

Hello, I am an addict and my name is Chris. I will be offering a brief history of our local Narcotics Anonymous groups. Unfortunately, I do not know much NA history of the state of Maine and hope that it can be compiled for a future presentation. In order to talk about our history, we must go back to the early 1980s. The earliest meetings, we can trace back in New Hampshire are from 1981. In some old documents, there is a reference to an NA meeting in Derry, New Hampshire. In 1983, a Massachusetts Area meeting list was printed up that listed 19 groups. This list included groups from Lowell and Plaistow as well as Boston, Worcester, West Quincy, Framingham and Watertown, Vineyard Haven, Acton and Woburn. On this list, there was a hotline number, but no address to write to NA at. On July 27, 1983, the Four Seasons Area was formed with four groups. By March of 1984, there were 11 groups in the Four Seasons Area, including Haverhill, Portsmouth, Lawrence, Lowell, Plaistow, Exeter, Newburyport, Concord, Franklin and Berwick, Maine. Our number of groups was increasing and our service structure was growing and stabilizing. We began forming sub committees to serve our groups. These subcommittees were H&I and Literature. In November of 1985, the Public Information committee was formed. Soon after we installed the first phonenumber in our area. We had a cheap answering machine in a small box that we kept at one of our meetings in Derry, New Hampshire. This machine gave a brief message and the whole weeks worth of meetings. There was no way to leave a message, and the tape was so scratchy sounding, you could barely understand it. Back to the meetings: in November of 1984, an NA meeting started in Manchester, called the Emanon Group, then in December of 1984, in Nashua on Friday night, the Nashua Group started. This group later changed its name to Live Clean or Die. Next came the Together Group in February 1985 in Derry, New Hampshire.

In May of 1985 the Stairway to Life step meeting began in Manchester New Hampshire. Most of these meetings are still in existence. In June of 1988, the Four Seasons Area hosted the 9th East Coast Convention. This convention was attended by around 1500 addicts in attendance from all over the United States. In the spring of 1988. We had 39 groups on our meeting list in the fall of 1989 we had 59 groups on our list. The Fellowship was outgrowing the service structure, we had established. We needed to create a structure that would suit our group's needs. In 1990, we re-formed the Four Seasons Area into three separate and distinct areas. These initially were called the Four Seasons Area at which was the Lowell, Lawrence, Plaistow and Haverhill section of the area. The seacoast area, which covered the New Hampshire seacoast all the way up to North Conway as well as York and Sanford Maine, and the Capital Area, which was soon renamed the Granite State Area. The groups around Keene, New Hampshire soon joined the Green Mountain Area. The Capital Area's first meeting was on July 1, 1990, where a motion was passed to select a new name. Soon after we became in the Granite State Area of Narcotics Anonymous with 16 groups in attendance from Manchester, Derry, Nashua, Hillsborough, Bedford and Wilton. The October 1996 meeting list shows we have 32 groups and 36 meetings per week. Since the inception of the Granite State Area. We have been hosting the Fellowship in the Field campout.