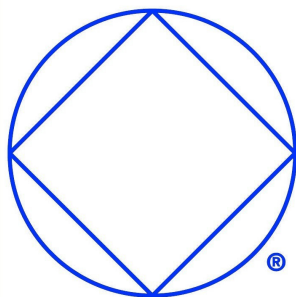


Northern New England News



Granite State Area of NA
PO Box 5171
Manchester, NH 03108
1-888-624-3578
<http://www.gsana.org>

Northern New England Regional Service Committee
PO Box 1274, Saco, ME 04072

Maine Area of NA
PO Box 5309
Portland, ME 04101
1-800-974-0062
<http://www.namaine.org>

Seacoast Area of NA
PO Box 512
Greenland, NH 03840
1-888-624-3578
<http://www.gsana.org>

June 2008

nnenewsletter@yahoo.com

Issue 27

NNERSC News

Next RSC meeting is **July 12**, 2008 at the Bowdoin College, McLellan Building Community Room Brunswick, Maine

<http://www.gsana.org/download/0708RSCweb.pdf>
<http://namaine.org/serviceSchedule.html>

Open Positions/Elections

Chairperson Vice Chairperson Secretary
The floor was opened for nominations for the following positions Chairperson (3 years clean), Vice-Chairperson (2 years clean), Secretary (2 years clean), Treasurer (4 years clean), RD (5 years clean), RD-A (4 years clean), Newsletter (2 years clean), and MRLE. The results were: In July, we will have nominations again, followed by the election of officers. All positions are still open to qualified nominees, even if there is already is a nominee listed above. Please let your ASCs and groups be aware that these positions are open at the RSC.

A motion was approved to donate \$60.00 to help unfunded trusted servants of the NEZF attend the June meeting in Albany.
Dates of future RSC meetings are:

September 13, 2008 (Granite State Area)
November 8, 2008 (Maine Area)
January 10, 2009 (Maine Area)

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

Answers to fun page: 1-pg 20, 2-pg 43, 3- pg 100, 4-pg 24.

MRLE X Final Report

MRLE X was held on December 2, 3, 4 2007. MRLE is the Multi Regional Learning Event that has been put on by the Northern New England Region since around 1992. Originally, the Granite State Area proposed having a H&I,

PI and Phoneline workshop in the western part of the area to help addicts and groups to feel more connected. The trusted servants back then realized that the western section of the GSA was also located in the Northern New England Region. With our two neighboring regions being so close, New England and Mountain Valley, the trusted servants took the idea of turning the area workshop into a Multi Regional workshop to the NNE. In the beginning, it was called MRLD(ay). Later it was expanded to a weekend event and began discussing the Conference Agenda Report. As we became more CAR focused we began to invite World Service participation. Today, the MRLE is known for being the first CAR workshop with NAWS participation each Conference cycle. The World Board members who attend, use this opportunity to try out the new workshop material, experiment a little, and get feedback from the delegate rich attendees. The dates for **MRLE XI are December 4, 5, 6, 2009.**

It is our hope that not only can we provide an event that appeals to the service enthusiast, but also to our local members from the groups and areas with our region.

Thanks from everyone on the MRLE Committee!

Surrender: A Glimpse Into Spirituality

I heard in a meeting two winters ago, is that, "spirituality is being open to all of the good things in life." Those words gave me hope that there IS more to life beyond the limited scope of my current beliefs in early recovery, IF I am open to them.

Tonight I spent an incredible hour, not only seeing, hearing and feeling a storm, but in listening to God as I understand Him through His presentation of nature. I believe for the first time since Thanksgiving of 1990 (when I went to rehab) that I actually meditated; I was open to His message. Through no real effort on my part (by just being open to the process), I actually listened to God in the midst of that

storm (and where else would He be if not in the middle of the glory of His own creation). In listening, I learned...

Surrender to the program allows me to actually find a freedom to live in my own skin, without wishing I was dead because of a temporary situation. I can live beyond the chains that I learned through my upbringing where I used another person's yardstick to measure my success in life, so that now I can find my own values. I can live beyond the artificial constructs where society tells me what is and what is not important, and find what is valuable to me. I can live beyond the fear, which has made every decision for me until that fix, pill or drink replaced control. All I have to do is be open to the concept that He is allowing me a glimpse into spirituality where I can learn and live true to my conscience; the person God intends that I become.

Through this surrender comes a cost, but one that is far less taxing than my active addiction, and is a gift beyond measure. I can let go of anger, hatred, control, and most importantly fear. At best my anger can motivate me to do the "next right thing," and at worst my anger heeds no boundaries; anger is my choice. My hatred never served a useful purpose anyway, and through working the 6th and 7th Steps I can both understand the uselessness of my hatred, and find happiness in the patience, tolerance and love that I can acquire as a replacement; extending those feelings to others from within. My control was merely an illusion. I can only control myself at best, and that is limited to whether my disease of addiction, or spiritual principles are the main focus of my thoughts. As for my fear, that is a lack of faith; today all I have to do is ask God for help.

Will I make mistakes in applying these thoughts to my life? Absolutely, if history has anything to say about my behaviors. But so long as I keep trying my best, I know I'm going in the right direction. I believe there is a Higher Power inside each of us. For myself, all I have to do is be open to those messages from within. The most important thing I can understand about glimpsing spirituality is my

ability to feel God live within me in the imperfect, yet still acceptable and lovable form that He provided, me: living and growing into the person He intends.

Joe A. – grateful recovering addict in central Pennsylvania

EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, AND HOPE.

Share your response to our questions in 100 words or less by July 15th and as many responses as possible will be printed in the next newsletter.



How do you create balance in your life?

When do you know when you've achieved some balance?

Meeting Updates

NEW MEETINGS:

Belfast, Maine, **2nd Chances**, 12 Step Meeting, Monday, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, 55 Spring Street, First Church of Belfast, ME 'Annex' Behind Crosby School Bow,
Berwick, Maine, **A Time To Share Group**, Thursday 7:00 PM 71 Sullivan Street
Wolfeboro, NH, **A New Way Of Life Group** Thursday 2:40 PM Kingswood Regional High School

ONLINE MEETING LINKS

http://www.gsana.org/download/GSANA_Meeting_List.pdf

<http://namaine.org/docs/mtglist.pdf>

NO LONGER MEETING:

The Old Orchard Beach Maine meeting, Serenity By the Sea, on Wednesdays, has closed.

NA World Services News

The World Service Conference was held at the end of April in Woodland Hills, California. It was a memorable event and here are some highlights:



- ✓ **Approval of the 6th Edition Basic Text** - The 6^h Edition will be available by the end of the year. It will cost \$11.00

and be slightly larger to distinguish it from previous editions

- ✓ **Approval of Targeted Literature Pieces – By Young Addicts For Young Addicts and For The Parents and Guardians Of Young People In NA**
- ✓
- ✓ **NA World Services will start producing gold colored Roman Numeral Medallions**
- ✓ **We elected 1 World Board member and re-elected another. We also elected 3 Human Resource Panel members, as well as 1 World Service Conference Co-Facilitator**
- ✓ **We seated 7 new regions to the World Service Conference. They are: Egypt, El Salvador, Nepal, Nicaragua, Poland, Southern Brazil, and North Carolina**

Upcoming NEZF Meetings

North East Zonal Forum

June 20, 21, 22 2008 ABCD Region

Comfort Inn and Suites, Albany, NY
\$89 plus tax

- ❖ The topic for the June 2008 NEZF Saturday Sharing Sessions will be "What is the direction of the NEZF? Where are we going?"

- ❖
- ❖ **January 23, 24, 25 2009**

Connecticut Region

June 26,27,28 2009

Eastern New York Region

What's Going on in Your Area

Maine Area

Report to NNERSCNA from MASCNA for May 2008

New meeting lists have come out and are being distributed among home groups. The list is also available online at namaine.org. Currently we have 44 groups and 57 meetings. MASCNA has sent a donation to NNERSCNA of \$160.56

There is an ad-hoc committee that is undertaking the task of taking an area inventory, and will report back to the group upon completion.

In our area we currently have two H&I commitments, one at the Cumberland County Jail and the other at the Two Bridges Jail. At Maine Area there has been about 10-16 GSR's attending each month to conduct business on behalf of the NA groups of Maine. There has been renewed talk about increasing the clean time requirement of the Treasury position from 2 years back to 5 years. The intent by the motion maker to give the committee the best chance that funds

will be used responsibility. This will be discussed at this month's area meeting. The May meeting is being held in Brunswick on May 31, 2008

In Loving Service,
RCM

Seacoast Area

Hello Everyone. It's a pleasure to be hosting Region this month. The Seacoast Area Service Committee is still in need of both a PI and Activities chair. We are having more GSR's attending, but would love to see more. We distributed copies of the C.A.R. to all groups in the Area. I also made a form that listed the questions as well as the motions. I believe this helped the groups understand what they needed to vote on. We had 10 of the 15 groups in our Area cast their votes for the Conference Agenda Report motions and questions. We forwarded the Areas vote to our RDA. The "Freedom Under the Stars XVIII" campout is July 18 – 20, 2008 in Thornton, NH. The campout committee is hosting a couple of fundraiser. Saturday Night Eat & Meet, spaghetti dinner, meeting and fellowshiping, May 24th 2008 First Church Congregational 5:00 – 10:00 PM. July 6th 2008 "Fun in the Sun" our July cookout and softball game, Stratham Hill Park, Route 33 Stratham 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We had lengthy discussion on the motion from Region with regards to donating \$60.0 to help fund North East Zonal Forum (NEZF) unfunded trusted servants to attend the NEZF meeting in June 2008 in Albany, NY. This question was raised a number of times. Why are we being asked to fund addicts who took an unfunded position, this sound like something from our days in active addiction? The motion failed unanimously.

Our Area Service Committee will be tomorrow at 1:00 PM, at then June 8th at the Wentworth Douglass Hospital in Dover, NH at 1:00 PM. In Loving Service,
Area Chairperson

BENEFITS

The Basic Text talks about how as Addicts we want the benefits without the work. This sounds like me.

When I first found NA there were a lot of examples around. The ones I wanted to follow were the ones that would let me continue in my behavior. This was mainly avoiding work.

I m sure you ve seen it, like at dances, showing up late (empty handed), eat for free, dance a lot (complaining about the choice of music), and leaving at just the right time (just before clean up).

Or how to join the right Group. You know, the Group with a lot of people. So I can do Service and not the work. I get a position so I can say I m into Service. My all time favorite one was H&I, Translation and opening meeting, Im still not sure what my duties consisted of.

The only problem with all of this is I still had a hole in my life, a vacuum right behind my belly button. I tried to fill this with jobs, lots of friends (none of the close), reading, movies, etc. None of which filled the gap. I still felt like I was just visiting this planet. A very uncomfortable feeling to say the least.

Now I was very unwilling to feel like this for the rest of my life. The truth is I know I could not survive without clean. The Basic Text says our only hope is in those who have been in our dilemma and have found a way out. So I started to look at the other examples. We all know it's easy to look good in a meeting. But as I spent time with people in NA, I met people who felt whole. They were real? If you know what I mean. They were not walking shells looking to fill up. I saw the proof of the program in the way they lived, the way they reacted or responded to what happened to them. How they coped with things like flat tires, money problems, or the Big One, Relationships.

I asked these people what was missing in my life. And they shared about commitment (how I hate that word) and follow through. Follow through is very important, on the Steps, in the meetings, with sponsors and people we sponsor. With all of this comes fulfillment. Today NA helped me to be in service which makes me productive, acceptable and responsible members of this society. I found it worked to over come the natural resistance to good living that my Disease brings. Its hard to act loving when I dont feel loving or to be part of a Committee with people I dont care too much for. Going that extra length is hard but worth every bit of the work.

In Gratitude

NA Member from Kathmandu Area ,Nepal

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. Poetry, Art, Photo’s and articles regarding NA History (personal or archival snippets) are welcome. There are many ways to share experience, strength and hope.

Please send your contributions along with your release form to the nnenewsletter@yahoo.com , or to NNERSC, P.O. Box 1274, Saco, ME 04072. Please try to limit your sharing to half a page, single-spaced. Thanks in advance for your participation.

→August Issue Deadline: July 15th←

NA FUN PAGE

Find it in the **Basic Text**

Find these quotes in the NA Basic Text.

We didn't come into this fellowship brimming with love, honesty, open-mindedness or willingness. We reached a point where we could no longer continue because of physical, mental, and spiritual pain. When we were beaten, we became willing.

Page_____

As we seek our personal contact with God, we begin to open up as a flower in the sun.

Page_____

Today we have freedom of choice.

Page_____

As we see coincidences and miracles happening in our lives, acceptance becomes trust. We grow to feel comfortable with our Higher Power as a source of strength.

Page_____

(It's OK to ask for help!)

Northern New England Region of NA—June 2008

Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
5	<p>6 Sisters in the Sun NA Women's Retreat: June 6-8 http://namaine.org/docs/websis08.pdf</p>	<p>7 East End Beach Walk:Portland, ME http://namaine.org/docs/flier_2.pdf</p>	1
12	13	<p>14 Disc Golf: 10 AM, Brunswick Me http://namaine.org/docs/flier_3.pdf</p>	<p>8 Seacoast ASC noon - 4pm, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Salmon Falls Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH. Granite State ASC 9am, Manchester VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Road Manchester, NH.</p>
<p>19 2008 Laconia Bike Week NA Meeting And Barbeque Event Flyer: June 19,20,21 http://www.gsana.org/download/0608Bikeweek.pdf</p>	<p>20 Granite State Area Campout Fellowship In The Field XVIII: June 20,21,22 http://www.gsana.org/download/0608FIFXVIIIFlyerweb.pdf</p>	<p>21 Maine ASC noon, 10:30am Sub committees & Literature purchases. 85 Union St., the McLellan Building in Brunswick ,ME Potluck Dinner & Meeting: 5 Pm South Thomaston, Me http://namaine.org/docs/PotLuckDinner.pdf</p>	22
26	27		29
		<p>28 Game Night: Portland, Me. http://namaine.org/docs/Game_Night_Jun282008.pdf</p>	

Northern New England Region of NA—July 2008

	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
4		5	6 Fun in the Sun, Stratham Hill Park, Stratham, NH. http://www.gsana.org/download/0708FunintheSunFlyer.pdf
11	12 Tentative for 3 rd Annual Unity Rain Relief Smalls Falls, Madrid, Maine http://namaine.org/events.html More will be revealed		13 Seacoast ASC noon - 4pm, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Salmon Falls Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH. 14 Granite State ASC 1:45pm, Manchester VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Road Manchester, NH.
18 Seacoast Area Campout Freedom Under The Stars XVIII: July 18, 19, 20 http://www.gsana.org/download/0708FreedomCampoutFlyerweb.pdf	19 Pondering By the Pond: Alfred, Me http://namaine.org/docs/pondering_by_the_pond.pdf		20
25		26 Maine ASC noon, 10:30am Sub committees & Literature purchases. 85 Union St., the McLellan Building in Brunswick ME	27

Granite State Area Convention 5 Vision Of Hope: August 1, 2, 3
<http://www.gsana.org/download/GSACC5%20Reg%20Flyer%20-%20Web.pdf>

BACK TO BASICS 24 CAMPOUT AUGUST 14-17

Miracle 25 NA Convention: September 19-21
http://namaine.org/docs/Miracle_25.pdf