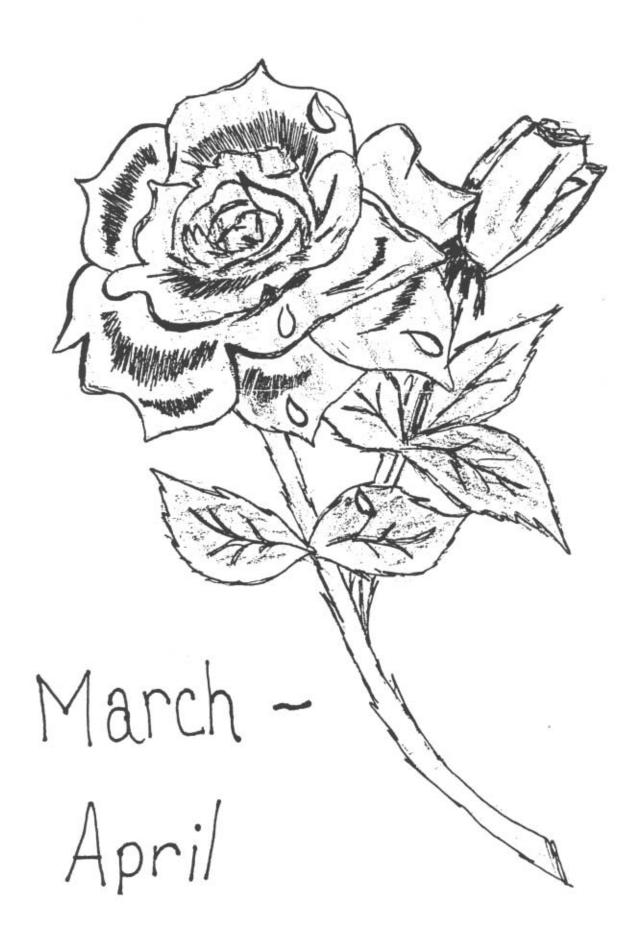
Mid-America



n E W S L E T TER

1990

THE TWELVE STEPS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS.

- We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable.
- We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- 3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
- We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
- We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
- We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
- 7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
- We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
- We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
- We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
- 11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
- 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Reprinted for adaptation by permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Hello Family,

I have been in the midst of my own insanity!

My addiction is telling me to make excuses for the lateness of this issue of the Mid-America Newsletter, but my RECOVERY is telling me to make amends. What a difference there are in the feelings. Today, I prefer recovery and freedom from myself. Please accept my apology and my humanness.

At the last Regional Service Committee meeting in Scott City, Kansas, the RSC approved a motion for the Mid-America Newsletter committee to obtain a typewriter. Thank you Kansas N.A.

Action and work is going on all over Kansas. Things are going to happen this year in Narcotics Anonymous. Make plans to be there. See the Activities listings in this issue.

Next Newsletter Committee meeting;

March 31, 1990 10:00 AM, 202½ Iron St., Salina, Ks.

May 20, 1990 9:00 AM, Coffeyville Reg. Medical Ctr.

2nd & Buckeye Entrance, room 108

May/June issue topic; For The Newcomer/ Freedom To Live

Freedom To Live is the name of the MARC XII July 4th, 1990 campout at Clinton Lake. When your writing your stories and thoughts down for the newsletter, think about the campouts. Past campouts, your favorite one, or maybe your dream campout.

Don't forget; We <u>NEED</u> your input! Are you getting tired of reading these stories and poems over, and over again??!! Write to us, please!!!!!!

Hope to see you in April at the MARC NA VII Convention!!! Flyer is included.

Stay Clean, Keep Sharing, and KEEP THE MIRACLE ALIVE!!!!!!

In Recovery Today,

Laura Mc. MANewsletter Editor

THE DOOR TO SPIRITUALITY

Dwelling within the first step lies the spiritual principal that my recovery is based on. The concept apears frightening, seems unnatural and is the opposite of anything I have ever learned outside of this program.

Powerless is only a word. The meaning behind it can mean everything. By being powerless I can find God. I can have freinds, and all the doors to spiritually full life are offered to me.

The concept of a power greater than myself was gone when I came to N.A. I found my dope, I got the money for the dope, I used the dope, I created a support system to help me use the dope. Dope was my God. I believed I controlled everything, but addition had me. Not until I learned to give my life away, did I recieve it back.

Obiously the first realization I needed to come to was; drugs were killing me and I needed a change. That was a enormous spiritual awaking for me. I didn't like it, it didn't "make" me feel good; but this concept cleared a path for me to God. God to me is not "whatever works;" My trust in my Higher Power is enriched by "everything that works." Simply put the first step allowed me to search for solutions outside of my own answers.

The friendships I have been given in N.A. are based on respect, admiration and love. Many of them are distant—"what was your name:" "where did I meet you;" and "Oh! I remember now." that is the beauty of N.A. We are going a common direction. If you are about recovery, I love you for that. Powerlessness presented me with a need for a Higher Power and God began teaching me how to live through you; My Friends!

That brings me to the doors of spirituality. I am eternally gratefull that N.A. does not define this for us. There are suggestions, no rules. The first suggestion I followed was "ninety meetings in ninety days," and I have been clean since. I learned through this that spiritualality does not always mean it "feels great". I discovered developing a spiritual concept can require work. Action I have to take to reach a goal. Actions like: do not

THE DOOR TO SPIRITUALITY(cont.)

steal, cheat, lie, hurt people, or the biggest one "DO NOT USE DOPE, NO MATTER WHAT!! My lifestyle requires I do something, but not my way. The doors I find are in my family, in my home group, in my friends. All of these are gifts to me. I feel like a child at Christmas --God is good to ME.

When I am able to live a powerless life work the steps with a powerless attitude, and offer myself to friends and the God I understand, that is when the doors of my spirituality are wide open, and my gratitude is rich and full.

In Loving Service,

Mark G.

Gratitude Group

DodgeCity, Ks.

I wish to let me be open, Honest and free-believing and feeling good about me.

> Words of advice seem bitter but nice but hard my heart likes to take it.

Let go and let God is a hard path to trod and it's fearlful, lonely and long....

I'm tired of this life I've created for me but at this point in time, it's all I can see.

So I'm turning it over my wills tired and done... and I'm opening up to whatever's to come.

JOHNNA
Reprint from:
"Together We Can "
Baltimore, Md.
Newsletter

THE MIRACLE CONTINUES

When I came to the program of N.A., I was dazzled and stunned by the people who had a year or more. I could not imagine myself ever staying clean for more than one year. I was told to "keep coming back" and "one day at a time". There were many times I was taking it one minute at a time!

That first year was a roller coaster ride for me. I tied a knot at the end of my rope and hung-on during the rough times. During thesetimes of strong desires and urges to use, my main question to my higher power was " what is my purpose ". This really bothered me for sometime. I was told again " One day at a time ", " in time more will be revealed ", and " keep coming back ".

After, being a speaker at a speaker meeting, Going on a few twelve step calls, and getting involved with N.A., I picked up my one year chip. Iwas told that I was a MIRACLE. I believed I was a MIRACLE, as well as everyone else that was at the meetings with me. It was then revealed to me, that this was my purpose in life. As simple as it was, all I had to do was to stay clean and spread the MIRACLE of recovery to the still suffering addict. This helps to KEEP THE MIRACLE ALIVE in me and help others experience the MIRACLES of recovery.

GRATEFUL TO BE HERE OR ANYWHERE Joe J.

REMEMBER

Whenever you're feeling sad and blue
Remember picking up is not the thing to do.
Whenever you're back is against the wall
Remember to pick up that phone and make
that call.

Whenever you feel like you want a shot Remember how hard it is to stop. Whenever you feel like you can't go on Remember it's just a feeling and it will pass on.

whenever your feeling sad and blue Always remember God Loves You.

> Cidney B. Taken from; Mid-America Newsletter August--September 1986 issue

What does "KEEPING THE MIRACLE ALIVE"
mean? It sounds good, there is alot of
power and force behind it. Websterts...
Dictionary defines Miracle as;" a supernatural event". Upon turning to supernatural It states; "happenings or forces
beyond the natural; divine, miraculous".

When I was eleven I had to have two surgeries with numerous Chemotherapy Treatments because I had been diagnosed with a rare, deadly cancer. I was not expected to live more than six months. I can remember my mother and friends saying "It's a Miracle".

Continuing on with life and a fully alive addiction, I was unable to grasp and really feel the impact of this "MIRACLE".

Today, In recovery, I know what a Miracle is. I can feel the forces in my own life daily. An addict living without mind and mood altering chemicals is a Miracle. I have acceptance today of the reality of the Miracles that have taken place in my life. Acceptance of a power greater than myself that has plans for my life. A power that needs me to be alive and clean, with diseases in remission.

Many days, I take these Miracles for granted, I slip into self-pity and self centeredness and cry about my life and the path way I am on. And I remember the pain and the torture of the chemotherapy, the pain and loneliness of additions. Two painful miserable times in my life of chemicals, one to keep me alive, and one of self-destruction.

KEEPING THE MIRACLE ALIVE!! How simple how strong and powerful. Remembering where I came from, turning to my Higher Power and sharing, from the heart, with another addict. Taking care of my physical, mental emotional and spritualself.

I recall a speaker once talking about the "MAGIC" in the room full of clean addicts, about a thousand of them. And I could feel it. I could feel. I was Alive! And I am the MIRACLE!!! Staying clean todar is: KEEPING THE MIRACLE ALIVE!!!!!!!

Laura Mc Wichita, Ks.

THE WAR OF WARS

I have lived a life of getting high The reason for that I never knew why Wilder and faster, my life flew by No time to love and no time to cry

I had a good time, I thought indeed
I thought drugs were my only need
As the years passed by I became confused
My mind and body, I had abused
My soul and spirit, idle and unused

Drugs and money went by at such a rate but I could not forsee my coming fate My heart was so numb and full of hate I knew for me it must be to late!

From rags to riches and to rags again A terrible cycle that there is no end An uphill climb never reaching the top A fight with myself, that only I can stop

Some would say "for me there is no hope"
But to them I say "With God's help I'll cope"
My drug life is over, I know that's true
But only with God's help, I know that too
The battle inside of me, I have won
But the war ahead of me has just begun.

By: Max J. November 1984 Taken from The Mid- America Newsletter August--September 1986 issue

sometimes faces drift back into my life eyes once clouded from drug induced minds clear to see the pain of a lifetime of dream where fear and anger confusion and greed sabotaged every moment of serenity and hope sometimes desperation becomes so great that like small children we call out into the night surrendering at last to a power greater than ourselves humbly crawling through those first steps that take us from the abyss of our selfish pasts sometimes miracles happen and a few live to share and carry the message that the lie is dead that there is life after drugs forget for a moment and sometimes becomes never again

W.A.S. 1985 taken from "Together We Can" newsletter

Spirtituality is my goal, my ideal. I would like to be a spirit-filled person, there are moments I believe that I am. Those are the times when I have completed all of the footwork, when I have faced the pain and have made friends with it. When I became willing to do that one extra thing.

This is when I experience the peace that passes all understanding.

Spirituality is having the ability to accept something that I don't like and that I don't understand and still know that I am OK!

Knowing everything is going to be okay is spiritual and is a GIFT from my Higher Power.

I believe in Grace. I believe in the 12 steps and I believe that spirituality is a <u>result</u> of working the 12 Steps, and the Grace of a power greater than myself.

It is a feeling of being warm all over and knowing that I am loved by the people in my life for who I am. They love me for me and inspite of myself! They love me the way my Higher Power loves.

I will continue on this Journey, and be glad for my fellow companions.

In love, Pamela B.K. Wichita

AS OUR RECOVERY PROGRESSED

I'm a addict and my name is Dan. I would like to share something with you that made me study a chapter in the Basic Text.

Around a month ago I was at a meeting where we read chapter ten (more will be revealed). After reading this we went around the room sharing. During this time someone said this chapter reminded them of the twelve promise's of another twelve step program. I have read this chapter many times and have never gotten this out of it. So I started to study this chapter to see if I could find what he was talking about. I did find some things that were alot like promise's, but... on page 102 It says, "Narcotics Anonymous offers only one promise and that is the freedom from active addiction, the solution that eluded us for so long. We will be freed from our self-made prisons." So with this in mind, I would like to call the things I have found.... as our recovery progressed.

AS OUR RECOVERY PROGRESSED.....

.... "We became increasingly aware of ourselves and the world around us." [Page 97] "We came to realize that we had no power to change the world, we could only change ourselves." [page 97] We come to understand humility as acceptance of both our assets and our liabilities." [page 97] "We learn to become fexible and to admit when others are right and we are wrong." [page 98] "We come to know ourselves for the first time." [page 98] "By giving unconditional love in the fellowship, we become more loving." [page 99] "By sharing spiritual growth , we become more spiritual." [page 99]
...." By caring, sharing, and praying for others, we spiritual." become a part of them." [page 101] "We become more God-reliant and gain more self respect, we relize that we don't need to feel superior or inferior to anyone." [page 101] "We become able to make wise and loving decisions, based on principles and ideals that have real value in our lives." [page 101] "As we grow spiritually, we become attuned to our feelings and our purpose in life." [page 102 "We become increaingly open-minded and open to new ideas in all areas of our lives." [page 102] "One of the continuing miracles of recovery is becoming a productive responsible member of society." [page 102] "We now have become free to develop a new understanding of life." [page 102

I would like to thank you for letting me share this with you and also I would like to thank the person for giving me the desire to study this chapter. It shows me the importantance of listening at meetings, to hear what other people have to say and to keep an open mind.

RECOVERY ORIENTED SERVICE -VSSERVICE ORIENTED RECOVERY

Upon my arrival in N.A., it was with fear of the unknown. Not really knowing where or how I would fit in, set the course for the shaping of my recovery.

I had managed to get one of the real hard headed sponsors who believed in Just Do It. My first involvement in service was at the group level. Just the important stuff like, making coffee and dumping ash trays. at the time it really made me feel good to give back a little that I was getting.

As my recovery continued to stack another day in the pile, so also did my service committments. Service had eventually ceased to be something that I did with willingness, but another sypmtom of my disease obsession.

My recovery was getting hampered , I confused serivice meetings for recovery meetings, arguing for sharing and arguing forcarrying the message.

I lost complete focus upon my recovery the things that had kept me clean, meetings, fellowship, honest sharing, and working my butt off to get what I got.

It was like using all over again, to be lonely in a crowd, to be apart of, yet apart from. I was becoming an unbearable person to myself, but I used the justification of "In the name of recovery" I was doing good.

My salavation again was N.A. Through the help of a newcomer it was brought to my attention that it was okay to say NO! It is okay to be wrong, make mistakes, and not feel like I have to do it all. WE do.

Today I am back in service, the first question I ask myself before a service meeting is who showed up today-A God Centered, Selfless Individual or A Self Centered Godless Individual.

RECOVERY ORIENTED SERVICE -VSSERVICE ORIENTED RECOVERY (cont.)

Somedays I do better than others, but I try to do the best I can. But for today my proirities are in line and I pray that my recovery always stay first.

> Tony N. Wichita, Ks.

MY SPONSOR

In the start I never knew
Just how much I needed you
More than a sponsor, some one
 I could talk to
You've changed my life in so
 many ways.

All my secrets I told to you.
There were many times I didn't know what to do,
You put your arms around me and helped me through.
My family knows me, but not like you do.

Sometimes I slipped and fell All my faults you know well, But you never turned me away. You stood right by me even today.

There many nights I was afraid.
I stood on the promises that
I've made.
You have really helped me along
the way,
To reach a much brighter day!

Written for Dan By Kenneth Lee (11-22-89) I Love You!!!

REMEMBER TO PRE-REGISTER
KEEPING THE MIRACLE ALIVE
WHEN: APRIL6,7,8,1990
WHERE: HOLIDAY INN
ADDRESS: MARCNA VII
P.O. BOX 374
GREAT BEND, KS.
67530

ACTIVITIES

March 10th-- Conference agenda report workshop, 325 1/2 Commercial St. Emporia Ks. 10:00 a.m.-???

March 11th-- Convention Committee meeting, Holiday Inn, 3017 10th St. Great Bend, Ks. 2:00p.m.-???

March 17th-- St. Patties "Just For Fun Dance" 325½ Commercial St. Emporia Ks. 9:00p.m.-1:00a.m. \$2.00 person/\$3.00 couple FUNDRAISER FOR CAMPOUTS IN JUNE AND JULY.

St. Patricks Day Dance, Riverside Park Shelter House, Independence, Ks. 7:00-11:30p.m. \$2.00 person.

Public Information Workshop Derby, Ks. More information call (316) 832-9441

Wichita Metro Area Dance, 530 E. Harry Wichita, Ks. 7:30p.m.-??? 2.50 person

St. Patricks Day Dance Arkansas City, KS.

March 24th-- Lotta Soul Group 1 yr. anniversary and dance, Lawrence, Ks. 4-H Fairgrounds "Live Band" 6:00-11:30p.m. \$5.00 person

12 Concepts Workshop, Chili Feed & Dance, KTI Cafeteria Salina, Ks, "Live Band" 1:00 p.m.-??? Food Free/Dance \$5.00

Fellowship For Freedom Area Dance, 1248 Buchanan, TOpeka, KS. 7:00p.m.-???

March 23-25th Fifth Annual Lone Star Regional Convention Gavelston Island, Tx. Moody Civic Center contacts:

LSRSO-(405) 273-0159 LSRSO,Inc. 10727 Plano Road, Suite 200 Dallas Tx. 75238

March 30- Ok Recovery -OkRNCA IV
April 1st Holiday Hotel Shawnee, Okla.
Address:

OKRNCA 1820 Southcrest Norman, Okla. 73017

ACTIVITIES (cont.)

March 31st-- Newsletter Committee Workshop, Salina, Ks. Contact Laura Mc. (316) 942-0548 We need your support!!!!

April 6-8th
KEEPING THE MIRACLE ALIVE, MARCNA VII
Holiday Inn Great Bend, Ks,
contacts: Pam B. (316) 793-9072
Ross F. (316)564-2545
Sue B. (316)793-6588

Adress: MARCNA VII P.O.Box 374

Great Bend, Ks. 67530

April 14th- Easter Eve Spring Fling Dance 1248 Buchanan Topeka, Ks. 7:00p.m.-12:30a.m. \$3.00 person/\$5.00 couple Fundraiser for campouts in June and July!!

April 21st. Wichita Metro Area Dance 530 E. Harry Wichita, Ks. 7:30p.m.-??? 2.50 person

April 27-29th- CRC II LIVE FOR TODAY, Sherton International, Rosemont, Il.
Address: CRC II
C/O CSO
212S. Marion, #27
Oak Park, Il. 60302

April 28th. Bash in the Backwoods 428 S. Woodlawn, Woodlawn United Methodist Church, barb-b-que/dance/auction/volleyball pie auction/junky dunk/COMMERATIVE EDITION BASIC TEXT RAFFLE find out how to get your raffle ticket now. 2:00p.m.-????

Today's Choice Group, 2nd Anniversary VFW hall 1419 Swift Ave. 5:00p.m.-1:00a.m. \$4.00dance/\$7.00 Dance & all taco's eatable

May 19-20th MARSCNA QUARTERLY BUSSINESS MEETING, Bestwestern Fountain Plaza Inn, 104 W.11th St. Independence, Ks. contacts: Steve F. (316) 251-9258
Ruth M. (316)325-2709
Craig C. (316) 3311053

May 25-27th. Welcome Home OCNA VIII, Seagate Convention Center Address: OCNA VIII
P.O.Box1046
Toledo, Ohio 43697

ACTIVITIES (cont.)

June 8-10th A HarborIn the Storm Of Reality UMRCNA VII

College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minn.

Address: UMRCNA VII

P.O.Box 5393

Fargo, N.D. 58105

June 1-3rd Clean and Serene with the Stars Campout #2

Fellowship For Freedom Area Lake Shawnee, Topeka, Ks.

Contacts: Glenn S. (913)4842849 Joe J. (913)271-1428

June 15-17th. Show-Me-Regional Convention V Holiday Inn Executive Cnt.

Address: SMRCNA V

P.O. Box 373

Columbia, Mo. 65205-0373

July 5-8th FREEDOM TO LIVE CAMPOUT MARC XII

Clinton Lake, Ks. Host; Fellowship For Freedom Area

Spritual Dreams Awaken MRCNA VI Valley PLaza Inn

Midland, Mi.

Address: MRCNA VI

P.O. Box 597

Bay City, Mi. 48707

August 10-12th 3rd Annual Just For Today Free Campout, Thunderbird Marina

Milford Lake, Ks. contacts: Marte' D. (913)762-3596

Marcella H. (913)776-4864

August 31st-

September 3rd Derby N.A. 3rd Annual Labor Day Campout, Lake Afton, Ks.

Contact: Curtis B. (316) 686-9167





MARCNA VII

April 6-8, 1990

Fellowship Workshops Speakers

Dance Pool Party

Registration		X \$15.00	
after March 26,1990		X \$17.00	
*Saturday Banquet		X \$15.00	- 3
*Sunday Brunch		X \$8.00	
		TOTAL	
*Preregistration only	,		
Name			
Address			

Holiday Inn 3017 10th St. Great Bend, KS 67530 316-792-2431

\$45.00 a night per room

other accommodations available

Send check or money order to: MARCNA VII P.O. Box 374 Great Bend, KS 67530

Pam B. Ross F. Sue B. 316-793-9072 316-564-2545 316-793-6588

MARSCNA

Quarterly Business & Committee Meetings May 19-20,1990 Coffeyville, Kansas

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday May 18, 1990

Candlelight Meeting - 10:00 pm

New Dimensions Group 7th & Elm (St. Pauls Episcopal Church)

Saturday May 19, 1990

Regional Meeting Events

Committee Meetings - 9:00 am

Lunch Break ----- 1:00 pm

RSC Meeting ----- 2:30 pm

Speaker Meeting ---- 8:00 pm (or completion of RSC)

Dance, Raffle etc. - 9:00 pm

(All Events on Saturday to be held at Best Western, Fountain

Plaza Inn, 104 West 11th Street)

Sunday May 20, 1990

NA Newspaper Meeting (9:00 am, Coffeyville Regional Medical

Center, 2nd & Buckeye Entrance Room 108)

Contacts

Steve F. (316) 251-9258

Ruth M. (316) 325-2709

Craig C. (316) 331-1053

John M. (316) 251-5126

Mileage chart and Accommodations list on the reverse side.

Hosted by the Southeast Traditions Area

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS.

- Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity.
- 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.
- The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.
- Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole.
- Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.
- An N.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the N.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
- Every N.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
- Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
- N.A., as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
- Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
- Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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RENEWAL	NEW SUBSCRIBER
Send a \$ check or money order Mid-America Newsletter P.O. I	r made out to Mid-America Region to: Box 8732 Wichita, KS 67203-8732
Please make copies of this for etc. and give everyone a chance the mail.	rm and take to meetings, special events, ce to attend Mid-America's meeting through
COPY	RIGHT RELEASE FORM
Ι,	_, give the Mid-America Regional Newsletter

What we print:

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

What we don't print:

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