



MID AMERICA NEWSLETTER



Issue # 7

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May 1999

Letter From the Editor

F. Y. I.

It's been quite some time since the last issue. I could give you excuses, but I've decided, in journalistic favor, to stick with the facts. These are the facts, I now have a Co-editor, his name is Tim S., and we've spent some time familiarizing him with the publication procedures and manufacture. I also did a questionnaire at MARCNA XVI, and I wanted to publish the results in this issue. In addition, I have had a ton of blessings in my life, and just couldn't get the newsletter out any quicker. If there were that much complaint about this, my suggestion would be to contact Tim or I and offer to help! That is really the only way this process will be sped up. Now, without further ado, I will relinquish the rest of this column to Tim S. One more thing, Tim *refused* to allow editing privileges on this letter, so remember this is strictly his opinion, not mine.

-Editor

In Lieu of Introduction

Hello MAN reader, my name's Tim, and I'm an addict. I've been given the opportunity to work with a master of words, a spiritual giant, and one of the greatest editors of all time. Yes, you now have a co-editor on the staff. "Together we can do what alone was not possible," and working with my good friend Sam will hopefully enhance this publication for our readers. I don't claim to be as literately fluent and don't have much experience in journalism, but NA literature is my bloodline and carrying the message is my destiny.

Is it too thick? I will also try to find humor in myself to pass along. For those of you who know me, you also know that I'm not always a very humorous kind of person. Some might even say I'm "too serious," but hey, I'm willing to try. More will be revealed.

-Tim S.

Department	Page Numbers
Amusements.....	9
Around the Region.....	3
Extra.....	5,6
For Your Information.....	1
From the Editor.....	1
One Addict Helping Another.....	7,8
Regional News.....	2
What's Happening?.....	10
World Update.....	4

I gotta say, I loved the break, but it's good to be back, even if I *do* have to answer to someone else, on top of the editor! It was a long regional, considering what all was done, but you can check that out on page two in *Regional News*. The MAN was really late this issue, and almost didn't even happen, so *What's Happening* may not be quite up to date, but it's the best the ol' Ed. could do. There should be two extra pages after *One Addict Helping Another*. Be on the lookout for an insert in this issue called *MARCNA EXTRA*. That should say some stuff about the convention, which this addict thought was pretty good. All the area reports are in *Around the Region*, with the exception of Central, and we have a lot of new writings from the new co-editor. He'll be doing one page in the extra, *World Update*, part of the One Addict section, and *Soapbox*. I must say, he had all of his stuff done in a timely manner. I wish he could get that editor off his butt! Well, that's about all for this time around. Hang tough y'all and keep coming back! (Even if we could have put out two in the time it's taken us to do this one issue.) Oh, and check on the radical Logo, suitable



for framing, in the *MARCNA Extra* on page six!

Article II

The primary purpose of MARCNA 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

February Regional

This regional started off with all areas represented by RCM's except for Central. There was an open request by Shelly W. for areas to monitor the distribution of their regional meeting lists, and if they consistently had a surplus, to please report it to the PI committee in the hopes that we may cut some printing costs. Nancy A. will no longer be able to continue as Co-chair of the region at this time, and the order of business was changed to elect a new one. Billy C. is now our new RSC Co-chair! The MAN congratulates him!

The treasurer's report was given and there was discussion about expenditures. RCM reports were then given (more about that in Around the Region on page three), and then the sub-committee reports. In addition to the Regional Delegate and his Alternate giving their reports, there were reports about the Service Assembly in Oklahoma, and a detailed report on the Plains States Zonal Forum.

The remainder of old business consisted of financial liabilities owed to the region, insurance, the regional logo, next year's convention, and of course, the optimal budget. After crunching some figures, it was agreed that Doris B. still owes the region \$91.00 and we will continue to take the appropriate steps to deal with this. There are still some bad checks to collect on, but the region has decided to write one amount off and pursue the others in small claims court.

There were some results from the detective work on the pricing of insurance, and it seems policy per policy, the region has about an average deal. We will continue to seek cheaper coverage. It also seems that when Samuel L. designed the logo using the NA logo provided by the WSO, it carried with it copyright protection, so the regional logo is covered like a blanket! Thanks, IIP. Conventions in the future will rotate between Great Bend, and Hutchinson, Kansas and the next one will be held on April 14th-16th, in the year 2000. The optimal budget was accepted as written!

In new business, Lois W. was elected Chair of the Activities Sub-committee and Dave R. was elected the same position for H&I. The region will donate \$100.00 seed money for the Zonal and it was decided that the secretary would begin to keep a running documented record of motions passed. A motion was then defeated about restructuring the steering committee. Heavy discussion ensued about a motion to send \$1951.05 to the WSO as a donation, but in the end this one passed. We then passed a motion to form an ad-hoc committee to examine the region's accounting process, as well as a motion that locates the Zonal Forum in McPherson twice a year. The RSC wrapped up at 5:35 p.m.

Sub-committee Reports

Activities: Lois W. is the new Chair for this committee and they have Betty P. scheduled to speak at the next RSC. The theme for Soul to Soul will be: "Share Your Soul at Soul to Soul Spiritual Retreat."

Campout: They report good communication in the committee, with lots of fundraiser's in the future.

Convention: Jon Mc. was nominated as Chair for MARCNA XVII in 2000 and they have yet to vote on a location for the next convention.

H&I: This committee has a pamphlet project in the works that will include a regional meeting list. Also sponsoring by mail. Two learning days are scheduled. Dave R. was nominated as Chair.

Literature: The literature committee is having troubles with finding solid commitment and involvement, though four areas were present for the meeting. An inventory of regional literature is in the works.

Newsletter: The editor whined once again about someone "assuming the position." He also gave a financial report from the last issue.

Outreach: Addicts on Asphalt and more is in store with this committee. They are currently considering guidelines.

P.I.: They report six areas in attendance at this sub-committee, with workshops and learning days planned. They are talking about accurate distribution to each area, based on the number of lists given out.

P.O. Box: The box fee is due, John reports not much else.

Steering: They started off about insurance, discussed the logo and its usage, and the new guideline booklets. There was also discussion of Oklahoma's first Service Assembly at the late night meeting, as well as the two new positions opening up on the committee in May. Thanks, Tim S.

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

The C.K.A.S.C. has gone through a face-lift and for the first time in a long time **all** committee positions are filled. The H&I commitment to Ellsworth Correctional Facility has been picking up but still needs support.

Fellowship for Freedom

FFF continues to grow in unity even with several meetings faced with location changes. They wish to thank all members that supported their area convention. It was a huge success in all aspects.

Just For Today

Two fundraisers for M.A.R.C.N.A XVI were held in this area totaling \$1257.90 in donations.

Miracle

Miracle reported that their groups still add and drop meetings regularly, but they keep the info. line current and have updated their meeting lists. Other than that, participation in the area is great, without conflict or controversy.

Unity

It was reported that H&I have started a pen-pal sponsor system with inmates in Hutchinson Correctional Facility. They have also restructured their budget system so more donations could be made to the region. During the last R.S.C. quarter \$575.00 was donated.

Western

Western P.I. has been very active with new meeting lists, updated phone line, and new P.S.A. tapes for the radio stations. Their phone line is 1-800-586-3680 and it will be in the next issue of Feist for the area. **Note:** The Ulysses phone line is **not** the area help line as noted on the regional meeting lists.

Wichita Metro

This area continues to have growing pains with the RCM resigning and the alternate filling in. They also have a new activities chair. The PI chair has done a great job on their meeting list, and they are donating \$300.00 to the region.

Check out activities for different ASC's in "What's Happening?"

Thank you!

We, the M.A.R.C.N.A. XVI Convention Subcommittee would like to send out a special "thank you" to all of the addicts who attended this year's convention and made it a success. You made it a very memorable occasion for us all. Melissa, Jon, Pat, Tim, Stacey, Carrie, Dan, Kirk, "Too Tall," Nancy, Allen, and our honorary members; John, Debby, and Adam.

World Update

C.A.R. 1999

Once again, the Conference Agenda Report is out for review and **your** vote. Take this time to attend a workshop either with your home group or area service committee and find out just what the C.A.R. is all about. This year there are only 12 motions, which is about 1/3 of the usual size. For those that keep up with world services knows that in the last few years they have changed to a more "discussion oriented" structure over the past "motion madness" structure. That's not to say that a large number of motions and amendments won't be introduced in the new business portion of W.S.C., but it's most likely to follow the path of the re-structuring we all have laid out for them. If you would like to purchase a copy of this year's conference agenda report contact your G.S.R. or Secretary.

Regional Delegate and Alt. Delegate

Carl K. (R.D.) and Betty P. (alt.R.D.) both attended the Plains State's Zonal Forum in Lincoln NE. held Feb. 13th and 14th. Along with them were 8 other members from this region which means we were represented pretty well. The C.A.R. was the main topic but time was allotted for others set out by both last year's conference and past zonal meetings. Topics included Fellowship Communication, Insurance, Fund Flow, and G.S.R. Assemblies. Six regions make up the zonal forum and all were represented through 35 members. Two members of the World Board (Cary S. and Craig R.) were there to answer questions and explain some of the reasoning behind their recommendations on the 12 motions mentioned above. The theme that was unofficially set was "Think Globally - Act Locally" and Betty presented some food for thought by saying "If every registered group gave just \$20.00 a year W.S.O. would be OK" - there are 90,000 registered groups in the world.



N.A.W.S. News

As some of you know, the 1999 Conference Agenda Report (C.A.R.) is out and being workshopped as you are reading this. There are two "firsts" with the C.A.R. this year, one being it is available in its entirety in English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Swedish, and German. Before this year only the motions and intent were translated, now the issue discussion papers (which is the bulk of the C.A.R.) are included in those translations. The other "first" is the C.A.R. being available at W.S.O.'s web site, www.na.org. If you wish to purchase a copy of this year's C.A.R., they are available for \$5.00 through W.S.O. P.O. box 9999 Van Nuys, CA. 91409. The World Service Conference (W.S.C.) is scheduled for April 25th through 30th, and your area or group can still plan a workshop up until that time. Contact Carl K. (Regional Delegate) or Betty P. (Alt. Regional Delegate) for further information.

Carl K. 1-(316) 341-9332

Betty P. 1-(316) 264-0801

For those wondering what happened to the Literature projects after all sub-committees disbanded, the World Board has sent out a survey to determine what the fellowship feels we need or don't need. It hasn't had time to circulate yet but be expecting it in the near future. The deadline to send it in isn't until July 15th, 1999.

If you are planning a trip down to Columbia for W.C.N.A. 28, keep in mind that the new dates are August 30 - September 2, 2000.

Trivia on WSNA-27

WCNA Factoids

- 15,516**
people registered, including new comers
- 19,000**
was the approximate total attendance
- 40,000+**
cups of coffee were sold in the convention center
- 2,200**
flowers decorated the Jazz Breakfast
- 33**
countries were represented at the convention
- 300**
absorbent towels were used by the entertainers
- 726,000**
square feet of meeting space was used
- 112**
buses were used to move people from one event to another
- The World Convention Corporation shipped
- 73,000**
pounds of goods and equipment to the convention center
- 47,000**
chairs were used throughout the convention center

MARCNA Extra



An Inside View of M.A.R.C.N.A. XVI

Wow, what a convention! We had three great speakers. (I only heard one complaint), two awesome bands (no complaints came my way!), great workshops (so I was told, one of the downfalls of being a committee member, I have the tapes though.), and the buffet and brunch were very tasty and filling, to say the least. I'm sure other views were passed on to other committee members, but I'm here to talk about just mine and what was relayed on to me.

Friday started off the festivities with a mad rush of members trying to get registered or pick up their pre-registrations. The Registration Committee was fortunate to have access to dual computers, which sped up the process and kept accuracy to an all time high. There seemed to be a great confusion this year about the pre-registration cut off date, and what it applied to. Many members thought the pre-registration price as well as the shirt/mug deal was available right up until the event, this was not the case. I believe that next year's flyers will be more self-explanatory.

Another incident that was taken advantage was refunds. Some members are under the impression that, at the last minute, they can change their mind about what they purchased in pre-registration, and get their money back. I would hate to see a meeting where, after the basket was passed around, a member or members came up to the meeting leader and asked for their money back because they changed their mind. I believe donating to the newcomer fund would have been more appropriate.

Something else I need to share with you is the fact that H.P. stepped in and took over so this committee (convention as a whole) could execute a very successful event for its members. We were faced with several dilemmas in the preparation for this; one example was the coffee cups included in the pre-registration option. For those that received them know that they were fresh off of the screen from being printed. Hats go off to the Merchandising Chair for taking last minute action with a very tight deadline and H.P. for making it happen.

One of the biggest areas H.P. came into play was the committee's sanity. Only another committee member or interested member setting in our meetings could fully the personal issues happening throughout both the planning and executing of this convention. Me, being a committee member with a major family crisis was simply amazed at how well our committee flowed throughout the weekend and helped each other.

-Tim S.

Caring and sharing with others, the NA way!

Ask Grateful Gus!

This issue's question comes from a member of Waterman Street NA in the Wichita Metro Area:

"What's the difference between a 'group conscious' meeting, and a 'business' meeting?"

Our Fourth Tradition states: "Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole." Considering this, the difference between these two meetings is entirely up to the group, as long as it doesn't affect other groups or Narcotics Anonymous in general. Typically, a group will hold a "business" meeting once a month to take care of, well, business. Buying supplies, paying rent, scheduling meeting leaders, and the like. Any of the regular business that it takes to keep a group running and carrying the message effectively.

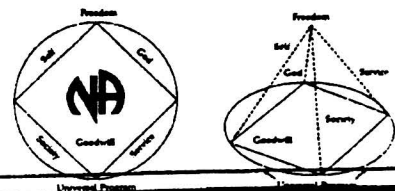
These meetings can also be a forum for addicts to express their dissatisfaction with policies or procedures that the group has adopted. Remember, the member has the most power to change things in the group structure.

If these issues are important enough to upset a majority of the group, a "group conscience" meeting may be called at an announced time to address a specific issue where the votes of the entire (or at least a majority) of a groups' members are needed to get the "conscience" or desire, of the group. Generally, regular members are not found at a business meeting, although they are always welcome.

The steering committee (the elected officers and trusted servants of your group) is all that is necessary to make decisions about paying the bills, etc. although many sponsors encourage their sponsees to attend business meetings, especially if the member has shown an interest in getting involved. This guarantees a good rotation of the trusted servants in the group.

This is by no means the only way that a group can be structured. It is just a common practice among many groups in the world. The Fourth Tradition allows each group to structure itself in the way that it sees fit, according to its' membership's "conscience." As long as it is reliable, consistent, and effective in carrying the message to the addict that still suffers, a group can arrange and format itself in any manner it chooses.

-G.G.





The Results of the MAN Survey at MARCNA XVI

The editor of the MAN handed out and displayed 100 surveys at the convention to try to find out how addicts felt about it, and what changes that they would like to see. Of the 100 surveys, only 22 were returned. While this might not be representative of our fellowship as a whole in this region. It is certainly representative of the members who cared enough to provide us with their input. Here are the results, question by question:

1. Are you satisfied with the cost of registration? 17-Yes, 4-No, and 1 left blank.
2. Are you satisfied with the activities provided? 15-Yes, 5-No, 1-Somewhat, and 1 left blank.
3. What are some of the activities that you would like to see at future conventions? They are as follows: 2 people said organized activities for children, 2 wanted a jazz or blues breakfast, also listed were: bike games, best hat contest, comedy shows, ice cream social, and an unconditional love circle. A full 12 surveys left this question blank.
4. How should the location of the convention be decided. 5-Let RSC decide, 19-Centrally located, 3-no answer.
5. Should the convention offer lodging or should individuals be responsible for their own. 11-Stay the way it is, 7-Be responsible for your own lodging, 4-no answer.
6. Overall opinion? 20-Good to very good, 2-no answer.
7. Suggestions/complaints? 9-Have family orientated activities, 2-Keep the pool open all night, 1-Make the cost cheaper, and 2-no answer.

One Addict Helping Another

I've Learned...

I've learned-

that you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is be someone who can be loved. The rest is up to them.

that no matter how much I care, some people just don't care back.

that it takes years to build up trust, and only seconds to destroy it.

that it's not what you have in your life, but *who* you have that's important.

I've learned-

that you can get by on charm for about 15 minutes, after that you had better know something.

that you shouldn't compare yourself to the best that others can do.

that you can do something in an instant that can give you a heartache for life.

that it takes you a long time to become the person that you want to be.

I've learned-

that you should always leave loved ones with loving words, it may be the last time that you see them.

that you can keep on going long after you think that you can't.

that we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

that you either control your attitude, or it controls you.

I've learned-

that regardless of how hot and steamy it is at first, the passion fades and there had better be something there to take its place.

that heroes are people that do what needs to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

that money has always been a lousy way of keeping score.

that just because I have the right to be angry, that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

I've learned-

that true friendships continue to grow even over long distances. (The same goes for true love.)

that just because someone doesn't love you the way that you want, that does not mean that they aren't loving you with all that they have.

that maturity has more to do with what your experiences have been and what you've learned from them than it does about how many birthdays you've had.

that you should never tell a child that their dreams are unlikely or outlandish. (What would happen if they believed it?)

I've learned-

that you're blood family may not always be there for you, but family is more than just who is related to you.

that no matter how good of a friend you have, once in a while they are going to hurt you and you will have to forgive them.

that sometimes it's not enough for others to forgive you, sometimes you have to forgive yourself.

that no matter how bad your heart is broken, the world will not stop just because of your grief.

I've learned-

that our background and circumstances influences who we are, but we alone are responsible for who we become.

that just because two folks argue, it doesn't mean that they don't love each other, and just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean that they do.

that two people can look at the exact same thing and see two totally different things there.

And I've learned that we don't ever need to change our friends as long as we understand that our friends change

-Submitted by Jim Mc.

Healing

Today I am celebrating 18 months clean time and I'm really juggling a lot around in my head. Some of you know how it feels to lose a friend to the disease...I lost the best babysitter my kid ever had Tuesday. They loved each other and I loved him too. He would have been 25 the day after his death. I have been praying...for me to make the right choices...for his family and their pain...and for any addict that could be next. Karl died of an overdose.

I met him when he was clean, then I watched it happen. (Powerless!) First it was just a beer, then pot and pills and on and on...I hate it, but I'm just as powerless over someone else's disease as I am my own. I get pissed at the disease of addiction. I have many teenaged friends, some clean and some not. I see several of them who can't manage to stay clean. I just want to shake them and yell, "YOU ARE GOING TO DIE!"

I know that won't work. If it did, I would have gotten clean years before I did, but being powerless still sucks. I believe the basic text what it says on page 84 about our choices: jails, institutions, and death...or recovery. I've lost so many people to addiction and I know all of you have too. Drunk driving, suicides, overdoses, murders, shoot-outs, and thousands of other ways those addicts endanger their lives every day they continue to practice. Karl was not just another statistic, he was too close to home.

I've been told that 15 of us die for every one of us that makes it. I look around and wonder who will be next. I hate feeling this pain, but I know that if I keep my faith in HP, I won't have to use over it. I am truly grateful that I have escaped the insanity "just for today." I look at his picture, and I'm hurt and angry at the same time. I just don't understand, he had the same choices. Why was it so different for him than it is for me?

Please pray for my family and I. Please pray for Karl and his family. Pray for the addicts who are still living with the insanity of this disease, and pray that all of us make the right choices. It could have been me...It could have been you...But for the Grace of God! I love you all. Thank you for letting me share my pain and helping me to let go.

-Lesli

Just for Today: I will accept the loss of the one I love and turn to my Higher Power for the strength to accept my feelings. I will make the most of my love for those in my life today.

Just for Today: Daily Meditations for Recovering Addicts, page 242

One Addict Helping Another

Living and Enjoying Life

Enjoying life has mostly been the easiest part of life—it is the living of life that sometimes becomes hard to do. During the last several months I have watched as others have been on the “roller coaster” ride of life, and I have been there to be of support and strength—not realizing that I would need that type of support and strength to walk through situations that have come my way.

As I look around, I realize that my relationship with my HP is the strength of my soul. This is the life line that I will use to pull myself beyond the depths of despair and bring myself back up to the world of living that I desire and have been a part of for so long.

Dealing with life situations is not always easy but it is necessary in order to function—in other words, if I run and hide, what will I gain? I remember when I first got clean how easy it was to hide from “feeling” or “dealing” with any type of situation. The tools we had when we got here were pretty rusty and in very bad shape. It took years of work to sharpen those tools so that when used as they were supposed to be, the “work” was not as hard and laborious.

I was listening to a gentleman the other day talk about Sponsors and how important they were in his life. I totally agreed with his philosophy and was very inspired by his open honesty on this subject. Without a good sponsor in our lives to help us through the good times and the bad; to listen to our gripes, complaints, laughter and bullshit; and to be a good friend-----how could we expect to survive “life” without going back to using? Sponsors teach us so much on the relationships we need to develop with others in and out of the world of NA.

Today I am forever grateful to be able to “see” the errs of my ways, and to take this time to make them better and to change ME where I need to. My HP, my sponsor, my family of NA, and my loved ones are so very important to me!!!! You keep me alive so that I can live and enjoy my life as a person of freedom.

-Debby S., McPherson, Kansas

“Getting away from our self-centeredness gives us a better perspective on life. By asking for help, we can change. Sharing is risky at times, but by becoming vulnerable we are able to grow.”

-Basic Text page 95

One Addict's Journey

(The continuing journals of "M.")

October 16th, 1995:

It has come to my attention that I don't that even if I don't seem to feel fulfilled, it's great to be on the outside looking in! I never thought that I'd be glad to just feel the warmth of the sun's rays on my face. I took in things that I usually take for granted all morning long, but my wife's lips, man they never tasted so good.

I was disappointed that I couldn't find a place at nine in the morning that sold a decent ribeye, but other than that, there was nothing that could ruin my day. The woman copped an attitude about me taking off on the bike for three and a half-hours. I swear, sometimes I don't know what's going through that woman's mind. I know that I've done a lot to hurt her and cause her to distrust me, but I just wish that she could turn loose of me for awhile. After all, I *did* just get out of jail.

I went to treatment tonight and we worked on priority lists. I got quite a bit out of it and got more in touch with where my program is, and ought to be. I need to start putting it first in my life. It's tough, because I've always felt that I should put my kids above everything. But, if I don't stay clean, there won't be any kids to worry about...

My counselor is moving to another center in two days and I'm kind of pissed about it. I feel like I've been robbed of my relationship with her. If anyone else had done my intake interview, I'm not sure that I would have come back for treatment. I really felt like she cared about me and the outcome of my treatment. I hope that I can get the same sort of feelings and trust for the person who replaces her.

I went to a meeting tonight and shared about my experience in jail. I thought I must have sounded like an idiot until this dude came up to me after the meeting and told me that I really helped him. Imagine! Me, helping anyone! He said that he was facing some jail time that was to begin tomorrow morning and up until he had listened to me share, he had been pretty nervous about it.

I went home tonight feeling like I had just blown a doob'. I can't remember feeling this good without some sort of chemical inside me. As I said my prayers to my creator that night, I began to get some hope that maybe that aura of “good feeling” that I see on everyone at NA could really happen to me. I was pretty sure I was on a pink cloud. I remember thinking that in between thanking God for having such a great day.

Amusements

Copyright Release

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 Service Tradition, please make your contributions payable to MARSCNA, and send them, along with your submission to:

Mid-America Newsletter
150 N. Vine
Wichita, Kansas 67203-5839
E-mail: wolffy@southwind.net

SOAPBOX

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 the views of the person who wrote them. -Editor

Thoughts...

Teaching?

I think a black hole is where God divided by zero!
What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

I almost married a psychic, but she left me before we met.

I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it left.

Dancing is a perpendicular expression of a horizontal desire!

Be proud of your modesty.

Research and Observation

A professor decided to write a book on the difference between three types of drinkers; normal drinkers, problem drinkers, and alcoholics. He and a friend drove to a bar near the river. They went to the dumpster in the back alley, pulled out an empty Scotch bottle and trapped three flies. As soon as the flies died for lack of air, they went inside.

Soon a fight broke out, clearing the bar. While folks were busy fighting, they dropped each of the flies in a separate drink. When the fighting was done, one gentleman came back to his drink and exclaimed, "Bartender, there's a fly in my drink! Could you please get me another?" "Now that," whispered the professor, "is a normal drinker."

The next fellow approached the second glass, looked up and down the bar to make sure that he wasn't being observed, and then slammed his drink, fly and all. The friend looked at the professor and remarked, "Now that is a problem drinker for sure."

They looked at the third drink and witness the owner holding the fly by both wings over it, shaking him up and down and yelling, "Spit it out, you little twerp!" "Now *that*," they both agreed, "must be an alcoholic."

Have a wonderful summer!

When I came into Narcotics Anonymous I added "teach" to everything. I was taught to work the steps and use the tools of recovery in treatment, I was taught to hug and be hugged also in treatment. At my homegroup I was taught to share on the given topic, get a sponsor, use a sponsor, give money to the basket and why we do so, and introduced to service work. At the area service level I was taught that recovery exists outside the town I live in, and that I am still equal. At the regional level of service I was taught that members devote great deals of time to see that members in both the area and group stay informed about Narcotics Anonymous, and that I'm still equal. At the world level of service I was taught that only the most devoted members striving for ongoing growth in Narcotics Anonymous attend and I still am equal. I also was taught that the "doll" in the basket isn't enough in today's society and what I have in this developed country is taken for granted.

All this time I have been on the other side to, I am responsible for teaching what was so freely taught to me, unfortunately I don't see the same teachings happening. I attend meetings where members are celebrating 1 or more years and yet to have done a 4th step, let alone grasp the freedom from doing one. I see members balk at putting money in the basket but frivolously spend it immediately after a meeting. I see members hang on to "newcomer" status for years, just so they can receive the sympathy and attention so freely given in meetings! Members in the past few years have been taught that "no addict is turned away" at all functions so being responsible and paying your way isn't honored as much.

If you took the time to read this, ask yourself "what was I taught and what am I teaching now?" Hopefully they will be similar.

Anonymous

What's Happening?

The Mid-America Newsletter regrets that due to the untimely publication of this issue, no events are listed. To find out what activities are going on in your area, please contact them at the addresses and numbers listed below. "What's Happening" listings should be listed in the MAN in the next issue. Thank you. -Editor

Mailing Addresses for ASC's in the Mid-America Region of NA

Central Kansas Area: P.O. Box 1361, Great Bend, Kansas 67530
Info Line (316) 792-1991

Fellowship for Freedom Area: P.O. Box 873, Topeka, Kansas 66601
Help Line (913) 232-5683

Just for Today Area: P.O. Box 171, Ottawa, Kansas 66067

Miracle Area: P.O. Box 998, Lawrence, Kansas 66044
Info Line (913) 749-6631

Unity Area: P.O. Box 2834, Salina, Kansas 67833 Contact numbers
are as follows:

Salina: (913) 823-1988

Concordia: (913) 738-4270

Manhattan: (913) 537-7854

Hutchinson: (316) 669-6889

Junction City: (913) 762-3831

Western Kansas Area: P.O. Box 588, Johnson, Kansas 67833
Info Lines: (316) 356-3764, or (800) 586-3680

Wichita Metro Area: P.O. Box 1303, Wichita, Kansas 67201
Info Line (316) 263-6366

Mid-America Region of NA: P.O. Box 8732, Wichita, Kansas 67208