

THE NANAway[®] MAGAZINE

July 1993

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RECOVERY
AROUND
THE WORLD

The Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous

1. We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

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The NA Way Magazine welcomes the participation of its readers. You are invited to share with the entire NA Fellowship in our monthly international journal. Send us your experience in recovery, your views on NA matters, and feature items. All manuscripts submitted become the property of World Service Office, Inc.

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Still tripping after all these years

First off I want to qualify the "tripping" I'm referring to. I'm not talking about spontaneous flashbacks resulting from prior consumption of hallucinogens. I'm not responsible for those little side trips from reality. They just happen. What I'm referring to is that time-honored tradition of addicts everywhere: road tripping!

God knows I used to be a major road tripper back in my using days. I'd drive eight hours to watch a sunset on the Gulf of Mexico. I travelled thirty hours straight just to pick up someone at an airport, and two days straight just to watch a sunrise in the

Rockies. Trouble was, my road trips always ended up as unadulterated nightmares where I couldn't remember much of the trip, slept through the sunrise, or drove to the wrong airport. You get the picture.

Since I got clean, I have begun to venture back out onto the blacktop with a very close friend of mine in recovery. I have to travel with someone else since I don't drive anymore—just another consequences-for-my-behavior thing. But my friend is a willing pilot, so off we go.

Our first road trip was a nostalgic one back to a town I lived in as a teenager. It went pretty well, wasn't a bad trip at all. We were going to do some fishing (this was before I learned that it wasn't about catching fish), tour the old neighborhood, and look up some old friends. Not a bad experience at all. The highlight of the trip was a fantastic thunderstorm at about 2:00 am. I stood in awe of the power of nature, something I could finally accept as a power greater than myself.



The second trip was an NA venture to the regional meeting down at our state's capital. This one was in the company of my sponsor. I met addicts from all over our state, getting together to conduct the business of Narcotics Anonymous. I was starting to get a mental picture that this NA thing might be bigger than a breadbox. I got to enjoy my sponsor's company for the day and the company of addicts I had never met before who made me feel right at home. I got quite the "warm fuzzy" (that's what my dad used to call that all-over warm feeling I would get inside when I felt really good about myself).

I like warm fuzzies, so I invited my recovery buddy to go on another NA road trip with me. Off we headed for Cedar Rapids, a short trip, but very rewarding. We hit a meeting down there and got that same welcome-home feeling. Now I'm starting to think that this NA thing must be bigger than a house. We both enjoyed the

trip, sharing recovery with each other and with the people we met in Cedar Rapids.

During the winter months I get to feeling closed in up here in the frozen wastelands. I had spent the last twenty years down in the great southwest, basking in seventy-degree winters. I was feeling the itch to travel again when my friend invited me to go along to the Tenth Annual Wild Game Feed up in Algona, IA. I like to refer to it as "The Road Kill Festival," but don't let that throw you—the cuisine is excellent! The drive up there was a pretty long haul. We ran into forty-fifty-mile-per-hour winds. The snow was blowing so heavily that visibility was almost nonexistent. We pressed on through the storm at a snail's pace until we finally reached our destination.

I was utterly amazed at the number of addicts who had braved the same conditions from all over the state, and even from surrounding states, to get

to this out-of-the-way gathering to dine on animal meats I never thought should be eaten in the first place! Again I was almost overwhelmed by that coming-back-home feeling. I saw addicts I had met on my previous ventures. In fact, I got hugged so many times I darn near pulled a muscle! My "warm fuzzy" meter was pegged! Now I'm starting to get the big picture. This NA thing is bigger than I had ever imagined, and believe me, imagination has always been one of my long suits.

I often read about and hear from other addicts about how this program works: go to meetings, read the book, get a sponsor, work the steps, get involved in service work, etc. I understand that. No question about it. What I'm trying to relate to you here is that NA, as a whole, is bigger than our home group, our area, our region, even our country.

When I had been clean just a few months my sponsor told me that in time I would be able to do anything in recovery that I used to enjoy when I was out using: reading, writing, dancing, fishing, hunting, going to sporting events, concerts, road tripping, etc. When I was using I used to "settle" a lot. I believe that we all did in many ways. Even the things that we tried to do for fun and relaxation ended up leaving us empty and unfulfilled. I don't want to settle for less than the best in my recovery. I want all that Narcotics Anonymous, as well as life in general, has to offer. That's why I'm still road tripping after all these years.

Get out and see the world. Travel a little and see what's happening in recovery in some other city or town. You might just find out that this NA thing is as big as the world.

RU, Iowa



Growing in Brazil

Hi, I'm L., an addict, and today I'm clean. I'm looking out the window of my room in this building that once was a Catholic school. Outside is the forest. Although it is raining, the forest is beautiful. It is so calm up here that you can hardly believe we are in the middle of the enormous city of Rio de Janeiro. This is the third Brazilian convention/conference I have taken part in, and it was never like this before. This year we don't have any big point of controversy, and unity seems to have grown in our fellowship.

I met people who had come thousands of kilometers to come to this meeting: those three who came right from the Amazon, the couple from Portugal, those who came from Argentina, and all the others from all over this big country of Brazil. There are some people coming from big cities where, a month ago, there weren't any NA meetings, and others who haven't been to the convention/conference before but have been holding meetings in their cities for years.

The schedule is very intense, and I want to be at all the meetings at the same time. I've been clean for a couple of years now, and I thought I already knew all about this program. But at every corner in this building someone has put up a sign: "More will be revealed." And that's just what is happening. I'm hearing people talk about things I never thought about

before, things like prejudice, the legal requirements for registering an office for NA, the structure needed for the Twelve Concepts, and also things I thought I knew about but never really gave much thought to. I never cared much about this communication stuff or the importance of "principles before personalities."

It is very comforting to me to realize that more is always being revealed. It means I'm never done with the understanding and practice of this program. It means I am a newcomer. How can I explain this feeling of gratitude I have for the fellowship that is saving my life and for the growth I feel and see in the members of the fellowship?

We are now organizing public information and H&I committees. Many new areas are being created where, a couple of years ago, there were only a few groups. Members who I saw come to their first meeting completely scared and unable to put meaning to the words they were saying are now teaching me this brand new thing about the Twelve Concepts.

I am in tears now because it is really something good, this fellowship, a Higher Power, and as many as three hundred brothers and sisters telling me that I don't have to be alone anymore and saying the Serenity Prayer together.

I have this feeling that fewer addicts are dying today because more doors are open. We are growing so that no addict seeking recovery in Brazil need ever die. I love you, family, and I love being part of this fellowship that I call home.

Remember, don't pick up no matter what, and keep coming back.

All the way from Brazil,

LP, Brazil

The challenge of freedom

A group of NA members from Odessa, a city in the Ukraine on the Black Sea, greet you. After recent events in the territory of the ex-USSR, we are separated from many of our friends from other towns who unexpectedly became citizens of other states. It creates additional difficulties in our lives, which are quite stormy enough for people with chemical dependencies.

I am sorry to admit that my knowledge of English is poor. So as not to take your time with the translation of my letter, I asked a lady we rely on to do it for me. Moreover, this lady is a member of another fellowship. We hope to establish contact with other groups with the help of *The NA Way*.

Our group formed on August 1, 1991, but we began to feel a real unity on March 7, 1992 when we had an election meeting and were registered with the WSO. Beginning with March

7, we started our legal existence. We prepared a letter to send to your address before, but we did not send it because we were not sure that we would continue our existence. Now we are less pessimistic, though we understand that everything including the existence of our group depends on God's will. Now we are trying to establish contacts with groups from other cities in the ex-USSR (St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Kharkov, and others). I hope that, with time, we'll be able to create a structure which will bind our groups together, regardless of state borders.

Our meetings take place three times a week, and the number of participants varies from three or four to ten or twelve. Many newcomers disappear because they think that we are not busy with what we should be. They look for a place where their physical dependence can be relieved, and they hope that they can control the psychological dependence themselves. Unfortunately, I think that it is partially our fault that they make this mistake.

What are the problems that bother our group? The fact that we are not numerous stopped bothering us. We

are doing the most important thing we can for our recovery. We do our best to attend our meetings regularly. We are worried by a problem of another kind. The main problem for us for today is that we don't completely observe the traditions of NA. We are holding our meetings in the building of a rehabilitation center. This center was organized by members of another fellowship. To our regret, we don't have another way out.

We should also tell you that the economic position of the Ukraine is catastrophic. Hyperinflation undercuts all our efforts to save money. We have problems renting the building, buying literature, and so on.

We are doing our best to understand that the trials sent to us by God must strengthen our belief and our recovery if we try to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. God will help us if we ask him about it. God can't want us to continue using drugs.

We are not for the undertaking of any countermeasures against drugs. We simply know that if we use drugs it will mean death for us.

We would like to ask you to tell your friends and acquaintances about us, because we want to establish contacts with members of NA, especially Russian-speaking members. If it is possible, we would like you to write about us in the *Newsline*, *The NA Way*, the *Meeting by Mail*, and anywhere else you would consider it to be possible and wise.

AL, Odessa, Ukraine



Kansha shimasu

My sponsor and I stood alone next to our luggage in a small airport in New Zealand. We had arrived from Japan on the last flight expected to be met at the airport by local NA members. But, as the last of our fellow passengers gathered up their bags and left, the shutters of the few airport shops started rattling down, marking the end of their work day. Then the baggage conveyor belt came to an abrupt halt. We were startled by the sudden silence. I glanced outside and saw the last of the waiting taxis leave. The parking lot was completely empty, and there were no lights to be seen even in the distance. It felt like we were in the middle of nowhere. And it was raining! My Japanese sponsor muttered something in his native language which is unprintable here. Even Madonna would have blushed!

I had no local telephone numbers and no New Zealand money for the phone anyway. We walked aimlessly back and forth reading wall signs, irrationally hoping that somehow we'd ferret out a solution to our dilemma.

As time passed, it became evident that no one was coming to take care of us. In an effort to look at the bright-

er side of the situation, I told my sponsor, "We may be in a foreign country, but at least the people here speak English." My sponsor, less optimistic, looked around and muttered, "What people?" There was an old man mopping the floor, but he didn't seem inclined to be concerned about us.

But, armed with the spirit of Step Three, we suddenly both broke out in uncontrollable laughter at the ridiculous plight with which we were faced. We felt so utterly powerless. In the past we would have tried to solve the problem with drugs, but now we know that wouldn't solve anything. Our laughter didn't solve the problem either, but it did make us feel better about it. In fact, I ceased thinking of it as a problem at all. I saw it as something very funny, with expectations of how our Higher Power was going to pull us out of this one.

Well, to make a long story short, I managed to get a long-distance call through to an NA friend in another city, who called an NA member in this city, who came to pick us up and knew where we were supposed to be staying that night. All went well. Being worrisome or resentful about not being met at the airport wouldn't have solved the problem at all. We would have merely succeeded in making ourselves miserable. Instead, we just turned ourselves over to our Higher Power, ensuring a satisfactory outcome. Experience has taught us that.

I've always marvelled at my sponsor's ability to work Step Three. But, to keep him humble, as it were, the way I explain it to him is, "Your Step Three isn't all that great. I think you just have so much brain damage,

you've simply lost the ability to worry about anything!" He always responds with a silly smile. In our relationship it's sometimes hard to tell who's the sponsor and who's the sponsee!

We had come to New Zealand to attend the Third Aotearoa Regional Convention. Japan and New Zealand are both island nations, about the same size, and both are celebrating ten years of NA in our respective countries, so it seemed appropriate for Japan to be represented at this auspicious gathering. We were also there in response to an invitation from NA leaders on this side of the earth to gather and hold meetings in order to coordinate the growth of NA in the Asia/Pacific basin. Present were representatives from Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, and Japan. And there were two trustees from the USA. We were most grateful for their presence.

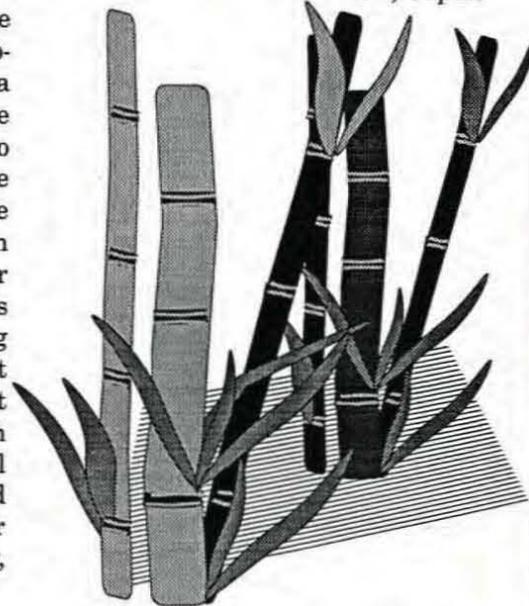
In this Asia/Pacific area, there are many countries without the NA program or where NA consists of just a few members struggling to keep one or a few NA meetings alive with no money and little or no NA literature translated into local languages. We still don't have the Basic Text in Japanese. The initial outcome of our meetings during the convention was the formation of what we are calling the Asia Pacific Forum to try to meet some of the needs of NA in this part of the world, to cooperate with each other, and to be able to be well represented at the annual World Service Conference in the USA. Our efforts are merely a small beginning,

but that's how our program works. I can't recover or accomplish anything unless I begin.

The time, energy, and cost of taking part in NA activities apart from my own NA Tokyo group is draining. But it's well worth it, not only for carrying the message to still-suffering and to recovering addicts, but for my own continued growth. And, believe me, it is really great meeting so many new recovering addicts from all over the world by attending the meetings and conventions of regions outside of the Japan Region.

The NA Fellowship is alive and well in Japan. We are all grateful to our Higher Power and to America for having given birth to the Twelve Step program of NA and for having shared its message with the rest of the world. The words for "to have gratitude" in Japanese are "kansha shimasu," which literally means "to do gratitude." Interesting concept!

RA, Japan



NA history

A history of the Canadian Assembly of Narcotics Anonymous

At the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous held in April 1989, the executive director of the WSO suggested that Canadian members meet to discuss the possible formation of a national service body.

The first gathering of Canadian representatives occurred in Toronto in July 1989. At that time there were four established regions in Canada: British Columbia, Alsask (consisting of Alberta and Saskatchewan), Ontario, and Quebec. The Upper Midwest Region of the United States was also present on behalf of their Canadian area, Winnipeg, Manitoba. NA members across Canada recognized the need to meet to discuss common

concerns in the Canadian NA community. Before this meeting, the central points of communication had been the World Service Office in Van Nuys, California, and the annual World Service Conference of NA. The First Tradition was the basis of the participants' desire to form a body that would complement our existing service structure.

Representatives from each of the Canadian regions, staff from WSO, the chairperson of the World Service Board of Trustees, and the vice chairperson of the WSC met to discuss the future direction of the Canadian NA community. The members of the Canadian regions were interested in developing a service body to encourage unity and the sharing of relevant information within our borders. The WSO had an interest in the development of such a body because of their desire eventually to open a branch office of WSO in Canada. With their encouragement and the enthusiasm of the founding members, the Canadian Assembly of Narcotics Anonymous (CANA/ACNA) was born.

A proposal entitled "The Purpose and Function of the Canadian Assembly of Narcotics Anonymous" was developed at the first gathering. It was subsequently presented to the fellowship in Canada for approval. This document was a simple and concise

presentation of the mandate of the assembly. It outlined, in guideline form, the general purpose of the assembly, eligibility for membership, and the assembly's goals. Thus the function of this Canadian gathering was established. The purpose and function document was approved by a two-thirds vote at the first official meeting of the assembly in Calgary in January 1990.

Meetings are currently held at least once a year at different locations across the country. Because of the vast area our country covers, the assembly implemented a cost subsidization system to ensure that all would be able to attend. The assembly follows the standard business agenda of NA service committees. Parliamentary format is used and assembly policy has been developed.

Participants include the executive committee chairpeople, and regional/area representatives. The distinction "region/area" was developed to recognize participants from areas within Canada that are not part of an existing Canadian region. For example, the Winnipeg area, a member of the Upper Midwest Region of the United States, now sends delegates on its own behalf. Interested members at large from throughout the country are also welcome to participate on the various committees.

The assembly currently consists of representatives from six regions, British Columbia, Alsask, Ontario, Quebec, Le Nordet, and Northeast Atlantic, plus members from the Winnipeg Area. H&I, PI, outreach, policy, and convention committees of the assembly are active.

CANA/ACNA holds an annual convention with the theme, "The Adventure/L'Adventure." The first Canadian convention was held in Montreal, Quebec in July 1991. The purpose of the annual convention is to foster unity and celebrate recovery.

A unique feature of both the convention and the assembly is that they operate on a bilingual basis using the two official languages of Canada, English and French. Literature about convention events and some CANA/ACNA documents are translated for distribution throughout the fellowship in our country.

The simple goals set by our founding members are slowly being realized, but there is much work yet to be done. Our members have gathered, a Canadian branch of WSO has opened, and Canadian conventions have been held.

Perhaps the most important effect of the creation of the Canadian Assembly is that we, as addicts, are again reminded that we are not alone. To be a part of something larger than ourselves and to work on a national level to fulfill our primary purpose establishes the spiritual link that we cannot experience alone. The sharing of ideas and encouragement ensures that our efforts will not be wasted and that we can reach every corner of our Canadian neighborhood with the message of Narcotics Anonymous.

Anonymous



Newsletters

Some thoughts on WCNA-22

From *Free Spirit*, the Calgary, Alberta area newsletter: This was my first world convention, and I didn't know exactly what to expect. Obviously, I knew it would be bigger than a regular convention—I had never been to anything bigger than a regional convention before—but would it really be different?

Now that it's all over, I'm still not quite sure of the answer to this question. It was different but it was also the same. What I mean is that the message I heard was the same one we hear day in and day out in NA: Let go and let God, easy does it, one day at a time, keep coming back, don't use no matter what, live and let live, work the steps, pray and meditate, use your sponsor, and so on. Nothing new there. There were speakers, workshops, marathon meetings, dances, a banquet, memorabilia on sale, and great fellowship—none of these new either!

Yet I felt different. It was partly the sheer size of the thing. There were apparently some five thousand recovering addicts at the Unity Day celebration on Saturday evening, itself a new thing. The spirit of recovery and fellowship was, if I may use a seriously overworked word, awesome.

There was also something about the setting that felt different to me. I think it was the ambience of the convention. The Metro Toronto Convention Centre is a very fine facility, almost entirely nonsmoking. To be able to address oneself to recovery in a carcinogen-free environment is a true blessing. And the Toronto weather was beautiful: warm, sunny, no rain, not even the humidity one associates with the city.

The convention hotels were also first class. I couldn't help thinking how different the scene was from that in some of the sordid places in which I used and bought drugs.

But, on reflection, I don't think it was the place that made this convention the unique experience it was for me. I think it was the people. Collectively, they seemed like happy, healthy people. They looked as if they had good recovery. They were people who could afford to travel from pretty much the four corners of the world to Toronto to celebrate recovery. I realize, of course, that economic prosperity doesn't equal recovery (some dealers are very wealthy!) and that one's external appearance may belie one's inner state, but I do not think anyone could have faked such a convincing display of collective recovery. Moreover, the obvious honesty of the speakers I heard made it clear that they, like the rest of us, still have work to do in recovery.

There was one jarring note. The convention theme was "Imagine the Freedom," the same slogan used to market our beloved lottery. I guess the organizers didn't know about this when they chose the theme. I'm told that the chances of hitting the jackpot are less than those of being killed as one walks the streets of Calgary. In the NA program our chances of recovery are surely much better, and we don't have to buy tickets each week—just go to admission-free meetings!

WCNA-22 was a great experience for me. I'm sure it gave a boost to my recovery. As one of the speakers said, "If anyone asks you how NA works, tell them it works just fine."

If this one was in any way typical of world conventions, I recommend going to them. Next year's is in Chicago so, Windy City, here I come!

PB, Alberta

One,
two,
three...

From NA Newsletter Chicopee, Massachusetts: When I started working the steps, I started my new life. I started with Step One when I admitted I was powerless over my addiction and my life was so unmanageable. Believe me, I had no problem in accepting this step; it was staring me in the face every time I looked into the mirror. As I began working this step, I received hope and courage and realized I didn't have to live the life I had been living for so long. When I surrendered to this step, I became willing to do whatever I had to do to stay clean.

Then I took a few steps in the right direction to Step Two when I came to believe that I had a Power greater than myself to restore me to sanity. For me, this step wasn't hard to accept. I had always believed in God, so it was easy for me to have faith in my Higher Power, who I choose to call God. This step also gave me hope and the willingness to continue. It gave me courage to go on, just for today, knowing I had a Higher Power, who I call God, to help me. All I had to do was seek a new me and become a caring person. As each day went by, it became easier and easier.

When I felt comfortable to go on, I worked Step Three. This was when I made a decision to turn my will and life over to the care of God as I understood Him. When working this step, I did a lot of thinking about God and what I really understood of Him. I had always believed that there was a God. I knew He was all-knowing and all-powerful; knowing this, I knew He was for me because I needed an all-powerful being in my life. I also knew that my God was loving and caring. I also need these qualities in my life now. So, I decided that I needed God, as I understood Him, in my life. This decision has been the best one I have ever made. By turning my will and life over to the care of my God, my Higher Power, I am on the road to a new life.

Anonymous

A member's thoughts on anonymity

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

Tradition Twelve

From *The Louisville Newsletter, Louisville, Kentucky*: Just what is anonymity? A dictionary definition would be "a state of namelessness," or

"a state of being without individuality." As the Basic Text says, in this way, "the 'I' becomes the 'we'" and we are all equal. The practice of anonymity becomes true humility at work. We realize that we are no better or worse than anyone else. As I've heard many times, "there are no big shots in NA, and no little shots, because one shot and we're all shot." This humility at work also lets us know that we cannot use the NA name or our association with NA for our own personal gain. The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. All of our traditions remind us that we need to lay aside our drive for personal gain and work together for our common welfare. In this way we become unified, because we know that personal recovery depends on NA unity.

These are just some aspects of anonymity. I'm sure that much more could be said on this principle. The point I really want to make is that through the practice of anonymity we become humble. Through our humility we become even more aware of our need for one another. Through this we become unified. We work together for our common welfare, laying aside personalities. We truly live the principles. In this way, our message is carried clear and undiluted. With a clear message shared at our meetings, the newcomer who sustains us does not get lost in a barrage of mixed messages. Thus we fulfill our primary purpose and truly grow together as a fellowship.

Anonymous

Home Group



WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 1993

Back in California again this year, the annual meeting of the World Service Conference set its sights on helping developing NA communities grow.

What we know today as the WSC Development Forum began at WSC 1991. At that time, it was called the International Development Forum. This name stuck until NA communities from outside North America objected to being referred to as "international" NA communities as if they were separate from the rest of NA. It was renamed the Multinational Development Forum in 1992 in an attempt to find a more inclusive word to describe new NA communities. For that session, the conference was able to fund the participation of representatives from eleven countries who had never attended a WSC before. Perhaps as a result of hearing the first-hand experiences of addicts in newly formed regions, the conference as a whole finally began to understand

what the representatives were saying: They didn't want to be thought of or referred to as something apart from NA as a whole.

This resulted in the latest renaming of the annual event and a resolution which read, in part, "Narcotics Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship whose primary purpose transcends national boundaries, cultural barriers, and linguistic differences."

Accordingly, this year's development forum focused on issues of concern to NA as a whole: literature development and translations, funding NA services, and the NA group. Conference participants were assigned to take part in round-table discussions on these topics.

Literature development and translations

Participants in this discussion agreed that respect for cultural diversity was essential. "We hope we can avoid forcing 'American NA' on everyone," said one participant. It was also noted that "a more secular approach to discussions of God or a Higher Power" was needed to allow for more flexibility in translations.

Many of the same sentiments were echoed in an open forum during the World Services Translation Committee meeting. The RSR from Aotearoa New Zealand spoke of the addicts in that region who speak Maori. "We don't want them to feel like [NA] is just another white organization that

doesn't mean anything to them."

Others noted the difficulties involved in translating such words as "clean" and "addict." The literal translations of words such as these don't mean the same thing in languages other than English.

Participants expressed support for altering specific words in order to maintain conceptual fidelity in translations.

Funding NA services

The discussions in this group ranged from mismanagement or outright theft of NA's money to funding trusted servants to Seventh Tradition money, versus money generated by fundraising activities. As is usually the case in discussions of NA's money, more questions were raised than answered.

Though everyone agreed that prosecution was an option when funds are stolen, it was felt that allowing someone who has stolen money to make restitution is also appropriate in our fellowship. The main concern expressed by many seemed to be that any solution to the mismanagement or theft of funds should be firmly rooted in the spiritual principles of NA.

One of the most difficult questions facing conference participants this year was whether the conference should continue to fund the attendance of representatives from new or financially challenged regions at the World Service Conference. Many par-

ticipants suggested that the concept of "cost equalization" be revisited, expressing that "perhaps we weren't mature enough as a fellowship to have properly evaluated it" when it was voted down in years past. It was noted by one participant that "regions who can least afford to send someone [to the WSC] have to pay the most in travel costs."

Most participants agreed that NA members have two general questions about the money they place in the basket: Where does my money go? What do I get in return? While most felt that the answers were obvious to anyone involved in world services, it was also agreed that poor communication has resulted in the fellowship as a whole not knowing what happens to their money beyond the group level. One participant said that to show the members in her region, in part, what was being done with Seventh Tradition funds, she intended to buy copies of the French and Spanish translations of the Basic Text to take home.

Our gratitude speaks

We asked participants from outside North America, some of whom were funded to attend this year's WSC, to share their perceptions of the conference. Unfortunately, we can't print all of the responses, but we have selected a few, some of which appear in the person's native language next to an English translation.

From Italy:

My name is Ambra and I'm a grateful recovering addict. I came to WSC'93 to represent Italy. I've been asked to drop you a few lines about my experience as a member of the Italian NA community. I want to thank the conference and whoever made the trip over here possible because we wouldn't have been able to afford the expenses of a trip like this.

It's too early to speak about the impact this experience might have on the addicts back home, but I'm aware of the impact it will have on my personal recovery. Today, I'm proud of being a member of NA, a recovering addict, and part of this worldwide fellowship. I love you!

From Colombia:

My name is Jorge and I'm an addict. I'm grateful for my recovery and grateful for having a translator at this conference. We feel like newcomers here—newcomers who want to understand everything quickly. Last year, we were able to take back a lot of valuable things.

Some things at the conference, we don't understand *why* they're important, but we do understand that they *are* important. We hope the conference will keep a balance between discussions of motions to change words and discussions that are important to newcomers like us. Just like in a recovery meeting, we can't have all our discussions focusing on the First Step.

From Quebec:

Je ne savais pas à quoi m'attendre de ma première expérience à la Conférence Mondiale. Comme membre de la Région du Québec, j'ai été très impressionnée en visitant les bureaux de service et en rencontrant les employés spécialisés. J'ai même vu les premières copies imprimées de *Travailler la Quatrième Étape dans Narcotiques Anonymes* en Français.

Durant les réunions et forums, j'ai compris que ma région vivait la même croissance que les régions nord-américaines et en même temps la réalité d'une région non-anglophone.

Lorsque la Conférence a approuvé *It Works: How and Why*, j'ai senti que je faisais partie d'un moment historique et j'ai eu les larmes aux yeux.

La Conférence, à mon avis, exprime sa gratitude en donnant priorité au développement international. Je me suis aperçue de la force de notre but primordial en partageant avec les représentants de tous ces pays présents. Chaque personne ayant un point de vue différent d'un même but.

From Colombia:

Me llamo Jorge y soy adicto. Estoy agradecido para mi recubrimiento y para el intérprete que está presente en esta conferencia.

Sentimos como recién llegados aquí, recién llegados que quieren entender todo en seguida. El año pasado podíamos llevar a casa muchas ideas valorosas.

No entendemos *porque* algunas cosas de la conferencia son importantes, pero si entendemos que *son* importantes. Esperamos que las conferencia mantenga una balanza entre las discusiones para cambiar palabras y las discusiones que son importantes para los recién llegados como nosotros. Justo como en una reunión de recubrimiento, no debemos tener todas las discusiones concentrando solo en el Primer Paso.

From Quebec:

My name is Francine and I'm an addict. I didn't know what to expect from my first experience at the WSC. As a member of the Quebec Region, I was truly impressed to see where NA was founded, to visit the office, and to meet the special workers. I even saw the first printed copies of the French translation of *Working Step Four in Narcotics Anonymous*. What a treat! In meetings and forums, I understood that my region is going through the same growth problems as other North American communities. At the same time, we live the reality of non-English-speaking communities.

I got very emotional when the conference approved *It Works: How & Why*. I felt a part of a historical moment when we all stood and applauded. I was grateful for all the participants' willingness to make

international development a priority. I felt the strength of our primary purpose in sharing with representatives from all over, each person with the same goal and a different point of view.

From India:

We are extremely grateful to the WSO and its staff, the WSC, the board of trustees, every NA member, every group, and every area and region for the love and concern you have shown in meeting the growing needs of suffering addicts in our part of the world.

We are privileged and extremely grateful to know about and understand this beautiful program that has saved our lives. We are proud and honored to be a part of this unique worldwide fellowship.

May God bless you all.

The man in the booth

Upon entering the main session of this year's WSC, conference participants noticed a black booth set up against the wall. The booth held an addict named Lazaro, brought to the WSC to translate for the Spanish-speaking participants. Lazaro was contacted by George H, a WSO assistant director, before the conference. Evidently, George asked Lazaro if he knew anyone who could come to the WSC to translate for addicts from Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Puerto Rico, and Panama. Lazaro volunteered his own services, having no idea what he was getting himself into. After spending up to twelve and thirteen hours a day for eight days straight in the booth, Lazaro still found the strength to express his feelings about the experience:

"My recovery has been through service. The people I was translating for and I created a very tight group. There was a lot of love, a lot of harmony. It let me know that recovery isn't just in Miami [Lazaro's home], it's worldwide."

Wrap-up

The final session of this year's development forum allowed for conference participants to openly speak their minds about any issue that concerned them.

Many participants spoke emotionally of the fear and mistrust displayed by some conference participants. "We just don't understand it," said more than one RSR. Becky M, WSB chairperson, summed it up when she spoke of "our willingness to put our very lives in each other's hands, yet when

we get together [at the WSC], we think we're out to get each other."

Although most of the conference participants felt the WSC Development Forum to be a positive and uplifting experience, many expressed frustration with the conference format. RSR after RSR trooped to the microphone to call for separate business and panel discussions so that participants would have the time to discuss issues thoroughly and arrive at an understanding before addressing issues through the parliamentary process. "A lot of us just cannot follow it," said Paul T, the RSR from Spain.

In response to these concerns, a questionnaire was circulated. It asked participants to answer a series of questions revolving around issues raised during the week and in the open forum.



The following are some additional highlights of the World Service Conference. This is not meant to be an exhaustive report of every action taken, rather we've tried to select items that are relevant to the fellowship as a whole. The *Conference Digest* provides a detailed summary of conference actions and is available to any member upon request.

It Works: How & Why

"It Works: Here & Now," read the sign on the WSC Literature Committee's meeting room door after the motion to approve the long-awaited book had been passed by a nearly unanimous (1 no, 1 abstention) roll call vote. WSCLC members seemed almost eu-

phoric when recalling the experience of hearing "yes" after "yes" emphatically sung out by RSR after RSR.

"Everyone was so tremendously thrilled about getting the book. Most of the people got to their feet [when the vote to approve the book was finished]. I just looked out and saw all those beaming faces," said Mary J, WSC Literature Committee chairperson.

"It's really hard to describe the experience. I noticed with the daily book last year that I kept kind of reliving that moment. I'm doing the same thing with *It Works*, experiencing it after the fact," she continued.

Both the limited and standard editions of the book will be available by August 1. The limited edition, which will sell for \$35.00, is expected to sell out quickly. The regular hardcover edition will cost \$6.95. The WSO board will decide this summer whether to publish *It Works* in paperback.

Motion # 39

Motion #39, the motion from the Australia Region that suggested removing gender-specific references to God in NA's steps and traditions received quite a bit of attention throughout the conference. Though many participants expressed support for the idea in principle, the general consensus was that a motion of such magnitude needed to be widely discussed within the fellowship, particularly by the groups.

After the motion had been presented during the WSC Literature Committee's business session, an RSR working group was formed to discuss

possibilities for promoting group-level discussion of this motion.

No information is available at this writing of the plan for getting the information to the groups.

Approved: the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust

A set of policies for administering NA's logos and copyrighted recovery literature, the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust, was approved after heated debate. Some participants expressed their desire that the trust be extended to cover NA service material, including the *Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure*. This would have had the effect of making regional service representatives the only voting participants in the World Service Conference, since matters subject to the trust are voted on only by RSRs.

When the document was finally voted on, something remarkable occurred: Only two non-RSRs voted on the trust. The chairperson of the WSB and the chairperson of the WSB Internal Committee, who were presenting the motion, left the conference floor entirely. Others simply didn't respond to the roll-call vote.

Asked about this phenomenon, Chuck L., trustee, replied, "No, it wasn't planned. I don't know why other people chose not to vote on the matter. I can only tell you why I chose not to. I just chose to see whether or not the regional representatives would approve it. I chose not to respond when my name was called because even an abstention would have influenced the outcome. I did not want to influence the outcome."

New bulletins available from the board of trustees

Of grave concern to many members of the fellowship has been the issue of prejudice within Narcotics Anonymous. In response to this, the World Service Board of Trustees has developed a new bulletin entitled "Freedom from Prejudice." An excerpt:

"It would be easy for us to write a paper which simply says: Prejudice is wrong. Cut it out! However, we believe that there is no imposed solution. Only we, as individual members of Narcotics Anonymous, can resolve this problem."

The paper goes on to outline some possible solutions members can take to alleviate the problem within themselves and within the meetings they attend. For a copy of the paper, write the trustee coordinator at the World Service Office. Request trustee bulletin #28.

Again in response to requests from the fellowship, the trustees have introduced a paper addressing HIV and AIDS in NA. An excerpt:

"HIV and AIDS affect us all in NA. . . [They] are considered by some as an outside issue—a subject not to be discussed for fear of diluting our message of recovery from drug addiction. That point of view has not been stated in any world-level publication, but it has been implied through silence."

The paper goes on to describe how service committees, groups, and individual members can help NA members who have HIV feel that they belong. For a copy of the paper, write the trustee coordinator at the World Service Office. Request trustee bulletin #27.

WCC

Beginning in 1996, the world convention will be held every two years.

There was some concern expressed that no world convention would be held in 2003, which is NA's 50th anniversary year. A motion addressing that concern was introduced and committed to the convention corporation for a recommendation.

A Guide to Service

The Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service completed its work on *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* this year. After a lengthy discussion, the conference decided that the *Guide* would be held in abeyance until the completion of the two-year inventory process. The *Guide* will, however, continue to be available to the fellowship for purchase. Item #2100. \$5.50

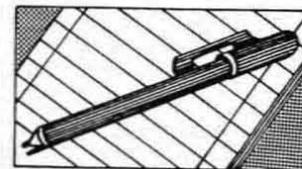
Inventory

Responsible for more debate than any other subject, a revised plan by which world services will take its inventory over the next two years was approved by conference participants on the last day of the conference.

Because many of the details have not yet been decided, a complete report is not available at this writing. More detailed information will be presented in a two-part report. Look for Part One in September.



Viewpoint



A response

I'm writing in response to the editor's request for feedback on *The NA Way's* policy of editing material to conform to NA language. This request followed a February 1993 "Viewpoint" article called "Semantics," which appeared below another opinion entitled, "Respecting our Sixth Tradition." I think these two topics are closely related.

First of all, I want to commend *The NA Way Magazine* for its policy of creating a separate "Viewpoint" section for articles such as these. Since *The NA Way* is like a meeting in print, I believe it is important to keep the many opinions of our members separate from articles which are strictly related to sharing experience, strength, and hope of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. I believe the same principle is being applied in *The NA Way* that we use in our groups; i.e., we have our business meetings and our

service meetings separately from our daily recovery meetings. We cannot afford to take time in a regular NA meeting to discuss our opinions or politics. That precious time needs to be reserved for us to share, listen, learn, and carry the NA message of recovery. Business and service meetings are time enough to discuss and try to apply our traditions and share our opinions about them. I strongly urge *The NA Way* to continue to have a "Viewpoint" column, if only to help our members learn that there is a difference in what is appropriate for a regular meeting and what is better left to business and/or service meetings. For me, it helps me remember that what I share may be heard by a newcomer who is not yet ready to understand the traditions and the service structure. I have seen and heard about too many meetings where newcomers left feeling hurt, confused, unwelcome, and, worst of all, like the addicts at that meeting were not the kind of people they wanted to be around.

That brings me to my point about "Respecting our the Sixth Tradition." I think NC must be very fortunate, indeed, to have run across so many people who "lovingly" and "spiritually" pointed out when the Sixth Tradition was violated. The way I have learned this principle is through time and

experience. When I became mature enough in recovery to ask questions about the traditions, my questions were lovingly answered. But I can't recall any instance when someone, so concerned about our Sixth Tradition, voluntarily came off as loving to a newcomer or someone making a mistake. Even those in the room with the knowledge and understanding of the traditions perceived the "loving" correction as being confrontive or self-righteous. As loving as any of us may try to be, there is little chance that our unsolicited opinions or advice

**"An NA group ought
never endorse
finance, or lend
the NA name. . ."**

would be well-received in that situation. Many of the home groups in my area handle the potential for Sixth Tradition violations by sending a clipboard around the room at the beginning of the meeting so anyone can write down announcements they might have. Appropriate NA announcements are then read by the chairperson at the end of the meeting, with non-NA items "edited" from the list. This way, no one has to get confronted or insulted in front of a room full of people. If someone wants to know why we didn't read their announcements, they are free to ask when the meeting is over and home group members have the opportunity to answer their questions in a loving way. Most importantly, precious meet-

ing time is not taken up by one opinion after another on a topic which is usually of no use to anyone who is new or who is not yet at a point of understanding.

NC's opinion about the mention of other fellowships when someone shares is absolutely correct. I sincerely hope that we all remember this principle if we are ever forced to attend a meeting of another fellowship, just to go to a meeting of any kind to stay clean one more day. Unfortunately, I have observed that many who are the strongest supporters of respect for NA's Sixth Tradition do not have the same level of respect for attending other fellowships. I believe with all my heart that the only way to attract addicts and encourage them to make NA their only fellowship is to provide the most loving atmosphere of recovery possible. In my community, we are being helped in this effort a great deal by another fellowship that is doing the very thing that NC talks about. NA has gained many wonderful new members after they were told they couldn't share about drugs in these other meetings. How long would they stay in NA if we were to do to them what drove them to us in the first place? All I can do when I hear someone share about going to another fellowship is share that I found and am continuing to find everything I need in NA. I cannot tell someone what to share or what to do. In a really sticky situation, I have often shared that a big part of recovery for me is commitment. Part of my commitment is that I only attend NA, and I become willing to allow others to get to know me. That is hard to do when I am running

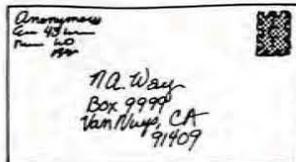
around to different fellowships. Sometimes I suggest to others that they try just going to NA meetings for thirty days, just to see if they find a difference for themselves. I know that nobody could have told me that; it is something I had to come to terms with for myself, much like my admission of powerlessness. I believe that people who share about other fellowships simply do not yet know enough about the love and recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. I have never seen anyone whose "tradition violation" was ignored get a resentment against NA and decide not to come back, nor have I seen that letting them share whatever they needed to share was going to destroy NA. I think we who understand the Sixth Tradition need to let these things slide, carry the best recovery message we can, and show people how NA works, not tell them. That, to me, shows a true understanding of the steps and of the Third Tradition. NA is strong enough to withstand mistakes in the sharing of individual members. The question is, are we tolerant enough?

It is true for me that none of us can control what someone says in our meetings. However, *The NA Way* has a special opportunity to carry our message in our magazine. It is possible to put our Sixth Tradition into a responsible form of action by having a policy of changing a few words here and there to harmonize with the unity of our fellowship's language. Who knows, maybe someone who submits an article that needed this little bit of editing will see the light when they see their story in print and hear how

right it sounds. For the person who wrote the article, "Semantics," there is no "illusion" or "deception" that we have one standard language. We do! That's reality. While many people do not use all the same words, we have chosen as a fellowship what we believe are the most widely acceptable terms. *The NA Way* is only following our fellowship's conscience and the format of our Basic Text through its policy. I feel sorry that the author of "Semantics" refuses to continue receiving *The NA Way*, and I suspect that the author may have run into someone from the "Traditions Police" at a meeting at some point to feel so hurt by the language controversy. I wholeheartedly agree that membership in NA can never be disallowed by anyone. I don't see how a responsible editing policy or a fellowship's conscience regarding NA language can be construed as an attempt to disallow membership. There is a definite distinction between setting a loving example of recovery and demanding that everyone understand our traditions. Thus, language should not be corrected during meetings. We can't edit what someone says, but we can edit what they write for our worldwide magazine. *The NA Way*, just like my home group's announcement policy, provides us a setting where we can correct tradition violations. There is also a definite contrast between having things the way we, as individuals, want them to be and following the group or fellowship conscience. When we learn to tolerate and accept group conscience, we take a long stride toward unity and growth.

Anonymous

From our readers



Brothers and sisters

I am greatly pleased to have received my first copy of *The NA Way Magazine*. I have only had a chance to read a couple of issues, and both of these were old ones. They had lost none of their message through the years, I might add.

I am a relative newcomer to recovery, but I would like to share some of the experience, strength, and hope I have gained in my recovery.

In my early years, I loved to write poetry. As I grew older this was deemed to be unmanly by my peers. I found my way into the world of drugs and alcohol. Whatever inspirations and abilities that I had in writing poetry were soon gone.

All my life I've had a great deal of trouble expressing myself. When I found my way into the rooms of NA, this problem was more evident because of my lack of trust. It was suggested at one of the meetings to put my thoughts on paper. This I also found hard to do.

One day I thought about writing a poem, but was unsure where to begin and what to write. At the time, I was trying to grasp the Third Step and was having trouble with a Higher Power. In my mind I said, "God, I'm trying to feel You and believe in You, but I still have so many doubts. If

You're with me, please help me to understand." With that, I opened my mind and began to write.

This was the beginning of my spiritual awakening. There was no bolt of lightning, but the effect was the same. I work the steps to the best of my ability today, and continue to reach for a better understanding of my Higher Power's will for me.

WF, Ontario



Graphically speaking

While sitting in my tub reading "Discerning the Muse" in the October 1992 issue of *The NA Way*, I was struck by something graphic. I had not understood how the graphic artist came up with the setting and the characters for the artistic depictions at the beginning of some of the stories. Then I realized they came straight out of the stories themselves. However, the thing that struck me is, how does the artist know what the person looks like? The sex of the author is sometimes disclosed in their stories, but their nationality usually isn't.



Being a member of the literature review committee in this area, I read our literature for spiritual content. I give credit to the artist for depicting the characters with very little detail; I think this promotes unity, anonymity, and acceptance. I would also like to note that the racial identity of the depictions is well integrated with the two largest color segments of our nation. The point I would like to bring up is that our fellowship is worldwide and diverse. Thousands of recovering people do not fit into these stereotypical categories depicted.

I remember reading a story from a European concerning what we Americans take for granted, "I jumped into my car and drove to clear my head." Or, "After the meeting, we all went bowling." The author pointed out that not many people in India ever even ride in a car, let alone own one, and that an average evening in Spain might include going to a bull fight. My point and my plea is to make our magazine less stereotypical and more true-to-form by depicting the true diversity of our fellowship in our magazine.

AC, Utah



Enjoyed convention

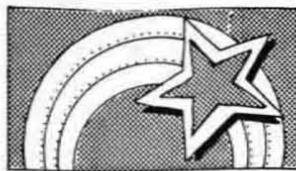
I am bursting with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and gratitude for each day clean. I just returned from the Fifth Annual Quebec Regional Convention. Friends had warned me of the level of energy that our French Canadian brothers and sisters bring to this celebration and to their recovery. But being a seasoned veteran of several world conventions, many regional conventions, and committee service on a half-dozen convention committees, I was sure I had seen it all. I was wrong. I received an overwhelming welcome from the Canadian NA community.

I cried tears of joy to see newcomers being lifted onto their chairs and over thirty addicts with one day clean on the stage. The theme songs! The workshops! The speakers! The feelings of joy that were so evident all around! There has never been any doubt in my mind that our Fifth Tradition works through our celebrations of recovery for the newcomer, but after this weekend in Montreal I can gratefully say that the message was carried to me and that my recovery was revitalized and broadened. I am grateful for the convention committee's hard work in putting on this event.

I've got to go. I have to make travel plans to return next year.

Anonymous

Comin' up



ALBERTA: Jul. 30-Aug. 2, 1993; 4th Annual Central Alberta Area Campout; Dixon Dam west of Innisfail; info (403) 342-1444; Central Alberta ASC, PO Box 472, Red Deer, Alberta, T5N 4G1

2) Nov. 5-7, 1993; Alsask Regional Convention; Red Deer; hotline (403) 342-1444; Alsask Reg. Conv., Central Alberta ASC, PO Box 472, Red Deer, Alberta, T5N 4G1

ARKANSAS: Jul. 2-4, 1993; 5th Annual Central Arkansas Area Convention; info (501) 982-1928; CACCNA, PO Box 24223, Little Rock, AR 72221

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Jul. 2-4, 1993; 3rd Canadian Convention of NA; Vancouver; rsvn.s (604) 685-7210; info (604) 431-6453; CCNA, PO Box 102, 1470 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC V5L 3X9

2) Sep. 24-26, 1993; 14th British Columbia Regional Convention; Nanose Bay; info (604) 754-3673 (eve.) or (604) 758-8048 (day); BCRCNA 14, Box 118, 67 Victoria Crescent, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B9

COLOMBIA: Jul. 3-5, 1993; 3rd Colombia National Convention; Medellin; info (574) 250-0053; Convention, Apartado Aereo 53464, Medellin, Colombia

COLORADO: Jul. 2-4, 1993; 9th Western States Unity Convention; rsvn.s (800) 228-9290; info (303) 986-7905; WSUC-9, PO Box 6176, Denver, CO 80206

2) Jul. 23-25, 1993; Colorado Retreat; Telluride; info (303) 728-6837 or (303) 728-6351; Colorado Retreat, PO Box 2124, Telluride, CA 81435

CONNECTICUT: Jul. 23-25, 1993; 3rd Annual Greater Danbury Area Campout; Durham; info (203) 744-5499 or (203) 350-8161; GDANA Campout, PO Box 2253, Danbury, CT 06813

FLORIDA: Jul. 1-5, 1993; 12th Annual Florida Regional Convention; Haines City; rsvn.s (800) 422-5333; info (407) 897-2003 (RSO); FRSO, 709 Brookhaven Drive, Suite 3, Orlando, FL 32803

2) Oct. 8-10, 1993; 1st South Florida Regional Convention; North Miami; info (305) 652-7711; SFRCA, PO Box 69-4487, North Miami, FL 33169

GEORGIA: Jul. 16-18, 1993; 11th Piedmont Area Anniversary; rsvn.s (912) 994-5691; info (912) 994-5105; Piedmont Area, PO Box 4362, Macon, GA 31208

HAWAII: Nov. 4-7, 1993; 2nd Hawaii Regional Convention; info (808) 329-6956; Hawaii Reg. Conv., PO Box 461, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

IDAHO: Jul. 9-11, 1993; North Idaho Summer Celebration; info (208) 765-9194 or (208) 448-2408; Summer Celebration, PO Box 414, N Hayden Lake, ID 83835

ILLINOIS: Jul. 4, 1993; 3rd Annual Picnic; South Sandusky Recreation Area Picnic Shelter #2, Rend Lake in Southern Illinois

2) Sep. 2-5, 1993; 23rd World Convention for Narcotics Anonymous; info (818) 780-3951; WCC, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409

INDIANA: Sep. 18, 1993; 7th Annual Gratitude & Unity Dance; Concord Center, 1310 South Meridian, Indianapolis, IN; Central Indiana ASC, PO Box 661, Indianapolis, IN 46206

IOWA: Jul. 2-4, 1993; 10th Annual Iowa Regional Convention; rsvn.s (800) 336-4392; IRC-10, PO Box 1502, Dubuque, IA 52004-1502

KANSAS: Jul. 1-4, 1993; 15th Annual Mid-America Regional Free Campout; Wilson Lake; info (913) 357-7024; Mid-America RSC, PO Box 8732, Wichita, KS 67203

LOUISIANA: Oct. 29-31, 1993; 1st New Orleans Area Convention; rsvn.s (800) 627-4500; info (504) 254-2791; need speakers (minimum five years clean) workshops (three years clean) send tapes by June 1st; New Orleans Convention, PO Box 52212, New Orleans, LA 70152-2212

MAINE: Aug. 14, 1993; Central and Southern Maine H&I and Phoneline Learning Day; Auburn; info (603) 880-3689; N New England ASC, PO Box 1752, Portland, ME 04104

MASSACHUSETTS: Jul. 23-25, 1993; 1st Western Massachusetts Area Convention; Springfield; info (413) 747-1679; W. Massachusetts ASC, PO Box 5914, Springfield, MA 01101-5914

MICHIGAN: Jul. 1-4, 1993; 9th Michigan Regional Convention; Dearborn; info (800) 233-1234; MSO (313) 544-2010; MRC-9, PO Box 1480, Berkley, MI 48072-1480

NEBRASKA: Sep. 17-19, 1993; 10th Annual Nebraska Regional Convention; McCook; rsvn.s (308) 345-3700; info (308) 345-5839; NRC-10, PO Box 633, McCook, NE 69001

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Jul. 16-18, 1993; 3rd Freedom Under the Stars Campout; Freedom; info (603) 432-0168; Seacoast ASC, PO Box 652, Dover, NH 03820

NEW JERSEY: Aug. 20-22, 1993; 3rd Annual Northern New Jersey Regional Convention; Parsippany; rsvn.s (201) 265-3846; NNJRCC, PO Box 5064, South Hackensack, NJ 07606

NORTH CAROLINA: Jul. 9-11, 1993; 4th Annual Recovery in the Rough; Pilot Mountain; info (919) 983-9389 or (919) 983-2878; Newcomers Group, PO Box 321, King, NC 27021

2) Aug. 20-22, 1993; 3rd Annual Regional Service Awareness Weekend; info (919) 273-4204; Carolinas RSC, PO Box 4134, Greensboro, NC 27404

3) Sep. 10-12, 1993; 2nd Central Piedmont Area Convention; Salisbury; rsvn.s (704) 638-0311; info (704) 278-9536; Central Piedmont ASC, PO Box 282, Landis, NC 28088

NOVA SCOTIA: Aug. 6-8, 1993; 4th Annual Nova Scotia Area Convention; info (902) 461-0638; NSACNA, PO Box 65, Halifax Central, Nova Scotia B3J 2L4

ONTARIO: Jul. 17, 1993; Ontario Regional PI/H&I Learning Day; Colombos Community Centre; info (519) 837-2946

PENNSYLVANIA: Sep. 10-12, 1993; First Williamsport Area NA Convention; Williamsport; rsvn.s (717) 326-9701; info (717) 321-0356

2) Nov. 12-14, 1993; 11th Tri-State Regional Convention; rsvn.s (800) 445-8667; info (412) 391-5276; TSRSO, Inc., PO Box 110217, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

PUERTO RICO: Jul. 30-Aug. 1, 1993; 4th Puerto Rico Convention; Condado Plaza Hotel; info (809) 763-5919

SOUTH CAROLINA: Nov. 18-21, 1993; 11th Serenity Festival; Myrtle Beach; rsvn.s (800) 845-0658; Planning Committee, PO Box 1198, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

SWEDEN: Jul. 23-25, 1993; 10th European Conference and Convention of NA; Stockholm; info 46-8-7652700; helpline 46-8-6002707

UNITED KINGDOM: Jul. 9-11, 1993; 4th West Country Convention; helpline 0272-240084; Convention, PO Box 285, Bristol, Avon, England, UK BS99 285

2) Aug. 13-15, 1993; 7th Annual United Kingdom Convention; Brighton; info (071) 272-9040; UKCNA 7, PO Box 1980, London, England, N19 3LS

UTAH: Jul. 23-25, 1993; 10th Annual Utah Regional Campvention; info (801) 258-5530; rsvn.s (801) 825-8514; 10th Annual Campvention, PO Box 4274, Logan, UT 84323

VERMONT: Nov. 5-7, 1993; 4th Champlain Valley Area Convention; info (802) 863-2620 or (802) 865-3657; CVACNA 4, PO Box 64714, Burlington, VT 05401

WASHINGTON: Sep. 24-26, 1993; North Puget Sound Area 10th Anniversary; Oak Harbor; info (206) 428-4385; North Puget Sound ASC, PO Box 1001, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

WEST VIRGINIA: Jul. 30-Aug. 1, 1993; 7th Annual Almost Heaven Area Convention; Shephard College; info (703) 888-1448 or (304) 267-0691

WISCONSIN: Jul. 10, 1993; NA's 40th Anniversary Celebration; info (414) 543-4850; Kettle Moraine ASC, PO Box 1022, Sheboygan, WI 53082-1022

2) Jul. 15-18, 1993; 4th Annual Freedom by Choice Campout and Cruise; Waupaca; info (414) 476-4984; Campout, 1534 S 65th Street #2, Milwaukee, WI 53214

3) Aug. 6-8, 1993; 9th Mid-Coast Convention; rsvn.s (800) 552-5121; info (414) 435-8957 or (414) 866-2379; MCC-9, PO Box 9186, Green Bay, WI 54308

Slugg Mugg

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The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.
6. An N.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the N.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every N.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. N.A., as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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What is Narcotics Anonymous?

NA is a non-profit fellowship or society of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. This is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs. There is only one requirement for membership, the desire to stop using. We suggest that you keep an open mind and give yourself a break. Our program is a set of principles written so simply that we can follow them in our daily lives. The most important thing about them is that they work.

