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"Though this custom (of the home group) is not universal, many believe its practice can benefit the individual member as well as the group. For the individual member, it can provide a stable recovery base, a place to call "home," a place to know and be known by other recovering addicts. For the group, it ensures the support of a core of regular, committed members."

The Group Booklet (Revised), page 4

A place to call home

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Many members believe the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous alone offers the sanctuary and security we seek in a place called home. Any meeting they attend is home. Period. End of sentence.

In other areas, the concept of having one home group is as ingrained a principle as going to 90 meetings in 90 days. Some groups have sport challenges against other home groups in their area and region. Others host campouts, picnics, dances, and spiritual retreats. Some even create special group cards to give to home group members when they celebrate their NA birthday. There are members who have their home group in prisons and institutions, and others who rely on *Meeting by Mail* to share in the message of Narcotics Anonymous.

When the need arises, home group members come together to address and resolve controversial issues like violent/disruptive behavior at meetings, the signing of court attendance cards, bringing children to meetings, and prayer.

It was evident to us while compiling this issue of the magazine that there are just about as many meanings and conceptions of "home group" as there are members in our fellowship. We each hold the idea of "home"—whether we think of our fellowship or our group as that home—in the highest esteem. We protect our home and hold it sacred. Home is where we go to take a deep breath and escape the daily static that sometimes can bog us down. Home is where we go to feel "a part of" and to participate in something that is larger than we are. We not only hear the recovery message in our home group meetings, but we have the opportunity to see and experience the principles of recovery at work there. No matter what we have to face in our lives, we know that there is a room—somewhere, someplace—that has a chair, just for us, along with a hug, a smile, and a warm welcome.

That place is Narcotics Anonymous.

That place is our home.





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From the editor

Working on a quarterly magazine can be somewhat disorienting when you consider that today is 11 January 2002 and this issue will not go to press until sometime in late February. So, while I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year, I realize that by the time you read this it will be early to mid-April and some of us will be tasting the sweet success of our New Year's resolutions, while our resolve for others will be slowly diminishing. Nevertheless, I hope that 2002 brings you a year filled with happiness, family, friends, and fellowship.

I found myself having great difficulty choosing articles and photographs for this issue on home groups. We received so many on this particular topic! It was clear that many members feel very passionately about their home groups (as do I). I wish we could receive the number of manuscripts submitted for the subject of home groups on a more regular basis. It was encouraging. However, after realizing that *The NA Way* Editorial Board was *not* going to approve a 32-page issue, I pulled down my editor's hat and got to work. The articles included here are by no means the *best* ones submitted. They simply reflect our attempt to capture a number of different views, voices, and experiences related to the concept of home groups. I hope you find reading this particular issue as engaging as I did while we gathered all the stories.

I want to thank all the members who sent in articles and photos on the home group theme, as well as those members who submit articles throughout the year. *The NA Way* is *your* magazine. It is a team effort, and we cannot do it without your support. Please continue to send your ideas, thoughts, and any other input you may have. As clichéd as it is true: Together we can!

Nancy S, Editor

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 *NA Way Magazine*, published in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish, belongs to the members of Narcotics Anonymous. Its mission, therefore, is to provide each member with recovery and service information, as well as recovery-related entertainment, which speaks to current issues and events relevant to each of our members worldwide. In keeping with this mission, the editorial staff is dedicated to providing a magazine which is open to articles and features written by members from around the world, as well as providing current service and convention information. Foremost, the journal is dedicated to the celebration of our message of recovery—"that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live."

This is home

My name is John, and I am an addict. I came to the fellowship in the Colorado Region 15 years ago. We shared a lot more about home groups back then, as well as taking an active part in recovery by being of service to the fellowship. We do not seem to talk much about that anymore—at least not around here. There are, of course, small pockets of resistance: sponsors who pass on the tradition that “yes” is the only proper response to an NA service request, home groups that share about how great it is to be of service and how it can help us grow in recovery. I thank HP that those factions are holding out and seem to be finding a new life.

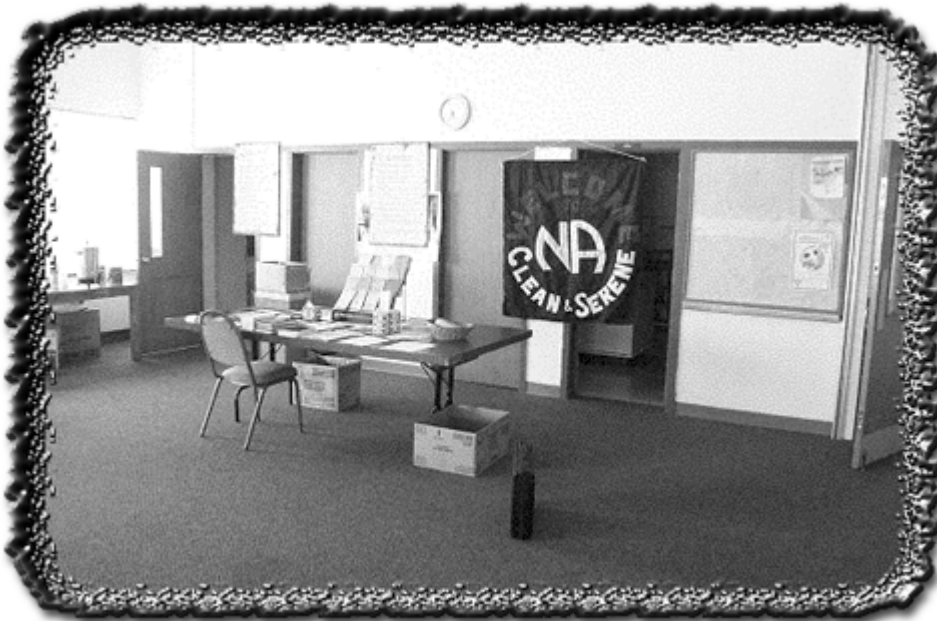
When I came into my home group for the first time, I was greeted by a man carrying two coffee makers. After an awkward attempt to give me a hug, he asked me if I knew how to make coffee. I was new, and at that time I thought coffee just came in a cup when you ordered it. I told him, “No.” He said something like “Follow me. I will teach you how.” I have been a part of that group, my home group, since then. They have always been willing to teach me what I did not know or understand. I just needed to be willing to ask them. They have always been willing to teach me the *how* of Narcotics Anonymous.

I have traveled all over the United States, as well as to other countries, where if I share, I let people know that I am from the best home group in the entire world. I have had people tell me that I was wrong, that their home group was the best in the entire world. My response to them has always been that if you do not feel that way about your home group, you should get another home group!

One of the reasons I believe my home group is the best in the world is because the people, the other members of my home group, have loved me and cared for me when I could not have done those things for myself. They have seen me through the death

of my mother. They were there to comfort me when my daughter was acting out in her active addiction, and they shared her fourth year clean with me. They have stood by me through career changes and personal spiritual hiatuses. There have been times when I did not want those people around because I wanted to wallow in my self-pity, and they had the audacity to love me and care for me anyway. They have been there for me, and the only way I can ever think of to repay them is to be an active part of my home group.

Fifteen years later, some of the faces have changed. Some of the people who were there when I walked through the doors have moved on, and some are doing more research. Some have died, some clean and some using. Nevertheless, the feeling is the same. When I walked through those doors, I was given the opportunity to become a part of a group of recovering addicts who knew that, if we stuck together, we could all recover from the disease of addiction. A



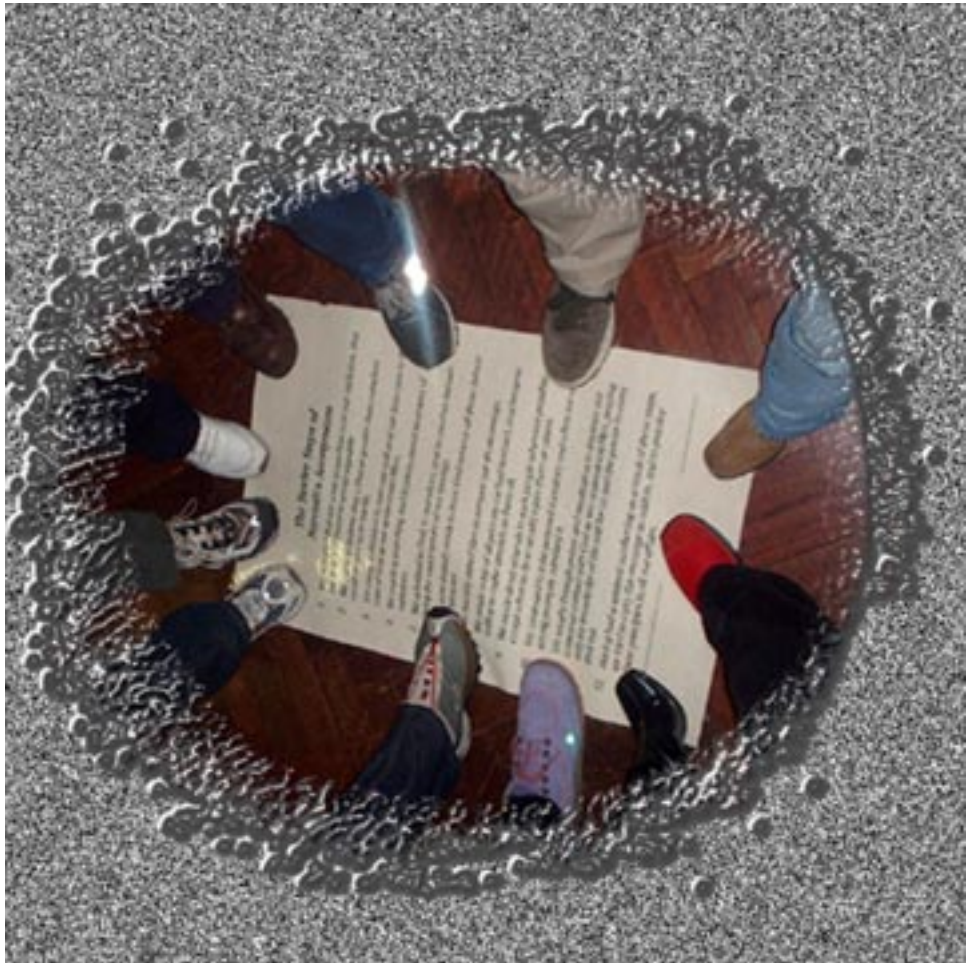
Clean & Serene Group, Colorado

handful of original members and I continue to practice by example what that man with the coffee pots taught me: unconditional love.

My home group has grown and shrunk at times—from more than 185 active members, and I mean people who were there every Sunday night taking part in everything the group did, down to ten members hanging on for dear life. We are more stable today, and our meetings run around 50 to 60 addicts, with at least 20 of them being home group members. We have always reached out our hands to the newcomer, and I have heard the newcomers share countless times that they felt welcomed when they attended our meetings, and they knew from that experience that Narcotics Anonymous was the place for them. It is one of the reasons I'm so grateful to have this meeting as my home group. I even have heard people mutter about how we could almost hold an area meeting at my home group because most of the members of the area service committee are members of my home group.

This is just my opinion, but I believe it is important to share the concept of "home group" and how it has affected me with my sponsees. I always have wanted to be a part of something or to have a loving family, and if I could not have that, then a peace movement, a motorcycle gang, *anything* would do. I have found that loving family in my home group. My wish is that every member of our quickly growing fellowship finds the same thing for himself or herself. If any of the people reading this have ever felt alone or outside of life looking in, I hope they find in this fellowship, a home group they come to believe is the best home group in the world, a place where they can learn the *how* of this program in a loving and caring environment.

John R, Colorado



Stepping into Recovery Group

Bournemouth, Dorset, United Kingdom



Shiraz, Iran



A different kind of home

My home group and my commitment to it are very important to me. I go to my home group to see the other group members and my sponsor. Every week after the meeting, my sponsor and I spend what is for me a special time—we sit and talk. If he's not there, I get to talk with another group member and receive their experience, strength, and hope.

Since my home group is in an institution, every week I am reminded of what will happen to me if I use. It isn't hard to think it through while seeing the "lucky ones" sitting in those hard chairs. Although the meeting generally holds roughly 75 people, our home group consists of only four or five group members surrounded by a sea of newcomers, so, for me, it is a small, intimate group.

Three of us have long-term commitments to the group; mine is three years, and the other two members both have over ten years of clean time and commitment to the group. Recently, when the member with the longest clean time celebrated a recovery anniversary, he thanked me and the other long-timer for being there. Our presence and commitment to the group helped him with his clean time. It was quite moving to see as he then proceeded to walk to each of the group members and give us each a hug.

Going there on a regular basis has been very affirming. One of the group members, not my sponsor, tells the group how he gets to see miracles in NA and points to me. At first it was an "ah, shucks" moment, but now I agree because I know I am no longer that insane woman who walked through the doors almost three years ago. I even get to enjoy the joking at my expense because I know they love me.

A couple of months ago we almost closed the group because of the waning membership, but we didn't. Some people believed that the meeting would better serve as an H&I meeting. I'm grateful the vote didn't go that way.

To drum up more support whenever possible, I think of creative ways to welcome folks to my home group when asked if anyone has an NA-related announcement. For instance, I might say at a meeting where there is a five-minute limit on sharing, "If you want to go to a meeting where you can 'take a meeting hostage,' come to.... because we generally don't limit the sharing time!" I'm finding that it works.

I've even gone to members at other groups and personally invited them to come to my home group. If they've come to a few of my home group's meetings, I invite them to then become home group members. One of them took my suggestion and is now a group member.

As I've said in some of my announcements, "Come to.... if you want to hear a solid message of recovery." While the latter may not be true for others, it is for me, and I'm grateful to call myself a member.

Anonymous, New Jersey

NA'marante Group, Amarante, Portugal

The NA'marante Group meets on Friday evenings in Amarante, Portugal, located north of the city of Porto. The group started its meetings over four years ago. This is a very special meeting because we don't know of any other meeting like this around our area. The room has a big table around which all of the members sit. It seems like a family meeting around the dinner table. Visitors love our meeting and always want to come back! People sit close to each other, and you can see everyone's face. This creates a very nice atmosphere of friendship and warmth. There are only a few recovering addicts in this city, but the room is often full of visiting members from other groups, particularly Fafe and Vila Real.

*Thank you and another 24 hours!
NA'marante Group, Portugal*



Home away from home

My home group is, first, the Fellowship of NA as a whole. I can go anywhere and find a meeting. When I walk in, there will be a comfortable, friendly atmosphere where I know I will be accepted for who I am and the disease I have, and that gives me a warm feeling inside.

However, I do need a second home group for more stability, a place to be helpful and responsible to others with the disease of addiction. A home group is a place where I feel needed and wanted by other humans. I get to meet other members—new acquaintances, friends, and people I can count on—as well as get hugs and understanding.

When the group needs support, we have a group conscience and pray to our Higher Powers for guidance and strength. We also ask the area service committee for ideas or input. Other addict members' input or advice comes from a variety of backgrounds, which helps a lot.

Our primary purpose is to have a meeting place where the doors are open for the addict who suffers and those recovering from addiction. Our secondary purpose is to share our strength and hope—there is a way to recover from active addiction.

Thank you, NA, for the suggestions and a new way to live life. I also have to thank my Higher Power for the guidance and help I have today. Thanks for giving me hope.

Dan J, Minnesota

Finding home

Nearly 7½ years ago, when a very few of us started our Narcotics Anonymous community in Iran, we did not realize how our God-given program would touch and change so many lives. Our first meeting started on a Wednesday, and today my home group is still that same meeting, called the Pioneer Group.

When we look in our archives at the confirmation letter for our first group registration form, we experience a tremendous sense of love and humility. By being consistent with NA traditions and adhering to the principle that "if you want to keep what you have, you must give it away," we have grown so much in recovery and numbers.

The first member who was attracted to our Wednesday Pioneer Group is 7½ years clean now. Our membership, which consists of members with anywhere from one day to 7½ years clean, reaches about 8000 members throughout Iran. We meet in 245 groups in 36 cities across the country.

We have found a life worth living in Narcotics Anonymous, and for that we are deeply grateful.

Foroohar T, Iran

(Ed. note: *It is hard to imagine some of the challenges the NA community in Iran is faced with on a daily basis. One problem they have is with coed meetings, that is, meetings with both men and women in attendance. Part of this stems from the fact that it is unlawful in Iran for men and women to mingle in public. And while many North American members may take for granted the customs of hugging or shaking hands in greeting, our fellow members in Iran must remain vigilant in maintaining proper respect so that other elements within their culture are not alienated.*)

A group effort

My home group is the Watertown Men's Group. We meet Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Watertown, Massachusetts. The format is topic/discussion. Women occasionally attend, usually because they happen by without realizing that it is a men's meeting. We make a special effort to minimize any self-consciousness or discomfort that the women may feel at finding themselves in a men's meeting. I'm not sure how well it works, but we try.

One person is selected to chair each month, but any group member celebrating an anniversary gets to chair on the Wednesday after their clean date. In either case, the chair selects a topic, speaks on it for fifteen minutes, and then opens the meeting for discussion.

Each person is limited to five minutes. When the person has shared for four minutes, the chair will signal so they will then have a chance to wrap up. You can usually say everything you really need to say in three minutes. Five minutes is generous.

People in this group are very focused and disciplined; they stick pretty much to the topic and rarely exceed the time limit.

Roughly a quarter to a third of the group members have double-digit clean time, the most senior having 38 years. Many are deeply involved in service to NA, and I would say they devote more time to it than the average NA member. (Hmm, committed to service work and many years clean—could there be cause and effect at work here?)

Some of our members are quite young. Some are even in their teens. Regardless of age or other factors, all group members are treated with dignity and respect.

Over the years, the group has gone on a number of spiritual retreats. In addition, the group has a number of H&I commitments, performed in conjunction with the area H&I subcommittee. This is a new model for us, in which a group, rather than an individual, commits to bring an H&I presentation into a facility. We had heard that some groups in neighboring Rhode Island were following this model and that it seemed to be working well for them. So far it is working well for us, too.

In the months preceding the World Service Conference, we set aside an hour before the meeting to go over the *Conference Agenda Report* for as many weeks as it takes to go over the whole report and develop a group conscience. I think developing a group conscience on the CAR is tremendously important, because NA works best when each of us brings our point of view to the mix. I am very pleased that my group follows through on its responsibility in helping to shape the direction of NA.

The group is eleven years old. Every year we put on a celebration of recovery to commemorate the group's anniversary. This is open to all. There is a gratitude meeting, a dinner, a dance, and live music, which are all free (yes, I said free), and an auction and a bake sale. Several hundred people usually attend. Net proceeds help to finance some worthy NA causes, such as donating NA literature to addicts who might otherwise not be able to get it.

We have our group business meeting the last Wednesday of the month. Our business meeting rules are simple. Usually, we discuss an issue until a consensus seems to emerge; then someone makes a motion to formally ratify the understanding that has unfolded.

Men tend to remain members of our home group for many years. Although the secretary keeps a record of any votes we take, the really important group decisions are recorded in the minds of the longtime members, where we can recall them as we need them.

It is difficult to write about my home group without mentioning specific people, and yet it seems perhaps not quite in keeping with our spirit of anonymity to single anyone out. On the other hand, the bright and shining spiritual principles that form the foundation of our recovery come to us through the imperfect vessels of NA members—imperfect not only as addicts, but also just as humans.

Perhaps the best thing is to encourage you to stop by and meet us if you are in the Boston area. Many of my close friends in recovery are members of my home group.

Members rarely miss a meeting. If I miss a meeting, someone will often call up to find out why, not as the NA police but as a concerned friend. To me, this is one of the best reasons to have a home group; I have built bonds there with people who know me well and love me, as I love them.

Jeremy F, Massachusetts



Fenix Group, Madrid, Spain

This is a photo of our group's coffee-serving area. We meet six days a week from 7:45 pm to 9:15 pm, and on Sundays at 12:00 pm. We would like to send our thanks and a message of hope to all of you in the name of all of the recovering addicts in Madrid.

*Happy 24 hours!
Fenix Group, Spain*

(Ed. note: *Rather than being about a home group, the following article is a tribute to a home group member who was killed in a random act of violence in Bogotá, Colombia. The title has not been changed from the original.*)

What better gift than an eternal smile?

"Juan Pa, they killed la pulga."

La pulga is Spanish for flea, and it was also the affectionate nickname we had for Jorge A, the member who was killed.

With those words, I found out about the death of my sponsee.

A combination of rage and powerlessness took over my body as I realized that I would never see him again. I would never be able to hug him again or see the smile with which he used to greet everyone, and no matter to whom he was talking he always had some beautiful words to share.

The pain I feel from having lost a fellow NA member, a friend, and a sponsee is overwhelming, and it is the most out-of-control feeling that I have felt since I first came to an NA group.

Jorge came to his first meeting on 19 September 1998. As God would have it, I was leading the meeting that night. Eight days later, when he was sharing in the group, he got on his knees and thanked everyone for another week of clean time, and he continued doing this each month.

I was struck more and more each day by his personality, and I started to notice how happy his life was becoming.

The day one first arrives at an NA group is a defining point in one's life. From that day forward, one's life is divided into two parts: "before my first meeting" and "after my first meeting."

For Jorge, his recovery also "split in two" at the 28th NA World Convention in

Cartagena. During the convention, he realized his desire to start carrying the message to addicts who did not know about NA.

Starting a group in the most dangerous and drug-plagued area of Bogotá is a task performed by him that will never be forgotten. It seems incredible to think that, within a two-block radius, the forces of both good and evil are in place.

During our regional convention in Bucaramanga, we had the opportunity to share from sunrise to sunrise. At that event, I experienced the most beautiful spiritual experience of my life, and Jorge and I created a very strong friendship bond that will always live inside me. I know he will always be in my heart, with the smile that he gave me every day and with the desire that has become stronger today "to carry the message to the addict who still suffers."

Juan Pablo D, Colombia

The best home group in the world

I love my home group. I've had about five in the almost twelve years that I've been in NA, but my current home group, Learning to Live, has been my "home" for more than six years.

This group has gone through a lot of growth. We were the wandering group for several years, as we met in a school and had to relocate during school vacations. Nonmembers of the group always had to check in with the helpline to see where we were going to meet that week. Since we have found a permanent location, our group has grown from five members to about 15. We average about 25 addicts at our meeting each week.

The format varies at our meeting, which I think keeps the chairperson motivated to see what moves them that particular week. It is also great for the newcomer to see the different formats that a meeting can take on. We've done topic baskets, recovery text, step,

speaker, and once we even had a writing meeting. We are open to anything NA-related.

We work very hard to greet the newcomer. Being a small NA community, we can easily recognize new faces, and we'll greet those people and offer to get them a list of phone numbers. We'll show them the pamphlets and suggest some other meetings in the local area to attend.

One change we've made to our format is to have members announce the service committees they serve on so that new members (or older ones, for that matter) can have an idea of what is "out there" for service opportunities.

We used to just ask for H&I panel leaders who need speakers to please raise their hands. I don't know if this idea has directly gotten anyone involved, but it surely can't hurt.

Our motto, "the best home group in the world," got us into a bit of controversy among some group members. We had it in our chairperson's format, and to most of us it meant that we really loved our home group. We actually got several new members because they liked the positive attitude our group exuded.

However, some members felt that we were putting ourselves above other groups and that this was not consistent with sound spiritual principles.

The thing I love about my home group is that we can talk during our monthly business meeting about the things that bother us. We listen to all sides, and often one member will play devil's advocate so that we are not slanted in our viewpoints.

Our business meetings typically consist of at least two-thirds of our home group members, which I think is a big part of why our group does so well. We all care about what happens. We all want a voice—and believe me, many of us are very opinionated—but somehow we manage to discuss our concerns without yelling and screaming.

I strongly encourage everyone to find a group where they feel at home. When you find that group, settle down and support it. Don't be afraid to express your opinions, but don't expect that everyone will always agree with them, either.

Louise P, New Hampshire

Another best home group in the world!

Expect a Miracle Group

Burleson, Texas

My name is Scott W, and I live in the Greater Nashville Area of the Volunteer Region in Tennessee. I saw this topic and I knew I had to write a piece about what my home group, Miracles on Monday, means to me.

I absolutely love my home group!

I moved back to Tennessee six years ago, when I had five years clean. Before then, I had not gone to a lot of meetings in Nashville. I went to a meeting that night and realized as I was checking out the meeting schedule that the address for Miracles on Monday was right next door to my new apartment!

Coincidence? I don't think so.

I started attending on a regular basis, and I made a commitment to be there early and stay late. It was a great way to meet people and start to build relationships in my new hometown. Even though I ended up moving a good distance away, it has been my home group ever since.

One of the many attributes of my home group is that we are into doing service work, and I think our commitment to service has made our group more attractive.

We have a very large number of home group members who actually show up on a regular basis, attend business meetings, and do service work. They don't just show up when it is convenient and/or to pick up a medallion.

Most of our members have been or are currently involved in service at the area and regional levels. At least once a year we either hold or support an area function as a group.

I think the fact that people see us enjoying our home group and doing service has increased our home group membership. We actually have more home group members at our business meetings now than we had in some of the regular recovery meetings when I first started attending.

That brings me to another attribute. Our business meetings are awesome! They are very laid-back and informal. I



have heard horror stories from other groups, and it makes me even more grateful for ours.

We don't fight about money.

We really strive to work the Sixth Concept by inviting a loving God into our meeting. It really shows.

Although we may not always agree with each other, we try to see everyone's viewpoint.

I like that we look for ways our home group can better carry the message.

Our gang is always coming up with great ideas. Somebody suggested that we have a new position called the "group hugger." We never have any problem filling that position, especially since there is no clean time requirement. They get there early and hug everyone as they walk in. We have even hugged a few people who were attending a church function, but hey, everyone needs a hug!

Another idea was to make literature available for those who cannot afford it. If they can pay for it later, that's fine. If not, that's fine, too. As long as they get another tool for their recovery, we are fulfilling our primary purpose.

We also make sure we are self-supporting. We all pitch in to get the work done, buy the supplies, chair the meeting, clean up, go to the area ser-

vice committee meeting, and all that. It really is a "we" thing.

I think the big payoff for me and for the other members is to watch our meeting grow. Not too long ago we started running out of chairs. What a great problem to have!

Finally, I want to say how much I love my fellow home group members. Since I have been there, I have had so many great experiences with them. They have always been there for me, especially during the periods of my recovery when I have struggled. One of our members even walked my wife down the aisle.

I hear from so many people that they love coming to our meeting and that there is a real spiritual feeling to the atmosphere. That feeling comes from the love of our members and the unity we possess as a home group.

Anyway, I know I am biased, but I really feel I have the greatest home group in the world. I hope you feel the same way about your home group. If you are ever in Nashville on a Monday night, come on by. There will be someone at the door waiting to welcome you and give you a hug.

Scott W, Tennessee

My love for my home group

When I arrived at my home group in March 1995, it had only been open for a month, and my recovery started that June. In these six years, I have witnessed many changes in the group, among them the increase in the number of members, which is always an important indication in our fellowship. From one or two regular members we have increased to anywhere from 15 to 20 members per meeting—then it decreased, and later it went up again.

These fluctuations have many explanations, but the main reasons are lack of knowledge of the traditions and no participation of our members in the area service committee.

Regarding the traditions, it is wonderful to realize that they are exactly that: traditions, not rules or laws. It is a source of comfort to know that by respecting them we will avoid making the same mistakes our predecessors made before the Twelve Traditions existed. When my home group understood that logic, we stopped having big problems. Even those members who don't get along well with each other agree on one point: We have to respect the traditions.

The Fifth Tradition says the primary purpose of an NA group is to carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering addict, and my group is trying to fulfill that purpose. For this tradition to be effectively fulfilled, we should try to follow a recipe: to respect the other eleven traditions.

When I arrived in the rooms, I was told that everything in the fellowship is suggested. By the way, I heard a joke about this: "In NA, you can do whatever you want, because everything is suggested, but don't forget: When the parachutist jumps, it is suggested that they pull the string before hitting the ground."

Following the ASC's suggestions, my group has been practicing the traditions, and we have gained a lot. We have increased our membership, our spirituality, and our common sense in our service meetings. We carry monthly service meetings where all points of view are discussed. We have increased our unity in dealing with our problems.

One very common problem in our NA groups is the presence of disruptive, intolerant, and violent members. Their personalities shrink when exposed to the recovery atmosphere of a group that is immersed in the spiritual principles of the Twelve Traditions. These members, unfortunately, have only two options: either work out their difficulties and grow or leave the group.

ASC service is of fundamental importance. Four years ago, we had only one ASC formed by more than 50 groups that were spread over a part of our state that covered 300 cities. These groups were later divided into three areas; today there are four, and a fifth one is being created.

In its seven years, my home group has always sent at least the GSR to our ASC meetings. However, the members of the group did not serve in the area. No matter how much he tried, the GSR could not communicate the spirit of selfless service, the importance of having trusted servants, and the nature of ASC problems. In other words, he could not attract members to service.

With the area division, members got closer and problems arose—among them, lack of experienced members in service and, lack of resources—and those difficulties resulted in more participation by the members. They go to the group business meetings and share their experience, and this has attracted other addicts to service.

I would like to end by declaring my love for my home group. I have only one home group, as has been suggested to me (remember the parachute?). I believe that we should only have one sponsor and, likewise, only one home group. Otherwise, it would be easy to manipulate. For instance, if I had problems with one group I would go to the other one without even trying to overcome the obstacles and grow. Of course, each individual is unique and has to look for their own solutions in the spiritual principles of the program.

I love my home group and have learned to deepen my love after I started to serve on the ASC. There is only one other such love in my life—the love I have for my little daughter!

Rogério G, Brazil

There's no place like home

The New Leaf Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets in Pemberton, New Jersey, every Tuesday from 8:00 until 9:30 pm.

In the last six months, we've overcome having all our keytags, our IPs, and our medallions stolen—not all at once, thank heavens. At our group conscience meetings, we resolved to pray for the folks who "reallocated" our stuff. We believe that these things are being distributed to addicts who need them and who will be thrilled and inspired by receiving them.

We bought a large plastic trunk and now keep all of our group's literature and celebration supplies under lock and key. This is the first time in our group's ten-year history that we have needed to take such action.

Our diverse group is full of wonderful members, and I feel blessed to be a part of it. Each member brings so much to our group. I wanted to say a little bit about each one, but in the spirit of anonymity, I'll keep the focus on me!

Me, well, I'm the group curmudgeon.

I wanted to paint a piece of Styrofoam yellow and carve it into the shape of a large chunk of cheese. We could present it to the meeting's "Whiner of the Night" so he or she could have some cheese with their whine. It didn't pass at our business meeting.

I wanted to get an egg timer so that we could cut off the "floor hogs." Do I have to tell you that it didn't get the group's support at our group conscience meeting?

I also wanted to put an electric current through our group's footlocker so that we could prevent any more robberies, but the motion never got seconded.

The importance of a home group cannot be underestimated. We can be ourselves; we can reveal our fears, hopes, dreams, and struggles. At a home group, we can share our experience, strength, and hope, not only to the benefit of ourselves but also to benefit the treasured guests at each of our meetings.

Fred MacD, New Jersey



Diary of a worldwide workshop

Close to 150 members of the NA community in New Zealand converged on Wellington, the capital city, the first weekend of November for the second worldwide workshop. Members of NA World Services, the World Board, and the “Kiwi” community came together to create one of the most powerful and uplifting NA gatherings ever held in these far-flung islands at the bottom of the South Pacific.

The following is a workshop diary by NA members in the Aotearoa/New Zealand Region. It represents our personal experiences and feelings about this landmark event at Victoria University of Wellington from Friday to Sunday.

“I am the secretary of the Chita (Russia) meeting called Sunday 13. Our group decided to send you one dollar every month. We want to keep in contact with you, and all the addicts from our group want to tell you, ‘Hi.’ Thank you for everything you are doing at the WSO for all addicts in the world.”

Irina S, Russia

Dusk, Friday, 2 November 2001

There it was: the familiar NA symbol on the poster stuck to the door outside the workshop. For months our little subcommittee had met weekly before the Tuesday night meeting to help plan the workshop, keeping in close touch by email and phone with world services and each other. Now this long-anticipated dream was about to become a reality.

The travel team from the United States—supplemented by members of the World Board from Australia and New Zealand—had arrived in town and set up. The second-ever worldwide workshop was about to begin here in New Zealand!

The buzz in the Union Hall on Friday night was deafening as addicts from up and down the North and South islands came together, hugging each other, delighted to greet old and new friends. There was a strong feeling of excitement and anticipation—no one quite knew what the weekend would bring—but we could all sense that something special was about to unfold.

Then a hush fell over the group. It was time for the *powhiri*, or welcoming ceremony traditional to Aotearoa/New Zealand’s indigenous Maori people. Many of our members share Maori backgrounds, and their ancient and sacred culture continues to bring a special spiritual dimension to the local NA community.

The *powhiri* began with a series of songs aimed at connecting the locals and visitors. First, we sang to our visitors the Maori *waiata* song *Nga Iwi*, E, or “People Coming Together.” The WSO travel team then delighted everybody by coming back to us with a rousing version of the old Beatles classic, “With a Little Help from My Friends.” It was perfect.

After a brief round of welcoming speeches and a dance, or *haka*, we ended with the song *He Honore*, or “All Honor and Glory to God.” It was the most simple and profound ceremony—already there were addicts moved to tears.

After refreshments, it was time for the workshop to begin. We sat at tables, and the travel team talked about why we were here. We heard how these events had been designed to improve face-to-face communications between world services and the NA Fellowship at large.

Over the evening, we came together in a series of fun, team-building exercises. Addicts from all over the country kept arriving, coming in the doors until most of the tables were full. By 10:30 pm it was time to wind things up. Saturday was scheduled to be a very full day.

Saturday, 3 November 2001

The euphoria of the welcoming ceremony still hung in the air as we filed in early on Saturday morning. It was clear (as with most of these NA gatherings) that some members had snatched only a few hours' sleep. Everywhere, gallons of Wellington's famous espresso coffee were being swallowed.

The morning session began with a brainstorming exercise, where we were asked to identify issues important to our NA community. Our comments were written down on big sheets of paper, and we then teased out the priority ones, with lots of information being tossed back and forth.

Among the topics discussed were how to ensure that service in recovery remains attractive, how to maintain the clarity of the NA message, and the key role of public relations in taking our recovery message out to the community. As with all the workshop sessions, we had an opportunity for dialogue, training, and an exchange of experience, strength, and hope.

Coffee breaks and lunchtimes helped us to keep sharing and supporting each other through the workshop process. All over the building, groups huddled together talking recovery, comparing notes, and processing what had come up at the workshop. Members of the travel team made themselves available to our members, and Kiwi addicts were not shy in pumping them for information, advice, and experience.

The afternoon session covered a range of topics, including sponsorship. One of the highlights for many of us was an account of NA history. This included the development of the pioneering Australian NA community in the 1970s and the birth of the New Zealand community in 1982. Next year we plan to celebrate our 20th anniversary in fitting style with a convention in Auckland. Our working theme is "20/20 Vision."

Saturday evening began with a speaker meeting, with intimate sharing from two of the members from the travel team. This was followed by a talent quest that showcased the special talents of our

NA community. Among the performances were acoustic country music, classical clarinet, a gay cabaret, and two exceptional singer/songwriters. We addicts are such talented people, and it is such a gift that recovery is helping us find this out!

One of the high points of the evening was when a Maori addict shared his personal journey in search of his culture and identity. He chose the form of a story about the traditional spear, or *taiha*, that he had carved.

It was close to midnight by now, and some members headed downstairs to dance the night away with three gifted DJs, while others ran home to grab a few hours' sleep. It had been a massive day, to say the least.

Sunday, 4 November 2001

The bleary eyes and quantity of espresso being drunk showed that Saturday had been a big party night for some. The number of stragglers seemed to bear this out, but it was time to get down to business with a session on public relations. This session grappled with the challenge of finding the balance between attraction and promotion.

The powerful and emotional sharing that flowed during this session demonstrated how much ground we had covered since Friday night. It also highlighted how much we all cherish our beautiful fellowship and how determined we are to safeguard its future. Many were blinking back tears.

The challenge of medication in recovery was the subject of the last session. We reviewed an existing piece of literature and talked in depth about this vital issue. We suggested that a future pamphlet on the subject might cover such issues as getting through early recovery, the continuing need for self-responsibility, and how addicts can keep their power while being treated by professionals. There was a plea for understanding and tolerance of members on medication.

By Sunday afternoon, the feeling of love and unity in the room was so strong you could almost touch it. All around, addicts were talking about recommitting

to their program, to giving back more, and to digging deeper for their recovery. Once again, the power of this fellowship was revealing itself.

Suddenly the workshop had run out of time. A round of heartfelt sharing and thanks, along with *karakias*, or prayers, marked the closing ceremony. Many addicts were weeping openly as they gave their farewell hugs and headed away. Everyone seemed overcome by the emotion and the strength of the love that this extraordinary event had harnessed.

As we look back on this weekend, a few things are clear. Nothing can beat the raw power of a bunch of addicts in a room pooling their experience, strength, and hope—whether they are newcomers opening up at their home group or oldtimers visiting from overseas passing on decades of service experience. The face-to-face communication, the human touch, the sharing from the heart is how we keep making the NA connection.

Thanks a million, world services. We're still buzzing weeks later. The positive ripples from this event will keep flowing for years. *Kia kaha*—be strong! ♦





How to share

I hope this finds its way into *The NA Way*. A group of us have created this document out of our love for this fellowship and the message of Narcotics Anonymous. We've offered some ideas that come from our group's experience, identified the spiritual principles from which those ideas arise, and pointed to the steps that taught us those principles.

- ◆ Part of sharing is sharing *time*. Give others a chance to share. (Consideration, respect, maturity.) See Steps Three and Twelve.
- ◆ If you share a problem, also share the solution. (Hope, selflessness.) See Steps Two, Seven, Nine, and Eleven.
- ◆ Every time that you share, you should include a discussion of a spiritual principle or step. (Carrying the message.) See Step Twelve.
- ◆ If God wants you to share, He'll have someone call on you. (Humility, patience.) See Steps Five, Seven, and Eleven.
- ◆ When you have very little to say, then say very little. Don't start by saying, "I really don't have much to say," and then talk for the next 15 minutes. Rambling is just taking up valuable meeting time. It is okay to be brief. (Humility, willingness, goodwill, honesty, acceptance, trust.) See Steps One, Three, Six, and Eight.
- ◆ An NA meeting is not a garbage dump. This is the place to carry the message of recovery, not spread your disease. Remember: This is God's message you're supposed to be carrying, and not yours. We are, at best, vessels for the message of a loving Higher Power. (Selflessness, hope, freedom, powerlessness, surrender.) See Steps Five, Six, and Ten, and Tradition Five.
- ◆ After you share, please do not get up and walk right out. Set an example for the newcomers. (Patience, tolerance, integrity, maturity.) See Steps Three, Nine, Ten, and Eleven.
- ◆ If you can't get to the meeting on time, you have surrendered your right to share, unless you are called on. (Humility, responsibility, respect.) See Steps Four, Seven, and Nine.
- ◆ A step or topic meeting is about that step or topic; it is not about you. If you do not know anything about that step or topic, then please don't share. (Honesty, open-mindedness, goodwill.) See Steps One, Two, and Seven.
- ◆ If you are going to share, you should put some money in the basket. (Responsibility, faith, trust.) See Steps Two, Ten, and Twelve, and Tradition Seven.
- ◆ Do not just "call out." This is rude. This is not recovery. If you feel powerfully moved to share, then raise your hand and politely wait to be recognized. (Patience, humility, peace, surrender.) See Steps One, Three, Seven, and Eleven.
- ◆ If you shared last night, it is not your turn again tonight. If this is your home group, you do not have the responsibility to share every week. If your sponsor told you that you need to share in every meeting that you attend, then you need a new sponsor—quick! (Cooperation, communication skills, selflessness, self-acceptance.) See Steps One through Twelve.

Friday Night Roaming Home Group, Maryland



H&I Slim

For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of meeting him, H&I Slim is "the ultimate H&I kinda guy." He hangs out in hospitals and jails all over the world. You might say he's always in the know and always on the go. Got a question about H&I? Need some help? Write H&I Slim in care of the WSO.

Dear H&I Slim,

Our area H&I subcommittee has had meetings/presentations in state correctional department facilities for twelve years. With every administration change, we seem to have new problems come up. The latest thing they want us to do is fill out an in-depth volunteer form for panel leaders and a brief form for panel members. They have assured us that no one will ever see these forms besides the program director, and no one will be prevented from serving in H&I based on any of the information that is given. What can we do? Many of our committee members do not like any of this. Thanks for your suggestions.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

First I want to thank you and the other members of your H&I subcommittee for carrying the NA message of recovery into the same facility for twelve years. That spells commitment, something that is always needed in Narcotics Anonymous.

Although I have not had the opportunity to visit your particular region and area, volunteers filling out clearance forms, attending institutional orientations, or both, is a common practice. As a rule, when NA H&I is doing a presentation or staging an H&I meeting in a correctional setting, volunteers must go through some type of clearance procedure. It may be as simple as giving your name, date of birth, and social security number (driver's license or ID number may be included). As you stated, panel leaders usually fill out extensive clearance forms and go through a time-consuming orientation in addition to an annual review. The amount of information required for security clearance varies from state to state and, at times, from institution to institution within any given department of corrections.

By and large, any information given to any state or federal prison, correctional facility, correctional center, or institution is used for a criminal background check. Due to the nature of the disease we have, many of our members have had "run-ins," if you will, with the law, and it may cause them problems in getting cleared for a period. However, for the most part, as time passes and there are no new hits on their record, they can be cleared to do H&I service in a correctional or jail setting.

This is the bottom line: Clearances in some form or fashion are more than likely here to stay. If any H&I subcommittee member feels inconvenienced by filling out forms or attending orientations, then they have the choice to simply not participate in any meeting associated with a facility that has clearance standards. I would hope, however, that someone considering *not* going through the inconvenience of filling out forms, etc., would also consider the addict who still suffers behind the walls. There are many members in H&I service who believe that what they receive by being of service in a correctional setting far outweighs any inconvenience they have to endure.

Thank you for all of the H&I service that you do, and I sincerely hope the NA message continues to be carried into the facility mentioned in your letter.

*In loving service,
H&I Slim*

Our readers write...

Are all addicts equal?

(The NA Way Magazine, January 2002, Vol. 19, No. 1)

This, in my opinion, is not a problem that needs to be addressed anywhere (although I will bring it up at our board meeting). I base my opinion on the fact that the history of FRCNA (Florida Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous) will show that we bend over backwards for the newcomer throughout the whole FRCNA weekend. We give out (pay for) hundreds of newcomer registration packets every year, and there are plenty of activities and meetings throughout the weekend in which newcomers and anyone else can participate and be "a part of."

The banquet is just one part of the whole FRCNA weekend. The banquet seating is a small perk for all the hard work the host committee and board do in order to prepare for the convention. We went out of our way to provide everyone the opportunity to be a part of the main meeting by allowing more people in the room than we were allowed to and by paying extra money for closed-circuit TVs in the lobby. In addition, as witnessed during the banquet, there was a lot of love and support—as well as Basic Texts—offered to the newcomers. I don't know about anyone else, but I pay to go to the banquet specifically for the seating and the fellowship at whatever convention I'm attending.

Finally, in regard to the money issue, let it be known that FRCNA does not make any money on the banquet. That is profit for the hotel. If anything, we lose more money on the banquet than on anything else that goes on during the FRCNA weekend.

Gary T, Florida



Independencia Group, Porto Alegre, Brazil

The Independencia Group is the largest group in our area. We conduct three meetings weekly: Monday and Thursday at 7:30 pm and Saturday at 5:00 pm. They are two-hour meetings with a step study on Saturday. We are a newcomers' group, and we receive an average of 30 newcomers a month. We are very proud of being able to practice Tradition Five. Our meeting attendance is usually about 70 addicts, but on 8 December 2001, we celebrated our 13th birthday as an NA group and had over 170 addicts and members of the community at an open meeting and party that followed.

We decorated our meeting room with over 1,300 balloons and had a party cake that measured over three feet long! It would be an honor to see this event, which is so important to the Brazil Region, published in *The NA Way Magazine*.

Independencia Group, Brazil





CALENDAR

We encourage you to publicize your event by having it published on our website and in *The NA Way Magazine*. You can inform the WSO about your event by fax, phone, or regular post, or through our website. We encourage using the website because you can check to see if we already have a listing on your convention and, if not, you can enter your own convention information. It is then reviewed, formatted, and added to the online convention calendar on our website in approximately four days. Just go to www.na.org, click on "NA Events," and follow the instructions.

Convention announcements entered through the website and those received by other means are also given to *The NA Way*. *The NA Way* is published four times a year in January, April, July, and October. Each issue goes into production long before its distribution date, so we need a minimum of three months' notice to ensure your event will be published in the magazine—that's three months before our publication date. For instance, if you want your event published in the October issue, we need to know by 1 July.

Colombia

Cundinamarca: 18-20 Aug; XI Convención Regional de Narcóticos Anónimos; Bogotá; write: Bogotá-Colombia, Oficina del Comité de Servicio Área de Bogotá, Calle 63, #11-27, 211 Bogotá, Colombia; +571.2315245

Indonesia

Bali: 26-28 Apr; Bali Area Convention; The Journey Begins; The Villas, Bali, Indonesia; event registration: +62.818.552623; event info: +62.816.571345, +62.812.397.8550; write: Bali Area, JL Kunti 118X, Seminyak, Bali, Indonesia

Ireland

Munster: 28-30 Jun; Southern Area Convention 2002; The Brandon Hotel, Tralee; hotel rsvns: +353.0.66.7123333; write: NA Southern Area Ireland, YMCA, Marlborough St, Cork

Israel

Eilat: 25-27 Apr; Israel Regional Convention; Never Alone; Dan Panorama Eilat, Eilat; hotel rsvns: +972.8.6389999; event info: 972.55.450111, +972.53.388887; www.naisrael.org.il

Italy

Rimini: 20-22 Sep; 19th European Committee Convention; Hotel Foschi, Rimini; hotel rsvns: fax: +39.541.345692; email: matteoraffa@libero.it; event info: +39.30.9362012; www.na-italia.it/uk/index.html

Luxembourg

Luxembourg: 14-15 Sep; First Convention NA Luxembourg; Today's Choice; Auberge de Jeunesse, Lultzhausen; hotel rsvns: +352.091.155.355; event info: +352.22.43.87; event registration: +352.26.58.16.52, +352.091.155.355; write: Luxembourg, 100 rue de Hollerich, BP 2399, L-1023 Luxembourg

Panamá

Panamá: 6-18 Aug; Convención Regional de NA Panamá III; Panamá; hotel rsvns: +507.227.2858; event info: +507.221.9494, +507.672.7990; Na-latina@nuestra-net.com

Peru

Huánuco: 24-26 May; Convención Regional Peruana de NA VIII; CRPNA Llevando el mensaje; Casa de Retiro, Huánuco; event info: +511.977.0695; www.na.org/link-peru

Puerto Rico

San Juan: 26-28 Jul; Un Nuevo Despertar; Condado Plaza Hotel & Casino, San Juan; hotel rsvns: +787.721.1000; event registration: +787.763.5919; event info: +787.274.0488; write: Puerto Rico Region, 1726 Lomas Verdes Ave, Esq Yaguez, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00926

United States

Alabama: 3-5 May; Spring Fling 2002; Wind Creek State Park, Alexander City; hotel rsvns: 800.ALA.PARK; event info: 334.576.2682, 334.863.7891

Arizona: 24-26 May; Arizona Regional Convention XVI; Prescott Resort Conference Center, Prescott; hotel rsvns: 928.776.1666

Arkansas: 30 Aug-2 Sep; Chili Dog Chowdown XII; Mountain Home; write: Clean & Serene Group of Mountain Home, PO Box 164, Mountain Home, AR 72654-0164

California: 18 May; 5th Annual KTASCNA Gateway Blues Fest; Lion's Club Roping Arena, Three Rivers; hotel rsvns: 559.734.2821; event registration: 559.734.2821; event info: 559.625.5057, 559.733.0933; write: KTASCNA Gateway Blues Fest, PO Box 3459, Visalia, CA 93278-3459

2) 14-16 Jun; 14th Annual American River Area Campout; Miracles in the Mountains; Orchard Springs Resort & Campground, Colfax; hotel rsvns: 530.346.2212; event info: 916.489.5429; write: American River Area, NA Campout Committee, Box 2785, Carmichael, CA 95609

3) 21-23 Jun; Many People...Many Places...Many Stories...One Solution; Holiday Inn, Visalia; hotel rsvns: 559.651.5000; event info: 559.747.5907; speaker tape info: 559.781.2356; write: California Mid-State, Box 448, Visalia, CA 93279-0448

4) 4-7 Jul; California Inland Region Convention; Palm Springs Riviera Resort & Racquet Club, Palm Springs; hotel rsvns: 800.727.8311; event registration: 760.416.1077; event info: 760.329.1210; speaker tape info: 760.323.0169; write: California Inland Region, Box 1106, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240; www.Cirna.org

5) 3-6 Jul 2003; WCNA-30; 30th World Convention; 50th Anniversary of NA; San Diego Convention Center, San Diego; write: NA World Services, 19737 Nordhoff Pl, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Connecticut: 18 May; 19th Annual Pigs in Space Pig Roast; Quassy Amusement Park, Woodbury; event info: 203.375.5275, 203.639.9900; www.pigsinspace.org

Florida: 5-7 Apr; South Broward Area Anniversary Convention XII; Ambassador Hotel, Hollywood; hotel rsvns: 954.458.1900

2) 19-21 Apr; Treasure Coast Convention of NA; Radisson Beach Front Resort, Fort Pierce; hotel rsvns: 561.465.5544; event info: 561.260.4156, 561.692.2762, 561.781.7869; write: Recovery Weekend Treasure Coast ASC, Box 1672, Stuart, FL 34995

3) 2-5 May; 26th Annual Panama City Beach Fun in the Sun Weekend; Broadwalk Beach Resort, Panama City Beach; hotel rsvns: 800.224.4853; event info: 404.452.1731; write: North Atlanta Area, Box 95270, Atlanta, GA 30347

4) 24-27 May; Gold Coast Area Convention XII; Radisson Resort Coral Springs, Coral Springs; hotel rsvns: 800.333.3333; event registration: 954.972.0189; speaker tape info: 954.596.8070; www.goldcoastna.org

Georgia: 19-21 Apr; Marietta Area Campout; Willingness in the Woods; Red Top Mountain State Park, Smyrna; event info: 404.375.8994, 678.574.0382; www.grscrna.com

2) 4-7 Jul; WCNA-29; 29th World Convention of NA; Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta; event info: 818.773.9999 ext. 200; write: NA World Services, 19737 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Hawaii: 12-14 Apr; The Gathering; Camp Mokuleia, Oahu; event info: 808.672.6336; event registration: 808.721.1031; www.na-hawaii.org

Idaho: 19-21 Apr; Southern Idaho Regional Convention XIII; West Coast Hotel, Pocatello; hotel rsvns: 208.233.2200; event info: 800.527.5202; www.sirna.org

2) 26-28 Jul; Serenity in the Wilderness XV; Porcupine Springs, Twin Falls; hotel rsvns: 800.328.5257; event info: 208.736.1160; write: Southern Idaho Region, Box 261, Twin Falls, ID 83301-0261; www.sirna.org

Illinois: 5-7 Apr; Rock River Convention XI; Blueprint for Success; Ramada Inn of Greater Beloit, South Beloit; hotel rsvns: 815.389.3481; speaker tape info: 815.637.2824; event registration: 815.963.1070; event info: 815.623.9017; write: Rock River Area, Box 8544, Rockford, IL 61126

Indiana: 24-27 May; Tenth Annual Area Convention; Together, We Grow with Love; Camp Mack, Milford; event info: 574.875.0969, 219.385.7778; write: North Central Indiana Area, Box 1052, Elkhart, IN 46515

Iowa: 21-23 Jun; Iowa Regional Convention XIX; Found a Way Out; Luther College, Decorah; hotel rsvns: 563.382.3990; event info: 641.454.3026, 641.357.2479; write: Iowa Region, Box 732, Mason City, IA 50401

Louisiana: 24-26 May; Louisiana Regional Convention XX; Hilton Lafayette and Towers, Lafayette; hotel rsvns: 337.235.6111; event info: 337.367.1781; write: LRCNA XX, Box 91112, Lafayette, LA 70509-1112; LRCNA20@hotmail.com

Maine: 31 May-2 Jun; Nature of Recovery Adventure X; Camp Metchuwana, Winthrop; event info: 207.377.7334, 207.645.2358, 207.823.7780

Maryland: 12-14 Apr; Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Convention XVI; An Awakening of the Spirit; Ocean City; event info: 301.839.4425; write: CPRCNA XVI, Box 1848, Rockville, MD 20849; www.cprcna.org

Massachusetts: 19-21 Jul; Rough-n-It in Recovery VI Campout; Cathedral Camp, East Freetown; event info: 401.835.0598, 508.667.8247, 508.675.2953; speaker tape submission deadline: 20 May 2002

Michigan: 26-28 Jul; Michigan Regional Convention XVIII; Downtown Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo; hotel rsvns: 616.343.3333; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 May 2002; write: Michigan Region, Box 19336, Lansing, MI 48901-9336

Minnesota: 12-14 Apr; Minnesota Regional Convention IX; Radisson Riverfront, St. Paul; hotel rsvns: 800.333.3333; event registration: 612.824.5955; speaker tape information: 651.983.5664; event info: 651.776.6369; write: Minnesota Region, Area of Hope, c/o UMSO, 310 E 38th St, Minneapolis, MN 55409

2) 24-27 May; Spiritual Refreshment XIX; Fair Hills Resort, Detroit Lakes; hotel rsvns: 800.323.2849; event registration: 218.287.6012; write: Upper Midwest Region; Box 5393, Fargo, ND 58105-5393

3) 7-9 Jun; Southern Minnesota Annual Recovery Blast XIV; Camp Patterson, Mankato/St. Peter Area; hotel rsvns: 507.374.6564; event info: 507.455.3952; write: Back 2 Basics Area of Southern MN; Box 665, Owatonna, MN 55060

4) 14-16 Jun; Friday Night Borderline Group; Twelfth Annual Woodenfrog Bugfest; Lake Kabetogama, Voyageurs National Park, Orr; event info: 218.283.4213, 218.283.8757; write: Friday Night Borderline Group, 605 15th St, International Falls, MN 56649

5) 19-21 Jul; Pig 2002; Isanti; hotel rsvns: 651.451.8893; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 May 2002; write: South Suburban Fireside Area, SSFA Pig Committee, Box 2583, Inver-Grove Hts, MN 55076-2583

Missouri: 7-9 Jun; Show Me Regional Convention XVII; Ramada Inn, St. Joseph; hotel rsvns: 800.748.0036; event info: 913.515.0264; write: SMRCNA, Box 105566, Jefferson City, MO 65110-1467; www.home.att.net/~smrcna2002

2) 26-28 Jul; Ozark Area; 23rd Annual High on Life Picnic; Truman Lake, Bucksaw Point Resort, Clinton; hotel rsvns: 660.477.3900; event info: 417.626.8171; speaker tape info: 417.623.3148; event registration: 417.626.8171; write: Ozark Area, Box 2923, Joplin, MO 64803

Montana: 14-16 Jun; 14th Annual MontaNA Gathering; Boulder Hot Springs, Boulder; hotel rsvns: 406.721.8482; event info: 406.721.8482, 406.543.0294; write: Montana Region & Western MT ASC, 3534 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804; www.namontana.com

Nevada: 28 Jul; Men's Spiritual Breakfast IV; Gold Coast Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas; hotel rsvns: 702.367.7111; speaker tape info: 702.895.7025; event registration: 702.471.6946; speaker tape submission deadline: 30 May 2002

New Hampshire: 21-23 Jun; Twelfth Annual Fellowship in the Field Campout; Apple Hill Campground, Bethlehem; event info: 603.224.3291, 603.745.2591; event registration: 603.887.4523; write: GSANA Fellowship in the Field XII, Box 1426, Salem, NH 03079; www.gsana.org

New York: 24-27 May; Freedom XVI; The Journey Still Continues; Hilton New York, New York City; hotel rsvns: 800.HILTONS
2) 26-28 Jul; Promise of Freedom XIV; Clarion Hotel University, Ithaca; hotel rsvns: 800.257.6992; event registration: 315.492.4234; event info: 607.775.1204, 315.492.4234; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 May 2002

North Carolina: 19-21 Apr; Bound for Freedom XVII; Adams Mark Hotel, Charlotte; hotel rsvns: 800.444.2326; event info: 704.563.1939, 704.827.0619, 704.597.9413; write: GCANA, Box 33306, Charlotte, NC 28202

2) 19-21 Jul; New Hope Area Convention IX; When at the End of the Road; Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center, Durham; hotel rsvns: 800.325.3535; event info: 919.667.1321, 919.490.5154, 919.682.4556; www.mwbr.net/newhopena

Ohio: 24-26 May; OCNA XX; Came to Believe; Ramada Inns & Suites, Toledo; hotel rsvns: 419.242.8885

2) 28-30 Jun; Dayton Area; Out of the Darkness, Into the Light—Vision Without Limits; Marriott Hotel, Dayton; hotel rsvns: 800.450.8625; event registration: 937.274.5332; speaker tape info: 937.223.2072; event info: 937.278.4599; write: DASCNACC IV, Box 3156, Dayton, OH 45401

Oregon: 10-12 May; Pacific Cascade Regional Convention IX; Inn of the Seventh Mountain, Bend; hotel rsvns: 541.382.8711

Pennsylvania: 2-4 Aug; Ain't No Mountain High Enough VIII; Fulfilling the Dream; Holiday Inn, Williamsport; hotel rsvns: 800.465.4329; event info: 570.326.4949, 570.321.0465; speaker tape info: 570.327.6321; write: WACNA Information, Box 871, Williamsport, PA 17703

2) 23-25 Aug; The Journey Continues VI; Camp Harmony, Hooversville; write: Laurel Mt Highlands Area, Box 52, Ebensburg, PA 15931; www.lmhana.com

South Carolina: 23-25 Aug; Central Carolina Area; Welcome Home VII; Clarion Town House Hotel, Columbia; hotel rsvns: 800.277.8711; event info: 803.739.0334, 803.465.1752, 803.782.9091; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 May 2002; write: CCANA, Welcome Home Convention, 709 Woodrow St, Box 418, Columbia, SC 29205

Tennessee: 3-5 May; NA in May Multi-Regional BBQ Cook-off & Campout; Piersol Group Camp, Memphis; event info: 870.702.6480; write: West Tennessee ASC, Box 111105, Memphis, TN 38111; www.geocities.com/nainmay

Utah: 18 May; Summer Celebration of Recovery Event; Peteetneet Academy, Payson; write: Central Utah Area, Box 276, Springville, UT 84663

Virginia: 2-4 Aug; Almost Heaven Area Convention XVI; 4-Center, Front Royal; hotel rsvns: 540.635.7171; event info: 304.262.8824, 304.725.6812

Washington: 24-26 May; Washington Northern Idaho Regional Convention XVII; Downtown DoubleTree, Spokane; hotel rsvns: 509.455.9600; write: Washington Northern Idaho Region, Convention Host Committee, Box 1294, Spokane, WA 99210-1294

2) 5-7 Jul; SWANA; Freedom Retreat XX; Wa-Ri-Ki Camp Grounds, Washougal; hotel rsvns: 360.735.7519; event info: 360.737.3685; write: Southwest Washington Area, Box 6085, Vancouver WA 98668-6085

Wisconsin: 10-12 May; First Convention of the Inner City Area of Milwaukee; Seeing Ourselves in Others; Hyatt Regency Milwaukee Hotel (Downtown), Milwaukee; hotel rsvns: 800.233.1234; event info: 414.967.8979, 414.967.8979, 414.871.2102; write: ICANA Milwaukee, Box 12693, Milwaukee, WI 53212

2) 14-16 Jun; First Woods & Waters Convention; Waters of Minocqua Resort Hotel, Minocqua; hotel rsvns: 877.992.8377; event info: 715.479.9698; write: WWASC, Box 303, Minocqua, WI 54548; www.woodswatersna.org

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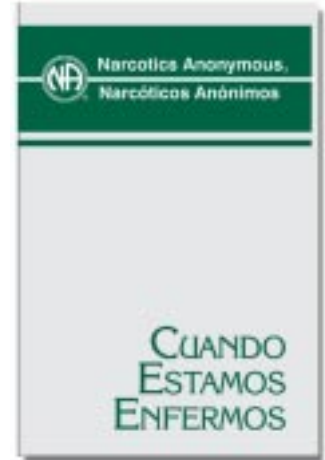
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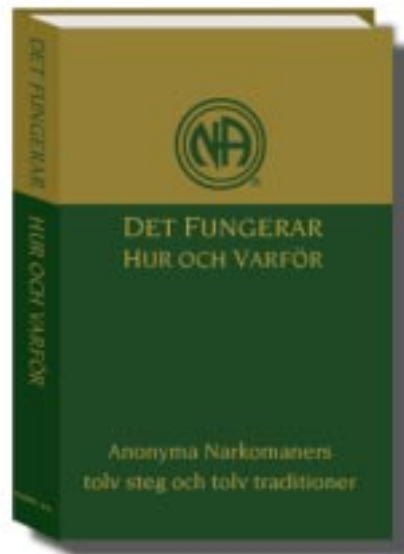
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