. I don’t think I’ve ever made it through two states so fast! I was ecstatic that I had been given that opportunity to hold her hand and tell her how beautiful she was. Even though she was nonverbal and was in and out of consciousness, I knew she was there with me and that everything was going to be okay. It was the most amazing moment of this whole process.

“I had a million questions.”

I was drowning in fear. I had a million questions. I wanted more than anything to go see her and give her a hug. We all planned to go see her in two weeks but, unfortunately, after nine days her family said she had progressed so quickly that she couldn’t see anyone. I thought I had lost my opportunity. I thought I was never going to be able to say thank you for all she had done for me. She came into my life at a time when I was lost, and even though I was only with her for a short period of time, it was the most growth I had had in my process. Never had I been challenged like that. Never had I had someone so experienced push and pull and guide me along, not only as a member of Narcotics Anonymous but also as a member of my family, my job, and my community.

She sponsored 13 other women, and we decided to have one of our beloved video calls that our sponsor fought so hard for us to have. We discussed our feelings and thoughts surrounding all of this, and we were there for each other. All of the work she did for us to feel connected and supported came together that day. We may not have had her, but we had each other. On that call we asked each other if we knew why she might still be holding on, if there was anyone she might be waiting to see. None of us could think of why she was still hanging on. We ended that call at 4:19 pm and she passed at 4:20. I believe she was holding on to make sure we were going to be okay, that she was waiting until we got together. For you see, “The full fruit of a labor of love lives in the harvest, and that always comes in its right season…” It had become the right season, and the seeds she had planted just blossomed into the ripest fruit.

Today marks 55 days since she has been gone, and I am surviving. I have asked another woman to sponsor me because I refuse to let this disease isolate me and keep me stuck sponsorless. Not a day goes by that my sisters and I don’t talk, and while I may have lost my sponsor, I gained a network second to none. I have been reaching out to so many wonderful people for support. This was the most difficult pain I have had to endure in my recovery. The sadness is sometimes overwhelming, and I miss my sponsor. I miss picking up the phone and chatting. I miss seeing her smile. But I know without a shadow of doubt, if I had to do it all over again, I would still choose her.

D’Lanor H, Massachusetts, USA
Successful Twelfth-Step call

A call came in to the phoneline last night from an addict fresh out of treatment seeking a meeting. Thursday is usually my night for Stepwork/self-care, but he lived in the next town over, so I told him I would pick him up and get him to a longtime meeting that I had not been to in a while.

As I followed my GPS, I found myself in an area that I hadn’t visited since I got clean almost eight years ago, taking a right turn onto a street that I knew all too well. And as I neared the address, a smile came to my face and gratitude filled my soul. I literally parked in a spot where I had once waited three hours for my dealer to meet me. I firmly believe that my Higher Power wanted me to be the addict to pick up this newcomer and take that right turn last night. I was in the loving, caring hands of a Power much greater than myself who told me that taking that right turn was just what I needed to do to shed yet another vestige of my past.

We had a great night. The conversation was light and centered in gratitude. I learned that his sponsor is one of my very favorite people in the world, someone I often call on when we have a Twelfth-Step call. The meeting was full of good friends and turned out to be a lively speaker-group anniversary meeting. The newcomer collected his 30-day keytag and was “loved up.” One of my oldest friends in recovery celebrated seven years. On the way home, we talked about the NA service structure, group service positions, where the basket money goes in our worldwide Fellowship, and the language we use in NA and why. He asked questions and soaked it all in, leaving my car with a clear sense of inclusion and gratitude.

When I forget my primary purpose, I will recall nights like these. Thank you, NA, for showing me the way; and thank you, public relations service, for giving me the opportunity to fulfill my purpose.

There is no such thing as a ‘failed’ Twelfth-Step call. Even if our prospect doesn’t get clean, we have accomplished two purposes. We have planted the seed of recovery in the mind of the addict with whom we have shared our experience, strength, and hope. And we ourselves have stayed clean another day. Rarely does a recovering addict leave a Twelve-Step call with anything but a deep dose of gratitude.

Andrew S, Connecticut, USA
Help and hope

It has been no less than six years since I got clean and started practicing the Twelve Steps. My path from addiction to NA is not different from that of addicts around the world—the highs and the pain. I can hardly recollect the days when I had progressed to becoming a full-blown addict because every time I used I would tell myself, “I am just using to enjoy this moment.” Soon, I found ten years of “moments” had passed. The search for the first high made me use again, but I could never find it; all I got was some bitter experiences of life, which was no better than hell. Every time my addiction got deeper, it took away every bit of my morality, leaving me emotionally broken, helpless, and frustrated. I was so sick and tired that I wanted to end the cycle, but I did not know how to do it. I tried every means from medical treatment, suppressing the dose and shifting chemicals, but nothing I tried worked.

Then I came across this NA Twelve-Step program. Initially I did not believe it would be helpful, but I just gave it a try—and yes, it worked. It worked slowly, but it worked. Sometimes it was hard, but always another recovering addict like me pulled me up. This cycle of helping one another helped me a lot, so as time passed, I learned to be freer and more open to the program, and a time came when I started enjoying being clean and free. I started to dream of a better life for the future like that of so many others, hoping I could bring my life back; but life had bitter plans for me.

Suddenly, I started having health problems. I had a severe intestinal problem, which broke me again. I could not think properly, and all I was doing was visiting one doctor after another. Medicine was not working, and the illness made me feel frustrated, helpless, and hopeless. However, the hope I had built up through the NA program helped me to believe that this, too, would pass. And it did pass—not completely, but I am back on my feet again, trying to regroup the pieces of my life. I am very thankful to the program because it was the only thing that motivated me—and, of course, my higher power, which always pushed me ahead whenever I felt broken.

Anonymous, Darjeeling, India

Be the we

I recently celebrated one year clean. At a meeting I went to in Washington, DC, last night, something amazing happened that made me really feel the hand of my Higher Power in my life.

A friend carved the message “Be the We” on a billiard ball for me for my one-year anniversary. I took it with me to my meeting last night to show to people and pass around. And I noticed that the meeting leader was wearing a pin that also said “Be the We.”

Toward the end of the meeting, I thanked the leader for his share and I talked about how much I loved that particular meeting because my mom had gotten clean in DC in the 1980s. I could imagine her being at this meeting. She died 5 May 2011, while still clean. I was there holding her hand when she died after she had been in a coma for three and a half weeks.

When I talked with the leader after the meeting, he said that at some point toward the end of the meeting the pin had fallen off his shirt without him even noticing. I had an overall feeling of peace and serenity that night, and I believed that the “coincidence” of the leader wearing the pin and it falling off were signs of my mom being in that meeting with me. I always feel like she is around, but I really believe she and my HP had a part to play in that pin falling off that night. After the meeting, I wrote a poem about how I feel my mother and my Higher Power in my life.

This past year has changed my life and me so much. I don’t normally open up to people in my life about the fact that I’m in recovery or about myself in general, but I just wanted to share the magic I felt last night. I feel this NA magic in my life every day by working a program and being guided by something greater than myself, which has helped me to stay clean this past year.

Rachel D, Virginia, USA

No matter what

Nineteen years ago today (28 July 2000), I woke up in rehab. I had reached the beginning of my end. My soul was broken, hopeless, and desperate. Every Monday night this mismatched bunch of weirdos would come to the rehab for an NA meeting—but I loved those weirdos! They saw me. They knew me. They were me. I saw someone celebrate 100 days clean, and I could not for the life of me fathom how a person could not use for that long. The idea seemed preposterous and impossible.

A lot of time has passed and a lot of things have changed since I came to NA 19 years ago. The first book I bought back then was the Fifth Edition Basic Text. I gave it away to someone years ago. I now have a Sixth Edition, which is not as old as these two books—Just for Today and the NA Step Working Guides. The Just for Today is from 2000.

When I first got here, it would take another ten months and four relapses for me to finally concede defeat, but I never left NA. I stayed. I was always welcome even when I was high and talking bullshit, even when I was eleven years clean and a danger to others and myself because I would allow the disease to manifest in other ways. No matter what. No matter what.

Leanne B, Durban, South Africa
Basic caption contest winner

Thank you to everyone who participated in the basic caption contest!
The winning submission is from Daniel U, New Jersey, USA

*My toolbox is only working when it is open.*

And some other notable entries:

Survival Tools for Addicts.
Larissa R, Colorado, USA

Tools not rules.
Dawn P, Montana, USA

Tools for a clean life.
Anonymous, Nova Scotia, Canada

It begins with the Basic Text.
Kyla M, Oregon, USA

EN: The secret is at the next meeting.
PO: O segredo esta na proxima reunião.
Antonio B, São Paulo, Brazil

Don’t wait for the movie; read the book!
Cynthia B, Washington, DC, USA

The next BCC

Here’s your chance to participate in The NA Way Magazine in a whole new way. What do you think the 30-day and multi-year keytags are saying to each other? Write a caption for this image, send it to us, and you’ll be magically entered in our caption contest. We’ll choose the best (and maybe a few others) for publication in an upcoming issue. Your prize will be the satisfaction of seeing your name in The NA Way!

Email your entry with “Basic Caption Contest” in the subject line, and be sure to include your name and where you’re from in the body of the email: naway@na.org.
We’ve got a new book in the making!

Visit the landing page for the Spiritual Principle a Day (SPAD) Book Project at www.na.org/spad where you’ll find:
- Principles and quotations to inspire you to write on your own or host workshops
- Up-to-date information about Fellowship review and input (R&I)

How do we practice spiritual principles?
Members’ experience forms the very fabric of each entry drafted for the SPAD book project. We weave together your submissions to create literature that’s truly ours. Visit www.na.org/spad for selected quotations to inspire your writing or to use in a workshop setting. Consider planning regular get-togethers with your friends, sponsees, or home-group members to contribute to this effort, or working through your local service body to form a project-based workgroup or ad hoc committee.

Submit your writing on these principles by the end of February 2020:
Authenticity • Awareness • Courage • Freedom • Hospitality
Inclusiveness • Integrity • Patience • Prudence • Self-Acceptance

Review & Input, Batch #2:
- 45 new entries on 8 more spiritual principles
- The preface including our list of 83 spiritual principles
Let us know what you think about these new drafts!

Deadline: 1 March 2020

You can submit your input online (www.na.org/spad),
by email (spad@na.org),
or by mail (SPAD; 19737 Nordhoff Place; Chatsworth, CA 91311 USA)
FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Everything we do to strengthen our groups and members can be considered Fellowship development (FD). Articles and information in this FD section often highlight NAWS PR and FD trips that help to start and/or grow NA in new places. We cover larger service learning days/symposia that attract members from beyond regional, state/province, and national borders. And we sometimes highlight new NA literature translations. All of these are examples of FD activities. In this issue, we cover the first-ever Multi-Regional Service Learning Days, organized in September 2019 by the Midwest Zonal Forum. And there’s a local effort in the Southern Utah Area for members to learn about and be of service—and all you need is 24 hours clean to participate.

First Multi-Regional Service Learning Days

The Multi-Regional Service Learning Days (MRSLD) inspires the magic that happens when members gather to share their diverse experience and best practices to serve the still-suffering addict and fulfill our primary purpose. Regions of the Midwest Zonal Forum worked together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the assembly’s purpose to inspire participants and instill in them the joy of service by collaborating, mentoring, and learning together.

The first MRSLD was held 13–15 September in Racine, Wisconsin. Members from all over the world were welcome to participate. We opened the event on Friday morning with a public relations event with professionals. That afternoon, we welcomed a World Board member and NA World Services staff, who provided several sessions over the course of the weekend. Workshops covered everything from how to start an area to planning, the Tenth Concept, how to create a service workshop, the current Issue Discussion Topics, virtual meetings, and dealing with predatory behavior in meetings.

Our theme was “Being a part of… Time to get involved.” The host subcommittee made clocks for individuals to list their service positions on the wall to show that we all contribute to our NA communities. Of course, some people needed more than one clock! We were excited to welcome 200 registrants, and we were able to maintain a prudent reserve for the next event as well as make contributions to NA World Services and the Midwest Zonal Forum. We had so many more in attendance than we had imagined we would have. Our spirits are full and our service hearts are reignited.

Dez G, Wisconsin, USA
Midwest Zonal Forum

For more information about MRSLD, including audio recordings of workshop sessions, please visit www.mrsldna.org.
**BST: The most important members in service**

Our first Southern Utah Area Convention (SUACNA) was in 2008. We had a small area, and many of the first committee members had never even been to a convention. We rolled up our sleeves, we joined in unity, and SUACNA was born. In 2009, we had so many newcomers that the committee decided we would develop a convention subcommittee that would attract newcomers. The cleantime requirement was set at 24 hours and our Blood, Sweat, and Tears (BST) Team took off with enormous success.

The BST Team is responsible for convention service all year. They set up and tear down for fundraising events throughout the year, leaving every facility cleaner and in better repair than before our events. At the convention, BST Team members greet arriving members and help carry luggage to their rooms. They set up and take down chairs, and some of them shadow subcommittee chairpersons to learn and to help them in their work. At our workshop and main speaker meetings, they act as greeters and make sure all doors are opened and closed quietly so as not to disturb ongoing meetings.

After the second year, BST T-shirts were made to identify its members at preconvention events and at the convention. They are excited every year to receive their T-shirts, and they wear them proudly. Our BST members have been and are a blessing and a gift for our area. In my opinion, and that of many others, they provide the most service and are the most important members who serve. Many members in our area who started BST as newcomers found sponsors, started working the Steps, went to meetings, were of service, and are still clean today.

Rosanne S, Utah, USA

**Blood, sweat, and tears**

I am in my third year of recovery with a clean date of 26 April 2017. This is the most cleantime I have had since middle school, and I am now 40 years old. I was introduced to the rooms of recovery about five years ago, so I obviously didn’t get the program right away. I think I really just wanted to get over the “hard stuff” and get back to using a little. When I got out of treatment with my certificate of completion, they sent me on my way. I believed I had this thing under control; that is what my disease allowed me to believe. I tried for two years to get a grip on how to use responsibly. I do remember the good, safe feeling of love in the rooms during that time, but I got to that point where I needed to change or die. I was the 30-day-go-back-out-and-use guy. I got a sponsor, but I didn’t call much and I didn’t work the Steps. I used meetings to hear myself share and for the social aspect. I eventually came back to the rooms—my home—desperate for relief from my disease and myself. I was willing to do anything! I went to every meeting I could, even those group business meetings. I asked for help finding a sponsor because I didn’t trust my own decisions.

Then our area convention came, the Southern Utah Area Convention of Narcotics Anonymous (SUACNA). I heard announcements that everyone could help before and at the convention through a group called Blood, Sweat, and Tears (BST). You only needed 24 hours clean to be a part of BST, and you received a free T-shirt. Our local members had this energy about the convention—a sense of pride and excitement—and it was contagious. I wanted to have that feeling of being proud of something again, to feel excited for living with a purpose again. Someone donated a newcomer registration for me to attend the convention. It was such a wonderful feeling to have someone care for me in that way. I went to the BST business meetings, and I signed up for duties at the convention. I also decided to get a home group and chose the most-struggling meeting. I was asked to serve as the door greeter, so I had a new home and a place within it. I was now a member of our NA community. I didn’t have a great history following through with commitments and responsibilities, but BST didn’t care; they gave me a chance.

I was about 60 days clean at that point, still learning how not to pick up, how to feel, and how not to beat myself up. I was battling the voice in my head that told me I was just a junkie and I’d never be able to stay clean, that I was making promises and commitments I would never be able to fulfill. It was a constant battle, but I wanted and needed something different. I saw other members who I knew were junkies just like me, and they kept saying, “Keep coming back! Get a sponsor, get a home group, work the steps, and be of service.”
So, I showed up to the convention early, helped with everything I was asked to do, and attended to things I saw that needed some attention. They gave me the opportunity to run marathon meetings. Some of the marathon meetings had just three people, including myself, but they were great meetings. I was able to be a part of BST, able to work with others, and able to be counted on. I also served as a meeting room greeter, making sure the door didn’t slam or interrupt the speakers, and greeted addicts from all over who seemed to love me just the way I was, just for being there. I saw the impact the convention had on everyone. I listened to the speakers and felt so much hope, love, and connection from NA. I get goosebumps and tears just writing about it now. I felt I was home.

The convention came to an end and I helped clean up rooms with the intention of leaving the place better than it was when we showed up. I didn’t want to leave. I didn’t want it to be over. I felt so good. I remember vacuuming the floor for what seemed like forever, just thinking that I was clean, that I was contributing in a positive way, and I felt accomplished. I had been dead for so long, but now this little seed of love and respect for myself had been planted. It felt good to have something positive starting to grow inside me. BST reminded me that I could be a part of something outside of myself. I could be a positive contributor. I could be someone to count on, and I could show up for others.

I continued going to every meeting I could, including business meetings. I went to the next convention committee meeting and was nominated as BST chairperson. I didn’t have the cleantime required, but I was able to serve as BST co-chairperson. Just knowing that they saw something in me that was worth the nomination was a wonderful feeling. That was two years ago. Today, I work with my sponsor, I work my Steps, and I know I still have a lot of work to do. I am of service. I see all the love there is to experience and that there is a life for me. I am starting to see that there have been times in my life when I was a good person, people could rely on me, and I could be a good influence. My addiction removed all those memories, and my BST service helped me to start getting back those memories. BST gave a broken-down junkie a chance to stand up out of the shadows and be a part of something. Because of Narcotics Anonymous, I get to be a part of the solution rather than the problem.

JR, Utah, USA

Overheard in an NA meeting

Recovering addicts do one thing in moderation—Stepwork.

“… but we may create service boards or committees defecting those they serve.”

“Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who shall suffer.”

What I know about God is, “Tag! Not it!”

My disease has been arrested, but believe me, that b*tch makes bail every day.

AJ H, New Jersey, USA

The NA waltz: Step 1, Step 2, Step 3…and…change sponsors!

Marc G, Wisconsin, USA

I had a slip of the tongue and called a keytag a cleantag when I was doing cleantime recognition. (Sounds pretty cool; maybe it’ll catch on!)

Steve C, Ontario, Canada

“…just that much sooner do we become responsible, acceptable, and reproductive members of society.”

The NA Way Magazine, December 1983

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How do we follow up on PR efforts?

Our members’ public relations (PR) efforts are raising awareness of NA around the world better than ever before, which is thrilling for Fellowship development (FD) because PR is an integral part of FD service. We utilize everything from billboards to public service announcements (PSAs), to professional presentations and flyers or posters, to websites and social media—and these are just some of the methods PR committees use. But, as with most progress, there are growing pains, too. For instance, treatment professionals often reach out to start NA meetings in their facilities after a PR presentation, but sometimes they don’t receive a call back. Miscues like this reveal the need to explore solutions to the challenges we face with the growing public interest in NA. So, how do we address these gaps in our service delivery so we can continue to effectively carry the NA message? It seems that reliable follow-up, strategic use of resources, and establishing a process to take advantage of opportunities may be good places to begin.

To improve our PR service delivery, we can start by implementing a regular follow-up plan in our PR efforts, because maintaining relationships is just as vital to our success as providing information about NA. Those who have participated in PR service know that following up doesn’t always get the attention it deserves—not because members don’t care. Often, this “back-end work” is simply overlooked, but reaching out after a presentation with a “thank you for attending” email or note can add a thoughtful quality to our efforts. This can also go a long way toward instilling confidence that we are serious about NA and that we are committed to making ourselves available. Additionally, following up is a demonstration of our reliability and accountability. As the PR Handbook reminds us, “Communication is listening, following up, and responding; it is how we carry ourselves through our service work and into the public.”

Although PR can create new opportunities for Fellowship development, including hospitals and institutions (H&I) prospects, many NA communities don’t have the resources to accommodate requests that may result from PR services. Making sure that our groups are aware of our efforts and are prepared for a possible influx of new members is essential. And members may respond with more interest in PR or H&I service when they can clearly make the connection with the Twelfth Step, which reminds us to carry the message. Sure, dealing with local governments and professionals may not feel like we’re connecting directly with our future members, but many addicts hear about NA for the first time from these sources. Another idea NA communities may want to consider is whether or not they are allocating their human resources strategically. For example, are some facilities overloaded with a lot of H&I panels while other facilities that want H&I services have none? Even considering whether there is a better way to distribute resources may reveal solutions that may help us carry the message more effectively.

Perhaps the greatest challenge we’re encountering as a result of our successful PR efforts is being able to respond to requests for new meetings. Perhaps the greatest challenge we’re encountering as a result of our successful PR efforts is being able to respond to requests for new meetings. We simply don’t have a systematic way to take advantage of these opportunities. More and more, NAWS receives inquiries from nonaddicts who have heard about NA from various local PR efforts, and who are interested in supporting the start of NA in their communities. Sometimes these interested parties even have a meeting space for a new NA group; however, such inquiries are difficult to respond to because NA members—not service committees or NAWS—start NA meetings. There isn’t a clear way to address these requests in our local service structure. Because we’re encountering this more frequently, now may be a good time to start a conversation that addresses this gap in our service delivery. Maybe we can begin this discussion by asking, “What kind of vehicle in our service structure can help us take advantage of the opportunities we create to start new meetings?”

A discussion at our area or regional service committee meetings might help us consider workable options. Perhaps an upcoming service body inventory is a good way to identify logical steps and resources to tackle these responsibilities.

Addressing the challenges discussed here isn’t anything new. In fact, one of the long-term goals in the NAWS Strategic Plan suggests developing a network of worldwide trusted servants that acts as an effective, consistent NA resource for local governments, professionals, and the media. Seeking solutions with a collective spirit and unified approach can help us make the best use of the goodwill created by our PR efforts. Developing a clear path through our service system that moves forward the opportunities created by PR efforts will be useful now and for future trusted servants as well. Meanwhile, the PR Handbook (PRHB) can be a great resource for trusted servants in NA communities all over the
world. As a collection of best practices from across the Fellowship, the PRHB and PR Basics (both available at www.na.org/handbooks) offer specific recommendations for everything from fulfilling follow-up requirements to Fellowship development.

When the public sees NA as a viable and credible means of recovery, more addicts find their way to our meetings, which makes our PR service integral to Fellowship development as well as public awareness. We encourage you to discuss these issues within your community and with other service bodies that have experience to share. And, as always, we welcome your questions and comments, and we hope you’ll let us know how your NA community meets these challenges (wb@na.org).

Breaking barriers behind the walls

It was on a cold evening in March when the Community Resource Manager (CRM) for California Training Facility Soledad Prison and I were walking to the chapel for the NA meeting. I asked her, “What are the chances of us having a speaker jam here at CTF?” She had a puzzled look and asked, “What is a speaker jam?” I explained the concept and how it could help the members attending our NA meetings here at CTF. She said, “Okay, you’ll have to file a memorandum and detail exactly what you need from us, and we can see if the warden will sign off on it.” And so, the seed was planted. In the following months, after many emails and changes to the memorandum, we had a proposed date and time. That is when the real work began.

The members of the Friday meeting at CTF formed a subcommittee that included coordinators for speakers, volunteers, food and beverage, and program. The subcommittee met once a month. As CTF members began their work, I looked for members on the outside who would be willing to be cleared and come share their experience, strength, and hope.

At our H&I subcommittee, a member suggested doing a sponsorship behind the walls workshop and asking our area to donate NA Step Working Guides to take inside. I thought that was a great idea, but I knew I would need help to make that happen, so I reached out to our sponsorship behind the walls men’s letter coordinator, who was excited about the opportunity to actually go into a prison and put on a workshop. Then I asked our regional H&I subcommittee chair for his input and help with ideas and workshops. As the months passed, and after countless subcommittee meetings, the date, topics, and speakers were finalized. All that was left was to get our outside members’ gate clearances and donations approved by the warden.

And then the big day finally came! On 25 August 2018, the very first NA speaker jam within a California state prison was held at CTF Soledad on North Yard A&B. There were 125 members, including Spanish and English speakers, from both yards in attendance as well as the CRM and 50 outside NA members who were cleared to be part of this special day. My heart was full of gratitude as I watched a member from the inside and one from the outside split a speaker meeting to share their experience, strength, and hope. The event was a great success and was talked about for months—so much so that it was voted to become an annual event.
As time passed and new dates were approved for the 2019 speaker jam, the subcommittee formed again within CTF, but this time they were adamant about having more of a role to help put on their speaker jam. One of the members asked if we could have a fundraiser to help out with costs. I asked if they thought we could get some members inside to donate some artwork or other crafts, and their response was a unanimous “Of course we can, we are members of Narcotics Anonymous!” A smile came over my face as I watched these men practice their Seventh Tradition through their artwork.

In the next few months, artwork from members inside and donations from our groups in the Santa Cruz Area were collected for the fundraiser. The fundraiser was 25 May 2019, and all the funds generated were used for the 17 August 2019 speaker jam. At this last event we were pleased to have NA World Services provide a workshop on what they have to offer members behind the walls. We also had a local comedian and member of Narcotics Anonymous share the healing power of laughter, and, in those moments, there were no walls around us.

I am so grateful to be a part of this time in our Fellowship when we can create new opportunities to practice our primary purpose and carry the message to addicts who still suffer inside and outside the walls of man-made and self-made prisons. I am proud to say that this now-annual event is fully self-supported thanks to members on both the inside and the outside.

Tony D, California, USA

Speaker jammin’ behind the walls

Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP) is a high-security institution in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation system. On 2 November 2019, the Monterey County ASC’s H&I Subcommittee held the first NA speaker jam inside SVSP. Our subcommittee has worked cooperatively with the SVSP staff for many years, maintaining clear communication with administrators such as the warden, the community resources manager, and other staff. So, when we expressed our willingness to put on this event, they were open to the idea, and we worked together to formulate how and when it could take place.

The event we planned was similar to an NA speaker jam. It was modeled after an annual event held at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, California, which is held annually by the Santa Cruz Area H&I team CTF NA coordinator. We are grateful for their experience paving the way.

We covered several workshop topics both in English and in Spanish:

- A NAWS presentation
- Sponsorship
- Twelve-step writing workshop in Spanish and English
- Getting clean and staying clean
- The importance of NA literature
- Preparing to transition home

Following the workshops, we had a cleantime countdown and handed out unofficial cleantime cards. We also had an NA member who provided some stand-up comedy entertainment.

I want to thank all of our local H&I volunteers and those volunteers who traveled more than 200 miles. We are also grateful to the Northern California Region’s H&I Subcommittee members and the commitment and support from NA World Services. I also want to salute our incarcerated NA members who showed up for this special event. This group of women and men showed what we can do as NA members carrying an NA message of recovery.

As we move forward, we must take with us the spiritual principles of Narcotics Anonymous and good communication skills in all that we do. We are planning our second speaker jam next year in November 2020.

Stan A, Monterey County ASC
H&I Coordinator at Salinas Valley State Prison

Steve L, California, USA
CAR, CAT, & WSC?

The World Service Conference brings all elements of NA World Services together to further the common welfare of NA. The WSC’s mission is to unify NA worldwide… (WSC Mission Statement)

2020 World Service Conference
26 April–2 May
Woodland Hills, California

During the months leading up to the World Service Conference (WSC), NA members around the world gather to discuss issues and motions presented in the Conference Agenda Report (CAR) that will be considered by the WSC. Many also review the Conference Approval Track (CAT) material. Find out what happens at the WSC and what to expect in pre-Conference mailings and reports here and at www.na.org/conference.

Project Updates

World Services projects spring from World Service Conference decisions, and the World Board is responsible for each project being completed. They do this by creating workgroups comprised of NA members from around the world. For some projects, the Board engages all interested members through web meetings and focus groups to discuss, review, and create material. The Spiritual Principle a Day (SPAD) Book Project’s current work is updated on page 8 of this NA Way. The other four 2018–2020 World Services projects—WSC of the Future, Training and Tools, "Mental Health in Recovery" IP, and FIPT Operational Rules & Bulletins—are updated here (and in the 2020 Conference Agenda Report on pages 2–3 and pages 10–21; www.na.org/conference).

Web Meetings

Participate in ongoing web meetings hosted by NA World Services to exchange NA service ideas and solutions. Visit www.na.org/webinar for more information and info on how to participate. We need your ideas and input!

Ongoing webinars
- Public Relations: www.na.org/PR
- H&I: Email H&I@na.org
- Local Service Toolbox: www.na.org/toolbox
- Conventions and Events Tools: www.na.org/conventions

Issue Discussion Topics

IDTs are discussed by members in NA communities around the world to encourage deeper consideration of topics affecting our Fellowship. Your conversations can help build unity within groups and service bodies, and can help shape Fellowship-wide resources and services. The 2018–2020 IDTs are:

- Carrying the NA Message and Making NA Attractive
- Attracting Members to Service
- Drug Replacement Therapy (DRT) and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) as It Relates to NA

Visit www.na.org/idt for workshop outlines, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, and other materials for IDT discussions or workshops. Share your discussion results by emailing worldboard@na.org. For a summary of this cycle’s IDTs, click here (or see pages 22–23 of the 2020 Conference Agenda Report; www.na.org/conference).

CAR Survey

Members: Complete the CAR Survey at www.na.org/survey by 1 April 2020. Your input will help frame WSC discussions and decisions on literature projects, Issue Discussion Topics, improving access to materials, and implementing better processes to respond to Fellowship needs: www.na.org/survey.

Special Days in NA

Service Day 1 May
PR Week First full week of June
Sponsorship Day 1 December
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. Please send submissions to naway@na.org.

From: Shigeto O
Sent: Sunday, 1 December, 2019, 5:08 am
To: WorldBoard@na.org
Subject: Thank you, Sponsorship Day!

Dear World Board members,

Hi, my name is Shigeto. I am from Japan. As always, thank you for your service. This is a report about Sponsorship Day in Japan. We discussed how to celebrate Sponsorship Day in our group. Who will come to the meeting? How shall we do it? Everyone shared their ideas in the business meeting.

As a result, we decided to plan a relaxing meeting where we could eat snacks while listening to speakers. On the day of the event, group members went out shopping and prepared the venue, and we all worked together. I read the reading card and we read IP #11, Sponsorship together. After that two members spoke and, after a break, some members shared with an open mic.

We had a lot of experience in this meeting. There were members who experienced the first speakers, members who shared with sponsors, members who started to interact with sponsors again, and members who wanted to find sponsors.

We are very grateful for being able to participate in this event. We are grateful for the day when we felt more unity with our home group and the people who participated.

Thank you, Sponsorship Day!

Shigeto O, Will Group, South Kanto Area, Japan
Bahrain
Manama 12-13 Mar; Our Strength Is in Our Unity; One Season Hall, Manama; event info: +97333382030

Canada
Quebec 6-8 Mar; Youth Convention 24; Holiday Inn & Suites Pointe-Claire, Montreal; https://naquebec.org/

Denmark
Randers 17-19 Jan; Service Conference-Service for 30 Years; Remisen, Randers; https://www.nadanmark.dk/events/nas-30aars-foedselsdag-servicekonference/

France
Bagnères de Luchon 5-9 Feb; First Gratitude at Altitude Ski & Recovery; Gite Skioura, Bagnères de Luchon; https://www.narcotiquesanonymes.org/evenements/

India
Jodhpur 9-11 Jan; Indian Regional Convention 10; Hotel Rajputana Palace, Jodhpur; https://naindia.in/

Norway
Tysril 9-15 Mar; Ski and Recovery 14; Tysril, Tysril; https://nanorge.org/

Philippines
Bacolod City 24-26 Jan; Philippines Regional Convention 25; Sugarland Hotel, Bacolod City; http://www.napilipinas.org/

Serbia and Montenegro
Belgrade 17-19 Jan; Adriatic Regional Winter Convention 11; Royal Inn Hotel, Belgrade; http://www.na-srbija.org/

Thailand
Chiang Mai 21-23 Feb; Thailand Regional Convention 12; Duangtawan Hotel, Chiang Mai; https://na-thailand.org

Ukraine
Lviv 25-26 Jan; Central European Service Symposium; Hotel Rius, Lviv; hotel rsvns: +380979700220; https://na-ua.org/

United Kingdom

United States
Alabama 17-19 Jan; Central Alabama Area Convention 13; DoubleTree Downtown, Montgomery; http://alnwl.org
Arizona 13-16 Feb; Arizona Men’s Spiritual Retreat; Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale; http://www.themensretreat.org
California 17-19 Jan; San Fernando Valley Area Convention 25; Marriott Burbank Airport, Burbank; https://sfvcna.org/
2) 17-19 Jan; Monterey Bay Area Convention 8; Monterey Conference Center, Monterey; http://mbbcna.org
3) 9-12 Apr; Northern California Regional Convention 42; Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara; https://www.norcalna.org/

Delaware 13-15 Mar; Small Wonder Area Convention 14; Chase Center, Wilmington; https://www.smallwonderarea.org/
Florida 16-19 Jan; Palm Coast Area Spiritual Retreat; Riverside Camp & Retreat Center, Fort Denaud; http://www.palmcoastna.org/events
2) 16-19 Apr; Fun in the Sun 42; Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort, Panama City Beach; http://www.funinthesunconvention.org/
Georgia 20-23 Feb; Georgia Regional Convention 39; Hilton Atlanta Northeast, Peachtree Corners; https://www.grcna.org/
2) 6-8 Mar; Recovery in Action & Newcomers Event; Clarion Inn & Suites, Savannah; https://grsca.com/
3) 6-8 Mar; Super Speaker Fest; Hilton Airport, Atlanta; event info: superspeakerfest@gmail.com
4) 9-12 Apr; A Little Girl Grows Up 11; Hilton Atlanta Airport, Atlanta; https://www.alitlegirlgrowsup.org/

Hawaii 17-19 Apr; Oahu Gathering 36; Camp Mokulei’a, Waialua; http://na-hawaii.org/gathering

Indiana 10-12 Apr; Kentuckiana Regional Convention 34; Radisson Hotel, Clarksville; https://kentuckianana.org/convention/

Kansas 3-5 Apr; Mid-America Regional Convention 37; Clarion Inn & Conference Center, Emporia; https://marscna.net/

Kentucky 20-22 Mar; First Winners Group Convention; Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville; https://kentuckianana.net/

Maine 31 Jan-2 Feb; Unity Fest; Ramada by Wyndham, Bangor; https://nnerna.org/

Massachusetts 10-12 Jan; Boston Area Convention 19; Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston; https://jfk445.wixsite.com/bacnaxix
2) 20-22 Mar; Northeast Massachusetts Area Convention 7; Boston Marriott Burlington, Burlington; https://nerna.org/north-east-massachusetts/

Michigan 28 Feb-1 Mar; Circle of Sisters 23; Marriott Detroit Renaissance, Detroit; http://www.circleofsisters.org/home
2) 9-12 Apr; Detroit Areas Convention 28; Motor City Hotel & Convention Center, Detroit; https://michigan-na.org/dacna/

Minnesota 17-19 Apr; Minnesota Convention 27; DoubleTree, Bloomington; http://mnnac.org/

Nebraska 28 Feb-1 Mar; Close Encounters of the Clean Kind 33; Omaha Hilton, Omaha; https://ceck.na-omaha.org/

New York 17-19 Jan; Nassau Area Convention 17; Hilton Long Island/Huntington, Melville; http://www.nacna.org/
2) 14-16 Feb; Metro Area de Habla Hispana Convention 15; Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains; event info: 787.690.5916; write: Metro Area de Habla Hispana, Box 734; New York, NY 10116
3) 12-15 Mar; First Niagara Falls Area Convention; Sheraton, Niagara Falls; https://www.nawny.org/
4) 27-29 Mar; Buffalo Inner City Convention 3; Buffalo Grand Hotel & Event Center, Buffalo; https://www.nawny.org/events
For the third Conference cycle, the World Board included a survey in the Conference Agenda Report (CAR) to help set priorities for recovery literature, service material, and Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs). There is also a section on the future of literature and service tools. We will use your input on some questions to shape Conference discussions on improving access to materials and implementing better processes to respond to Fellowship needs. All survey responses will help frame delegates’ discussions and inform their decisions at the WSC.

Members: Please complete the online version of the survey posted at www.na.org/survey by 1 April 2020.

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**NAWS Product Update**

### 2020 Conference Agenda Report

Contains proposed IP, “Mental Health in Recovery,” World Board motions on the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust and NAWS Strategic Plan, regional motions, essays on topics of Fellowship interest, and a Fellowship survey (see above). French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish CAR: add language code for purchase. Arabic CAR online late January.

*Price includes shipping & handling.* Please order separately from other products.

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### It Works: How & Why

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**Arabic**

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IP #1: მაინც არ მკაცრავათ და შეიყვანეთ
Item No. KA3101  Price US $0.25/0.22 €

Indonesian
IP #23: Tetap Tidak Menggunakan Lagi di Luar
Item No. ID3123  Price US $0.25/0.22 €

Latvian
The NA Step Working Guides
Vadlīnijas darbam ar Soļiem
Item No. LV1400  Price US $9.00/7.95 €

Lithuanian
IP #24: Pinigų reikalai: Sąveš išlaikymas NA
Item No. LT3124  Price US $0.56/0.49 €

Norwegian
NA & Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment
Anonyme Narkomane og personer som mottar legemiddel-assistert behandling
Item No. NR2306  Price US $0.32/0.28 €

Polish
Principles & Leadership in NA Service
Zasady i przewodnictwo w służbach NA
Item No. PL2206  Price US $0.33/0.28 €

Slovenian
IP #14: Odvisnikova izkušnja s sprejemanjem, vero in predanostjo
Item No. SL3114  Price US $0.25/0.22 €

Zulu
IP #9: Ukuphila Ngalolu Hlelo
Item No. ZU3109  Price US $0.25/0.22 €

Portuguese
IP #20: Para os Pais ou Responsáveis de Jovens em NA
Item No. PO3127  Price US $0.33/0.29 €

Portuguese (Brazil)
IP #10: Trabalhando o Quarto Passo em NA
Item No. PB3110  Price US $0.82/0.71 €

Russian
Basic Text (Sixth Edition)
Анонимные Наркоманы
Item No. RU1101  Price US $12.15/10.50 €

NA Groups & Medication
Группы АН и лекарственные препараты
Item No. RU2205  Price US $0.33/0.28 €

Principles & Leadership in NA Service
Приципы и лидерство в служении АН
Item No. RU2206  Price US $0.33/0.28 €

Social Media & Our Guiding Principles
Media społecznościowe i nasze zasady przewodnie
Item No. PL2207  Price US $0.33/0.28 €

2018 Ankieta członkostwa
Item No. PL2301  Price US $0.32/0.29 €
Coming Soon

Filipino
Basic Text (Fifth Edition)
Narkotiko Anonimo
Item No. FL1101  Price US $8.30/7.25 €

Greek
Living Clean: The Journey Continues
Ζώντας Καθαροί: Το ταξίδι συνεχίζεται
Item No. GR1150  Price US $9.55/8.15 €

Lithuanian
It Works: How & Why
Tai veikia: kaip ir kodėl?
Item No. LT1140  Price US $9.55/8.40 €

Portuguese (Brazil)
Miracles Happen
Milagres acontecem
Item No. PB1120  Price US $11.65/10.20 €

Nepali
Basic Text (Fifth Edition)
नार्कोटिक्स एनानिमो
Item No. NE1101  Price US $8.30/7.25 €

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
The NA Way Magazine (ISSN 1046-5421) is published quarterly. There is no subscription charge for this publication. The office of publication and mailing address are at 19737 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA 91311. The editor is De Jenkins. The NA Way Magazine is owned by NAWS, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, and there are no other bondholders, mortgagees, or security holders. The status of this corporation has not changed during the twelve months preceding this filing.

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Certified, correct, complete [Signature]