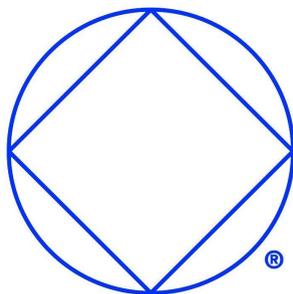


Northern New England News



Granite State Area of NA
PO Box 5171
Manchester, NH 03108
603-645-4777
<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
603-645-4777
<http://www.gsana.org>

October 2006

nnewsletter@yahoo.com

Issue 17

RSC NEWS

The next Regional Meeting will be hosted by the Maine Area Nov. 11th, at Wells Urgent Care in Wells, ME.

The next MRLE is scheduled for December 2007. If you want to help us with this event, please get in touch. The focus most likely will be the Basic Text and the Conference Agenda Report.

Workshops:

Before the November RSC, there will be a 90 minute Basic Text Review and Input Beginning Workshop from 10AM to 11:45 AM and before the January RSC there will be a 90 minute Basic Text Follow Up Input Workshop from 10AM to 11:45 AM.

Lewiston, Maine on October 21, 2006.
Topic is Building Strong Home Groups.
Download the flyer here:
<http://www.gsana.org/events.html>

Upcoming RSC meetings to be held on:
January 13th and March 10th, 2007.

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Experience, Strength and Hope

12 Gifts of NA, *continued*

The 7th Gift...

Through the literature, going to meetings, the fellowship and the first 6 Gifts...the gift of the Spiritual Principles were given to me. The sharing and giving and guidance of this new way of life turn from a "maybe" into a "hope and dream". I could start to recognize the new people in my life who had what I wanted, and what I did not want. I was shown and lived through living the process that no one on this journey should ever be labeled, put on a pedestal or kicked to the curb and left in the gutter. Unconditional love..... for everyone every time.

The 8th Gift...

Was the realization that I am not responsible for my disease but I am responsible for my recovery. What freedom to know that I have choices today. If I follow the program of recovery and apply it to all areas of my life things will change. Daily maintenance of the spiritual connection with my HP and to continue to write out the steps on a regular basis. New things continued to be revealed so long as I remain teachable.



The 9th Gift....

Gift of service to and through NA. I was told to find a Home Group or I was homeless. To get involved and be a part of, being

part of our family fellowship. I was told service could be suiting up and showing up to a meeting and sharing my experience, strength and hope. It could be many other "service positions" when I was ready and my HP agreed. It was also, the

gift of learning how to say "no". If I am so busy doing, helping and offering that my personal recovery is not a priority than I am burning all the gifts given to ashes.

The 10th Gift....

Happened when the other gifts were working in my life. An understanding that in order to keep it I must give it away. Hmmmm.....giving away a gift so that I may keep it? Just like a flowering plant that blooms, must be fed and watered and given light - I need to share my experience strength and hope to newcomers and old timers as well or my recovery will shrivel up and die. Always trying to remember that this is my experience strength and home not anyone else's and what may keep me clean may cause someone else to go back out. This means at meetings, posting at my homegroup, being willing to be a sponsor and many more things.

The 11th Gift....

Living a selfish but selfless program in my life. I am the only one who can live my life for me and make the choices I make. But if I want the easier softer way I will remain willing to listen to suggestions. Expanding my horizons and taking risks like online meetings, sponsorship, service work and communication through the internet and the telephone. Getting out into the "real" world and not switching my addiction from drugs in the black hole I was in – to only living my life in the rooms and service work. When my feelings get hurt I feel the pain today and make choices. When you cry we all cry, when you laugh we all laugh, and when you bloom we see the beauty.

The 12th Gift....

The gift of the ability to make choices and what they are today are too many to mention. The choices will be greatly reduced if I choose to pick up or not live in recovery for this addict. I choose to strive for being happy, joyous, free and serene. I choose to take back my voice, dreams and power that I gave away to anyone or anything depending on which way the wind was blowing. I believe this is what my HP

wants for me and everyone on this earth. The choices in life and living clean today does not just "happen" no matter what I believe or think or say. Life happens and hurt is a part of living just as love and happiness is. One of the gifts is the ability to choose who I want in my life today. The many friends and the love given and received are very very plentiful. I only choose to have people who are healthy and living in the light and spirit of positivity and spirituality. Or are willing to try a new way of life, jft. Yes, I am not perfect none of us is - but I choose to be in the solution today rather than the problem. It takes less effort to be unhappy and unspiritual than to be happy and spiritual. I choose life not death today.

The Gifts Continue.....

-Member, Bluebonnet Region

Your Greatest Fear

Your greatest fear is exactly where your addiction was taking you.

To say that we lived fear-filled lives in our active addiction is probably an understatement. Our disease needed to be fed in order to survive, so it lied to us. It promised us happiness if we kept it nourished, and it came through on its threats of pain and sickness if we didn't meet its demands. That kind of misery, the fear of never having enough to satisfy our addiction, took us straight down a brimstone path into a hell of our own making.

Our disease didn't stop with our addiction alone. It created fear in many other areas of our lives as well. We feared for our personal relationships, our living situations, our jobs/careers and finances, our freedom and our future. We feared for our very lives. So we killed all of those fears by practicing our addiction, with our disease in control.

Then one day, for whatever reason, each of us discovered that we couldn't live our lives that way any longer. Still full of fear, we

attended our first meeting. For the first time in a long while (if ever) we found a place where we belong, and where we are accepted just as we are. We were welcomed by people we may have never met, and that scared us even more.

After a little time, the support from our friends in the Fellowship helped to ease our fears. They had what we desperately needed in our lives: hope. They told us what their lives were like, what they did to change, and how their lives are today. They shared their experience, and offered each of us the strength of their combined love. Most importantly, they gave us the gift of hope freely, just as freely as it was given to them.

Now, today, I don't have to live my life in fear. I can get the help I need from my friends in the program, through whom my Higher Power speaks. Over time, my fear will be replaced by faith that my life will get better each day. The God of my understanding will diminish the fear in my life through my working the 12-Steps, and with the help of my friends in the Fellowship.

Am I ready to let go of the fear that can ruin my life?

-Member, Pennsylvania, Mid Atlantic Region



Experience Strength & Hope Service

Giving it away

One of the first service principles I was taught in NA was “you gotta give it away to keep it.” For the past three years I have given it away on a group level. I have chaired, made coffee, welcomed newcomers and served as a GSR for a group.

It was slow going at first, but eventually we began to grow and so did my excitement! I was thrilled to actually have people at the meeting, I welcomed the problems that often come with a new meeting, and I was challenged like never before. Folks from another part of the state traveled to support our group. And as time went on, we were able to share the responsibility of the group with the newcomers, they were getting involved and chairing the meeting and making coffee. For the first time in a long time, the courts and other locals were referring folks to NA.

Then came the struggle, for our group, it was a lack of members with clean time. We had so many newcomers and so little old timers. As a group we needed sponsors, other addicts to talk to, and an atmosphere of recovery. I'm sad to say that we lacked all of the above. Addicts

were telling each other “it's ok to drink or smoke dope, as long as we aren't' doing crystal meth we are clean”.

This misconception hurt many newcomers and also violated what NA is based on, “total



abstinence”. The meeting has now folded and that is very sad.

I know I can't do it alone! Perhaps one day someone will come along and my name will be passed along to them, perhaps another addict will move into the area and have a willingness to start an NA meeting. I just pray that my HP will send someone who wants to give it away to keep it. Meanwhile, I will attend my online meetings and will travel as time and weather permit to other face to face NA meetings. NA still lives, it still works in my life today and for that I am very grateful!

-Member, Maine Area

Meeting Updates

CLOSED MEETINGS

GRANITE STATE – Friday, Stratham, NH.
“Choices”.

GRANITE STATE – Tuesday, Nashua, NH.
“Stick to Basics”.

MEETING CHANGE

MAINE AREA – Tuesday, Norway, ME.
“Clean and Crazy” now meets from 7:30 to 8:30pm.

✉ 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 and Art are other ways to share your experience strength and hope. Send contributions to nnewsletter@yahoo.com. Thanks in advance for your participation.

→ December Issue Deadline: November 15th ←

NORTH EAST ZONAL FORUM

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

World Convention Update

WCNA-32: 29 Aug–2 Sept 2007 in San Antonio, Texas

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

WSC NEWS

NAWS has set up the online discussion boards for the 2006-2006 Issue Discussion Topics: *Building Strong Home Groups, Who Is Missing From our Meetings And Why, and Our Service System*. All members are encouraged to participate.

Check out

http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm

NAWS has created an area at http://www.na.org/local_resource_area.htm where service committees can post locally developed area and regional service resource material. The material is not NA Fellowship-Approved, or NA-Conference Approved; meaning that neither the Fellowship of NA nor the World Service Conference of NA reviewed and approved the items in this area. It is presented simply for information and to assist NA service bodies to benefit from others' experience, strength and hope.

The FTP site has different categories of info are: Area-Regional Guidelines and Policies, Conventions-Events, H&I, Legal, Newletters-Publications, PR-PI. Anyone can access this stuff, not just trusted servants, so please check it out!

Basic Text Review and Input is well under way! Get your copy and participate! Please do not let this opportunity pass you by. Input due by February 28, 2007. This is the Fellowship review and input period. Anyone can participate in this. For current info about this project and to sign up to receive the review and input draft of the 6th Edition Basic Text go here:

<http://www.na.org/conference/bt/index.htm>

WCNA is coming up in August 29 to September 2, 2007 in San Antonio, Texas. Want to get involved? We are looking for speakers, speaker tape evaluators, and other volunteers.

www.na.org/WCNA32/index.htm





The NA Symbol



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

CIRCLE
 GOD
 PYRAMID
 SIMPLICITY
 UNITY

FELLOWSHIP
 GOODWILL
 SELF
 SOCIETY
 UNIVERSAL

FREEDOM
 MEMBERS
 SERVICE
 SQUARE

Northern New England Region of NA—October 2006

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
						1 Seacoast ASC noon - 4pm, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Salmon Falls Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Granite State ASC 1:45pm, Manchester VA Medical Center 718 Smyth Road Manchester, NH.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Granite State 11am, Dunstable, Mass. 2008 Convention Comm Kickoff Mtg
16	17	18	19	20	21 NNER Building Strong Home Groups Workshop. Lewiston, ME.	22
23	24	25 Steps to Freedom Group Potluck Dinner Saco, ME	26	27	28 Costume Dance 6PM – Midnight, Unitarian Universalist Church, Nashua, NH. GSA Activities Committee sponsored. Jack-O-Lantern carving contest, too! Maine ASC noon, 10:30am Literature purchases. 9 Foss Rd., Lewiston, ME.	29
30	31					

Northern New England Region of NA—November 2006

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
		1	2	3	4	5 Seacoast ASC noon - 4pm, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Salmon Falls Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH.
6	7	8	9	10	11 NNERSC Meeting Wells, ME. details page 1	12 Granite State ASC 1:45pm, Manchester VA Medical Center 718 Smyth Road Manchester, NH.
13	14	15	16	17	18 Thanks for Being Here Convention Fundraising Event Unitarian Universalist Church, Nashua, NH	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Maine ASC noon, 10:30am Literature purchases. 9 Foss Rd., Lewiston, ME. Potluck.	26
27	28	29	30			

To submit an event for the Calendar, email the information along with the name of your Area to nnenewsletter@yahoo.com