

# Northern New England News



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Issue 23

## RSC News

The next RSC is scheduled for November 10, 2007 in the Maine Area at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St., Portland, Maine. Sub-committees will meet at 10 AM and the RSC begins at 12 Noon.

Directions: Mercy Hospital is located at 144 State Street on the corner of State and Spring Streets. Use the State Street Entrance; take the elevator down one level and go to the end of the hall to the ACR. Since this is a new location for some of us, please give yourself a few extra minutes to find the place.

- Dates of next few RSC meetings are: Jan. 12, 2008 (Maine Area), March 8, 2008 (Maine Area) and May 10, 2008 (Seacoast)
- Open positions: Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary and Newsletter.
- The MRLE Committee will be meeting before the November RSC at 10 AM.
- We did not have a quorum at the September RSC. There is only one RCM in the whole Region! Hopefully each ASC will send someone to the November RSC

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

## Inside This Issue

ES&H: NA History Fun Shop p. 2
ES&H: I am only limited by the degree of my unwillingness...p. 3
Snow Flakes...p. 4
Meeting Updates p. 4
WSC News p. 5
North East Zonal Forum p. 5
Upcoming North East Zonal Meetings p. 5
Fun Page p. 6
Calendar p. 7

**Attn: Subscribers:** The Newsletter subcommittee is in need of Trusted Servants. With members going off the committee at the end of the year, there will not be enough willing bodies to support it. Therefore, December will be the last issue. If you have the willingness to serve, please attend the RSC or email us at [nnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:nnewsletter@yahoo.com)

# Experience, Strength and Hope

## *NA History Fun Shop*

I just got home from the Northern New England Region's NA History Funshop. When I was asked to participate I agreed, because I knew it would give me another day clean. But I had no idea what a moving experience this would be.

We watched amateur videos made by our RD of the last NA World Service Conference in 2006 that were funny and informative. Seeing a past Trusted Servant from Mountain Valley Region (Vermont) dancing on the Conference floor during a break in the work was chilling, because she recently passed away clean. We saw a lot of the faces behind the scenes of NA service at different levels. There were also many pictures of the great displays of NA memorabilia at the World Service Office in California.

We watched a few professional videos made by NA World Services. They showed the amazing growth of our fellowship. It was



inspiring to hear and see worldwide members have such strong convictions about their recovery and our fellowship - truly against overwhelming odds. We saw IPs and keychains in innumerable different languages. We have become a credible and well respected means of combating addiction in the most unlikely places on Earth.

There was a fun presentation using NA t-shirts to track the first 9 years of a local addict's recovery and service experiences. Local history was also presented using meeting lists, event fliers, and convention programs that have been well cared for and preserved for just such an occasion as this type of workshop. We had poster sized maps of New Hampshire and Maine showing where our meetings were about 20 years ago, then more recently and then today. The migration and numbers were very interesting. We need an NA History Museum here to keep these displays alive for all members to view.

Literature is probably one of the more controversial arenas in our fellowship. We saw many drafts and current versions of our books. The process to go from concept to finished fellowship approved material is boggling sometimes. There were also many pieces about NA written by members and friends of our fellowship, too.

There was a small turn-out but the amount of clean time varied widely. It was a nice mix of members who've been around a long time and newer members. The food was excellent and all of us made new friends. I want to thank everyone for their hard work to make this wondrous display of our fellowship's history possible.

*Lovingly in Service, Member  
Northern New England Region of N.A.*

## *I am only limited by the degree of my unwillingness...*

In our program, we learn that recovery is a process and not an event. Or, if you prefer, recovery is a journey and not a destination. A key part of the process or journey is change. In order to recover from our disease of addiction, to stop listening to the lies that our disease tells us, we have to make changes in our lives beyond not picking up on our drug of choice. We have to change our old ways of thinking, and our old behaviors. In doing so, we no longer need to have our disease making decisions for us; we can make our own choices.

We were all to varying degrees spiritually bankrupt. We did what our disease told us to do, disregarding the consequences. Being self-centered to the extreme, we always listened to our disease, never hearing what the spirit inside each of us implored us to do; to stop feeding our addiction and start feeding our souls.

So the first change we had to make was to not feed our addiction a day, an hour, or a minute at a time; without that, we could go no further. We discovered we could manage that, and it worked. We began to feel a little better each day.

Then we were told that this is a simple program, it's just not easy. Even though we may not understand this concept, it means that the Steps are simple to understand, but may not be so pleasant to experience because now, we are growing past our active addiction, and moving towards the root of our problem: the disease and its accompanying insanity.

Over time we see a number of people who once shared the misery we feel, who are now growing into a fuller life. Did they do this as easily or pleasantly as a walk on the beach? Probably not. And if you ask any one of them

where they needed to begin, they likely will say that they not had to only surrender to their disease, but they had to acquire the willingness to change. Once they had the willingness, they could continue to develop, becoming more and more who they wanted to be, and more importantly, the person that God intended them to become.

They made mistakes along the way, and continue to make them, probably on a daily basis. But in their hearts and spirits they kept their willingness alive, allowing them more possibilities in life than they ever dreamed about when in their active addiction. They stopped limiting themselves by their unwillingness.

Now, today, there are many opportunities for me in my life, Each day can bring a new experience, or allow me to understand a perspective different from my own. However, it's my responsibility to find those opportunities.

*- Am I willing to discover the new possibilities in my life today?*

*Grateful Recovering Addict,  
Central Pennsylvania*



## ***SNOWFLAKES***

ARE WE LIKE SNOWFLAKES?  
NO TWO JUST THE SAME  
BETTER THAN OR LESS THAN, THAT  
THOUGHT, CONSTIPATES.  
PRIDE AND ENVY, CREATE A  
DESTRUCTIVE FLAME.

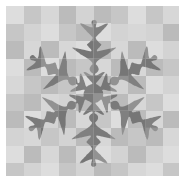
ARE WE LIKE SNOWFLAKES?  
CREATIONS OF THE PERFECT GOD.  
TO REFLECT HIS LOVE AND IMAGE, IS  
THAT TOO OPAQUE?  
UNIQUE YET THE SAME, GIVE THAT  
CONCEPT A NOD.

ARE WE LIKE SNOWFLAKES?  
GUIDED THROUGH LIFE'S FLIGHT  
PERFECTLY FITTING THE PLAN HE  
MAKES  
UNITING WITH OTHERS, WHAT A  
SPECTACULAR SIGHT!

ARE WE LIKE SNOWFLAKES?  
COMING TOGETHER, FORMING A  
GLITTERING HOLY SEAL.  
GIVING OF OURSELVES', WITHOUT  
TAKE, TAKE, TAKE.  
FORMING A BOND TO CLOTHE,  
RECOVER, AND HEAL.

ARE WE LIKE SNOWFLAKES?  
UNIQUE YET THE SAME  
WHAT AN IMPRESSION THIS MAKES.  
YES, OUR HIGHER POWER'S LOVE, WE  
PROCLAIM.

*Member, Maine Area*



## ***Meeting Updates***

### **TIME/LOCATION CHANGE:**

Portland, ME—*True Blue Basic Text* now meets from 6 – 7:00 PM.

Westbrook, ME—*Welcome Home Group* meets from 7:30 – 8:30 PM.

Portland, ME—*Share and Live* now meets from 7 – 8:15 PM and has a new meeting location: State Street Church UCC, 159 State St., Portland.

### **CLOSED MEETINGS:**

Bangor, Maine, Grateful Not Dead Group, Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. and Fri.

Bar Harbor, ME—Serenity Bound, Thurs.

Augusta, ME—Learning to Live, Tues.

Van Buren, ME—Vision of Hope, Thursday

Calais, ME—Never Alone Never Again, Sun.

Bradford, NH—The Courage to Change, Wed.

Franconia, NH—A New Beginning, Wed.

### ***✉ 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, and articles regarding NA History (personal or archival snippets) are welcome. There are many ways to share experience, strength and hope.

Send contributions to

[nnenewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:nnenewsletter@yahoo.com). Please limit your sharing to half a page, single-spaced. Thanks in advance for your participation.

→ December Issue Deadline: Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> ←



## *NA World Services News*

Basic Text Project News - Big News!  
The approval version of the Sixth Edition Basic Text is now available. To purchase copies (\$8.00 apiece), contact customer service (ask for inventory item no. 9146): Phone: 818.773.9999 or order online:

[http://www.na.org/online\\_literature\\_sales\\_entrance.htm](http://www.na.org/online_literature_sales_entrance.htm)

Cover essay to Sixth Edition approval draft:  
[http://www.na.org/conference/bt/BTAapproval\\_Draft\\_Cover\\_Memo\\_Web.pdf](http://www.na.org/conference/bt/BTAapproval_Draft_Cover_Memo_Web.pdf)

Don't forget that this approval draft will also be an addendum to the Conference Agenda Report that will be released around November 23, 2007

- ❖ 2007 NA Membership Survey – Please check out the online survey at:  
<http://naws.org/surveys/index.php?sid=1> or download one  
[http://www.na.org/PR/Fellowship\\_Survey\\_0907.pdf](http://www.na.org/PR/Fellowship_Survey_0907.pdf) and mail it back to NAWs. The survey submission deadline is December 31, 2007. It is 33 questions and was fun to do!
- ❖ To order leftover merchandise from the recent World Convention:  
<http://www.na.org/WCNA32/merchandise.htm>
- ❖ For the September 2007 NAWs News:  
[http://www.na.org/pdf/nawsnews/en/NAWS\\_News\\_Final\\_24Sep07.pdf](http://www.na.org/pdf/nawsnews/en/NAWS_News_Final_24Sep07.pdf)



## *World Service Calendar and Deadlines*

- 9–10 November 2007 - Literature Distribution and Convention Workshop—Woodland Hills, CA
- 21 November 2007 - 2008 *Conference Agenda Report* is available
- 26 December 2007 - Translated 2008 *Conference Agenda Reports* are available
- 25 January 2008 - 2008 Conference Approval Track material is available
- 25–27 January 2008 - Worldwide Workshop—Sydney, Australia
- 27 April – 3 May 2008 - 2008 World Service Conference

## *North East Zonal Forum*

The non-funded trusted servants of the NEZF have submitted a request to the regions for help with expenses. This totals \$838.09 or \$64.47 for each participating region. (if each region agreed to contribute). The Western New York Region has agreed to provide the hotel room and the Saturday night meal for the non-funded trusted servants (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary).

## *Upcoming NEZF Meetings*

[January 25, 26, 27 2008 Western NY Region](#)  
Garden Palace Hotel, 6615 Transit Road in Williamsville, New York, near Buffalo. Rooms are \$89 plus tax for a total of \$101.24. There is also an option for dinner included with the room for an additional cost.

[June 20, 21, 22 2008 ABCD Region](#)  
(Most likely) Comfort Inn, Albany, NY

[January 23, 24, 25 2009](#)  
(Most likely) Connecticut Region

# Fun Page—Why Are We Here?

## WORD SCRAMBLE

E G C A N H

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R E F E

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Y M R E S I

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S P R E O E S L W

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A S D I E E S

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V E L I S

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So, why are we here?

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## CROSSWORD

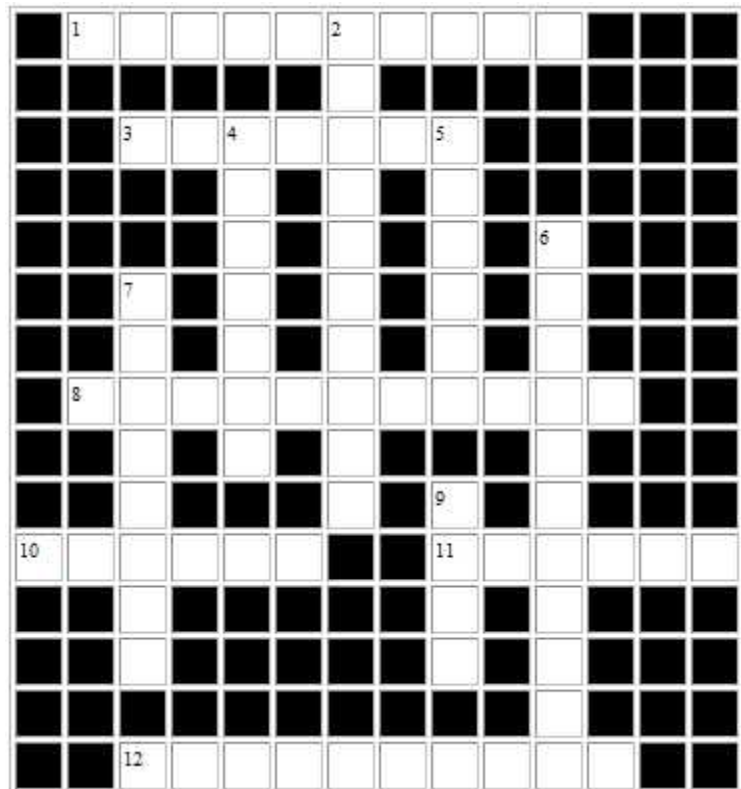
Across

- Some sought a cure by \_\_\_\_ change.
- We were \_\_\_\_ and did not know it.
- \_\_\_\_ change was what we really needed.
- Before coming to the Fellowship of N.A., we could not \_\_\_\_ our own lives.
- Regardless of what we tried, we could not \_\_\_\_ from our disease.
- The ultimate weapon for recovery is the \_\_\_\_ addict.

Down

- \_\_\_\_ leads to recovery.
- We find that we suffer from a \_\_\_\_, not a moral dilemma.
- We tried limiting our usage to \_\_\_\_ amounts without success.
- We had had enough of self-\_\_\_\_.
- Today, we experience a full range of \_\_\_\_.

- When nothing relieved our paranoia and fear, we hit bottom and became ready to ask for \_\_\_\_.



## Northern New England Region of NA—October 2007

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <b>Granite State ASC</b> 9am, Manchester VA Medical Center 718 Smyth Road Manchester, NH.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 <b>Seacoast ASC</b> noon - 4pm, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Salmon Falls Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH.
15	16	17	18	19	20 <b>Halloween Speaker Slam/Music Jam</b> noon – midnight, Unitarian Universalist Church, 274 Pleasant St, Concord, NH.	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 <b>Maine ASC</b> noon, 10:30am Literature purchases. The People Place, 6 Noble St., Brunswick, ME.	28
29	30	31				

## Northern New England Region of NA—November 2007

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
			1	2	3 <b>We Need Help Group 20 Year Anniversary</b> 6pm - ?, First Congregational Church Parish Hall, 10 Union St, Milford, NH.	4 <b>Granite State ASC</b> 1:45pm, Manchester VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Road Manchester, NH.
5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>NNERSC</b> see page one for details <b>MRLE X</b> 9am – 5pm, Notre Dame Spiritual Center, 145 Shaker Hill Rd, Alfred, ME.	11 <b>Seacoast ASC</b> noon - 4pm, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Salmon Falls Room, 789 Central Ave., Dover, NH.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	26 <b>Maine ASC</b> noon, 10:30am Literature purchases. The People Place, 6 Noble St., Brunswick, ME.	27
28	29	30				

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