

January 14, 1983

History of NA
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The first effort to establish NA in Dallas was in the fall of 1970. The first meetings were held in the parsonage of the old Lovers Lane Methodist Church. Membership was small, and due to several supporting members moving away, the fellowship disbanded about December, 1975.

NA had its second beginnings in October, 1979. A member from Chicago NA relocated to Dallas. Recognizing the areas needs and his own personal needs, our fellowship was born again.

Our first meetings were held on Tuesday nights at the South Oak Cliff Medical Center. Our members were few, but we struggled to carry the message and help NA gain ~~ac~~ceptance in the community.

In February, 1980, we moved to a new location at the Oak Lawn Methodist Church, now meetings on Wednesday nights. At this point our primary emphasis had been trying to attract addicts who had cleaned up in AA. We sent flyers to the AA Clubs and spent a lot of time trying to make converts. We slowly realized that if NA were to grow on its own, then we needed people who cleaned up in NA not AA. So we moved more in line with the traditions of trying to carry the message to the addict who still suffers and basing our emphasis on attraction rather than promotion.

In December, 1980, we formed a second meeting on Tuesday nights at the Lovers Lane Methodist Church. At this point, our membership consisted of eight to ten regular supporters. In the ensuing months, we tried several times to establish new groups in the suburbs of North Dallas. However, none of these groups took off. A real turning point came in September, 1981. Two members attended the NA World Conference in Miami. When they returned, their enthusiasm was contagious. Fueled with fresh ideas, we soon had our first organizational business meeting. From this point, the structure of NA in Dallas was set. We began to grow at an astounding rate. Our attendance at meetings was up to fifteen to twenty people. We now had many new comers at our meetings.

We placed primary emphasis for our discussions on steps 1, 2 and 3. But we noticed that as people grew within our fellowship, the exclusive emphasis on the first 3 steps was not going to work. People were going elsewhere to find out about steps 4 thru 12. So we decided to hold regular step discussion meetings, in addition to beginners meetings. We knew that the group needed this to survive.

In response to the need, the Thursday night group was formed at the Lovers Lane Methodist Church in December, 1981. By Summer of 1982, we had an H&I meeting on Mondays at Charleton Methodist Hospital in Duncanville, Texas. We were having monthly business meetings, and each group was electing secretaries and GSR's. In December, 1982, a new H&I group was formed on Sunday nights at the Hillvale Rehab Center on Ann Arbor Street. About the same time we formed the Saturday meeting, held at 2p.m. in the Student Union Building on campus at SMU.

In January, 1983, our first step-speaker meeting was held; meeting Santurday nights at the St. Francis Episcopal Church. At the time of this writing, we have seven meetings a week, with a regular membership of 40-50 people. Business meetings are well attended and there is a strong feeling of service.

"KEEP COMING BACK, IT WORKS"

David M.
Jim P.
Mary B.
Ray C.