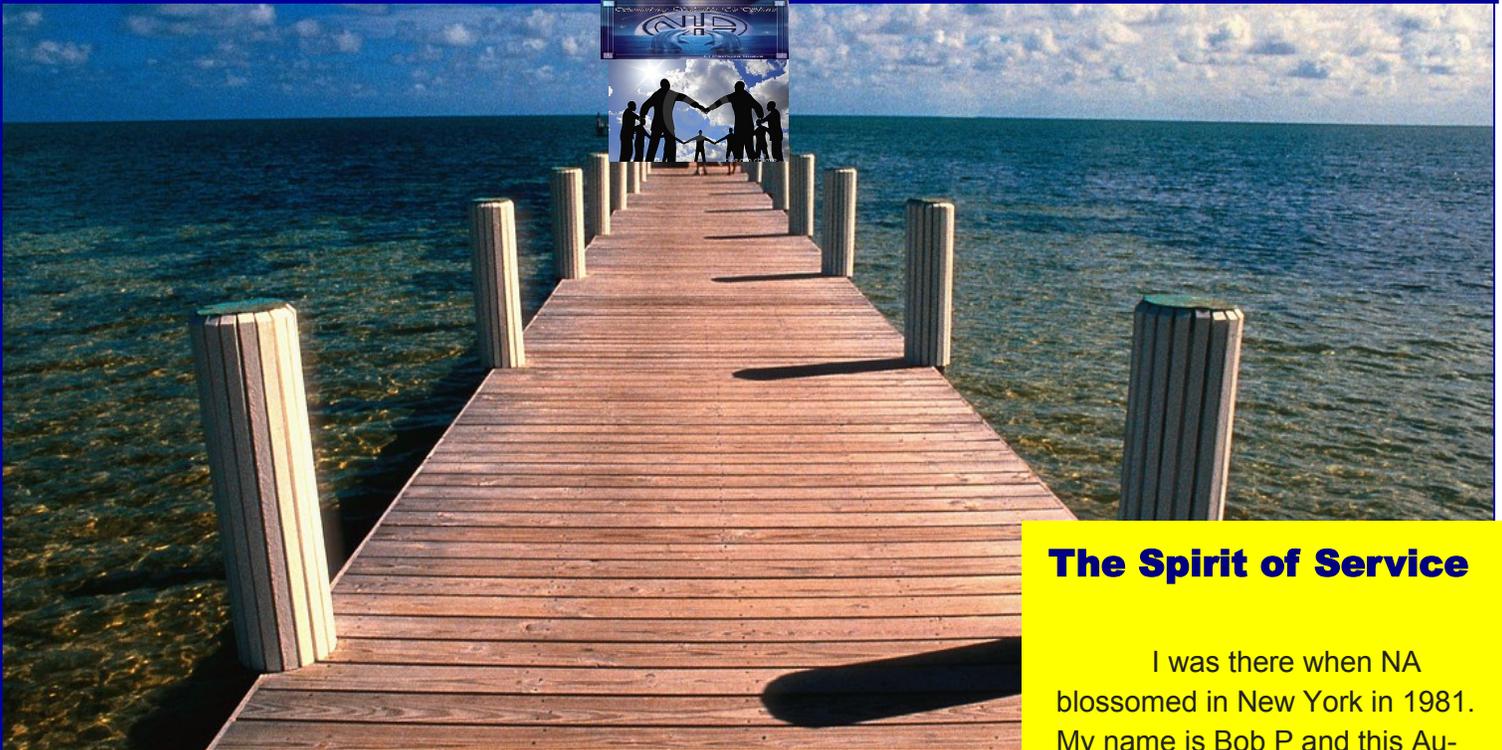


FRONTLINE

Narcotics Anonymous Western Queens Area

June/July 2014 Vol. 1, Issue 4



My Journey From Loner to Member

My name is Daniel and I'm an addict. I had been getting high for 32 years and was an IV heroin user for the last 24 years. Initially, I got on methadone because I kept getting arrested and I thought methadone would protect me from withdrawing during periods in jail. I never stopped shooting dope. It was never intended as an opiate substitute – for me it was just additive.

I was a loner, from the “self-imposed life sentence” that came with using drugs for more than half my lifetime. I was loner, not because I sought isolation but because this is the end result of the lifestyle. My buddies from the past: dead, locked up, or died clean. My family relationships took second place to using. Other active addicts were sometimes useful, sometimes a nuisance, collaborators and parasites, but no one I could call a friend. For decades, I had no

real connection with people.

I was spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally sick due to the direct, prolonged, sustained, self-inflicted assault of chemicals. I had tried everything there was to get clean. After many failed medical detoxes, there was no point to another attempt. I had hit rock bottom and was making detailed plans to kill myself. That is about as alone as a person can get.

I decided to give myself one last chance to live. I was addicted to pills, dependent on opiates, my first step - I looked for my first meeting and stopped going to the dope spots.

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The Spirit of Service

I was there when NA blossomed in New York in 1981. My name is Bob P and this August I will have 31 years clean. **When meetings were being started members were willing to go out and start meetings because they wanted to see their friends and family members get clean. It was a big deal back then.** A lot of the people who started meetings aren't with us today because a great many of those people who started meetings died of diseases that brought us here. I've been out of service for 9 or ten years, but mentor people who are in service in H&I, PI and in group service because that's what I do. I've been in service for 22 years.

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NA Service in the Trenches: Public Information

What Continues to Inspire Me After 28 Years Clean!

Anonymous

What first attracted me to PI service was wanting the public to know that there's a fellowship that saves lives. Public Information comes to the public to display to the public. The message to the public speaks through our subcommittee members that we're volunteers who carry the message that recovery from the disease of addiction is possible. Once they get the info and call the helpline, they can get the information and get to meetings.

I could visualize myself doing PI because I had a clear idea of the NA service structure. PI is the bridge within our fellowship between H&I and Outreach. These functions overlap and we must effectively work to inform the area and other subcommittees about our activities. My personal background as a foreman helped me to attract the members of my subcommittee and to delegate contact persons for emergency rooms, libraries, schools and police precincts the responsibilities needed to build relationships with those bureaucracies and to have our literature available and information posted.

PI is in the trenches of NA service because it is the 12th Step in action and relies on a strong working knowledge of the 12 Traditions. Because it is under the radar of many members, it's a very low profile commitment. It's not like a speaking commitment where all the members see you front and center. For me, when I am doing PI work, the Traditions come alive. Many

members are not clear that personal recovery depends on NA unity in our Traditions and that the difference between attraction and promotion is that informing the public is different from making promises or selling a bill of goods. In the process of making NA attractive to the public, knowing the Traditions ensures that we don't misrepresent NA. The Traditions are also spiritual in the way that anonymity operates. I don't have to say I'm an addict to do PI, I am a volunteer who is a contact person for NA. -. On the level of press - it's a faceless image so that the power of the recovery process works through a higher power. There is a spiritual value you get in carrying the message. When NA first started, the spiritual excitement that we felt in service was perpetuated when others continued to take up that torch in the spirit of giving back. We knew it was a matter of life or death because addicts were kicking on our couches and dropping like flies of overdoses.

NA as a whole has been affected by not having PI subcommittee service in several ways. For one, when people with no knowledge of the Traditions go to open meetings, oftentimes they are making a mess and expecting NA to clean it up, or in other words they do more harm than good. PI starts meetings. PI has to be mindful of its service boundaries, so as not to conflict with another area doing service. Having personal re-



covery means that you care about the Traditions and ego deflation is necessary so as not to put your motives ahead of the Traditions.

A second way that having a strong PI subcommittee affects NA as a whole is in giving a clear message about complete and total abstinence from all drugs and that it is possible to get clean and live free from all DRT's. Increasingly, many treatment centers are steering addicts away from NA because often our stance regarding DRT's conflicts with their mandates for compliance and "cure" rates by counting the number of clients they dispatch suboxone to. It is the job of PI to reach out to facilities and institutions to build working contact information with their staff for literature and to post NA events and meeting info in their offices. NA members and service committees should not be confused about this - in relying on treatment centers, schools, jails, or other members of the community to steer addicts to our meetings, we have lost sight of one of our primary 12th Step responsibilities.

When I first started making meetings, I remained on the fringe of involvement and could still characterize myself as an depressed and confused loner. I sat in the back of the meetings, often came late. **And I was caught up in the methadonian subculture – that is, making clinic appointments (which often were the reason I was late to the meetings) pill swapping, and hanging out with people who still have their feet planted in the drug using world.** The impact of this behavior perpetuated my isolation and my depression started to spiral. I started to make meetings based on what I could get off the internet and started doing that by myself.

It's been nearly a year since I saw the flyer for a free NA event – what I thought was just a barbeque turned out to be a group anniversary for the Day by Day group in Forest Park. At first, what attracted me was that I just wanted to go to a barbecue. **When I got there, however, I saw that people were happy and smiling and for the first time I wanted to start to get off methadone.** Before I went to the picnic, I didn't believe that I could get clean or stay clean. There were crowds of friendly people milling about. I saw that people were laughing, working together and happy. So I decided to give myself a break and take a chance. I had tried everything else to get clean except rapid detox and Ibogain treatment for opiates and TC's (therapeutic communities). I had thought it was too hopeless.

At first, I would make just one night meeting and then I would just leave. When I was still in the loner phase, I used to drive around and try to kill time. I had no purpose and no direction. That was not cutting it. **What I did notice was that if did stay after the meeting, (unlike what happens at the methadone clinic or the street), I was getting hope and encouragement from talking to other members. And I got hope from those in recovery who**

had gotten off methadone for years and who were still clean and grateful. At that point I didn't have any real confidence that I could stay clean. I had to have really good convincing proof. I met a guy who told me that he was on methadone 20 years and had a similar story with the benzos. He had double digit clean time and told me to go to Day by Day. These same guys I saw at the group anniversary were also there at the meeting. I just wanted not to be miserable. It became obvious that drugs were my problem and that I needed to get off. **The decision to get off methadone completely coincided with me getting plugged into Day by Day.** I wanted to be honest about still being on methadone and Klonopin. I made the decision to start decreasing off 60 milligrams of methadone by decreasing 2 milligrams a week and by making sometimes two meetings a day. As I continued detoxing from methadone, guys who had a lot of experience in this area strongly recommended that I start going to Day by Day.

I really needed to get connected to the meetings and to a network of recovering addicts that I could talk to over the phone and make meetings with before I started hitting a critical point in my detox process.

For the first 3 months of detox, I used to come a little late. At the point where the sleeplessness was affecting me, I started to make noon meetings more regularly. One conflict that with making that final leap of faith into recovery was that I still had the lifestyle associated with the methadone clinic and with the subculture existence of selling pills and eating pills like Clonopin. I had used "benzos" and heroin every single day while I was on the methadone program and it became more apparent that my old lifestyle was coming more and more in direct conflict with my meeting making times at Day by Day. Because of the hope and the love I was getting from that meeting, my desire to get clean started to become stronger than my desire to go to the methadone program. The atmosphere of



recovery at Day by Day, and the hope that I heard in the meetings showed me that I could get clean and stay and live clean. **The reservation I had with the pill habit was boiling down to me being able to make a simple decision - - that I should flush the pills and transition myself away from the methadone program.** When I first got the coffee commitment this past January, it brought to series of attitudes and behaviors into doing service that have carried over into to my life today. I started coming early. I started talking to people before the meeting started. I noticed that with everything I accomplished, I started to feel better. I bring my Basic Text to the book study meeting, which is a regular part of our Tuesday format. I reach out to others I have never seen or members who are newer than myself. By setting up, making coffee and opening up the meeting space, and giving access to other group members who need to arrive early, I started to feel a part of the group itself; I started to feel like a member.

I also started to regularly attend business meetings as soon as I got the coffee commitment. When I started going to the business meetings I started to learn how NA works. **My home group has a high level of participation at its business meetings and it was there that I learned that the participation of any and all group members is really important in the business meeting because it lets my voice be heard and reinforces my membership in the group by remaining aware of problems or difficulties my home group faces and being willing to help.**

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World Service Conference Report CAR Motions 2014:

Jeff P has just posted in the WSC 2014 forum of WSC Participants Discussion Area (rev2012) under the title of WSC report to region.

This thread is located at <http://disc.na.org/wsc2012/showthread.php?353-WSC-report-to-region>

Here is the message that has just been posted:

Here was my report at our RSC last weekend. It took about an hour. No powerpoint was used. I'm powerpoint challenged. This post is in two parts

WSC REPORT

I attended the World Service Conference along with Kevin. The conference is broken down into sessions starting with old business and ending with new business. In between those sessions are numerous other sessions which included reports by the World Board, World Service Office, Fellowship Development, PR, HRP and also included 5 sessions titled "Planning Our Future" which was designed to have the WSC Participants come up with models for how they envisioned the future of World Services. I'd like to summarize the key items from these sessions. I will also be including the entire WSC Summary of Decisions file as an addendum to this report.

Statistics - There were 212 people seated on the floor of the WSC. 112 of the 115 regions were present as well as 82 alternates and 18 World Board members. Conference participants were from 40 countries and spoke 21 languages.

WSC Processes - There is clearly an issue with the way in which business is conducted at the WSC. It's a mixture of CBDM and Robert's Rules and nobody seems to be sure what is being done and when it is being done or how it's being done. There are times when straw polls are binding decisions and other times when they're not. There are times when discussion is used to get a consensus and other times when discussion seems to be frowned upon. As noted later on in this report, efforts will be made to improve and more clearly define these processes.

*Old Business *- This contained the items outlined in the Conference Agenda Report (CAR). The results of those items are as follows:

Motion #1 (Introduction to NA IP) - Carried

Motion #2 (Removing AD Participation at WSC) - Failed

Motion #3 (No longer having NAWS fund RD's to WSC) - Failed (lacked 2/3 majority)

Motions #4-6 (Service System Agreements in Principle) - These motions were amended to include the following item at the end of each of them: "to be included in the GTLS as an option along with our current service units." As a result of the amendment, each of the motions carried with a 2/3 majority. As a side note, I voted against these motions as they were originally presented and voted against the amended motions. I was originally going to vote in favor of the amended motions, but after discussing this with Kevin, I decided otherwise. This shows the value of having an alternate in attendance.

NA Group, Subcommittee Area, Region, Zone, INVENTORY

Make the following known: "Inventories are designed to bring problem areas to light."
Based on the 12 Traditions

These Problem-areas are then analyzed for individual participation and how each member plays a part in the problem. The goal is to find workable solutions to all problems discovered -as a group.

To make any changes necessary for the betterment of the group, and further each individual members recovery. All discussion during this inventory is based on individual opinion, and is not to be taken as the opinion of the group, or NA as a whole. Take what is workable and work with it. Leave personality based participation outside the inventory. Keep in mind that finger pointing reflects on the pointer. Don't allow this inventory to stagnate; work together as the service members you are, and find workable solutions to the problems you discovered together. Remember: "As long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that will tear us apart, all will be well". Be sure to get everyone involved throughout this process.

1. "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity." What is this group's primary purpose?

- Is this group working together for the common welfare of N.A.?***
- Do member differences get in the way of the groups primary purpose?***

Have each person share about what N.A. unity means to them.

- In what ways could "personal recovery" and "unity" be improved on by this group?***

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."

- Has this group's decisions been truly an expression of God's will or an extension of powerful personalities?***
- As members of this group, are each of you actively involved in the group conscience process or in the stirring up of dissension?***

Have those in attendance think about all the recent member's who have had an influence on the service structure of the group, including current trusted servants.

- Are any specific people noteworthy? Why? (Good or bad -use caution.)

3. "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using." Does this group make newcomers feel welcome? How?

- Is everyone equal in obtaining recovery from addiction at this group's meetings?***
- Does anyone attending this group get treated differently if they need a paper signed, mention being sent to the group by a specific enterprise, or don't admit their addicts?***

4. "Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups, or N.A. as a whole."

Does this group allow outside group members to influence their group decisions and conscience?

Does this group's members try to influence other groups consciences or decisions?

5. "Each group has but one primary purpose -to carry the message to the addict who still suffers."

Is this group working together as a whole to carry the N.A. message?

Do members focus on carrying the message of recovery into the group business meetings?

Has any still suffering addict ever been shunned, turned away, or treated differently than a regular member?

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."

Do any of this group's members endorse any facilities, centers, outside enterprises, etc. while sharing? If so, how are they treated?

Is this group separate from any other program that may meet within their location?

Do newcomers understand that the N.A. group they attend is not related to whatever location they may be meeting in? How is this done?

7. "Every N.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Is this group truly self-supporting, declining outside contributions -even if it's as small an item as coffee or refreshment facilities?

Does every member in this group do their fair share in supporting this group -physically as well as financially?

Does this group pay a realistic amount of rent to the facility they meet in, or ask for a "break" because they're not-for-profit?

Does this group help support other N.A. services -Area, Region or World? How?

8. "Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers." Webster: Professional: one who makes a living by art~, sports, etc. in which amateurs engage; a member of any profession.

Have members share about what they consider is a "professional".

Does this group allow professionals special status?

Do any professionals who attend meetings share their professional opinion, or their personal stories?

Does this group utilize any professional service as "favors"?

9. "N.A., as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

- Does this group have a formal chain of command or a unified board of elected trusted servants?***
- Are this groups committees directly responsible to the group conscience and the N.A. fellowship as a whole? How?***
- Do this group's committees have their own management/guidelines/control?***

10. "Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

- Have any members in this group "taken sides" in regards to society's problem while sharing? If so, how were they handled?***
- Do any of this group members make personal recommendations to hospitals, institutions, religions, beliefs, practices, etc. that could be taken as the groups recommendations?***
- Does this group allow social issues unrelated to N.A. recovery as meeting topics?***

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."

Have members in attendance consider the various types of media available in the local community.

- Does this group promote or advertise their N.A. meetings in their local community? How?***
- Does this group have a committee to publicize the groups existence, or does an individual handle the publicity? If by committee, how many group members support this committee?***
- Does this group appear attractive to newcomers?***

Ask any new members in attendance what they found attractive about the group when they first started coming.

- Are there any ways that this group could attract more members? How?***

12. "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." Webster: Anonymous -without the name of the author.

- Does what a member shares during a recovery meeting get talked about outside that meeting? Does this group allow personalities to come before principles?***

Have each member think about what principles they have seen in practice while attending this group.

- Do principles play an important part in this groups message?***
- How can the members increase the spiritual foundation of this group? .How important is anonymity to each member? Why? This concludes the question part of the Inventory. Be sure that each person has had apart in the discussion.*** Go around the room and ask each person what they feel has been discovered during this inventory, how they feel about the discoveries, and what solutions they have. Be sure to thank each person who attended and close in the usual manner of the group.



The Spirit of Service

Those of us who were here over twenty years ago and even earlier should pass on and pass down information about the spirit of service and continue to keep the energy flowing. When I was asked about the spirit of service back then there are several things I can recall about getting newcomers involved. There is a lot of talent in NA, but you have to reach out and find it and give them support and inform them by people who know. Sponsors should have sponsees who take and do service and train them and it's a great thing. If you have under 90 days you can get newcomers to do tasks in service. You don't need service experience when tasks are broken down this way and it's not complicated. **Some people are so nervous and shook up when people come in they need something to do and after 90 days many times they don't come back because you've blown them off.**

Everything starts from the group level - especially newcomers. Learning how to set the meeting up and break it down is working together as a team, and not just coffee. Showing newcomers how to greet a new face, reach out, and welcome someone by introducing them around to other home group mem-

bers works. I've seen this build a welcoming attractive atmosphere at my home group. At my home group, Hope in the Slope, a Step meeting, opens up with the reading of a corresponding Tradition at every meeting and the person who chairs will share on the Tradition for 5 minutes and at least newcomers can get an exposure to the Tradition for five minutes. Then it goes on to the step - no break. The most important part of any NA meeting is not the speaker - but when you hear 35 people share that's where you get your recovery.

At the group level, Robert's Rules of Order are NOT of the utmost importance. At the area level and the regional level, understanding Robert's Rules gets motions carried forward properly and lets members know the best way to agree without being disagreeable. What stops people from doing area service is that people hear that there is an insane atmosphere, and when they get there it becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy when trusted servants act like all-knowing, punishers who humiliate and shut people down. The other issue in area service is not enough trusted servants or members know the Traditions. It's very important that people that have

sponsors who encourage them to do all levels of service. **The qualities that it takes for people to do area service is that people need to have a working knowledge of the Steps, and Traditions or when they get to the area floor they cause all kinds of controversy and disruption.**

Making the service atmosphere one of attraction is what will keep people coming and explaining with loving concern when people don't understand. When you hear a motion, if you think it's good, ask questions and vote on it. **Abstaining actually means you do not understand what the motion means. So helping members get more information or clear up confusion is actually building NA unity.** NA teaches us to think for ourselves, not to be clones. Because someone has 25 or 30 years, they don't know everything. There is no one in NA who knows everything. There is too much of people putting sponsors on pedestals. I remember that one way we used to get newcomers involved in area service was by inviting newcomers for coffee and cake to see what is going on at area.

(continued page eight)

The Spirit of Service

Years ago, each subcommittee had a separate can to collect donations. I did H&I and PI service twenty years ago when NA was first starting to contact facilities to have meetings there. I did the Kings County detox meeting years ago. I did the girls side and then the men's side for an hour each taking the buses to get there. I went up there to speak to a counselor with a Basic Text in my hand and spoke to them about bringing a meeting up in the G Building on Sunday afternoon. I found a woman of color to take the meeting over since I had done that commitment for three years. There were a lot of women who were doing service then at that part of town. When Riker's island first started it took us three hours to get in. The training track for H&I was so long it was affecting the ability to retain new members to do H&I service. So the training track period was cut down.

Before Public Information first got off the ground as a regular standing committee in the 1980's, there were 45 groups in Brooklyn and I got 35 people at the Freedom group to do the letters and the mailing for a particular night. I got people to get a mailing out to make people aware of NA. People were grateful to do service and to get involved. Newcomers with two weeks clean can come to PI and fold letters). **People with less than 90 days can lick envelopes, stamp letters and send letters** The letters were pre-printed and we created a sense of community getting people involved. Any group can do this. When the schools called us and through the public mailing lists we went into high schools and with tons of meeting lists and went and did 15

minute presentations for classroom after classroom. Announcements were made at each meeting. Meetings lists are the most important thing. Because of the structure of NA today, they don't do much traveling but their help would be invaluable to helpline service since they could do it from home and carry the message. All they would have to do is keep a meeting list in their pockets and be available to take call forwarding.

Here's a few of the critical issues

in NA service: I'm concerned about how PI brings info to the probation officers, nurses, judges, doctors, boy scouts, Girl Scouts, schools. It's our job as a fellowship to make sure these places are informed with presentations, meeting lists, and signs with the help line number. You rarely see this today. Treatment centers that are unable to get weekly H&I meetings start to invite back graduates after 90 days to speak there. While there is nothing wrong with this practice in and of itself, most of them said they were from NA. Doing subcommittee service according to guidelines, Do's and Don'ts and Traditions affects NA as whole because those members are dealing with the public and new members. Western Queens now brings a meeting up to this treatment center once week

Among the highlights in doing service for me was working on the first four New York Regional Conventions: the first at the Omni Park Hotel, in Midtown Manhattan, and the next three in Stevensville, New York at the Concord Hotel. The spirit of service and



recovery was such that you could go and get three or four people at any meeting to help. Did we know what we were doing? No. Joe from Queens did the Multiregional Learning Weekends at 57 St. Four regions: NY, NJ, PA, Northern NJ participated. There are a couple of NA speakers and the rest were service speakers. Each region that joins has to have a convention meeting in their area. It takes about a year to plan. You get the subcommittees that want to be involved to come to the meeting. Call each person from each area/region so the chairperson from each committee will speak on area, regional service, PI service, etc. The spirit of NA service is the spirit of giving back. I'm glad to still be a part of it.

I was able to take my own inventory by asking myself whether I was reaching out to other newcomers. The group conscience process made me see that the gut feeling of people in the group can be expressed and that questions can be answered so that the group can come to a decision.

As my clean time accumulates, I am looking forward to taking other commitments. Shortly after I joined my home group, we faced a challenge with finding a new meeting space. When I was in my active addiction, if a spot or a building was closing, it would just fold up and that would be the end of the hang out. But in NA, I had faith that the meeting would continue and that by pitching in and taking direction from my group, I was able to contribute to help the meeting move. I could see that the best way for me to help was to see where I could best fit in and be a "we" part of the solution. After the group moved to the new location, I was able to witness my home group reconfigure itself from the ground up. It gave me a more enhanced perspective about my level of involvement in the group and how the home group itself gets connected and routines get established. I didn't want anything to interfere with the smooth transition because my home group is my lifeline. The people who are there really want to be there. "My home group carries a strong message of recovery and saves lives". At first I thought this was too strong a statement, but we do save lives. I had the basic text that someone had given me - what sort of dawned on me is that being the best recovering addict I could be seemed like the best thing - if that is all I have to do.

As of this publication I have over 60 days clean off methadone and I owe that to my home group.

A Letter From A Reader

Hello WQNY Trusted Servants!

Thank you for serving NA.

I received your Newsletter recently. (April 2014)

It looks great and is put together very nicely.

I have a long comment and share.

The first thing I noticed was the articles about the World Board, Matt S., and SSP.

I am not sure why these were put in the Newsletter.

To me, it felt like it was something to turn members against our WS, WB, and the Service System Proposals, and that is not up to any of us.

I attended the CAR Workshops, educated myself, talked with the WSO and WB members, my RD, read the CAR and CAT, and that is how I decide what my NA voice will support or not. I do not try to sway anyone.

The SSP has been going on since 2008 and was approved by our Regional Delegates worldwide in 2008 and 2010 asking the World Board and WSO to come up with a way for service to be more flexible and attractive. One piece of it is also for us to possibly merge some USA Regions as to have more room for more non-American Delegates at the WSC. (for example Calif. has 7 Regional Delegates) Another piece is that GSR's would meet monthly to only discuss recovery and how to make their group stronger, and no business discussions have followed it closely for all these years, and yes it is a lot to understand, even with an open mind. There is some controversy on the SSP, and even dissension by some members to the point of them starting a "new NA". One of the goals for them is to dismantle our WSO and elected WB.

(Sorry... I am getting to a point about the Newsletter articles soon.) The WSO is not a Home Group. Our WSO does a myriad of services to spread NA to every suffering addict in the world. NA is not American, or small.

From my experience, it is a well run non-profit business, and our Principles are followed. The WSB is a conscience of 18 members from around the world with many years of recovery and service experience. There is no "us and them." I personally know many recovering addict special workers at our WSO and all the WB members. They love NA, Newcomers, have a HP, a good Program, just as you do. If I do not have a voice in NA, it is not anyone's fault but my own. Passion is great, but in Unity. We get things changed through inclusiveness and involvement. (btw, some of the most vocal anti-WSO/WB people rarely, if ever, go to WSO Forums, the WSC, Workshops, Learning Days, etc.)

Dissension and attacking fellow trusted servants is non-productive. There is so much misinformation and things in newsletters and even on the web these days about the WSO, WB, and the SSP, and much is taken out of context.

And you know what that does? It really hurts NA as a whole, disenchanting members, and especially Newcomers, from doing Service and is not in compliance with our Traditions 1, 4, 12, as well as Step 12. You would probably be dismayed to see the emails and letters that are sent to our WSO and WB members.

I also feel to put that 2 years old quote from an elected SSP Chair and WB candidate, was irresponsible. (and he is only one member, not the Fellowships as a whole)

That section, the Q and A about treatment centers possibly not sending addicts to us, had no credentials, and was also out of context.

Matter of fact, if you were to read the entire Q and A on treatment centers and us, and the SSP Chair's comments on the SSP, and the letter from Bill F. to the WSO in its entirety, it would be clear that:

Our view on "clean" is the same as our WSB and WSO.

Yes, if an ASC or Region did not adopt what our Delegates at the recent WSC adopted in terms of trying the SSP, and there were only GSF's, LSB's and LSC's around for them, yes, there would be a disconnect from that chain.

But... you certainly would still be part of NA, but obviously not the SSP. (just like

“Unity is the spirit that joins thousands of members around the world in a spiritual fellowship that has the power to change lives.” (Tradition 1, p.125)

I once heard a more experienced member share that “NA unity is like members playing together in an orchestra and that playing out of tune is a member who is not in harmony with the group”. He wanted me to believe that members should not openly disagree with each other when sharing at meetings, in a business meeting or when working together in service on an NA subcommittee. Not in Our Traditions and Not the Truth!

When discussions and information came up at my home group about the CAR motions and the SSP, a few newcomers were afraid to ask questions because they were told that to disagree with World was against NA unity. Misinformation!

One example of the spirit of unity is when members in service committees from other areas show up and support each other in NA activities that have the power to save lives—it's not agreeing that makes it unity—it's how you show up to help the newcomer! I saw this in action the other day when members from the Bronx, Western Queens, NYC Area, Nassau Area and Kingsbay Area traveled across the boroughs to support a fledgling subcommittee on its first poster drive.

The more experienced members briefly shared their own experiences with the Traditions as it relates to doing PI service in the community and then encouraged, and supported newcomers (some with less than 90 days clean) by showing them what to do as a group and in teams to hang posters in the community of a heavily invested drug community for that afternoon.

Communication, commitment and cooperation enhances NA unity, builds goodwill creates a ripple effect in our ability to work together. Tradition One encourages members to place our common welfare first by encouraging each member to speak openly from the heart, and to find solutions to issues by working together to help the newcomer. The Editor

a group who never comes to ASC but still carries our message.) If you read the WSC 2014 CAR, pg.24, "These motions are not a mandate. The World Service Conference cannot tell (NA)communities how to deliver services locally."

At this recent Conference last May 2014, literally every frustration, confusion, controversy was addressed, resolved, or where required to the WSO/WSB by the Regional Delegates to improve.

There was great "transparency" in all of our actions in our Services, and most of all, Unity, Love, and Trust!

The SSP motions were passed and are now an option to your existing local Service Structure, per our Worldwide Regional Delegates.

<http://na.org/?ID=conference-index>

Lastly, in the letter from the member named Bill, if you read the last paragraph in the reply from Elaine W., it is also clear that "they" (WSO/WSB) are not trying to do something against our Principles. Being under so much scrutiny, that would be simply ridiculous for our WSO/WSB to even attempt.

There are individuals who have been "anti-WSO/WSB" for many years, and they are irresponsible putting all the untruths they put out there, and unfortunately, some members, esp. newcomers, support them and never question the source or reason.

What I would suggest is to be careful what you print and its source, especially if a controversial issue. This is very important, and be sure you have read both sides of the comment.

I would suggest more articles on Unity and making Service attractive and enjoyable.

There is a Fellowship Approved "Newsletter Handbook" too.

News from NA Way magazine or on NA.org under the "News" tab is also a suggestion for the latest information on what's happening in NA.

There are now links for receiving online NA Way magazine, Reaching Out, NAWS NEWS and the daily Just For Today. (see "Periodicals" on na.org. And of course the exciting Traditions Book Input opportunity.

I was on the Minnesota Region and Sacramento Calif. website's recently, and they are great website's, with several innovative ideas that could be used in your Newsletter and Area.

<http://www.sacramentona.org/index.html>

<http://www.naminnesota.org/index.php/help-wanted>

<http://na.org/?ID=news>

This so long! Sorry.

But I am passionate about clear communications have experienced quite a bit of no communications at all in NA over the years, let alone unclear information when it does actually get circulated.

Communication, Collaboration and Unity are a must in NA.

Thank you again for your Service and time!

Thank you for listening.

Hugs and Blessings,

Joseph T.

Pacific Cascade Region RCM

USA

Tradition Two is “Our leaders are trusted servants they do not govern”. Some experiences I have had recently have compelled me to write this article. As a member of Narcotics Anonymous my understanding of this tradition has grown in my years of recovery. I remember when I first got clean, people would always say “Thank God” when this tradition was read. I immediately understood why people would say this. Nobody wants to be told what to do.

The spiritual component of our fellowship points us to a dependence on God as we understand him and not people. **As addicts it is our rebellious nature which got us into most of the situations in which we found ourselves.** We read in every meeting that our traditions will protect us against both internal and external forces that could destroy our fellowship. Our understanding and application of the traditions is the protection against that destruction. So I want to start with the definition of the word “Trusted”. The dictionary states trusted means “Reliance on the integrity, strength, ability and surety of a person. Confidence in a person.” The dictionary defines servant as “Person in the service of another.”

By the way, if you are not sure of what service is, think about how you want the wait staff at a restaurant to treat you in order to get a tip. **So when we put the two words together a trusted servant is a reliable person who can be counted on to do what the group asks that person to do.** It does not mean that person needs to be perfect but they need to give their best effort to help the group carry the message to the addicts that

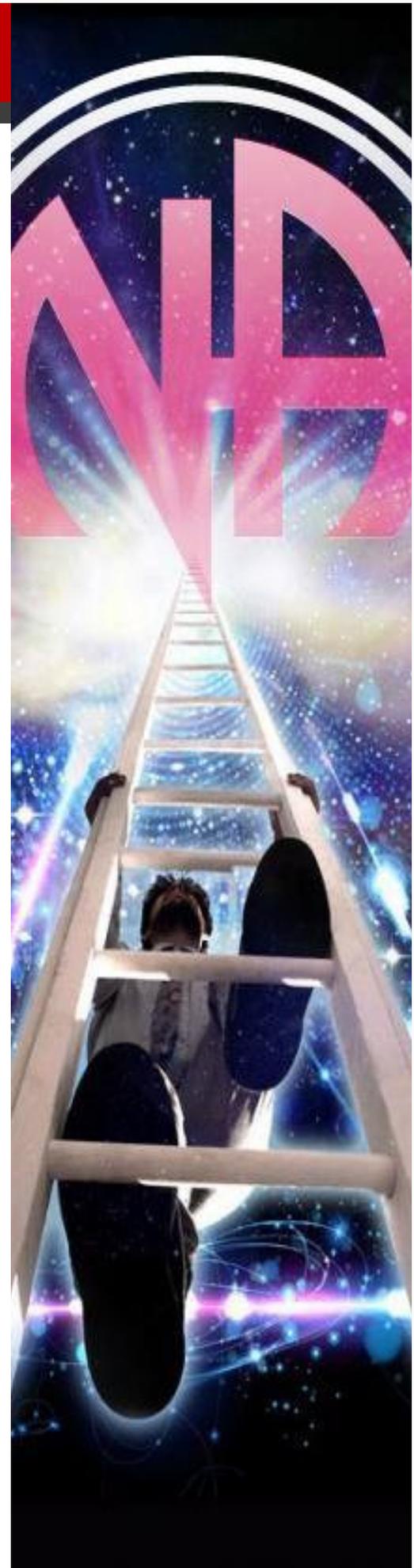
still suffer.

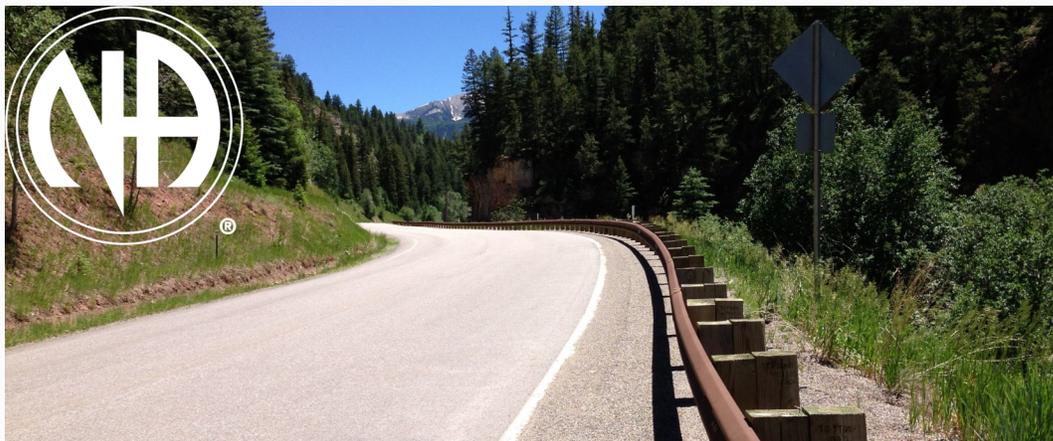
So why do we call trusted servants leaders who do not govern. First of all our fourth tradition defines the way our fellowship sets its service to the addicts who still suffer. Each group defines how they are going to do things as long as that decision does not affect our fellowship as a whole. **There is no one addict that defines how we should do things in our fellowship it is a group decision.** There is good reason for that. A group of people could discuss the pros and cons and together do what is right for the good of the group, or whether the decision will help carry the message to the addict who still suffers and not just one person.

So I recently heard a person with one year clean call their home group “MY Group”. I actually asked that person to read the 2nd tradition and they told me they did not need to read it. I was asked to speak at another meeting there was a cross up between him and one of the other trusted servants so there were two speakers for the meeting. I was rudely told it was too bad but I was not speaking because someone else was asked to speak. I did not have a problem with not speaking but **I did have a problem with the way I was treated by this trusted servant. If it were a restaurant I would not have left a tip that is for sure.**

As a person who takes responsibility for leadership in our fellowship I am going to work on my part of doing a better job of being a leader who does not govern. I want to exemplify my service to our fellowship in a way that will cause others to follow suit. Thank you for letting me share.

By Joanne R.





Suggested Topic List for Upcoming Issues

- Young Addicts —Roxies, Percocet's, Suboxone - Progression Accelerated
- Articles Discussing Our Traditions, Sponsorship, Area Service
- Confronting My Fears With Relapse—Dr.s and Honesty
- Still Doing Service After Twenty Years
- Taking Care of Parents in Recovery - A Gift of Amends
- Sexting between Newcomers: Harmless Outlet or Relapse Trigger?
- Selling Pills in Our Meetings: A Group Concern or a Fellowship Epidemic?
- Difference between Abstinence , Clean Time & Recovery
- X-Rated Sharing on the Floor—Honesty or Exhibitionism?
- Group Histories and Anniversaries
- How I Chose My Sponsor
- Commitment of the Heart or Commitments of the Ego
- Side Out- Rotate: A Principle that Protects Against Service Cliques

Next Deadline for article submission is August 13th, 2014

You can find Frontline on

<http://www.westernqueensna.org/>

To submit articles or schedule an interview
contact Wilvena G.

Editor Western Queens Area Newsletter

Text, Call, Leave message after sending article

646-623-6816

wilvenawilvena@aol.com

Submission Guidelines
Send in your experience in recovery, your views on NA matters. The opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to NA as a whole, nor does the publication of any article imply endorsement by Narcotics

Anonymous. All manuscripts are subject to a review and editing process. We look for tone that reflects a spirit of unity and enthusiasm for recovery .

Edits are made in keeping with NA's understanding of the Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts, and language such as "clean" "recovery" and "addict" .

Author's first names and last initial are printed , unless the author submits as "Anonymous" . 1000 word maximum.