



# Northern New England News

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Issue 18

## RSC News

**The next RSC** is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>, location TBA. (We recently lost 2 of our meeting places due to construction expansion.) RCMs will be asked to approve the July, September, November minutes as well as the MRLE Budget and the revamped Newsletter Guidelines.

**Before the January RSC** (10-11:45AM) there will be a Basic Text Follow-Up Input Workshop.

**The next MRLE** is scheduled for December 2007. Even though there is no MRLE Chairperson yet, a budget has been submitted for approval at the January RSC meeting.

There is still time for members in the Northern New England Region to provide input on Zone wide Workshops and the Area Planning Tool to the Regional Delegates for the January North East Zonal Forum (NEZF).

Upcoming RSC meetings to be held on:  
March 10<sup>th</sup> and May 12, 2007.

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# Experience, Strength and Hope

## *A Gift to Ourselves*

Throughout our lives many of us have found that there was something about ourselves that made us feel alienated from the rest of our world. In some way we felt different from others, often to the extent that we acted according to their standards. When that didn't work, we tried something else, eventually believing that our drug-of-choice was the answer, along with the various people who fit into that lifestyle. Sooner or later, that choice wasn't working for us either; it was slowly driving us insane and gradually killing us in the process. Somehow we survived long enough to make it into the NA program, giving us a chance to rebuild our lives.

One of the first things we learned is that we needed to not use, just for today; without that we could make no further progress. That was a realistic goal we could achieve in our lives, and a point from where we could grow. In working the first-three Steps, we surrendered and became honest about our addiction and unmanageable lives, we became open-minded about finding a Power greater than ourselves that could lead us back to sanity, and we became willing to develop a relationship with that Higher Power. As a result of that work, we felt more positive about ourselves than we have in years, if not for our entire lives.

Now what about that person we wanted to become? Is that person still alive inside? We can't ignore the fact that our disease still lives with us, but we don't have to listen to its demands and feed it today. Consequently, we have the freedom to find that person we believed lost to us. Or maybe that person we wanted to become is not going to work for us. Maybe that person was just a fiction we created to cope with our general dissatisfaction about the world we lived in. Each of us needs to find out who we really are deep inside, and how we can become that person.

As luck would have it, this is not a 3-Step program, but a 12-Step program. Having worked, and continue living the first three Steps, we move forward to Step 4. We take an inventory of who we really are. We discover that we are not entirely good or entirely bad. We discover that, yes, we are different from one another, which in truth is a good thing. We discover what our liabilities are as well as our assets. We begin the process of honestly accepting ourselves.

Now, today, I have the opportunity to learn more about who I REALLY am. I have the choice to keep what I need and not act upon what I don't, so long as I choose not to use and lose. I can give myself a wonderful gift: learning to accept myself.

*-Member, Pennsylvania, Mid Atlantic Region*

### **Carry The Message!**

“We can only keep what we have by giving it away.” This is *your* space to share your experience, strength and hope. We have an open topic forum and a forum emphasizing service work.

**Also, we are now seeking articles regarding NA History – personal history or archival snippets are welcome.**

Poetry and Art are other ways to share your experience strength and hope. Send contributions to [mnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:mnewsletter@yahoo.com). Please limit your sharing to half a page, single-spaced. Thanks in advance for your participation.

→February Issue Deadline: January 15<sup>th</sup>←

## Experience Strength & Hope Service

### *I Just Came from an H&I Presentation*

Three others in Narcotics Anonymous and I just came from an H&I meeting as panel members. We filled a one hour period presenting the NA program to the clients in a rehab from our local area. We opened the meeting by introducing ourselves and explaining that NA was not affiliated with their facility in any way. We were simply volunteers who came to make known Narcotics Anonymous to them.

After we opened the meeting in the usual fashion with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity prayer, we did nearly all the usual readings. We followed that by reading the entire chapter, 'What is NA,' from our Recovery Text. One of our panel members then proceeded to share her experience, strength and hope, and we finished out the presentation with a question and answer period before closing up for the night.

The format of this particular meeting had not always been this way and there was some controversy to get it back on track in following the guidelines from our H&I manual. This particular facility is a short-term rehab (21 days). Our guidelines clearly tell us that in these type facilities we follow a presentation type format rather than a more engaging and liberal, meeting style format. It is easy to think that in NA 'we do it our way,' but in these situations (H&I presentations/meetings), we are involved with others who might be trying to get what we have, clean recovery from addiction. The H&I manual took many members of NA many years to produce, and if we choose not to follow their guidelines, we do so at our own peril both as members and as a fellowship.

The panel member who shared during the presentation was nervous, being just seven months clean and in recovery, but her message was strong. It was clear to others that her story touched the hearts of a few in attendance. We left the meeting with the hope that the rehab's clients got enough from our presentation that they will be encouraged to attend a regular NA meeting when they return to the outside world. This, after being in the warm, insulated environment of a rehab. While we cannot be sure this hope will be realized for all, the panel members know we stayed clean another day and took action to carry the Narcotics Anonymous message of recovery. All thanks go to God and those who came before to enable our carrying the NA message to those who will come after. Let's hope we leave them an intact message, clear and concise.

*-Member, NA*

## NNERSC History Snapshot

*These are excerpts from a letter that was written by the newly formed NNERSC on December 14, 1991 and was published in the 1992 Conference Agenda Report, and is an important part of our history.*

On September 15, 1991, four service areas known as Granite State, Seacoast, Southern Maine and Central Maine formed the Northern New England Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous. The formation of this new Region grew out of the restructuring process within the New England Region that began May 7, 1989. Last year the Mountain Valley Region emerged from this process and was seated at WSC '91. Our member Areas have participated in the New England Region ad-hoc on Restructuring as well as Area level ad-hoc committees on Regional Growth.

It is our intention to be introduced by the New England Region to the WSC as a new Region to the World Service Conference in April 1992. At that time we will be ask to be recognized as a voting participant.

The Northern New England Region meets on a monthly basis and continues to support the New England Region both spiritually and financially.

The Northern New England Region was formed in the belief that the Fellowship within the member Areas will be better served by a smaller more efficient service structure. We will also continue to reach out to Northern Maine to help determine their needs.

## What's Going On In My Area?

### MAINE AREA

Seems our ASC meetings are lively and healthy with 15 or so voting GSRs in attendance. We maintain a great website and a phonenumber service. Our H&I and PI committees do great work too. Recently, the H&I committee has come up with guidelines for themselves. Unityfest committee is up and running, so our convention will be ready to roll this winter.

Currently we have the following vacancies for area positions: Vice Chair Open, PI Open, Literature Open, Outreach Open, RCM Open, RCM/A Open.

We will soon be doing our Area Inventory. Hopefully, with learnings from that we can explore ways to attract more members to service.

*-Maine Area Chair*

### GRANITE STATE AREA - Hello Northern New England Region!

Since the beginning of our trusted servant turnover/fiscal year in July, the Granite State Area has been discussing ways to meet our budgetary needs for this year. As we've grown as an area, so have our expenses. Our first step has been to charge (at cost) for our meeting lists. We have also been discussing whether all expenses are fulfilling our primary purpose. For the most part, we feel that they are:

- Our Convention and Campout Committees consistently give out

“newcomer packages” while also providing a fun-filled atmosphere of recovery.

- Our Public Information Subcommittee has recently switched our phonenumber to a toll-free, 888, number and our website is full of easily accessible and useful information and also has a bulletin board.
- H&I trusted servants are currently carrying the message (and literature!) into 22 facilities and have been coordinating periodic orientations provided by the State of New Hampshire for those who want to speak in a state facility.
- Our Literature Subcommittee held a workshop on November 18<sup>th</sup> to review proposed additions to the next edition of the Basic Text and was well attended.
- So far this year our Activities Subcommittee has held two successful events and plans their next event for New Year's Eve at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashua, NH (See Website for flyer & details)

All of our subcommittees always need more support. Public Information is currently looking for a Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, although members are keeping the phonenumber and website up and running. H&I still has about 9 open commitments.

For the most part, GSANA groups are going strong and fulfilling our primary purpose. We have just added a new meeting to our list in Suncook, NH at 160 Main St. on Thursday nights at 7:00pm. Meetings needing support/trusted servants are: Monday-Friday noontime in Manchester, Thursday night in Chichester, Thursday night in Nashua, Monday night in Manchester and Tuesday night in Manchester.

Please see our website for upcoming subcommittee/committee meetings and an updated meeting list.

We have all been working really hard to fulfill our primary purpose and most of us are having a great time doing so.

*-Granite State Area Chair*

## Meeting Updates

### CLOSED MEETINGS

MAINE – Monday, Madawaska, *Madawaska NA*

MAINE - Wednesday, Saco, *Just For Today*

MAINE – Friday, Augusta, *Freedom Friday Night*

MAINE - Saturday, Belfast, *Saturday Night Alive*

MAINE – Sunday, Augusta, *Back to Basics*

### MEETING CHANGES

MAINE – Saturday, Bangor, New Freedom, now meets from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

GRANITE STATE – Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Brookline *Still Alive and Well* is moving to The First Congregational Church, 10 Union Street, Milford. Tall white church, just west of the oval, on Union Street.

MAINE – Friday, Portland, *Just For Tonight* now meets from 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM. The last meeting of the month is a Tradition/Concepts Meeting.

### NEW MEETINGS!

GRANITE STATE - Thursday, Suncook, NH, 7PM at the United Methodist Church on 160 Main Street.

MAINE – Thursday, Belfast, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, United Methodist Church, 23 Mill Lane. O D

MAINE - Friday, Caribou, Courage to Change, 7:30 PM at the Lions Building, 111 High Street, upstairs. O D

MAINE - Saturday, Belfast, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Wentworth Building, 147 Waldo Ave. O D

MAINE – Tuesday, Westbrook, Westbrook Welcome Home, 7:30-8:45PM, Mercy Hospital, 40 Park Rd. O D H

## North East Zonal Forum

A proposal is expected for the NEZF to host a Zone Wide Workshop, our region will be voting on this proposal. The dates for the next few next NEZFs are:

### **January 19, 20, 21 2007**

*Northern New Jersey Region* – 195 Davidson Ave, Somerset, NJ. Tel 732-356-1700. Rates per night are \$89 + 15% tax king/double - this includes a buffet breakfast. Rates guaranteed until Jan 5, 2007. When registering, identify as “NEZF”. The topic selected for January 2007 is the “Area Planning Tool”

### **July 27, 28, 29 2007**

*Northern New York Region*  
NEZF is in conjunction with the NNYRCNA Promise of Freedom XVI.

Double Tree Hotel  
111 Jefferson Road  
Rochester, NY 14623

Early Registration for the Convention is 9/29/06

### **January 25, 26, 27 2008**

Potentially in Western NY



## WSC News

### Basic Text Review and Input

Again, anyone can sign up to participate for the review and input process (or they can send in input even if they did not sign up) either online through the subscriptions page, <http://portaltools.na.org/PortalTools/subscriptions/Login.cfm>, or by writing world services. It is important that as many people read the draft and provide input if possible.

### Local Resource Area

A reminder to check out the new area at [http://www.na.org/local\\_resource\\_area.htm](http://www.na.org/local_resource_area.htm) where service committees can post their locally developed area and regional service resource material. The WB hopes this material will assist NA service bodies to benefit from others' experience, strength, and hope.

### Youth IPs Workgroup

The first workgroup has been formed that will begin the process of creating targeted literature for youth. There are several targeted pieces of literature that will be developed this conference cycle. The Youth Workgroup is charged with the task of creating material that will best serve our growing youth membership and potential members.

### Just for Today Quotes

One of the things that the WB have discussed and not come to a conclusion about is how to deal with the quotations in Just for Today from the personal stories section of the Basic Text. There are currently seventeen quotes from this part of the Basic Text, twelve of which are from stories no longer present in the R&I draft. The WB have discussed the possibility of simply removing the citation information from beneath any quotes that no longer reference material that is in fellowship-approved literature. More on this later.

### NAWS Bulletin Board Area

A reminder to check the NAWS website for the new Issue Discussion Topic discussion boards: [http://www.na.org/discussion\\_boards.htm](http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm)  
The WSC bulletin board closed on August 31, 2006 and a brand new shiny version opened on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### World Services Calendar and Deadlines

- December 1, 2006 WCNA-32  
Registration and hotel reservations begin
- February 28, 2007 Basic Text review  
deadline for input
- April 1, 2007 Deadline for requests for  
WSC Seating
- August 29- Sept 2, 2007 WCNA-32, San  
Antonio, Texas

September 1, 2007 Approval form of Sixth Edition Basic Text released

The **Public Relations Handbook** and the **Area Planning Tool** have been released. You can download them both at the links below or order them from NAWS.

[http://www.na.org/handbooks/PRHB\\_Final\\_24Oct06.pdf](http://www.na.org/handbooks/PRHB_Final_24Oct06.pdf)

[http://www.na.org/handbooks/APT\\_Final\\_23Oct06.pdf](http://www.na.org/handbooks/APT_Final_23Oct06.pdf)

## World Convention Update

**WCNA-32:** 29 Aug–2 Sept 2007 in San Antonio, Texas at the Henry Gonzalez Convention Center. For more information and service opportunities:

[www.na.org/WCNA32/index.htm](http://www.na.org/WCNA32/index.htm)

**WCNA-33:** 20–23 August 2009 in Barcelona, Spain

**WCNA-34:** 1–5 Sept 2011 in San Diego, California

**WCNA-35:** 29 August to 1 September 2013 in Philadelphia, PA

# NA In Iran

## (Part 1)

*Information derived from an NA member in Iran.*

- NA has been in Iran for a number of years. About 4 years ago the Iranians wrote a letter to WSO asking for some guidance on the traditions. The President of Iran wanted to recognize and give the NA fellowship an award for the best NGO (non governmental organization). The members were concerned that this might violate the traditions. The award was to be given at one of their conventions and they were expecting 14,000 members to be in attendance.
- The fellowship has upwards to 80,000 members and new meetings starting every month.
- In order to provide services and distribution of our Literature and merchandize NA has opened a branch office of the WSO in Tehran and have hired staff.
- NA Members from NAWS with 27, 28, and 37 years clean are currently visiting in Iran.
- A series of workshops are being done through out Iran with 215 members from the Mashad Area, all of them Group Service Representatives or Area and Metro committee members.
- In Iran everyone wants to hug you and kiss you on the cheek or neck, they absolutely swarm you, some grabbing at your arms some pulling you, everyone wanting to get their photograph with you or get you to sign their books.
- In Tehran, a series of meetings with various Iranian health and addiction agencies will go on for two days.
- NAWS has been greeted with kindness, smiles, and friendly glances and in some occasions people from the streets going out of their way to assist them and once they know they are Americans they welcome them and hope they have a pleasant stay.
- NAWS went to Qom. It is the most important place for Shiite Islam. It is supposed to be considered the “Vatican” of the Shiites. 400 members were present at the NA workshop.
- To date over 1,000 trusted servants have been trained in Iran.
- The Iran Fellowship is really only 14- 16 years old and most of the members at these workshops are 1 to 6 years clean.
- An NA workshop was held for the women of Iran with over 70 in attendance.
- It is estimated that there are approximately 2,500 women in NA in Iran. There is an increasing move to segregate for woman to have their own meetings.
- In Iran they do no fundraising, nor do they tack on a profit from their events or conventions. Much of their funds come from their direct contributions and the sale of the literature and other recovery related materials.
- A 150 member NA meeting is considered small in Tehran.
- In Iran they celebrate the completion of the 12 Steps. Basically what they do is the first time a member has worked all 12 Steps they have a little party. Their sponsors line up and the sponsees line up in rows in front of them, of course everyone is sitting on the floor, the sponsees have something written and each one is called upon to read their 12th Step.

# NA FUN PAGE



## NA Encrypt

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				9		19														25	16				

<u>E</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>U</u>
17 9	19 4 10 9	5 22 9 9	15 7	11 24 18	19 22	11 25 9	5 16	15 15 7
		<u>U</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>E</u>				
		2 5	2 16 22	25 4 6 9				



## Chapter 10

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message

M	O	R	V	E	A	A	Y	I	L	L	L	E	D	E	A	C	H	D	B	E
E	W	R	E																	




### Northern New England Region of NA—December 2006

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
				1 <b>Live Clean or Die 22 Year Anniversary</b> 6PM Potluck 8PM Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Church, Nashua, NH	2 <b>Maine ASC</b> noon, 10:30am Literature purchases. 9 Foss Rd., Lewiston, ME.	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Granite State ASC</b> 1:45pm, Manchester VA Medical Center 718 Smyth Road Manchester, NH. <b>Seacoast ASC</b> noon - 4pm, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Salmon Falls Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve Celebration</b> Potluck 5:30PM, Meeting 7:30PM, Dance 9:30PM – 12:30AM. Universalist Unitarian Church, Nashua, NH. <a href="http://www.gsana.org">www.gsana.org</a>

### Northern New England Region of NA—January 2007

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>RSC</b> Location TBA, see page one for details.	14 <b>Granite State ASC</b> 1:45pm, Manchester VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Road Manchester, NH. <b>Seacoast ASC</b> noon - 4pm, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Salmon Falls Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>NEZF</b> Somerset, NJ. See page 5 for more information.						
22	23	24	25	26	27 <b>Maine ASC</b> noon, 10:30am Literature purchases. 9 Foss Rd., Lewiston, ME.	28
29	30	31				

To submit an event for the Calendar, email the information along with  
the name of your Area to [nnenewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:nnenewsletter@yahoo.com)