

Anchorage Area NA Newsletter

January 2011

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Anchorage Area Narcotics Anonymous members informed of the events and happenings of our fellowship.

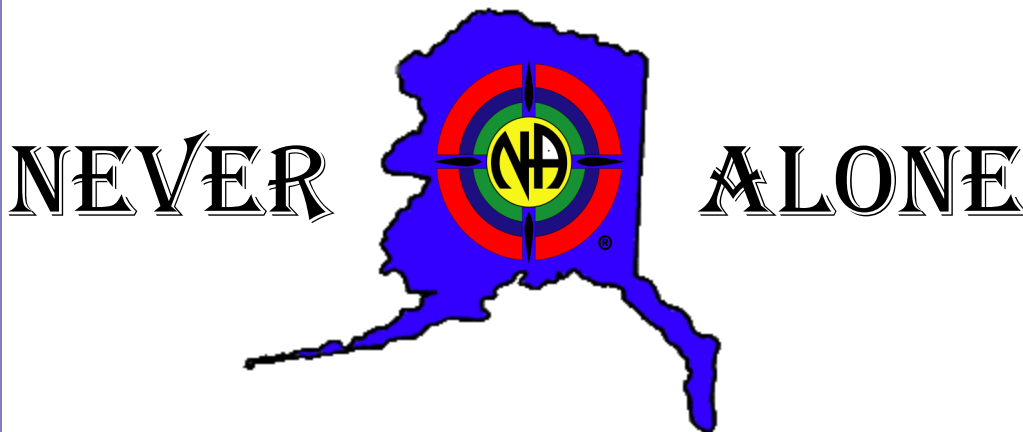
Every attempt is made to adhere to NAWS guidelines and SASC guidelines for newsletters.

The content contained herein expresses the views and knowledge of it's contributors, not N.A. as a whole.

Newsletter Committee Members

Amber N. Chair
Jack S. Member

Never Alone Newsletter
Meets every 3rd Sunday of the month at The Alano Club, 3103 Spenard Road, 2-3pm.



GSRI? What is that?

We've all heard the term GSR but not all of us know what it is. And even a few of us that think we do truly don't. So, what is a GSR? And why is it important to have one? This might clarify exactly what a GSR is and dispel what a GSR isn't.

Group service representative (GSR)

Each group elects one group service representative; even those groups hosting more than one recovery meeting elect just one GSR. These GSRs form the foundation of our service structure. GSRs provide constant, active influence over the discussions being carried on within the service structure. They do this by participating in area service committee meetings, attending forums and assemblies at both the area and regional levels.

If we are vigilant in choosing stable, qualified leaders at this level of service, the remainder of the structure will almost certainly be sound. From this strong foundation, a service structure can be built that will nourish, inform, and support the groups in the same way that the groups nourish and support the structure.

GSRs bear great responsibility. While GSRs are elected by the group, they are not mere group messengers. They are selected to serve as active members of the area service committee. They are responsible to act in the best interests of NA as a whole, not solely as advocates of their own groups priorities. GSRs need to be as well informed as they can be concerning the affairs of the committee and study reports of the committee's officers and subcommittee chairpersons. They read the various handbooks published by the World Service Office on each area of service. After carefully considering their own conscience and what they know about how their group members feel, they take active, critical parts in the discussions which form the group conscience of the entire committee.

GSRs link their groups with the rest of the NA service structure through the information conveyed in their reports to and from the area committee. At group business meetings, the GSR report provides a summary of area committee activities, often sparking discussions among group members that provide the GSR with a feel for how the area can better serve the group's needs. In group recovery meetings, GSRs make available fliers announcing area and regional activities. At area committee meetings, GSR reports provide perspectives on group growth vital to the committee's work. If a group is having problems, its GSR can share those problems with the committee in his or her reports. And if the group hasn't found solutions to those problems, the area chairperson will open a slot on the committee's "sharing session" agenda so that the GSR can gather the experience others have had in similar situations. If any helpful solutions arise from the sharing session, the GSR can report those back to the group.

The Group Booklet, Revised

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SLOGANS

We're responsible for the effort - not the outcome!

Sorrow is looking back,
Worry is looking around

Formula for failure: try to please everyone

Humility is our acceptance of ourselves

Recovery is an education without a graduation

IP #15 - PI and the NA Member

PI and the NA Member

Carrying the NA message has been an important part of many of our members' recovery and has helped some of us to discover and develop our abilities. The NA message of recovery can reach a great many people with your support. Participating in the PI committee gives you a chance to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

What is public information?

The role of the PI committee is to ensure that clear and accurate information about NA is available to the public. The demand for information about our fellowship is greater than ever. Being part of a committee that brings suffering addicts to our fellowship is a reward that cannot be expressed, only experienced.

What is the NA member's responsibility?

We need to accept responsibility for our behavior in public when we identify ourselves as NA members. This is a form of public information. Each one of us may be seen as a representative of NA to those not familiar with our program. The way in which we maintain the facilities we use for our meetings and functions also affects how the public views NA as a whole. Another form of public information service occurs when requests are made for information or presentations about Narcotics Anonymous. When a request is made, a PI committee member should be contacted. If a committee member is unavailable, the request should be relayed to a group service representative (GSR) or area chairperson. We handle requests in this manner because each request deserves immediate and appropriate attention. When you are approached with a request, remember that this is not a personal one, but a request for Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

What is the importance of anonymity?

This is a "we" program, and in public information the concept that "I can't, we can" is vital. Our spiritual foundation of anonymity can be seriously damaged by members acting independently. We do not give our last names nor appear in the media as members of Narcotics Anonymous. As part of our spiritual program of recovery, we avoid self-promotion in favor of a more humble style of service. In our experience, members who become "media stars" in relationship to their membership in NA run the risk of placing the spiritual foundation of their recovery in jeopardy as well as giving the public an inaccurate perspective of recovery in NA.

How do members get involved?

Every member has a place in the public information committee. PI does value and need your input, suggestions, feedback, and participation.

IP #15 Continued ...

We openly invite you to come to a PI committee meeting. Like most service committees, PI always needs willing hands and minds.

How does the work get done?

Groups often come together to form an area service committee (ASC). Public information services are provided by a subcommittee of the ASC. The PI committee receives requests for information from many different sources, such as individuals, agencies and the media.

Some of the ways we provide information to the public include:

1. Responding to requests for speakers from churches, civic organizations, schools, or the media.
2. Developing and distributing posters, fliers, and other public service announcements to inform the public of how to reach us.
3. Learning days and workshops.
4. Mailing meeting directories, informational letters, and pamphlets to people who may come in contact with addicts.
5. Cooperate with a hospitals and institutions committee in overlapping projects.
6. Where separate phone line or office committees do not exist, a PI committee may be responsible for operating a phone line.

To get involved in any of these activities, talk to a GSR or someone from your local PI committee. We can't keep what we have unless we give it away. Public information committee service allows us to do just that.

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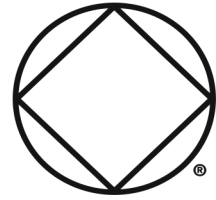
Clean Date Anniversaries...

Diane T. celebrated 5 years on December 28th.

Bob R. celebrated 2 years on December 29th.

Nicole B. celebrates 3 years on January 22nd.

Franko B. celebrates 2 years on January 27th.



Have you got some NA information, news, a recovery related story, or an event you wish to include in next month's newsletter?

E-mail:
anchoragenanewsletter@
yahoo.com

Quote of the month:

Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.

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My first never was
I'll never smoke weed
Well that was the never
planted the seed

The seed that grew
with tender loving care
the seed that was never
Turned into a dare

A dare that lasts forever
A dare that will never die
A dare that brought me to my
knees and turned my life into a
lie

I know it was a never
But what will it do
I just want to try a little
you want to try too?

But I'll never do coke
Well...maybe just one time
It couldn't hurt much
just one little line

I'll never say never
I'll never do that
I'll never go there
I'll never smoke crack

I'll never do Heroin...well
maybe i'll just smoke a little tar
It will never take me away
well....it won't take me too far

I'll never use a needle
I'll never shoot dope
I'll never...shit
there went all hope

I'll never get clean
I'll never get out
I'll never know
what lifes all about

Every single never
I've never ever had
tore my heart into pieces
and made me so sad

I never thought I could do it
I never thought it would be mine
I never ever realized
that now is the time

So that word that did me in
I'll choose not to say
I'm making a decision to live
Just for today

We Do Recover

When at the end of the road we find that we can no longer function as a human being, either with or without drugs, we all face the same dilemma. What is there left to do?

There seems to be this alternative: either go on as best we can to the bitter ends—jails, institutions or death—or find a new way to live. In years gone by, very few addicts ever had this last choice. Those who are addicted today are more fortunate. For the first time in man's entire history, a simple way has been proving itself in the lives of many addicts. It is available to us all.

This is a simple spiritual—not religious—program, known as Narcotics Anonymous.

Reprinted from the White Booklet, *Narcotics Anonymous*.

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January 2011 inspired by IP #15 - PI and the NA Member

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message	committee	public	facilities	information	we	vital
spiritual	learningdays	workshops	speakers	provide	PI	
hospitals	institutions	phoneline	pamphlets	presentations		
fellowship	GSR	addicts	anonymity	service	foundation	