



# Never Alone

*Anchorage Area NA Newsletter*

*March 2019 Issue*

**We are currently looking for submissions!!**

If you have stories, wisdom, humor, events, photos (No faces!), or announcements you would like to share, please submit them to [neveraloneneewsletter907@gmail.com](mailto:neveraloneneewsletter907@gmail.com). Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Anchorage Area Narcotics Anonymous members informed of the events and happenings in our fellowship. Every attempt is made to adhere to NAWS guidelines for newsletters. The content contained herein expresses the views and knowledge of it's contributors, not NA as a whole.

If you are interested in working on the newsletter contact Amy U @ 907-952-5939. Subcommittee meetings are held the Thursday after area at Gwennies at 6:30 PM.

## ***Anna S's Story Clean since April 2, 1995***

My recovery story started with an old NA meeting schedule I found on a table in a waiting room at the local methadone clinic. My counselor encouraged me to go since I really didn't have anyone in my life who was any kind of healthy. It took me a couple of weeks to work up the courage to actually go to the meeting. When I finally made it to a meeting, and finally worked up the courage to share, I shared that I had been in treatment for about a month and that I was on methadone. I thought I was clean since I wasn't shooting dope. Some people in the room thought I shouldn't even be in a meeting while I was on methadone. Others said I could be there, but that I shouldn't share.

Thankfully, there were people there that told me to keep coming back, and told me to share what was affecting my recovery, and what I was grateful for. They taught me that NA is a program of complete abstinence. A woman named Alana asked me if I had a sponsor and offered to sponsor me temporarily. She taught me to go to meetings every day, to pick up the phone, and not use in between meetings. Someone suggested I get a book and start reading the literature. I was broke as hell. The literature guy let me clean house for a couple hours to earn enough to buy a basic text and a copy of It Works. I got the opportunity to read that any addict could get clean and stay clean, and find a new way to live. I was so desperate to find this new way to live that y'all talked about.

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**Anchorage NA Helpline: 907-277-5483**

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My sponsor and I had a lot of talks about the concept of clean time and my treatment. I was doing an extended detox. Ultimately she left the issue of my clean time up to me and my higher power. In the mean time, I was invited to the meetings after the meetings, and I learned, as the literature says, that there were people who believed in me and wanted to help me in my recovery. These amazing people, welcomed me with open arms, taught me how to play, have fun in recovery, and most importantly, not take myself so seriously. As the time came near to finish my treatment, I decided that I would change my clean date when my treatment was done to keep things square between me and my HP. My last dosing at the clinic was on April 1, 1995. My clean date is April 2, 1995.

Since then, so many dreams have been awakened and been fulfilled. My family was reunited by reconnecting to the son I had turned over to his dad when I was using. I got to keep my daughter who was seven when I got clean and had seen way too many things while she was being my road dog in my active addiction. The women in the fellowship taught me how to be a mom in a healthy way. They taught me to be a lady, and most of all act like a grown ass woman. I got to go back to school, find a career that I love, and find ways to express myself creatively in a way that honors my cultural heritage.

I've had three sponsors since I got clean. I've been with my 3rd sponsor for about 20 years. Through the process of step work with my sponsors (in my first year I worked 3 sets of steps...since then somewhat slower), I was able to find a higher power that works for me, develop a connection to that higher power, and trust that my HP has my back, no matter what. With my sponsors we have drug into the light all the secrets that I had kept hidden in the dark recesses of my heart and mind. They couldn't hurt me anymore. I have gotten the opportunity to find all my behaviors that don't serve me well and how they manifest in my life. I'd love to be able to say that all shortcomings have been removed but that wouldn't be the truth. I'm perfectly imperfect and my HP still loves me. Through the years, my sponsor has led me through the amends process; helping to clean up my side of the street and not take ownership of stuff that isn't mine. They have taught me to be of service in a way that is humble and comes from a place of love. My recovery has not been perfect by any stretch of the imagination. I work steps slowly. At times I'm not actively writing a step, but I'm thinking about them. At one point I allowed my life on its terms overrun my recovery. My ego got big and my connection to my recovery got small. The result was me falling into relapse behavior. I lied, I stole, and looked for all the things outside of myself to change the way that I felt. I didn't get loaded, but I got lots of consequences. I picked up my first ever felony at 19 years clean. It was a direct result of not going to meetings, not staying close to my core, and not asking for help. The result was that I nearly lost everything. It was a beautiful opportunity to get back to the basics. I had two years off work. Two years to go to meetings, call my sponsor and hard core four, be present for my family and recenter my heart and head.

The fellowship wrapped their arms around me and welcomed me the same way they did when I first got here. They heard me cry, they heard my pain and they loved me back to life in recovery. For this I will always be grateful.

## ***Upcoming events!!***

<b><i>What</i></b>	<b><i>When</i></b>	<b><i>Where</i></b>	<b><i>How Much</i></b>
NA's 40th Birthday Party	March 16, 2019 Doors open at 5 PM	Our Lady of Guadalupe	\$15 Single
Kenai Peninsula Women's Retreat	May 3-5, 2019	The Drifter's Lodge	Contact Danna @ 907- 690-1481
Kenai Peninsula 4th Annual Men's Retreat	May 17-19, 2019	Solid Rock Bible Camp, Soldotna	See Flyer for Registration
35th Annual Fairbanks Blowout	June 28-30, 2019	Twin Bears Camp, Fairbanks	FREE
35th Annual Alaska Regional Convention	October, 2019	Anchorage	TBA

**Convention Subcommittees are in need of people to be of service!!! We only keep  
what we have by giving it away! Come get involved!!!!**

## ***WE NEED YOU!!!!!!!***

***Anchorage area is in need of people ready and willing to do service  
work! Come be of service!***