



THE  
**NA**  
Way<sup>®</sup>  
MAGAZINE

May 1995

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## 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.

Twelve Steps reprinted for adaptation by permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

# THE NA Way<sup>®</sup> MAGAZINE

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*The NA Way Magazine* welcomes the participation of its readers. You are invited to share with the 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.

*The NA Way Magazine* presents the experiences and opinions of individual members of Narcotics Anonymous. The opinions expressed are not to be attributed to Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by Narcotics Anonymous, *The NA Way Magazine*, or World Service Office, Inc.

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# From the editor



## Reader's survey

I've had the opportunity to talk to several of our readers on the phone in recent months. Those of us who produce the magazine are always happy when you call, even when you're calling because you don't like something about the magazine. The way we see it is, we're all in this together. We need to know more about you than your mailing address, and we want you to know more about us than our service and job titles.

That's why, in this issue, I'd like to draw your attention to the reader's survey on page 16. Your answers to this will help us determine what *The NA Way* is going to be like for the next couple of years, so please fill it out and send it in.

## Forum

*The NA Way* Editorial Board has decided not to run a separate forum for our readers to discuss the steps and traditions language issue. We will continue to publish your articles about this issue in the "Viewpoint" section of the magazine, along with other opinion pieces.

## Back issues

Back issues of *The NA Way* will not be available during the month of May due to the relocation of the World Service Office. After 1 June, you can order back issues again. They're \$2 US each. Once we've moved and gotten organized, we plan to create an order form showing which back issues are available.

## COMPARISON SHOPPING

### Average annual cost of:

Maintaining an active addiction .....	\$3,650-\$109,500
Video rentals .....	\$264
Seventh Tradition donations .....	\$192
NA dances .....	\$35
A large soft drink and bag of chips for snacking at a meeting.	\$1040
Convention merchandise (three conventions) .....	\$157
The service charge on your checking account .....	\$96
Photocopying for your service committee .....	\$252
Coffee after a meeting .....	\$2432

**A one-year subscription to  
*The NA Way Magazine*  
\$15**

# Letters to the editor

## Hold the line

Dear Editor,

Hold the line on *The NA Way's* editorial policy to present a clear NA message by editing words such as "sober" and "alcoholic" from articles.

I read two letters to the editor in the December issue; both jammed *The NA Way* for its correct and wise policy. SM from California wrote, "I ask you to truthfully question your editorial policies in relation to principles and spiritual growth."

EN from Florida said, "I went to both NA and AA in my early recovery. I chose AA because there was more recovery and people had more organization."

Here's a tough question for EN. Do you think NA would be stronger and more organized if people stopped running off to AA, instead remaining in NA where they could carry a clear and caring message?

People with EN's perspective never get it. They have never read the trustees' bulletin on our relationship to AA. They never stop and think about what they are saying: "I realized the need to keep alcohol separate from drugs. . . ."

I thought alcohol was a drug.

I am alarmed at EN's clouded perspective on what NA is all about. It is apparent that EN does not understand the fundamental difference between NA and AA, i.e., AA's First Step focuses on a substance while NA's First Step focuses on a disease. EN's letter does not mention the disease. I wonder if EN really understands our First Step.

ENs of all sorts contribute to NA's smallness and alleged disorganization. I know because I used to believe the same thing. Years ago, I always identified myself as an alcoholic-addict, mentioned AA literature in NA meetings, and felt sullen when my home group rejected the use of my AA *Twelve and Twelve* in meetings before our own book was published. I separated alcohol from other drugs, used an AA and NA sponsor, and secretly believed that NA was inferior to AA.

However, my mind was changed as I recognized the vigorous growth NA experienced after the publication of our Basic Text. I became involved in service work and met caring, organized addicts that believed in NA, really believed it would work for them—or any addict seeking recovery.

There was a time when helpful AA members were needed around NA. Budding NA groups struggled to remain alive as NA came of age during the eighties. The AA members who helped us start NA meetings in my hometown will be forever remembered in gratitude for their tireless help. Most of the AA members who helped us never considered them-

selves members of NA also. They were friends of our fellowship. But people like EN remain in NA and AA, wanting, expecting to be members of both. They don't understand the First Step of either NA or AA. They

**"They don't understand that neither program is better than the other—just different."**

tell newcomers to go to AA for their alcohol problem and NA for their drug problem. They don't understand that neither program is better than the other—just different. They go to AA and insist on talking about drugs other than alcohol, clouding AA's message. They come to NA and insist on quoting the Big Book and talking about being clean and sober. This clouds NA's message. Generally, they eventually leave NA, complaining of NA's immaturity and lack of organization.

If only they would surrender their subconscious notion that AA is a diamond and NA is the coal. . . .

OG, Oklahoma

Editor,

My wife and I have been subscribing to *The NA Way* for years. We don't plan to renew our subscription. Your letters and articles violate the traditions of NA. In one of your articles a couple of months ago, it sug-

gested that people be tested for HIV. This violates our traditions. In the December 1994 issue, in "Letters to the Editor," AA appears to be endorsed. This violates our Sixth Tradition. If I want a doctor, I'll go see one. If I want AA literature, I'll get it. My purpose for subscribing to *The NA Way* is to get NA news. You are a big disappointment to us.

BL, New York

Editor,

My husband and I have just received the December 1994 issue of *The NA Way Magazine*. I must say that after reading the two letters to the editor, I am very disturbed. It has been my choice to attend one fellowship in my 6½ years of recovery—the Fellowship of NA. That is why we subscribe to *The NA Way*. The name of this magazine should pretty much tell you what you will get in every issue. And we do have a "way" in NA. Our Gratitude Prayer tells us so.

What disturbs me is why I have to read about any other fellowship, the arrogant misperception that they have more recovery than we do, their literature and language and then, on top of it, *pay* for the privilege of doing so in my own fellowship's magazine. If people choose to go to other fellowships, fine. It just has nothing to do with our fellowship or our magazine.

The first letter spoke of AA in Russia. I believe the focus should have been on how NA could grow in Russia and the problems confronting addicts there, not what AA is doing or not doing. Our Tenth Tradition says we have no opinion on what any other fellowship is or is not doing.

The second letter spoke of the writer's experience in AA and how he thought he could "help" us here in NA. Why don't the people from GA or SA come to "help" us, too? Or is it okay for AA members because they are linked so closely to NA now that we feel the need to include their thoughts, literature, and viewpoints in a magazine devoted to the NA way of life?

I was taught that we are fully self-supporting. You see, I believe in this fellowship and in these "loud" addicts, as your second writer refers to us. I believe that we can do this, no matter how small the meeting, how "young" the recovery. We certainly don't need to talk other fellowships down; but we do need to support, believe in, and talk *NA up*. And, yes, it is still okay to be vigilant about the traditions. If the people in AA weren't vigilant about their traditions many years ago, NA might never have been born.

I am very disappointed in *The NA Way* and the opinions expressed in it lately. Recently, a letter was published in which the writer urged people to get tested for HIV. This was an outrageous violation of the Tenth Tradition. We have no opinion on whether people should, or should not, be tested. Imagine an addict taking the test, being devastated by the results, and using—all because *The NA Way* urged him to get tested.

In the guise of open-mindedness, it would appear that there has been a compromise in the integrity of this magazine.

Now I don't like to hear about other fellowships in an NA meeting,

but I have the choice to leave. But to pay to learn about and read about the NA way of life and get something else has left me feeling sad, violated, and worried about the welfare of our fellowship. Come on, *NA Way*, stand up and get back to basics!

ML, New York

Hello,

I read "From the Editor" in the February 1995 issue about your concern that the circulation figures are smaller than a few years ago.

This does seem ironic! In the last few years, I've traveled across Canada and visited some of the northern United States. Everywhere I've gone, it seems that NA membership and attendance is growing rapidly. Every place I stop, I'll attend a meeting with seventy-five to a hundred addicts. Someone always tells me, "You should have been here a few years ago—only five or six of us showed up."

The editor suggested that the magazine is either way off base, or the fellowship doesn't know we have a magazine. Both seem extreme. I feel that sometimes *The NA Way* neglects personal recovery and abstinence from drugs in favor of constant carrying on about service, debates and arguments about Motion 39/88, etc.

Is *The NA Way* a magazine for NA members? A meeting in print concentrating on abstinence from drugs and addicts getting better? Or is it a monthly service manual and sounding board for WSC?

Just asking.

Anonymous, Alberta

# I was different

When I came to NA I felt I was very different. I didn't fit the drug-addict stereotype. I was a special case.

I was not living on the street, unemployed, or destitute. I was successfully self-employed. Always ambitious, I was able to put my drugs aside long enough each day to get done what I had to do. My friends and associates considered me a very successful person, an achiever. My using friends had a very different view: I was someone who smoked a ton of dope, but could handle it.

I knew differently. It took every ounce of mental energy I had to appear together and stay on top of my responsibilities. I had no hobbies or interests. My passions were business and drugs, and that was fine with me. I justified what I was doing by thinking and saying that I wasn't imposing my lifestyle on anyone. What I did with my life and time was my business. That rationale worked fine, until I became a father.

I came from a poor and dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and a mentally ill mother who was addicted to prescription drugs. I wanted a better life for myself, and I had always vowed that my kids

would not grow up in the same sick environment as I did.

But there I was, six months into fatherhood and using as much as ever. The cycle was repeating itself. Between work and getting high, I had no physical or emotional energy left for anything else. I wasn't living up to my responsibilities as a parent. Communication between my wife and myself was breaking down in a big way. I knew that if I didn't stop using, I would lose everything.

I had tried "my way" many times, so I knew that wasn't going to work. Desperate for a way out, I found NA. At first I felt out of place. Many of my fellow addicts came from much more physically and financially desperate circumstances than I. I was there for fear of losing my family. Many others were there for fear of losing their lives or their freedom. I felt guilty that I hadn't suffered as much as others.

After hanging around awhile, I discovered that my sense of uniqueness was not unique. I discovered that most newcomers feel the same thing at the beginning. Each and every one of us has his or her own set of circumstances. But the different circumstances are not what's important. Suffering is suffering, pain is pain. The disease we share and how we can help each other is what matters.

I have learned that measuring myself against others is not what recovery is all about. How much I did or didn't use, where my addiction did or didn't take me, has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not I belong in NA. Tradition Three says it all:

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using." I feel great empathy for the suffering many others have endured, and I feel especially for those addicts who are still suffering.

My spouse and I have been clean for just two years. We now have two beautiful children and a wonderful relationship. My life is my dream come true, and it is all thanks to the spiritual principles of Narcotics Anonymous and the addicts who give it life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*DA, British Columbia*



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## No matter what, no matter where

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In August, I will celebrate my sixth anniversary of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. I have been a subscriber to *The NA Way* for most of that time, and I used to think that one day I would write when I found some time. Now that's just what I have.

In 1990, nineteen days before my second recovery anniversary, my husband (who will also celebrate six years in August) and I were arrested on a charge dating back to 1985. It took three years and eight months for the case to go to trial. Throughout that time we continued going to meetings, working the steps, praying and meditating, talking with our sponsors, sponsoring others, getting involved in area and regional service, and very simply—just not using one day at a time. All of this enabled me to develop a greater relationship with my HP. I know today that everything that goes on in my life is in HP's hands, and I am okay in that knowledge.



I am now sitting in my bunk at a federal prison and am still grateful to HP for having brought me this far without the need or desire to use. I no longer have problems in my life; instead I have projects, and my project now is to make the best of the next two-and-a-half years, one day at a time. My husband is also doing time in a federal prison, and he too has remained clean.

He gets three NA meetings a week; however, I don't get any, so I am doing what I can to get one started here. No easy task, but HP has obviously given me this project.

I want to express my gratitude to HP and NA for the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions; by which I can live a joyful life today, and to *The NA Way Magazine*, which will give me meetings in print and allow me to stay connected to the fellowship. Without all this, my life would have little meaning and even less purpose.

GG, Florida

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## Powerless over addiction, mine and yours

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I am an addict, and I am really angry right now. Three of my friends have chosen another way of life—the life of drugs and temporary happiness. I am six years clean, thank God, and I am angry because my friends had over five years each. One friend in particular is in such denial about his life that I can only pray he makes it back.

But, isn't denial a part of the disease? It scares me. I don't understand how my friends can use and be "happy," as my friend explains his new life. I relapsed several times after a year or more clean, and every time I went back out, I was miserable. Oh, sure, I was okay for a couple of weeks, but my life eventually became unmanageable and it was a mess.

I have to be honest and say I am envious. My friends are using, and they are not having problems related

to drugs. It makes me wonder if I can use again. My disease is just taking over.

But I know differently. I know in the beginning it can be good. It feels good to think we're in control again. I remember my relapses well. I was off to the races. I couldn't get enough of anything fast enough. But I said the same thing my friends are saying: "I'm happy, really." Then friends started to go away, and my boss noticed a change in my personality and appearance, and I was lonely. Boy, was I lonely. My phone stopped ringing, and I isolated more than I ever had in my life. I was so ashamed and scared that I couldn't do a thing about it. I had a head full of drugs and a heart full of Narcotics Anonymous. Each time I got clean, then went back out, I pulled farther away from reality and from those who loved me.

Am I envious of the road that lies ahead for my dear friends? No, I just needed to think twice about what I'm feeling. I am hurt. I am watching my friends die a slow and painful death, and I am learning about powerlessness all over again. I can do for them what my friends did for me when I relapsed. I will continue to include them in my prayers, love them from a distance, and hope they make it back to NA. There is no guarantee they will make it. It is only my hope.

Thank you, NA, for being there for me. I am one of the lucky ones.

AR, California

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# My gratitude speaks

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Every time I attend a meeting and see an addict get a welcome chip, I remember how I got to my first NA meeting. I had befriended a member of the fellowship who was new in town and feeling rather homesick for the old NA crowd. We talked about everything, but mostly, I heard about the program, and what it had done for that person, and how great the people were. It sounded nice and all that, but I wasn't an addict, so it didn't really concern me. I was glad that addict was happy, but I could have happiness anytime I had the money to buy it.

My life began a downhill spiral. My probation officer said she wanted to send me to an institution for two years because I wasn't sticking to my rules or doing community service. (I never had time because I was working part-time and using full-time.) I was scared to death of being locked up again, and was wondering where to run.

Then a kid at work started to talk about the program and what it could do. It was strange, because I knew he

used to use, but I listened because he wasn't full of s\_\_\_ for a change. It seemed everywhere I looked, there were people talking about recovery. By the end of the week I was confused.

Then came the day when everything went wrong. My boss was yelling, customers were complaining, and everything I touched fell apart. Suddenly I heard myself think, "I'm gonna get f\_\_\_ed up after work," and that scared me. I think it was the first time I had consciously planned to get high. Before that, I would just decide I wasn't feeling right, so I would go visit a playmate. Just then, my NA friend came by on break. I asked if I could go to the meeting that night.

We walked into the meeting a little late. I had no idea what to expect. I thought a meeting was where you sat ramrod straight in your chair and listened to people tell you how bad you were. Instead, I saw smiles, and people pulling up a chair for me. I remember wondering what they

wanted; they seemed to be looking at me the way dogs stare at steak, licking their chops. (I later found out I was the first newcomer they'd had in a long time.)

When we went around the room and introduced ourselves, I heard myself say I was a "visiting addict" and vaguely wondered where *that* came from. I got a welcome chip. It cost me a hug. I sat there not saying a word, not knowing if I was allowed to speak. I was amazed that these people were drug-free and not "jonesing." I desperately wanted to leave and get high for all these people. They were happy and it scared me. I stayed and heard a guy speak. I have no idea what he said, but he seemed to have an air about him like he was shining from within. I decided I wanted what he had, and thought that if I came back, I'd find out what it was.

They gave me a meeting list with phone numbers and a White Booklet. At the end, they included me (me!) in their circle and everyone hugged me.

A few days later, I called the guy who had made the first impression on me to ask what a "moral inventory" was and how to go about it. You see, I had read the first three steps and decided I could handle them, so why not continue on with the Fourth Step? He explained that a sponsor would help me greatly with the steps, and suggested that I get a Basic Text and find a sponsor. Meanwhile, he handed the phone to a woman in NA, who later became my first sponsor.

Those two addicts saw me through the confusion of staying clean for six weeks, told me I'd have to tell the group I'd relapsed, and saw me through the next ninety days clean. They dragged me off to functions and introduced me to service work. I am grateful for them and for those who showed me how to live.

Our closing rings true: My gratitude speaks when I care and when I share with others the NA way.

*Anonymous*

## The beginning of a new life

I enjoy our NA magazine and have been a subscriber for about six years. Recently I celebrated eight years clean, and that is a miracle.

At the age of seventeen I found my first shooting gallery; those folks accepted me and I no longer felt lonely. After many years of using, it just stopped working for me.

My brother was recovering with three years in another fellowship. He took me to a treatment center. After completing treatment I went to a meeting of another fellowship. The people there told me that I didn't look like an addict. I remember feeling elated; my problem was not drugs, but something else, and I was ready to use again. My brother is wise. He saw that I was ready to pick up and suggested I try one more thing: a NA meeting.

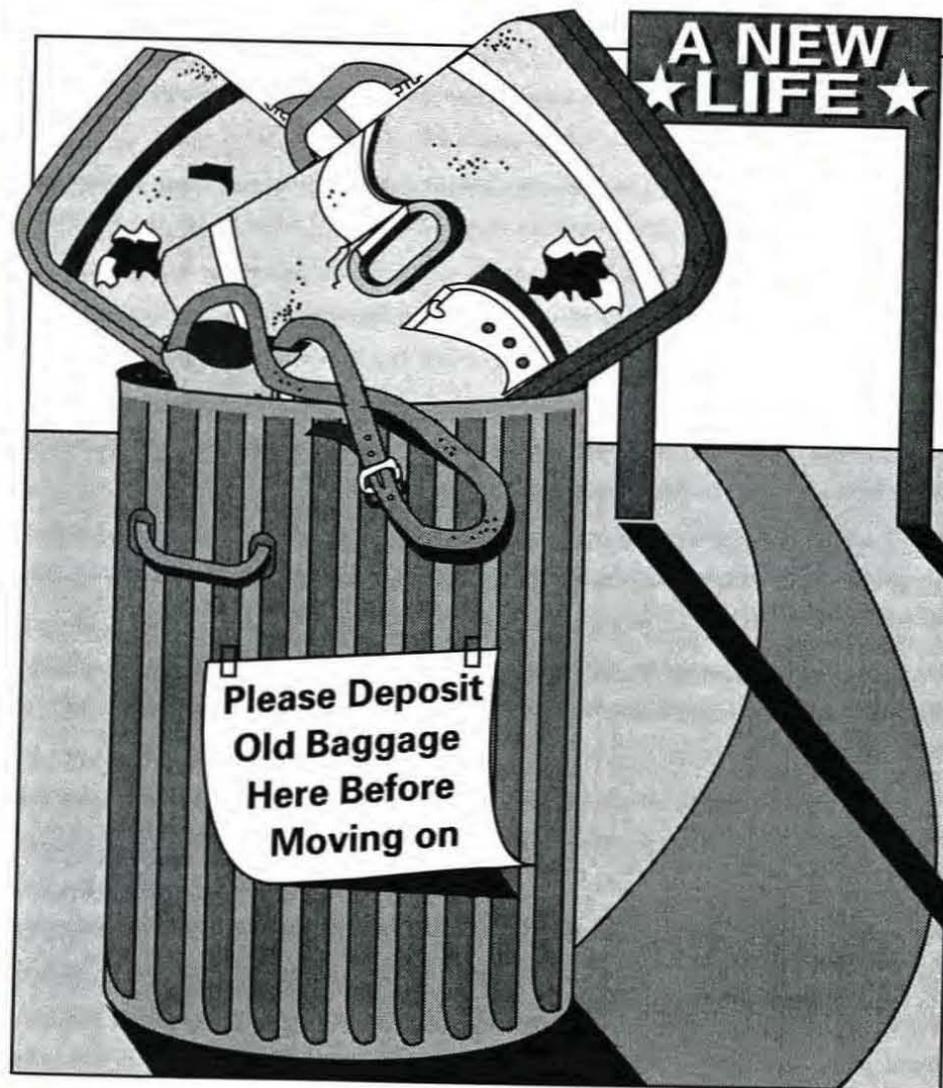
My first NA meeting was in a little rural town in Minnesota. I was arrogant and, at the same time, deeply ashamed of being an addict. I didn't believe I was part of the human race. I thought I deserved to die, and I believed I would. All my baggage came into that room with me.

The folks in that room offered me a new way to live: freedom from my active addiction. They didn't want money, sex, or drugs from me—all of which I was tapped out of anyway. They scared me with their smiling and not using drugs. They gave me a welcome keytag, a cup of coffee, and the message of Narcotics Anonymous.

Since that first meeting I have never been lonely. I was freely given the gift of love, and through this love I found my Higher Power.

Lessons come hard for me in recovery. At three years clean I thought I knew all about the traditions. One night a man from Minnesota stopped into our meeting in Boston. During the announcements, he mentioned something about another fellowship's event. I said something "cute" and humiliated him. When it came to his time to share, he said it was his first NA meeting and his last, then he walked out. That man was very angry and hurt. Even I could see it. The room got so quiet you could hear a pin drop. I followed him out and apologized to him, explaining that I was still quite sick. I felt ashamed and guilty; no one treated me like that when I first came around. I learned in that one event the importance of the Twelve Steps because I had an opportunity to address them all. That man came back into the meeting. I thanked my Higher Power for that man and the lessons I learned that night.

Today in recovery, I really try to practice the spiritual principles as they were given to me in the beginning of my new life, my first NA meeting.



I have since moved to Minnesota, receiving many gifts from the last eight years clean. My mother died; we were friends and shared love before she died. I am not feeling the loss of my childhood as I did when first got clean. I have a business today and a home on the river, which I love. Truly, the greatest gift is the reassurance that my Higher Power lives in my house, and the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous just keeps getting better. The gift of love, and the gift of freedom from my active addiction, are still mine. I am truly one grateful addict in recovery. Thank you, NA.

*TC, Minnesota*

## Anniversary Anxiety

I heard someone sharing at a meeting the other day about how suddenly he felt lost and confused. His emotions were right on the surface. He was having trouble understanding his life and nothing seemed to be going right, even though his sponsor said he was doing everything he was supposed to be doing. Then he said he was going to have one year clean in two weeks. Naturally, most of the people in the meeting laughed with total understanding and sympathy. The poor man was simply having PMS!

Pre-Medallion Syndrome is that truly weird mental state that usually occurs about a month before your anniversary and begins to subside after you pick up your medallion. I

couldn't resist teasing him a little by telling him that we do keep some secrets from newcomers, and one of them is that in recovery men get to find out what women have known for years about PMS: This is a normal and temporary condition, and it will pass.

What my experience tells me is that if I'm feeling really crazy and I know I'm doing the basic stuff—meetings, sponsor, steps, and service—I need to check the calendar. It nearly always shows that I am near a recovery anniversary. Then I can tell myself that "this too shall pass," and go on with my life. I also need to pull just a little closer to my sponsorship family and concentrate on getting through one day at a time without going off on anybody or being too hard on myself.

After my first anniversary, I assumed that PMS would get easier each year, but I haven't noticed much difference. As each anniversary rolls around, I get slightly crazy. People with lots more time than I have tell me they still go through this each year, too. Hey! I'm normal! Imagine that.

MT, Florida

MAY 1995						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	PMS 1	PMS 2	PMS 3	PMS 4	PMS 5	PMS 6
PMS 7	Recovery Milestone 8	9	10	11	12	13

## NA Way Reader's survey

One thing we've learned from conducting reader's surveys in the past is that you hate to tear pages out of your magazine, even to fill out a survey. So please feel free to photocopy this survey. Or, if you just want to write out the question numbers and your answers, that's fine, too. Make sure you include the question numbers if you choose to do this. Otherwise, we may have trouble divining which of your "yeses" or "nos" are in response to which question. You need not answer every question if you don't want to or have no opinion.

We survey our readers every couple of years, or as often as we have the resources to design a survey. The questions are always in our minds, but we have to devote some time and thought to asking the questions in such a way as to not influence your answer. This is not to imply that we are conducting a formal survey, using a scientific method and control groups, etc.. This is a typical reader's survey, used periodically by most magazines to check the pulse of their readers and make sure

they aren't straying too far from what their readers want.

Producing and printing what our readers want is just as important to us at *The NA Way* as it is to the editors of any internationally circulated magazine—if not more so. This, the international journal of the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship, is *your* magazine. Accordingly, it should reflect you as a fellowship—your concerns, your struggles, your joys, and your spirit.

Please share with us what you think about *The NA Way* by filling out this survey and mailing it in. We'll publish the results after we've allowed time for you to return your answers. We look forward to hearing from you.

- How did you obtain this issue of *The NA Way*?
  - subscriber
  - borrowed or received as gift
  - purchased single copy
- If you are a subscriber, how long have you subscribed?
  - Under 1 year
  - 1 to 2 years
  - 2 to 5 years
  - 5 or more years
- If you are a subscriber, why do you subscribe?

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4. If you are not a subscriber, would you consider subscribing?  
 yes  no  
 If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Which of the following best describes how you read the May NA Way?  
 cover to cover  
 skimmed  
 read articles of interest  
 did not read

6. The following is a list of items featured in the May NA Way. Please indicate your reaction to each article, 1 being the most positive, 5 the most negative.

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>From the Editor</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Letters to the Editor</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Meeting in Print					
I was different	<input type="checkbox"/>				
No matter what, no matter where	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Powerless over addiction, mine and yours	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My gratitude speaks	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The beginning of a new life	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Anniversary anxiety	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Home Group</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Reader's survey</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Newsletters</b>					
Tolerance	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Loneliness	<input type="checkbox"/>				
As the story goes—away	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Viewpoint</b>					
Steps don't need to be politically corrected	<input type="checkbox"/>				
To work the steps, the steps must work	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Editorial reply	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>From our Readers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Comin' Up</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

- What do you usually turn to first in *The NA Way*? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which one item did you enjoy most in the May issue? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which one item was least useful to you? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have any other comments about the May NA Way? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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# WCNA XXV

Paris, France – September 14, 15, 16, 17, 1995  
**Hotel Reservation and Convention Registration Form**

Special discount travel packages are available from the following North American cities through our official travel agency, Travel Smart, Inc. For more information and booking, call Travel Smart, Inc. at (800) 278-3113 in the US or (619) 278-3113 outside the US. Their normal business hours are Monday thru Friday, 8AM to 5PM Pacific Standard Time.

CITY	*PER PERSON	CITY	*PER PERSON
Montreal	\$1029	Chicago	\$949
Boston	899	Indianapolis	979
Hartford	899	Kansas City	999
New York	899	St. Louis	999
Philadelphia	899	Dallas	999
Wash./Baltimore	899	Houston	999
Pittsburgh	949	San Diego	999
Raleigh	949	Los Angeles	999
Charlotte	949	San Francisco	999
Atlanta	949	Albuquerque	1079
Orlando	949	Denver	1079
Miami	949	Las Vegas	1079
New Orleans	999	Seattle	1099
Nashville	999	Toronto	1199
Cincinnati	949	Calgary	1429
Cleveland	949	Edmonton	1429
Detroit	949	Vancouver	1429
Minneapolis	979		

\*Based on midweek/weekend prices.  
 For round trip travel on weekends add \$20.00 US.

Connecting flights from other cities are available for an additional charge. These packages include: round trip air transportation on US Air or Air France, 5 days/4 nights accommodations (based on double occupancy) at the headquarters, Hotel New York in Disneyland Paris; shuttle service between the Paris Airport and Disneyland Paris; and all taxes. All packages are based on availability.

All travel must occur between 8 September and 22 September in order to get the discount airfare. If you would like to stay longer than five days at the Hotel New York, add \$66.00 US per day to the cost of the package. If you would like to stay additional days at another hotel in Paris, Travel Smart Inc. can assist you with your plan. Travel Smart, Inc. can be reached at (800) 278-3113/(619) 278-3113.

**While there is no deadline on reservations, we suggest that you book your package early, preferably by 15 April 1995.**



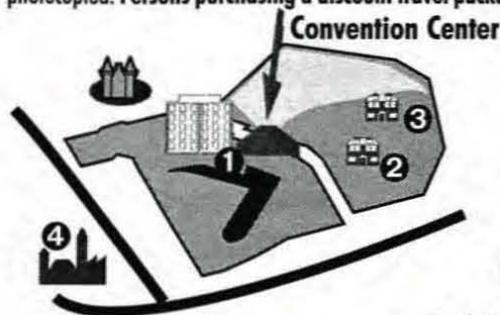
If you need any additional convention information please call the World Service Office, Inc.  
 (818) 780-3951 Ext. 120



# Hotel Reservation for WCNA XXV

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Your reservation must be received **BEFORE THE AUGUST 14, 1995** cut-off date. Convention rates may not apply after above cut-off date and will be based on availability. Confirmation will be sent by the hotel to the individual named in Part I. If more than one room is required, this form may be photocopied. **Persons purchasing a discount travel package must send this form to Travel Smart, Inc.**



## Part I

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code ( ) Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II

Select up to three choices from participating hotels. Enter names below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
First Choice Second Choice Third Choice

**Note:** Rooms are assigned in date order received. If your first choice is not available, assignment will be made at next available choice. Changes and cancellations must be made directly with hotel.

Print or type names of occupants. \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_

For all hotels, indicate:  Smoking  Non Smoking

For Hotel New York only, indicate:  Single King/Queen Bed  Two Queen/Double Beds

## Part III

An advance deposit equivalent to one night's stay at the hotel of your choice is required for each room. Forms will be returned to sender if received without deposit. Checks must be payable in French Francs and made out to Disneyland Paris. Bank checks payable in French Francs are available at most commercial banks.

Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ FF or charge my:  AMEX  VISA  MASTERCARD  EUROCARD  CARTE BLEUE

Charge Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
**Disneyland Paris Vacances**  
C.R.O. Convention/Service Reservation  
BP 132  
77777 Marne la Vallée Cedex 4, France  
OR FAX TO:  
+33 (1) 60-30-50-51  
No telephone reservations will be accepted.



# Travel Information

- **The official currency in France is the Franc.** As of January 1, 1995, one US Dollar was worth approximately five French Francs. We have used this figure to give you approximate prices in US Dollars. However, the currency exchange rate may change at any time. Current exchange rates are printed regularly in the business section of most daily newspapers.
- **Paris is served by two airports:** Roissy-Charles de Gaulle and Orly.
- **A valid Passport** is required for all non-European citizens entering France.
- **Airport Shuttles** leave from both airports every 45 min. for Disneyland Paris. Approximately FF75,00 (\$15.00US).
- **Train (RER from Paris/Chatelet-Les Halles to Disneyland Paris):** Line A4, direction Marne-La-Vallée. The trip takes approximately 40 min. and leaves every 16 min. The last train from Paris to Disneyland Paris is at 0h35 am (12:35am) and the last train from Disneyland Paris to Paris is at 0h22 am (12:22am). Approximately FF 37,00 (\$7.50US) one way. Three day travel Pass FF200,00 (\$40.00US).
- **Taxi:** From Paris to Disneyland Paris, approximately FF400,00 (\$80.00US).
- **Rent A Car:** For the best rates, contact travel or car rental agencies prior to departure.
- **Parking** is free for hotels residents and FF20,00 (\$4.00US) per day for visitors.

## Official Discount Travel Package

Official discount travel packages are available from most North American cities through our official travel agency for this convention, Travel Smart, Inc. These packages should be booked early due to limited availability. The packages include round-trip air transportation on US Air or Air France, 5 days/4 nights accommodations (based on double occupancy) at the headquarters Hotel New York, shuttle service to and from the airport, and all taxes.

For more information, see back panel of this flyer.

Travel Smart, Inc. can be reached at (800) 278-3113/(619) 278-3113.

## Hotel Information

**Note: All rooms are payable in French Francs. US rates are approximated.**

- ① **New York Hotel** — This will be the headquarters hotel and is adjacent to the Convention Center. It is a luxury art deco styled hotel which is situated on the shores of lake Buena Vista. Each room is air-conditioned and equipped with color television and mini-bar. Services included: health club, indoor/outdoor pools, tennis courts. Rates: FF650,00/\$130.00US per night (up to 4 people in one king or two double beds).
- ② **Hotel Cheyenne** — This casual hotel is furnished and themed in the style of a wild west American town and is a 10 min. walk from the Convention center. Rates: FF495,00/\$95.00US per night (all rooms sleep up to 4 people in 1 double bed & 2 bunk beds).
- ③ **Hotel Santa Fe** — This hotel is decorated in New Mexico style and is a 10 min. walk from the Convention Center. Rates: FF495,00/\$95.00US per night (all rooms sleep up to 4 people in two double beds).
- ④ **David Crockett Ranch** — A 10 min. drive by automobile from the Convention Center, these bungalows, equipped with full kitchens including pots and pans and a microwave, are located in the middle of a small forest. Rates: FF495,00/\$95.00US per night (all cabins sleep up to 6 people in 2 double beds & 2 bunk beds).



# WCNA XXV Registration

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code/Postal \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Registrants \_\_\_\_\_

All registrations must be mailed by August 25, 1995, after which on-site registrations will be accepted.

Event	Price	Quantity	Total
• Registration (before August 1st, 1995)	\$30.00	x _____ = \$ _____	
• Late Registration (after August 1st, 1995)	\$40.00	x _____ = \$ _____	
• Friday Midnight Boat Cruise on the River Seine in Paris <small>(transportation to and from Paris included; limited tickets available)</small>	\$20.00	x _____ = \$ _____	
• Saturday Theme Dinner (approx. 2:00 PM-5:00PM) <small>(limited tickets available)</small>	\$25.00	x _____ = \$ _____	
	Newcomer Donation	= \$ _____	
	<b>Sub total</b>	= \$ _____	
One day pass discount pass to Disneyland Paris: Adult	\$36.00	x _____ = \$ _____	
<small>(Not an organized convention event)</small> Child	\$28.00	x _____ = \$ _____	
	<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>	= \$ _____	

Method of payment:  Master Card  American Express  VISA  Check/Money Order\*\*

Card Number\* \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*All credit card payments are processed in the U.S.A. and may include a service charge. \*\*Must be made payable to WCNA XXV.

If you live in North/Central/South America mail to:

WCNA XXV c/o WSO, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, California 91409-9999 USA

If you live in Europe/Africa/Middle East/Asia Pacific mail to:

WCNA XXV c/o WSO—Europe Avenue Winston Churchill, Laan 249/B15, Brussels, Belgium

For all registration information, please call: (818) 780-3951/Fax (818) 785-0923

To speak with the Convention Committee in Paris, please call +33 (1) 40-86-09-36

• The Convention will be held in English • Do you need translation?  yes  no

If yes, What language do you speak? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have special needs due to a physical challenge, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## Programming Information

Wish to speak? • Main Speakers: 5 years clean time • Workshop Speakers: 3 years clean time

Send tapes to: WCNA XXV Program Committee, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9999 USA

Tape deadline extended to May 1, 1995.

Tapes must include name, address, and phone number of speaker in order to be considered.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the convention:

Volunteer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

11. If *The NA Way* were to include the following features in its next issue, which one would you turn to first?

A story about an NA community outside North America

AIDS in various NA communities

NA language/identity

Dual-diagnosis recovery (emotional/psychological disorders in NA)

World service news

News about local NA communities

Other \_\_\_\_\_

12. How did you first learn about *The NA Way*?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you recall a favorite or most moving article? What was it?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Have you ever submitted a story to *The NA Way*? Was it published?

\_\_\_\_\_

15. What motivated you to write and send it in?

\_\_\_\_\_

16. What do you think of humor in *The NA Way*?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. Do you recall an objectionable story? What did you find objectionable?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you think the magazine fairly reflects the diversity of the NA fellowship?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Do you think the magazine is good for newcomers?

\_\_\_\_\_

20. For older members? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

21. Should *The NA Way* ever include stories from non-members? (For instance, a story from a doctor who refers patients to us, or a family member of one of our members.) \_\_\_\_\_

22. *The NA Way* has always cost far more to produce than it brings in through subscriptions. The WSO has been absorbing this cost since the WSC turned the magazine over to the office. The following suggestions present a variety of ways for dealing with this situation. Check as many options as you feel are acceptable.

- WSO continues absorbing costs
- NA Way* increases its rates to new subscribers, but offers renewals to old subscribers at existing rates
- NA Way* increases its subscription rates to everyone
- NA Way* begins to charge a nominal fee to run event announcements in *Comin' Up*
- Quality of magazine is significantly downgraded, i.e., certain features are removed. (If you feel this option is acceptable, please check which of the following features you think should be eliminated
  - cover art and high-quality cover paper
  - inside illustrations
  - Home Group comic strip
  - NA news and staff-produced features

23. Our editorial policy calls for several standard cuts. Explicit sexual references, vulgarity, and obscenity are generally cut as a courtesy to our readers. Other cuts are made in keeping with our understanding of NA's steps and traditions. Where "sober," "addict/alcoholic," or other similar terms are used, we substitute standard NA language such as "clean," "recovery," and "addict." Mentions of specific drugs are cut if they serve no purpose in a story. Comments on outside issues and enterprises, including other twelve-step organizations, are deleted unless they are an integral part of a viewpoint piece. As for grammatical editing, we do this so that our stories are easily understandable. Should we change any or all of these policies?

If so, which part? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send your completed survey to:

*The NA Way Magazine*  
Mail: Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409  
Fax: (818) 785-0923

## Home Group



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# Newsletters

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give. When I share my judgment with others, my words may sway how others think or react to that person.

In recovery, I recognize this intolerance as a long-standing character defect. The program teaches me to use the steps and traditions and NA literature to seek a solution.

Our informational pamphlet, *Another Look*, asks me a probing question, "If we have accepted ourselves, how can we reject another?" It also says, "Intolerance results from differences we will not accept."

Dwelling on these differences kept me in a place that I don't want to go back to. Once again, a part of the solution is to work on self-acceptance and tolerate others. In *It Works: How and Why*, I read in the essay on Step Six, "We gain more tolerance for the defects of those around us as we work this step," and, "Rather than condemning the behavior of another, we look at ourselves."

The essay on Tradition Three speaks at length about tolerance, telling me, "We learn to practice tolerance of addicts who don't look like us, think like us, or share like us. We teach by example. Pressuring new members to talk or act like we do may send them back to the streets."

As I recognize the problem and become aware that the stakes are so high for me and for others, I must be

determined to apply these spiritual principles in my daily life, to the best of my ability, not expecting perfection but hoping and working the steps for personal and interpersonal growth. Thanks, NA.

LH

like I chased my drugs. I know that the most important time for me to make a meeting is when I don't want to—when my self-will tells me that I'm okay. When I think I don't need anyone's help, I need help.

In recovery, I learned that I must reach out for help, especially when I'm over-burdened. The weight of the world is cut in half when I share with one person, in quarters when I share with three, and even smaller when I share with more.

When we open up and learn to share our thoughts, feelings, and experiences, we extend a lifeline that cannot be destroyed no matter how hard our disease tries. It doesn't matter if it's one addict helping another addict, or a bunch of addicts helping each other. "As long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well."

Next time you feel lonely—get to a meeting, or pick up the phone and call somebody. Use the love, caring, and sharing expressed to us by other recovering addicts. We'll love you until you love yourself.

I know that in the fellowship of NA, I may feel lonely, but I never have to be alone. I'm grateful for the friends I made in NA, and the love I've received that kept me coming.

RC

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# Loneliness

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**From *The Recoverer*, the Washington/North Idaho regional newsletter:** Isolation is a symptom of potential relapse. Often, an addict begins to isolate by cutting off his or her support network. We may begin to feel that we do not need anyone in our lives—no one to talk to, no one to help solve our problems, no one to share joy with, no one to complain to. No one!

Sooner or later, when this happens, we begin to feel as though we're carrying the weight of the world on our shoulders. When I feel that weight, I know that I have to follow my Higher Power's will and make a meeting.

"Chase your recovery like you chased your drugs." We hear this slogan often. When I feel lonely and depressed, I chase recovery exactly

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# Tolerance

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**From *The Clean Sheet*, the Dallas, Texas area newsletter:** "There is one thing more than anything else that will defeat us in our recovery; this is an attitude of indifference or intolerance toward spiritual principles."

I have no problem tolerating and applying the spiritual principles of the program, I just have a hard time tolerating some of our members. I sometimes fail to recognize tolerance as a spiritual principle, fail to realize that each person is precious and under the care of a loving God, whether or not it is apparent to me. Intolerance leads me to judge people based on their actions, their words, or their appearance. When I keep these judgments to myself I lose, isolating myself from what that person has to give and limiting what I am willing to

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## As the story goes—away

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**From *The Clean Sheet*, the Dallas, Texas area newsletter:** Hello, family! I am a living miracle for the simple reason that with the help of a loving, caring Higher Power and the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, I haven't found it necessary to put a mood- or mind-altering chemical in my body today. My thoughts right now are on a topic recently discussed in a local meeting: gossip.

The essay on Tradition Three in *It Works: How and Why* says, "Since the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using, we as members have no reason to judge each other." How many times have I prejudged someone coming into the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous seeking recovery? How often have I bought into "he said/she said"? I am human, so the answer to those questions is obvious: many times, and often!

The essay on Tradition Ten says, "As groups and as a fellowship . . . we are responsible to provide an atmosphere in which recovering addicts can share freely with one another. To do these things effectively, we must stay as free of the distractions of public controversy as possible."

Among the things that were suggested to me when I came to these rooms was, "If I spend half of my day minding my own business, and the other half staying out of everyone else's, then I'll have a full day." I won't have time to buy into anyone's business, babbling, and bulls—. An added bonus is that I eliminate a lot of gossip by staying out of it. I've heard it shared that another person's Higher Power helps them to accept gossip and gossipers. I guess that works for them. For me, my Higher Power allows me to move around, away from that, or else I become a part of the circle of insanity.

A few days ago someone approached me in an attempt to enlighten me about someone else's thoughts and feelings. I abruptly asked, "Did it involve me?" "No," was the response. "Then the Tenth Tradition states, 'Narcotics Anonymous (and myself as a member of NA) has no opinion on outside issues (gossip); hence the NA name (or my name) ought never be drawn into public controversy (someone else's problem).'"

When approached with gossip, I used to ask eagerly, "What happened?" and "Whodunit?" Not anymore! I can see that I am growing spiritually.

There but for grace, I am alive just for today.

*Love R-One*

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## Viewpoint

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## Steps don't need to be politically corrected

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I have read the letters on Motion 39 with great interest, hoping to see what I was sure must be seen by anyone with any conscious contact with reality. But to my chagrin, the only letters I have seen are the pompous babbling of people with either no recovery or very little, no matter how long they have been clean.

First, let us be clear on one point. No one saves anyone else in this fellowship. We cannot keep anyone else clean, nor can we make anyone else use. My question to the people who say the word "Him" in our steps might cause people to reject the NA program is, "What about all the people who might reject the NA program if 'Him' was taken out?" The

whole argument about whether someone might or might not find recovery because of the wording found in the steps is based on fear, not on faith.

The first thing my first sponsor had me do when I started working the steps was to look up the words I didn't understand. And to this day, when I have a problem with a word, I get out the dictionary. I looked up the word "him." My dictionary provides two definitions:

- (1) the pronoun objective case of "he."
- (2) Used reflexively when the sex of the antecedent is unspecified.

My God does not have a gender. The only proper way to recognize that fact in English is to say "him." What does that mean? It means that the steps are not now, nor have they ever been, gender-specific.

The next coherent argument I came across is the argument for inclusive language over exclusive, sexist language. We are told how inclusive language is more accurate and realistic than that of exclusive, sexist language. If that were so then exclusive, sexist language would have to be inaccurate and, in point of fact, we are told this in one letter I read in *The NA Way*.

What a load of whooey! We are not talking about inclusive or exclusive language. We are not talking about sexist or non-sexist language. We are not even talking about whether this will help the addict who is not in recovery find recovery. What we are talking about is politically correct speech or politically incorrect speech, and that is all. Many addicts, probably with goodwill and believing they are right, have in these pages tried to obfuscate the truth, probably without knowing it. But the truth will normally shine through, no matter what is done to hide it.

I would be in favor of changing the steps if I agreed with the philosophical reason behind the change. My problem with Motion 39 is that I believe the language of the steps is beautiful. I cannot see marring the beauty of the steps to satisfy the political agenda of some members of the fellowship. Should we change the words used by Thoreau, Whitman, or Yeats because we are ignorant of the English language? If you are recovering today, the steps must work, just as they are written.

If a person had diabetes and was alive only due to taking a certain dose of insulin, would it be practical to change that dose for no reason except that the color of the insulin bottle had become unfashionable? What works, works. Why are we willing to risk our fellowship for this year's style? Our fellowship is based on the idea of inclusion. We have always espoused a philosophy that lets everyone believe what they want to believe. The problem with changing the steps in this case is that we are not making a spiri-

tual, moral, or philosophical change in the way we view recovery, we are adopting a closed-minded, anti-establishment political viewpoint that is in direct opposition to the basic tenets of our recovery.

I am not saying English does not have a male bias, but we are not in the Fellowship of NA to change the way a language has evolved. NA has no opinion on outside issues; the male bias of the English language is an outside issue. We have always tried to stay fresh and not become mired in the past. This attitude can be seen in the fact our book is just over ten years old, and we are on the fifth edition. Yet all the major changes made to the Basic Text have been based on either moral or spiritual arguments, not on political philosophy. We chose as a fellowship to use certain language to describe our recovery. Why? Just to be different? No, because we found as a fellowship that the word "clean" represented our philosophy on the disease of addiction better than a drug-specific term.

The next thing on the politically correct agenda will be to remove the word "God" from the steps. I say, leave the steps and traditions alone. They are not a wheel that needs new spokes. They are not limping along, showing signs of age. The steps and traditions are just as modern, relevant, and necessary today as the day they were written. In fact, I think they're even more so. They work well. Have faith. Trust God and work the steps.

*BB, California*

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## To work the steps, the steps must work

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When I first read about Motion 39 and realized what was happening—someone was suggesting we change our beloved steps—I reacted like I normally do to change: with resistance. Just like a good addict.

Luckily I have had some time to think and read about the issue, and I realize that what caused my resistance was that I did not have any problems with the steps (very self-centered). They work for me the way they are. Apparently they do not work for everybody else, otherwise this change would not have been suggested.

What Narcotics Anonymous is teaching me is that this is a "we" program, not an "I" program. Our First Tradition says, "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity." I believe that there are some addicts out there somewhere who have problems with the steps the way they are written. As a recovering addict, I know that our personal recovery depends

on us working the steps. We cannot afford to lose members of NA. It is our responsibility to do what we can to make this program work for everybody.

The principles of NA are teaching me to be open-minded, tolerant, understanding, and of selfless service to others. That includes doing my best to make the program of NA work for as many addicts as possible.

I do not have a problem with a masculine perception of God, but if God were identified as a "she," I would have a problem. That is due to the fact that I grew up with a very dominating, controlling, and mentally sick mother. For some addicts it might be the other way around. They might have a problem addressing their HP as a he, and why should they have to? Does the way the steps are currently written give us any choice as to how we understand God? I do not think so, not as long as it says God as we understood *Him*.

What would changing the steps involve economically and practically? NA literature has been translated into many languages, and this change would involve changing the steps—the parts that don't work—in all these languages.

As a member of a translation committee, I do not think it will be a big problem in the local translation committees, but it might in the World Services Translation Committee and the World Service Conference Literature Committee. I think it would be very useful to hear opinions from the members of WSTC and WSCLC on this issue.

Another important fact is that some cultures recognize goddesses. Take for example the Hindu religion of India, they have goddesses (Laxmi, Shita) as well as gods. Should they not be given the opportunity to make their own choice about how to address their Higher Power? This is a worldwide fellowship, and NA should be open to everyone.

It has been suggested that we say "God" instead of "He" in Step Three and Seven; a "God of our understanding" in Step Eleven; and in Tradition Two, "a loving God as may be expressed." I think these suggestions are very good. Well done, Australia. As for the rest of you: May a loving God of your understanding be expressed in your group conscience.

*MA, Norway*

## Editorial reply

**In response to "Is NA tolerating intolerance?"** I read this article with a great deal of personal interest. For the last eight years I have lived in a community large enough to support NA meetings every day of the week. I am not only the sole gay male in the program; I am the sole member of any minority group to stay involved in NA for more than a few months.

In eight years, I have never received an unsolicited phone call, been invited out for coffee after the meeting, or set foot in another member's home. Aside from the occasional newcomer, it has been a couple of years since I have had even the most innocuous conversation with a male member of the program. The problem is not that when all the straight, white members climb on their motorcycles to go out after the meeting, the occasional Native American and I are sometimes left behind; it is that we are *always* left behind and that we are the *only* members who are always left behind.

One can become a member of NA if one says one is. One cannot become a member of the fellowship if one is not accepted. The sole requirement for membership in NA is a desire to stop using. There are tons of unwritten requirements for membership in the fellowship. If NA was really the accepting, supportive place it sees itself as being, at least one other person who was different would have stayed clean in my area in the last eight years.

*SS, Minnesota*

## From our readers



### Getting the message

Hello, family, I'm a recovering addict named Jimmy. I'm very grateful to be clean by the grace of a loving, caring God and the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. Just for today.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend "The Message is Hope," the twenty-fourth world convention, in Baltimore, Maryland. What a convention for all of us! 15,000 miracles in one place, all of us bringing whatever God we believe in into the situation. I've never felt so loved and cared for in my life, except when I'm with my brothers and sisters in NA.

Believe it or not, folks, I happened to be trucking down the street the day after the convention ended when I noticed a familiar-looking tape order form laying on the sidewalk. Wanting to do the right thing (which happens once in a while, but not always—none of us are perfect), I picked up the tape form to mail it in to the good people who did the taping at WCNA-24.

What a mind blower! Out of ten or fifteen thousand attendees, my own name, address, and phone number were on this tape order form. As a result, I truly became re-acquainted with the God that has become a huge part of my life. Believe me, please,

there is absolutely nothing God and NA cannot do in our lives. Hope to see y'all at WCNA-25 in Paris.

*JB, Wisconsin*

### Thanx!

To all the people who organized and put in hundreds of hours at the NA Serenity Tent at Woodstock '94. It was a great shelter from the storms, weather, and drugs.

PS: The coffee in the tent was the only thing that did not taste like mud.

*T & B, Georgia  
K, North Carolina*

*Editor's note: The tent was sponsored by Greater New York Regional Public Information Committee.*

### All night long

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend my first NA Regional Convention (first convention of any kind) after almost three years in the program. It was in my former area and hometown. I was running around that convention like a kid in a toy store, greeting old friends, my sponsor, grandsponsor, hearing speakers, buying tapes, etc.

It was truly a celebration of recovery for me.

The marathon room is where I mostly lived, unless there was a workshop or a speaker meeting. The

first night I arrived at seven and I almost had to be dragged out at four in the morning. Listening to the understanding of other addicts who are working our steps and traditions was a welcome treat. Since my early recovery I have loved meetings, and going to marathon meetings was like NA Heaven (if there is such a place).

Before attending the convention, I thought everyone was there to celebrate recovery through sharing and caring with the activities schedule. In the meetings I heard addicts complain about relationships, speeding tickets, room prices, merchandise, you name it. Some because they could not thirteenth-step some newcomer. I also heard a lot about pain, fear, and resentment; I was grateful I was not experiencing any of those feelings. I felt positive throughout the convention. So I tried to share along those lines to those that were going through hard moments.

This is the first time I've written *The NA Way*. Each month I get positive feelings when I get my issue. I think, I'm about to have a meeting in print! This is great!

Conventions are something everyone should experience and gain strength from. I came away with such a feeling of hope. I don't know how to live any way but the NA way. I know a lot of people are upset about someone making a profit off conventions, but I don't worry about that. I go for the therapeutic value of one addict helping another. You cannot put a price on its value to this addict. Hope—that's what keeps me here; and when I'm able to attend another convention, I'll be back!

*OB, Louisiana*

### We need articles!

Remember that *The NA Way Magazine* is your meeting in print. Like any other meeting of which you're a part, you'll get the most out of this one by participating. Let your voice be part of the message that gets carried during the meeting. Write! We are in need of material right now, so don't wait.

### Who writes these articles?

You do!

The articles you see in this magazine are written by NA members like yourself. You need not consider yourself a skilled writer. You don't have to know all the rules of grammar. We have an editorial team whose job it is to take care of those details. What we need is your unique perspective on the NA program. Without it, we don't have a message to carry.

### What should I write about?

Write about any topic related to recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. Share with our readers the same way you would share with other addicts at any other NA meeting. Is there a topic you've enjoyed hearing or sharing about lately? Are you working a particular step, and having some eye-opening experiences? Has there been a turning point in your recovery? Tell us about it. We'd love to hear from you.

Calendar						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



# Comin'up

## CANADA

**Alberta:** 14-16 July; 4th Northern Lights Area Campout; info: (403) 790-0426 or (403) 790-9187; Campout, PO Box 5813, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada T9J 4V9

**British Columbia:** 19-22 May; 15th Vancouver Area Spring Clean; Gambier Island; info: (604) 873-1018

**New Brunswick:** 9-11 June; 5th New Brunswick Area Conv.; Fredericton; rsvns: (800) 561-7666; info: Convention, PO Box 20064, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 6Y8

**Nova Scotia:** 4-6 Aug.; 6th Nova Scotia Area Conv.; Teuro; info: (902) 477-1983 or (902) 457-3014; Convention, PO Box 65, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2L4

**Ontario:** June 30 - July 2; 5th Canadian Conv.; International Plaza and Conference Center; info: (416) 783-4393; CCNA-5, PO Box 54023, Lawrence Plaza Postal Outlet, North York, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6A 3B7

## FRANCE

**Paris:** 14-17 Sep.; 25th World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous; Paris; info: (818) 780-3951, extension 120

## GERMANY

**Hesse:** 21-23 July; 12th European Convention and Conference; Burgerhaus Nordweststadt; Walter-Moller-Platz 2, Frankfurt, Germany 60439; rsvns: (49) 69 580 930 or by fax: (49) 69 582 447; info: (49) 61 9828; ECCNA-12, Postfach 10 16 62, 60016 Frankfurt, Germany

## UNITED STATES

**Arizona:** 26-28 May; 9th Arizona Regional Convention; Tempe; rsvns: (602) 894-1400; info: (602) 955-4050

**Arkansas:** 30 June - 2 July; 7th Central Arkansas Area Conv.; Little Rock; rsvns: (501) 445-8667; info: (501) 661-1301; CAACNA, Box 250516, Little Rock, AR 72225

**California:** 18-21 May; 17th No. California Conv.; Santa Clara; rsvns: (800) 228-3000  
2) 29 May; 16th Memorial Day Picnic; Ventura State Beach; info: (805) 641-0451

3) 9-11 June; 11th San Diego/Imperial Regional Conv.; San Diego; rsvns: (619) 232-3121; info: (619) 229-1219; SDIRNAC, 2260 El Cajon Blvd. #184, San Diego, CA 92104

4) 30 June - 2 July; Western States Unity Conv.; rsvns: (916) 221-7500; info: (916) 243-6900; Box 993381, Redding, CA 96099

5) 4-6 August; 16th Southern California Regional Conv.; Palm Springs; rsvns: (619) 322-6000 or (800) 872-4335; info: (818) 396-1882; 1935 S Myrtle, Monrovia, CA 91016

**Connecticut:** 13 May (14 May if rain); 12th Pigs in Space; Lake Compounce Amusement Park, Bristol; info: (203) 739-5364

2) 2-4 June; 9th Greater Waterbury Area Family Campout; Lone Oak Campsites, Rte. 44, East Canaan; info: (203) 729-7999; Campout, Box 1075, Woodbury, CT 06798

**Florida:** 18-21 May; 8th Alabama/Northwest Florida Regional Conv.; Fort Walton Beach, Florida; rsvns: (800) 732-4853; info: (334) 598-3234 or (904) 455-1098

2) 26-29 May; Gold Coast Area Convention; Fort Lauderdale; rsvns: (800) 343-2459; info: (305) 761-8036

3) 4-6 Aug.; 4th South Dade Area Unity Weekend; Miami Beach; rsvns: (800) 327-6656; info: (305) 667-8948; Unity Weekend, PO Box 141514, Coral Gables, FL 33114

**Georgia:** 4-7 May 1995; North Atlanta Area Fun in the Sun Weekend; Panama City; info: (404) 729-0595

2) 30 June - 2 July; 13th Piedmont Area Anniversary; rsvns: (800) 222-2222; info: Anniversary, PO Box 4362, Macon, GA 31208

**Hawaii:** 26-29 May; 9th Big Island Gathering; rsvns: (808) 968-8579; info: (808) 967-8518; BIAG, Box 10842, Hilo, HI 96721

**Idaho:** 19-21 May; Southern Idaho

Regional Conv.; rsvns: Idaho (800) 821-7500; outside Idaho (800) 233-4611; info: (208) 323-7863

2) 16-18 June; 5th Annual NA Campout; Givens Hot Springs, Nampa; info: Campout, Box 9291, Nampa, ID 83652

**Illinois:** 5-7 May; 10th Mid-Coast Convention; Oakbrook; rsvns: (800) 233-1234

2) 9-11 June; Show-Me Regional Convention; Quincy; info: Show-Me Regional Conv., 2901 Broadway #120, Quincy, IL 62301

**Indiana:** 26-29 May; North Central Indiana Area Convention; info: (219) 287-3561

**Louisiana:** 26-28 May; 13th Louisiana Conv.; rsvns: (504) 345-0556; info: (504) 734-9794

**Maine:** 9-11 June; Nature of Recovery Campout; Camp Mechuwana, Winthrop; info: (207) 377-6895; Nature of Recovery 4, PO Box 120, Winthrop, ME 04364

**Massachusetts:** 5-7 May; 8th Martha's Vineyard Area Convention; rsvns: (800) 225-6005; info: (508) 677-4916

2) 28-30 July; 3rd Western Massachusetts Area Convention; Springfield; rsvns: (413) 781-7111; info: (413) 538-7479; Convention Committee, Box 422, Chicopee, MA 01021

**Michigan:** 5-7 May; First Campout of the Season; Taylors Beach, Cooks Lake, Howell; info: (313) 246-5749

2) 12-14 May; 9th Saginaw Bay Area Retreat; Higgins Lake; info: (517) 793-5915

3) 29 June - 2 July; 11th Michigan Regional Convention; Flint; rsvns: (810) 239-1234; info: (810) 544-2110; Send speaker tapes to: Box 7116, Novi, MI 48376

**Minnesota:** 12-14 May; 2nd Minnesota Regional Conv.; rsvns: (507) 282-2581

2) 2-4 June; Southern Minnesota Area Recovery Blast; Camp Patterson on Lake Washington; info: (507) 455-9091; SMARB-7, Box 69, Owatonna, MN 55060

**Missouri:** 28-30 July; 16th Annual Ozark Area Convention; Truman Lake, Clinton; info: (316) 856-4277; Send speakers tapes to: 2038 Chocteau St., Baxter Springs, KS 66713

**Montana:** 9-11 June; 7th Montana NA Gathering; Boulder; info: (406) 933-5723; Gathering, Box 133, Jefferson City, MT 59638

**Nevada:** 9-11 June; Sierra Sage Reg. Conv.; Lake Tahoe; rsvns: (800) 648-3322 or (702) 588-6211; info: Box 11913, Reno, NV 89510

2) 14-16 July; 4th California-Arizona

Nevada Area Conv.; rsvns: (800) 227-3849; info: (602) 754-4260; CANAC, Box 21975, Bullhead City, AZ 86439

**New Hampshire:** 23-25 June; 5th Fellowship in the Field; info: (603) 432-0168; Field 5, PO Box 4354, Manchester, NH 03108

**New Jersey:** 26-29 May; 10th New Jersey Regional Convention; Somerset; rsvns: (908) 469-2600; info: (908) 826-2148

**New York:** 26-28 May; 10th Greater New York Regional Convention; rsvns: (800) 233-1234; info: (212) 242-8140 or (212) 242-8140

**North Carolina:** 23-25 June; Carolina Reg. Conv.; rsvns: (704) 392-1200; info: (704) 344-8018; Box 31547, Charlotte, NC 28231

2) 21-23 July 1995; 2nd New Hope Area Convention; Durham; rsvns: (919) 683-6664; info: NHAC, Box 25043, Durham, NC 27702

**Ohio:** 26-28 May; 13th Ohio Regional Convention; Warren; rsvns: (800) 221-1549; info: (216) 792-6719

2) 21-23 July; 7th Annual North Coast Recovery Roast; Tri-County Camp Inn, Thompson; info: (216) 585-0485

3) 4-6 Aug.; 1st Tri-Area Conv.; Cleveland; info: (216) 663-4025; Send speaker tapes to: Box 33372, North Royalton, OH 44133

**Oklahoma:** 23-25 June; Mirror of Miracles; Sycamore Valley Camping Area; Wynadotte, Oklahoma

**Oregon:** 19-21 May; 3rd Pacific Cascade Regional Convention; Bend; info: PCRC-3, PO Box 40844, Eugene, OR 97404

**Puerto Rico:** 21-23 July; 6th Unidos Podemos; Condado Plaza Hotel; San Juan; info: (809) 763-5919

**South Carolina:** 26-28 May; Greater Anderson-Pickins Area Convention; Clemson; rsvns: (803) 654-7501; info: (803) 885-0200

**Tennessee:** 26-28 May; 7th NA in May in Memphis; Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park; info: (901) 452-1091

**Texas:** 26-28 May; 3rd Northside Area Unity Campout; Wolf Creek Park, Cold Spring; info: (713) 350-9351

**Utah:** 21-23 July; 12th Utah Region Campvention; Granite Flats Campground, American Fork Canyon; info: (801) 399-3974; URC, Box 324, Clearfield, UT 84015

**Washington:** 23-25 June; Camp Silverton Weekend; info: (360) 321-1595; EAAC, PO Box 5393, Everett, WA 98201

**West Virginia:** 5-7 May; Mountaineer Regional Service Convention; Cedar Lake, Ripley; info: (304) 372-7860

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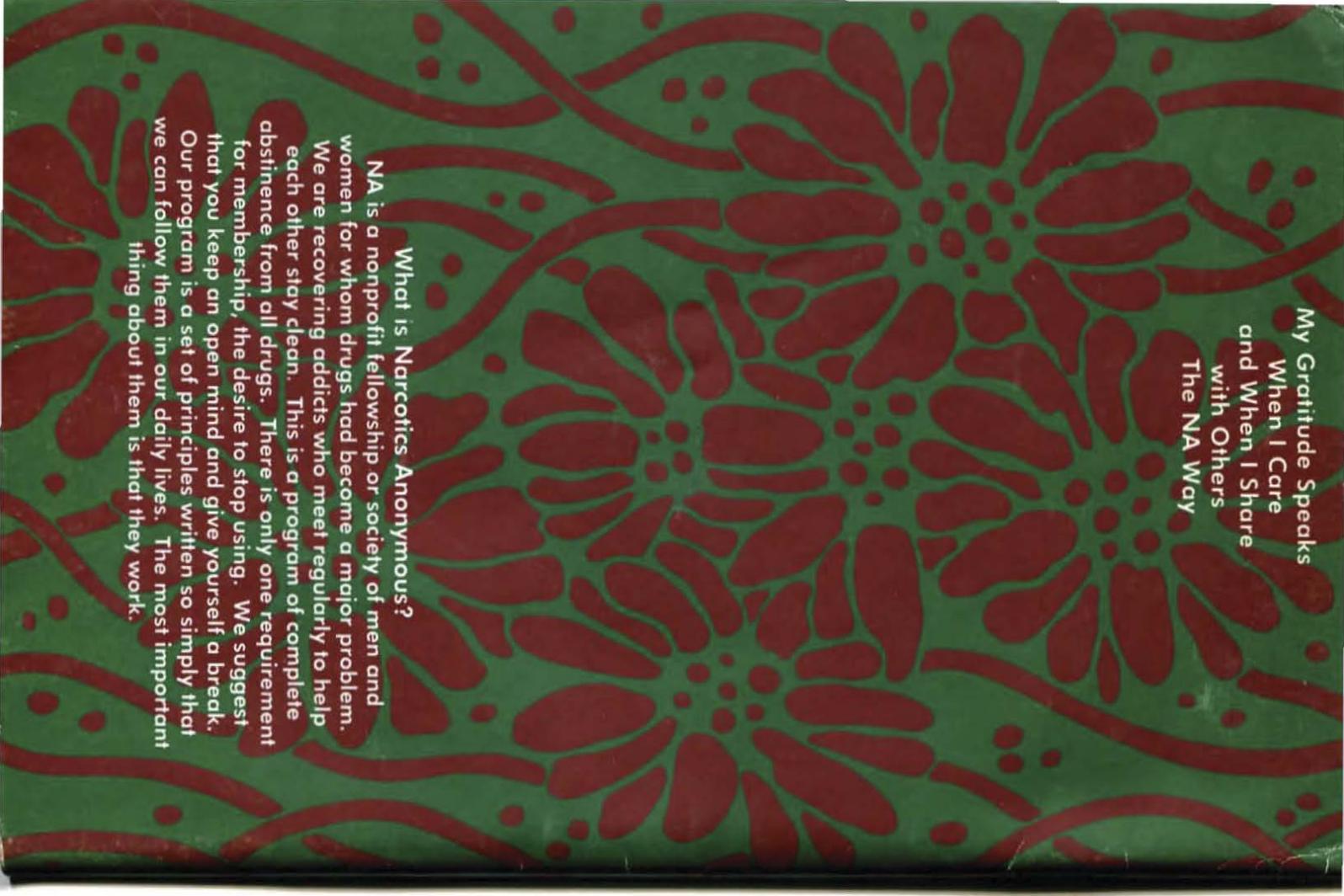
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**The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous**

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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My Gratitude Speaks  
When I Care  
and When I Share  
with Others  
The NA Way

**What is Narcotics Anonymous?**

NA is a nonprofit 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.