Issue #8

PO Box 975, Baldwin City, KS 66006

September 1999

"What is our message? The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live."

Pg. 65, 5th edition, Basic Text

Letter From the Editor

Hello M.A.N. Readers,

Yes, this isn't the voice of the Editor you have come to know and love. My name is Tim S. and I've been elected as your new Editor and Kirk B. Co-Editor. Now don't get alarmed, Sam the M.A.N. will still be submitting articles and helping me, but this is a two year term and he more than fulfilled his obligation. The one thing that all Editors, including me, stress, is the need for help. In fact, a newsletter staff of five or so top writers from Mid-America region would be an ideal setup. Some might think I'm dreaming, but in N.A. dreams can come true. Until then, please send your articles, comic strips, poems, etc. to the address or E-mail below. Just so you know, one or two people write 90% of the Mid-America newsletter! OK, enough of that, This newsletter is an ongoing project to Kirk and myself and there will be changes in the near future. As always, more will be revealed. Some might wonder, what happened to the summer issue? Through several excuses, some valid, some not, the teamwork of Kirk and myself should prove worthy of taking a transition break. This issue acts as a "double issue" and will include stories and news from this very active summer and fall

Tim S. - McPherson

M.A.N. c/o Kirk Brown P.O. Box 975 Baldwin City, KS. 66006 e-mail - klbertha@aol.com

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans is suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they are okay, then, where does that leave you?

Author unknown

Letter From the Publisher

Hello Friends and Family,

I'm not sure how I acquired this position, but I did and will do the best job that I and my Higher Power can. (Actually I do know how I acquired it, I volunteered!) My job as Publisher is to take <u>your</u> articles and get them together in a format that can be taken to the printer, have them printed, and then distribute them. I will be checking such things as spelling (well, my computer will - it does a <u>much</u> better job than I do), grammar and punctuation. However, I will not, change the content of any story submitted.

We would like to see all the RCM's write article's telling our readers what is happening in their Areas, who is having Birthdays and any other information they deem important for the Region to know about their Area. In addition, we would like to hear from individuals in the Fellowship. What is going on in you lives, how is the Program working for you and your loved ones, and yes, what isn't working in your lives. This newsletter is your newsletter, and it's success or failure is dependent upon you.

At this time I would like to take a moment to thank "Sam the MAN" for his efforts to revive this newsletter. He took it upon himself to get this thing off the ground again, and did a wonderful job doing it. Tim and I have our work cut out for ourselves to follow in his footsteps and do anything approaching the job that Sam did. Thank you Sam!

In closing, I want encourage all of you, the readers, to let us know how we are doing. If we are doing the kind of job you want, let us know. If we are screwing up, let us know, but be gentle please! (We break easily!) Communication is the key to success in a venture like this, even as it is in many of our daily endeavors.

Kirk B. - Baldwin City

YOUR STORIES AND POEMS

Angels in the surf

60 mile an hour winds caused the Mid-America Regional Campout at Wilson Lake to be a test of devotion and endurance. Our annual 4th of July campout has always dealt a variety of weather elements, but these types of extremes come only every few years (thank God!). As always, there is always a positive to any negative, NO mosquito bites were reported and trash pickup was minimal. But what made this weekend very special was no fatalities were reported, and believe me, they were closer than I care to imagine. One of the retreats from the extreme heat and wind was swimming, and if you ever wanted to body surf without the ocean, you had your chance. One family that was not part of our organization, Larry and Jeanie Bigalow and their 6 boys: Josiah, Jonathon, Judah, Joel, Jason, and Jesse, found out what people in N.A. are really like. Since they live near the lake and swim there often, we were the visitors to them. Through the coarse of several very chaotic minutes, Larry and Jeannie could have lost 4 of their boys as well as themselves. The undertow from the waves turned a fun swim into a near disaster and the 30 to 40 addicts that were there pulled together, with the help of several angels, and turned it into a huge miracle. I, too, have a deep gratitude for the help I received from all of you. My higher power must have more plans for me, because He put all of you into my life and got me back to shore to. The way I see it, everybody at that beach held a piece of the puzzle, our Higher Powers, or angel helpers, managed to put the pieces together in the right amount of time to keep us all alive. Talking to people that night and the next several days have helped me put the pieces together somewhat, and to see the true magnification of the whole incident. I kept asking my Higher Power: Why me? First my Mother passes away at an early age, then I change careers to a totally different setting, now I almost drown and take two kids with me. It was brought to my attention that just maybe it's not about me, He is just using me to help others. The same way He has used all of you to help many others and me in the past. Faith has gotten me out of a lot of mental and physical emergencies. I want to thank you all for being there.

The following photo was submitted by Tim S.. Notice the collapsed tent as well as the white caps on the lake in the background. Just a tad windy out here!



Crack Cocaine

I was just sitting around my house one day And this so-called friend came by. He said "Hey, Diane give this a try" I said "No thanks that's okay" But I ended up doing it anyway He called this small substance a piece of Crack Well I fell in love with this Devil's drug And since then my life hasn't been the same Take it from me this is no game! You will find yourself Doing all kinds of crazy things Even selling yourself without a care Then you'll say to yourself God what's happening to me! Well now because of the things it's made me do I pray that this doesn't happen to you Because, my friend, You may think there's no better high But when you come down You will just want to die!

From Diane – Hutchinson

"Although we are not responsible for our disease, we are responsible for our recovery."

Pg. 15, 5th edition, Basic Text

AROUND THE REGION

CKA RCM REPORT 8-15-99

Hi all at Region:

Central Area is still carrying the message but sadly with less groups. The Ellsworth group has closed and will be missed. Also as of July 10th the Pratt group lost there meeting place and have been meeting at Timons Park at the south end of Pine in Pratt. But there present meeting situation is unknown they weren't present at our August Area. A number of our area jails have accepted NA literature and distributed to the inmates with mixed interest. Our area has been getting some good turn over in service work by newer members at groups and area level.

The Hays group has a new GSR Kristen S. And the Central Area phone line has been updated with all of <u>new contact number</u> meeting times and locations. The High on Life group will host Area birthday night Sept.24th. They also have closed the Thursday night women's meeting due to lack of support. But they are gearing up for **Chili Bowl "10"** with the intent of making a generous donation to Convention Committee, more details later.

Central Area is donating \$180.00 to the Region.

On a personal note I would like to thank those of you who attended Dy's and My wedding making our special day that much more special. **Thanks.**

Grateful to Serve, Jay F. CKA, RCM

RCM Report

Just For Today Area

Hi Family,

All is going well in the JFTA. In fact, since the last RSC, there has been three (3) camp-outs in the JFTA: The Pioneer Group (Emporia, KS) June 4,5, and 6; The Garnett Group (Garnett, KS) July 16, 17, and 18; and The Just For Today Area at Melvern Lake July 30, 31 and Aug. 1. All of which were successful. The Pioneer Group and the JFTA were having their 12th annual campout. Thank HP for those who came before me.

The Area has instructed me to submit two (2) motions in new business. They will be submitted, according to RSC policy, in written form with intent and financial impact (if applicable). These motions are backed unanimously by the JFTA. More will be revealed.

In Loving Service Ray G.

Old Business Votes

Clarity Statement: Resounding No,. . Do not read!

Steering Committee: Let Convention pick their own chair.

The Practice of Tipping: That it ceases.

RCM Report Miracle Area

Good Morning Mid America Regional Service Family:

Miracle Area is still Alive and happening. We are very pleased to announce that we now have PSA's on the radio in Lawrence. We also have new meeting lists out that I believe are up to date and accurate. We lost a few meetings although this loss has been a benefit as there are now more addicts at the meetings that are going.

Our H&I efforts had come to a stand still due to some poor communication, however, this last week I was informed that we would be allowed to resume our efforts in the Douglas County Jail again.

Following our Area Policy, we have a donation to give the Region and we did vote on the three motions from the Region. Addicts in the Miracle Area have concerns for the safety of the officers and addicts who attend the RSC. When the RSC extends into the evening hours and they have a 3 ½ hour drive home, their alertness and driving skills are diminished which jeopardizes their safety and the safety of other people on the road. Therefore, Miracle Area has a motion to bring to the floor regarding the length of the RSC.

Motion: RSC start at 8:am and last no later than 6:pm.

Upcoming events: Miracle Area Campout.

When: August 27 - 29Activities: Pig roast, Live band

Location: Clinton Lake, western end, Bloomington West

Campgrounds.

Grateful to Serve, Jerry D.Unity Area RCM Report

Unity Area RCM Report August 15th, 1999

Hi Family:

Unity Area is doing well we have 13 Groups some are struggling and some are doing great! We have quite a few Activities coming up; Unity Area is putting on a "Prom Night" on August 28th, at the Friendship Center in Salina. Clean and Crazy Group is putting on a dance October 2nd. Unity Group is putting on a "Halloween dance" October 30 at the Friend-

Continued on page 4

ship Center in Salina. Newton HOW Group is having there 17th annual turkey feed at the 4-H building on November 6th in Newton.

We are still having problems filling all of the positions at the Area. Jon M. is our new old Lit. Chair again. Steve G. showed a lot of willingness for the position of Lit. Co-Chair and stayed with it for a few months and he was elected in at last Area. We have a new Secretary, Dorothy M. and a new Treasure Dennis 0. Its nice to see some people with time get involved with Area Service Work!

Our Area voted on the motions from Regionals after long drawn-out discussions.

We voted yes to the motion that the practice of tipping certain employees by any

subcommittee cease.

We voted to yes to having Steering drop the nomination for chairperson of the upcoming Convention.

We voted No to we ask the Groups "should we read the Clarity/ identity statement in its

entirety, at the Regional level.""

In Service, Tim C.

RCM Report

Western Area

Greetings Family:

Western Area is still alive and kicking. The 5th annual "In Tents Recovery" campout was a success, since we didn't end up in the hole. The fishing tournament was fun with a 10 lb. channel cat taking first place.

The 10^{th} annual Dodge City Roundup will be held October 1^{st} – 3^{rd} and plans will be starting on the "Breaking the Wind" chili feed, probably to be held in November or December. Will know more later and will get fliers out.

Other that that not too much to report except we have a donation for Region.

See y'all in November,

In Loving Service,

Tom W.

A.k.a. "Too Tall"

P.S. against all odds, group in D.C. has added 2 meetings to their format. They are Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:am and seem to be going well.

Still Love Ya

Wichita Metro Area August 15,1999

To The Mid-America Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous

Pro-Tern Alt. RCM Report - Wichita Metro Area Hello all.

Our area is continually growing with new NA members. We have a new co-chair for the area: Trent T. The Area is grateful to him for his service to NA.

Unity Group is having a function on Saturday, August 21 at 807 W. Maple. There will be food, fun and fellowship with a cookout, and a speaker meeting followed by a dance. Please bring a covered dish and help us celebrate.

The Wichita Metro Area is sponsoring a Unity Day special function on Saturday, Sept. 25, 1999. More information will follow. Please come and be a part of our continuing gratitude to Narcotics Anonymous.

On a sad note, Joe Willy D. passed this week. There will be a service for him at 11:00 AM Monday, Aug. 16, at 1225 N. Cleveland in Wichita.

In Service,
Pat B.
Pro-Tem Alt. RCM

RCM Report Fellowship For Freedom Area Hello Family,

It's good to be back again. Well, I have some good news and some not so good news. Not so good first – we lost our PI Chair, Linda C.. She had really helped our Area turn that position around and start to flow well. We have hopes of keeping this alive and moving in the right direction. We have a good chairperson in H&I, Burnalee, and its moving in the right direction. Our commitments to service are getting somewhat better

As to some of the functions we have a few coming up.

Annual Campout

Labor Day weekend, on the 3^{rd} of September till September 6^{th} , starting at 4:pm on Friday and ending at around 12 on Monday.

Contact: Dave R. at 785-354-1772 for more information.

We will have a Fellowship For Freedom campout fund-raising dance on the 25th of August at Montra starting at 6:pm.

We have the date for our Area Convention. It will be February $11^{th}-13^{th}$ at the Best Western , downtown Topeka. Flyers will be coming out shortly.

Contact: Toby 785-233-2911 or Dave/Kelly 785-354-1772 for more information.

Other good news: we finally got our Area's finances back on track, so we are finally able to stand up for our donations to the Region.

Meetings are like – up and down. We have lost a few and because of this some new meetings have started up so the message is still being carried.

In Loving Service, Kelly P.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS!

Soul To Soul

(Hosted by Mid America Region)

Sept. 24th (Friday) - 26th (Sunday) When: Camp Chippewa, Ottawa, KS Where:

Cost: \$50 for 3 days/2nights

\$30 after noon on Saturday

World Unity Day

(Hosted by Unity Area)

Sept. 25th (Saturday) When:

Where: Kenwood Hall

900 Greeley, Salina KS

Time: Doors open 6:00

> World Speaker 7:00 Free Dance: 8:30

Not For Sissy's Campout

(Hosted by Alive & Kick'n Group, Ottawa KS)

When: Sept. 24, 25, 26th

Where: Pomona Lake (see flyer for directions)

Cost:

Randy B. 785-242-4790 Contact:

Denny C. 785-746-5403

Dodge City Roundup

When: October 1, 2, 3rd Where: Dodge City

Fellowship For Freedom Convention

When: February 11, 12, 13th

Where: Best Western, Downtown Topeka

Contact: Toby: 785-233-2911 Dave/Kelly: 785-354-1772

Clean & Crazy Dance

(Hosted by Unity Area)

When: October 2nd Where: Friendship Center

746 Commanche, Salina, KS

Unity Groups 3rd annual Halloween dance

(Hosted by Unity Area)

When: October 30th Where: Friendship Center

746 Commanche, Salina, KS

Time: 7:00 KS Speaker

8:00 Dance

Midnight prize for best costume

Newton H.O.W. 17th Annual Turkey Feed

November 6th When:

> 5:00 doors open 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting, 7:30 dance (bring a covered dish and table

service

Where: 4-H building

West 1st St. and Grandview, Newton KS

Miracle On Anderson Group Dance

When: November 13th

Where: 901 Yuma, Manhattan, KS

(More to be revealed later!)

Phoenix Group "Welcome to the New Millenium" New

Year's Eve Dance

When: December 31st

7:00 Speaker, 8:00 Dance

Where: 4-H Building

Salina, KS

Note: This is all the information I have for this issue -I know that it is incomplete but if the RCM's will get this information to us at the next RSC will put it all in.

Thanks, the Staff

M.A.R.C.N.A. XVII (NA: Y2K & BEYOND)

When: April 14, 15, 16th Holiday Inn Where:

3017 W. 10th St.

Great Bend, KS See form below

P.O. BOX 2341

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE

Cost:

NAME: ADDRESS: CITY, STATE, ZIP_

PHONE I WOULD LIKE TO CHAIR:

REGISTRATION:

WORKSHOP

MARATHON MEETING

BEFORE 3/14/00

AFTER 3/14/00

MARCNA XVII

HUTCHINSON, KS 67504

\$15

\$13

\$17 \$15

\$11

BANQUET: BREAKFAST BUFFET: \$9

HENLEY/MUG (ONLY AVAILABLE WITH PRE-REGISTRATION) \$25.00. XXL + \$1.00_ XL ____ L ___ M_

xxxL + \$2.00

NEWCOMER DONATION:

PLEASE SEND SAMPLE SPEAKER TAPES AS SOON AS POSSIBI

FROM THE RSC

ITEMS FROM REGION TO BE TAKEN BACK TO GROUPS.

- 1.) At this time the Literature Committee has no Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary.
- 2.) PI needs a Co-Chair.
- 3.) RSC Co-Chair No interest take back to Groups
- 4.) Activities Chair No interest take back to Groups
- ♦ Motion: (out of the Literature Committee) Mid America Region do a regional inventory to include RSC and all subcommittees, and that this inventory be done with fellowship input, and all input be reviewed by the Steering Committee and an inventory be formulated by said committee.

Intent: to get an overview on how well our Region is meeting the needs of our fellowship.

Billy C. Would like to see the RCM's take this back to the Groups to formulate questions as to what they would like to see on this inventory. This would be returned at the next RSC. Would like to have an address from the groups to mail them the inventory in order to expedite this inventory.

Motion passed – RCM's get input from Groups. (questions)

♦ Motion: produce wallet size cards containing but not limited to Area help line numbers, Area contact numbers, WSO number and e-mail address, and Regional email. This will supplement the Regional meeting list.

Intent: to provide a more viable source of current information that is easily accessible to all members.

Motion seconded and passed.

♦ Motion: (brought by the Just For Today Area) the Mid America Regional Service Committee shall start at 8:am (motions and request for funds) and end at 5:30pm or at the discretion of the Regional Chair.

Intent: To be considerate of our members who have to drive considerable distances; to be sure we've done our part to insure their safety.

Financial Impact: unknown, but none foreseen. Reasons:

- **❖** We (the JFTA) believe that 7 hours is more than a sufficient amount of time to conduct business on behalf of the Mid America Region.
- **❖** Allowing the RSC business meeting to go past 5:30pm I irresponsible and puts members lives in jeopardy.
- **❖** To limit the amount of time spent on discussion of issues and/or motions, due to a time limit.

❖ To allow for concise and to the point reports from officers (chairs, RCM's and other members) and debates over motions, topics for discussion etc...

Motion was seconded and passed. (take back to groups)

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

We have two recommendations to present to the Region regarding term lengths and 2yr. WSC cycle.

❖ 1.) RD and Alt. should continue on a two year rotation and the Region send the delegates to the WSC Interim meeting on the off year of the World Service Conference.

Financial Impact: Should save us money as the interim meeting will be shorter in time than the conference.

❖ 2.) RCM take back to the Groups for a condenses the idea of our RSC officers going to a two year length of term, having to be reelected at the end of the first year.

Reason: With only 4 meetings a year, about the time that their duties and responsibilities are learned, it is time for them to rotate out.

Financial Impact: None.

A Special Thanks!

We, the Staff of the M.A.N., would like to thank an anonymous donor (but a member of the Fellowship) for his (or her) generous contribution of paper to this publication. Through this individuals efforts, we have enough paper on hand to print 150 copies of the M.A.N., 4 times a year, each issue running 8 - 12 pages, for at least the next two years. The individual in question works for an institution which was throwing the paper away and he/she took the initiative to salvage it. I have thought long and hard, and I don't think that this breaks the 7th tradition because it was salvaged from the trash. (If the Fellowship as a whole disagrees, we can come up with reasonable financial compensation for the paper.) The financial impact of this gift is several hundreds of dollars, and that is money that the Fellowship can use in other ways to carry the message. Thank you, not only from the staff of the M.A.N., but the Fellowship as a whole.

The M.A.N. Staff

"We began to see that we had rationalized the most outrageous sort of nonsense to justify the mess that we made of our lives with drugs."

Pg. 21, 5th edition, Basic Text

MID AMERICA REGION GENERAL INFORMATION

RCM's for the Mid America Region August, 99

Ray G. 15 W. 5th #3 Emporia KS 66801

Just For Today Area Ph# 316-343-6984

Tom W. Box 16 Spearville 67876 Western Area

Ph# 316-385-2900(?)

Jay F. 415 E 5thHoisington 67544 Central

Kansas Area Ph# 316-653-2140

Tim C. 963 Highland Ave. Salina 67401

Unity Area

Ph# 785-827-3206

Kelly P. 1041 Wood Ward Topeka 66604 Fellowship For

Freedom Area

Ph# 785-354-1772

Pat B. (Alt. RCM) 1030 N. Market #207 Wichita 67214

Wichita Metro Area Ph# 316-269-3275

Jerry D. 1624 Northwood Lawrence 66044 Miracle

Area

Officers for the Mid America Region August, 99

Chair: Billy C.

3W. 23rd, Hutchinson KS 67501

Ph# 316-622-1030

Co-Chair: Open Position

Treasurer: BeLinda C.

3W. 23rd, Hutchinson KS 67501

Ph# 316-622-1030

RD: $Carl\ K$.

1753 Rd. E. #411, Emporia KS 66801

Ph# 316-341-9332

RD2: *Betty P.*

835 Nims, Wichita KS 67203

Ph# 316-264-0803

Secretary: Kirk B.

PO Box 975, Baldwin City KS 66006

Ph# 785-594-2148

Mid America Regional's Area Hot Line/Info Line/Help Line numbers

JUST FOR TODAY AREA

Emporia, Paola, Ottawa, Gardner, Osawatomie, Louisbourg

FELLOWSHIP for FREEDOM AREA

Topeka, Seneca, Frankfurt

Help Line Number (785) 232-5683

UNITY AREA

 Hutchinson
 (316) 669-6889

 Concordia
 (913) 738-3189

 Manhattan
 (913) 565-917 2

 Junction City
 (913) 762-6098

 Salina
 (913) 823-9172

 McPherson
 (316) 241-6230

CENTRAL KANSAS AREA

Great Bend, Hays, Hoisington, Pratt, Ellinwoood, Ellsworth,

Russell

Info Line Number (316) 792-1991

WESTERN KANSAS AREA

Dodge City, Garden City, Liberal,, ScottCity, Colby, Norton, Leoti,

Goodland, (Guyman, OK)

Ulysses Info Line (316) 356-3764
Area Info Line (800) 586-3680

WICHITA METRO AREA

Wichita, Augusta

Info Line Number (316) 263-6366

MIRACLE AREA

Lawrence and Baldwin KS

Hot Line Number (785) 749-6631

Next RSC:

November 20, 21

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! All are not only welcome, but encouraged to attend and help make the decisions that affect this Region and the way it fulfills it's primary purpose: to "Carry the message to the still suffering addict". (Refer to Pg. 1 to see what that message is! Or, better yet, look in The Basic Text.)

Where: 4-H fairgrounds, McPherson KS

When: Subcommittees

Saturday, 11/20 @ 9:00 AM

RSC Meeting

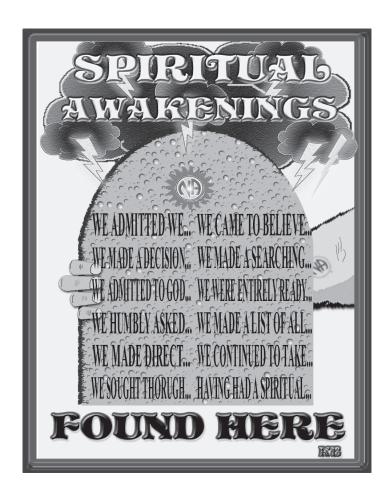
Sunday, 11/21 @ 8:00 AM

The Art World

This section will be devoted to art work. I know that there are many of you out there who are artists and would like an opportunity to share your work with the Fellowship. This is your opportunity. The only rule for having your work displayed is that it be NA oriented and not be profane. You may submit it as a hard copy, in which case it can be no larger than a 8.5 X 11 and I will scan it. If you choose to submit it electronically I can take it in any of these formats, BMP, GIF, EPS, JPX, JPEG, TIFF as well as a Photoshop format. Please note that all work should be in gray-scale, as that is the way it will be printed. If you submit it in color, I will convert it to gray-scale, and that does change the appearance. (You will have a more accurate rendition if you do the conversion yourself.) The last point that I must make is that your work will be sized to fit the available space. The current width of my columns is 3.75 inches. This may change, but probably won't. If you would like to submit a short description of your work, what inspired it or anything else related to it, please feel free.

Thanks, Kirk B.

The following work was inspired (?) by I don't know what. I sat down to the computer one day and this is what I came up with. I had to change the texture of the "stone tablet" and the font and color of the text on the tablet when I converted it to gray-scale. The title is "Spiritual Awakenings".



I,_______, give the Mid America Newsletter (M.A.N.) permission to print any input submitted with this form. I also agree to allow editing of said

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, original artwork (for the Art World), photos, cartoons, poems and stories of experience, strength and hope living in the NA program. In other words, we need any and all material that you can come up with.

input that will not change the content.

In Loving Memory of Joseph William Dysen "Joe Willie"



Services 11: A.M. August 16th, 1999

"Joe Willie" as known to his many friends, leaves behind a lasting memory of love, kindness, joy, gentleness, peace, but most of all his love for God, which he shared with his friends.

Sunrise June 18, 1956 Sunset August 7, 1999