



OUR GRATITUDE SPEAKS



Volume 1 Issue 1
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BEING OF SERVICE

In our Basic Text it says that Good will is best exemplified in service; proper service is “Doing the right thing for the right reason” (Page ix) After working the Twelve Steps with a Narcotics Anonymous Sponsor, applying the Spiritual Principles in my life (to the best of my ability) and learning how to live in the spirit of the Twelve Traditions, I thought that I was prepared to be of service to NA. However; it wasn't until I began learning and applying the Twelve Concepts, in service as well as in my life, that I began Doing the right things for the right reasons, more often. Being of service has taken on a much

broader view to me than it had in the past. Truly practicing what is best for the Group, the Area, and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole (when I'm God centered and not self-centered) has escalated my personal recovery and enhanced the level of Serenity and Peace of mind that I have today. I strongly suggest that any member with the desire to serve, work the twelve steps, the twelve traditions, and incorporate the twelve concepts of service, into their personal recovery.

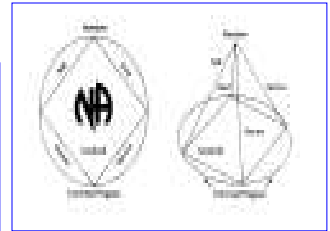
Just Me.....
Geoff C.

“NA SERVICE”

I have been involved with service work in Narcotics Anonymous since I had two months clean. I continue to serve at the group, area, and regional level. I recently fulfilled my commitment as coffee maker at my home group with ten and a half years clean. If my home group needs a coffee maker, I'll serve.

I have been involved with Public Information for the last eight and a half years. First in Bergen Area, now in Passaic Area. I look at it as serving God through Narcotics Anonymous. I still have the passion to serve. Especially PR, formerly known as PI.

In Loving Service
Jim M.



When we show the courage necessary to speak our mind, while also showing respect for one another, we can be confident that we act in the best interest of the NA Fellowship. By insisting on thorough discussion of important issues, the worst we can do is take a little of each other's time; at best, we protect the fellowship from the consequences of a hasty or misinformed decision.

Twelve Concepts for NA Service: page 20

GRATEFUL FOR SERVICE

Being involved in service makes me feel worthwhile” Something just short of a miracle occurs when we begin to have a positive impact on others lives through our service efforts. (JFT pg. 127)

For so long, I was only of service to myself, finding ways and means to fill the emptiness in my life. My first experience of service was thru an H & I commitment. Every week I would go to a Detox, this is where I began to feel

the Power of example, because I was that example, staying clean One Day at a Time. As I continued with service, it truly is the foundation in which my life in recovery was built. The benefits it has given to my life shows in the way I live. I have found Freedom, Peace and Serenity thru working the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. Narcotics Anonymous has shown me how to live a life that is not in self

will but in God's will. I can't but we can!!!! I have been blessed to experience and be part of the growth within the area in the last 7 years, serving from a small 5 groups to a strong 17. It is a privilege to serve.

In Gods Loving Service,
Amy L.

SUGGESTION #9 – GET INVOLVED.

Really... there is an area in NJ that has 9 suggestions on their area meeting list. The 9th suggestion is "Get Involved". Personally, I think it should be on the statewide meeting list, so I guess I'll talk to our RCM about putting in a motion at region.

It was something that was "suggested" to me when I first came around in 2002, and it's one of the main reasons I am still here with the same clean date. Service work has helped me work and play better with others, and has truly been paramount in my personal recovery. On most days, service work allows me to feel a part of something, which was what I was searching for my entire life. I have served NA in several capacities on a group and area level. Currently, I am the Website Chairperson for Passaic County Area. Out of every service position I have ever held in NA, this position is without a doubt the most rewarding

and fulfilling. As our literature says, "We can only keep what we have by giving it away" - I need to share that I did not hear about Narcotics Anonymous through H&I coming into a treatment facility I was in. I did not hear about Narcotics Anonymous through Public Information coming into my high school doing a presentation or seeing it advertised on a poster or billboard. I found Narcotics Anonymous through the internet, and it led me to my very first NA meeting on a Thursday night in Montville (the meeting no longer exists). My second meeting was at a place that you wouldn't know it was there unless you were specifically looking for it or saw a bunch of people hanging outside with coffee cups in their hands. This meeting place became my "2nd home" until the doors shut in September, 2004. When that Area eventually folded in September, 2006, Passaic County Area welcomed the last re-

maining 4 area meetings with open arms. At the time, I was the GSR of the Against All Odds meeting, then I became the GSR of the (now defunct) Life Experience's Women's meeting, and I have been serving in Passaic County Area ever since, currently on the website and convention committee. Over 5 years later, my gratitude speaks when I care and share with others the NA way, and I learned to do that through service work in Narcotics Anonymous. My enthusiasm still goes strong and on some days my enthusiasm can be mistaken for arrogance, especially when I witness our traditions being compromised. Regardless, I continue to suit up and show up and serve Narcotics Anonymous since it was "suggested" to me to do so back in 2002. I look forward to serving NA for many years to come.

~Stacy P.

"SPIRITUALLY GROWING IN SERVICE"

The relationship that I've developed with the God of my understanding has directed me in the 11th and 12th step to service. The spiritual principles that have arrived from service work and selflessness have more than helped in my own personal recovery. I had the opportunity to serve the "For Those Who Care" group as a GSR when I had 9 months clean. I saw the determination and unity that held together, at that time, a relatively small area. There were ten groups and not a lot of trusted servants, but there were people there who generally wanted to be of service and get the work done. In Passaic County Area, I saw GSR's, Subcommittee

Chairs, and Administrative Body Members actively participating in the NA Area Service Structure. I've had the enjoyment of watching the area grow and evolve. I've seen existing meetings join the area, and new ones spring up. I've seen meetings fold as well. I've seen the evolution of a Public Information Subcommittee, a once defunct subcommittee for almost ten years in Passaic County Area. I've seen H&I grow from zero to ten commitments in the course of two years. I've seen new subcommittees emerge: Website, Convention, and this newly formed Newsletter Committee. Existing Subcommittees have matured as well. There were

great experiences for growth, assisting the area in obtaining an insurance policy, coordinating the first JAC meetings to discuss budgetary and banking concerns, and participating in overseeing subcommittee activity. It truly has been a wonderful experience serving Passaic County Area, and I look forward to the future service that God directs me to.

Danny G.

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"The Honor To Serve"

I remember very distinctly my first involvement with service. A Member of my support group and I decided to attend the business meeting of our home group. It was still a fairly new meeting and needed trusted servants. There was a position for

a PI Liaison that was vacant. The duties of the position were to attend the monthly PI meeting, and keep the group apprised of the sub-committee's activities. The commitment was for 1 year. My friend and I did not have the required clean time,

but that requirement was waived. We qualified and I believe I was voted in because I had around 4 or 5 days more of clean time than my friend. With less than 60 days clean, there was no way for me to fathom that this would be pivotal in my

journey in the recovery process.

I attended my first PI meeting, of the Manhattan Area Service. I was totally overwhelmed. The PI chair acknowledged all new members of the sub-committee and went straight to the agenda. There were approximately 15 people in attendance, all speaking English, but I did not understand their meaning or purpose.

I attended the meeting the following month, and sure enough I was able to understand a little more. I kept coming and took commitments within the PI sub-committee. I was permitted the privilege to serve as chair for that sub-committee for more than 2 years. One of the first NA

shirts I bought had imprinted on it, "Service, The Key To Recovery." It was a t-shirt that was made for a multi-regional service learning day where sub-committee members from many states came to share their experience, strength, and hope regarding their involvement in service.

Most of my learning about the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous was a direct result of service. I have had the honor to serve with many who are powerful examples of how this fellowship works. It has been gratifying work that has helped me in my personal recovery. It has helped me to stay in the process so that I can give back what was so freely given to me. I continue

to serve, because I have watched how my predecessors and sponsor have benefited from their involvement in service.

Attending Learning Days will give one the opportunity to learn from experienced members how to acquire the gift of selfless service. These gifts continue to come as long as I stay involved.

Rodney B.

PASSAIC COUNTY AREA CONVENTION COMMITTEE

SPEAKER JAM & DANCE

The Passaic County Convention Fundraising sub-committee would like to cordially invite our members to come on out and support this event. We have four speakers on different topics followed by a dance. It will be held at the **Knights of Columbus Hall** at 16-16 Maple Avenue, in **Fairlawn, N.J.** on **Saturday, March 22nd 2008**. Speakers from 7pm-9pm Dance from 9pm-1am. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance & \$10.00 at the door. "Food and Beverages available"

For more information or tickets please contact: 411@passaicarea.org

"Support & Submissions"

The Passaic County Newsletter Committee would like to encourage any and all Narcotics Anonymous members to support this committee by sending in your submissions to newsletter@passaicarea.org. We would also like to invite you to visit the Passaic County Area. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of every month on the corner of Crooks and Lakeview Ave., Clifton, N.J. St. Brendans Hall.

Newsletter: 11: am

Policy: 12: pm

Area / Beginning with a workshop: 1: pm

Convention: approximately 4:30 pm / after area service

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.

Release Form

The following release form must accompany all submissions to "Our Gratitude Speaks Newsletter"

Mail to Passaic Service Area P.O. Box 5439 Passaic Park N.J. 07055-9999

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 board and committees from any claim by myself, my successors and / or assignees.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Witness: _____ Date: _____

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 Subcommittees Contact Information:

H&I: handi@passaicarea.org

PI: pi@passaicarea.org

Activities: activities@passaicarea.org

Website: webmaster@passaicarea.org

Convention: convention@passaicarea.org

Workshop: workshop@passaicarea.org

Policy: policy@passaicarea.org

Literature: literature@passaicarea.org

Newsletter: newsletter@passaicarea.org

DISCLAIMER

All submissions to Our Gratitude Speaks shall become the property of the Our Gratitude Speaks sub-committee. We reserve the right to edit for space and or content. Any submissions sent via e-mail require a release form. No last names are ever used to preserve the principle of anonymity.

Geoff C. / Newsletter Chair



Elections for All Positions @ Passaic County Area will be held on April 13th 2008. There will not be a workshop on this date and area will begin at 1:00 p.m. All Narcotics Anonymous Members with the willingness to serve are encouraged to attend.

All Administrative Body Alternate or Assistant Commitments require a min. 1 year clean time
All Sub-committee Chairs and Administrative Body Commitments require a min. 2 year clean time

Because the groups have created the service structure, they have final authority over all its affairs. By the same token, the groups also have the final responsibility for the support of all its activities. The two go hand and hand. Ideally, responsibility and authority are flip sides of the same coin; the exercise of one is also an

exercise of the other. When our groups provide the resources-conscience and ideas, people, money-needed to fulfill NA services, they also provide direction to the service structure. The most important resource contributed to the service structure by an NA group is almost exclusively spiritual: Its ideas and its

conscience. Without the voice of the groups, the service structure may not know what kinds of services are needed, or whether the services it provides are ones the groups want. The groups provide the ideas and direction needed to guide the service structure in fulfilling its responsibilities. "Second Concept" page 4 Twelve Concepts for NA Service.