

Narcotics Anonymous first reached Scotland around 1980, in the form of literature sent from America. In the summer of that year, the first N.A. meeting was held. The venue was Alban House in Glasgow. The meeting remained open for three months, then closed.

However the Narcotics Anonymous message continued to survive, and in the summer of 1981 in Flowerhill Church, Airdrie another meeting opened. This continued for one year, before closing. Through a few members still believing in Narcotics Anonymous, the message continued to grow.

NA badges from conventions

Simultaneously the N.A. message was reaching other parts of Scotland. In Dalry in Edinburgh around 1984 another N.A. meeting had started, although it was regular until 1986. In July 1985 in Dunfermline, Fife a meeting began, which has remained opened until the present day and is our oldest surviving meeting. It was shortly followed by a meeting in Buckhaven.

For a time meetings popped up and closed in various locations, Campbeltown, Inverness and Airdrie.

By 1992 there were six meetings a week in Glasgow, 3 in Edinburgh and a meeting each in Dunfermline, Buckhaven and Dumbarton.

Also in 1992, on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of May Scotland held its first Convention, attracting around 150 addicts from all over the UK, Canada and the USA. The convention was a tremendous success and actually went some way to funding a PO Box and the first Scottish Help-line.

Shortly after a Public Information sub-committee and Hospitals and Institutions Sub-committee were formed.

The second Scottish was held in Dumbarton and the third in Edinburgh City Chambers. The Fourth and Fifth Scottish conventions were held in Glasgow at the Pearce Institute in Govan and the Victory Christian Centre respectively.

By 1993 there were 15 meetings in Scotland, the message had spread up the East Coast with meetings opening in Bo'Ness and Dundee. In the West most recovery centered around Glasgow, where H&I were now carrying meetings into a respite centre in Helensburgh and into a prison in Greenock.

In 1995 there were a total of forty meetings and many addicts across Scotland getting clean and living lives that once seemed but an impossible dream. Meetings were held in Bo'Ness, Buckhaven, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Irvine and Paisley.

During 1995 the Scottish Area of Narcotics Anonymous split into two areas, the East Coast of Scotland Area and the West Coast of Scotland Area. The East Coast went north as far as Aberdeen and Inverness and extended south to Newcastle. The West Coast went from Dumbarton down to Dumfries. Meeting attendance steadily went up and news of NA's growth in Scotland was spreading with many professional organisations recognising Narcotics Anonymous, with more and more institutions requesting meetings in their establishments as well as sending their clients to NA

meetings. NA in the UK was growing up too publishing our own literature and UK recovery stories in our "Little White Book".

In the summer of 1996 the West Coast of Scotland Area disbanded. On the 3rd of November 1996 the Glasgow Area was formed with 15 groups. A few of the groups from Dumbarton and Renton continued to be for a time as the West Coast Area of Scotland.

The Glasgow groups continued to grow in size and number, with groups from the surrounding area registering with G.A.S.C. , groups from Coatbridge, Greenock, Kilwinning, Hamilton and Paisley totaling 23 groups in all.

H&I in Glasgow runs 7 meetings in institutions and helped start Scotland's only prisoner run meeting in 1998 in HMP Barlinnie. Glasgow hosted the 5th Scottish Convention in 1998, but in 1999 felt that it would like to host the First Glasgow Convention. GASC also for the first time hosted the UK Region meeting of Narcotics Anonymous over that same weekend. The following year GASC held the Second convention and July 2001 saw Glasgow hosting it's Third convention at the same venue as the First Scottish Convention in the Central Hotel, Glasgow, on the 13th, 14th and 15th of July 2001.

GACNA 3 was a resounding success with 432 participants registered over the weekend from all over the world. A large contingent came from Denmark as well as a group from Ireland. GACNA 3 also hosted the UK Region at the same event and for the first time held a banquet on the Saturday evening. At the closing meeting of the convention GACNA 3 linked up with the NA meeting in HMP Barlinnie, allowing the inmates to hear the meeting and be involved in the cleantime countdown, again another first for the Glasgow Convention.