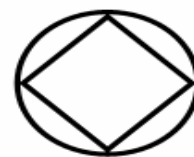




UNITY
"personal recovery depends on NA unity"



The Central Ohio Area of Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter

Why I do Service?

Dear family, this is a new, ongoing column we will be publishing in our newsletter. This column will allow recovering addicts to express how doing service work has been a benefit to their recovery. We welcome your comments, suggestions, or submissions.

In loving service, Newsletter Team 1

"Everything that occurs in the course of N.A. service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers.

Basic Text pg. xvi."

When I first came to Narcotics Anonymous I was broken and utterly defeated. I came to my first meeting and there were N.A. members waiting there with open arms, loving hugs and that understanding that only comes when two addicts share. The door was open, the literature was set out and the coffee was made. Someone at our area office answered the phone to tell me where the meetings were. An addict was at the meeting to tell me what was happening in our service area. An addict sponsored me to guide me through our twelve steps. I never really stopped to think about why all of these things were ready and available to me. I just assumed it was already done; as though no effort was involved. I continued to attend meetings and I heard addicts talking about how service work was teaching them the importance of commitment, how it was helping them to stay clean and how it made them really feel a part of this fellowship. I wanted all these things for myself, so I jumped in with both feet. I finally understood what they were talking about and it helped me truly understand our first tradition which states "personal recovery depends on N.A. unity".

There is always a need in this fellowship to be fulfilled.

Chair a meeting, help set up and tear down meetings, sponsor the newcomer, answer phones at our area office, help carry the message at hospitals and institutions. Today I understand we only keep what we have by giving it away.

Getting involved in service makes sure this fellowship survives and continues to grow. That we ensure this gift of recovery is available to the still suffering addict, that no addict anywhere need die from the horrors of addiction.

New Area Service Office Hours

Mon through Thur mornings...9:30 – 11:30 AM
 Mon & Weds afternoons....2:00 – 5:00 PM
 Tues & Thur afternoons.....2:00 – 6:00 PM
 Sat...10:00 AM – 12:00 noon (call first)
 Friday....CLOSED
 Sunday....CLOSED

Call 24 hours a day: (614) 252-1700

**THE H&I SPOOK OUT
 IS
 COMING
 SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 27**

**CALL THE SERVICE OFFICE FOR
 DETAILS AT 614-252-1700**

Meetings Needing General Support

<i>Hearts I Group</i>	Sun 7 pm
<i>Just Afternoon Group</i>	Mon-Fri 12:15 pm
<i>Southside Serenity</i>	Mon 7:30 pm
<i>Principles B4 Personalities</i>	Mon 8 pm
<i>New Beginnings</i>	Tues 8 pm
<i>Common Grounds (Chillicothe)</i>	Wed 6 pm
<i>We Do Recover</i>	Thur 6:30 pm
<i>Never Alone Never Again</i>	Thur 7:30 pm
<i>Strength, Trust & Unity (Marysville)</i>	Thur 7:30 pm
<i>Friday Night Fever (Chillicothe)</i>	Fri 8 pm
<i>New Horizons Groups</i>	Sat 12 noon

Meetings Needing Support from Experienced Members

<i>Sunday Diversity</i>	Sun 4 pm
<i>Show Up and Grow Up</i>	Sun 7 pm
<i>Good Morning Group</i>	Mon-Thu 9 am
<i>NA Meeting Group</i>	Mon & Fri 7:30 pm
<i>The Ties That Bind Us Together</i>	Tues 6 pm
<i>New Start Group</i>	Wed 8 pm
<i>We Care Group</i>	Wed 8 pm
<i>Let's Dump It All</i>	Fri 7 pm

See schedule for meeting locations

Please recycle this issue - pass it along to another member after you read it.

The United States of America v. Me

My first meeting came soon after the Task Force, made up of the D.E.A., F.B.I., and the U.S. Marshalls kicked in all three of my doors. I wish that I could say that is where my willingness to quit using dope began, but the truth of the matter is that I was so scared that they would bust my doors again, that the only place that I felt safe was in a narcotics anonymous meeting.

Don't get me wrong, I knew that I had a problem, but it was only affecting me, so I thought. At the time, I was selling dope and I thought that I was definitely smarter than the cops. So smart that I didn't drive a car, I rode a scooter because everyone I knew got busted in cars, but who would pull over a scooter?

Anyways, I had checked out a couple of meetings, but never went inside. I finally went inside a particular meeting because I saw two scooters sitting outside. I thought maybe these people would be more like me. I walked up all three flights of stairs of a church to see about fourteen people sitting around drinking coffee. My initial thought was that I couldn't be more wrong, these people were nothing like me. I sat there, sweating profusely, not sure if it was that there was no A/C or if it was the dope that I smoked in order to gain the courage to attend the meeting. (I am leaning more towards the dope).

I went to these early meetings to try to stay clean, so that I could pass a drug test. I did not feel connected, but I wanted you people to teach me how to beat the man, not how to live. I was acting out and knew that these people could not understand me. They even asked me why I thought that I was so unique. However, I was going to show these jerks, since they wanted me to keep coming back, I would and I did.

I continued to use before going to meetings. I realized that they would not kick me out. Every time that I would vent, people (with nothing in common with me) would answer my questions and somehow knew exactly how I was feeling. Finally, my highs were being affected and I was really ticking-off the people that I hanging around outside the meetings. I kept repeating what I heard at meetings and my "friends" kicked me out!

By this time, I starting to go to meeting clean, doing everything I could to not get high before meetings. My life was still miserable, but slowly after not getting the secret that I was looking for, I realized that the people in the meetings really did understand me. They started to become friends instead of "those people".

I was able to convince the judge that I had a new outlook on life and that I was working to make changes. Treatment was my sentence. Afterwards, that first place that I went was that meeting. They were happy to see the jerk who through tantrums and I was happy to be back.

I did not beat the case like I planned, but I saved my life, and found freedom from active addiction (a self-induced prison), not to mention I lost the desire to use drugs. I grew with the help of my people to become someone that I eventually like, later loved. They equipped me with tools and let me know that no matter what happened in life, I did not have to go back to that hell of using dope.

So today, I am in a Federal Correctional Facility, self-surrendered and did it clean. I have helped start an NA meeting that meets Saturday nights. With the support of my NA family that sends literature and IP's, the guys inside are finding freedom from active addiction.

This point is... even when the United States of America was AGAINST me, those people, my friends, my home group, my entire NA community was FOR me, are still are to this day. So, if you are new – keep coming back. Tell people what's going on with you, be willing, and give recovery a chance, it works! And if you've been around for while, please keep being patient, loving and just there for the newcomers. You never know when you are helping to save a life. Finally, thank you Talking Heads and thank you to my family with the same last name as mine, "addict". I love and appreciate you more than you will ever know, because one thing I have found out from the beginning is that I am in no way unique.