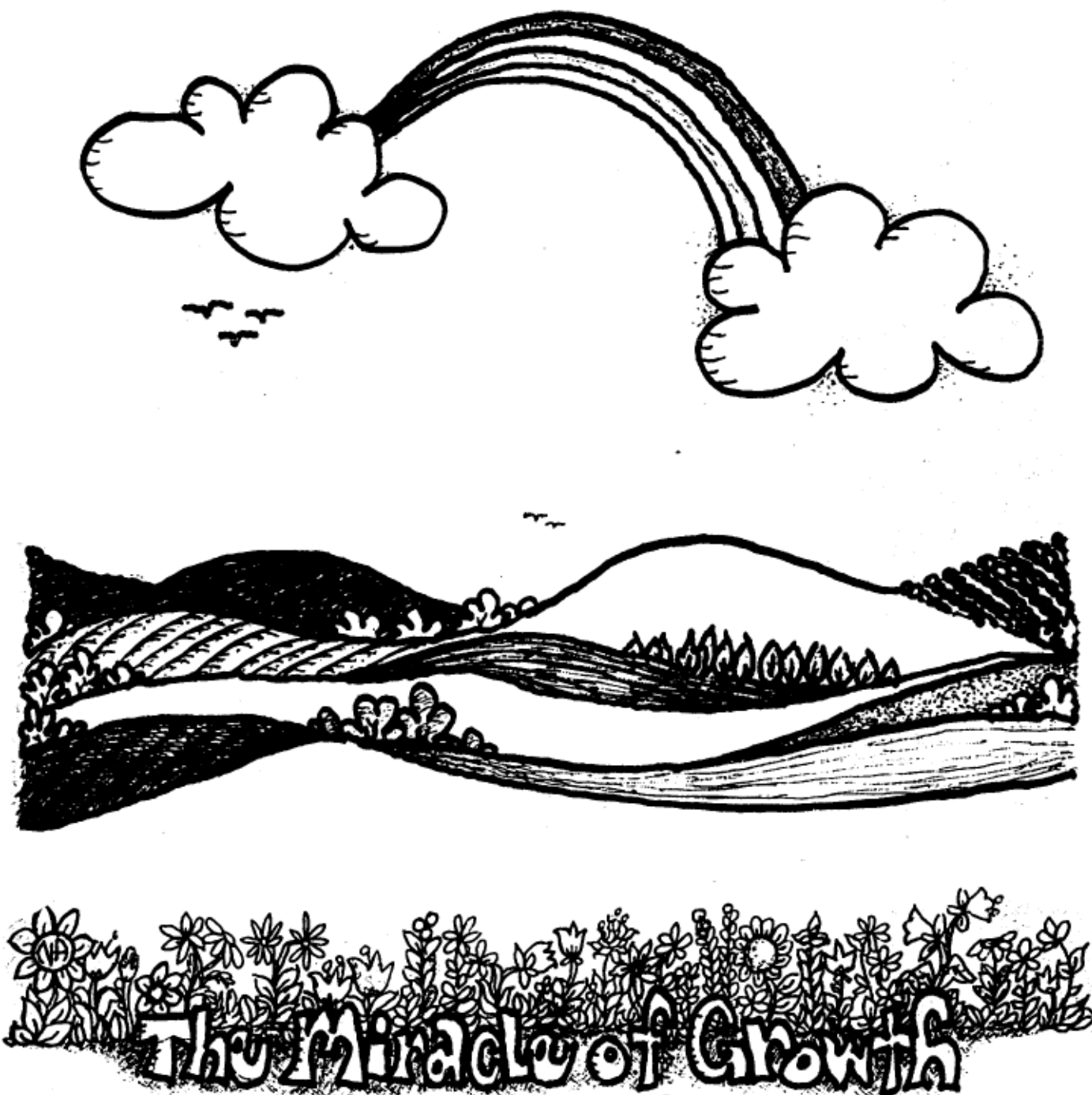


MID-AMERICA NEWSLETTER

April — May 1987



from the editor's kitchen table

Hello everybody,

Gosh! It's great to be home! Julie P., RSR., Jim M., RSR. Alt. and I got home late Saturday, May 4th from the W.S.C. in Van Nuys, Ca. My head is still spinning!

The conference was so much bigger than I had imagined. People at home have been asking me what it was like, The best answer I have been able to come up with to describe the past week is intense. I experienced so many different feelings in such a short time it's unreal.

We arrived at LAX Airport early Saturday afternoon, then took a shuttle bus to Van Nuys. The scenery was beautiful! The mountains were great!(I was later informed that I hadn't seen the mountains yet, those were only hills. They looked like mountains to this Kansas girl.) Anyways, a hotel van picked us up at the bus terminal and took us to our hotel. It was great, the bellman even carried our bags in.

The hotel was right across from W.S.O. so after we unpacked, we were off to tour the office.

I was astounded! W.S.O. is actually two separate buildings. We went through the offices first! I was really impressed. Some of the staff was hard at it, getting last minute details accomplished before the conference. They all had time however, for introductions and hugs.

We walked down the block to shipping and receiving. It was really neat seeing the stacks upon stacks of literature our fellowship goes through. One thing that was really interesting to me was to see all the foreign literature that was ready to be shipped out.

Sunday we attended the Pre-Conference Workshop. This was the first year this "sort of orientation" was implemented. I thought it was very helpful. The W.S.C. Chair let us know what would be happening for the next five days and explained the proposed operating procedures of the conference (Parliamentary Short Form, Roberts' Rules of Order. It's a trip!)

The conference started Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. I enjoyed the regional reports immensely. It was neat hearing what other regions are doing. It was also nice to hear that everybody has problems, not just our region, and that we can grow from these things.

All of the U.S. Regions were represented at the conference. I always knew ours was a world-wide Fellowship, but was really surprised to find out how world-wide we really are! There were representatives from the Australasian, British Columbia, Ireland, Israel, Germany, London, Japan and Quebec regions, and they all submitted reports.

The hardships some of these regions have overcome, just to have regularly scheduled meetings, touched me deeply. The vast land space of many of their regions is unreal. The dedication these folks have shown, not only to carry the message to the still suffering addict, but to also form committees at regional levels and actively participate in the affairs of N.A. as a whole was an



inspiration to me. I know I have griped about having to drive so far to our R.S.C.'s. It made me stop and think just how fortunate I am. Many thanks to those R.S.R.'s for putting my personal hardships into perspective. My gratitude is higher than ever before. Thanks again.

Tuesday the conference fell way behind schedule. (If you think R.S.C.'s are long and drawn out, just go to a W.S.C.) Wednesday we got even farther behind. The conference met from 9:00 a.m. 'till about 1:30 a.m. Thursday I was dead, but managed to make it through the last Ad-Hoc committee meeting which broke after 1:00 a.m. Friday the conference adjourned at 5:00p.m.

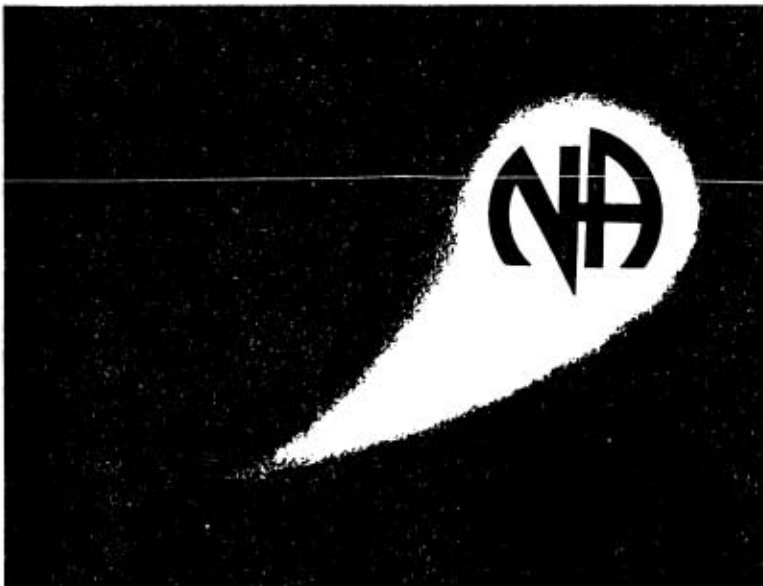
I've got to tell you that it was wonderful seeing R.S.R.'s arguing over things and getting things clarified and under it all they had their regions best interest at heart. In my opinion, when we elect our R.S.R.'s it's like they suddenly become the protector of their regions interests and they do their best to put their region as a whole, first! There were many times I had tears in my eyes and was then laughing at the next moment. It was wonderful to see so many people dedicated to serving the N.A. Fellowship. The love and acceptance I witnessed and felt was stronger than any I had ever known before. I can't tell you how glad I am to have been an observer .

I must admit that when we left Kansas, I had planned to take one day off and bask in the sun, but I was never able to do that. It was such an exciting and learning experience that I wasn't able to drag myself away. Although, I must admit that I did sleep in Friday mcrning. My body was worn out!

Julie will be giving her report at our next R.S.C., May 30 and 31 in K.C. I hope to see all of you there. There is so much to be shared, and so many new and exciting things going on.

I guess I better wrap this up. (I could go on for pages.) Be sure and check "What's Happening" for all the activities. There's alot coming up.

Thanks Amy G. from K.C. for the stories in Clean Perceptions" and Terri C. also from K.C. for our cover. I love you all, and hope to see you all at the R.S.C.



In Loving Service,

Marci W.
Marci W.

MY GRATITUDE SPEAKS

WHEN I CARE

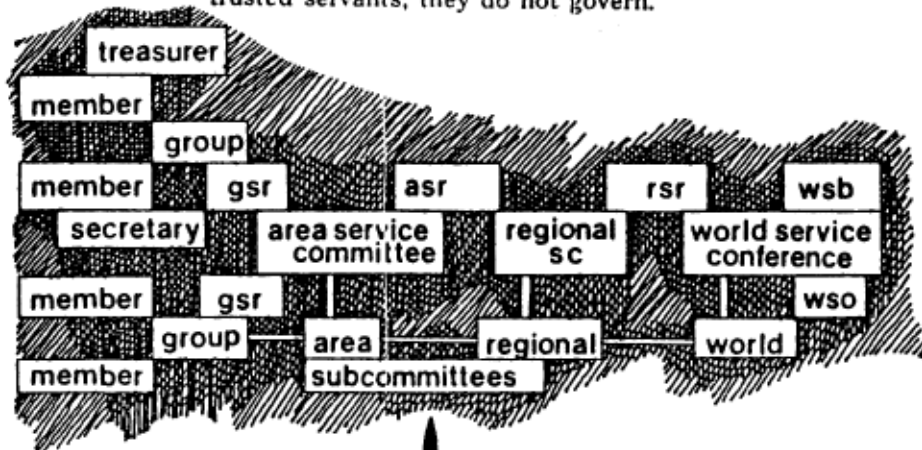
AND WHEN I SHARE

WITH OTHERS

THE N.A. WAY.

Thoughts on Tradition Two

"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.



These are powerful principles, and they apply to our area, regional and world services as well as our groups.

"Ultimate" means final or highest, fundamental, elemental. This does not

exclude other, lesser authorities. Through our service structure we delegate the necessary authority to our trusted servants, service boards and committees to accomplish their tasks. We give the WSO the authority to carry on the day to day affairs of printing and publishing, and acting as our main contact and distribution center. We give the WSC Literature Committee authority to produce literature for review by the Fellowship. Through our representatives we gave the WSC Chairperson the authority to appoint a "select committee" to compile a service manual for us, subject to review by the Fellowship and approval at WSC.

Dictionary definitions of authority include: a) the right to control, com-

mand, judge, or determine; b) a person or body with such rights; c) an accepted source of information, advice, etc.—an expert; d) a commanding influence. As addicts, many of us have had problems with authority, sometimes reacting with anger, resentment and rebellion. Authority may demand obedience, punishing disobedience.

In Narcotics Anonymous, obedience is entirely voluntary; we are free to apply our spiritual principles to ourselves and recover, or ignore them and accept the consequences. For an individual, the choice may be freedom or a return to active addiction. At group, area, region, and world service levels, the choice is to have unity and thus effectively carry our message, or disunity and thus frustrate our primary purpose—carrying our message to the still-suffering addict.

With extreme disunity, of course, most of us would surely die, leaving addicts everywhere in the hands of their disease. In less extreme cases of disobedience, intolerance, or indifference to our spiritual principles, the price is slowed growth in recovery, confused newcomers, and many addicts dying without getting a chance, due to our ineffective service.

In our addiction, many of us rebelled at "expertise" with our know-it-all attitudes, our grandiosity and close-mindedness.

Through Tradition Two, we acknowledge that a loving God knows better than we what is good for us. Our Steps teach us this, especially

"Let us remember always that group conscience is supposed to be an expression of His will for us, not group will or committee will, or self-will."

Steps Two, Three, Six, Seven and Eleven. In our service structure we require experience, integrity, and a record of performance—expertise—of those entrusted to serve.

Here we have the only appearance of the word "love" in our principles, and the only time God is mentioned in our traditions. Of course, "God" appears many times in our steps, and perhaps the reason "understanding these traditions comes slowly over a period of time" is that they can only be deeply understood through application of "a spiritual awakening as a result of those steps." If we ask ourselves, "How would our loving God have us serve?"; if we try to surrender the will of the Ultimate Authority; if we remember that honesty, open-mindedness and the willingness to try remain as indispensable today as they were when we first got here, all will be well.

Let us remember always that group conscience is supposed to be an expression of His will for us, not group will or committee will, or self-will.

Another necessary ingredient for making good decisions is good information. It is difficult to hear the

voice of a loving God through a partially informed, misinformed, uninformed majority. This lack can lead us to make decisions not in the best interests of N.A. Decisions made in anger or unnecessary haste have caused us great pain in the past. Let's not expect different results from the same mistakes.

Inherent in any democratic structure like ours is the danger of an oppressive, tyrannical majority. This is why the word "conscience" is used instead of "majority." Ideally, we will search our conscience in carefully examining the pros and cons of important issues in the light of our principles, carefully considering minority opinions before making decisions.

"Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." So we do have leaders. Of course! Without them, without sponsors, without our service structure, without responsible guidance, we would be lost in chaos and self-will. In N.A. we are led by the example of those whose lives show the application of spiritual principles, of service to God, to N.A. and to those still suffering, of services gladly rendered and obligations willingly met; God-centered rather than self-centered. This example we are willing to follow. "Trusted" implies integrity, responsibility, expertise and leadership.

As our steps lead us individually to humility, our traditions protect us collectively from our pride. To be a trusted servant implies many things, and different positions require different attributes, training, experience, and spiritual awareness. A spiritual awakening as a result of these steps is not necessary to make coffee; a deep understanding of our traditions isn't a prerequisite for typing; a spiritual awakening doesn't necessarily make a person a good administrator, accountant or writer. We must choose our servants carefully, suiting the skills and other qualifications to the position.

In order for our structure to function efficiently, we must delegate authority and responsibility. We must give our servants trust for them to serve us well. Good servants, when

they do a job, do it. They make decisions about the best way to do it, based on research, experience and principle; they don't come back to us with questions about every procedural detail. We expect our servants—our leaders—to apply our principles in their work, to seek the best information available in their decisions, to consider the short-range and long-range consequences of their actions, to carefully consider minority opinions, to work for our common welfare, to be prudent, responsible, accountable, and spiritual.

Our structure is designed to provide service, not government. The principle of rotating leadership is a check against vested interests. We are seeking N.A.'s best interests, not the best interests of any member, group, area, region, committee or board. When we comply with our principles, our best interests are N.A.'s best interests. "True spiritual principles are never in conflict."

The group conscience is expressed through our representatives and the trusted servants elected by those representatives. We rely on our trusted servants to be informed on the issues and to be aware of our opinions, ideas and desires relating to them. As members, we know the Ultimate Authority is expressed through our group, and we are free to instruct our representatives as much as we wish—but this is not always a good idea. If we fail to delegate enough flexibility or discretion—authority—to our servants, we are ripping ourselves off and denying ourselves the benefits of the broader information and experience of N.A. as a whole. Locking our

"When we comply with our principles, our best interests are N.A.'s best interests. True spiritual principles are never in conflict."

representatives into unchangeable positions smacks of closed-mindedness and distrust—hardly N.A. attitudes.

Some issues must be decided by the groups—major changes in our structure, steps or traditions, for instance. Others are better left to our trusted

servants. Walking into a group business meeting with a two hundred page report and saying, "We gotta vote on this," is insanity. So is expecting to find the will of a loving God in an uninformed vote. Lack of information leaves us open to manipulation by powerful personalities, and self-will gets sanctioned as "group conscience."

Our whole program is based on shared experience, the idea of "I can't—we can," so when the members of a group lack the experience and understanding to intelligently vote on an issue, they may rely on their GSR to carry their conscience, not their uninformed opinion. At the ASC, through the broader experience of all the GSR's in the area, their sub-committees and trusted servants, they may be able to cast a more informed vote, or they may rely on their ASR to make use of the broader based information of the region. The ASR's, utilizing the input available, may decide to fully instruct their RSR, or they may express their area's conscience, and trust the RSR to carry that conscience to the WSC, and vote for the good of N.A. as a whole, based on the conscience and information shared at tence of our service units should not be taken lightly. The importance of open-minded discussion and deliberation of the issues by our most experienced, most trusted servants should not be played down.

As the Ultimate Authority is expressed through our groups, so must the ultimate responsibility. We must choose our trusted servants carefully, particularly our GSR's, for the integrity of our entire service structure rests on them.

GSR's must be careful in considering their choice of their ASR, and ASR's the RSR, and RSR's the WSC trusted servants. The value of anonymity, the spiritual foundation of this and every other tradition, is very clear here. We must choose on the basis of principle—understanding, ability, experience, integrity—and not of personality, popularity, provincialism or parochialism. To do otherwise and

then complain is irresponsible. Personal recovery may depend on personal responsibility in choosing our trusted servants.

S.L., Pennsylvania



Look for more World Conventio details in "What's Happening"

WCNA-17 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Please send form and check or money order to:

WCNA-17 c/o WSO
P.O. BOX 9999
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA, 91409

Make checks payable to WCNA-17

Name _____

Address _____

Country _____

Telephone _____

If registering for more than one person, please list their names:

No. of convention registrations
_____ @ \$20.00 per person TOTAL \$ _____

Donation for
Newcomer Registration TOTAL \$ _____

No. of Friday Midnight
Riverboat Cruise Tickets
_____ @ \$10.00 per person TOTAL \$ _____

No. of Saturday night
Banquet tickets
_____ @ \$25.00 per person TOTAL \$ _____

No. of Sunday morning
Jazz Brunch
_____ @ \$10.00 per person TOTAL \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Vegetarian Banquet Meal Yes No

- If you wish to speak at or chair a meeting send a tape to: WCNA-17 Program Committee, c/o WSO, P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409. (Minimum 5 yr. clean time)
- Come share your talents at the convention Talent Showcase — if performing, specify form of entertainment _____
- Bring a costume. Don't be shy. Friday night there will be a Mardi Gras Ball. Join in with our Celebration of Recovery.
- If you are physically limited in any way (blind, deaf, disabled, etc.) and have special requirements, please specify _____

Mail in Registration Deadline — August 1st

WCNA-17 HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

Please send form and check or money order to:

SHERATION NEW ORLEANS HOTEL
RESERVATIONS
500 CANAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

Name _____

Address _____

Arrival Date _____ # Nights _____

Name(s) of additional adult(s) sharing room or suite _____

Special WCNA-17 room rates
(Offer good 8/31/87 thru 9/10/87)

Single & Double \$53.00 One Bedroom Suite \$144
Triple & Quad \$59.00 Two Bedroom Suite \$250
The above rates are subject to state and local tax

- To assure proper reservations, please complete reservation request and return it before Aug 1st, 1987. Request received after this date will be accepted based on availability. Reservations are held until 4:00 p.m. If you plan to arrive after 4:00 p.m. you may guarantee your reservation for late arrival by submitting a first night's deposit.

Send check, money order, or the following credit card information. (American Express, Diners Club, Carte Blanche, Visa, MasterCard)

Card Name _____

_____ Exp. Date _____

Phone # _____

- All Hotel Accounts are subject to credit arrangements at time of registration and payable at departure.
- Check-in time is 3:00 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 noon.
- The hotel will retain first night's deposit plus on guaranteed and deposited reservations not claimed on date of arrival.
- To cancel a reservation, call the hotel prior to 4 p.m. on day of arrival. Ask for and retain cancellation number until you receive a refund of your deposit.
- For information not contained on this form, please contact the Hotel Directory (504) 525-2500. We may utilize (800) 325-3535, however, the (800) number will not confirm or quote special WCNA-17 rates.

Fellow Addicts;

It has come to my attention that a great many addicts are struggling to stay clean, while worrying about things they can't change. As we all know, staying clean is our main goal. Sometimes we just don't have the energy to do our fair share of worrying. After all, if we can't do something about the situation, the least we can do is worry about it.

As I have been around a while, I've seen people selling jewelry, shirts, bumper stickers, etc. I've seen addicts doing things from talent shows to taking pies in the face, but no where have I seen addicts taking worrying seriously.

Now, for a limited time, I'm offering Mikes' Worrying Service. Yes, fellow members, today you can stop worrying and start living. Think about it. Wouldn't you like to be the first in your group without a thing to worry about? What a great feeling you will have, getting up in the morning, and going through the day, with that, "What? Me worry?" grin, secure in the knowledge that Mike is worrying for you.

The rules are simple:

- 1) The problem must be something you can't do anything about.
- 2) It should be written on a post card or short letter. Include how much clean time you have (remember, this is an honest program), and how much you want me to worry.
- 3) Of course, there is a small fee:

<u>clean time</u>	<u>little worried</u> (per day)	<u>medium worried</u> (per day)	<u>really worried</u> (per day)
1-30 days	0.02¢	0.04¢	0.08¢
30 days-6 mo.	0.10¢	0.20¢	0.40¢
6 mo.-1 yr.	0.50¢	0.75¢	\$2.00
1-5 yr.	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$10.00
5-10 yr.	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
10-20 yr.	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$2000.00

(Just drop your money into the bucket at your local NA meeting.)

Send all responses to:

Motorcycle Mike
5101 W. Lincoln Creek Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53218

(414) 463-0085

The reason for more money for more clean time is simply, if you have 10 years, and still worry about things you can't change, you deserve to pay more.

Clean PERCEPTIONS

THE FOURTH OF JULY

This is my favorite holiday because I feel alive and free. My family and I usually go camping to be out doors and enjoy the beautiful country God gave us.

Not being a person who likes rules and regulations, Independence Day means a lot to me. I can do as I wish, go vacationing, be with the people whom I love and trust, or what ever my heart desires. The last two years are my favorite memories. I went to the Mid-America 4th of July Camp-out. I found my newest and best friends, plus a bunch of crazy dope fiends having a great time being clean and free from drugs. There was a spirit of recovery there you could just feel as you drove into camp. I heard other people sharing feelings I thought were part of being an odd person, instead of just being human. The growth I receive in recovery overwhelms me, and I'm looking forward to this years campout.

Ome of the special plusses of this holiday is the hours of beautiful night works. I buy fireworks and sit to watch them go off. I usually let someone else light most of them, so I can relax and enjoy all the beautiful colors in the sky. I let my thoughts and Thank You's fly high up into th sky with them, remembering not everyone is so lucky to live in this country with opportunities to be whatever you wish to be.

Hugs to all of you,
Paggy B.

FREEDOM

I'm going to make a break,
To the promised land.
I'm going to take freedom;
by the hand,
No onesgoing to stop me.
For you see,
I'm never coming back.
Out there I'm going to be free.
Pain will be a memory,
An image in the past,
Something to let go of,
Something that will not last.
FREEDOM

ANONYMOUS



GRATITUDE

Today, I am truly Greatful! I have my life, my Freedom of Choice, a loving Husband and two Great Kids.

April 18th will be 4 years Clean. I owe it all to the N.A. Fellowship. I have found my own "GOD" who I turn my will and life over to on a daily basis. I have the 12 Steps that help me to live life on its own terms. I have friends that are there for me and I for them. I am able to carry the message and not the Addict today! I have a sponsor who is a tremendous help. There are so many things in my life to be grateful for. At all times I must remember that "Attitude of Gratitude". KEEP COMING BACK!

DEBBIE P.
K.C. N.A.

Our basic text tells us that we keep what we have only by giving it away. I have found that sharing with newcomers helps my own recovery. I help take an N.A. presentation to a treatment center on a regular basis, and to see a desire to stop using develop within another addict is a boost to my own program. At the last H&I presentation two other group members went with me, for which I was grateful, since the message being carried was less dependent on my own personality.

There are also ample opportunities to carry the message within our own meeting rooms. I used to get to meetings late and leave immediately afterward. I still get to meetings late but afterward I stick around for yet another cup of coffee and some conversation with old friends and newcomers as well. The spirit of hospitality is one way to convey our experience, strength, and hope to one another.



JOE R.
K.C. N.A.

IT'S O.K.

It's O.K. to be afraid
of things we don't understand.
It's O.K. to feel anxious
when things aren't working our way.
It's O.K. to feel lonely
even when you're with other people.
It's O.K. to feel unfulfilled
because you know something is
missing (even if you're not
sure what it is)
It's O.K. to think and worry and cry.

It's O.K. to do
whatever you have to do,
but just remember too,
That eventually you're going to
adjust to the changes life
brings you way.
And you'll realize that,
It's O.K. to love and laugh again.
And it's O.K. to get to the point
where the life you live,
Is full and satisfying and good
to you.
And it will be that way because
You and your H.P. made it
that way.

R.J.M.

I ran faster and faster, far from my Higher Power, trying to hid from the terrible punishments I was sure would fall. Pain, confinement and never-ending mysterious unknown agonies.

I never wanted to go to bed at night. The terrible guilt when I would lie there with the knowledge that the helter skelter craziness of my thoughts would soon take over for the fearful silence. I was alone with fear.

Which was crazier? I'm not sure? The maddening rush of past familiar faces, sick old bitter resentments, or my wild and desperate schemes to escape from it all.

Sometimes sleep came fitfully, the craziness was the same; but even more grotesque in its nightmare forms. When mornings finally came wouldn't want to get up.

I would pull the covers over my head. The light of day was bringing the worst of it all. The harsh reality of facing the day without drugs. Mind racing, shaking, knots in the stomach, and above all fear. What would happen? How would I get through the day? My best friends, drugs, were gone.

Those days were filled with torment and turmoil. My feelings, that were now strangers, struck and before I really started working the program I always relapsed.



Back onto the old treadmill to Hell with less and less relief and more and more insanity and fear. I certainly proved the progressive insanity of our disease.

I remember well the fear that was. That's why I continue daily working the steps. I thank God!

I remember the relief and help I got after I finally surrendered to the N.A. program for living. I had finally sincerely asked for help. Now help is always there.

Today I am learning to follow Good Orderly Direction every day. Help from meetings, my sponsor, and many others. Most of all, from my Higher Power.

I am beginning to reap the rewards and positively function in the real world. I am growing in acceptance and gratitude as I move forward. Thanks N.A.! Thanks fellow members! Thanks God!

DAVE T.
Westport C.A.G.
KANSAS CITY, MO.

WHO, ME?

I have bounced in and out of this program, and the other twelve step program, for seven years. During that time I was able to rack up significant periods of "clean time." One year, two years, 19 months, but no real, true recovery. As of this writing, Nov. 10, 1986, I have ten months and one day of recovery. Things are different this time, however. This time I'm working the steps - the heart of the program. The basis of recovery. Most of all, for the first time, I've taken an honest 1st step. I have finally admitted that I was powerless over my addiction, that my life had become unmanageable. I say finally, because prior to now, I never really took an honest 1st step. I never believed that I was powerless and that my life was unmanageable. Basically, I never admitted I was an addict. But you know that was a bunch of BULL!! And you also know that I was not unique.

I originally started attending meetings for other people. Judges, wives, employers, friends, family. They thought -knew- that I had a problem. And, to be honest, I some-

times wondered if I did, indeed, have the problem that everyone else thought I had. But, after a drink, snort, or a jag, I knew that they were wrong. They had the problem. It was their problem, not mine. They just didn't know how to party, I thought. They didn't understand. They didn't work the job I did. Being loaded was part of the job, part of the lifestyle.

You see, I'm a radio announcer. A "D.J." The Dr. Jonny Fever for whatever radio station that had the guts to put me on the air. I went on the air under several different "air names." The air name fitting the personality I hid behind on the air, the personality fitting the style of music the station played. And the drugs I used proportionate to the music, personality, and air name. So, my drug of choice varied from job to job. One drug when I was "spaced out, far out, strung out" A.O.R. in Phoenix; another drug when I was "good ol' boy" country in Tucson; another drug when I was "bubble gum, bee bop" Pop in Hutchinson; and yet another drug when I was "righteous & reverend" Christian music in whatever town that station was in (I think I was in a black out). So, the drugs varied from booze to coke to whatever I could lay my hands on, but the problem was constant.

But yet I was never powerless. I could be on the verge of eviction from my apartment, but the rent money went to a fix. Yet I wasn't powerless. My car or motorcycle could be in the process of repo, and the payment bought my dope. Me? I was not powerless. My wife or girlfriend at the time would give me an ultimatum either them or the dope. And we all know who won out in the end. (This could possibly account for the number of marriages and girlfriends I've had.) But I wasn't powerless. And, I didn't only lose wives and girlfriends. Nope, I lost cars and motorcycles, literally, in black outs. I lost jobs. But yet my life wasn't unmanageable. I even came close to losing my life to overdoses and a drug induced heart attack. I still didn't think my life was unmanageable. And, I've lost my freedom in jails and eventually prison. But my life was definitely not unmanageable.

"Before coming to the fellowship of N.A., we could not manage our own lives." "We had to have drugs at all costs." How true. I've paid dearly for my drugs, as we all have. But, MY life unmanageable? ME powerless? Who, ME? NO! Not me. I knew what I was doing. I didn't need that job, or wife, or car, or motorcycle. Besides, there were more of them where they came from. And the jail and joint time I've done? The prison time I'm currently doing? Well, I needed a vacation anyway. That's just a load of crap!

I came "home" to the program this last time in the County Jail in Tulsa. I'd been locked up a couple of months, and was "clean", but not in recovery. All along, in the back of my mind, I knew that I was going to "scam" my way out with a dismissal or at the most, probation again. I don't know why I thought that, though. I was charged with a total of 14 counts, felonies all, plus one "After Former Conviction of a Felony" charge and was looking at a minimum of 20 years and a maximum of Life. But yet, I just knew that I was getting out. And I am - just as soon as I finish doing the 5 years that I ended up with. I'd been in front of the sentencing judge a few months earlier, and he put me on probation then. This time he just frowned at me and told me that probation was completely out of the question. He also said that I had a serious problem and hopefully I'd find the help I needed while in the joint. After a few days of pondering just what this "problem" was that he saw in me, as many have before him, it dawned on me. Actually, it hit me in the face. At about 100 miles per hour. Like a brick wall. I did indeed have a problem. After all these years I knew. I could admit it. I WAS AN ADDICT!!! I am powerless over my addiction and my life is unmanageable! (Good Morning!) Me, the guy on the radio. Me, the guy that went on TV every Labor Day begging for money for Jerry's kids. Me, the guy with the 'Vettes, Trans Ams, Harleys, nice homes and pretty wives (Sound familiar? Welcome to Boomtown.) Yes, ME am -er, make that, I

am an addict. I cannot use drugs and live today. I have no control over dope. (I don't have control over a lot of things, but there are 12 step programs for those, too) I am powerless. My disease - OUR disease is progressive incurable and fatal. It will lead us to jails, institutions and even DEATH. I know that, now. And I alone am responsible for my recovery.

Today I attend approximately seven meetings a week. Sometimes more when I can get to them. (Keep in mind that I'm still doing time.) Today I read my Basic Text. I do service work when and where I can. Today I talk to other recovering addicts and I talk to God. I work the steps, I don't use Just for Today, and most of all, today I work the program of Narcotics Anonymous.

The program works. If it didn't, I wouldn't be here. I'm still doing my prison sentence but I am now at a Work Release Center and I have a lot more freedom to come and go than when I was at the medium or minimum security prisons. I have a job today. Not bad for a convict who is in a town with 12% unemployment. And, my job is at a radio station, and I'm not hiding behind a fake "air name" and personality. I use my real name and I'm doing a radio show without having to create a false personality and without having to use drugs to "improve" the personality and the show. Today, what you hear is what you get. Just plain ol' me. And to be honest (or is that modest) my radio show is by far better than it ever was before. That is, of the radio shows I remember doing before.

Today, I have friends in the program who don't mind picking me up and taking me to meetings when I call them, which is damn near daily. Today I have a program of recovery, one that I could have had seven years ago if I would have just admitted my powerlessness and unmanageability. Some will say "better now than never" and I guess that's true. I'm here, in recovery, and I thank my H.P., God, that after all my relapses I had one more recovery. I thank God that I didn't DIE!! I'm grateful to be in prison, as silly as that may

news!

sound, but at least I'll get out of here. It could have been worse, and I just don't think that it's too easy to get out of a grave, no matter how simple Vincent Price or Bella La Gousi make it look.

Hopefully you won't have to bounce in and out of the program like I have; go through the things that I, and a lot of other people, did and end up where I'm at today. Prison. A work release center, true, but still a prison. Hopefully you have taken that first step, an honest one, and are working the program. And if you haven't decided whether you are an addict yet, well all I can say is: Good luck! I hope and pray you don't go through what I had to in finding out. Most of all, I hope you don't die while finding out. I love you all. You are my family. Damn! It's sure good to be back home.

Andy M.



DEADLINE FOR
NEXT ISSUE:
JUNE 10

UNITY AREA

Nine members attended the A.S.C. in Salina on 4-12-87.

P.I.- Basic Text for March will be delivered to Abilene Public Library. Basic Text for April will go to Flint Hills Inn Halfway House in Junction City. May text to go to Cloud County Jail in Concordia. Salina Helpline number was put in the Buyers Guide and will be ran every week. Currently working on getting a meeting list put in the newspapers.

H&I - H&I Newsletter was obtained and distributed to members. It was decided that the area would get 20 copies of each I.P. for the H&I meeting at St. John's A.T.U. Someone is needed to take a meeting in to K.V.R.C. A.T.U. meeting needs support.

Literature - Literature order has been distributed. Committee decided to discontinue meeting list fliers and use cards exclusively.

GROUP REPORTS

Nameless 7 to 10 people regularly. G.S.R. resigning,, looking for new one. There is talk of starting a new meeting.

Unity - Attendance steady at 10 to 13. Sent in a literature order. Attempting to help Lindsborg start a meeting.

Phoenix- Attendance holding at 20 to 30. Sent in Literature order. Donated \$50.00 to area and \$10.00 to the W.S.C.

Butterfly - Elected a new Alt. G.S.R. Congratulations Elizabeth from Salina! There is talk of a dance. No plans yet.

Omega - Group is doing fine. Brad M. to speak at the meeting.



NEWS!

news!

NEWS!

news!

WESTERN KANSAS

Fifteen members were present on Apr. 9, 1987. Group began meeting by studying the Temporary Guide.

Charlie C. was elected A.S.R. Kay R. was elected P.I. alt. chairperson.

P.I. - Members discussed why they wanted to be in P.I. & asked questions about P.I. work. Literature - Members studied the Literature Handbook for 15 minutes, then began reviewing The Guide To Service Work.

Live For Today!

GROUP REPORTS

Against All Odds - Things are going steady. The group is growing. The area will be taking speaker meetings into New Chance once a week. They need some volunteers.

Just For Today - Attendance holding steady at about eight. This meeting is now listed in the newspaper.

Freedom of Choice - Charlie C. resigned as G.S.R. and volunteered to be P.I. person. Ala R. moved up to G.S.R., and Dave C. was elected alternate. Kay A. celebrated her third birthday. Congratulations!

Liberal New Hope - Attendance is about the same. New alternate G.S.R. is Chris L. and Sec-Treas. is Guy L. Congratulations!



What's Happening?

MID - AMERICA REGION

MID-AMERICA R.S.C. - Msy 30th and 31st at the Westport Allen Center in Kansas City. The address is 706 West 42nd St. As of yet I have not received any further details.

MARC '87 CAMP OUT - Admission FREE! Activities include softball, volleyball, water sports, horseshocs, ect. This year our campout is at Lone Star Lake, Douglas County Ks. As always, there will be a Bar-BQue, Dance, and campfire meeting. When is it? Well, July 3, 4, & 5 of course! This will be our ninth annual, so let's make it the

best yet! For more info, call Chris or Jenny at (913)235-9045, or Blake at (913) 843-0667! I hope to see you all there!



let's go camping!

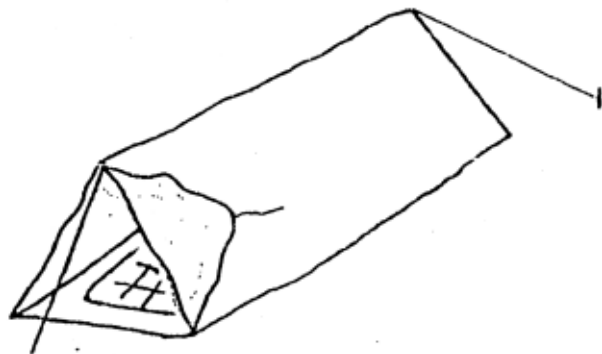
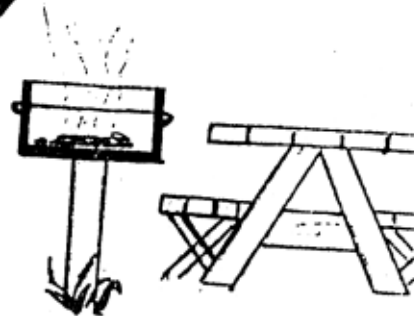
MARC 87 CAMP OUT

WHEN? July 3 - 5, 19



WHERE:

Lone Star Lake
Douglas County, Kansas



Saturday Night Bar-B-Que
Bring a covered dish

Dance 6-10 p.m. followed by
Campfire Meeting.

ADMISSION FREE
FREE!!!

ELSEWHERE

A GIFT CALLED LIFE - June 5, 6, 7. 2nd Annual Show -Me Regional Convention 2431 N. Glenstone Ramada Hotel, Springfield, Missouri. Activities include; talent show, auction, raffle, workshops, meetings, and a dance! For hotel info call; 1-800-0500. For Convention infocall; Donna H. @417-782-4642 or Jon S. @ 417-869-8542.

Registration - \$15.00
Banquet - \$15.00
Breakfast - \$8.00

CLEAN N' CRAZY CAMPOUT - 6th Annual. June 12, 13 & 14 at Lake Carl Blackwell, Pre-Registration is \$10.00, registration \$12.00. Limited cabin space is available. To reserve cabins, call Jimbo P. 405-329-9258. To pre-register send your name, address, phone # and money to P.O. Box 5685 Norman, Ok 73070 by June 1, 1987. For more info call Bobby B. 918-742-3032.



IRCNA IV '87 MORE WILL BE REVEALED-July 3,4,5, 1987 in Waterloo, Iowa. Held at Holiday Inn Civic Center West Fourth & Commercial. Activities include meetings, speakers, workshops, a dance swimming, and Fellowship. Hotel rates are \$39.00- for reservations call 1-319-235-7560. For more info call Don R. 319-233-2906, or Paul C. 515-274-4347.

THIRD MID-COAST CONVENTION- "THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER" July 24,25,26, 1987. Held at Rockford Motor Inn 7550 E. State St. Rockford, Ill 61107. For info, call Greg L. 815-963-5811, (conv. chair), Pat Z. 815-633-7752, (registration), Earl P. 815-654-0564, (hotels), Greg W. 815-965-1928, (convention info). Area helpline number is 815-964-5959.

WCNA-17-LIVE YOUR DREAMS, Sept. 3-6, 1987. Activities include speakers from around the world, workshops, marathon meetings, costume Mardi Gras Ball, Midnight Riverboat Cruise, talent showcase, banquet and dance, jazz brunch, and most of all RECOVERY! Convention registration, and hotel reservations forms in newsletter.

CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES



All contributions should pertain to recovery.

What we print:

- 1) N.A. related material -- group, area, regional and world activities.
- 2) Poems or essays by N.A. members.
- 3) Perceptions on the Steps and Traditions.
- 4) Topic discussions.
- 5) Cartoons, drawings and jokes.
- 6) Group reports.

What we don't print:

- 1) Extreme vulgarity.
- 2) Non-N.A. program material.
- 3) Reference to outside enterprises.
- 4) Material that violates 12 Traditions of N.A.

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Send \$6 check or money order made out to Mid-America Region to: Mid-America Newsletter, P.O. Box 1574, Salina, Kansas.

Please make copies of this form and take to meetings, special events, etc. and give everyone a chance to attend Mid-America's meeting through the mail.