

MID-AMERICA NEWSLETTER

Aug.-Sep. '88"



The N.A. Tree of Life is Forever
Green — Fellowship Doesn't
END WITH SUMMER

From the Editors Kitchin 2000 . . .

Hello everyone, it's nice to be writing again. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who sent input. I really enjoyed all of it and hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Keep it up, as it seems that we are on a roll with input from this Region.

With summer ~~just~~ all but gone and the holiday season approaching all too fast, it seems a fitting time to take a moment and reflect upon what this time of year has come to mean to this addict. It seems to be a time of coming together. The campouts and dances of summer are past, and the cold lonely months of winter are but a promise yet to be realized. The lakes are quiet now, the roar of skiers and the press of swimmers but a memory. All of the comings and goings of summer are done. Once more we begin to think of the cold dark months ahead. Our gatherings seem to take on an air of urgency. As if to store up some warmth for the future and to hold onto a season lost, if only for a brief moment.

We begin to reconcile ourselves to a season indoors. Old friendships are rekindled as the activities that took us abroad now bring us home once again. The meeting halls once again begin to fill, and a familiar rhythm settles into our lives once more. The new faces begin to emerge and we miss a few of the old. As we begin to see that though summer has taken it's toll, it leaves behind new friendships and memories of a season past. The promise of a coming season looms, fraught with joys and problems all it's own.

It is a time to reflect and renew old bonds and forge new ones. It is my hope that all of you can find, in this respite between seasons the warmth and peace that I have come to associate with this time of year. You see I think NA has a homecoming season all it's own.

Till next time....

Love you all

Dan C.



I am writing to share what serving the Fellowship has done for me in my recovery, ~~because I feel that we need more people willing to become responsible to take on some of the many, many things that need done to enable this fellowship to carry the message.~~

I am a firm believer in "a loving God as He expresses Himself in our group conscience" so I know that needs will be met. I also know of the fear that held me back many times in my life because I didn't know how to do something that was asked of me, FEAR OF FAILURE. This fellowship has taught me about so many things. I felt that fear when I started in service work, and it's been a process of growth starting with emptying ashtrays, making coffee, chairing meetings, etc. If anything, taking on responsibilities kept me coming back, gave me a purpose.

When I first started coming around, I didn't know how to live without drugs. This fellowship has taught me how to do that and so much more. I had fear that this program wasn't going to work, but for me it had to because I had tried everything else. I knew I was going to die if this didn't work. So far it has. I acquired the faith that this program can and does work if I choose to work and live it. I got involved in service work early in recovery and didn't know how things worked because it was new. I chose to believe that fellow addicts would teach me through sharing their experience, strength and hope. They have and continue to do so.

I am grateful that my first sponsor taught me that when you're asked to do something in this fellowship, it is for a reason that maybe only HP knows, and to not say no. It has taken time to learn my limits, but this program has given me life. I am grateful to have opportunities to serve this fellowship. I feel that I could never repay the debt I owe, (how do you measure the price of your life?), there are so many ways that I can give what has been so freely given to me. Why service work? Because I would have died if the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous had not been there for me. Somebody has to be putting our literature together, writing policy that works for us, getting activities together, getting into hospitals and institutions to carry the message, and so on. TO THE ADDICT WHO STILL SUFFERS.

These addicts, when reached, become our newcomers, which we all were at one time, maybe more. Without the newcomer, we die.

So people, if there is fear there, Let Go and Let God.
This is a We program.

*Gratefully recovering
Myrna T.
Hdys, Ks.*

UPCOMING EVENTS..... *HIGH SCHOOL*

Oct 15-dance at the ~~city building~~ in Russell fliers to come..

Oct 16-Convention committee meeting and mailing party @ the Carver cent. 315 N. 2nd 12:00 - 5:00 825-9858

Oct 22-Alive and Kick'n presents Halloween part II, live band T-shirts, costume contest etc. 3\$ single 5\$ couple O.U. lodge @ pomona lake.

Oct 29-Hoisington NA presents Halloween party and B-day night @ the city building. 653-4958

(editors note) I have reports about Halloween dances at Emporia, Salina, and possibly Manhattan but nothing definite.

Feb 17, 18 & 19-MARC 88 Salina Ks.

Nov 4, 5, & 6 Best little Region Convention 1 Koko Palace, Lubbock Tx. (806) 799-3950

(editors note)

I know the newsletter seems to be shrinking. printing costs forced a reduction. There is actually more in here there just is no longer a lot of wasted space.

Thankx

J-L

CLEAN PERCEPTIONS

NOT ALONE AWAY FROM HOME

I went to Grand Island Neb. on the weekend of Aug. 5,6,7 to a wedding of two addicts that I met at MARC 88. It was a wonderful weekend filled with "God Deals". I met about 150 fellow members of NA before I left.

It turned out that they were holding the 1st annual campout the same weekend, so I camped at one of the most beautiful camping areas I have ever laid eyes on. The weather was as good as the company I shared.

I'm writing this to share my thanks and to pass on to my brothers and sisters in NA the encouragement of showing up next year for the 2nd annual campout in Grand Island. It's a beautiful place with lots of recovery being shared freely. For I was not alone away from home.

Love and Thanks.....

Joe Willie, Wichita

The Crossroads NA group of Junct. city. and the nameless NA group, Manhattan would like to thank everyone that came and made our 1st annual-Just For Today free campout a success. See you next year same place 2nd weekend in Aug. 1989.

Marte 'D

Why is it that cloudy days blend with my mood at times? That is a question I often ask myself when I catch myself staring out the window on a cloudy day like today.

Well as I stare out now, I can feel sort of an image of what my life seems at times. The grey and out of shape clouds are the way I feel at times.

My life moves around like the clouds do in the wind, with no sure place. Today I'm here and then I'm gone.

Clouds pour rain like my eyes do at times when my life just gets more than I can handle.

Clouds pour rain like my eyes do at times when my life just gets more than it can handle.

That is why I feel company when clouds are around.

Jesus M. Grajales, Ellsworth prison

I'm an addict, I'm Steve

Last year I had the privilege of being invited to an NA raft trip in Utah with 13 other addicts. Two days ago I found out that one of those addicts is dead. He had just gotten off of probation. He was found in his house in Arizona doubled up over the bathroom sink. He had overdosed on his 1st dose of heroin. They think he was looking in the mirror at himself because he knew what was happening. He had a roommate in recovery, a girlfriend he was close to. What happened? Lots of things go through my mind.....

1. He used so I didn't have to.
2. It could have been me.
3. I'm truly "surviving against all odds", as it says on page 10 of the basic text.
4. I better get to a meeting.

Thanks for caring.

Love and hugs,

Steve T. Manhattan



THE FENCE

A wise man in the program once said "If you're not standing on the fence you don't have to worry about balance" The fence he spoke of was and is a very unusual kind of fence, it is the fence between life and death.

On one side of the fence there is a wild and hungry beast called "addiction" and on the other side is a sidewalk called "recovery".

In my experience I came to know this fence quite well. So many times in the past I had tried to balance myself, walking the top edge of the fence, which is extremely narrow.

Trying to balance is like not practicing active addiction, yet not giving our total selves to recovery. By trying to balance, we stand in between the two and it is very dangerous. We must surrender ourselves totally to our recovery and walk steadily on solid ground.

Trying to balance on the fence we leave ourselves open to relapse. The beast of addiction is both cunning and baffling, and will toy with us to try to cause our loss of balance and a fall.

Don't try to balance by walking the fence, jump down on solid ground and totally commit yourself to recovery.

I tried to balance on the fence and I fell. I am grateful to my higher power that I was able to climb back up and then set my feet on solid ground. I now walk the sidewalk and try to help others down from the fence for I can only keep what I have by giving it away.

Stop trying to balance climb down and concentrate on the 12 steps on the sidewalk of recovery.

Today I pray that I may never have to try and balance, I pray that one day at a time I may always stand on solid ground.

I send you all of my love and support, for you are all my family in NA.

With unconditional love

Ken W. KSIR

