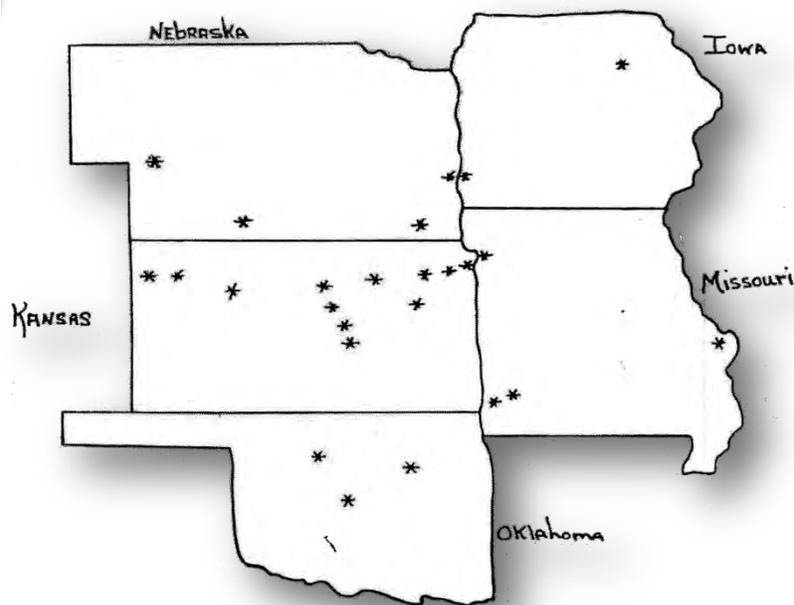


# History of the Mid-America Region & Kansas Narcotics Anonymous



*Disclaimer: All of us have contributed to making Mid-America Region's history, either directly or indirectly. There are many individual members mentioned through the years in this document, this wasn't meant to put anyone on a pedestal or over inflate their part in our history. It merely is to give reference on the time frame from documented resources. Many group names are mentioned in this document, my intention was to not give any group's history or to single out, but only reference their part in the ASC or RSC. All of the information in here came from: Mid-America Newsletter (MAN), Mid-America RSC minutes, various area or group minutes, WSC minutes, meeting directories, RSR/RD reports, original documents from Cindy P. (Mid-America RSO), newspaper articles, and documented history of Show-Me Region by Bob R., documented history of OK Region by Omer G., personal interviews, and speaker/workshop tapes. Terminology was changed after 1997 World Services reformation; RSR and ASR are now called RD and RCM respectively.*

*Tim S. – Archivist*

Updated: October 2020

Mid-America Region's beginnings are as old as NA's service structure and have been a challenge to put together. Our boundaries were first laid out during the 1<sup>st</sup> world service conference in 1976 where the lower 48 United States were grouped in to nine sections (*California had two from the start*). Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Australia also had groups at this time too. These tentative regions were based on known groups, which we had 24 listed in a seven state region. Kansas had 6 at the time that were known about. So let's back up a little to some of Kansas's first groups.

One founding member of our region reported NA had started in Wichita in 1970 but members voted that "pot" wasn't a drug, so it didn't survive. Rabbit, or underground meetings, started in Wichita and Salina early 1971. In those early days the statement "we are not under any surveillance" didn't always apply, some groups had to meet with minimal public knowledge and frequently change locations or hop around, hence the name "rabbit meeting".

Pathfinder, a halfway house in Salina, was founded by Father Neustrom in May 1968. It was instigated due to an alcoholic named Whitey that died when none of the hospitals would take him in. A few months after it opened Ed Sheppard became Manager of the house, though he had barely any sobriety himself. Another AA couple from California named Harley and Rose Cook came to Salina in the mid 1960s only to find two unfriendly AA groups. Together they started an open AA meeting in 1966. Father Neustrom credits Harley and Rose for helping start Narcotics Anonymous as well as Alanon and Alateen. March 26, 1971 their son, Owen, who had been contacted by a member of the NA rabbit group, died while on LSD just 3 days after his 19th Birthday. It was this fuel that started fundraising for a drug rehab program. Nov. 1971 Jim N. got a DWI (*driving while intoxicated*) while going through Salina and was sent to jail. Ed Sheppard had set up a Sunday evening, half hour radio program on KSAL that members of the open AA group went to share their story and receive call-ins. About 10 days after Jim's arrest, he was released to Ed Sheppard's care and started sitting in on the radio program. His share of drug use, plus the many articles in newspapers that were running about Salina's drug problem and Owen's death, sparked calls from other addicts wanting to know if they could attend these open AA meetings. About that same time, another Ed S. was being released from Larned State Hospital and moved to Hutchinson. Ed S. started going to AA meetings in Hutch but with long hair and biker attitude wasn't very welcome. In the spring of '72 Jim N. moved to Hutch and their paths crossed, instantly connecting as both were addicts. Jim was still making the commitment to the radio program in Salina so he took Ed with him. Ed Sheppard had seen the opportunity to start NA so asked Jim N. to help.

In July 1972 Narcotics Anonymous started at the Pathfinder halfway house, 150 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St. There were 5 members at the first meeting, possibly Jim N., Ed S, Harley C., Rose C. and Ed Sheppard. Later that year, Father Neustrom took a four month sabbatical to attend the Johnson Institute in Minnesota. He was to learn about alcohol and addiction counseling, as he was going to be an administrator of a new treatment center in Salina. Both Father Neustrom and Ed Sheppard had previously gone to an alcoholism conference in Lincoln, NE. and met the

founder of that institute. There were no other hospitals in the Midwest that worked directly with alcoholics or addicts at that time. Most likely the Lincoln Conference is where Ed Sheppard learned about NA and picked up a booklet. Father Neustrom finished his training in March of '73 and secured the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of St. John's Hospital, the old section, to set up a treatment center. It opened July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1973 and starting 1977 housed Salina's Phoenix NA group.

Ed S. ended up moving to Lincoln, NE. where he still lives today, Junkie Jim (*as he was nicknamed*) moved to Cedar Falls, IA, where he started NA in 1973. Ed got in touch with Jim a couple of years later and convinced him to move to Lincoln, once there Jim again got NA started, at 16<sup>th</sup> and Otoe in May 1975, which is where it still meets today. Jimmy K. once called Junkie Jim "the Johnny Appleseed of NA". He helped get NA going in at least four states, served as a World Board Trustee, sold blood for literature development and H&I, hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lit. Conference, and carried the message everywhere he went. Jim passed away Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.



November 1976, an NA meeting directory was put together during the 1<sup>st</sup> World Service Conference. In the directory Kansas had six groups listed: Wheeler Dealers in Salina, the FARM House in Newton (*Former Abusers Rehabilitation and Management*), The High Times Group in Liberal, Last Chance in Wichita, and one other unlisted. Another dot for Norton, KS was added at WSC '76, having NA meetings in their treatment center. Also at the conference, tentative regions were laid out by known groups, as stated in the opening of this document. Kansas fell into what would be called Midwestern Region, along with North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. Sioux City, IA was the 2<sup>nd</sup> group in Iowa starting 1976, but the only one listed at WSC '76. Other groups starting in 1976 were Waterloo, IA, Grand Island, NE and Norman, OK. Omaha, NE soon followed after receiving word from Lincoln about NA.

December 1976 Cindy P. was in treatment in Lincoln, NE. and attended her first NA meeting where she heard Jim N. share. She came to Salina with a guy and used New Years Eve. January 1, 1977 became her clean date. After calling a friend she had met from Topeka, they came and got her and two weeks later the United Survivors Group was formed. It is stated in a

history timeline placed in the grey Review and Input form of the Basic Text that the first NA newsletter outside of California came from Kansas in 1977; it is believed to be from Topeka.

During the year 1977, a few more significant members found NA, Burnalee (Bernie) R. from Topeka, Julie W. and Mark Z. from Wichita. Burnalee became “all things Topeka NA”, both Mark and Julie were founding members of our region. At this time, Wichita meetings were held in a probation office, and in early 1978 Mark, along with Julie, Anne, Cliff and others, secured a house on Ash St. for \$100 a month and started the first NA club house in Kansas, “Ash House”.

At WSC 1978, Mary L. from Lincoln, NE. reported for the “Mid-Western Region”, the updated world directory included groups from Kansas City, Salina, Topeka, Wichita, Colby, Dodge City and Great Bend for the Kansas listing. Enid, Oklahoma City, and Norman was in the Oklahoma listing, and Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, and York for Nebraska. Newton still had meetings going but wasn’t listed for whatever reason. September 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> was the 8<sup>th</sup> annual WCNA held in Houston, TX. (1<sup>st</sup> world convention outside California) Jim N., Cindy P., Julie W. Mark Z., and several others attended. It was there that Greg P. told them they should start a formal region. Greg was a Trustee that introduced “the Tree” NA service booklet two years prior at WSC 1976. Ray and Glenda P.



**Greg P.**

from Newton found NA in 1978 and also played a role in forming our region.

Anne W. from Wichita reported for the Mid-Western Region in 1979, by then Minnesota had left this “provisional” region. Lawrence and Newton (*outside of Farm House*) had started meetings. March 11<sup>th</sup> 1979 members from Newton attended a special service related meeting in Topeka. They had heard about it from a representative of the World Service Organization who attended their home group meeting in Newton the day before. During that special meeting, creating a region was the main topic. It was decided to plan an organization meeting, this time at a campout. July 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> at Camp Hawk outside of Newton was chosen. Newton had already held a picnic at that location so their group was willing to put this one together. Ray P. reserved the shelter for \$30 and members from Wichita, Newton and Topeka took care of the event details.



**Anne W.**

May 1<sup>st</sup>, Linda M. from Topeka got clean. Through a personal decision, that date would change and in the course lead her to a literature destiny. July 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 1979 (4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend) the Newton group hosted Mid-America Region’s 1<sup>st</sup> campout, where a structural meeting to form the region took place. There were about 50-60 members from Kansas, Nebraska, and



1979 Mid-America Region

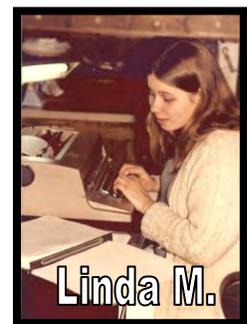
Iowa present. Representatives from several groups divided Kansas into two areas, North (*Salina and Topeka*) and South (*Newton, Wichita, and Dodge City*), Nebraska remained one area but within weeks split into two, East and West. Council Bluffs, Iowa was part of the Nebraska

East Area. Sam wrote to “the Voice” magazine (*March 1980*) that “Lincoln had the best turnout of any group there, with 9 members present”. He also shared his overwhelming feelings as this was his first NA event and he was from Wichita, but living at a halfway house in Lincoln.

**July 7<sup>th</sup> 1979 is the official start of the Mid-America Region!** July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the region held its first Literature Committee Meeting in Wichita; it was to serve three purposes: plan the 1<sup>st</sup> WSC Lit. Conference, create newsletters to communicate to the membership, and help groups and areas form their own Literature Committees. The group/area committees were to work on our book and stockpile literature. NA got started in St. Louis, MO August 1979, but Missouri groups hadn’t joined any region at this point.

In September 1979 several members from Kansas attended WCNA 9 in Atlanta, GA. I’m not sure who all went but through an agenda that listed members doing the readings as well as workshops, speakers, etc. this list was made: Cliff H., Marsha S., Anne W., Mark Z., and Julie W. from Wichita, Cindy P. from Topeka, and Robin M. and Maria K. from Newton. One of the agenda items was taking bids for the next year convention, Cliff mentioned at WSC ’80 that he had missed some of the workshops due to putting a bid together, which Wichita presented and was accepted. The criteria sheet for submitting a bid for a world convention back then included having at least three members, with at least one year clean and sober, representing the bidding city. Later that month Dodge City held the first business meeting for the Kansas South Area. With Wichita winning the bid for the 1980 World Convention it was decided for all groups to start fundraising for it. Dodge City was appointed as the area office so they could have a single point to mail out correspondence to other groups, they also discussed having a central office for literature distribution, as there was a 4-6 month delay getting literature from world services. In 1979 there were only 30, 90, 3 month, 9 months, and 1 year chips available. The White book, the Tree (*Service Structure*), and around 5 IPs made up the rest of the order form from world services. A PI kit, world directory, and monthly record forms were also available for the group.

The next month, October, Linda M. came with a group of members from Topeka to Wichita to be on the committee for WCNA 10 1980, she would have had almost six months clean, but decided to start over due to some glue incident at work. The clean time requirement for being on a world convention committee was six months, so she didn’t qualify. At Parklane Shopping Center, another group of members were holding a special meeting; it was the 1<sup>st</sup> WSC Literature Conference and had no clean time requirements to be a part of. Because of office skills she quickly became the Secretary, or as in later literature conferences, the “Librarian”. It’s been told by members that were present at the literature conferences, that the Basic Text might never have come together if it weren’t for Linda, she was the guardian of all input traveling from conference to conference. The first world sub-committee handbook, Literature, was written and presented at WSC 1980 as a result of WLC I in Wichita.



Linda M.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1979 the Mid-America Region held its 1<sup>st</sup> official service meeting in Topeka, with Kansas, Nebraska, and Council Bluffs, IA. Our region included groups from Wichita, Topeka, Newton, Salina, Lincoln, Omaha, and Council Bluffs during that time.

January 1980 the Mid-America Newsletter started with Cindy P. from Topeka taking on Editor. In May, the first elected RSR, Cliff H. from Wichita attended and represented the new region at WSC. Our first directory was being compiled; by this time Mid-America had groups in Wichita, Topeka, Salina, Newton, Augusta, El Dorado, McPherson, Pratt, Lincoln, Omaha, York, and Council Bluffs, IA., which was part of the Lincoln Area (*former East Area*). Members from Topeka, Salina, Newton, and Wichita were all on the world convention committee. Also in May, Cindy P. and Ron D. attended a planning meeting for Springfield, MO., Joplin, MO and Fayetteville, AR. upcoming "High on Life" picnic held at Stockton Lake, MO. and encouraged them to join the region, which they did. This was also the only time a group in Arkansas belonged to Mid-America Region, and was included in the first directory. Kansas City joined about this time too. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual regional 4<sup>th</sup> of July campout location was once again secured by the Newton Group, the regional business meeting was scheduled as well as a fundraiser for WCNA



10. At the first High on Life picnic the region held a business meeting.

September 1980 WCNA 10 was held in Wichita and having a "World Convention" in Kansas sparked a drive to start more meetings. The day after the convention ended members drove to Lincoln, NE. for the second Literature Conference; this is where the book really started as Wichita focused more on "how" to write it. November 20<sup>th</sup> of that

year Lincoln also started their clubhouse, simply called, the "Cleanway Clubhouse". After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lit. Conference, our region was tasked to continue working on chapter 4, "How It Works", so Literature Committees were being formed to help "write the book". Dec. 1980 St. Louis asked to join the region.

In February 1981, Mid-America became a full five state region. Several motions were



adopted at that Feb. meeting, one was to accept Oklahoma groups in, and another was to put a cap on admitting more states. More importantly, 13 provisional areas were established: **1-** Kansas City, **2-** Emporia, Junction City, Lawrence, and Topeka **3-** Colby and Dodge City **4-** Salina, Newton, El Dorado, and McPherson **5-** Wichita **6-** Joplin, Springfield **7-** St. Louis **8-** Iowa Falls, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids **9-** Omaha,

Council Bluffs, and Kearney **10-** Lincoln, **11-** North Platte, Western NE. **12-** Tulsa **13-** Enid, Norman, Ok City.

Newton had started their club house "The Club 12" just before the February meeting. Cindy P. was the RSO Manager (home in Topeka) and was elected Regional Service Representative (RSR) with Julie W. as RSR Alt. Cindy reported at the May WSC that we had grown to about 2000 members strong, with a lot of Public Information being done on radio and TV and a lot of meetings taken into institutions. Many cities were forming club houses and 24 hour answering services. Two weeks prior to WSC \$1000.00 was raised for the WSO at a fundraiser. In Oct. the newsletter had made an official monthly release date, the 15<sup>th</sup>, it later switched to bi-monthly and stayed that way for several years. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> three members traveled from Raytown, MO. to the Regional Office in Topeka and made a commitment to go there the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every other month to help assemble and mail the newsletter. The 1981 World Directory added Herington, Hays, Emporia, Goodland, Chanute, and Garden City to the rapidly growing list of towns in Kansas with NA groups.

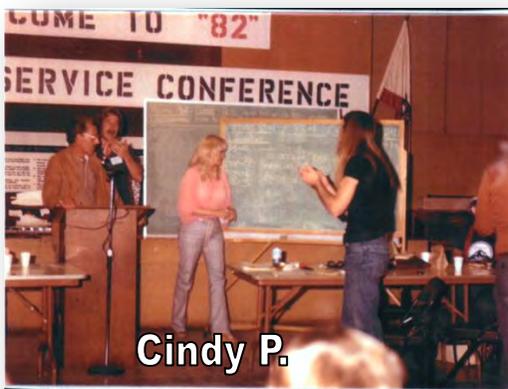
The provisional area (#4) that included Salina, Newton, McPherson, and El Dorado groups soon added Lyons. Dennis O. of McPherson was the contact person for this ASC. As groups grew, services were better provided by joining smaller ASCs together so all but Salina groups joined the Wichita ASC. Salina later joined up with Junction City to create an ASC.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1981 Iowa formed their own region, breaking away from Mid-America. They were the first to do so. As groups were forming and growing, the provisional areas began shifting. Many just consolidated to provide better services. The Wichita Area grew to where it covered more than half the state of Kansas and had started a hotline that also listed all meetings in the area.

By 1982, RSC meetings were quarterly, rotating between the four states by whoever wanted to host the next one. At this time there were a lot of projects at the annual World Service Conferences and having quarterly meetings allowed much of the interim work to get done. February '82 RSC in St. Louis had two full days of work on the service manual, the Basic Text, and stories as well as discussing input from every area service conference.

By May 1982 Mid-America consisted of seven areas in a four state region. Besides putting out the MAN and managing the RSO, Cindy was also elected WSC Secretary for the '81-

'82 cycle. When the motion to accept the approval form of our Basic text was introduced on the floor, our RSR, Julie added an amendment that a 2/3 majority vote be required for this to pass. The amendment failed but the motion passed, as stated in the WSC minutes "We have a book." This picture shows Cindy standing at the motion chalk board,



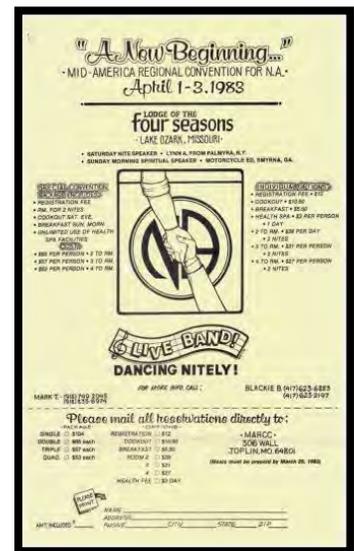
Cindy P.

while the conference applauds the passing of the Basic Text. Cindy went on to become a WSO board member and Editorial Chair of the NA Way in the next couple of years.

As the provisional areas shifted many groups were forming true ASCs, Fellowship for Freedom Area formed early 1982. Maryville, KS. started an NA group June 18<sup>th</sup> '82 adding to the Salina/JC Area. The region's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout location was secured by the Salina groups both 1981 and '82, but members from around the region made up the committee to put it on. In 1983 it was hosted by the Fellowship for Freedom Area and times were slotted at the close of the campout for area meetings for both FFF and Salina/Junction City ASCs. The campout started carrying catchy themes like "Milford Madness" and "Perry Pig Out". Oklahoma had formed the Joint Area Service Committee (JASC) which included Eastern and Western Areas, to minimize travel to RSCs in 1982; the JASC also formed the Oklahoma State Campout that same year.

By January 1983 Donna F. took over the MAN as Editor. March of 1983 the Wichita (South) Area had 10 groups spanning across more than half of Kansas. April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Business Meeting was one of the first to slot sub-committees on Saturday, having H&I, Literature, and PI. Prior to that there were ASR business meetings (ASRs only), literature generating and other workshops. General Regional Business was either in the afternoon of Saturday or Sunday morning. Mark Z. from Wichita was the RSR and we had 90 registered groups in 56 cities and 8 organized areas by April of '83.

April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 1983 the first Mid-America Regional Convention was held at the Lodge of the four seasons, Lake Ozark, MO. 169 members registered for this historic 1<sup>st</sup> event. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout was held back at Harvey Co. West Park in Newton. The theme was "I Can't, We Can Through NA Unity". Following WSC 1983, Nebraska held an RSC forming meeting to elect officers on May 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by a service structure workshop and dance. Missouri areas held a special conference in St. Louis, August 1983 to form their own region; both Nebraska and Show-Me were seated at WSC '84, Kansas City Area remained with Mid-America. Planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCNA was underway and it was dubbed "Big MAC" (Mid-America Convention), which was (*jokingly*) voted on as reference for all conventions. The Salina/Junction City Area was also planning a State Roundup October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> which was held in Salina, it was low scale and planted the seed for the "official" 1<sup>st</sup> annual State Roundup in Wichita a couple of years later. November 1983 Great Bend Area joined the region with two groups, themselves and Hoisington, Nate F. was the ASR. The two groups soon joined the Wichita Area. The Salina/Junction City Area also had groups in Fort Riley, Marysville, and Manhattan.



In February 1984 Linda M. became the new Editor of the MAN; the newsletter also became a “subscription only” publication at 6 issues for \$5.00. Literature Committees were still busy with a new project called “Just For Today”, a meditation book and a book tentatively titled “It Works-How and Why”. The Mid-America Region mailing address was located in Kansas City, MO., in care of the Chemical Abuse Group.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Mid-America Convention April 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> was once again held at the Lodge of the four seasons, Lake Ozark, MO. and was themed “Family Reunion”. More than 300 members attended but it proved to be an awkward event as MO. was the Show-Me Region now. The 1984 world directory had groups listed in Chanute, Coffeerville, Colby, Columbus, Dodge City, Emporia, Frankfort, Fort Riley, Garden City, Goodland, Great Bend, Hays, Herington, Hutchinson, Junction City, Kansas City, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Liberal, Lyons, McPherson, Newton, Olathe, Pittsburg, Pratt, Salina, Shawnee, Topeka, and Wichita in



Kansas. Mark T. from Tulsa was the new RSR and represented MARSCNA at the WSC. Due to long travel to regional meetings, it was sent back to groups to see if they wanted three or four meetings per year. It remained quarterly, or four.

By August '84, Concordia had started a group and Salina had another new group, called Unity. Fellowship for Freedom covered Topeka and Lawrence, and started their hotline also during the summer. Mid-America had its 1<sup>st</sup> “official” PO Box address in Tulsa. The RSC meetings were hosted by areas, as was 4<sup>th</sup> of July campout locations. The convention was still a part of Missouri even though they had split, Bob R. reported to the Show-Me Region September 1984 that there was a strong sentiment toward moving the convention and rotating it between St. Louis, Kansas City, Tulsa, Wichita, and Oklahoma City, primarily as a chance for more addicts to attend and share. The Wichita Area grew rapidly as Hoisington, Ark City, Ellsworth, McPherson, and Great Bend all joined by January 1985. Ark City and Ellsworth were new groups at the time.

“Together Again-For the 1<sup>st</sup> Time” happened February 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 1985 and was Kansas’ first state roundup held in Wichita. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mid-America Convention was held in Tulsa March 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 1985. The theme was “Growing Together”. Ozark Area from Missouri played a big part in the agenda as well as Kansas City and Oklahoma groups. In fact there were no Kansas members listed to do workshops or meetings. Since this was a joint effort though, all finances were split among Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri after start up funds were set aside for next year’s convention. June 1985 Oklahoma formed their region, being the last full state outside Kansas to leave The Mid-America Region. Kansas held the name “Mid-America” so both

wouldn't have to re-register with WSO. Our region had the Greater Kansas City Area from Missouri but all other areas were based in Kansas.

Julie P. from Hutchinson was elected MAN Editor at the February 1985 RSC and Barbara J. from Wichita was the new RSR. Bill S. from Bartlesville, OK was the new RSRA. Also at the Feb. RSC the Activities Committee was formed, adding to Literature, P.I., and H&I. The Mid-America Newsletter (MAN) had jumped to 85 subscriptions which was an increase of 17 from the previous issue. From the April WSC Barbara reported that it was decided to start holding quarterly meetings for all world sub-committees. The first one was planned for Kansas City July 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.



May 1985 offered two new groups in Hutchinson, New Beginnings and Serenity Women's Group to add to the Rainbow Group. Newton, Wichita, and Hutchinson all had women's groups at this time and Topeka was working on starting one, showing the strength of women in recovery at the time.

At the May RSC, Barbara J. had to resign as RSR due to moving to San Diego. Since Oklahoma was now it's own region, the alt. RSR, Bill S., was no longer within Mid-America. Jeff B. from Kansas City and Dennis O. from McPherson were elected in. The MAN was up to 99 subscribers from 48 cities and 11 states. Part of that was due to an exchange structure being set up where we traded with five other newsletters in the USA.

July 4<sup>th</sup> Campout location was secured by the Salina/Junction City Area and held near Salina at Camp Ada Walden. There was a Literature workshop that produced four pages of



meditations for the "Just For Today" meditation book being written. More interesting was the fundraiser, Glenn S. said he would kiss the pig if \$50.00 was raised for H&I. \$51.00 was raised so he fulfilled his part, and got sick from it! Baxter Springs had formed the "Start on Serenity" group July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1985.

An "Inter-Regional" meeting between Mid-America and Oklahoma was scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> in Tulsa, but was postponed, and ultimately cancelled. The RSC structure during this time allowed ASRs, Committee Chairpersons, and RSC board members to vote, we had 16 voting members at the September meeting. RSC meetings were also tied in with other functions if possible, and the next meeting was November at the Roundup in Wichita, but deferred sub-committee meetings due to lack of time. In October, the Wichita Area H&I voted to make t-shirts to be sold at the State Roundup. The cost was set at \$6.00 and 50 shirts were ordered with "I get HI on H&I" printed on them. Groups and areas were growing through lots of H&I efforts and PSA's on radio and TV. October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1985 the Southeast Kansas Area held their first meeting and elected officers. They also set

boundaries for the area, covering Wilson, Labette, Crawford, Cherokee, Bourbon, Neosho, and Montgomery counties. The Wichita Area held its first separate PI Committee meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ray and Glenda P.s house in Newton. Their first PI effort was a booth at a health fair in the Hutchinson Mall the day before, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. All three Hutch Groups helped with the fair.

To not conflict with the Mid-America Convention, “Together Again for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Time” was planned November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 1985 again in Wichita. This time it incorporated the regional business meeting with it, along with speaker meetings, PI and Naranon workshops. \$1102.03 was raised for the region and Wichita area from the roundup.

November 15<sup>th</sup> 1985 members from Western Kansas held a meeting and formed their new area. Jeff B., RSR from Kansas City drove there to give support and guidance. No elections were held at this meeting as January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in Dodge City was set for that. John H. from Liberal had just been elected as alt. ASR for the Wichita Area which made for a conflict. By November 30<sup>th</sup>, the MAN had 117 subscribers as this was the main communication of group, area, or region happenings. Hoisington hosted the first annual chili feed in December.

Mid-America Region had six ASCs as of January 1986, Greater Kansas City, Wichita, Fellowship for Freedom, Salina/Junction City, Western Kansas, and Southeast Kansas. That was about to change as more restructuring was coming. Lawrence’s oldest group, Larrytown, motioned in January to withdraw from the Fellowship for Freedom Area and join Kansas City’s. FFF area planned a special meeting February 2<sup>nd</sup> to address the lack of attendance at area meetings so Larrytown postponed their motion until after that. They stayed in and later joined the not yet formed Just For Today area.

The Southeast Kansas Area held its first area roundup February 22<sup>nd</sup> in Baxter Springs, groups in Neodesha, Parsons, and Galena all voted to join the area. Hoisington Group was planning the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout and held the planning meetings in Bushton. At the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, a special “new area” discussion meeting was scheduled. GSRs from Hays, Great Bend, Hoisington, Newton, Pratt, McPherson, Hutchinson, and Ark City were called upon to attend. The Central Kansas Area was established March 1<sup>st</sup> 1986 with 19 members present and 8 voting members. Curtis B. was elected ASR, Von P. – Alt. ASR, Ray P. – Chair, Francis C. – Vice Chair, Glenda P. – Secretary, and Pam W. – Treasurer. PI and H&I were also filled but had remaining sub-committee positions open. Newton was selected for the PO Box, and checking account opened in Hutch. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month at 7pm was set for ASC meetings and rotated alphabetically between towns. March 14<sup>th</sup> was the last Wichita Area meeting as groups in Wichita reformed to the Wichita Metro ASC. At that final meeting, the Wichita Area Literature stockpile was split three ways (*Wichita Metro, Western Kansas, and Central Kansas*), with the uneven amount donated to the Regional Literature Committee. The general account was also split three ways and checks distributed totaling \$177.45 each area. The account had grown since \$440.81 was raised from the previous State Roundup at the February RSC. The H&I

account didn't have check signers present and would be mailed later, this added \$121.96 to each area. It was later reported that it took months to get the finances split which caused hardship between the groups.

"Recovery Is a Reality" was the theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Mid-America Convention held in Afton, OK at Shangri-La, Grand Lake March 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. This was a joint effort from three regions and 400+ members attended.

March 29<sup>th</sup> 1986 twelve members gathered in Hutchinson for Central Kansas Area's first birthday night. It was a covered dish meal and had a total of 24 years, 2 months, and 2 days clean time sitting around the table.

The Southeast Kansas Area had a discussion at their March meeting on which region to be a part of, choices were Mid-America, Show-Me, and Oklahoma. Groups were asked to bring a vote back in April about this matter.

At the May RSC, discussions started about the possibility of Kansas holding a 1<sup>st</sup> state convention. It took almost two years to become a reality.

Show-Me Region held their 1<sup>st</sup> regional convention in St. Louis June 1986.

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout was held at Lake Barton, Great Bend. All areas were asked to supply a couple of members at the Registration table and time slots were agreed upon. At this time Mid-America had Central Kansas, Wichita Metro, Salina/Junction City, Western Kansas, Kansas City, and Fellowship for Freedom. Southeast Kansas had chosen Show-Me Region as they had a working relationship with the Ozark Area in Missouri. The campout had the typical torrential rain Friday night but hot and sunshine the rest of the weekend. Activities included the annual softball tournament, which Topeka won again for the second year, balloon tosses and egg throws. With many eggs left over, they were sold at \$1.00 an egg to throw at or break over campout committee chairpersons. As with previous years, there was also Literature writing workshops for "Just For Today" meditation book. Scott V. from Ponca City, OK., Bill S. from Topeka, and Glenda P. from Newton all shared at speaker meetings. Ottawa had formed meetings and joined Fellowship for Freedom area along with Topeka and Lawrence. At the August RSC a new sub-committee was formed, Policy.

September 13<sup>th</sup> 1986 had two events going on, first was the Mid-America Regional Activities Committee special meeting in Salina to start planning the Fall Roundup, the other was Central Kansas Area first ASC that had separate subcommittee meetings prior to the regular ASC. The next day a Newsletter Workshop was held in Hutchinson to transition a new Editor, who changed the structure so all areas had a section they were responsible for. Four areas committed anyway and were on the committee.

Unity Area, formally Salina/Junction City Area, elected trusted servants in September or October 1986, with Jim M. as Chairman, Marte D. as Secretary, Alan R. as ASR, and Mike T. as alt. ASR.

November 1<sup>st</sup>, Wichita held a fundraiser dance for the Roundup and the regional activity planning committee had a meeting prior to the speaker. November 16<sup>th</sup> was Newton's annual Turkey Feed.

The third and final State Roundup, "Together Again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Time", was held in Salina November 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 1986. It also incorporated the RSC with it, having subcommittee workshops 9 to noon and RSC 1:30 to 3:30 on Saturday. Speakers included Oz T. from Topeka, Raphael from Omaha, and Burnalee from Topeka. All areas were involved in the roundup, Unity Area had the hospitality room, Fellowship for Freedom lined up the speakers, Western held the auction Saturday night, Wichita metro took care of merchandise, and Central Kansas took care of the breakfast Sunday. During the November RSC, Dennis O. from McPherson had to resign as RSR for personal reasons. Julie P. from Hutchinson moved up to RSR and Jim M. from Salina was elected alt. RSR.

Mid-America presented a motion at the February 1987 RSC to nominate a permanent Chairperson for Policy and many policy "issues" were voted on. Such things as who could vote, entertain motions, what makes a quorum, sub-committee chair term length, and clean time for RSR and alt RSR were passed for regional policy. Central Kansas also formed a Policy Committee and planned a workshop in the spring of '87 in Great Bend. Shreveport, LA area service workers were scheduled to be there to explain how they formed policy in their area. They also began an Inter-Group support system called addicts on asphalt. Each group got a card to take to meetings its members visited, the cards were signed at the visited group and at the end of three months the group with the most signatures received a Basic Text, NA posters, or other literature from the ASC.

By April 1987, there were 140 meetings a week in our region; approximately 35 were less than a year old. We still had six areas but seven meetings in Northwest Kansas were working with Western Area to form a new area. Most ASC's were now holding the sub-committee meetings before the ASC and seeing much better attendance. Julie P. stressed to the WSC that Mid-America had a 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Literature workshop writing for the "Just For Today" Meditation book and would hate to continue for many more years, we want it back on the priority list! The regional meeting directory was updated every six months and sent to state prisons, parole officers, Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), and military bases. The region handled state-wide offices and areas handled local offices. Kansas City had two hot lines manned directly by NA members and was talking about forming a phone line committee. Unity, FFF, and Wichita Metro all have recorded messages giving meeting lists and phone numbers of members. Many areas were running radio spots too. There were approximately 100 H&I meetings a month also in the Mid-America region in 1987.

Oklahoma Region had their 1<sup>st</sup> convention March 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 1987 and Mid-America created an Ad-Hoc Convention Committee to plan what was initially dubbed as the "1<sup>st</sup> annual Mid-America State Convention".

April 11<sup>th</sup> the FFF area hosted a fundraiser for the campout, stating that “all MARC ’87 fundraisers are held in attempts to raise monies to keep the campout free!” Newton Group’s Pre-Campout was started as a fundraiser for the regional 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout and was celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 9<sup>th</sup> annual regional campout was being held at the Lone Star Lake near Topeka July 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> under the theme “Why Are We Here”. Areas not only hosted the campouts, but also sponsored the events. Central Kansas Area voted to sponsor the volleyball tournament and arm wrestling at the Regional 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout, and to put in a bid for next year. Two new groups were added to Central Kansas Area in June, Hoisington Women’s Group and Wellington. Unity Area was still trying to get a meeting in Abilene and the area dissolved their H&I committee, temporally. The Phoenix Group in Salina moved from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor cafeteria at St. Johns Hospital to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Sunflower Room August or September. The Norton State Hospital (*where Julie W. went to treatment*) was switching over to a minimum security prison and Western Kansas Area was planning to send H&I meetings in.

Two questions were sent back to the fellowship in May at the RSC, should we change the RSC from quarterly to every other month and should we have RSC on a steady date? Example: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of every 3<sup>rd</sup> month. It was decided to stay quarterly and make it the third Sunday of each month of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. Sub-committees met the Sat. prior. Central Kansas Area (CKA) voted to drop both Larned and McPherson from the meeting list due to lack of attendance in June ’87, Larned eventually returned. A new area had formed August 1987, “Just For Today” with Paola, Emporia, and Ottawa groups.

The Kansas Mid-America Region Convention or Kansas State Convention was scheduled for November, but was moved up to October 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 1987, by the May RSC it had changed to February 1988.

November 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 1987 the first world workshop was being held in Kansas City, to go over “It Works – How and Why” part 1 (*the steps*). Attending was Michael L. - World Literature (WSCLC) Chair, two WSCLC members, Donna M. - WSC Board of Directors, and Greg P. – Board of Trustees, plus a WSO staff person. Six members from Mid-America Region attended along with about thirty or so from Missouri and Illinois.

At the November RSC the planning for the “first Kansas State Convention” continued with special meetings set for December and January in Salina, the convention was scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 1988 in Overland Park, KS. December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1987 Great Bend took over the Chili Feed and held it in Ellinwood, it became a fundraiser for our “1<sup>st</sup> State Convention” and continued for many years to come.

“Recovery Road” was the theme for the Mid-America Convention held February 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 1988. It was dubbed our “1<sup>st</sup>” Kansas Mid-America Region Convention but was actually our “5<sup>th</sup>”, former member states of Mid-America, Missouri and Oklahoma, played bigger parts in the last convention than Kansas did and this one was a “Kansas” convention. The Oklahoma Region

was expanding and changed their name to "OK Region" in March, '88, to reflect an area from Arkansas joining them.

The newsletter was struggling in the early part of '88, subscriptions were dwindling and the question was raised if it should continue or not. That got people's attention and it did continue. Typewriters were used from the beginning, and scissors and glue made up the layout. The original cut and paste.

In June or July, Greater Kansas City Area took it back to their groups to leave Mid-America and join Show-Me and in August did so. At the time, John B. from Kansas City had just been elected RSR which made for a possible conflict; he was also elected Policy Chair at the August RSC. It was general consensus that John fulfills his terms. A motion came up to change Mid-America's name to the "Kansas Regional Service Committee", which was taken back to groups.

Other areas were struggling; Fellowship For Freedom met July 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss dissolving the area. 25 to 30 people showed up including the RSR and it was a unanimous decision to NOT dissolve. New groups were still popping up all over, Concordia started a new group with NA Way spelled backwards as their name (*Yawan*) for Unity Area, Ellsworth and Russell started meetings in Central Kansas Area, and Western Area had a new group in Hugoton.

Also at the August RSC, a motion was made to move the PO Box from Kansas City to Wichita, as Kansas City left the region. Our new address was PO Box 8732, Wichita, KS. 67208. I'm not sure when it was moved from Tulsa to Kansas City.

November RSC the motion to change the name of Mid-America failed, so an alternate motion was made, to name the region "Kansas Mid-America Region" which also went back to groups. Also at the November '88 RSC, the convention committee was still an ad-hoc committee, standing committees were PI, H&I, Policy, Literature, and Activities.

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1989 two meetings were held in different parts of the state, both forming new areas. The OZ Area split off Western Area taking the North half, which comprised of six groups. The other was Southeast Traditions Area, comprising Coffeerville and Neodesha. This put Mid-America Region back to eight areas.

February 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> MARCNA VI was held in Salina, with the theme "Stepping toward Recovery". Since there was no name change to the Mid-America Region yet, the first four conventions were recognized.

At the February RSC, both OZ Area and Southeast Traditions Area were seated. The motion to change the name of the region to "Kansas Mid-America Region" failed, but by a close margin (3/4/1). Almost the first order of new business was to select the site for MARCNA VII, Central Kansas and Fellowship For Freedom presented bids and Central Kansas was chosen. The first Convention Committee meeting was set for April 1<sup>st</sup> in Hoisington. The next business was to choose the date; all weekends in February, March, and April were available. The first motion to move it to March failed; the second was the first weekend in April, which after much

discussion passed almost unanimously. The RSC then elected John B. from KC as chair and Ross F. from Ellinwood as vice chair of Convention. This was our first full convention committee for the region, but was still considered an ad-hoc committee.

John B. reported to WSC '89 that MARCNA VI raised more than \$9000.00 (*which \$7000.00 was donated to WSC*) and had addicts from more than a dozen states attending. Western Kansas Area hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Mid-America Campout at Webster Lake, which was the true "campout from hell!" Storms both nights, blistering heat with no breeze or shade both days. Many members lost their tents the first night as strong winds broke poles and sent tents out in the lake or tops of trees. Most stuck it out the entire weekend though, it was awesome! The region's 4<sup>th</sup> of July campout was recognized at WSC as the oldest continual free summer camp out, or as we say, the longest running "free" campout in the world.

At the May RSC Just For Today Area reported that all Lawrence groups had joined their area, boosting their service efforts. Unity Area started a Policy Committee and was hammering out guidelines.

At the August 1989 RSC Unity Area reported that four groups in Salina moved to one location, called Recovery Cove. They also presented two motions pertaining to Regional Policy, that all RSC officers reside within Mid-America Region and that all re-elections of officers be taken back to groups. Even though John B. from Kansas City had elected positions at the time of Kansas City leaving Mid-America Region, he was continuing to take on new positions a year later. August 20<sup>th</sup> '89, 15 members met in Topeka to start the process of drafting regional guidelines. At the November 1989 RSC, Unity Area's 1<sup>st</sup> motion passed but the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion failed with a 1-7 vote. There was another motion to keep the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout at a permanent location which also failed. In new business a motion to make the Convention Committee a standing committee passed. This presented an issue of when they would meet at RSC. At this time RSC's were Saturday only, with a recovery meeting Sunday morning. Sub-Committees met in the morning and RSC business in the afternoon.

Our guidelines that were used for many years got started with the first four articles being passed in February 1990. Articles V and VI were out for approval and VII thru XI were still being worked on by the Policy Committee. The Mid-America Newsletter had dropped to a low 18 subscriptions and was struggling to get submissions. The region did however purchase a typewriter for literature and the newsletter to help with production.

April 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 1990 Great Bend was the location of MARCNA VII, themed "Keeping the Miracle Alive". Areas submitted bids for the next year convention during the closing meeting Sunday, the closing MARCNA committee made the decision which bid was accepted. Wichita was chosen for the upcoming 1991 convention. It is also noted that both Chair and Co-Chair were voted in at the May RSC for the next convention. At the May RSC, Article IV brought a tied vote and was sent back to groups, Article V passed, adding to our official guidelines.

The region purchased a folding literature display for \$250.00; it was painted like the cover of the Basic Text and was used at region and area functions until it became frail and was finally “retired” and placed in archives. Areas still hosted regional meetings which May’s RSC was hosted by SE Traditions and held in Coffeerville. The 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout was held at Clinton Lake but proved to be too small, and the townspeople had too many complaints of motorcycles roaring through town to get to the campsite. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout was also still hosted by areas, at least until August 1990, when the Campout became a standing committee.

February 1991 RSC contained several motions that added to or changed our procedure. The first was for the Activities Committee to put on a spiritual retreat, another was that we (region) put on a multi-regional PI and H&I learning day. For structure, it was passed to make regional a two day schedule rather than a one day, and that region be held in a central location. By May RSC, details were handled and decisions made to make these happen. Also at the Feb. RSC a Budget Planning Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to create a proposed optimal budget. This came about from concerns in how fund flow was being handled in the past.

April 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 1991 MARCNA VIII was in Wichita, the theme was “More Will Be Revealed”. In the Activities Committee meeting Saturday of the May RSC, names were thrown in a hat for the spiritual retreat and “Soul to Soul” was picked. There were three locations researched which two were considered too high. Camp Chippewa was chosen as one of the members lived across from it and had easy access to setting it up. For the central RSC meeting location, members from McPherson (Tim and Debby) presented information for the 4-H building in McPherson. It rented at \$40.00 per day and was passed. The last main business selected dates for the 1<sup>st</sup> Multi-Regional Learning Day (MRLD), and was set for September 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 1992 in Wichita.

Abstention votes were a confusion at the May ’91 RSC, Article VII of the “new” policy was changed to read *“Abstention votes will be counted as a non-vote. Not a yes and not a no vote. If a majority of abstention votes rule the motion, it goes back to the Area or the Sub-Committees.”* Whoever submitted the motion was where it got sent back to, a motion or nomination from a sub-committee was sent back to that sub-committee if it received a majority abstention votes. It was also decided that the Regional Literature typewriter be given to RSC Secretary for minutes.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1991 the first MRLD planning meeting took place with members from Mid-America and OK Regions present. South Carolina, Missouri, and Nebraska Regions had shown an interest and would plan on attending the next meeting in Tulsa. Warren and Anita J. from Wichita played a big part in organizing this as they were involved in PI and H&I, both would eventually be voting members of WSC sub-committees.

At the August RSC, discussion about purchasing a copy machine led to forming a Regional Service Office. A motion was presented to form a Regional Office Ad-Hoc Committee



and Tim S. was appointed Chair. This movement or task died out soon after a feasibility study was offered by the Ad-Hoc Chair to determine if the region would support an office.

The South East Traditions Area dissolved sometime after 1991 and the groups ultimately ended up joining the Just For Today Area. This put us at seven areas.

April 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 1992 MARCNA IX was held in Topeka and themed "Part of the Solution", which ironically is the title of Burnalee's story in the Basic Text 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> editions. Another Kansas member had their story in the 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> Basic Text editions, titled "Pothead" by Linda M.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout was another storm filled weekend and what shirts were left in merchandising was sent back to the printer to have "We survived Milford Madness '92" placed over the back. In return they sold rather fast to help keep it a "free" campout.

Unity Area set out to get a bid for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary MARCNA for 1993. At the ASC five bids were solicited, Junction City, Manhattan, Hutchinson, Salina, and McPherson. During MARCNA IX in Topeka several members of the area gathered in one of the sleeping rooms and went over each bid, picking the one with the best offer. During the closing meeting Tim S. (ASR) presented the McPherson bid and it was accepted. This method of getting bids was changed in November 1992 when a Steering Committee or Convention Steering Committee as it was originally called was created. Jim M., Betty P., Debby S., Pat M., Jeff Mc., Tony K., and Steve J. were all elected to this new committee. They were tasked with getting and researching convention bids, obtaining insurance, tax liabilities issues, and recommending future convention chairpersons. Also at that November meeting, a motion passed that stated "All animals are banned from all MARSCNA activities, except those animals being used by people with special needs." This was based on repeated dog issues at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July campout, but was broadened to cover all events. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July campout had lacked in committee support and Warren and Anita J. from Wichita stepped up and revived it, putting full devotion in it for a number of years. The Oz Area had dropped attendance at region and was dropped from roll call and the meeting list; in February 1993 they resurfaced with all new ASC officers and a new address and were reinstated.

March 1993 the groups of Lawrence left the Just for Today Area and formed the Miracle Area, they were seated in May which brought us back to eight areas.

April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 1994 MARCNA XI was held in Great Bend, the theme was "Conscience Contact". Policy was still at the fore front of RSC business, especially concerning budgeting. With storms dominating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July campout in past years, the 1994 campout was themed "After the Storm...Our Spiritual Awakening". It was held at Wilson Lake July 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and yes, it rained.

August 13<sup>th</sup> 1994 the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition ASC formed with groups in Wichita and surrounding towns. This gave Mid-America Region nine areas, all based in Kansas. Mid-America had “unofficially” dropped support for the Multi-Region Learning Days sometime this year, but still had members from Kansas still a very big part of it.

MARCNA XII was themed “Back to Basics” and held in Salina April 1995, there were 434 registered and 47 given out free to newcomers. Each year seemed to draw a few more members.



While attending WSC '95, Tony K., Tim S. and Dee S. (Neb.) sat in on Southern and Mid-States Zonal Forum Meetings and talked with RSRs of neighboring regions about forming our own. Tim S. presented a proposal at the May RSC, followed by a motion to form a Zonal Forum, it passed unanimously.

June 1995 OZ Area merged with Western Area, putting us at eight areas again. At the August 1995 RSC a new sub-committee was formed, Outreach. Two previous RSRs, Pat M. and Tony K. had worked with the WSC Outreach Ad-Hoc. In September, the Plains States' Zonal Forum met for the very first time in Kansas City during MRLD IV. Members from Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa were present. Structure and possible goals were discussed. At the May 1996 WSC we met in a more formal setting and set meeting times and expectations for having a zonal forum. Six regions committed to this forum: Best Little (Texas), OK, Mid-America, Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota.

August 1996 Mid-America RSC once again paved new territory as we discussed suspending an area's voting privileges. A Central Office was opened in Wichita, which was determined to be breaking Traditions, both in how it was operated and what items were sold in it. Members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Area were accountable for it so a letter was drafted and signed by the RSC Chair and sent to the officers of the area.

A motion was sent back to groups to dissolve the Policy Committee with the Steering Committee resuming all duties, and at the November RSC it passed. After more investigations over the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Area Service Office and discussions with World Service Office, the voting privileges were suspended in November until May 1997 (two RSCs). It was pointed out that we do not have policy concerning suspending or unseating an area, and that these actions set precedence.

September 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 1996 MRLD V was held in Wichita, Plains States Zonal Forum held their 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting there, not realizing the turmoil taking place with the MRLD Committee. It was reported that the average attendance had dropped 70% over the previous four years which left the MRLD barely breaking even. At this time Oklahoma (OK Region) was the only committee financially supporting MRLD and as a result dissolved the learning day at the closing meeting. The zonal forum had discussions of possibly adding this type of learning day to their agenda and if so Oklahoma would once again support it. Two members, both who served many years at

Mid-America Region as well as being on WSC PI and H&I committees, were at the fore front of 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Area, their service office, and MRLD. As a result, at all levels it quickly became personal. The final meetings (*unfortunately more than one*) between the OK Region and those two members to finalize MRLD and liquidate remaining merchandise proved to need a mediator. Tim S., Mid-America RSR, was asked to do so and November 24<sup>th</sup> finalized the event. The merchandise was divided between the two regions, with funds forwarded to WSO.

Steering Committee met three times during the RSC cycle to come up with Articles XII, XIII, and XIV, which was seating, suspension, and unseating an area. They were presented at the February 1997 RSC to go back to groups. All three motions (*Articles*) passed in May.

5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Area returned to region after the suspension, but RCMs (*new terminology*) felt no changes were made on their effort. An Ad-Hoc committee was appointed by the RSC Chair to attend 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition's ASC and report back. It consisted of Tim S.-RD *appointed Ad-Hoc Chair*, John S.-Miracle Area alt. RCM, Dave R.-FFF RCM, Billy C.-Unity RCM, Mark H.-Wichita Metro RCM, Carl K.-RDA, Don M.-Steering, and Pat B.-member from Wichita.

At the August RSC a motion to change how the Mid-America Newsletter was distributed passed, making it a free publication and providing (*at least*) one copy for each group. They would be distributed through RCMs.

November 1997 a motion to hold an annual event hosted by the Mid-America region in observance of world unity day was sent back to groups. February 1998 it passed and was directed to the Activities Sub-Committee. At this time the world convention was just changing to biannual. Special world services workshops were to be held on off years to broadcast a speaker.

The Ad-Hoc Committee met with 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Area three times. At the January 10<sup>th</sup> (*final*) meeting a motion to pull out of the Mid-America region was entertained by the area and passed. It was the Ad-Hoc's hope that both 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition and Wichita Metro would work together but no support was given by either area to accomplish that. 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Area later dissolved and the groups ultimately rejoined Wichita Metro.

A contest to create a regional logo was proposed by the Steering Committee with the winner receiving a free MARCNA 1999 registration. It was intended to get a logo that would be fitting on all correspondence with professionals as well as internal use. The winning logo is to the right, submitted by Samuel L. of Wichita.



Late 1998 and early 1999 Steering was working on a GSR Assembly, two members were sent to Oklahoma's 1<sup>st</sup> GSR Assembly to get an idea of what we should expect. Ours didn't actually happen until May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2000 though. At the February RSC a motion to rotate MARCNA between Great Bend and Hutchinson passed, both were considered central and easy to work with. This lasted four years before another motion to open it back up made it region-wide again.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campout for 1999 was once again held at Wilson Lake, super high winds almost caused the event to have a tragic outcome. With a beach full of addicts and a local family (*non members*), the white capped waves also provided a strong undertow which brought two young boys out beyond the swimming area, Tim S. found one boy on the bottom of the lake and his panic stricken brother fighting to stay above water. Not being able to keep both up let alone get them to shore as the undertow pulled them out further, the entire beach of Mid-America members went into rescue mode. Once the boys were in and CPR performed, a human chain was formed to bring Tim in. The family, game wardens, and anyone else that witnessed NA in action held a whole new respect for our fellowship.

August 2000 a new ASC was formed out of Unity and seated, named Primary Purpose. It was thought that services could be more effective in a five county radius rather than a 10-15 county radius. This brought Mid-America Region back to eight areas. Early 2012 Western Area once again split, with Western maintaining Southwest Kansas and the resurrected OZ in the Northwest.

Seeing a need for a more professional looking region logo, several concepts were submitted to be voted on at the group level, with Tim S. design winning. Feb. 2015 the new logo, shown below, was approved. Through several months of trial run and policy re-writing, the sub-committees were officially restructured May 2015, combining projects and duties in to two categories: Public Relations and Fellowship Development. Both continue to meet Saturday prior to RSC and run on a consensus based system.

A new ASC split from FFF area in August 2016, called Never Alone-Never Again. It includes groups from Topeka and Junction City.

Currently Mid-America has ten areas: Central Kansas, Fellowship for Freedom, Just for Today, Miracle, Never Alone-Never Again, OZ, Primary Purpose, Unity, Western, and Wichita Metro.

More will be revealed...

