

Anchorage Area NA
Newsletter

2011 October

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
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John Cartoonist

Doug P. Dana Jay
Andrea Sheri

Never Alone Newsletter Committee meets Sundays at noon, upstairs at the Alano Club, 3103 Spenard Rd.

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

NEVER



ALONE

Tradition 10

Narcotics Anonymous Tradition 10 states, "Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy." Basic Text page 71 says, "Our recovery speaks for itself. Our Tenth Tradition specifically helps protect our reputation. This tradition says that N.A. has no opinion on outside issues. We don't take sides. We don't have any recommendations. N.A. as a fellowship, does not participate in politics; to do so would invite controversy. It would jeopardize our fellowship. Those who agree with our opinions might commend us for taking a stand, but some would always disagree. With a price this high, is it any wonder we choose not to take sides in societies problems? For our own survival, we have no opinion on outside issues." I have had practice with this tradition while doing service work for H and I. When I go into a treatment facility to carry the message, before I open the meeting I always state our Tenth Tradition and let them know that I have no opinion on the program that they are working in whatever facility they are at. I am simply there to deliver a clear message of Narcotics Anonymous and share my experience, strength, and hope. - Melissa C.

NA Halloween Bash!

Friday, October 28th, 2011, 8pm, @ the Dry Dock

Meeting, Dance, 50/50 Raffle,

Trick or Treating for the kids and more!

Looking for Service Work?

Join us at 6pm to help set up/decorate!



Contact Melissa @ 744-5286 for more info

Upcoming NA Activities:

November—Maui Mystery Dinner (see page 4 for info!), Thanksgiving Narathon, Bowling, Learning Days and Fish Fry for Service.

December—Poetry Slam, Christmas Narathon.

January— New Years Narathon, NA Birthday Dinner.

February— Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball.

More Will Be Revealed...

SLOGANS

When all else fails...
follow directions.

Change is a process, not an event.

If you do what you always did,
you'll get what you always got.

H O P E = Happy Our Program
Exists.

Seven days without a meeting
makes one weak.

Take the cotton out of your ears
and stick it in your mouth.

Time takes time.

**The Never Alone Anchorage
Area Narcotics Anonymous
Newsletter needs YOU!
Come join us Sundays at
noon, upstairs, at The Alano
Club. No clean time require-
ment and all are welcome!**

Did you know...

There are more than 43,900 meet-
ings weekly in over 127 Countries
world-wide!

The Fourth Concept for NA service

Area is seeking nominations! Its voting time for Area level service. Make sure your home group GSR is ready to vote and/or bring nomination to the upcoming area next month.

Some nominations, as of print time, are:

Josh W. Area Chair Alan Mc. Vice Chair Tami Mc. Secretary

DJ Alternate Secretary Carol K. RCM

The Fourth Concept

Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.

“... One of the first things we look for when selecting trusted servants is humility. ... Through continuing to work the Twelve Steps, our trusted servants have come to know not only their assets but their defects and their limitations. ... Good NA leaders do not think they have to do everything themselves; they ask for help, advice, and direction on a regular basis. ... nothing invites us to respect our trusted servants more than clear evidence of their humility.”

“Capable NA leadership exhibits the full range of personal characteristics associated with a spiritual awakening. ... those who serve report on their activities completely and truthfully. Our leaders must have the integrity needed to hear others well, yet still be able to stand on sound principle; to compromise, and to disagree without being disagreeable; to demonstrate the courage of their convictions and surrender.”

“Effective NA leadership knows not only how to serve, but when it will serve best to step aside and allow others to take over. An entrenched bureaucracy inhibits our fellowships’ growth, while a regular influx of new leadership, balanced by continuity, inspires NA growth.”

“Certain educational, business, personal and service experiences may suit a recovering addict more to one type of service commitment than another. We do ourselves, our fellowship, and our trusted servants a disservice when we ask our members to perform tasks they are incapable of fulfilling.”

“Effective leadership is highly valued in NA, and the Fourth Concept speaks of the qualities we should consider when selecting leaders for ourselves. However, we should remember that the fulfillment of many service responsibilities requires nothing more than the willingness to serve.”
- Reprinted excerpt from *The Twelve Concepts for NA Service*. Copyright © 1989, 1990, 1991. Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Published 1991. Approved Edition 1992.

- Thank you Doug P. for submitting this info!

is sponsoring an informal Anchorage Area Service Committee Narcotics Anonymous (AASCNA) Guideline Discussion Group and Dessert Potluck

Come join us the first Thursday of **EVERY** month for coffee and dessert:

October 6th, 2011

November 3rd, 2011

December 1st, 2011

January 5th, 2012

January 26th, 2012



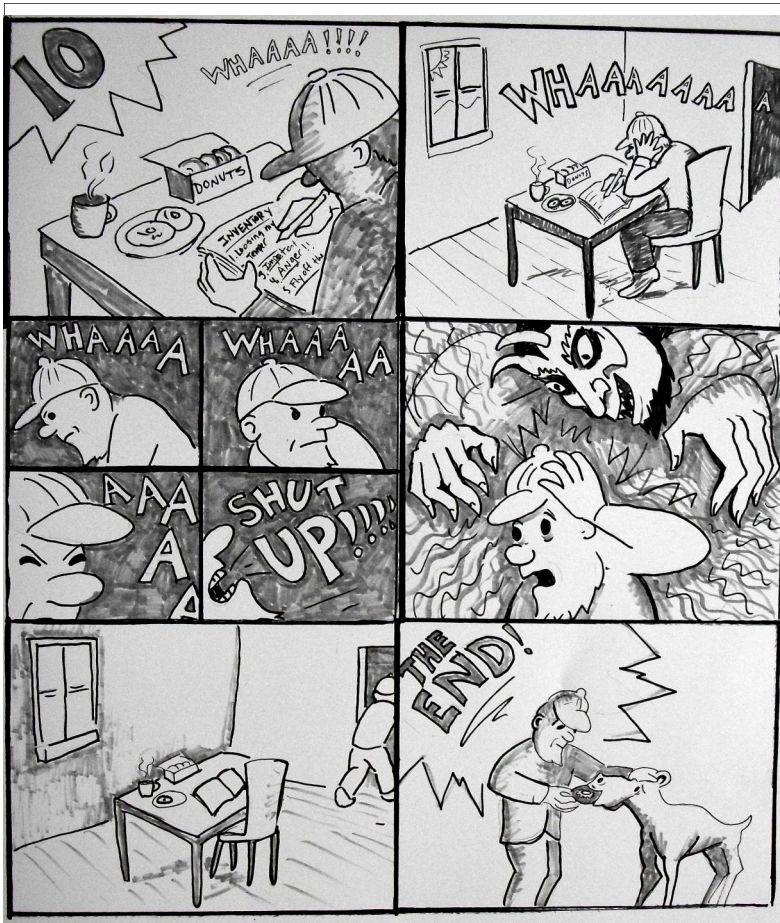
EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

For more info contact Alan M @ 764-0999 or Terri B. @ 349-9707

DYNAMITE THURSDAY NIGHT
DYNAMITE THURSDAY NIGHT

When: 8-9pm.

Where: St. Mary's Church, at the
corner of Tudor and Lake Otis.



Step 10
by
John C.

Name
The
Moose
Comic!

Send in
your
ideas!

Dear NA:

Q: Why do we have the clarity statement?

A: Basic Text, page XV, in the Introduction states, "The Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous as adapted from A.A. are the basis of our recovery program. We have only broadened their perspective. We follow the same path with a single exception; our identification as addicts is all-inclusive with respect to any mood-changing mind-altering substance. Alcoholism is too limited a term for us; our problem is not a specific substance, it is a disease called addiction." I have been taught that the drug use is just a symptom of my disease. It doesn't matter what I used, it was the behaviors that went with it that make me an addict. If I focus solely on the drug that I used, I will be looking at the differences between myself and other addicts.

Got a question you would like answered by the NA guru?

Send your questions to anchoragenanewsletter@yahoo.com **OR** drop it off in the newsletter envelope on the board at Round About **OR** bring it to one of our Newsletter Subcommittee meetings, Sundays at noon, upstairs at the Alano Club!

A Group Inventory

Questions to consider in a home group;

Does our meeting format attract the newcomer and old-timer alike? In what ways does my home group fulfill its primary purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering addict? Does our meeting have a recovering atmosphere in it that allows someone new to feel fairly comfortable? I think these questions and more are a good starting point in taking a group inventory.

Like a personal inventory, a group inventory can give us a chance to look closely at our group as a whole. Honestly examine it. Many times I "see what I want to see" and have a difficult time with my own perceptions of things, which is why an important function of each group is its regularly scheduled business meeting. Not just for the day to day functions we all know well, but also to pose questions and comments that pertain to that specific group. It allows each member to participate at an eye level with one another, and can put a group perspective on individual ideas, much like a sponsor would when helping us work step 10.

When my home group "The Burning Desire" started, we included new readings into the format. Out of the basic text they came, but not the traditional italicized readings found in other meetings in the area. Against my will, and much to my surprise, some old-timers were turned off by this. Our meeting is also held by candlelight. But not everyone enjoys sitting in the dark. No group can be all things to all people. Special thanks to my fellow NA members for providing such diversity in Anchorage meetings, that we can all feel comfortable enough somewhere! I've realized that it is hard to please everyone, and also that it's not the groups' responsibility to attempt to please everyone. The function of the group is to carry the message, and I think we're all doing just fine. -Derek W.

"The group is the most powerful vehicle of carrying the message of hope and the promise of freedom from active addiction. Any addict can stop using, lose the desire to use, and find a new and better way to live. In meetings we hear other addicts share their experience, strength and hope in order to stay clean themselves and help others to stay clean." *Reprinted excerpt from —IP No. 9 The Group. Copyright © 1976,1988. Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.*

Maui Mystery Dinner

Anchorage NA Activities is hosting an evening of recovery, fellowship, food, and intrigue. 7pm-midnight, Friday, Nov. 4th, at Central Lutheran Church (15th and Cordova).

- 7-8pm Speaker Meeting
- 8:15-8:30pm Check in and team assignments
- 8:30-9:15pm hors devours and games
- 9:15-10:30pm Dinner and Sleuthing

Buffet dinner featuring Huli Huli chicken, Kaluah pork, Lomi Lomi, Spamballs, salads and much, much more!

Featuring:

Guacamole Contest!

Limbo! Pictures!

Tickets for sale now! Contact Tami or DJ for more information.

Themed smoothies and sodas will be sold separately.

Clean Date Anniversaries...

A few were left out of Septembers NA Newsletter...

On 9/9/11 Ronnie celebrates 12 years! (9/9/99)

On 9/11/11 Geoff celebrates 11 years! (9/11/00)

On 9/20/11 Shaina celebrates 90 days! (6/20/11)

On 9/26/11 Quinn celebrates 1 year! (9/26/10)

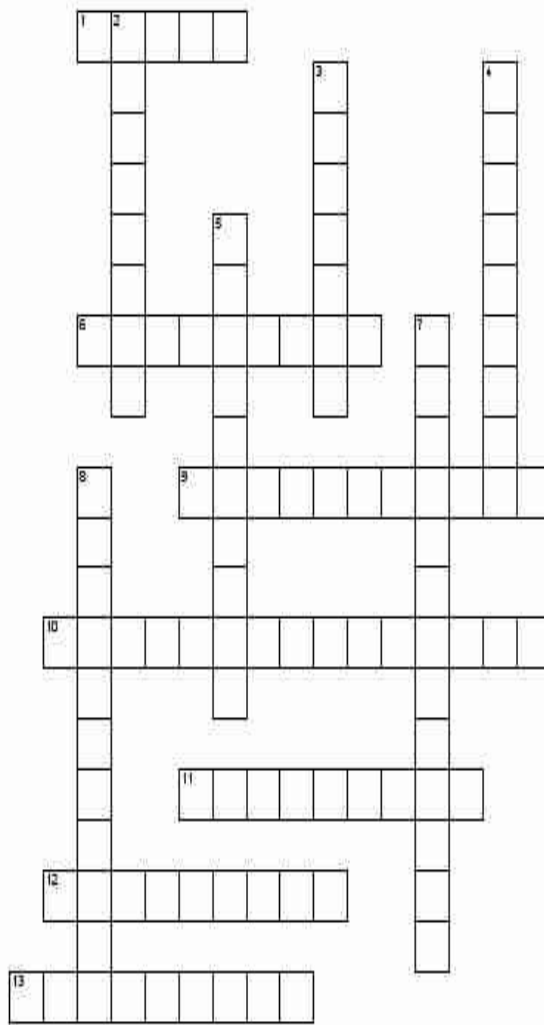
On 10/31/11 Rob celebrates 14 years! (10/31/97)

10/13/11 Cindy celebrates 9 months! (1/13/11)

10/25/11 Peter celebrates 9 months! (1/25/11)

On 10/4/11 Sarah celebrates 1 year! (10/4/10)

Personal Inventory Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 _____ human beings.
- 6 The point of the Tenth Step is for us to be willing to pay _____ to our thoughts, behaviors, and values.
- 9 _____ our recovery depends on our _____ to meet those challenges.
- 10 _____ we identified in the Sixth Step.
- 11 _____ furthers our spiritual healing in a different way; by creating an awareness of what's going on in our lives today.
- 12 _____ it takes a great deal of _____ to humbly acknowledge our part in our own lives.
- 13 _____ we are no longer obsessed with _____.

Down

- 2 _____ draw on the _____ we've acquired in the previous steps.
- 3 A person who provides guidance to work the steps.
- 4 _____ the first _____ made it possible to live in harmony with ourselves and others.
- 5 _____ in the end, we are the ones who must live with our _____.
- 7 _____ the process of admitting our mistakes and changing our behavior _____.

Stumped? Read Step Ten, From It Works How and Why, page 96-104. Copyright © 1993, Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.