

N.A. History in the Delaware
County Area

May I begin by stating this history is as I experienced N.A.^s beginnings. Others may have a different perspective and to those individuals I beg forgiveness for any inaccuracy in respect to names, dates, etc. Although I feel I have tried to be exact as possible.

From flyers, and meeting lists I have in my possession it is my belief that the Bryn Mawr (New Beginnings Group) was the first group to exist as an entity beginning on or around March 7, 1981. At the present time I am unaware of who may have started this meeting.

My first contact with NA was through Crazy AA Wayne. Early in my recovery Wayne took me to a meeting at 4th+Pine in Phila. Which was my first NA meeting. This was in the late 1970^s early 1980^s. For all of those interested you must remember that because NA meetings were few, many of our early members began their recovery in the other fellowship and had no choice but to work both programs.

Clay ? and Bill O. started the Media Group sometime in late 1981 early 1982. Approximately two weeks later the Glenolden Sat. Night group was began. Ellen B. who was and to my knowledge is still involved in the other fellowship was the main character in the formation of this meeting. May I add that many of the original members to this group and to some extent Media were converts from Darby Y.P. Group which was already breaking with A.A. Tradition of speaking about alcohol only. Of these some came into the NA fellowship while others returned to their respective beginnings. Some continue to work both programs.

Because of the lack of a service structure in the Delco area it was decided we would join The Delaware Area Service and although weak served our immediate needs. I was present at these early meetings and the main topic of discussion was the survival of the groups and our pressing need for printed materials, of which there were few. These early Area Service meetings were held at Triad in Wilmington Del. groups represented were Talking Heads, Media, Delaware Step, Christmas Group, Easy Does it Group, Saturday Night Live, and Glenolden. This was in mid 1982 with myself representing Glenolden, and Domenic representing Media as GSR. Some of the people I remember are Ray P. who was the Area Rep., Maggie sect., Margo, George W. from our area

who succeeded as area rep. after Ray, and was involved with the Glenolden Group.

During this time we recieved our first literature. This consisted of Literary work in Progress I.P.^s from the Literature Committee for input or approval at WSC NA 1983. Because this work had not been approved and therefore was not for sale and because of our need for printed material we chose in late 1982 to make 1000 copies of each pamphlet to serve our immediate need. May I add here that Nick and Kathy D. spearheaded this endeavor, the pamphlets went quickly and the NA message was finally being carried. You must remember that at this time group participation was small. Finances were tight and lack of structure made things difficult. Delaware Area Service was kind enough to accept I.O.U.^s, and made service work more tolerable. At the group level we struggled and prayed, people came, people left, some stayed, many are still with us. The early group formats were experimented with, time periods were discussed. As meetings grew we recognized the need to help the newcomer. How could we better carry the message of recovery? Where were we headed as a fellowship. These were the problems which were of immediate concern. Through the tireless efforts of many dedicated individuals we were building the foundations on which NA now stands.

By March of 1984 five new groups joined Delaware Area Service. These groups The Who Group, HIPID, Glenolden Morning, a second Media group, A New Day Group, and Delaware Men's, Women's meeting brought the total to 12 groups operating from the Delaware Area Service which was now considered the Tri-County Area, but was still operating from the Delaware area. From that time until the Fall of 1985, eight more groups were included. These were the Survival Group, Open Door, Ridley Park, Bowling Green, New Attitudes, Delaware County Hospital, Aston, and 7:30 Coatesville. Around this time the Delaware County area because of it's need to become more manageable began it's separation from the Delaware Area, started using an Upper Darby P.O. Box and began meeting at H.I.P.I.D. Eventually these two areas would make a clean break with Delaware County moving it's area meetings to Media Pa. and the Delaware area going on to become the Small Wonder area operating out of Wilmington. Which is how it stands at the date of this writing (Jan. 1989). Also for all those wondering,

Delaware County now serves and has the pleasure of being a part of thirty-six meetings with the Small Wonder Area consisting of twenty-one. Also you must remember this is only one area now two that we are discussing and becomes even broader in it's scope at the Region level. Which hopefully someone will choose to expound on at a later date.

Our Fellowship has survived and so have many of our members. Our Higher Power has been kind and loving. Our service structure has the capability of reaching addicts everywhere and carrying our message of hope. The chances of us failing now are slim considering our sheer numbers alone. God has been good to us.

Let us now move into another area which deserves discussion, the area of service committees and sub committees. Starting with group officers Chairpersons, Treasurers, Secretaries, GSRs, coffee people, etc. which at this time are too numerous to mention by name but who deserve thanks just the same. And those involved in Public Information and Hospital and Institution meetings who go places and do things few others would, may God bless you. These fine people are the springboard which has brought growth, concern for others, and a working relationship with those outside the fellowship within our means. The prayers, compassion, understanding, sharing, and man hours dedicated to helping those in need, lay beyond our comprehension and can only be left to the God of our understanding. That such human compassion could spring from a well, which had long gone dry has become our gift to God and mankind alike.

Lastly to all those in positions of responsibility from Regional Representatives, The Trustees, literature Review, World Service Conference, World Convention, and the World Service Office "The full fruit of a labor of Love lives in the harvest, and that always comes in it's right season..." May you all experience the Love of the God of your understanding. And reap the benefits of your untiring efforts to help addicts everywhere. May the Miracle continue and may you continue to be part of the Miracle.

Thank You NA for saving my life, Thank You NA for giving me a life better than I had ever imagined, and Thank You NA for restoring my faith in God and mankind alike.

Your Loving Friend,