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Cover art featured in the April 1990 and March 1992 issues of The NA Way Magazine.

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.”
"We realize that we are never cured, and that we carry the disease within us for the rest of our lives. We have a disease, but we do recover. Each day we are given another chance. We are convinced that there is only one way for us to live, and that is the NA way."

Basic Text, page 8

It doesn’t matter...

I hope that sharing my story here will help another suffering addict. I want to let you know that, no matter what you do or how long you have been clean, you do not have to use.

My story actually begins when I had eleven years clean. My anniversary is 20 May 1990. In January 2001, I was sitting at home when my mother called and said, "Your son has found you." I told her my son was right here with me. She went on to say, "No, your first son. The one you gave up for adoption." I kept repeating, "Oh my God! Oh my God!"

He had left a phone number with my mother so that I could call. I was afraid, joyous, and terrified of hearing his words. I thought about him every day for twenty-three years. I called my sponsor first, and then I dialed his number. The voice on the other end was a woman who told me he was not home and that she would tell him I called.

My first son called me back an hour or so later. He sounded like a grown man. We talked about all the specific details of where he was born, what my name was then, his father’s name, and the hospital where he was born. I could not believe that I was actually talking to the child I gave birth to in 1977.

I remember telling him that I thought about him every hour of every day of every week of every month of every year for twenty-three years—that was the absolute truth. I always hoped that I would some day have this opportunity.

I gave up my son for adoption in 1977 after a terribly violent marriage and not having the means—either physically or emotionally—to care for him at seventeen years old. I could not buy him food, and I was starting to use drugs addictively. Then, my husband and I separated. My son became ill at only three months old and had to be admitted to the hospital.

I visited him daily, but soon decided that he deserved a better life—two parents, food to eat, and people who were capable of giving him a good home. I always felt that God had judged me and would never forgive me for making that decision. As a result, I used drugs as often and as much as I could for the next thirteen years.

I gave up my son through my mother, who then moved away to Michigan. I wanted to call several times during the first year, thinking that hearing his little voice might change my mind, but I told myself I should never change my mind. I found out ten years...
later that my mother did not give him up for several months because she was waiting for me to call. How ironic.

Through the years of sponsorship and continued step work, I was told to look for him; however, I did not think it would be spiritual of me to interrupt his life by trying to locate him.

What if his adoptive parents never told him he was adopted? Who was I to try to be his mother after all these years? I just brought him into the world—I was not his mother.

So on 23 January 2001, I found myself talking to this child, my son, who was now a grown young man. He said he understood about the drugs and the awful marriage and none of that mattered. I felt so undeserving and wondered how I had been blessed to have such a beautiful, loving, and forgiving person in my life.

After our conversation, I was on the next flight to meet my son in North Carolina. I went alone, with no resistance or fear. I met him, my daughter-in-law, and my beautiful granddaughter named Angel. Do I need to tell you that I have been collecting angels for years? The coincidences I have experienced in this program never cease to amaze me!

**It doesn’t matter…**

**Part II**

You might think the story should end here, but there is more. I was treasurer of our convention committee, and I started to self-destruct. My disease was using money to bring me down.

I would have a deposit from the committee in my purse and then rationalize that I only needed five dollars, thinking that I would put it back when I went to my bank. Well, this continued for nine months with no replacement of the funds from me. I was slowly and painfully destroying my good standing in NA—lying and not telling anyone what I was doing. Soon, over time, the amount grew to be hundreds of dollars.

Finally, in September 2001, I called the chair of the ASC and asked him to meet me at the bank. When I met him, I confessed to my theft of NA funds and was honest about having no idea of the actual total my self-destruction had caused. It turned out to be a sum of about $4,000!

The shame, guilt, and disappointment I experienced were more than I feel any person should have to endure. I went to the ASC administrative committee and offered a written amends to every NA member and asked that it be put in the ASC minutes. I offered restitution, and we agreed to a minimum of $100 per month, with the total to be paid in full within a two-year period.

Anger started intensifying within my NA community. The judging, finger-pointing, whispering, and inventory-taking began too. “How could she have taken that money and still be clean?” The response from local members was more than I could live with.

I would drive to a meeting and, before I could even get out of my car, the pointing and whispering would begin. I was overwhelmed with shame and guilt. I had no desire to use drugs; I just wanted to shut down and die. I tried to keep going to meetings, but usually the same things kept happening, and as a result, I never made it inside to the meeting.

Nine months went by before I finally made it to a meeting, staying from the beginning to the end. Many members had comments, judging looks, and still believed I must have used drugs. I lost my job due to my theft because I handled my employer’s banking and payroll accounts, my significant other and I broke up, and I became deeply depressed.

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**Just for today**

My area and I followed NAWS Bulletin #30, Theft of NA Funds, throughout this process, and I wanted to know if there was anyone else who stole NA funds, reimbursed the fellowship, and stayed clean.

It was not easy, but I did it and I stayed clean. I thought of calling the World Service Office often. I wanted to let you know that if someone calls and needs hope, they can stay clean and live the NA way, no matter what, and that I am here for them.

*With gratitude and humility,*

Rene R, Florida, USA
Chance of a lifetime

I am a forty-three-year-old, single, black mother of two with an associate's degree in respiratory therapy. When I wrote this story, I was in St. Louis County Jail, soon to be transferred to Vandler Penitentiary.

It was after I left Los Angeles that my life hit a bad spot. Two of my brothers died and my best friend turned to religion and got married. The loss I felt opened old wounds of hurt, betrayal, and shame. I felt unloved and unlovable.

My mother tried to turn me toward Christ, but I did not feel good enough for God. I felt lonely and desperate to belong. I started hanging out with the wrong people, although at the time they seemed right to me. Most of them had good educations and good jobs. The only drawback was that they also used drugs.

In the beginning, they asked me to just carry the drugs. I knew the money would be good, so I did. Before long, I was using. I thought everyone else was responsible for all that was wrong in my life. I felt as though the world had dealt me a bad hand, and drugs made me forget. My mother was dying slowly on the inside while she watched me ruin my life. I knew I could not care properly for my children, so I left them in her care.

Drugs now took first place in my life. Nothing else mattered. I drifted in and out of rehabs. I even tried to commit suicide.

When I would get out of rehab, I would go meet my old crew again. They always gave me my “props” for my skills, especially being a good “booster,” someone who steals or shoplifts. I was smart enough that the authorities never pinned me with drug charges, but it caught up with me when I was arrested for driving with a suspended license. My stay in jail was short, and I went right back to the same lifestyle once I was released.

On 18 December 1998, I was arrested again. I was facing a sentence of up to seven years, but I believe it was more of a rescue rather than an arrest. All of my “yets” were becoming awful realities as I did anything and everything to keep my active addiction alive. When my money ran out and I was too paranoid to boost, I stole from my loved ones. I even broke into my own house! Drugs alone could have sentenced me to death, but instead I went to jail where I received a chance of a lifetime—and I chose life.

In jail I had no control over anything. Everything was done according to a schedule—eating, sleeping, walking, even talking. At first I felt as if I would not be able to stand it.

The women in that jail were young, old, beautiful, smart, and full of talent, and many knew of no other lifestyle except to rob, steal, and hurt others. I mean women were losing their minds in there. I could have been next.

Realizing just how precious life was to me, I made the decision and reached out. I chose NA, and I chose God. I chose to turn my will and my way over to a power greater than myself. I tried my best to be honest and open-minded, and I was willing to go to any length for my recovery, hoping to succeed as so many have before me.

My way of giving back is to share this, my story, with others. I have learned that our
most painful experiences offer us opportunities to grow.

I am so grateful for the love and support of my family and my sponsor. I now have liver disease, and only my right kidney is functioning. My eyes are slowly getting worse but, just for today, the quality of my recovery is very strong and important to me. And while it has not been easy, it has been simple.

I am now living in St. Louis, and life is very real, but good. My blessing is everlasting. My God and the program of Narcotics Anonymous have saved my life. I want to keep what has been so freely given to me, so I share my story wherever and whenever I am asked.

The spirit of this fellowship is in me today. I have come to know unconditional love. If I can do it, so can you. I will forever hold close to my heart these beautiful principles of NA.

Desiree G, Missouri, USA

Seeking honesty

When asked what the spiritual principle underlying Step One is, some reply, “acceptance,” others say, “surrender,” but for me “honesty” is the most important term.

After years of floating in and out of denial, the honest admission that I was powerless over my addiction and that my life was unmanageable was tremendously freeing. When trying to understand a principle, one can define it by differentiating between what it is not and what it is.

Michelangelo said he sculpted by seeing what was in a block of marble and then removing everything else. The Twelve Steps are traditionally approached in this same fashion. I seek to remove my unmanageability, insanity, wrongs, defects of character, and shortcomings, and then I make amends for the harm I have caused.

Step Eleven suggests that we seek knowledge of God’s will for us, and Step Twelve suggests that the prior steps have led us to a spiritual awakening. So, for me, the First Step suggests that I awaken by becoming honest with myself.

What is honesty? Well, one path to honesty is eliminating dishonesty. I came to recovery knowing a little about dishonesty.

Dishonesty involves lying, cheating, and stealing. The dimensions of dishonesty include the amount of harm it does to myself and others; whether or not it was done knowingly or unintentionally; the function it served (such as avoiding pain or reality); and the fact that dishonest behavior is often associated with acting on other shortcomings.

While it is clearly an honorable goal to seek to be less dishonest, there are other ways of approaching the challenge of Step One.

The dimensions of honesty

The passive way to develop honesty is to accept or recognize the truth when it is presented to me. The classic example is recognizing the truth of the First Step and admitting that I am an addict.

In contrast to the passive method is the active approach of seeking the truth about one’s self, one’s relationships to others, and how the world functions. I do this by writing, praying, meditating, and sharing with others.

Developing honesty can be done by either focusing on the moment or looking at patterns across time. Some truths change over time, such as how old I am or the cost of blueberries. If I am seeking honesty in the moment, I need to be sensitive to changing truths and contextual factors such as culture or level of spiritual development.

The “Set Aside Prayer” is an example of this approach to seeking honesty: “God, please help me to set aside everything I think I know about myself, my disease, these steps, and especially You; please give me an open mind and a new experience of myself, my disease, these steps, and especially You.”

In contrast to the latter approach, honesty can often be found in the truth revealed by those patterns that are manifest in the many different contexts and over time. One example of this for me was how the Fourth and Fifth Steps revealed patterns demonstrating my role in past failed relationships.

NA is a simple program for complicated people. Honesty can be sought both in simplicity and in complexity. NA showed me that instead of having a clean date for heroin, a separate clean date for LSD, and yet another clean date for imported beer, the simple truth about my clean date was that the last time I used any mood- or mind-altering drug was my first day clean.

“... where one spiritual principle is being practiced, there are likely other spiritual principles in action as well.”

At other times, honesty is revealed in the complex ramifications of a simple truth. For instance, while I thought recovery involved only being abstinent from drugs, the truth is that I had to make physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual changes in every area of my life. Even though honesty is sometimes found in seeking the forest through the trees, at other times it is appreciating all the individual differences in the trees themselves and ignoring the forest.

Some would say that true spiritual principles never conflict. A corollary of this premise is that, where one spiritual principle is being practiced, there are likely other spiritual principles in action as well. Thus, I can seek honesty by looking at situations where hope, faith, courage, humility, patience, and love are being practiced.

In contrast, honesty tends not to be associated with defects of character. For example, brutal honesty is cruelty masquerading as the truth. This is not the place to find true honesty. Genuine honesty has depth and is not easily ripped away to reveal a defective, underlying motive.
Working to develop honesty

Here is a list of activities I try to incorporate into my life as I work to develop honesty:

- Paying attention at meetings and listening closely to those who share honestly. I try to not let the repetition of an honest message lead me to become bored. After all, I am a slow learner and a fast forgetter.
- Writing about what I stand to gain by becoming honest and what I stand to lose if I do not become honest. This usually helps with my motivation.
- Affirming my desire to be honest by asking others to help me with this task.
- Keeping an open mind by utilizing the “Set Aside Prayer” daily.
- Paying attention to patterns that repeat in my life across situations and time. In such cases, I tend to be the only common element, and the truth about me is in there hiding.
- Observing those who are hopeful, humble, and patient. It is likely that they have much to teach me about living an honest life.
- When confused about the complexity of my life, I call my sponsor who assists me in simplifying my understanding.

Craig PW, California, USA

Learning from other women

As a newcomer to Narcotics Anonymous, I am learning so much with each passing day. One of the most important lessons I have learned is the value of “women sticking with women.”

Being a woman who has been abused and extremely misguided in my relationships with men and who has never been close to other women, I never thought I would need, much less want, the company of women. I certainly did not feel safe or comfortable sharing my fears, doubts, and insecurities with them. They could never understand or help me because I am so different.

I smile as I write this because of the profound change that has already started to take place with my thinking. You see, not only have I been abused and assaulted, but I also spent ten years working in adult entertainment. This profession fed my addiction, my warped sense of self, and my unhealthy view of other women as nothing more than impediments and competition.

When I walked into my first NA meeting, I knew I needed help with drugs. What I did not know was that I needed help with me. I thought getting approval and accolades based on my appearance and what I did not know was that I needed help with me. I thought getting approval and accolades based on my appearance were good for my self-esteem. I thought that by conning men out of their money I was proving that I had power.

I thought many things for many years—all of them wrong.

The most eye-opening lesson I have learned in recovery thus far is that I can set boundaries, and the women in NA are helping me learn how to do that. I found myself falling back into the old ways of dealing with men, even inside the rooms to which I had run for help!

I found myself saying nothing while feeling objectified or being drawn to men in the program. I found myself uncomfortable with sharing because of fear of being seen as unattractive and so, once again, I said nothing.

But thanks to my sponsor, my Higher Power, and the other women in NA, I am able to recognize what I was doing to myself. I recognized that these old behaviors had to stop if I wanted to continue to recover.

I meditated for weeks on this situation, and finally, I felt it was time to speak up during a meeting. My heart was racing, and I spoke with purpose, with calm, and with the help of those other women and my HP I spoke about the value of calling other women, and I spoke about how I had succumbed to my old ways within the rooms of NA. When the meeting was over, the reaction was beyond my expectations. So many women came to express their gratitude to me for sharing. Their gratitude?

I was getting this off my chest for me, or so I thought. I thought I was alone in my twisted behavior. I thought I was alone in my self-loathing. I thought I was so different!

I am learning today that I am not different, but I am special. I deserve to be loved. NA has taught me that.

The night that I shared, and many other nights, the women in my group poured love upon me, gave me reassurance, and gave me the courage to continue on the path to self-love.

I now make an effort to reach out to the women of NA. I find my world is full of love and understanding. I find that my sisters in NA do not judge me and are not my competition. They are, along with my NA brothers, my friends, my family, and my hope.

Toni G, Texas, USA
Early sponsorship

I always knew I was an addict because I was always addicted to one drug or another most of my life.

When I found Narcotics Anonymous, I had been trying to quit using for many years without success. Even in NA, I seemed to have trouble staying clean. I would get about 100 days and then relapse. I often heard addicts at meetings tell about how they relapsed because of not calling their sponsor. My experiences with sponsorship and relapse are quite different. Some years ago, I had about 120 days clean, and I shared a little something about recovery from drugs at a meeting—you know, some of that "great wisdom" newcomers have from time to time.

Well, after the meeting a guy came up to me and told me how he really needed to hear what I had to say. I thought, "I am pretty good at talking the talk with sponsors and relapse because of not calling their sponsor. My experiences with sponsorship and relapse are quite different. Some years ago, I had about 120 days clean, and I shared a little something about recovery from drugs at a meeting—you know, some of that "great wisdom" newcomers have from time to time."

He went on to say that he wanted my phone number, and he wanted me to be his sponsor. I told him, "No way, man. I haven’t worked the steps, and besides that, I only have a few months clean."

He insisted that I was the man for him, so I reluctantly gave him my number, telling him that he could call me, but he really needed to find a real sponsor.

When I got home that night, I called my sponsor and told him about what had happened. My sponsor told me, "That’s your ego telling you that you can do it. Don’t even go there!"

I guess my sponsor was right, because I let that addict call me almost every night without telling him again to find someone else. He kept telling me that he needed to talk to me because we had the same drug of choice, and he knew that I could help him.

When he would call me, he had a way of describing the rush of shooting up that would have me drooling on the phone. It was not long before he relapsed, and this time I really lost everything: my job, my wife, my kids, my truck, and even my health.

One day, about two years later, while I was waiting by a pay phone for my connection to call me back—strung out, nothing but skin and bones, and riding an old bicycle—I heard a Harley Davidson motorcycle approaching. I looked at the rider as he pulled up right in front of me, and I saw that it was the guy who used to call me. He parked the motorcycle and rushed up to me to shake my hand, saying, “Hey, man, thanks. It’s been two years, and I’m still clean thanks to you.” I felt like choking him as I looked from his new Harley to my pitiful old broken-down bicycle.

That was a while back, and now I can laugh about it. You see, today I have almost four years clean, and much of what I lost I have gotten back thanks to the program of Narcotics Anonymous.

Charlie S, California, USA

My dilemma

No, I do not want to talk about myself. Today I want to share about my friend who died two years ago on 7 February in a car accident, and about a big dilemma I am experiencing. I miss him so very much.

My friend was a stubborn addict. The First Step was very hard for him to accept. He liked to be in control and always wanted to show his maturity. For this reason, I believe, his life was a sequence of ups and downs, relapses and recovery.

Although somewhat inconsistent, he was a good friend. He would never let me down. A day before my wedding, during my last panic and indecision, there he was in the middle of the night, listening to me and shining some light on my path.

We shared a room for many weeks when I first came to the program. I never got back to using again, and we grew apart. Many times we had some differences of opinion. Too many. Actually, even once would have been too many.

His recovery seemed like urban traffic—stopping and flowing, stopping and flowing. He never would listen to anyone entirely. I mean, he never truly listened.

He had a big problem with what he called “flexibility.” I think he saw it as manipulation. His dream was to buy a yellow Ferrari. He never was satisfied.

Continued on page 16
NA service: a debt of honor

My home group in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, was conducting a seminar on the “Twelve Traditions, Working the Steps and Service.” As a newcomer, I was given the assignment of determining, in two weeks, all of the ways we can be of service in NA. I was then given a chance to present my research.

The process helped me to learn and grow as I discovered not only what I can do to be of service in our fellowship, but also why service is integral to my recovery and how to be of service in accordance with NA’s spiritual principles. I learned a great deal about our steps and traditions during the course of researching for my presentation.

I am grateful to have been challenged as a newcomer and was startled by how little I knew about service, even though I was an active member of my home group, attended meetings twice a day, worked the steps, had a relationship with my sponsor, stayed in conscious contact with my Higher Power, and surrounded myself with recovery twenty-four hours a day.

This was a lesson for me in how asking for help and putting forth queries can lead to greater understanding and growth. I started with the fundamental idea that service was making coffee and stacking chairs. I was told in an earlier shallow dive into NA that I was always to put away two chairs after a meeting—my own and one for the still-suffering addict who did not make it to that meeting.

As I started to do so, I eventually realized that I was leaving the meetings with an understanding of how fortunate I was to have attended, grateful that the meeting even existed. I would not, however, commit to coming early and making the coffee because I was afraid that if I missed the meeting for any reason, there would be a group of recovering addicts “coffeeless and chaotic” as a result of my irresponsibility.

Today I am committed to my home group. I arrive early, faithfully, and view making coffee as somewhat like the fact that, while I am not responsible for my addiction, I am responsible for my recovery!

Narcotics Anonymous’ primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers that “an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live.” The main forum in which we carry that message is our meetings. In NA meetings we sit on chairs and, when it is available, we drink coffee. There is a beauty in that physical simplicity.

I believe our contribution to a recovery meeting is service. This begins when we participate in the spiritual principle that those who came before us got to keep what they had by giving it away.

I look at this principle of recovery in NA as a variation on a song I heard as I was growing up: Love is like a magic penny, hold on tight and you won’t have any, lend it, spend it, you’ll have so many; they’ll roll all over the floor.

The newcomer is the essence of our fellowship, as meetings exist to carry the message, and service, for me, starts when I walk in the door as a newcomer. This has helped to shed light on the expression we often hear that “the newcomer is the most important person at any meeting.”

Service at the group level is anything that helps another addict, directly or indirectly. My list has grown to include the following activities:

“Hi, my name is Girts, and I am an addict from Latvia—to be exact, from the city of Riga. I was one of the participants in the St. Petersburg Service Workshop on 9-11 February 2004. I want to express my appreciation, and tell you I am grateful that I had the opportunity to learn about service in NA. It was a great experience! Thank God you exist!

“Tomorrow we will have a meeting in our region where I will have a chance to share my experience from the Russian-speaking workshop in St. Petersburg.

“One more time, with love from Latvia!”

Girts, Riga, Latvia
• Chairing the meeting
• Reading
• Handing out keytags
• Picking up keytags
• Greeting members
• Praying with the group
• Sharing in a spiritual manner
• Leading by example
• Being honest, open-minded, and willing
• Reaching out

It is important for me to realize that service is not about ego. I was self-centered and self-seeking in active addiction, and this is a program of emotional and spiritual change. I try to share in a selfless manner and to be “a part of,” neither better nor worse than everyone else.

I strive to be of service in humility and not expect accolades or awards. Service is about being good to my heart and knowing that what I do will make a difference.

The first weekend after I was discharged from treatment, I had the opportunity to attend the Canadian Convention of Narcotics Anonymous. The sparsely attended workshop on service commitments carried an extremely strong message to me. The spirit of Narcotics Anonymous was apparent in the sharing of the various regional service representatives.

Service was described as being all about making a difference and working together to carry the message of recovery. It was powerfully expressed that service is a reflection of “hopes and dreams coming true in NA” and “an expression of passion” for the fellowship.

There were other valuable experiences shared about what service means. Service is:

• A pleasure, an honor, and a privilege
• Expressing gratitude
• Esteem building
• Empowering
• Energizing
• Humility
• A growth experience
• A learning experience
• An opportunity for self-challenge
• Utilization of strengths and strengthening of weaknesses

In an expression of gratitude, one addict shared that they stayed clean because of service and noted that service is a part of the program of people who remain involved with NA.

I think the process of joining together to create a service structure is an expression of our group humility. The strength of our groups as a whole is greater than the sum of the individual groups. “What we cannot do alone we can do together” funnels in a reverse pyramid from the newcomer to the group to the area to the region to the world levels of the Narcotic Anonymous service structure.

Just as the Twelve Steps detail our program for personal recovery, arriving at a spiritual awakening, and the Twelve Traditions relate group experience in maintaining our integral unity, the Twelve Concepts ensure that “in keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should be one of service, never of government.”

As with the steps and the traditions, we arrive at the Twelfth Concept as a result of “working” the first eleven concepts, which are summarized as:

1. Responsibility
2. Authority
3. Delegation
4. Leadership
5. Accountability
6. Spiritual guidance
7. Participation
8. Communication
9. Open-mindedness
10. Fairness
11. Finances

Humility is an essential attribute of nongoverning service in NA. Tradition Two states that “our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.” The ultimate authority in Narcotics Anonymous is a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. That group conscience is the means by which we collectively invite the ongoing guidance of our Higher Power in making decisions.

As I seek to do God’s work and not my own and listen to the spirit of other members beyond their personalities, I serve others and not myself. As a group, we invite a loving God to influence us and, therefore, we ideally can reach collective decisions unanimously.

Quality service, like quality recovery, can only be accomplished in an atmosphere of mutual respect, support, and trust.

There is a pyramid in psychology, which states that the base level is one of food, shelter, and clothing and the utmost pinnacle is one of self-actualization, while acknowledging that state is seldom reached.

I see that same opportunity in Narcotics Anonymous. The wider the base, the higher the point of freedom for us all.

As a result of our service structure, our membership grows as our message is carried via helplines, H&I panels, public information, outreach, conventions, literature, newsletters, activities, fellowship development, and, most importantly, meetings, meetings, and more meetings.

Each element of our NA structure exists in order “that no addict seeking recovery need die without having the chance to find a new way of life.” I believe the spiritual core of our program and the foundation of our fellowship is that together we recover and together we serve.

I think the world would be a much better place if it only followed the same model of service structure that ensures the success of Narcotics Anonymous.

Alexa McC, British Columbia, Canada

On with the show!

You do not wait in line all day for tickets to a show, and then when you get your ticket say, “I have my ticket now, I’ll go home.”

No, you stay to see the show.
Well, I believe our ticket is the program, and we do not go home after coming in. We have to stay to see the show.

The show is the work, and to enjoy the rewards I have to do that work. Sponsor,
steps, commitments, and home group all lead to a Higher Power and a much higher calling than I am used to answering. I need to let go of my self-centeredness to some degree and learn to help others.

That is the higher calling I am speaking about—to help another addict and to not look for the payoff. The paradox to that statement is that there is a payoff, but not the one I am used to receiving!

The payoff is the feeling I get knowing that my experience has given someone else, as well as me, the strength and hope to carry on no matter what life throws at me.

The best part is seeing someone else learn and grow and become the person they always had the potential to be but never succeeded in becoming of the powerlessness of their disease and the use of drugs.

Of course, just because I help someone does not always mean this person will get it. The purpose of service is to help me keep my feet firmly planted on spiritual ground.

If I were to help fifty addicts and none of them made it, I am pretty sure I would still be around to help the next one. Remember, it is never time wasted, but a lesson learned. If just one person in whom I invest time is successful, that makes all the other attempts worthwhile. That is a feeling from within that nothing in life can compare to, and for me, that is the ultimate high. I cannot think of a better way to show my appreciation and to give back than to help another addict find recovery, just as I was helped to find recovery.

To live, learn, and grow in unity to the same cause is part of why I keep coming back to do service in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

Deborah D, Pennsylvania, USA

Picture this

NA communities are invited to send photographs of their meeting places. We especially welcome photos that include meeting formats, recovery literature, posters, dirty coffee cups, and anything else that makes the meeting place look “lived in.” Sorry, we cannot use photos that identify NA members. Please tell us about your meeting, its name, the location and city, how long it has been in existence, and what your format consists of (speaker, participation, etc.).

Sólo por hoy

We are very happy to have just opened on 28 February 2004, a new NA group called Sólo Por Hoy, located in downtown Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras. It is good to know that most Central American countries—Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and now Honduras—have a group called Sólo Por Hoy.

This new group meets Monday through Saturday from 6 to 7:30 pm. We have closed meetings, step studies, public information, topic discussions, and speaker meetings. Once a week we visit treatment centers and other groups so that we can share our experience, strength, and hope with other people who suffer from the disease of addiction.

In Honduras, we have very few NA groups—three in Tegucigalpa and one in each of the different regions of the country, for a total of seven groups. Unfortunately, in Honduras, the population does not know well the purpose of Narcotics Anonymous.

On 15 March, an important national weekly magazine published a story about NA in our country. We are very happy because we feel that more members of the public, as well as addicts who are still suffering, will come to our groups in an effort to obtain more information about NA.

In our group, we meet in a round-table style, and on the table we place the readings and literature. We begin the meeting with the Serenity Prayer, and then we continue with the readings, the thought of the day from Just for Today: Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts and some of the references that can be found in the Basic Text. During our closed meetings we try to have each member share in the “NA way,” and at the end we hug in a circle to symbolize the fact that what we could not do alone, we are doing together.

We send hugs to all our fellow members in the NA Fellowship around this planet! Thank you for allowing me to share with you about our group.

Carlos I, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
The basic NA birthday

This cake was my idea to celebrate my fourteenth NA birthday at my home group. I had it specially made at a bakery and brought it to my home group. The icing on the cake is the same color as our Basic Text, and it was a big success. The cake tasted great—and it turned everyone’s teeth blue!

My home group is the Clean Air Act Group of NA in Atlanta. We meet at a church on Wednesdays at 8 pm. I have been attending this particular group now for four years.

Chris T, Georgia, USA

Recovery First Group

The new issue of The NA Way Magazine inspired us to send in photos of our meeting place, so here is one of my home group taken at our last group-conscious meeting.

Our group is the Recovery First Group in Traverse City, Michigan, USA. We started this group in May 1996. We meet three times a week in a Christian coffee shop called “Jacob’s Well” on the days when the shop is closed. Over the last year and a half, we have taken the suggestion from the Fourth Tradition essay in It Works: How and Why of opening the building an hour early and playing music before and after the meeting. No other local groups were doing anything like what we offered.

This extra time for us to fellowship in a comfortable setting has attracted dozens of newcomers, and we have more than tripled our meeting attendance. We often exceed seventy addicts on Tuesday nights, which is huge for a community this size. Our message of hope is strong, and our belly laughs are frequent. We are now faced with finding a larger meeting place, as each week brings new faces and a greater sense of unity.

Dave H, Michigan, USA
The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous has come a long way since our early beginnings in 1953. We have grown from that first meeting held in Sun Valley, California, USA, to over 31,700 weekly meetings held in over 113 countries worldwide. Our history is rich with diversity, and we want to share the facts of that history with you, the little-known, as well as the well-known. If you have an interesting and historic fact, send it to us at naway@na.org or NAWS, Attn: The NA Way Magazine, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

Editor’s note: Rather than a list of facts, this month we are featuring an article from a member in Chisinau, Moldova. It has been translated from Russian, and we hope that you enjoy reading it.

One seed started to bear fruit

In the fall of 2000, an addict named G left a Moscow rehabilitation center to return to his native Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, a small European country located between Rumania and Ukraine. Many people there had branded him a hopeless case and believed no one and nothing could ever help him. But G was to become the first addict in Chisinau who would come to believe in and practice what he had been introduced to in the rehab—the Twelve Steps. It is likely that, standing on the edge of the abyss, with one foot in the grave, he realized that this would be his last chance.

It is always hard to be the first at anything. There were no Narcotics Anonymous groups in Moldova at that time; and he knew that to survive alone and work a program of recovery without a support group would be next to impossible. That is what scared him most of all. He kept in touch with his sponsor in Moscow and continued to travel to Moscow to work the steps with him.

He also started to attend meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous in Chisinau. At first, the whole world seemed like a strange place to him, for he was seeing it and being in it for the first time with his new, clear eyes, in recovery. He did not know this “real” world, and it scared him.

Time went by. He worked his program, and it worked for him, too. Among the alcoholics, he started to find a few people to whom he could relate, but he kept thinking about starting a Narcotics Anonymous group. The first order of business, he reasoned, was finding a place to meet.

On Sunday, 11 March 2001, in a utility room of a retail facility in the Botanik district, the first NA group in Chisinau met for the very first time. There were three people present—two men and a woman.

Then the search for newcomers started. In the beginning, there was mostly insecurity and doubt. Even G’s relative who provided the room for the group’s meetings had doubts. But the group was born, and its work began.

At first, the members were sitting on old, wobbly chairs; then they bought old but still usable armchairs.

And addicts poured in. Mostly it was G’s old “connections.” And G found his old notoriety turned inside out to good purpose: Addicts would say to one another, “Well, if a lost cause like G could get clean…” And so they would come. Some stayed, some relapsed, and some just left. But more came in.

And, one day at a time, this one seed started to grow and bear fruit.

Today, this group includes seven people who have over one year clean, three of whom are nearing two years clean. G himself, by the way, is about to celebrate four years!

Today, Chisinau’s Feedback Group of Narcotics Anonymous is known in all chemical dependency wards in the city. The Chisinau Narcotics Anonymous group has its own website: http://na-moldova.narod.ru/.

Today, addicts from other cities in Moldova—Belts, Tiraspol, and Orgeyev—visit the Chisinau Narcotics Anonymous group. The group is in touch with and maintains friendly connections with Narcotics Anonymous in Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. Initial contact has been made with NA in Germany (where this article has been kindly translated into English by a German friend).

It is hard for those who attended that very first Narcotics Anonymous meeting in Moldova to believe that the group celebrated its third anniversary in March. After three years, some fifteen addicts now attend the meeting with regularity. There is not a single NA meeting in any of the country’s other cities, so a lot still needs to be done, but it can be done. And it will be accomplished by the continuing efforts of the worldwide Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, of which a tiny but precious part is the NA group Feedback of Chisinau, Moldova.

Valerij A, Chisinau, Moldova
Primary Purpose

“There are many ways of doing things in Narcotics Anonymous. And just as all of us have our own individual personalities, so will your group develop its own identity, its own way of doing things, and its own special knack for carrying the NA message. That’s the way it should be. In NA we encourage unity, not uniformity.”

The Group Booklet, pg. 1

This is a column for you, about you, and by you. We invite you to share any challenges your group may have faced, how your group reached a solution, and/or its “special knack” that keeps you coming back!

NA in Hungary

It has been almost ten years since twelve-step self-help groups began in Pécs; however, prior to 2000 there were no NA meetings. The first NA group in Pécs grew with the support of some local AA members. With startling similarity to the events in the USA in 1953, that first NA meeting took place in a drug clinic in Pécs on a Thursday in February 2000.

These members came from a drug rehabilitation center a few miles away. It was the kind cooperation of the head of the institution (himself being a twelve-step member), rather than their own inner determination, which brought the first NA group into existence—or at least this may be concluded from the fact that none of those founding members claim to be NA members today.

The process started very slowly, and few believed that NA would ever work in Pécs. Many people turned up in the group, but most did not get touched by the message of NA, and they relapsed; however, those members were truly the ones who laid the foundation for the NA of today.

Some addicts who had just finished their rehabilitation began to understand the NA promise. It was during the summer of 2000 that the Budapest and Pécs NA groups made their bond stronger and started a process that was finally able to maintain a meeting. NA in Pécs came to life!

This did not mean, however, that it was free from “childhood illnesses.” Despite the many problems that arose later, more and more members continued to come to the group.

In the beginning of 2002, we held the first Sunday NA meeting, but an unfortunate event occurred, making it also the last such meeting. It was not until summer that another meeting could start in a community center. The Sunday Steps meeting and group began in February 2003, and the meeting has been taking place in the Kolping House ever since.

The above-mentioned “childhood illness” started to manifest itself in the fact that the members of one group maintained two separate meetings at the same time. There were problems with the whole home-group concept, and there were questions concerning service, responsibility, and how many days clean one needed to have in order to do service work, etc.

Finally, in August 2003, the two groups joined and carried on as one group with three meetings a week—a problem-solving meeting on Tuesday, a starter meeting on Thursday, and a step meeting on Sunday. The group members carry the message three times a month to nearby drug rehabilitation centers.

The NA message from Pécs is that it works!

Feri S, Pécs, Hungary
Regardless

In my short time around the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, I have become accustomed to the fact that many different types of people, with many different types of beliefs, and from many different types of backgrounds come to the meetings to find recovery from the disease of addiction. In the NA reading entitled “What Is the Narcotics Anonymous Program?” it clearly states, “Anyone may join us, regardless of age, race, sexual identity, creed, religion or lack of religion.” This principle is crucial in our fellowship so that everyone feels welcome. We must all do what we can to preserve that open-door policy.

A few months ago there was an event that shook many members of the South Coast Area in the Southern California (US) Region of Narcotics Anonymous, which prompted me to write this essay.

What transpired was this: One of our members came to a regular NA meeting to celebrate their clean-time birthday. One of their personal friends baked a birthday cake and brought it to the meeting to show support for this great accomplishment. On the icing of the cake, however, was the internationally recognized Nazi symbol of the SS, shown as two lightning bolts, signifying involvement in the Aryan Brotherhood and exemplifying racist beliefs. The cake immediately created controversy in the meeting because there were several Jewish members of the fellowship at that meeting, as well as African-Americans and homosexuals.

The question that arose was this: What would have been the proper thing for the group to do about such a cake? Should the secretary or another trusted servant have stepped in and told the cake-bearers that they could not keep the cake at the meeting unless they removed the controversial symbol?

What if someone brought a cake with a Christian cross on it, a Jewish Star of David, or a satanic pentagram? What if the cake had a rainbow signifying homosexuality? Any of these symbols signifying religious beliefs, ideologies, or sexual preference has the potential to alienate other members with different beliefs or orientations. Does this situation go against the principle outlined in the reading mentioned above, which emphasizes that “anyone may join us”?

This controversial event comes up as a discussion often in our NA community, so I decided to seek more information on the subject from the NAWS website, www.na.org. I found a document from a past issue of *The NA Way Magazine* called “Clearing the Air: South Atlanta Area Works to Overcome Racism in Its Meetings.”

Although this article did not address our topic succinctly, it did offer the following passage related to the topic: “For our common welfare, we recommend that we focus on our similarities, not our differences. No addict seeking recovery, whether black, white, brown, or whatever, need die from the horrors of addiction. We recommend that everyone ask him- or herself this question: If within our fellowship we practice hate and intolerance toward those whom God made different from us, can our primary purpose ever be realized?”

So, what is my opinion on this highly controversial topic? I am glad to share it with you. Based upon the principles outlined in our literature, as well as the realization of our primary purpose, I feel it is our responsibility to uphold these principles in our
meetings. I was taught, and I believe, that every member of our fellowship has the right to practice or believe in any religion, theology, theosophy, ideology, or sexual preference as long as they do not bring it into the meetings and share about it specifically.

By doing so, I believe that it could turn away members who are trying to find a solution for their addiction. Simply said, it means that outside of the rooms you can fly whatever flag you choose to fly, but in the meeting rooms of Narcotics Anonymous there is only one flag that should fly at all times, one flag beneath which we should all unite and support each other together: the white flag of surrender!

I believe it is our duty to welcome into the fellowship everyone who seeks recovery and to make sure that no one feels alienated. As stated in the Basic Text, “Unity is a must in Narcotics Anonymous.”

Last year I had the opportunity to attend the NA World Convention in San Diego, which was also a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the NA Fellowship. At the convention I learned that at the very first meetings of NA in the early 1950s, there were African-Americans and Caucasians, Jews and Christians, heterosexuals and homosexuals, men and women, all in attendance. This was the evidence I needed to be absolutely sure that our fellowship was founded and developed utilizing the principle of unity despite our differences.

With over 25,000 addicts of all ages, races, sexual identities, creeds, religions, and lack of religions in attendance at the convention, it is now clearer to me than ever that our primary purpose is being carried out on a daily basis around the world.

Let us all do what we can to preserve the unity called for in the First Tradition by making everyone who walks through the doors of NA feel welcome.

David H, California, USA

What did you say?

My name is Randall, and I am an addict. I would like to take this opportunity to participate in our magazine. I always read it, and I find that it strengthens me, teaches me about NA around the world, and reminds me that I am not alone in my NA world.

I would like to share my point of view, and I hope it is published in the magazine. The topic is about sharing in Spanish by Hispanic members in NA groups in the US.

I am from Costa Rica and have lived in New Jersey for the past two years. I began my NA program thirteen years ago, and my home group is the Sólo Por Hoy group in San Jose, Costa Rica.

I am happy that I can go to NA groups in New Jersey and that I have been able to stay clean. But I attend meetings for an hour-and-a-half, and I can barely ever talk or share in the meeting. There are some bilingual meetings, but when I do go to these meetings that are listed as Spanish-speaking, the Hispanic members prefer to speak in English, and the whole meeting is not in Spanish. The opportunity to share is very short, and this meeting is held only once a week.

It would be great to have the meeting totally in Spanish so that everyone—including myself—could have an opportunity to share and understand, especially the newcomer.

It does not matter where we are. What is important for me is that I do not use and that I participate in my NA meetings.

I ask and suggest to my fellow members here in New Jersey that when we have meetings listed as Spanish-speaking, the entire meeting be done in this language.

Thank you for letting me share.

Randall L, New Jersey, USA

My dilemma: Continued from page 8

Even though we were friends, he was just too complex for me. I survived by keeping it simple, trying to trust others, and admitting my powerlessness. Unfortunately, that was impossible for him. Recovery, when he was in it, was a hard struggle for him.

I am not sure whether or not he was clean when he died. I do know, however, that he had the desire to stay clean and be in recovery. Everyone knew he had that desire.

I believe he was trying hard to finally listen to others at the time when he died. I guess he was trying to change, especially in his professional life. I know his career was a big obstacle to his recovery and happiness.

“You have to settle down, stay by your family and friends,” we used to tell him. I think he was getting ready to do just that. He used to stay away from home for a long time, and he seldom made it to a meeting. He hardly ever would get in touch with others. It seems like right when he was about to admit his powerlessness and turn his life over to the program, trying to find more stability, he died.

So here is my dilemma. I want to put an eternity medallion in his grave. I dare not talk to his wife about it. For that matter, I am not sure if he was clean when he died. For these two reasons, I did not put my idea into practice.

Does it really matter? The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using. He had this desire, period. I will keep on sharing about this until I am clear about whether or not to fulfill this pressing desire I have.

I do this for my friend, and because I would want him to do the same for me.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share.

Carlos C, Lousada, Portugal
World Unity Day 2004

4 September 2004

4 September will be our worldwide day of unity. At one moment it is the same day around the entire world...

12:00 am New Zealand • 1:00 am Samoa • 2:00 am Hawaii, United States
3:00 am Aleutian Islands, US • 4:00 am Alaska, US • 5:00 am California, US
6:00 am Colorado, US • 7:00 am Western Ontario, Canada • 8:00 am Bahamas
9:00 am Rio de Janeiro, Brazil • 10:00 am Greenland • 11:00 am Cape Verde
12:00 pm (GMT) Greenwich • 1:00 pm London, United Kingdom • 2:00 pm Warsaw, Poland • 3:00 pm Tel Aviv, Israel • 4:00 pm United Arab Emirates
5:00 pm Karachi, Pakistan • 5:30 pm India • 6:00 pm Bangladesh
7:00 pm Thailand • 8:00 pm China • 9:00 pm Korea • 9:30 pm Northern Territory, Australia • 10:00 pm Queensland, Australia • 11:00 pm Russia (Zone 9)
11:30 pm Norfolk Island, Australia

In a spirit of unity, we will join together around the world and say the Serenity Prayer at the same time...

A simple prayer that for one moment we will say together as a fellowship...no telephone link, no big event.

You may have an event, you may join together with some friends, or you may just take a moment to yourself as we pray together on this day of unity.

Or, if you don’t feel like waking up at 3 o’clock in the morning, at some point during the day on 4 September (hopefully in a meeting), take a moment to reflect on our worldwide fellowship and say the Serenity Prayer for the addict who still suffers.

For more information visit www.na.org or call 818.773.9999
So you want to speak at WCNA-31…

Aloha! We are looking forward to joining together in a worldwide celebration of our recovery in the Polynesian paradise of Honolulu, Hawaii 1-4 September 2005! It promises to be a fabulous experience, and we are asking for your help with finding workshop speakers.

Submit names and/or tapes of members wishing to speak at a world convention workshop.

Clean time requirements are: ten years clean for main meeting and five years clean for workshops. Workshop speakers will be selected from the convention’s pre-registration list.

Simply complete the form below and send it to the WSO via mail, fax, or email. Recommendations/tapes for workshop speakers must be received no later than 31 January 2005.

Name of person to be considered as a workshop speaker: ____________________________________________________________

Street Address ___________________________________________________________ Apt# ______________

City ____________________________________________________________ State/Province _____________________

Country_________________________________________________________ Postal Code _______________________

Daytime Telephone (            ) ______________________   Evening Telephone (            ) _______________________

Clean Date ______/______/______

Name of person who is submitting name/tape __________________________ Telephone _______________________

Please fax or email completed application to (818) 700-0700 or WCNAspeaker@na.org.

Mail to: NA World Services
Attn: WCNA-31 Speakers
   PO Box 9999
   Van Nuys, CA 91409
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.

Argentina
- Buenos Aires: 19-21 Nov; CRANA Convencción Regional Argentina XII, Un Camino de Serenidad, Valor y Sabiduría; Av. Chiossa, San Bernardo; +05401143425464, +05401143426659; www.na.org.ar

Australia
- Cairns: 3-4 Jul; Cairns Area Convention; It’s Cool to Be Clean; event info: cool2bclean@optusnet.com.au
- South Australia: 1-3 Oct; AfinminGrace; Australian NA Regional Convention XX; Fullarton Park Centre, Adelaide; event info: +61418.80.77.55; speaker tape submission deadline: 1 Aug; write: South Australian, Box 479, Kent Town, South Australia 5067; www.enable.net.au/sana

Belgium
- Antwerp: 4-5 Sep; BCNCA V; We Do Recover; Het Oude Badhuis, Antwerp. French/Dutch event info: +32.0.474.34.70.47, English/German/Spanish event info: +32.0.477.26.33.34; Hebrew/Italian event info: +32.0.475.68.68.96; www.na-belgium.org

Canada
- British Columbia: 23-25 Jul; Annual British Columbia Regional Convention XXV; Livin’ It and Lovin’ It; Beban Park Recreation Centre, Nanaimo, Vancouver Island; event info: 250.754.8554, 250.248.4281, 250.619.2375; write: British Columbia Region, BCRCNA#25, Box 806, St A, Nanaimo, BC, Canada V9R 5N2; www.bcrcna.bc.ca
- Halifax: 6-8 Aug; CNACNA IV; Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax; http://www.centralnovarea.ca
- New Brunswick: 22-24 Oct; Canadian Convention XII; Coastal Inn, Saint John; hotel info: 506.644.6646; French event info: 506.644.6646; English event info: 506.644.6646; www.nab-nb.ca
- Ontario: 26 July-2 Aug; Bridging the Gap Convention; Blue Lake Provincial Park, Site #502, Blue Lake; write: Winnipeg ASC, Box 25173, 1650 Main St, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R2V 4C8; www.members.shaw.ca/na_winnipeg
- Quebec: 8-10 Oct; Annual Quebec Regional Convention XVII; Hotel des Seigneurs, Saint-Hyacinthe; hotel info: 819.827.4638
- Vancouver: 29-31 Oct; Pacific North West Convention XXVII, Renaissance Hotel Harbourside, Vancouver; hotel info: 604.905.8582; speaker tape info: 604.707.0827; event info: 604.879.1677, 604.785.1352; write: Vancouver Area, PWNCNA #27, Box 549, 3495 Cambie St, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 4R3

Colombia
- Manizales: 16-18 Oct; XIII Convención Regional; La recuperación esta en nuestras manos; Hotel Carretero Sede, Manizales; hotel info: +5.8840255; event info: +5.21300053, +6.8802400; email: manizales@yahoo.com

Germany

India
- Punjab: 26-28 Aug; NACCA I; First Convention of Chandigarh Area; NFL Guest House, Nangal, Punjab, India; hotel info: +91.8054151801; email: info@na-manizales@yahoo.com; email: manizales@yahoo.com

Japan
- Tokyo: 17-20 Sep; Japan Regional Convention III; I Can’t, We Can!; National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, Tokyo; event info: +81.8054151801

México
- Jalisco: 19-22 Aug; Comenzamos a Vivir; Puerto Vallarta; write: Región Occidente, Mix, Matamoros #847, Colonia Centro Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco 48300, México

New Zealand
- Wellington: 22-24 Oct; Living the Programme; Aotearoa-NZ Regional Convention IX; The Boatshed, Wellington; event registration: +64.49347280; event info: +64.27488265; write: Aotearoa-New Zealand Region, Box 9051, Wellington, New Zealand; www.nzna.org/events.html
Come soon

Check our website www.na.org or our newly launched shopping cart www.na.org/online_literature_sales_entrance.htm for availability.

Just for Today, Revised
Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts
Stickers to replace the three new quotes—referencing IP #11, Sponsorship, Revised—can be downloaded from our website.

An Introductory Guide to NA, Revised
Replacing IP #11, Sponsorship, with the revised version.

Sponsorship
Approved at WSC 2004, this book on sponsorship in NA—with “first-hand experiences” and “quotes in first-person”—illustrates the richness of our differences, the variety of our experiences, and our unity as a worldwide fellowship.

Group Reading Cards
Set of 7, including the reading, “We Do Recover.”
New price: US $2.50

Third Step Poster
“My many of us have said,” is added at the beginning of the poster.

NA Medallion Journal
Embossed front cover has an imprint of our recovery medallion (also holds a medallion) with sewn-in satin bookmarks.

New Medallion Design
This new design, available in the spring of 2005, wraps the Gratitude Prayer text on the medallion and changes our current Roman numerals to Arabic numerals.
WSO PRODUCT UPDATE

Arabic
IP #1: Who, What, How, and Why
من، ماذا، كيف و لماذا
Item No. AR-3101 Price US $0.21

Greek
Group Reading Cards
Κείμενα για το άνοιγμα των συγκεντρώσεων
Item No. GR-9130 Price US $2.20

Posters (set of six)
Item No. GR-9070 Price US $6.60

Italian
NA White Booklet
Il Libretto bianco di NA
Item No. IT-1500 Price US $0.63

IP #17: For Those in Treatment
Per chi è in trattamento
Item No. IT-3117 Price US $0.26

IP #24: “Hey! What’s the Basket For?”
“Ehi! A cosa serve quella cesta?”
Item No. IT-3124 Price US $0.21

Posters (set of six)
Item No. IT-9070 Price US $6.60

English
Just for Today
DVD version of Just for Today videotape that explains what NA is by recreating NA meetings from introduction through recovery process.
Item No. 8001 Price US $52.45

IP #11: Sponsorship, Revised
WSC 2004 approved version of this introductory pamphlet to sponsorship—one of the vital parts of the NA program—is now available.
Item No. 3111 Price US $0.21

Relax… The NA Way
This package includes an assortment of ten NA Way Magazines in its old format along with a limited edition, specially designed mug in which to savor your favorite beverage.
Item No. ZNAW1002 Price US $11.50

Remember When?
Celebrating NA’s Fiftieth Anniversary is this special assortment of ten NA Way Magazines from the 1980s and a miniature reproduction of the commemorative Literature Timeline that was exhibited at WCNA-30 in July 2003.
Item No. ZNAW1001 Price US $4.00