A Look Back

The privilege of self-support: Who’s responsible for NA services?
OCTOBER 2017
VOLUME THIRTY-FOUR ◆ NUMBER FOUR

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A Look Back

The privilege of self-support: Who’s responsible for NA services?
It’s been a busy week at your World Service Office. Along with the usual whirlwind of weekly work, we announced the opening date for WCNA 37 registration! As conversations focused on next year’s World Convention, I thought of my first WCNA 29 years ago (also in Orlando), and felt grateful for the amazing life I’ve been living in recovery. This NA Way takes a look back at another timeframe: Twenty years ago, after years of an inventory process, World Services underwent a restructuring that also affected The NA Way Magazine. Three boards of directors were combined into one World Board, and a multiple subcommittee structure was replaced by a strategic planning system. Several subcommittee-specific newsletters were deleted, and The NA Way Magazine adapted to provide service information and updates from NA World Services. To mark this 20-year milestone, we’ve included articles from June 1997 (the last in the old format) and October of 1997 (the first in the new format). We had to edit some articles for space and content, but the electronic issue includes copies of the original articles. You can also access all issues from October 1997 to present at www.na.org. We hope you enjoy this look back.

De J, Editor

CORRECTION: In July 2017, we incorrectly labelled a photo on page 10 as being taken in Nigeria; it was actually taken in Liberia. Thanks to Butch F for that correction.

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Electronic subscribers can click here for additional content.

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.
Jimeto

The meeting had already started when he quietly stepped in and surveyed the room. Why did he cross the room and take the seat right next to mine? His style of dress was unusual. He looked as though he had just stepped off an old Western movie set. As he settled into the chair next to mine, I managed, with great effort, to resist the urge to scoot my chair in the opposite direction. I didn’t understand the need I felt to put space between Jimeto and myself, but I suppose it was some sort of fear of those who are different and unfamiliar.

It might have been his long, raven-black hair or his buckskin shirt and laced-up boots (which I later learned he had made himself). His hair grew to the middle of his back. A section of it was wrapped with a leather strap and braided. The rest of his hair hung straight and heavy. He wore faded and tattered jeans, and there was an odor that was not unpleasant, but woody, like the smoke of a campfire.

My error in judgment taught me the difference between humility and self-righteousness. I was very negative and critical. When his turn came to speak, there was a softness in his voice. “My name is Jimeto; I am an addict.” There was a special quality to his speech. I became lost in his words. As soon as he began to speak, I felt pangs of regret about the snap judgment I had made about this strange-looking little man.

After the meetings in the months that followed, I became better acquainted with him, and I recognized the specialness of this man. Jimeto, a Hopi Indian from northern New Mexico, shared with me his love of living a solitary life deep within the thick protection of the Sacramento Mountains. He said he felt at peace with the self-sufficiency of his lifestyle there. He had left the place he loved to be near his ailing mother. After just a few months, he found himself entangled in the sickness of drug addiction that was so prevalent among his family. It was this disease of addiction and his willingness to seek help that brought him into the meeting that first night.

There was another special aspect to Jimeto. He had a spiritual side, one that I would never be able to explain with mere words. I never quite understood it myself. Whenever I talked with him, it was as if those piercing eyes could see into the depth of my soul. Once I asked Jimeto what it was that I was feeling. He laughed and said, “The Creator communicating spirit to spirit.” I wondered to myself if this was the same spirit I called the Holy Ghost.

Jimeto has been gone from the group for several years now, but I have not forgotten my friend or the valuable lessons I learned through him. I am not as quick to make snap judgments about people as I once was. I practice a more accepting attitude toward those who are different from myself. I seem to have torn down many walls of self-righteousness and found in their place a truer meaning of humility within my heart. This is just as the Creator intended: for each of us to be unique, each in our own way. I have my dear friend Jimeto to thank for all of this. It is with love and gentleness that I remember him. I like to think he found his way back into the mountains, that he is at peace and free from the addiction that entangled him.

DM, New Mexico, USA

Click here to see the original article published in The NA Way Magazine, June 1997

e-subscribe to The NA Way & other NAWS periodicals at www.na.org/subscribe
Basic caption contest winner

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Basic Caption Contest! The winning submission is from Laura K, New Jersey, USA

Our lives stretch out before us like a limitless horizon.

(It Works: How and Why, Step Nine)

And some other notable entries:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Basic Caption Contest! The winning submission is from Laura K, New Jersey, USA

Our lives stretch out before us like a limitless horizon.

(It Works: How and Why, Step Nine)

And some other notable entries:

Easy does it, but do it.

Ambush S, Dharan, Nepal

I have felt a disturbance in the Serenity. Someone out there is breaking a Tradition…

Chris C, California, USA

An added gift. (See Just for Today, 25 January.)

Eduardo C, Mato Grosso, Brazil

All those years crashing at sunrise, when the real miracle was being clean and watching the sun come up.

Jim L, Florida, USA

One promise, many gifts.

Uma promessa, muitas dádivas.

Paulo Roberto F, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Service: The silent gift of a spiritual program.

Melissa J, Maryland, USA

Enjoying the Serenity.

Jen Panos, Thessaloniki, Greece

The next BCC

Here’s your chance to participate in The NA Way Magazine in a whole new way. 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.

First Esperanza Convention; San Antonio, Texas

Photo: Gilbert L, Texas, USA

Photo: Dave T, California, USA
Hi to my friends all over the world. My story is the same as anyone else’s. I picked up and used for a number of years, and today I am clean because you have taught me to live the NA way. I am still learning and I want to participate in life.

I have a son who is three years old, and I am a splendid father to him. I am able to give him all the love I didn’t receive as a child. My early recovery was a confusing time. I couldn’t handle the feelings I had, and I didn’t know what to do about my son. I felt so much guilt for not taking care of him. My sponsor (God bless him) taught me that if I didn’t take responsibility for myself and my recovery, I wouldn’t be able to take responsibility for anyone else. I don’t live with my son’s mother, but we have a wonderful relationship. We don’t use our child as a weapon to hurt each other, and we’re both very aware that we owe that ability to recovery.

I haven’t been clean very long. Soon, I will celebrate my three-year NA birthday. It’s a long time for me. NA just celebrated ten years in Sweden, and I was there with all my friends in recovery. Isn’t that a wonderful gift?!

At last night’s meeting, I felt a wonderful sense of gratitude for being restored to enough sanity to learn from my mistakes. Yesterday, before the meeting, I walked through my old neighborhood and met an old friend. He asked me if I “knew someone who had something.” Maybe I should have invited him to an NA meeting, but I didn’t.

Today I will clean my apartment, and tonight I will have my son at home. I’ll be able to make sure we both have a bath, and that I shave, and that we both put on bed-clothes. And I’ll sleep, oh so well. I bet no drug can beat that feeling. I will continue to recover with you in NA, one day at a time. Thanks for helping me live a wonderful life.

Anders S, Sweden

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Should my sponsor be a man or a woman (if I am gay)?

Our informational pamphlet Sponsorship addresses the issue of whether one’s sponsor should be a man or a woman by stating, “...members of the same sex better understand certain issues such as sexuality, family or identity problems, relationship problems, etc.** The pamphlet adds that sponsorship relationships with someone to whom we might be sexually attracted run the risk of distracting us from the program.

These two principles seem to come together well for heterosexual members of our Fellowship, but what if I am a gay man? Should I have a gay male sponsor? This would perhaps create strong identification, but would run the risk of me finding my sponsor sexually attractive and getting distracted. If I pick a straight woman, we identify at the level of whom we pick as partners and we avoid the risk (on my part, anyway) of sexual/emotional entanglement, but straight women have no experience regarding what it’s like growing up gay or male in our society. If I pick a lesbian to sponsor me, there are similar hits and misses regarding identification, with no risk of distraction due to sexual/
emotional involvement. Finally, if I ask a straight male to sponsor me, we are both men, which may or may not create some sexual tension for me, but there is a problem with identification and the risk that he may have conscious or subconscious homophobia. Lesbians have similar, though not identical, conflicts.

Recently, a gay friend with a straight male sponsor told me that he uses his sponsor for help with working the Steps to stay clean, but relies on gay friends to address relationship issues or sexuality.

Our Fellowship felt that the issue of distracting “emotional bonds” based upon gender is one of the few areas that creates a prohibition regarding sponsorship. If our Fellowship truly means to welcome all, regardless of sexual orientation, it is important for us to be sensitive to conflicts that our literature, in its heterosexual bias, creates.

CP, California, USA

Click here to see the original article published in The NA Way Magazine, June 1997

* Editor’s Note: In 2004, IP #11, Sponsorship, was revised in part to better reflect our members’ diversity.

... the way it used to be

The year was 1968. Flower Power was fighting Vietnam while Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, and others were fighting the British Invasion. Motown was selling their “soul.” Captain Kirk was going where . . . and Batman was not a movie. A nation was silently learning that it would never quite get over Kennedy’s assassination. My own world was much smaller.

That summer I played catcher for the Little League champion Cubs. I had a steady girlfriend named Paula. We were both innocent then and had nothing to hide. We simply enjoyed being with each other—sitting on the curb outside or on the couch inside, doing homework, digging the sounds, or dreaming of being grown up. Often on weekends, we’d go to the dance at the local recreation center, ecstatically watching one another while the band played and the white in our clothes glowed like neon under black lights. We had many friends, too. It was a time when people were easy to accept…. And we didn’t seem to worry about who we were, as long as we had fun and were allowed to be adventurous. Later that winter, my life changed course.

I was also curious about drugs and had to try them. Previously, I had flirted with alcohol, until the night I drank way too much. Vaguely aware of my insane behavior the night before, and reeling from acute hangover symptoms, I doubted I would ever fancy getting “sloshed” again. But the side effects of other drugs were subtle to me, and I began changing my lifestyle and friends for the want of them. Within three more years, my life had changed drastically to accommodate my lust to get high. I quit school and got a full-time job because making money meant more drugs. I blindly agreed to share an apartment with a stranger who was much older than me and to sell drugs for him because selling drugs meant more drugs for me. I regularly accepted the consequential hangovers because drinking meant getting high. I was almost 15 years old and out of control, and I had unknowingly crossed the line.

That spring, after enduring the lectures from Mom and the school principal, I reenrolled in school and tried to go back, but I didn’t fit anymore—not in school or with my old friends, or with my family or at the fireside chats. I didn’t even feel like I fit myself anymore unless I was getting high. Thus I recognized that the recklessness of my previous behavior was a problem with identification and the new principles I must unlearn for a long time to come (old dogs and new tricks, you know). Having accepted this way of life for a few days at a time now, I no longer have to suffer the moral condemnation to the living hell we know as addiction…. And we didn’t seem to worry about who we were, as long as we had fun and were allowed to be adventurous. Later that winter, my life changed course.

Eventually my devices failed me as the world around me decided not to participate in my insanity. Even the high began to fail me, as there was never enough to fill the disturbing void inside me that continued to grow. I started feeling the loneliness I had created over the years. At first, playing the heroic loner figure and self-pity comforted me, until my emptiness grew to such dimensions that it was undeniable. The loneliness my soul dwelled in was so vast, so deep, so hollow, and so painful that I cursed the God of the trees and clouds. I begged for help. Through Narcotics Anonymous, a God answered who could ignore the recklessness of my pleas. I surrendered.

I recognized those who had trod the same soulscape I had experienced, and I clung to the hope they shared. Between intermittent bouts of self-centeredness, anger, and self-pity, I began taking suggestions and working the Twelve Steps, trying to replace my weapons with the spiritual principles of the program.

To make amends means to put right. A sponsor told me I should start mending the relationship with myself first, because without a solid standing with myself, I would run the risk of making amends for the wrong reasons. I knew that if I were going to do any justice to this process, I would have to find out where I had crossed that line and start rebuilding a relationship with myself from there. Recovery is a process, indeed.

Throughout my life, I learned many negative principles that I must unlearn as I try to replace them with the ones I learn in recovery. After all, those negative principles compounded each other and fed the desperation and loneliness I sought to escape. And the new principles are the light on the path to the God of my understanding.

In time, by abstaining from drugs and practicing the principles taught in the Steps, I will be able to grow up again. I’m certain I’ll be mending this relationship for a long time to come (old dogs and new tricks, you know). Having accepted this way of life for a few days at a time now, I no longer have to suffer the moral repression I chose through active addiction, and I consciously feel the difference today. And feeling the way I felt in the days before I crossed the line is my goal. Someday I’ll unlearn enough from
addiction to safely bring the champion Little League catcher back. I have hope and faith in recovery.

MS, Florida, USA

What if we held an H&I meeting and no one showed up?

Sad thought, huh? Well, it happened to four of us for almost a year. About six years ago, I moved into a very rural area in southwestern Pennsylvania. The peace and quiet were great—still are, as a matter of fact. Three years after moving here, I ended up in the county jail for a few hours (another story). While I was there, I thought about my H&I commitment in the city I had left, and wondered if my new area had an H&I committee.

A couple of weeks later, I got hold of the local H&I chair. He told me that several years before they had regularly taken a panel into the county jail, but it had folded and they were now struggling to fulfill the commitments they had. Anyway, to make a long story short, after several phone calls and a lot of coffee, we had an okay from the warden to take a panel into the county jail. I had four willing panel leaders and I was feeling great. We were giving it back; we would make a difference.

The first meeting went well. Most of the good old boys in the facility hadn’t heard of NA before, but they listened. After the first month, attendance started dropping. Over the next five months, it went from bad to worse. There was a period of several months when not one addict from the jail showed up at the meeting. Our hearts broke. After a year of minimal attendance, our H&I chairperson called the warden, gave him a phone number to call if anyone requested an NA meeting, and closed our H&I panel.

I felt worse than I had the night I was locked up in that very jail. I questioned my motives. Was I running on self-will? I went to meetings and shared about it. It was at one of those meetings that I saw him—one of the addicts from the jail who had come in the last months we were doing the meeting there. He said he was trying to stay clean, and thanked H&I for making a difference in his life. Wow!

We now do a shared service H&I in another not-so-rural correctional facility. We have four meetings per month and 20 to 30 addicts at each meeting. So, what if we had an H&I meeting and no one showed up? Depends on what you mean by “nobody,” I guess.

David J, Vice Chairperson, WSC H&I Committee*

Send us your NA Way Newsletters and Newsletter Guidelines

Our thanks to NA newsletter subcommittees that added The NA Way to their mailing lists or sent us copies of recent issues. There’s still time to add naway@na.org to your mailing lists and to submit your material (articles, artwork, etc.) to be included in the newsletter issue. If your article is published, we’ll cite your newsletter as the original source, and we’ll link to your service body or newsletter webpage in the electronic version of the magazine (if we have a URL).

We also received some of your newsletter guidelines, which have been uploaded to the Local Service Resources* page at www.na.org/localresources. There’s still time to share your guidelines for others to use and adapt in their newsletter service efforts. Email yours to naway@na.org.

Thank you!

*The resources on this webpage are developed by local service bodies and aren’t approved or endorsed by NA World Services or the World Service Conference (unless clearly designated otherwise). If you have other service resources to share, please email them to fsmail@na.org.
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.

42 years

A then long-term member started our meeting at his home in 1975 and then it moved in July 1977 to the Survivor’s Club (one of NA’s first clubhouses near Studio City). Later it relocated to a church in Burbank, followed by a hospital in North Hollywood, and then to its current location, a bingo hall also in North Hollywood, where it has been holding meetings every Tuesday night since 1988. After keytags and cakes to celebrate recovery milestones, we read that week’s Step essay followed by the leader sharing their experience of working that Step, and then the meeting is open for participation. At the end of the meeting, any newcomer who does not have one is given a Basic Text, and all newcomers receive a phone list and packet of IPs. Attendance varies from 25 to 50 members, with cleantime ranging from brand-new to many with 30+ years. The North Hollywood Step Study Group is also known by some as “The Cigar Meeting” because it is one of the few remaining smoking meetings . . . and several group members’ Step study is accompanied by a good cigar.

The North Hollywood Step Study Group

Sign language translations

Does your NA convention or event provide sign language translations of speakers? And do you record their translation services? If so, we’re reaching out to you to help us better reach out to hearing-impaired and deaf NA members. Sign language translation recordings would be a valuable addition for many NA communities—and you can help us make them available at na.org/localresources. This webpage includes NA service resources and tools from around the world—all made available for you to download and adapt as you wish in your NA community. If you have sign language translations of NA speakers, or if you’re seeking this type of resource, please contact us at fsmail@na.org.
A Vision for NA Service inspires and underpins all of the work we do throughout our NA service system. In this issue, we offer a mixture of service materials, including information on two of the IDTs, Atmosphere of Recovery in Service and Technology and Social Media: Applying Our Principles. In addition, as a part of our celebration of the 20th anniversary of The NA Way in its current format, we’re republishing an article from the October 1997 issue. In it, a member shares his World Service Conference experience from his particular point of view. The last piece in this section is an update on two projects that are developing service tools for local NA communities, and we’ve also included a reminder about ongoing H&I and PR web meetings.

A member’s-eye view of the World Service Conference

I’m just sitting here trying to formulate my report to the region about what happened at the World Service Conference. I’m sure I’ll come up with a businesslike report, but right now all I can think of are the more touching moments of the Conference. Perhaps it was because this was my last year as a participant that I found myself with that lip-quavering lump in my throat, the “I’m going to cry in public” feeling, on more than one occasion—but I don’t think so.

I wasn’t the only one who was moved when the representative from the Philippines appealed to the Conference to get back on track, or when Anthony E, one of the WSO executive codirectors, stood at the podium fighting back tears about Debbie G, a staff member who had passed away at work during the year. I wasn’t the only one who felt transported by joy when a newcomer with 14 days clean asked, “How can I join?” and the whole Conference stood and cheered and told him he already had. I wasn’t the only one who fought back tears when the representative from Japan finished sharing through her interpreter and then stepped back to the microphone to say “I can’t, we can” in English.

There are more things that make up a World Service Conference than are seen later in the parliamentary procedure and motions recounted in the Conference minutes. Maybe some will measure the Conference by what we passed or didn’t pass, but I will measure this Conference in a very personal way by those events and the people who made them happen.

Nick G, Massachusetts, USA
Atmosphere of Recovery in Service

*A Vision for NA Service* looks ahead to the time when “every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service.” The spiritual growth and fulfillment referenced here can be one of the greatest gifts in our recovery, but in order to realize this part of our vision, an atmosphere of recovery in service is crucial. We need NA communities whose members invite and inspire each other to grow.

Unity in service doesn’t just happen. We have to approach service with an open mind and a grounding in the spiritual principles of our Traditions and Concepts—a working knowledge of group conscience, integrity, and anonymity, to name just a few. The friendships we develop in service also strengthen NA unity. Our Basic Text speaks of the necessity for an atmosphere of empathy and recovery in our groups. When we apply what we’ve learned in our recovery to our practices in our service bodies, we create a strong recovery atmosphere there, too.

With this IDT, we would like to hear about your experiences with “spiritual growth and fulfillment through service,” and how we can help others experience an atmosphere of recovery in service. Workshop discussion questions for this IDT invite us to discuss what the phrase “spiritual growth and fulfillment” means to each of us, and to consider questions such as:

- What does an atmosphere of recovery in service look like to you?
- What can you and your service body do to nurture an atmosphere of recovery in service?
- What specific actions can NA trusted servants take to make service more attractive?
- Members enjoy what they are good at. How can we inspire all members to serve in ways that best match their skills and talents?

Resources for this and other IDT workshops are available at [www.na.org/IDT](http://www.na.org/IDT). Please share the results of your workshop notes and results with us at [worldboard@na.org](mailto:worldboard@na.org).

What actions will you take to revitalize the service culture in your NA community?

I will

________________________________________________________________________________________

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You are welcome to take a picture of this card and send it to: [wb@na.org](mailto:wb@na.org)
Technology and Social Media: Applying Our Principles

The widespread use of apps, social media, websites, online discussion boards, and other types of technology presents a variety of opportunities and challenges for us in NA. Many individuals use social media to connect with family and friends, share personal experiences and opinions, and interact with other NA members. And many NA service bodies are either using social media or considering it.

Currently Existing Resources

We have a number of resources to help us use social media productively and in accordance with our spiritual principles, including a service pamphlet that gives practical advice about social media—both for individual NA members and for NA service bodies—and other resources focused on our principles and their application in service. Here are some of the resources currently available:

- Social Media and Our Guiding Principles service pamphlet
- Public Relations Handbook
- PR Basics
- Traditions essays from It Works: How and Why
- Our new book, Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions

Social media are increasingly the means by which people find information, announce events, and share their news. For many organizations, a social media presence has become crucial in a number of ways—bringing members together, informing people about their work, and letting the public know they exist. Nonetheless, for NA members and service bodies, social media can present particular challenges to some of our principles. It can be difficult to maintain individual anonymity and unity as a Fellowship, to name just a couple of the more obvious difficulties we can encounter online.

This Issue Discussion Topic challenges us to consider and discussion questions such as:

1. What are some of the principles that come into play (or perhaps should come into play but don’t) when using social media?
2. What successes can you share about applying these principles while using social media, as an NA member or as a service body?
3. What challenges to applying our principles have you faced when using social media, as individuals or as a service committee, for communication within the Fellowship?

Resources for this and other IDT workshops are available at www.na.org/IDT. Please share the results of your copies of your workshop notes and results by emailing them to worldboard@na.org.

Technology and Social Media: Applying Our Principles

Large Group Brainstorm

What are some of the principles that come into play (or perhaps should come into play but don’t) when using social media?

Large Group Discussion

1. What successes can you share about applying these principles while using social media, as an NA member or as a service body?
2. What challenges to applying our principles have you faced using social media:
   - As individuals
   - As a service committee, for communication within the Fellowship

Small Group Discussion

1. What principles are lacking?
2. Considering the challenge and applying our principles, what solutions can you offer?

Large Group Discussion

1. Has your service body used social media as a public relations tool?
2. What successes and challenges have you experienced?
Toolbox Projects Update

At WSC 2016, participants passed a project to develop service materials. Guided by the results of a Fellowship survey, they selected two focuses for the project: Local Service Toolbox and Conventions and Events Toolbox.

Local Service Toolbox Project

A survey posted on the project webpage asked which two tools were most important to work on first, and the results confirmed the decision to start with a draft of Consensus-based Decision Making Basics and a tool for members involved with rural and isolated service. A draft of CBDM Basics is currently available on the project website: na.org/toolbox.

We have been hosting regular web meetings on rural and isolated service and we believe the ideas shared in those meetings have given us a head start on creating a tool that will have value for those of you serving in rural or isolated communities. Material from these meetings can be found here: www.na.org/ruralservice.

There are currently more than 350 members on the toolbox and rural service contact lists. Please email toolbox@na.org for the toolbox project, or nick@na.org for the rural service meetings, if you would like to be added to those lists.

Conventions and Events Toolbox Project

It has been a number of years since the old Conventions Handbook was retired, and it is time we begin working on some new material that represents current best practices and experiences of our service committees responsible for overseeing these events.

We have held periodic web meetings and we have enjoyed receiving input from many sources. Our current list of interested members includes more than 140 members from around the world. We are encouraged by the participation and believe it will be reflected in the quality of the content of the tools as they are finalized. A draft program tool has been posted on the website for review and input. The next draft tool on money management will be posted for review and input very soon.

Please email conventions@na.org to be notified about these meetings and visit the project webpage at www.na.org/conventions.

Ongoing web meetings: PR and H&I

We also regularly conduct web meetings for PR and H&I. NAWS facilitates the discussions, and the topics come from members involved in PR or H&I. Any member may join; simply provide your name and email address to either pr@na.org or handi@na.org. The next H&I web meeting is 16 November at 4:00 pm PST, and the next PR web meeting is scheduled for 11 January 2018 at 4:00 pm PST.
As NA grows, we continually move toward our vision that one day every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message and find a new way to live. Here are some highlights of Fellowship development (FD) activities performed on your behalf by NA World Services between May and July. We remain grateful for the opportunity to directly interact with those we serve.

- The World Board approved a travel team for the second FD effort in Haiti 11–18 June 2017. The two identified goals were first to present NA to 200 treatment professionals and students at the Seventh Symposium of the Center of Spirituality and Mental Health. The second was to introduce NA to local community workers on the front lines in the relief efforts for Haiti. There are four NA members in Haiti who expressed a desire to start a meeting in a church, and it seems likely an NA meeting will be started.

- The Fifth East African Convention (EACNA) was held in Mombasa, Kenya, 19–21 May 2017. This is the first time the event was held in Kenya, as all previous EACNA have been held in Dar es Salaam or Zanzibar, Tanzania. The Afri-can Zonal Forum was created at a meeting held right before the first EACNA, and NAWS has continued to support an annual gathering of African communities since that meeting. To see the difference in the local NA community from EACNA 1 to EACNA 5 was heartwarming and a vivid reminder of the power of our simple message. We held a meeting of the Swahili-speaking delegates from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zanzibar, and Kenya immediately following the convention to try to advance the work of their translation efforts. They have many drafts and are still settling on creating a common understanding of how to accurately reflect the NA message in Swahili.

- We participated virtually in an area event held three or four times per year in the Badgerland Area (Wisconsin). The event was held at a local coffeehouse and included outdoor and recovery activities. For this audience ranging from newcomers to long-term members, we adapted the NAWS Update, adding basic information on the overall NA service structure. We explained the connection between members, groups, and World Services, and reviewed the strategic planning process, project updates, and ways members can get involved in projects. We were grateful to participate in their unique event, using the technology available to us to participate virtually.

- We attended the Upper Rocky Mountain Convention (URMRCNA) the last weekend of May in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where we did a Guiding Principles workshop and a workshop on the Sixth Tradition. A number of members who attended had never participated in a small-group discussion or Issue Discussion Topic workshop before, and many were energized to take the workshop back to their areas or home groups. Though URMRCNA is a relatively small event for NAWS to attend, doing a workshop at a local convention allows us to reach members we would never otherwise have a chance to interact with. It both puts a face on World Services for people and—at least as important—introduces members to small-group discussion and the workshop format in general.

- The Midstate Regional Assembly was held in Tracy, California, 2–4 June 2017. Tracy is an underserved area with three active meetings per week and an unserved prison, with the closest area 30 miles away in Stockton, which is fractured by different fellowships. There were up to 100 members present at different times throughout the weekend. The Guiding Principles workshop was met with a lot of excitement and interest and was well attended. The NAWS update was informative and exciting for most, and this energy was met with discussion on how to stay in touch with NA World Services. The assembly loved the idea of the various webinars and publications. Given the rural and isolated geography in this region, information from the Rural and Isolated Service webinars was the basis for a third session on Sunday morning. Many members attended and signed up for these ongoing webinars.

In addition to the face-to-face interactions, PR, service material development, and other activities at NA World Services, an important part of our Fellowship development efforts is translations. Some of the pieces published recently are:

- Bengali (Bangladesh) IP #1
- Nepali IP #6
- Kannada IP #16
- Russian White Booklet, revised to include local members’ personal stories, and Russian IP #s 13, 26, and 27.
- Danish Just for Today (Revised to the Sixth Edition Basic Text)
- Irish (Gaelic) keytags
- Spanish NA and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment

We also added to our eLiterature collection two translated Basic Texts: Narcotici Anonimi in Italian and Narcóti-cos Anónimos in Spanish. We have also created a page on na.org to assist members looking for electronic versions of literature. Check it out at www.na.org/elit.

Subscribe to NAWS News for ongoing updates from the World Board.
Calendar flashback

Twenty years ago, the NA Way events listing page changed names from "Comin' up" to "Calendar." What didn’t change was the continually growing number of worldwide events. Back then, although a few listings included an email address (or a long, complex URL for more info), most listed a postal address to write to for more information. Today it’s rare to see a Calendar listing with a postal address . . . but the ongoing growth of NA and NA events endures.

CANADA

British Columbia 31 Oct-2 Nov 1997; Pacific Northwest Regional Convention; Renaissance Hotel Harborside, Vancouver. The 40th PNWCNA will be held this year and will feature a carnival event.

INDIA

Delhi 7-9 Nov 1997; Delhi Area Convention; Bhogal Agarsen Bhavan, near Garth Mukteshwar, Uttar Pradesh. The theme for this year’s DACNA 13 is “Many Lives, One Journey.”

IRELAND

Dublin 17-19 Oct 1997; 13th Irish Regional Convention; The Grand Hotel, Malahide. Wexford Town is the location for 2017’s IRCNA 32.

ISRAEL

Haifa 4-7 Sept 1997; 14th European Convention and Conference; Exhibition Convention Center, Haifa. ECCNA 33 (in the beach town of Portimão, on Portugal’s southern coast) included daily yoga and Tai-chi sessions, a sunset party, live concerts, and a space dedicated to playing traditional Portuguese games.

PHILIPPINES

Manila 16-18 Jan 1998; 3rd Philippine Regional Convention; Santuario de San Antonio; Forbes Park, Makati. Today there are nearly 50 meetings in the Philippines.

UNITED STATES

California 24-26 Oct 1997; Western States PI and H&I Learning Days; Crowne Plaza SFO, Burlingame. This event evolved into Western States Learning Days and then into its current Western Service Learning Days. The 31st WSLD rotated to Monterey Bay, California.


Puerto Rico 11-13 July 1997; Unidos Podemos 8; Isla Verde. NA Puerto Rico gathered for its 27th Convención Unidos Podemos (United We Can) in August 2017.

Tennessee 26-30 Nov 1997; Volunteer Regional Convention; Hyatt Regency, Knoxville. VRCNA is held over the US Thanksgiving weekend each year. In 2017, with a theme of “Recovery Rocks,” VRC celebrates its 35th year.

Wisconsin 24-26 Oct 1997; Wisconsin State Convention; Racine Marriott, Racine. In its 34th year, WSNAC rotates to Oshkosh, WI, hosted by the Inland Lakes Unity Area with the theme, “Together We Can.”
Multiday 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](http://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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Argentina</strong></td>
<td>Cordoba</td>
<td>3-5 Nov; Argentina Regional Convention 25; Hotel Portal del Lago, Cordoba; <a href="http://www.na.org.ar">www.na.org.ar</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brazil</strong></td>
<td>Bahia</td>
<td>23-26 Nov; Brazil Regional Convention 20; Gran Hotel Stella Maris, Salvador; <a href="http://www.convencaoeregiaoabrasil.com.br">www.convencaoeregiaoabrasil.com.br</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colombia</strong></td>
<td>Bogotá</td>
<td>11-13 Nov; Bogotá Area Convention 4; Auditorio Universidad Cafam, Bogotá; sitio.nabogota.org/index.php</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greece</strong></td>
<td>Corinthia</td>
<td>3-5 Nov; The Ties That Bind Us: 30 Years NA Greece; King Saron Hotel, Corinth; nagreece.gr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>1-3 Feb; Indian Regional Convention 9; Hotel Diamond Glory, Mandarmani; <a href="http://www.facebook.com/ircna9">www.facebook.com/ircna9</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ireland</strong></td>
<td>Wexford</td>
<td>17-19 Nov; Irish Regional Convention; Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford; na-ireland.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lithuania</strong></td>
<td>Kaunas</td>
<td>4-5 Nov; Lithuanian Convention; Europa Royale Hotel, Kaunas; lietuvos-na.lt</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
<td>Ilam</td>
<td>10-12 Nov; Eastern Area Convention; City Hall, Ilam; event info: +977.981393636</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>3-5 Nov; Greater Birmingham Area Convention 22; Holiday Inn Airport, Birmingham; event info: 205.902.4987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>30 Nov-3 Dec; Men’s Spiritual Retreat; Serra Retreat, Malibu; mensnaretreat.com</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Colorado</strong></td>
<td>3-5 Nov; Colorado Regional Convention 31; Crowne Plaza Convention Center DIA, Denver; nacolorado.org/crcna</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Connecticut</strong></td>
<td>5-7 Jan; Connecticut Regional Convention 33; Hilton Stamford Place, Stamford; ctnac.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Florida</strong></td>
<td>3-5 Nov; First Forest Area Spiritual Retreat; Retreat at Silver Springs, Ocala; forestareana.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Georgia</strong></td>
<td>23-26 Nov; West End Area Convention 31; Renaissance Hotel, Atlanta; westend.gscna.com</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois</strong></td>
<td>10-12 Nov; Greater Illinois Regional Convention 21; Pere Marquette, Peoria; centralillinoisna.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kentucky</strong></td>
<td>5-7 Jan; Louisville Area Convention 28; nulouisville.net</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maryland</strong></td>
<td>24-26 Nov; Free State Regional Convention 25; Delta Hotels Baltimore, Hunt Valley; fsrscna.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Massachusetts</strong></td>
<td>3-5 Nov; Pieces to Recovery Courage 2 Change; Holiday Inn, Mansfield; n-era.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Jersey</strong></td>
<td>3-5 Nov; NE New Jersey Area Convention; Renaissance WoodBridge Hotel, Iselin; nanj.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New York</strong></td>
<td>26-28 Jan; The Road Home 10; DoubleTree Oceanfront, Atlantic Beach; theroadhomeyna.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North Carolina</strong></td>
<td>5-7 Jan; Spiritually High in the Land of the Sky 33; Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville; spirituallyhigh.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North Dakota</strong></td>
<td>10-12 Nov; Upper Midwest Regional Convention 34; Baymont Inn and Suites, Fargo; umnna.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ohio</strong></td>
<td>24-26 Nov; Unity Weekend 5; Crowne Plaza Cincinnati, Blue Ash; event info: 513.526.6834</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oklahoma</strong></td>
<td>12-14 Jan; Norman Winter Convention; Sheraton, Midwest City; wascohka.org</td>
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</table>
Pennsylvania 10-12 Nov; Delco Area Convention 3; Clarion Hotel, Essington; nadelco.org
2) 16-19 Nov; Start to Live 35; Seven Springs Hotel and Resort, Seven Springs; www.starttolive.org
3) 12-14 Jan; 1st Together We Grow Up Convention; Clarion Hotel, Essington; http://facebook.com/groups/180755792448542
South Carolina 17-19 Nov; Ultimate Convention 2; Crown Reef Resort, Myrtle Beach; tunacon.org
2) 24-26 Nov; Serenity Fellowship Reunion; Sea Mist Oceanfront Resort, Myrtle Beach; event info: 910.840.0809
3) 19-21 Jan; Upper South Carolina Area Convention 38; Greenville Marriott, Greenville; www.crna.org

Tennessee 23-26 Nov; Volunteer Regional Convention 35; Holiday Inn Memphis Airport, Memphis; vrcna.com
Texas 3-5 Nov; Best Little Regional Convention 29; Pearl on the Concho, San Angelo; bigcounryna.com
2) 12-14 Jan; Esperanza Area Convention 4; El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio; eanaonline.org
Virginia 12-14 Jan; Virginia Regional Convention 36; Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke; avcna.org
Washington 3-4 Nov; Washington/N Idaho Regional Service Learning Days; Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church, Walla Walla; wnirna.org
Wisconsin 2-4 Feb; Greater Milwaukee Unity Convention 21; Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, Milwaukee; namilwaukee.org

Call for Potential Speakers
& Speaker Evaluators

World Convention of NA 37
The Magic Is Still Real
Orlando, Florida, 30 August – 2 September

If you or someone you know is interested in being considered as a WCNA 37 workshop or main speaker, please provide the information below, along with a speaker recording, if available, before 31 March 2018. Mailed submissions may include a CD or MP3 recording. Online submissions will receive instructions for submitting an MP3 recording.

Cleantime requirements are five years for workshop speakers and ten years for main speakers. In addition, workshop speakers must be pre-registered for WCNA 37 to be considered.

We are also asking for volunteers with at least five years clean to participate in the WCNA 37 speaker evaluation process. The commitment requires reviewing speaker recordings over the next few months (November 2017–March 2018). If you are interested in serving as a speaker evaluator, send us your information below before 31 December 2017.

I am interested in: ☐ workshop speaker ☐ main meeting speaker ☐ speaker evaluator

first name ____________________________________ last/surname ____________________________________

address _______________________________________________________________________________________

city ________________________________________ state/province ___________________________________
country _____________________________________ postal code _____________________________________
cleandate ____________________________________ telephone ______________________________________

email _________________________________________________________________________________________

If this is a speaker submission:
name of person submitting recording ____________________________________________

submitter’s telephone ___________________________ submitter’s email _______________________________

Complete and submit this form online at www.na.org/wcna or print and send form by post to:
NA World Services - WCNA 37 Speakers; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA
NAWS Product Update

Line-Numbered Basic Text

*Narcotics Anonymous*

This version of the Basic Text facilitates precise identification of text location for review, discussion, and Stepwork with a format that numbers each full sentence in the left page margin.

Softcover with an 8½” x 11” finish size.

Item No. 1101LN  Price US $11.55/10.00 €

Farsi

Guiding Principles:
*The Spirit of Our Traditions*

اصول راهنما روح سنت های ما

Item No. FA1201
Price US $11.00/9.70 €

Danish

*The NA Step Working Guides*

NA’ *Vejledninger i trinarbejde*

Item No. DK1400  Price US $8.50/7.50 €

Papiamento

Keytags: Welcome – Multi-Year

Item No. PM4100 – 4108  Price US $0.53/0.47 €

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e-subscribe to *The NA Way* & other NAWS periodicals at [www.na.org/subscribe](http://www.na.org/subscribe)
Portuguese

Sixth Edition Basic Text
Narcóticos Anónimos
Item No. PO1101
Price US $11.55/10.00 €

Vinyl Color Posters
Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions
Item No. PO9081S – PO9081T Price US $18.50/15.75 €

To Be Discontinued

Sponsorship Gift Edition
Item No. 1131 Price US $20.90/18.50 €

Coming Soon!

2018 Calendar!
Available late October
Get your daily recovery inspiration and encouragement with excerpts from our Just for Today book. 4¼” x 5¼” tear-off pages with easel.
Item No. 9500 Price US $11.75/10.40 €

Russian
Living Clean: The Journey Continues
Жить чистыми:
Путешествие продолжается
Item No. RU1150 Price US $9.75/7.70 €

Arabic
It Works: How & Why
إنه ينجح
Item No. AR1140 Price US $9.00/7.90 €

Spanish
Concordance Line-Numbered Basic Text
Narcóticos Anónimos
Item No. SP1102LN Price US $11.55/10.00 €

Guiding Principles:
The Spirit of Our Traditions
Los principios que nos guían: el espíritu de nuestras tradiciones
Item No. SP1201 Price US $11.00/9.70 €

Bahasa Melayu
Basic Text (5th Edition)
Narcotics Anonymous
Item No. BM1101 Price US $7.90/6.90 €
Pre- and Post-Convention Events

Orlando is the most visited city in the US—and it’s a great fit for an event like ours. Information about Orlando and surrounding areas, and about the Orange County Convention Center is available at: www.visitorlando.com and www.occc.net/Attendee. Stay tuned for more information on pre- and post-WCNA activities.

Post-Convention Cruise to Cuba!

Details are being coordinated for you to set sail for fascinating Cuba where you’ll explore its multifaceted culture, stroll the Malecón, and marvel at the Baroque architecture and cobblestone streets of Old Havana. Besides vintage cars and premium cigars, Cuba offers a world-class art collection at Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. You’ll find mouth-watering fare at local paladar restaurants, dazzling beaches and landscapes, and the Cuban people who are known for their friendly hospitality. For more information, visit www.montrosetravel.com/wcnacruise.

Why Pre-register?

1. Your pre-registration helps us plan an event to best accommodate attendees while prudently using Fellowship funds.
2. Pre-registrants will use new electronic check-in kiosks onsite, which we believe will speed up your registration package and merchandise pick up.
3. WCNA 37 is a registration-required event: a registration badge is required to enter any part of the Orange County Convention Center except the registration area. (Your badge gives you admission to the coffeehouse events, dances, and all other non-ticketed events.)
4. Special events seating is determined by the date of pre-registration (not the date you purchase the tickets).
5. Pre-registration closes 31 July 2018; after that general registration will be available at $125.
6. Pre-registrants have access to the onsite merchandise store on Thursday (general registrants will not have access until Friday).
7. All members who pre-register by 31 July 2018 (without cancellation) will be entered in a drawing for two full convention packages, including registration and all WCNA special event tickets! (Does not include pre-reg merchandise).

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## WCNA 37: THE MAGIC IS REAL

30 August-2 September 2018
Orlando, Florida USA

### Part 1: Pre-registration
(General registration beginning 1 August will be $125)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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**TOTAL PRE-REGISTRATION** $_____

### Part 2: Pre-registration Merchandise

- **Special Coffee Mug**
  - QTY $16 = $_____

- **Embroidered T-Shirt**
  - Men's
    - S
    - M
    - L
    - XL
    - XXL
  - Women's
    - S
    - M
    - L
    - XL
    - XXL
  - QTY $22 = $_____

- **Screen Printed T-Shirt**
  - Men's
    - S
    - M
    - L
    - XL
    - XXL
    - XXXL
  - Women's
    - S
    - M
    - L
    - XL
    - XXL
  - QTY $18 = $_____

**Sub-total** $_____

Florida sales tax:
- x 6.5% = $_____

**TOTAL MERCHANDISE** $_____

### Part 3: Convention Events

- **Blues Luncheon: Thursday, 30 August**
  - Lunch served 11:45 am–12:45 pm
  - Single Seats $55 = $_____
  - Table for 10 $550 = $_____

- **Jazz Brunch: Friday, 31 August**
  - Brunch served 10:00–11:00 am
  - Single Seats $50 = $_____
  - Table for 10 $500 = $_____

- **Comedy Show: Friday, 31 August**
  - 10:00 pm – potentially offensive material
  - Single Seats $35 = $_____

- **Banquet Saturday, 1 September**
  - Dinner served 5:30-6:30 pm
  - Single Seats $65 = $_____
  - Table for 10 $650 = $_____

- **Concert: Saturday, 1 September**
  - 10:00 pm
  - Single Tickets $75 = $_____

**TOTAL EVENTS** $_____

### Part 4: Method and Amount of Payment

**Part 1 $___________  +  Part 2 $___________  +  Part 3 $__________**

**Sub-total** $_____

**Newcomer Contribution** $_____

= Grand Total $_____

Method of Payment in US Dollars (check one)
- CHECK/MONEY ORDER
- AMEX
- VISA
- MASTERCARD
- DISCOVER

**Register online at www.na.org/wcna**

Make checks/money orders payable to WCNA 37 and mail to:
WCNA 37; c/o NAWS; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA

FAX credit card registrations to +1.818.700.0700.
For more information, call +1.818.773.9999 x771
Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (PT).

WCNA reserves the right to refuse or limit any purchase.

Absolutely no cancellations, exchanges, or refunds after June 2018 for registration, merchandise, or events.

To register online, visit www.na.org/wcna

WCNA 37 is a registration-required event. That means everyone must wear a badge to enter any part of the Orange County Convention Center except the registration area. Your WCNA registration badge also gives you admission to the coffeehouse events and dances. All other events require an additional ticket to attend. WCNA 37 begins Thursday morning, 30 August, and ends by approximately 2:00 pm on Sunday, 2 September.