



# MID AMERICA NEWSLETTER



Issue # 5

623 N. Richmond, Wichita, Kansas 67203-5008

September 1998

## Letter From the Editor

This issue marks one full year that the MAN has been back in the US Mail and I for one am feeling pretty good about it. I'd feel a lot better if you guys would start sending me some material to print. In particular, I'm looking for service questions to stump Gus, and items for the Soapbox column. This has got to be the *first* time that I've *ever* seen clean addicts pass up a chance to freely speak their minds. How about it fellowship? No questions, no gripes?

I am currently investigating the creation of a web-site for t\_MAN. That way, anyone on line in the world could print out his or her own personal copy of the newsletter. If any of you members out there can help out with this, I would appreciate it. Anything that helps the MAN reach more addicts would give me a hell of a rise when I dot my i's.

Not much more to talk about other than we are considering sending this publication to other newsletters on the list with the WSO. The MAN would probably receive copies of other newsletters in a reciprocated effort. Something happens inside this addict when I read that an addict halfway across the planet is going through the same thing that I am. The therapeutic value of one addict helping another crosses all international borders, languages, and cultures, and I would love to be a part of that.

-Editor

| Department                      | Page Numbers |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Amusements.....                 | 7            |
| Around the Region.....          | 3            |
| For Your Information.....       | 1            |
| From the Editor.....            | 1            |
| One Addict Helping Another..... | 5,6          |
| Regional News.....              | 2            |
| What's Happening?.....          | 8            |
| World Update.....               | 4            |

## F. Y. I.

Hot fun in the summertime! Check out **What's Happening?** on page 8 for details of activities this quarter. Not only that, but the **World Convention** of NA takes place in San Jose this month! I hear E.C. will be makin' his guitar wail for us. Life is *definitely* good! The convention committee asked me to let you all know that **MARCNA XVI** flyers will be distributed by committee this year so make sure and stay on top of your RCM 'cause there won't be any individual mail-outs! Melpee says to use the code "M.A.R.C." when making reservations. **H&I** have come up with "10 Best Reasons to Get Into H&I." You can view them in **One Addict Helping Another...** It appears once again that we have some financial difficulties. Check that out in **Regional News** on page two, along with many new elected trusted servants in **Sub-committee** reports. According to the PI sub-committee, **Don M.** will be the **webmaster** for a MARCSNA Homepage on the Internet! It appears that the Mid-America Region will make the transition into the new millennia with the Boy Scout motto in mind. Even the editor's gettin' into the act. He wants a web-site for the **MAN**! As if I didn't have *enough* to do already! He didn't get a submissions for the **Soapbox**, so guess who's gonna write it this issue? You guessed it, yours truly. Why do I always have to be the bad guy? I always have to do the dirty work! Whine, whine, whine...snivel, snivel... *W'haaaaaaaa!*

## Article II

The primary purpose of MARCSNA is to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers and to further the unity of the fellowship within our region and other regions by maintaining communication between the areas represented and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, in accordance with our Twelve Traditions.

# Regional News

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## The Flys Have It!

In all seriousness, the flys were not near as bad as they were last year. Not to say that they still didn't outnumber the committee, but they weren't as bad. The meeting went rather well with things wrapping up early in the afternoon. In November I foresee a longer meeting as we have the new optimal budget to discuss.

We began in old business with discussion of our claims in small claims court. We have secured a judgment in Maria's case and will begin receiving payments for that soon. The case with Doris B. is still at a standstill.

The cost of insurance has skyrocketed and most of the bids that were secured were well over a thousand dollars. The lowest one we could find came to \$1086.50. We've lost the deal of the century and voted to secure it at this price with vigilance over the next year for a better deal.

It appears that MARSCNA will be putting on a GSR Assembly. As to where and when, well, more will be revealed on that. This is an extremely important and informative project that will be a benefit to *all* of our members. We'd all like to know a little more about the duties and responsibilities of our group representatives.

Yours truly was the winner of the MARSCNA logo contest. There are some finalizations to be done to the design, but the basic artwork and logistics have been accepted. I'd love to toot my own horn on this one, but I think I'll refrain from describing it. You'll just have to wait and see. The MAN will put a copy of it in the next issue.

New business began with some discussion of how we have managed to spend thousands of dollars over what we've budgeted. The rent on the 4-H building has increased, higher insurance, and the Zonal Forums are just some of the increased expenditures. The fellowship as a whole needs to buckle down and start donating more funds to the region.

On a lighter note, we raised over \$200.00 for the world by liquidating T-shirts and cups given to us from the Oklahoma Region. Some of these items may still be available. Contact Clay W. for more information on these products.

There were four new elections this quarter with Kirk B. assuming the role of Secretary for the region next meeting. A huge thanks goes out to the "Duckman" for fulfilling his obligation to this position. He will be missed. Quack! More on the other positions in sub-committee reports.

A proposal from the Literature sub-committee and a newsletter exchange list for the MAN were both tabled until the next RSC. The meeting was closed in the afternoon with much for the fellowship to consider over the next quarter.

## Sub-committee Reports

**Activities:** The MAN welcomes Wally A. in as the new co-chair for this committee that is gearing up for Soul To Soul on September 11th-13th. Lots of enthusiasm and love coming through for this activity and World Unity Day on September 6th, here at the 4-H building at 5:00 p.m.

**Campout:** Cindy L. is the new Chair for this committee that is planning the next campout at Wilson lake at Lucas Park on July 2nd-5th. They have around two grand to turn in and will meet again in McPherson on September 12th, at 3:00 p.m. Thanks and welcome Cindy.

**Convention:** They now have a theme: "One World-One Message," and have decided on the artwork. A tag design is in the works and they will meet again on September 20th, at 2:00 p.m. at the G.O.L. group in Hutchinson.

**H&I:** They currently have 28 meetings going and have the Top 10 Reasons for doing H&I work. They need more, so don't forget to take that back to your group and bring it to the workshop at the Dodge City Roundup. (For more H&I activities, see What's Happening on page 8.)

**Literature:** This committee is discussing fundraisers and T-shirts both for literature and the newsletter. They are also looking for a budget increase in 1999.

**Newsletter:** The editor whined even *more* about submissions and is currently investigating a way of transmitting the newsletter on the World Wide Web.

**Outreach:** They are in the process of updating our meeting list with the WSO, so stay on your RCM for updating your group for the list. They will be meeting here again before Unity Day to discuss a workshop.

**P.I.:** Shelly W. is now officially the Chair, with Don M. assuming the new role of Webmaster for the MARSCNA Homepage on the net. Thanks go out to Dano for all of his service on the meeting lists.

**P.O. Box:** Betty P. has fulfilled her commitment with this committee and John S. will step up to fill the Chair. Thanks again to Betty P.

**Steering:** More reviewing of the guidelines and the upcoming GSR Assembly dominated the discussion in this committee. A tentative interim meeting is scheduled for October 4th, at 501 N. Ash in McPherson, at 1:00 p.m.

The regional service committee is a resource pool, gathering service information and experience to guide and strengthen the areas it serves. To do this, each regional committee organizes itself and performs its duties differently, according to the needs of its member-areas.

-A Guide To Local Services in NA, page 100

# Around the Region

## Central Kansas

Central is glad to be back and going strong. They have a new meeting on Fridays at noon called Larned-Just For Today that meets at Larned State Hospital in the Peach Room. There is also a new women's meeting in Great Bend at 7:00 p.m. (no kids). Lots of newcomers and \$50.00 to the region!

## Fellowship for Freedom

Still struggling with change, but showing some growth. Lots of activity support with both that Chair and the Chair for their Convention committee filled. P.I. is undergoing a learning curve, but hopes to be on top of it soon. Check out What's Happening for FFF functions.

## Just For Today

JFT reports steady growth and a new Activities Chair. Pioneer group is suffering from a lack of involvement but still managed to get out a lot of flyers for the flyer drive. A campout is in the works for Pomona Lake on September 25th-27th, more on that as it develops.

## Miracle

This area seems to be going through a lull in attendance at its groups due to possible the weather, attitudes, or maybe just a phase. In any event, service involvement is still steady, though they are still in need of an Activities Chair.

## Unity

There were many changes in the Unity area over the last quarter. Among them a new Outreach sub-committee. Lots of trusted servant positions filled with new blood area-wide. Though Light of Hope in Hutch has folded, they've gained two groups back; Crossroads and Omega, both in Junction City. H&I and PI continue to be a strong force of recovery in this area. They made a contributed \$150.00 to the region.

## Western

This area is doing well. They are gearing up for the Dodge City Roundup and updating their PSA tapes for radio broadcast. There was good involvement on the flyer drive and an upcoming contest for the Roundup T-shirts. Looks like maybe we should think about getting the hell into Dodge for a wonderful time in recovery! The MAN hopes to see you there!

## Wichita Metro

WMASC filled many positions this quarter. Samuel L. is the new RCM, and Pat B. is the new Chair. Margaret B. was elected to fill the PI vacancy, leaving the area with just Alt-RCM and Co-chair left to fill. An area dance is slated for the 29th of August (hope this issue reaches you in time). The area declares a strong newsletter; the WMASC Messenger, and acknowledges correspondence with its neighboring area, Unity.

## Starting a new NA group—a checklist

WSO GROUP SERVICES BULLETIN

So, you're starting a new group. Most of what you need to know about NA groups and Narcotics Anonymous meetings can be found in the chapter entitled "The NA Group" immediately preceding this checklist. We suggest that you and your fellow group members read through that chapter together so that you're all thoroughly familiar with the issues other NA groups have faced in trying to carry the message. This bulletin is a checklist of the things most groups feel are important to line up before opening their first meeting.

— Get in touch with the nearest service committee. An area committee meeting is the ideal place for announcing your intention to start a new group. There, you can gather experience from representatives of other groups in the area, and learn of the services available to your group when you need them.

— Obtain a meeting place. "The NA Group" chapter of this guide already discusses many of the things to be considered about obtaining meeting space. Here are some of the things to be nailed down when opening a new meeting:

\* Where? \_\_\_\_\_

\* When? Day, time, and duration of the meeting. \_\_\_\_\_

\* How much? What is the facility charging for rent? \_\_\_\_\_

Is that realistic, keeping in mind the number of people you can expect to attend the meeting? \_\_\_\_\_  
When is the rent due? \_\_\_\_\_

\* What does the facility require? No smoking? Absolutely no litter? Sweep, mop after the meeting? Close windows, lock doors? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Can your group's mail be sent to the facility address? Will they set up a box where you can pick up newsletters and announcements mailed to your group? \_\_\_\_\_

— Name your group. A few things you may want to consider are: Is the name recovery oriented? Does the name create the impression that the group is affiliated with the facility in which it holds its meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

— What group trusted servants are needed? What does the group expect those people to do? The chapter on "The NA Group" gives descriptions of a number of group officers. Make sure all group members agree on what they want their officers to do.

— What kind of meeting format will you use? "The NA Group" chapter describes a number of format variations commonly used in our fellowship. Which format—or combination of formats—does your group want to use? \_\_\_\_\_

— Will this be a "closed" NA meeting? Or an "open" meeting? For explanation of these two different types of meetings, see the chapter on "The NA Group." \_\_\_\_\_

— What kinds of NA literature does your group want to stock? \_\_\_\_\_

— What kinds of refreshments should be purchased? \_\_\_\_\_

— Have you registered your group with the World Service Office? The secretary of your area service committee? Enclosed, you'll find a WSO group registration form. By filling it out and mailing it in, you'll ensure that your group is kept in touch with NA as a whole. You'll also be mailed *The NA Way Magazine*.

Also available from WSO:  
Group Treasurers Workbook  
NA Literature Sample Kit  
Local service contact information

For more information, write or call:  
Group Services  
World Service Office  
PO Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA  
Telephone (818) 773-9999  
Fax (818) 790-0700



# World Update

## Carl K.'s First Report as RD

The focus of the regional delegate report for this region seemed to be on Resolution A, the zonal workshop in Texas, and the world service pool. The MAN was provided with a copy of this report, complete with addendum's C through F.

In a sentence, Resolution A is a proposed change in participation at the WSC, providing for equal representation worldwide and supporting more consensus based decisions, while reducing the actual amount of representatives. This is an intensive alteration in our service structure and deserves much consideration on the part of our fellowship. Most of those who have discussed this proposal are unsure of which model to adopt. As usual, much discourse will be necessary before all involved can reach an agreement on this issue.

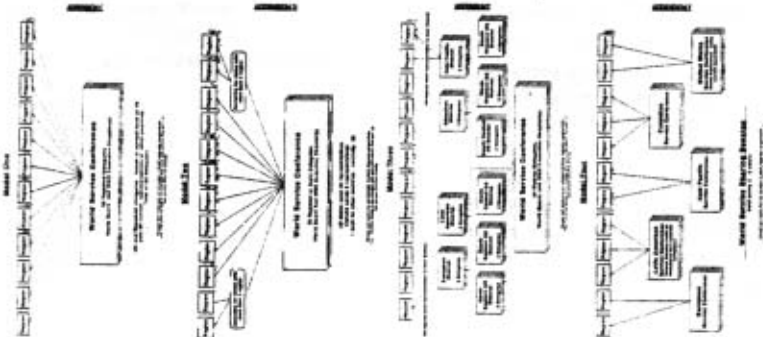
It is imperative for you to voice your views on this matter and the best way for you to do so would be to attend the Zonal Workshop in Texas (see events outside of the region in opposite column). All interested addicts in this region are encouraged to attend and learn more about Resolution A and its subsequent effects on our fellowship.

Just a reminder: If you would like your name entered into the world service pool, please fill out an NA resume (you'll find them in both the '97' and '98' conference agenda reports). MARSCNA nominated Jim M., Tony K., and Tim S. last RSC and they all three need to submit their resumes and nominations for the positions that they are interested in.

Carl wrapped up the report with a reminder about the World Convention and updating us that the step working guides will be available to buy sometime in September.

## Alternate RD Report

Betty P. indicated in her first report to the Mid-America Region that she was currently in the process of learning the responsibilities of her new position and that she hopes by the next RSC that she will have more to report. The MAN offers any support it can offer to Betty P. during the coming months. Thanks to both Carl K. and Betty P. for their time.



## Conventions and Functions Outside of the Mid-America Region

**WCNA XXVII**; San Jose, CA, September 3rd-6th  
**World Unity Day**; San Jose, CA, September 5th  
**MR/PI LEARNING DAY**; Galesville, WI, Sept. 26th  
**BLRCNA XI**; Abilene, TX, October 2nd-4th  
**HRCNA VII**; Kailua, Hawaii, October 29th-Nov. 1st  
**NENJAC OF NA IV**; Newark, NJ, November 6th-8th  
**WESTERN SERVICE LEARNING DAYS**; Vancouver, British Columbia Canada, November 13th-15th  
**CRCRCA-IV**; San Jose, Costa Rica, November 13th-15th  
**13th ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT**; Camp Walahillee, OK, November 13th-15th  
**SCRCNA XIX**; Ontario, Canada, November 20th-22nd  
**VRC XVI**; Memphis, TN, November 25th-29th  
**MDRC I**; Detroit, MI, November 26th-29th  
**SERENITY IN THE SUN XVII**; West Palm Beach, FL, November 26th-29th  
**AVCNA XVII**; Richmond, VA, January 8th-10th, 1999  
**CRCNA XIV**; Marlborough, CT, January 8th-10th, 1999  
**NUACNA VI**; Ogden, Utah, February 26th-28th, 1999  
**DACNA VII**; Detroit, MI, April 1st-4th, 1999

**For information on locations, times, cost, pre-registration, or contact numbers, contact the MAN with an SSAE and we will be happy to forward all the information we have available on these, or any other NA functions.**

## Top 10 Reasons for doing H&I Work

1. To help me to stay clean.
2. It plants a seed for the future.
3. It is gratitude in action.
4. It is our primary purpose.
5. It is a reminder of my sanity.
6. It might make a difference.
7. It helps me to help someone else.
8. It lets the suffering addict know there is a different way of life.
9. An addict might be more open to the program while in jail or treatment.
10. An H&I meeting might be the only place that some addicts can get a meeting.

**My gratitude speaks...When I care and when I share with others the NA way.**

# One Addict Helping Another

## One Addict's Journey (The journals of "M".)

**October 12, 1995: (Morning)**

So begins another stinking day. I miss my home, my family, and my coffee! I didn't sleep with any comfort. Not only that, but I dropped my breakfast! I hope this is not an omen of how the rest of the day is going to go. The way my body felt upon awakening, I hope that I can get through four more days of this cot. I finished my book and tried to take a piss, but couldn't around so many people. I've never seen the jail this crowded. I wish they'd transfer me to a small cell. I can't stand being locked down with all these guys.

They moved me to pod one about an hour ago. It's private and I've got my own toilet, but the bed's no better. It's hard as a rock! I wonder if the lights go off here? At least I've got some privacy, and some warmth. The last guy that was in here was a real slop. The cell is filthy. The sink is so dirty that I'm afraid to use it.

**(Afternoon)**

Some of the guys in here are real idiots. Everyone in this block is long-term sentenced, so I wonder why they put me here. I get a headache every day about this time. (No coffee)

**(Evening)**

It's midnight and they've moved me yet again. This time to the old Pea Farm. They have real mattresses on the beds and the atmosphere is a hell of a lot more relaxed. Lots of books are in the dayroom. I picked out a "Big Book" and took it back to my bunk. I also managed to trade some smokes for some coffee. Maybe the next three days won't be a trip through hell after all. Thank you HP. I hope he doesn't mind the lies that I've been telling the guys in here. I hope I can keep the truth straight in my *own* mind.

**October 13, 1995:**

Today was ten times better! I prayed before bed last night and it was a good thing. I got offered some smack when I got up this morning. I wanted it, but I was afraid of getting caught. They took that guy away just before lunch. Again, thank you God. A bunch of the inmates are kissin' up to me because I've got Marlboros (they're like gold in here). I got to go to a meeting in another part of the building tonight and believe it or not, there are actually some folks in here that are trying to stay clean! What is heartening (and more than a little ironic), is that one of those inmates is my new roommate.

It makes me feel as if God is listening directly to me and deepens and enriches my First Step. I may be locked up, but I'm living now instead of dying.

## Ask Grateful Gus!

This issue's question comes from Kelly M., in Wichita, Kansas and she writes:

"Can I hold more than one position at a time in the group?"

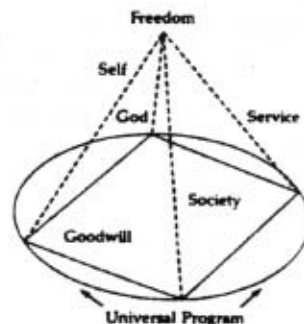
This is a good question and has been a source of much disunity in many groups. Generally speaking, most groups subscribe to the theory that many people doing a little is preferable to a few people doing everything. However, this particular question, by its very nature, lends itself to controversy. Let's look at the literature.

The Guide to Local Services in NA, on page 34 states, "By dividing the work, the group ensures that the group as a whole is self-supporting and that the group's burdens don't settle unevenly on the shoulders of just one or two individuals." This would seem to imply that it is not advisable to hold more than one position.

There are many groups, however, that do not have enough warm bodies who are willing to fulfill the responsibilities of the work. This is where the 3rd Concept of NA Service comes in; "The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it." This, in conjunction with our 4th Tradition, provides for an individual to hold more than one office for the purpose of taking care of business.

I believe that it would be unethical for a GSR to hold another office at the same time as a GSR is only representative, and does not carry a vote accept at the ASC. The bottom line though, is still in the vote of the member. The group has an enormous amount of freedom so long as it doesn't affect other groups or NA as a whole.

-G.G.



# One Addict Helping Another

## INPUT

I have been a member of our fellowship for over 11 years. The things that are bothering me about our fellowship do not matter. All I can do is keep doing the things that I did in the early days of my recovery; keep putting one foot in front of the other, keep suiting up and showing up and stay involved with this wonderful process. I know a lot of people who think that they have it all figured out. For them I say, "When you're green, you're growing. When you're ripe, you begin to rot."

This is not about complaining about the fellowship. Who gave us the right to judge? It is about being involved in our sponsee's lives. It is about carrying the message 24/7/365. It is about effectively carrying the hope we have to our communities, cities, and worldwide.

I would love to claim that our fellowship is growing up, but "in my opinion," we are still young and still filled with the fascination of youth. We are still learning what is okay and what is not. This is a really positive thing. If we are not as a whole, humble, then our members will perish. Just as my child sees more of me than I wish she could, so do our newest members see more of our craziness than a lot of people are willing to admit to.

This may sound really sick, or maybe deranged, or maybe like just another addict sharing his experience. I hope to keep the lie dead another day and just maybe help someone else to do the same.

"Locking and loading against the disease," and "sticking and staying." Sincerely,

Nicholas M., -Newton, Kansas

*Desire is not a measurable commodity. It lives in the heart of each individual member. Because we can't judge the sole requirement for membership, we are encouraged to open wide the doors of our meetings to any addict who wishes to join. We are asked to extend to others the care and concern that helped each of us find a sense of belonging. The Third Tradition helps NA grow by encouraging us to welcome others.*

*Membership is a personal decision reached by each individual. We can do a lot to allow addicts the freedom to make that decision and reaffirm their commitment to recovery. We can help them feel comfortable in our groups by greeting them at the door, sharing with other addicts before or after the meeting, and exchanging telephone numbers. We try to make sure that any addict who attends our meeting is not turned away. To the extent that it's possible, we choose the most accessible location for our meetings. We may choose a format that reflects an invitational tone. Most of all, we encourage every addict to keep coming back.*

-It Works How and Why, pages 144-145

## Time Travel (A Testimonial)

The area of this story is 3,000 square miles of no roads, houses, stores, and almost no people. What trails and campsites there are were created and maintained by people like my Dad and I. You can spend 2 weeks on the water and see only 1 or 2 other people. If you're hurt on the trail, it can be weeks before you are found or help arrives. We've been canoeing this area for the last 30 years and have a total of over 1,000 days on the water.

On day one we got wind bound. By 9:00 a.m. it was calm and we made good time. At 11:00 a.m., strong waves and 3 foot waves over the bow made the canoe wallow like a pig in his sty. So we put to shore to wait it out, or spend the night, if we had to. We were lucky to find a campsite where we landed. Usually, we'd have to make our own. After unloading our gear, Dad took off down the shoreline while I stayed behind to read, fish, and wait.

An hour or so later I opened some cigarettes and took the trash over to the fire pit to get rid of it. This is when things got crazy. I found stashed in the fireplace under a rock a bag of weed and three packs of papers. Time travel. I was transported back in time past the 30 months clean-time, past the 9 months of trying to get clean and failing miserably, past the last 6 years of using and living in pure hell, to a time when using was fun and exciting. How long was I back there? I don't know. I may have been only a second, or it could have been minutes. I looked at the weed. I smelled it. I felt it and judged it with all that 20 years of using had taught me. It was high dollar and extremely potent. Trust me, I know.

My first instinct was to "roll another one, just like the other one." Sanity was slow to return. I could see Dad on the other side of the bay, he was over an hour and a half away. I had no sponsor or friends to turn to. It was just my HP and I. Again, how long did it last? I don't know. Slowly, sanity *did* return. The results of the decision I was about to make sank into my thinking. As time passed, I was able to see that I *did* have a choice. I could use and return to addiction and misery, or I could refrain and continue with a life that has become enjoyable and worth living.

I chose the latter. The power of the Fellowship is not to be denied. Thoughts of you people, those that I know personally and those that I never will, crept in. I like you and what you represent. I want to have what you have. My HP gave me the time to reflect on the truths of the Program and the Program (YOU) have given me the strength to act in a way that isn't according to my true nature; using. This wasn't easy, nor did it come naturally. I really *did* want to use. I didn't because the Program, along with HP, has given me a "suit of titanium armor" to withstand this test.

I threw the dope in the woods and burned the papers. Maybe I was setting myself up to smoke it later, or maybe I was afraid of catch a buzz off of the fire, but that's what I did. The bottom line is that HP gave me the strength to continue along the path of recovery, that's what matters. For this I am truly grateful.

This "test" destroyed any illusions that I might have had about being an addict. I have no doubt in my heart and mind that I am an addict, and if I don't apply the program to my life, I will use again. I can no longer fool myself into thinking I'm "normal." I am an addict named Kirk, and I'm clean today by the grace of HP and Narcotics Anonymous. Thank you.

-Kirk B., Baldwin Kansas



# Letter

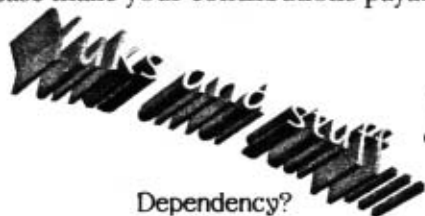
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I, \_\_\_\_\_, give the Mid-America Newsletter (MAN), permission to print any input submitted with this form. I also agree to allow editing of said input that will not change the content.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please photocopy and distribute this publication freely. Feel free to submit material, comment, or suggestions. Submissions that we are in particular need of are: service questions, opinions, original artwork, cartoons, poems, and stories of experience, strength and hope living the NA program. If you wish to aid the MAN in its fulfillment of the Seventh Tradition, please make your contributions payable to MARSCNA, and send them, along with your submission to:

Mid-America Newsletter  
623 N. Richmond  
Wichita, Kansas 67203-5008  
e-mail: wolffy@southwind.net



Dependency?

Q: What is the difference between an addict and a co-dependent?

A: An addict *knows* he or she is lying!

Q: When is a co-dependent's clean date?

A: The day they started to practice honesty.

Then there was the Nar-anon who wouldn't do a Fourth Step because he/she didn't want their sponsor to be hurt and think differently about them.

Overheard after a CODA meeting: "If he'd only quit using, *My life* would get better."

CODA Bumper sticker: GUILT IS NOT AN OPTION!  
Unless you deserve it!

Justification? Technically, the Nile *is* a river in Africa.

Seriously, the MAN wishes to express that "dependency issues" are valid and according to the principle alignment of Narcotics Anonymous, are nothing more than a manifestation of addiction. NA being a universal program, these individuals qualify for our support and the therapeutic value of one addict helping another. I know that when I was a practicing addict, there were many times that I would have been dead were it not for a "co-dependant." Yes, my creator is responsible for keeping me alive to find NA, but it has also been proven to me that my HP works through people. I have to ask myself, "Are co-dependants *really* so different than I?" What of the story in the little White Book, "The Fat ct?" I say similarities, not differences!



Each month, the MAN will publish a statement or letter of opinion from a member of Narcotics Anonymous. These submissions do not reflect the opinion or view of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, nor does the World Service Office of NA sanction them. They are strictly the views of the person who wrote them. -Editor

## What Exactly *Is* Self Support?

First of all, don't misunderstand me. I am in no way trying to dissuade any members, groups, or areas from supporting the WSO. I welcome that. I'm also sure that the WSO knows what it's doing through its restructuring of the fund flow procedure. This letter is to make addicts aware of some facts that have come to light as a result.

I personally know of two groups in my area that send contributions to their area and to the WSO every month. I also know of another group in a neighboring area that follows the same procedure. Both of these areas make quarterly donations to the Mid-America Region. Also, all three of these groups order approximately \$600.00 to \$1,000.00 worth of literature a month collectively. You don't have to be a mathematician to see that the region is being cut out of the financial loop, since the area contributions to it have not increased, nor have the group donations to the areas increased to allow that to take place.

My question is this: If your group can afford to send an area and world contribution, as well as purchase a vast literature stockpile, then why isn't a contribution of any amount being sent to the region? NA is not about money, but regional service is not free or magically manifested! It seems that folks are all for having a convention, a newsletter, workshops, and the like, but can't seem to take any of their precious financial reserves to fund such services.

It seems to me that self-support begins at home. If a member doesn't have a dollar for the basket, he or she is still welcome, but invited to help clean up. If your group cannot donate to the region, I would hope that you could at least participate in the work that needs to be done for these services to be provided.

Samuel L., Wichita, Kansas

# What's Happening?

## Central Kansas

The MAN has no information on functions in this area at this time.

### Fellowship for Freedom

- September 18th-20th** LAKE HAMMOND CAMPOUT  
Speakers all three days. Dinner and dance on Saturday night. Bonfires Friday and Saturday.  
Registration \$10.00 Contact number for information: 354-4834
- September 29th** FELLOWSHIP FOR FREEDOM AREA DANCE  
Contact area for more information.
- October 31st** FELLOWSHIP FOR FREEDOM AREA DANCE  
Contact area for more information.
- December 31st** FELLOWSHIP FOR FREEDOM AREA DANCE  
Contact area for more information.
- February 12th-14th 1999** FELLOWSHIP FOR FREEDOM AREA CONVENTION  
Contact area for more information.

### Just for Today

- September 25th-27th** OTTAWA GROUP CAMPOUT  
Pomona Lake

### MARSCNA

- September 5th** WORLD UNITY DAY  
4-H Building, McPherson, Kansas  
Phone link-up, doors open at 6:00 p.m., speaker at 7:00 p.m.
- September 11th-13th** SOUL TO SOUL-THE SPIRITUAL PATH  
Camp Chippewa, Asbury Lodge  
\$40.00 per person (includes meals and lodging). Contact Betty P. at (316)-264-0801  
or Dave Rose at (785)-354-4838
- November 21st-22nd** MID-AMERICA REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
4-H Building, McPherson, Kansas Saturday night speaker and dance.
- April 2-4, 1999** MID-AMERICA REGIONAL CONVENTION XVI  
The Ramada Inn, 1400 N. Lorraine, Hutchinson, Kansas 1-316-669-9311 or 1-800-362-5018  
Flat Rate-\$59.00+tax per night. For reservations use the code: "MARC"

### Miracle

- October 31st** H&I LEARNING DAY  
D&D Dance Studio, 516 and 1/2 S.E. 29th, Topeka, Kansas 1:00 p.m-4:00 p.m.

### Unity

- September 4th-6th** GIFT OF LIFE BACK TO BASICS CAMPOUT  
Cheney Lake, west of Wichita
- September 13th** SOMETHING SPIRITUAL PICNIC  
Lakewood Park, Salina, Kansas
- September 26th** YAWAN 10TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE  
Concordia, Kansas
- November 7th** H&I WORKSHOP AND DANCE  
9th and Yuma, Douglas Center, Manhattan, Kansas
- Every Sunday** FLYING FREE VOLLEYBALL (1:00 PM)  
Lakeside Park, McPherson, Kansas (E. Kansas Ave. across from the Sonic)

### Western Kansas

- October 16th-18th** 9TH ANNUAL DODGE CITY ROUNDUP  
Dodge City VFW Hall, Dodge City, Kansas Contact number: Laurie (316)-225-6505  
E-mail: madhouse@dodgecity.com
- December 5th?** WESTERN AREA SECOND ANNUAL BREAKING THE WIND  
More will be revealed.

### Wichita Metro

- August 29th** WICHITA METRO AREA 3RD ANNUAL SUMMER DANCE AND COOKOUT  
1206 E. Waterman, Wichita, Kansas  
Dance \$3.00, Food \$2.00, Kids \$1.00 Food at 6:00 p.m. and speaker and dance following.

WICHITA METRO AREA 3RD ANNUAL SUMMER DANCE AND COOKOUT





# MARSCNA



## Literature Sub-committee

Meeting the day before every RSC!

*Come down to the 4-H building in McPherson Kansas on the 3rd Saturday of every February, May, August, and November, and help us to carry the message through the written word.*

## Where would we be without our Basic Text?

*If you care about the literature of Narcotics Anonymous, then you owe it to the suffering addict to get involved!*

Public Information, Hospitals and Institutions, the meetings you go to, the program you live, all of these things and more depend on our literature.

***Come and give us your support!***

