

HISTORY OF NA IN THE VICTORIA B.C. AREA

First Na Meeting: Some time in February 1968.
7 People attended.

This meeting became the Victoria Group, moving its location to various homes and church basements. It met frequently but irregularly, often two times a week, sometimes five times a week.

This group disbanded in December 1971, everyone going their own way. One member kept NA notices with his home phone number in circulation, did 12 step work as it arose.

Another NA meeting was started in his home in September 1972, which met regularly on Wednesday evenings for about four years.

By June 1976, there were enough NA members and enough interest in NA as a community resource in the Victoria Area, to start another meeting on Saturday nights at St. Barnabas' Church Hall, on the corner of Belmont & Begbie Sts. This meeting became the real anchor for the NA in our area, and it is still going.

Up until 1975, the Victoria Area was using literature transposed from AA. By way of writing to AA Central asking for permission to print the 12 steps and 12 traditions as NA material, we were referred to WSO in Sun Valley. That was our first connection with the greater NA.

The Victoria NA group continued to expand slowly and carefully, starting up a new meeting only when the group conscience felt sure that there were enough solid NA members to establish the core, or steering committee.

By 1979, there were five regular weekly meetings in Victoria, we had good community connections, and did a fair amount of 12 step work.

Somewhere in 1979, NA was established in Vancouver B.C. and members from each city began traveling back and forth across The Strait of Georgia sharing our experience strength and hope with each other. Vancouver NA seemed to grow much faster than in Victoria and we shared their first anniversary with them in the First Annual British Columbia NA Rally in 1980.

Victoria hosted the Second Annual BCNAR in 1981. Members from Canada, Washington State, Oregon and even California made it the biggest NA event in Victoria's history.

1981 was the year for Victoria's NA coming of age. We had an active membership of approximately 30 recovering addicts, we called Vancouver Island, BC, a Region and sent a representative to the WSC, later that year we joined the Pacific Northwest Region and began sending our ASR to PNWR meetings. Victoria NA members were becoming increasingly more in touch with the greater NA and began traveling to NA conventions outside our Area.

By 1982, we had an NA meeting every night of the Week; our membership was still relatively small - between 30 and 40 members but each meeting had its steering committee. The secretaries of each meeting met once a

month at a regular "business meeting" which was the percusor of our present ASC.

1982 was also the year in which our local area began working earnestly in H&I. We began a regular meeting in the Dallas House Society's Residential Treatment Center a presentation style meeting in our Local Detox center another Local Residential Treatment Center, the Victoria Life Enrichment Society and a regular NA meeting at the Federal Pennitentiary at William Head. (This meeting, by the way, is seen as a prototype for future NA meetings in Canadian Federal Institutions and is well supported.)

By 1983, the Victoria Area had mushroomed to 12 weekly meetings in addition to our input at Detox and VLES.

In a significant move towards upgrading our service structure, we have recently changed our "meetings" to "groups" and our regular "business meeting" to an Area Service Meeting. At present, our group secretaries also function as GSR's and form the voting body of our ASC.

Our directions for the future include:

1. expanding the Area Service Structure to include both group secretaries and GSR's,
2. developing our fledgling Area Service Committee
3. increasing our rapport with NA groups close at hand in Washington State, especially those in Port Angeles, just 18 miles away.
4. hosting the fourth annual BCNA Rally in July 1983, which will include the quarterly Pacific North West Regional meeting
5. and best of all, to help more and more addicts to hear and respond to the NA message of Recovery.