

# **Northern New England**

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## **NNERSC** Update

The March 13<sup>th</sup> RSC was in Portland, ME. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum today. This means that no motions could be voted on today and that only money already budgeted could be dispersed. Motions can be submitted and put in the minutes for the next RSC. Discussions can take place and reports still turned in. Our Regional Delegates are busy preparing for the World Service Conference April 25 to May 1, 2010.

There are still tentative plans for a Unity barbeque to coincide with the July RSC in the Granite State Area.

Budgets were submitted in March, to be voted on in May, to take effect in July. Nominations for Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Regional Delegate, Alternate Regional Delegate, Newsletter Chair and MRLE Chair will happen in May and July with elections in July. The next RSC meeting is May 8, 2010 in Dover, NH at the Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, in the Community Conference Room, Newsletter at 11am, RSC @ noon.

Dates of next RSC meetings are: July 10, 2010 (GSA), September 11, 2010 (Maine), November 13, 2010.



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DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of NA as a whole, the NNERSC, or the Newsletter Subcommittee.



## North East Zonal Forum

The Northeast Zonal Forum meets twice a year, once in the winter and once in the summer. It is composed of fourteen regions in the northeast United States. Its main focus is on discussion, both of topics important to our member regions, and of issues facing NA worldwide.

The NEZF met January 22-24, 2010 in Queens NY, hosted by the Greater New York Region. There was a proposal submitted by the New Jersey Region for the cost of the website to be split by the 2 hosting regions of the NEZF in the calendar year. The annual cost is \$120. This year the bill will be split by Greater NY and Mid-Atlantic. Our region is scheduled to host the NEZF in January 2012.

#### Next NEZFs:

Mid Atlantic June 25-27, 2010 Rooms – 95.00 per/night.

State College, PA Topic is how will the NEZF resolve the issues that are continuously returned to. (money management, etc)

**New Jersey Region** January 29-31 2011

#### **New England Region**

June 2011 2

#### Recent Meeting Changes

- Wednesday night HOW AND WHY GROUP in Saco, ME moved
- Monday night in Lewiston, ME no longer meeting
- Tuesday night SISTERS BACK TO BASICS in Manchester, NH time change
- Tuesday night ALL OR NOTHING WOMEN'S GROUP in Nashua, NH time change
- Wednesday night Londonderry, NH new meeting THE PROMISE IS FREEDOM
- Wednesday night Portsmouth, NH, Crossroads House new meeting ONE IS TOO MANY
- 2 new meetings Thursday night Plymouth, NH, ALL ARE WELCOME (6 pm), and WHY ARE WE HERE (7pm)
- Saturday morning BREAKFAST CLUB, Portland, ME new time 9:30am and new JFT format
- Friday night, new meeting, SISTERS OF SERVICE, Wentworth- Douglass, Dover, NH

#### **Building Relationships**

Before I came into the fellowship of NA my experiences with relationships weren't very good. I had very few and the ones I had were very unhealthy. Being a member of NA has not only helped me stay clean and grow but has also helped me build healthy, loving and caring relationships. I'm not talking about sexual ones either. Building these relationships began by slowly getting to know people and allowing people to know me. By being open-minded to Sponsorship, I was able to trust another person to help me understand the program part of the fellowship. Getting a Sponsor got me started in the program which is step work.

When it comes to relationships, my first healthy, understanding, loving and caring one was with my sponsor. By doing step work I learned how to have a relationship with a power greater than me. I didn't understand that was a relationship or how

that relationship would even help me. It took time, being open-minded and willing to try something new to develop that relationship. I am



so grateful today that I gave it a chance. Today, I have an amazing relationship with my higher power that I choose to call God, whether or not God talks to me when I talk, whether or not the answer is there or not. My God is someone I talk to everyday; someone who listens and doesn't judge. I feel better after praying.

Sponsorship, I would say, has been the most important relationship in my life. It wasn't always that way. Beginning with me calling just to complain about my day and how bad things were and never wanting to hear what my Sponsor had to say in return. I just complained and hung up. I thought that's what a Sponsor was for; little did I know. It took me about a year to realize that my Sponsor was being very patient and understanding with me; listening to complain about everything. me Eventually, I was capable of listening to his response, listening to suggestions and doing step work. I was taught that there is a solution to my problems; step work. Through doing step work and applying it in my life, life has changed. Now, I talk to my sponsor about fears and happiness and really want advice. My relationship with my Sponsor is based on trust, honesty, love; things I've never had. I've never had anyone I could trust and love unconditionally and have it returned to me. Wow, that was so new! Felt great; feels great! Because I was able to work on relationships with my higher power and my sponsor I'm capable of having other healthy relationships in my life loving, caring, today; honest and understanding relationships. I'm also learning that not all relationships are healthy for me. Today, I'm capable of changing that and continuing to building healthy ones. How amazing is that? Today, I believe I have a relationship with myself. That might sound funny, but I love myself today and I'm not always trying to run from me. It's ok to be with me today. Thank you Narcotics Anonymous!

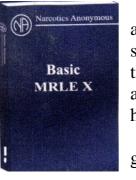
Love, A Grateful Addict.

#### **Father and Son Clean in the Rooms**

I know when I finally hit bottom there was nowhere left to go except to change. I know I was sick and tired of being sick and tired, burnt out, and having nothing I knew I had to change. I was about to give up. I could not keep a job; my wife was ready to ship me out. My wife and I started seeing substance abuse councilors.

Both councilors told me to try NA meetings. I told them "forget it!" Finally after my third heart attack, my doctor

told me I clean up my is when I guess I will meetings if they can went; I and nearly halfway



better act. That said "I try these and see help." I listened got up through

the meeting and left. I talked to addicts after and they told me to "keep coming back." I went back, did 90 meetings in 90 days as was suggested to me. I met the one who is my sponsor today and another man who took me to my first NA retreat up in Maine. It was a whole new awakening. While I was trying to change my ways so was my son. My son had become addicted to narcotics and had lost a good job. He had to go to detox. It took him a couple of times to kick it. Meetings every day and night was what he had to do. While we were both getting clean neither one of us knew the other one was going to NA. It's great to know we can do things and not need to have something that we have to get. My son and his wife have graced me with a wonderful grandson. We both have received our five year medallions in the past year. He got his medallion at Thanksgiving and I received mine on 1/10/2010. He came up from Boston to present me with mine.

We go to conventions, speaker jams, and other NA events together. We share smiles from being happy, joyous and free. The whole thing is we never told each other we got clean till after we did it. I thank God, Higher Power, and the Fellowship of NA for saving this addicts life. Addict - NNER

#### **Statement of Purpose**

Note the editors..... from Thank you for sharing recovery with us through the Northern New England Regional Newsletter. Our purpose is simple; to offer articles, news, photos, calendars of events in the area and some good clean fun as well. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends in recovery, and we also hope that you will find yourself inspired to contribute to this publication. In short, we are in service to you, our reader. We ideas. welcome vour feedback. suggestions, opinions, and knowledge. As editors of this publication, we reserve the right to edit based on length, profanity and excessive drug or sexual reference. Thanks again.

#### **Getting To Know Me**

I know the type of relationships I had while I was using truly reflected the type of relationship I was capable of having. Being completely self-centered meant that anyone who had any sense of their

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own value would not allow themselves to be treated the way I treated people. With that in mind see below my favorite reading from Just For Today April 1<sup>st</sup>

Addiction affected every area of our lives. Just as we sought the drug that would make everything alright, so we sought people to fix us. We made impossible demands, driving away those who had anything of worth to offer us. Often, the only people left were those who were themselves too needy to be capable of denying our unrealistic expectations. It's no wonder that we were unable to establish and maintain healthy intimate relationships in our addiction.

Today, in recovery, we've stopped expecting drugs to fix us. If we still expect people to fix us, perhaps it's time to extend our recovery program to our relationships. We begin by admitting we have a problem—that we don't know the first thing about how to have healthy intimate relationships. We seek out members who've had similar problems and have found relief. We talk with them and listen to what they share about this aspect of their recovery. We apply the program to all our affairs, seeking the same kind of freedom in our relationships that we find throughout our recovery.

Just for today: Loving relationships are within my reach. Today, I will examine the effects of addiction on my

## relationships so that I can begin seeking recovery.

This reading was the turning point in my early recovery it allowed me to put aside the guilt, and focus on the solution. It helped with my sponsor, not expecting her to fix me but to guide me, learn about the kind of relationships I wanted to have, and more importantly how to hold up my end. Today my life is full of people I love and who love me back, the way I need to be loved. I will be getting married this summer, when I got here I never would have imagined me healthy and in a place able to have an intimate loving and yes trusting relationship. With gods love and guidance anything is **POSSIBLE!** 

Member, Granite State Area



#### **Becoming Real**

My Brothers and Sisters, the literature tells us that relationships can be a particularly difficult area for us. In recovery, through practicing the principles I've learned through step work, life has changed a great deal. I'll wager that you and I have in common that once we spent all our waking hours finding ways and means to get more. We got clean, our disease arrested as we stopped using, and found out, like it tells us in step 2, that "The longer we stayed clean the more evidence we had that our disease went much deeper than the drugs." There aren't enough hours in the day anymore.

I stopped robbing, lying, stealing, cheating, degrading myself, debasing the value of others as a result of applying this program. I made a list of the people and institutions I had harmed, found willingness to make direct amends, and with a sponsor, made those amends. A part of that process meant an ongoing change in my behavior.

The relationship with many has grown, sponsor, Higher Power, friends, children, sponsees, even my pets! Life is fuller today than it has ever been. But we need to keep applying principles, and doing the leg work in recovery. In preparing for this article, I've thought about the relationship I have developed and moreover, am developing, with myself. Rather than blow smoke up any orifice, I encourage you to look at the one you are working to develop with yourself. Are you taking these principles to heart for yourself? Are you using the same compassion, patience, acceptance, forgiveness, and honesty with yourself? The Triangle of Self Obsession IP tells us that we can get caught in resentments of the past, anger in the present and fear of the future. Why would I think that,

with some time and step work in my life that left unchecked, I would not return to that self damaging triangle? I used to sponsor people, with the best of heart, only to find that taking every opportunity to tell them where they screwed up really didn't inspire them to open up to me. I found that as I changed (and as YOU change) the message changed, and I was able to work with sponsees, pointing out the growth from their struggles. They have benefitted more from this approach than any of the ones in the past.

What I suggest to you is that you remember that you are human, and will wander off course from time to time.

Rather than beat vourself for your mistakes, note where you would rather be going. and give yourself the grace that God, NA and others have given you, and choose to go where you ought.

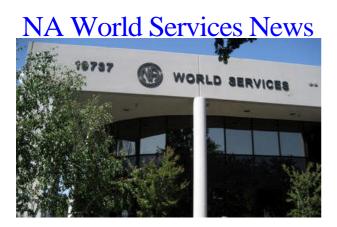


We are not perfect. Sorry to burst the bubble! But we're really only works in process. We're not who we were, and not who we will be, just who we are. Why not practice unconditional love, acceptance and encouragement with yourself? unavoidable Pain is in recovery. Suffering and misery are optional. Give yourself the freedom to give it up!

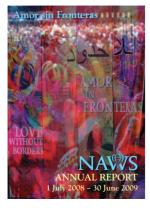
Truly, how dare I not be grateful? *Member, Seacoast Area* 

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**The 30th World Service Conference** Our Vision – Our Future 25 April – 1 May 2010 Woodland Hills, California, USA



#### Just added:

Here is the link for the very informative 2008-2009 NAWS Annual Report. This is definitely worth looking at. Check out the regional donation section for starters.

http://www.na.org/?ID=reports-ar-2009-TOC

#### Living Clean Book Update

Review and Input on Chapters Three, Four and Five is now available. The deadline for input on these chapters is June 30, 2010.

The new proposed chapter order is:

Chapter 1. Practicing these Principles in All Our Affairs

- Chapter 2. Identity
- Chapter 3. Living Spiritually
- Chapter 4. Physical Selves
- Chapter 5. Relationships
- Chapter 6. Moving Beyond Social Acceptability
- Chapter 7. The Journey Continues

One area in which your contributions would be most helpful at the moment is to submit material for the chapters of Moving Beyond Social Acceptability and the Journey Continues. The link to the Living Clean discussion board is: <u>http://www.naws.org/lc/</u>

#### **Basic H&I Guide and PR Basics**

The link below is for the revised Basic H& I Guide and the new PR Basics. The Basic H& I Guide is simply an updated version that reflects current service practices. PR Basics contains material from the Public Relations Handbook which has be e n simplified. It was designed for members who are considering PR /PI service and desire to gain a basic understanding of PR principles.

http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/ uploads/pdf/PR/PR\_H\_I\_Packet.pdf

#### Area Updates

#### **Granite State Area**

The RCM-Alt position has been filled; although the clean-time requirement had to be waived.

#### Activities

We are busy planning the Spring Fling Event coming up April 24<sup>th</sup>. We also have a Roller-skating event planned for April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Enfield NH.

#### BOD

We reviewed the GSANA financial balance sheet and noticed that the area is in the red for the second consecutive month, but there is money in various committees' reserves to cover expenses if required. Also, we have initiated research into acquiring a new insurance agent. We will have more information in the next few months.

#### Campout

We have tentatively filled all but the vice chair positions at this time. We have decided to offer a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative camping mug in addition to the regular merchandise this year. In addition, we are in the process of finalizing the registration package items, getting quotes from vendors, speaker selections and finalizing the activities for the big kids as well as the little kids.

#### **Convention**

The last subcommittee meeting went well and we mostly discussed merchandising for the convention, which is coming right up at the end of July.

#### H&I

We are planning our next learning day which will be taking place in Contoocook during the Memorial Day outing. We are going to start between 1-2pm and go for 2 hours.

#### Literature

Not much has been happening with the literature committee and the Vice Chair is trying to get a meeting together for this next month. He also mentioned that the literature chair position is open and he would love some help.

#### PI

We would like to thank everyone who showed up to help with the professional mailing, it was a success. Now that we have finished the professional mailing, our next project will be to review and update the Public Information section of our web site.

#### **Maine Area**

#### H&I

A long awaited volunteer orientation for the Cumberland County Jail is scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-9. They have 12 spots open and we have 16 applicants so not all will able to go. This orientation will allow us to begin a women's commitment at Cumberland County Jail. We have had two requests this month for H@I to bring in a meeting; one from CCJ pre release and one from Crossroads for women. We hope to make this work in the future as we continue to get willing volunteers.



#### Website

Just the usual work of updating the online meeting information, event information, and responding to emails sent to the web servant.

#### Activities

At our last meeting, we discussed bringing events to the Brunswick area,

viewing it as a central location for many meetings in Maine (Portland, Damariscotta, Augusta, etc..)

We are investigating bowling, dance halls and holding a Resentment Bonfire in the Brunswick area.

We are planning a dance in Westbrook and a Game night/potluck in South Portland for April.

#### Ad-hoc

A draft copy of our updated ASC Guidelines is ready to be submitted to the ASC and have been added to the website for review. Suggestions can be forwarded to the ad-hoc Chair through the www.namaine.org

#### Outreach

At our subcommittee meeting, we discussed a few different topics, mostly how we should on be centered concentrating our efforts on in Outreach. We have come up with a schedule to attend 9 meetings in March, with the of furthering hopes unity in а geographically disparate area. We also discussed how we could best meet the needs of addicts who are unable to attend meetings due to illness or other impairment, as well as the feasibility of putting on a learning day for addicts in our area, possibly in conjunction with the Miracle.

#### Miracle

Our convention committee has started out on several tasks to prepare for a great convention for 2010. A logo was chosen to express our group conscience that "RECOVERY ROCKS" and we have started comparative shopping for best pricing on items for resale. We plan to make this a memorable time for everyone, new friends, new understandings and hopes, great recovery, a few surprises, and lots of fun.



#### Seacoast Area

The Seacoast Area currently has 13 meeting per week. We had two Conference Agenda Workshops on January 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010. The current open positions at the ASC are Secretary and Regional Committee Member Alternate. We recently elected a Policy Chairperson, and our Public Relations Committee is beginning to meet and transition from the separate subcommittees of Hospitals & Institutions and Public Information.

We are starting to ramp up for Fellowship under the Stars 20, and have already spoken with the Goose Hollow campground, having reserved the 16th, 17th and 18th of July. We began discussing offering a greater array of meetings and step workshops for this summer. Upcoming events include Recovery Bowling on April 17 from 1-

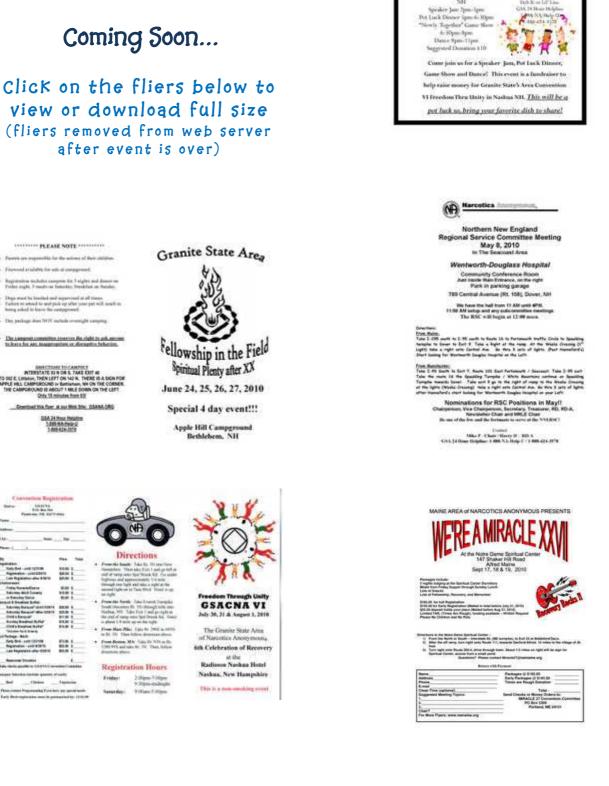
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Spring

Fling

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3pm at the Dover Bowl and May 22 will be a Potluck Dinner, meeting and NA Auction at the 1<sup>st</sup> Church Congregational in Rochester, NH. In June there will be a sponsorship event at the same location in Rochester. More details coming soon.





The <u>NA Way Magazine</u> is the quarterly journal of Narcotics Anonymous. It contains recovery-related articles and humor, and event notices (such as conventions). It is written by recovering addicts for recovering addicts. Any NA member or service body may get a free subscription, either paper or electronic (email). <u>NAWS News</u> is the service-related publication of NA World Services (NAWS). Subscriptions to it are available in electronic form (and free). It reports topics such as World Board meetings, how to participate in projects like the <u>Living Clean</u> book, upcoming workshops, and more – if you have a passion for service to NA, this publication is for you.

To sign up for a subscription, go to <u>http://www.na.org</u>. From the list of links on the left, select Periodicals and Reports. On the Periodicals and Reports page, select link Subscribe to our Periodicals and Other Publications. (From this same page there are also links to download back issues.) On the subscriptions page, log in (if you don't have a NAWS login and password, there is a link to get one). Once logged in, you will be on the subscriptions page with links for the <u>NA Way Magazine</u> and <u>NAWS News</u>. Select the link(s) you are interested in and fill out the information. If you already have a subscription, it will tell you so. If you have a subscription to <u>NA Way Magazine</u> and wish to change the way you receive it, select the Update button, and from the Delivery Method drop-down list, choose Paper Delivery or Email Delivery.

An important point to consider: even though <u>NA Way Magazine</u> paper subscriptions are free to the recipient, they are not free to Narcotics Anonymous. NAWS distributes an average of 42,000 paper copies of each issue.<sup>1</sup> The cost in the first 18 months of this conference cycle (2008 - 2010) is approximately \$250,000.<sup>2</sup> Choosing an electronic (email) subscription saves Narcotics Anonymous money, which can then be available to help carry our life-saving message to the addict who still suffers.

1. Conference Agenda Report 2010, p 18

2. NAWS News, Feb 2010, p 2



## Relationship Fun Word Search

tsrlsvfeelings ppn eer frcrhsrt wet fnrehiaaehn ocs titi hteyhse rio splr rtonpsr kamndeu a lordia elr r f sm p p i r e s p t n e m t i m m o c l b t t ann i ted rhsohei menntgi aetvtrh ygi putgxnliist aah lyhu aatnaed luf niap gnrgffr pii ylimafirpgu loving trusting faith intimate painful faith sexual work commitment friends playmate partner confidant special priority share innermost feelings children employers parents family brothers sisters

## Northern New England Region of NA—April 2010

М	Т	W	Т	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
			1		3 GSA Rollerskating Event Great View Rollerskating, 180 US Rt 4, Enfield, NH 1-4pm	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Seacoast ASC 6pm, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Community Conference Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH. Granite State ASC 9am, Manchester VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Road,
12	13	14	15	16	17 Seacoast Bowling Event Dover Bowl, 883 Central St. Dover, NH 1-3pm	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Maine ASC noon, 10:30am Subcommittees & Literature purchases. Mid-Coast Hospital, 123 Medical Center Drive, Brunswick, ME GSA Spring Fling Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua	25

## Northern New England Region of NA—May 2010

Mon	Tue	Wed.	Thur	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 NNERSC noon, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Community Conference Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH	9 Seacoast ASC 6pm, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Community Conference Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH. Granite State ASC 9am, Manchester VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Road, Manchester, NH
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Seacoast Dinner Potluck Auction First Church Congregational 63 S Main St Rochester, NH	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Maine ASC noon, 10:30am Subcommittees & Literature purchases. Mid-Coast Hospital, 123 Medical Center Drive, Brunswick, ME	30