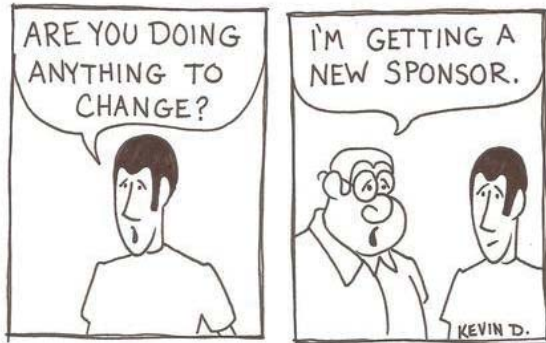


Today, I challenge the chain of anger, prejudice, and addiction that has plagued my life for decades. I will seek a widening path to learn and gather information to pass on by example to my loved ones. To continue, I must drench my children in unconditional love, understanding and affection. I am a silent messenger.

-Michael M.
May 8, 1997

A Comical Life In Recovery...



Subcommittee Contact Info:

Email: TheVoiceofNA@aol.com * Narcotics Anonymous web page in the Chicagoland area: www.chicagona.org * NA Helpline: 708/ 848-4884

Contents

- Eleventh Step.....1
- 11th Tradition.....2
- 11th Concept... ..2&3
- Poet' s Corner.....3
- Activities4&5
- Milestones.....5
- Sharing5, 7&8
- Brain Builder.6
- Comic.....8

Subcommittee

- Carolyn S.
- Hugh C.
- Maria S.
- Terry L.
- Oleg S.
- Gale M.
- Bo C.

Mission Statement:
With gratitude in our recovery, we dedicate our newsletter in the loving service of our Higher Power. That through the development of a conscious contact with God, no addict need die without a chance to find a better way of life we remain trusted servants in gratitude and loving service.

Step Eleven

"We sought through prayer and meditation to continue 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."

Just Another Addict's Experience

I'm going to approach this a little different. Rather than sharing my experience from the past, I'm going to share my experience with how I'm starting to work this step in the present. What I'm finding is that I have more questions than answers, and they're different questions than I've had before. Last night in a meeting we read the 10th step out of *It Works How and Why*, and the final line says something about how we're seeking meaning and we move onto the 11th step to find it.

Though I am working on meditation, I'm feeling this gravitation to the second half of the step. I've been wondering how to really seek the knowledge of my God's will for me and the power to carry that out - and can that be the central meaning in my life? Can I let go of trying to figure out what my life means, what I should be doing, who I should be with, or understanding any of it - and simply have faith that if I'm seeking the knowledge of my God's will for me, that's all the meaning I need? I haven't come to a conclusion yet, but it feels exciting to be pursuing it. I'm just another addict sitting next to you in a meeting, I'll probably share more about any revelations sometime soon. Love you.

-anonymous

Eleventh Tradition

"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."

What is the difference between anonymity, and confidentiality? Our Basic Text sets forth a definition for anonymity, a state of bearing no name. This definition is so simple and clear that one group in my home calls itself "No Name." I work in a profession that often puts me in the public eye. Some of my colleagues know that I am a recovering addict, and that I am a member of NA. Frequently, I am asked to chat with members of our profession about NA and personal recovery. Typically, the events are attended by local media. I have chosen to decline the offers and to put the requester in touch with the local NA Public Relations volunteers.

Protecting personal anonymity is each individual's responsibility. It is not my business to police other addict's behavior. It is my responsibility to model our Eleventh Tradition by using our service bodies to assist in or even to take over requests for presentations, even to small organizations or groups. It is my duty to refer inquiries about NA to our elected service members, even when it seems more simple and streamlined to simply volunteer to fulfill the request myself.

~Anonymous

WHAT A CONCEPT!

Eleventh Concept

"NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly."

As with much of our literature, this one appears pretty self explanatory. We value our contributions and consider our primary purpose a life and death matter because for many, if not all of us, it was. We're alive because of NA. So we put trusted servants in place that we trust and then hold them accountable for managing our resources responsibly. (continued on pg. 3)

A messenger.

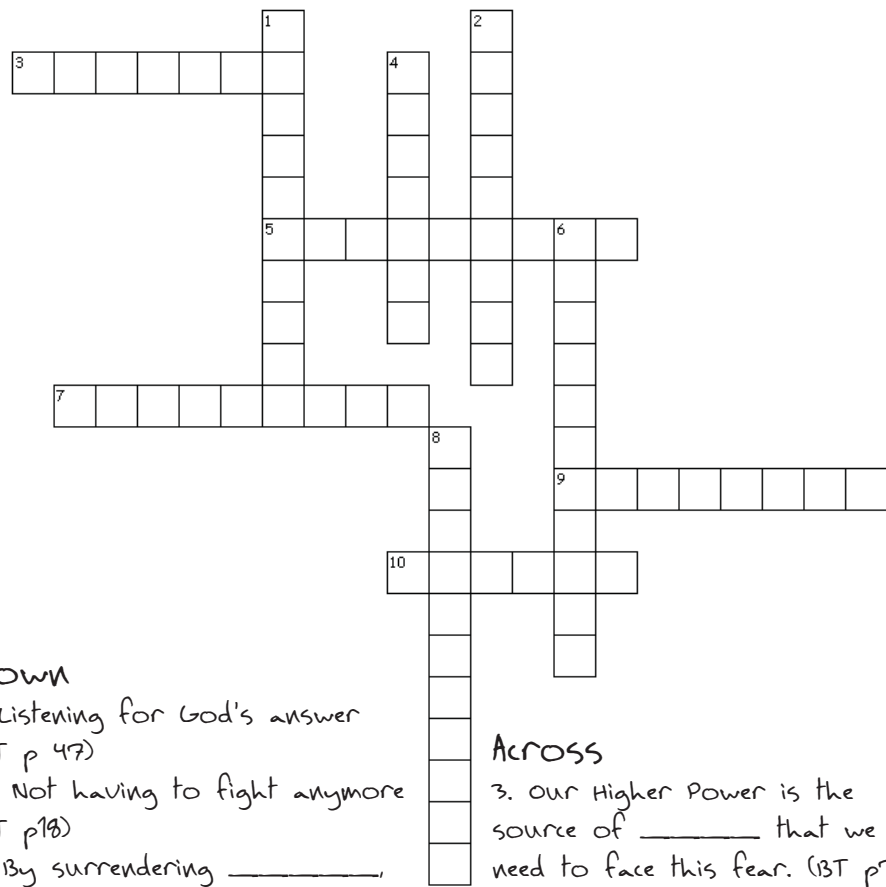
I am a messenger: The message I carry can alter from one moment to the next. I can be a sweltering grain of sand in a vast desert, or a drop of water, basking in the ocean of life. The decision is mine: sand or water. Whichever I choose the message I send, silently or busting with energy touches the people whom I surround myself. The impact and effect of my message can be soothing, tormenting, supportive, demeaning, gentle or callous.

Life is both precious and short, therefore: I must send messages that build by casting out sincere productive corner stones rather than destroy with fallacious, image-tainting messages.

I must deflate any doubt and courageously forge forward trying to live responsibly day-by-day acknowledging all the opportunities to experience happiness and sorrow, wisdom and insanity, love and hate and all that comes in between. I have to make a daily, sometimes-hourly decision to give freely without expectations instead of pursuing negative selfishly motivated goals. This is the only way I can live a life of joy and serenity while freeing myself from rage and misery. Life is not always laughter and freedom sometimes there is disappointments and pain, and that is when I must remember to cherish each step while embracing and validating all the feelings that arise.

Time never stops. Life goes on with or without me, therefore I would like my spirit to live on as one who made a positive impact. (continued on pg. 8)

A Spiritual Challenge



Down

- 1. Listening for God's answer (1BT p 47)
- 2. Not having to fight anymore (1BT p18)
- 4. By surrendering _____, we gain a far great power (1BT p36)
- 6. Intolerable destructive chain that ties us to our bad habits (1BT p27)
- 8. To ensure our continued growth and recovery, we have to learn to maintain our lives on a _____ sound basis. (1BT p36)

Across

- 3. Our Higher Power is the source of _____ that we need to face this fear. (1BT p76)
- 5. The purpose of the 11th step (1BT p36)
- 7. A process of opening our minds to new spiritual and physical experiences. (1BT p83)
- 9. Accepting help, as a result of honestly appraising yourself. (1BT p29)
- 10. Communicating our concern to a higher power. (1BT p37)

Some practical application means that our service bodies report clearly and accurately on where our funds are spent — it's our money flowing from the basket to the event or expense. Also, our flow of donations through the service structure is how NA is funded. If we hold onto large amounts of money at any level, we are choking other levels of our service structure, preventing other services that NA may desperately need. Being responsible means donating up and down the service tree. Finally, it's our responsibility to determine what our budgets are & prioritize, spending on the most important things because most often we have way more ideas that we have funds for. Just another addicts experience & perspective.

-anonymous

Wings of Comfort

In my pain and sadness
 enveloping my spirit
 a sense of peace
 of hope
 as wings
 enfolding its chick
 protection from the
 storm
 I then feel safe
 warm
 secure in the knowledge
 in my Higher Power.

-Gale M.
 4/28/07

Saturday 6/16/2007

South Suburbs 18th Annual Pig Roast 10:00am Till Dusk Kankakee River State

Park Hedge Apple Grove
Kankakee, IL

Speakers, Food, Fun, Fellowship, Kids Games, and Camping. Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chicken and Salads also served. Kids 12 and under eat free. cost: \$8. 2 for \$15.

Saturday 6/16/2007

Small Miracles Area A Father's Day Extravaganza - "THE PROM" 6:00 PM - 3:00 AM New Zion Christian Center/ Old Dolton Expo 14200 Chicago Rd Dolton, IL

SPEAKERS 7:30PM - 9:00PM LYNN C. (DETROIT) / HAROLD P. (PHILLY) DRESS TO IMPRESS 1ST 200 PEOPLE CASH PRIZE DRAWING TICKET cost: \$8.00 / AT DOOR \$10.00

Sunday 6/17/2007

Illinois Valley Area Campfire Meeting 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Channahon State Park 25302 W Story Channahon, IL

Third Sunday of the Month all summer. Gut level format, picnic tables for seating.

Saturday 6/23/2007

Illinois Valley Area 1st IVANA Summer Dance Doors open 7:30 pm, 8 pm speaker, DJ Dance to follow Immaculate Conception Church Mann and School St Braidwood, IL

No admission. Refreshments will be available at nominal charge

Saturday 6/23/2007

South Suburbs 2nd Annual Rockin Picnic Noon - 6 pm Worth Park District Pavilion 115th & Beloit (2 blks W of Harlem on 115th) Worth, IL

2nd Annual South Suburbs Area Picnic. Speaker, Raffle, Food, and a LIVE BAND!!!! ROCKIN' EDDY & WILD DEUCE. Pop & Water will be sold. Mercedes Table. Kids 12 and under eat free. (2 blocks west of Harlem Ave on 115th St) cost: \$10.00 (N.A.T.A.)

Saturday 6/23/20 Mid City Area Mid-City Speaker-Jam-Learning Day Social

Event 12:00 Noon til 7:00 P.M Homan Square 3333 West Arthington Chicago, IL

Come out and support Mid City Area

July

Sunday 7/1/2007

Working the Steps Group of Illinois Valley Area Shooting Pool 4 pm - until ??? CW Billiards 24461-65 Eames St (Rte 6) Channahon, IL

\$10 per person no time limit. Click on link for flyer or call IVANA help line at 815-883-8677

Saturday 7/7/2007

West Suburbs Annual Picnic all day Moran Water Park Lombard Commons (St. Charles and Grace) Lombard, IL

Water park opens at noon, \$5 per person for pool pass, Food is free donations accepted

Saturday 7/7/2007

CRC Monthly Region H&I Meeting 10 am CSO 1701 S. 1st Ave , The Eisenhower Towers

Maywood, IL

Show your support for H&I by showing up.

Friday 7/13/2007

West Suburbs N.A. Bowling for Unity 10:30 P.M. till 12:30A.M. Brunswick Zone 1555 W 75th St

Woodridge, IL

Cost \$9.00 per person with shoes included.. Bowl as many games as you can for two hours.

Saturday 7/14/2007

Taking It One Day At A Time Group Speakerthon 1 pm - 9 pm First Baptist Church (In Basement) 2114 Main

Melrose Park, IL

Refreshments will be sold throughout the day

Saturday 7/14/2007

Things Fall Apart Group Softball in the Park Meeting at 1 pm, game follows at 2 pm Next to Clock Tower Fieldhouse The Park east of Lake Shore Drive at Irving Park Exit.

Chicago, IL

Its time to be outside and enjoy the summer. See flyer for more information.

Milestones

Jorge D. had 6 months on June 1, 2007!

Laura M. had 15 years on May 1, 2007!

Experience, Strength, and Hope

My name is Annette and I am an addict. I was eight years old when I started using drugs. I was looking for love in all the wrong places. When I came to NA, I saw the love and then I felt the love in the rooms. I will always remember that I am powerless over people, places, and things. So give yourself a break Remember, we love you. I will always make a list of all people I have harmed and make amends to them all. God bless you and remember Keep coming back

Annette B.

