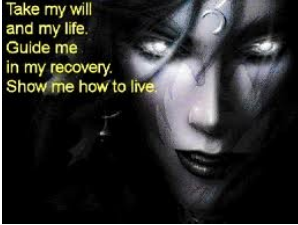




My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the NA way



“We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

Complete and unconditional surrender of our will and our lives is an ideal we strive to fulfill. Although we don't become perfect, we do make a profound change by working this step. We are making a serious effort to live differently than we have in the past. From now on, we are going to be practicing this decision, and the way we relate to the world around us can change radically as a result.

In working Step Three, we begin to learn how to stop struggling. We learn to let go and trust the God of our understanding. If we take time to think and seek direction before acting, we no longer have to run on our own self-centered will. Turning our will and our lives over to the care of our Higher Power provides a solution to the problems created by a life based in self-will, resentment, and control.

The spiritual principles we are practicing will guide us, not just in the Third Step but throughout our recovery. The first three steps provide us with the solid spiritual foundation we will need to work the rest of the steps. We keep our initial surrender alive by actively practicing the faith and willingness required to work the Third Step.

In other words, we've admitted our powerlessness and inability to manage our own lives; we've come to believe; now we need to surrender to the care of the God of our understanding. We may find the willingness to work the Third Step by remembering where we came from and believing that where we are going is certain to be quite different. Though we don't know what this "difference" will entail, we know that it is sure to be better than what we've had in the past. We rely on our faith and believe that this decision is one of the best decisions we've ever made.

Turning our will and our lives over to the care of the God of our understanding is a tremendous decision. We may very well wonder exactly how we are supposed to put this decision into practice. Because our individual beliefs about a Power greater than ourselves vary, there is no uniform way to put our decision into action. However, we have found some ways we all can use to find a personal understanding of the Third Step. One is to continue our efforts to develop a personal relationship with a God of our understanding. Another is to give up our efforts at controlling everything around us. We relax our grip on the burdens we've been carrying and turn them over to the care of a Higher Power. Yet another way we can practice our Third Step decision is to continue with our recovery by working the remainder of the steps. Our sponsor will guide us in applying the spiritual principles of recovery, showing us how to shift our focus away from our own self-interest and toward a more spiritually centered life.



It Works How And Why PP 20-21

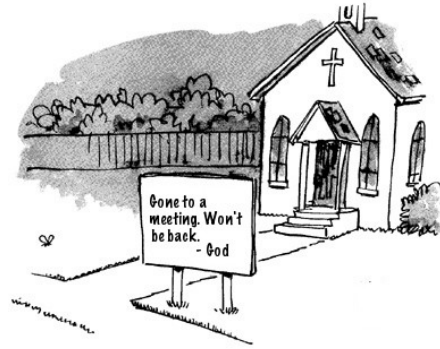


My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the NA way

TRADITION THREE

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using."

ADDICTS ATTEND THEIR FIRST MEETING FOR MANY REASONS. OUR MOTIVES FOR COMING TO NA AREN'T PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. THE DESIRE TO STOP USING MAY NOT BE CLEARLY REALIZED; IT MAY BE NO MORE THAN A SUBTLE YEARNING FOR RELIEF FROM PAIN. BUT THAT YEARNING OFTEN DRIVES US TO SEEK SOLUTIONS WE MIGHT OTHERWISE NEVER CONSIDER. OFTEN THE EXPERIENCE OF HEARING OTHER ADDICTS SHARE ABOUT RECOVERY WILL IGNITE THE DESIRE TO STOP USING. OTHERS COME TO A MEETING, HEAR THE MESSAGE, AND RETURN TO ACTIVE ADDICTION. THOSE WHO RETURN TO MEETINGS AFTER RELAPSE OFTEN SAY THEIR DESIRE TO STOP USING WAS BORN FROM THE PAIN OF RELAPSE. WE COME TO NA FOR MANY REASONS, BUT WE STAY TO RECOVER WHEN WE FIND AND KEEP THE DESIRE TO STOP USING.



THE GROUP IS NOT THE JURY OF DESIRE. WE CANNOT MEASURE OR ARBITRATE WILLINGNESS. ANY ADDICT'S WILLINGNESS TO COME TO A MEETING OUGHT TO BE A SUFFICIENT INDICATION OF DESIRE. IT MAY TAKE A WHILE FOR AN ADDICT TO FIND THE DESIRE THAT WILL KEEP HER OR HIM IN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS. NO ADDICT SHOULD BE DENIED AN OPPORTUNITY TO STAY LONG ENOUGH TO DEVELOP THAT DESIRE. WE CAN NURTURE THAT DESIRE WITH LOVING ACCEPTANCE.

THE WORDING OF THE THIRD TRADITION REFLECTS THE BROAD FOCUS OF OUR FIRST STEP. IT'S WRITTEN SIMPLY ENOUGH TO INCLUDE ADDICTS OF ALL COUNTRIES AND CULTURES, NO MATTER WHAT DRUGS THEY USED. BEFORE FINDING RECOVERY IN NA, MANY ADDICTS DON'T THINK THAT ALCOHOL IS A PROBLEM. OTHERS ABUSE PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION, THINKING THAT "LEGAL" DRUGS ARE OKAY. BECAUSE OF THE WORDING OF THIS TRADITION, WE ARE ABLE TO ATTRACT AND WELCOME ADDICTS WHO MIGHT THINK THEY DIDN'T USE THE "RIGHT" DRUGS TO QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN NA. EACH ADDICT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DECIDE IF NA IS THE ANSWER FOR HIM OR HERSELF. WE CANNOT MAKE THE DECISION FOR OTHERS.

ALTHOUGH THE THIRD TRADITION IS WRITTEN SIMPLY, WE KNOW THAT WHEN IT TALKS ABOUT "A DESIRE TO STOP USING," IT MEANS USING DRUGS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NA IS A PROGRAM OF RECOVERY FOR DRUG ADDICTS. ALTHOUGH ADDICTION TAKES ON A BROADER MEANING FOR MANY OF US AS WE CONTINUE IN RECOVERY, IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT WE FIRST CAME TO NA BECAUSE OF OUR DRUG PROBLEMS. IF NEW MEMBERS ARE TO FEEL THAT THEY BELONG IN NA, THEY NEED TO HEAR SOMETHING THEY CAN IDENTIFY WITH. THEY FIND THAT IDENTIFICATION IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF RECOVERING ADDICTS



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when

"Miss Heroin's Trap"

*I destroy homes, I tear families apart, I take your children, and
that's just the start.*

*I'm more costly than diamonds and more precious than gold, The
sorrow is I bring is a sight to behold.*

*If you need me, I'm easily found, I'm in the schools and all around
town.*

*I live with the rich, I live with the poor, I live down the street and
maybe next door.*

*My power is awesome, try me and you'll see, If you do, however, you
may never break free.*

*Try me once and I might let you go, Try me twice and I might own
your soul.*

*Once I possess you, you'll steal and lie, You'll do what you have to just
to get high.*

*The crimes you commit for my narcotic charms Will be worth the
pleasure you feel in your nose, lungs, or arms.*

*You'll lie to your mother and steal from your dad, When you see their
tears, you should feel sad. But you'll forget your morals and how you
were raised,*

*I'll be your conscience and I'll teach my ways. I take kids from
parents and parents from kids,*

*I turn people from God and separate friends. I'll take everything from
you - your looks and your pride,*

*I'll be with you always - right by your side. You'll give up everything -
your family, your home, Your friends, your money, and then you be
left all alone.*

*I'll take and I'll take 'til you have nothing more to give, When I'm
finished with you you'll be lucky to still live.*

*If you try me, be warned. this is no game, If given the chance I will
drive you insane.*

*I'll ravish your body, I'll control your mind, I'll own you completely,
your soul will be mine. The nightmares I'll give you while lying in bed,
The voices you'll hear from inside your head, The sweats, the shakes
and the visions you'll see*

*I want you to know these are all gifts from me. But then it's too late
and you'll know in your heart That you are mine and we shall not part.
You'll regret that you tried me, they always do, But you came to me,
not I to you.*

*You knew this would happen, many times you were told, But you
challenged my power and chose to be bold.*

You could have said no and just walked away,

If you could live that day over what would you say?

*I'll be your master and you'll be my slave, I'll even go with you when
you go to your grave.*

Now that you met me, what will you do?

Will you try me or not? It's all up to you.

I can bring you more misery than words can tell,

Come, take my hand let me lead you to hell.



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when
I share with others the **NA** way

Step Three Word Search

D S R H C H K F W H L I D A F H F K R G D J A J Y
 E E T W A D J L Y D M K F S B X M C Y S N F K S S
 S C H B S S E N G N I L L I W S F M V K F W J H S
 I K T M D T K F S K Q T C X R J A K D M A S S N E
 R E W A Y B D E O G D U V J O S N N E S C O X B N
 E R O W I L A O F E A R S A R E L E S S E N E D D
 T H R O D B A T Y D I N G S J F E W T M D G C S E
 O B G L E T K R O A R I B E Y K S S E H T W I T D
 C Y L I S N W G S T K N R E S N E O P E W F T U N
 H F A C W J F N N S X G V N I B C O T R O Y C N I
 A N U A D A I E L A M I S O R E I N H R C A A N M
 N S T O M Y K N S I L T A K C H O E R S H H R E N
 G R I E R O S M I E S O D H E N H T E A O P P L E
 E F R H E J S U W F S V H E O B C S E H I W Y K P
 A L I F P G S Y B X Z E Q P M Z O A L S C K L W O
 M Q P Z P N A W X O B R E C I V W R S S E T I E R
 I N S I R W E C P I A C H P J O T D G E S L A E A
 D H E T E G D L T N R L S B X R D U F L S D D P Q
 P I N H Z R Y S S I N M O F G S E W R S M N D K L
 L E T T I N G G O O O N S T M Q C F L D E G L S B
 D U K D J D H E J C N N Q R N C A M S R T D K S T
 W O R G O T S N I G E B H T I A F O R E T O P A T
 M A T R G H I K L S S E O E V H S U T T R N W O N
 T E P G I N C T I C S N I G E P S U R S I O N R S

Decision

The way we live

Willingness

Turning it over

Faith begins to grow

Spiritual Growth

Fears are lessened

Daily Practice

Step three

Letting go

Desire to change

Faced two choices

Open-mindedness

Action

Surrender



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the NA way



FREE TO BE ME

I've heard people share that NA has given them freedom from themselves, as well as freedom from active addiction. I prefer to say that NA has given me the freedom to be myself. Not one of us was born lying, cheating, stealing, and using. Those behaviors were learned. I believe that inside each of us in an inner core of true good spirit. While I was active in my addiction, I would never have believed that.

Like most of you, I hated the person I had become through the course of my using. I could not, or would not, look in the mirror. That person in the mirror was not me. I felt like someone else was living my life while I watched from somewhere outside my own body. Everything about me was a sham. I was whoever you wanted me to be. I had no self-respect, no sense of self-worth, and definitely no love for myself. My life was crap, and I let people treat me like crap, because I thought I didn't deserve any better. I was convinced that my life was going downhill because I was not good enough. I hated myself, and I wanted to die. Bad things only happen to bad people...right? Wrong. Life happens to everyone, regardless of whom we think we are.

Through the fellowship of NA, I was re-introduced to my Higher Power, a Higher Power that loves me in spite of what I've done in the past. I realized that it is not necessary for me to be good enough. I just have to be me. The Basic Text tells me that I have a disease, not a moral deficiency. I am not a bad person. I let my disease convince me to make some bad choices. Luckily, this is a program of progress, not a program of perfection, or I'd be in serious trouble.

I am making progress today. I like myself more than I ever did in my active addiction, and I can actually look at myself in the mirror without backing down from my own image. Today I no longer try to be the person I think you want me to be. Instead, I strive every day to be the person that my Higher Power always meant for me to be. There is a good person inside of me.

Thanks to the miracle of Narcotics Anonymous and my Higher Power, I'm peeling back the layers of my addiction to get to that inner core of true good spirit. I'm finally free to be me. Who I was in the past is no longer important except to remind me of where I've been. And, just for today, with the help of my Higher Power and through working the program of Narcotics Anonymous, I never have to go there again.

Christy L



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when
I share with others the **NA** way

NANJ MARCH ACTIVITIES

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 UNITED STATES SERVICE ASSEMBLY OF NA	5 UNITED STATES SERVICE ASSEMBLY OF NA EL MILAGRO CONTINUA 15TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY NEWARK
6 UNITED STATES SERVICE ASSEMBLY OF NA	7	8	9	10	11 ROAD TO RECOVERY 13 AREA CONVENTION EAST WINDSOR	12 ROAD TO RECOVERY 13 AREA CONVENTION EAST WINDSOR
13 ROAD TO RECOVERY 13 AREA CONVENTION EAST WINDSOR	14	15	16	17	18	19 BOWLING NIGHT 9:30PM NA MEETING, 11PM BOWLING SUBURBAN ESSEX AREA ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE BRUNSWICK ZONE
20 ROCKAWAY RECOVERY 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY GROUP CELEBRATION SACRED HEART OF JESUS SCHOOL ROCKAWAY, NJ 7:00PM TO 9:00PM	21	22	23	24	25	26 MARCH MADNESS DINNER DANCE BERGEN AREA CONVENTION COMMITTEE PASCACK REFORMED CHURCH 7 PM TO 11:30 PM PARK RIDGE, NJ
27	28	29	30	31	Notes: 3/19 - NJRSC SERVICE MEETING 1:00 PM - 655 EAST JERSEY STREET - BASEMENT ENTRY ELIZABETH, NJ 3/19 - H&I AND PI SUBCOMMITTEES LEARNING DAY 12:00 PM UNTIL 5:00 PM 265 STONE STREET RAHWAY, NJ	



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the NA way

This article is from July 1999

Volume Sixteen

Number Three of The NA Way

Last Sunday, I went to our monthly area service meeting and watched people I love verbally attack one another. It was shocking, but not surprising. I've seen this kind of bad behavior in service committees throughout my recovery, and I've always detested it. It's the sort of thing that drives good people out of service. It seems to take very little to provoke addicts into forgetting the traditions, forgetting their commitment to unity and group conscience. Around here we used to say, If you think you don't have any character defects, get into service.



In service, just like in recovery, we grow or we go. If we can't grow up and deal with frustrations maturely, we end up embittered and burnt out before we even get to the rewards of service. Whether we are serving a group, an area, a committee, or a suffering addict, we need to practice spiritual principles. The following are some that I think are important. I'm sure that more principles could be added to this list, but it should do for starters.

Cordiality is often mistaken for elaborate politeness, but it's really just a willingness to keep things friendly, polite, gentle, and positive. It doesn't mean that we should go along with every suggestion or motion; it just means that we should regard others as human, give them the benefit of the doubt, let them make mistakes without snickering, and indeed lend them a helping hand rather than abuse them for their inexperience.

Respect is an appreciation of others worthiness, their importance in the sight of God, their intrinsic value. If my respect for you is real, it is for what you are, not who you are. I respect you as a unique individual and a beloved child of God, not because you are or know somebody important. If we have compassion for the newcomer in the very arms of the disease, can't we also have some for the service junkie who has become overwhelmed by the heat of the moment? Even an addict with many years clean and lots of service experience can be suffering, and our compassion for that suffering ought to be no less even if we find ourselves at odds with the person.

Consideration means that we take others feelings, problems, and needs into account and refrain from running roughshod over others lives or schedules. Self-restraint is essential, especially when we are discussing something about which we care passionately. It's a common error to assume we can't control anything. It's true that we can't control everything, but we can certainly control our



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the NA way

tempers, our egos, and our language. Forbearance means letting it pass. We don't need to even the score when someone does something that hurts us; doing so only brings us down to the other guy's level. Giving up your right to answer back an insult doesn't reduce your esteem; it enhances it.

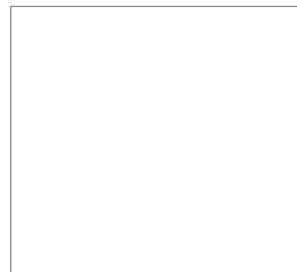
Forgiveness is even more honorable because it shows an understanding of the human frailty of others, and the willingness to let our anger go in order to put love back into our hearts.

Harmlessness is a determination not to cause suffering to another human being. If we would not bring misery on a dumb animal, why would we ever be less concerned about a fellow human? If we practice this principle with grace and willingness, then we will not return a blow or slight, because another persons bad behavior is no excuse for our own. It's important that our trusted servants share a common vision. We often reduce this to our tradition of carrying the message to the addict who still suffers.



That could more correctly be called our primary purpose, and it informs our common vision. Many of us have dreamed of a worldwide fellowship, a place that exists more in spirit than in space, a bond of friendship and fellowship that could provide support for addicts to stay clean and become responsible, loving, God-centered, and joyous people. The surest sign of a spiritual awakening is a generosity of spirit, the desire to share Gods love and bounty with others. We may differ in our ideas about how to achieve our common vision, but if we are generous of spirit we will not begrudge others right to a different view.

As long as we respect others rights to have a different view of the same vision, we don't endanger NA unity. Too often, people confuse unity with uniformity. Even when we disagree about the means for achieving it, we all have the same goal in mind. When we practice the principle of unity, we wish others well even when they are following a different course. Just as there are many ways to work the steps, so are there many ways to be of service. We seek to share our individual gifts for the greater good, acknowledging that NA needs the diversity of talent, understanding, and ideas of our members in order to be effective.



Democracy is a spiritual principle put into positive action. It calls on us to treat everyone with equality and justice. When the votes go against us, we learn to accept the will of the majority that might very well be expressing a group conscience rather than trying to manipulate the outcome we want. After all, it's easy to practice principles when things are going our way. It's when things haven't gone our way that we need most to practice the principle of surrender. In an impassioned moment, we may believe that the very future of NA rides on one decision. But when we regain our perspective, we see that God is in charge and



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the **NA** way

continues to be the guiding power for our message and our work. It is important, while decisions are yet to be made, that we carry the group conscience with the appropriate advocacy. A good service representative ought to bring her group's or area's motion with carefully prepared explanations and reasons and faithfully represent the conscience of the group. It is very hard to advocate for a motion with which one does not personally agree, but it must be done. It's a test of our surrender and trust in the process, but when we are trusted with representing the views of others, we have to make a case ably and convincingly regardless of our personal feelings. Of course, nobody should have to present a motion or take an action that she believes is morally wrong, but service motions rarely take on such ethical importance. In the course of advocating his group's conscience, a trusted servant will sometimes discover that he has reserves of courage that he never knew about. Rather than backing down fearfully, he stands up with confidence, gentle firmness, and appropriate assertiveness to support the conscience he carries. Since there is nothing to lose by confidently advocating his group's conscience, but much to lose by failing to, a GSR may feel as if the group is behind him in spirit, backing him up. These experiences can repeat themselves outside of service. We find that where before we were timid, we now have more inner power, determination, and confidence.

A trusted servant needs to pay careful attention to the business under discussion. We are in the life-saving business, and while it's always appropriate to be cheerful and keep a good sense of humor, it's not right to be careless or flippant with the business we're entrusted to take care of. NA business should be conducted with alertness and thoughtfulness. A trusted servant should show responsibility, perseverance, and commitment. If we say we'll do something or be somewhere, we should keep our word. If a meeting's business takes three hours, we need to stay to the end, no matter what sports event is on TV. Complaining to other trusted servants about how much we're sacrificing and missing out on doesn't help. They're making sacrifices also.

In fact, it's quite appropriate to show appreciation and gratitude to the trusted servants with whom we work and the ones who serve our group. They're not getting paid, and they give so much. A warm hug or a kindly thank you for being of service? is the least we can do to show our appreciation. One of the most sincere ways to show our appreciation is to pay attention to the talents and skills of trusted servants. Notice when someone does something well, and compliment or thank her specifically For that thing. This can give trusted servants the encouragement they need to keep on doing their jobs, even when they get frustrated. NA service is filled with difficult tasks where the personal rewards seem few.

Sociability is a necessary part of working with other people. We're people, not robots, and we need to connect with each other at the human level. Simple friendliness can make that so much easier. It's also important to try to stretch ourselves to meet others on their level. Sensitivity to the feelings and unique circumstances of others is a major part of our social consciousness. This allows us to work with people of varying backgrounds and interact with society as a whole.



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the NA way

Patience is not the ability to wait, but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting.

"thoughts" by www.dumelang.co.za/thoughts

Patience is more than a virtue in service; it's a survival tool. Some members are slow to understand things we may grasp immediately. Some processes are very confusing to new trusted servants. Some business takes a long time to sort out. Some speakers ramble on or get long-winded. Rather than losing our tempers, it's a good idea to take a few

deep breaths, remember that we're all in the same boat, and simply resolve to stay with the business at hand even if it takes all day.

Tolerance can be a tough principle to practice when dealing with harsh or unpleasant characters, self-centered or scheming people who wouldn't know a spiritual principle if it fell on them. However, we wouldn't need to practice tolerance with a loving person, would we? It helps to remember that we're all human, and people who need our tolerance are probably suffering considerably. Compassion for their unhappiness makes it easier to let go of our right to take offense.

Maturity is knowing and accepting limitations. Immature people expect everything and often make unreasonable demands. A mature person doesn't demand more of a situation or others (or himself!) than can be reasonably expected. It takes practicality to schedule no more business into a morning meeting than can be dealt with.



Humility does not mean you think less of yourself.

It means you think of yourself less.

~ Ken Blanchard ~

Humility is an especially important spiritual principle in service. Our individual desires and egos are not as important as what's good for NA as a whole and what furthers our primary purpose.

While certain trusted servants exhibit an unusual amount of wisdom and good judgment, all of us have access to those principles. Wisdom sees quickly to the heart of the matter, and judgment separates the important from the trivial.

Integrity is both a wholeness of self and a sense of honor for one's own values. Sincerity is an open-hearted and above-board expression of truth. Balance is an intuitive sense of how all the parts are needed in the correct measure to form a healthy whole. It is also the willingness to live in harmony with others. Reciprocity is an almost automatic balancing response of the universe. We get back what we put out; we reap what we sow; what goes around; comes around, and what we pulled on someone this time will surely be pulled on us next time. The wise addict cuts no corners, but rather reciprocates love, understanding, and cooperation. There's something liberating about acknowledging our powerlessness. In service as in recovery, we can only do what we can do, but together we can do more than



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the **NA** way

we thought possible. When we surrender to the will of a loving God, we become empowered. The power we try to grab for ourselves is fleeting and in time will wither; the power that God grants us to do His will is ours by right and will endure.

Trusted servants cannot go wrong if they consistently act on principle. If what we want to say or do is not true, loving, and necessary, we should keep quiet. The surest way of sticking to principles is working the steps and staying mindful of the traditions.

It's been said that the steps keep us from committing suicide, and the traditions keep us from committing homicide. Addicts with a robust program of recovery will serve appropriately, constructively, honestly, and humbly. They will never attempt to use their position or influence to exploit or crush other members.

Addicts who practice being God-centered and who pursue a conscious contact with God will always be conscious of the fact that they're working for God. They will regard selfless service as a great opportunity, the very crown of their recovery.



Such addicts become servants we can trust. They act courageously and lovingly, honorably, and compassionately, and manage to keep their serenity no matter what. In service they discover a new freedom. In surrender they achieve a great victory. When thanked for their faithful service, they reply, No, thank you for giving me the opportunity to enrich my life through service.?

There's a saying in NA that I've always liked: If you don't see an example, then be an example. If there are no examples of principle-based service in your area, be the first. Expect no support or appreciation for it at first. Even if you are courageous without being demanding, direct without being offensive, and honest without being cruel, certain people will not appreciate your good example usually those who look the worst in comparison. Even if acting on principle at first earns you some enemies, remember that God will help you, and very soon other addicts will also. Be true to principles all of them and spirit will support you.

The path of addiction is often described as the easier, softer way, but I don't think that's true. It may look easier and softer, but in reality it always leads to cliffs, rocks, and falling to one's death. The real easier, softer way is found in seeking knowledge of God's will and the power to carry it out. So long as we follow that way, we have nothing to fear.

Spirituality is the process of continuously deepening and enriching my consciousness and my perspective on life through ongoing contact with Higher Power and a support system of people who love me and who share my commitment to spirit.

Ron H. New Mexico

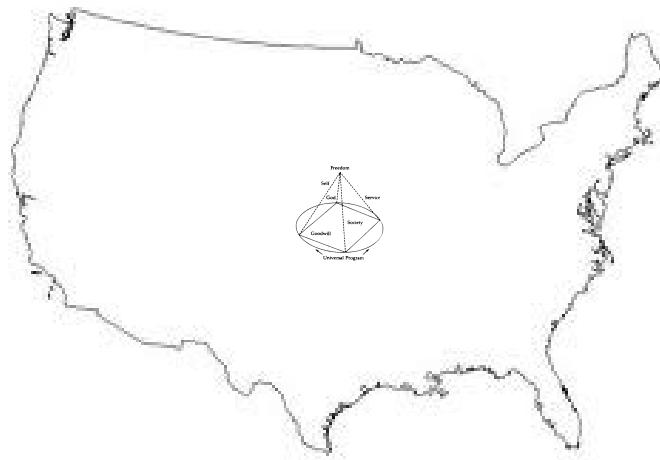


My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when
I share with others the **NA** way

United States Fellowship Assembly



For Narcotics Anonymous



Putting our Primary Purpose back in service

Statement of Purpose of USFA: Our earliest NA service material told us that “everything that occurs in the course of NA service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers”. It is for this reason that we began this work. In the years since, we have continued this work with that same motivation first and foremost. There have been many changes that have created a “disconnect” between our members and all levels of NA Service.

As the World Service model developed to reach out across the oceans and touch the lives of addicts suffering abroad, less energy was felt being utilized for the needs of Members in the United States, where this life giving Fellowship began. Reformation movements rightly follow great expansion and keep alive the vital elements that made our Fellowship attractive and effective.



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when I share with others the NA way

We propose to offer the Fellowship the opportunity to establish a United States Service Conference that can meet the needs of the US Fellowship, based on the spiritual principles of the 12 Traditions, primarily Group Conscience.*

A goal of the US Fellowship Assembly is to provide a forum to write proposals for a US Service Conference. In accordance with our ninth Tradition, the new Service Conference will be designed to be directly responsible to the NA Members and Groups within the United States. We pray for a loving Higher Power to guide us past the obstacles.

* "As unanimously adopted at Marion, N.C. by planning Group - January 7th & 8th, 2011"

USFA Informational Booklet Edition 1

INTRODUCTION

We Are The USSC! Every Member of the United States Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous has a right to participate in and be a part of this monumental event. Even though the United States Service Conference is just a vision at this time, and what it is going to look like and how it will function has yet to be determined, we all have the opportunity, the privilege and the obligation to be a part of this historical gathering!

We in Narcotics Anonymous enjoy a spiritual way of life following the guidance of our 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. This spiritual nature should be carried over into our services and we hope to achieve this in our efforts to create new service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve. To initiate this requires the discipline and restraint to lead by example, not authority.

This booklet** is meant to serve the needs of those who love NA and want to help by providing easy, simple access to key information relating to the formation of a service body—what to encourage and, at times, what to avoid. There are many ways people combine with others for various purposes. In NA we value individual opinion over efficiency. It is more important that our Members are kept informed and involved in decisions affecting our Fellowship. And it is the Members of NA who own our Fellowship and all its common welfare. While the Core Group of the United States Fellowship Assembly is producing this booklet** to help Members coming to the Fellowship Assembly March 4th, 5th and 6th, 2011, it may have other uses as we move towards our goal. We hope it serves you well and have included a “Questions and Answers” section at the back.

The US Fellowship Assembly is a gathering of Members of the United States NA Fellowship. The purpose of this gathering is so our Members can come together in unity to pool our collective experience, strength and hope to better carry the NA message to the addicts that are still suffering here in the US; both those that are already here and those who have yet to come.

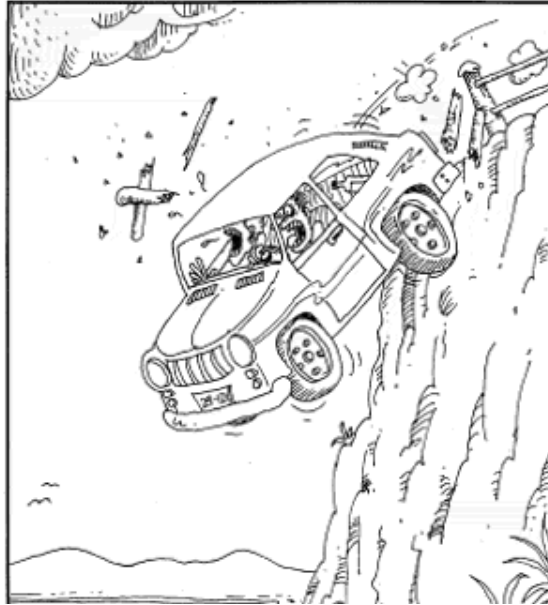
This is a call to action! We are the USSC!

**See the Newsletter Chair, Robin S. to view a copy of the booklet.



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when

I share with others the **NA** way



“Shoot, Honey, Hang on! I'll Call My Sponsor. She'll know what to do”



Flush toilet

God grant me the laughter to help me see the past with perspective, face the future with hope, and celebrate today--- Without taking myself too seriously.

**Sponsor to sponsee...
"Your job is to tell the truth.
My job is to laugh at you when you don't**



Program is Free



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when
I share with others the **NA** way



Passaic County Area Activities Committee Presents



Bowling Night

March 26th

10:00 - 12:00 pm

Garden Palace Bowling Alley

42 Lakeview Avenue - Clifton, NJ

Tickets \$20



Includes bowling shoe rental and a hot buffet

Contacts:

K.C. L. 973-405-3292

Chrys G 201-988-6013

www.passaicarea.org



My Gratitude Speaks when I care and when
I share with others the **NA** way



Release Form

The following release form must accompany all submissions to
“Our Gratitude Speaks Newsletter”
Mail to: Passaic County Area Service / PO Box 2226 / Clifton, N.J.
07015-2226

I hereby give Our Gratitude Speaks, their successors, assignees and those who act in their authority permission to publish the attached article or other written material pertaining to my personal experiences with or opinions about the NA fellowship or program. I understand that my material may be edited. I possess full legal capacity to exercise this authorization and hereby release Our Gratitude Speaks and the Narcotics Anonymous fellowship and its service boards and committees from any claim by myself, my successors and / or assignees.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Witness: _____

The opinions expressed in Our Gratitude Speaks do not necessarily reflect the opinion of any member of the Newsletter Committee or that of NA as a whole. All submissions become the property of Our Gratitude Speaks whether or not you sign the release form. Submissions may be edited for length, language and adherence to the 12 Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

Passaic County Area Service meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the corner of Crooks and Lakeview Avenue in Clifton, NJ. Policy meeting starts at 12:00 pm. Area Service starts at 1:00 pm with a workshop.

All NA members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Passaic County Area Subcommittees Contact Information:

H&I: handi@passaicarea.org

(2nd Saturday of the month / 460 Lafayette Ave. Hawthorne, NJ / 10:00 am)

PR: pr@passaicarea.org

Activities: activities@passaicarea.org

(1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month / 17 Pompton Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ / 6:30 pm)

Website: webmaster@passaicarea.org

Workshop: workshop@passaicarea.org

Policy: policy@passaicarea.org

Literature: literature@passaicarea.org

Newsletter: newsletter@passaicarea.org