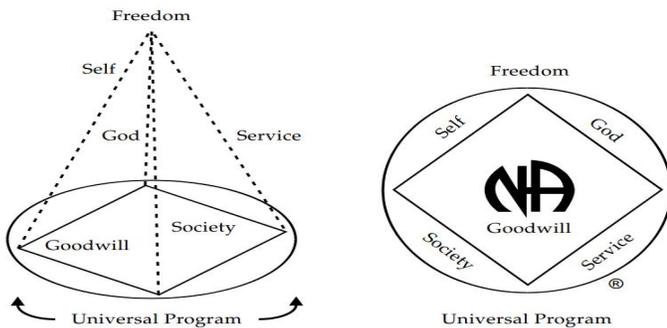


A FREE WAY

Esperanza Area of Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter

April 2017



Our Symbol - Part 1 of 2

Submitted to WSC April 23rd, 1988
by Greg Pierce

My name is Greg, and I'm an addict. Hello, hello, hello. I haven't done this in a long time. I did a couple of workshops on the Symbol, what, almost ten years ago now? And it's a strange topic for a workshop because most of us skip over that page and we look at the Steps. And if we try to read it, we get confused because it's written in a manner that is confusing. I know it was confusing for me when I first saw that material. If you don't know what we're talking about, this is what we're talking about right here. (holds up copy of the Basic Text) This Symbol right here, of course, with the words Self, Society, Service, and God on it. That's the NA Symbol. It's been called our Service Symbol.

There are two registered marks that we have. We have that mark and we have the logo that has the NA in it. and this symbol was designed - I guess talk a little bit about where it came from first of all - was designed in the late '60's. One of the people who helped start NA as we know it came down with tuberculosis and he was hospitalized several years as a result of the TB. At the time he had been clean 17 - 18 years, something like that. He is the one that designed this symbol and the first time it was produced as part of his physical therapy.

One of the things they taught in the hospital was tooling leather. He had been a roofer. He would never again be able to work in that trade. At least not to any degree because of his physical health. And part of the hospital therapeutic process was some return. And

I suspect although I do not know that since not long before that there had been a lot of discussion in Alcoholics Anonymous about the three legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous. and their three sided symbol was developed., each side representing one of the three legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous: Recovery, Unity and Service are what's written on the three sides of their triangle in a circle. Ours grew out of that idea and a fourth side was added to become: Self, Society, Service and God.

I personally believed and I believed for a long time that there aren't a lot of accidents when things like that happen, that there are reasons for stuff like that. And perhaps, perhaps, one of the opportunities we as a Fellowship have failed for a 4th legacy of this 12 Step movement that we are all a part of before we can even talk it, talk about it. It may be part of what NA is about. The symbol itself really kind of laid in dormancy for a long time after that.

The next time the design was used, that I know of, was in the mid-'70's where it was modified to be part of an approved literature stamp. When we first started having approved literature, and we stamped the little IP's cause all it was, was the Little White Booklet. We'd stamp the stamp and it said "approved literature" and that meant that was material that the Fellowship had approved for publication. It was "official" NA literature.

And that was the next time that the symbol was used that I know of. Um, it was public - the description that you see was published in 1976 as the beginning of the booklet, The NA Tree which was the first service structure document that we had. It was a thing that described a representative system that allows you to participate in NA as a whole. To be represented, to have a voice in Narcotics Anonymous. To be part of the conscience of a worldwide Fellowship. It is the service structure that makes that possible.

Let me read what it says there. I believe it is almost identical to what exists today in our literature. I don't

Upcoming EVENTS

4-24-17

(7:00pm – 9:00pm)

EACNA IV Sub-Committee

Location: Community Room @
307 Marshall San Antonio, TX 78212

4-29-17

Freedom Event Support Function
(More will be revealed)

Location: 6110 NW Loop 410
San Antonio, TX 78238

4-29-17

(11:00am – 5:00pm)

Victoria Group of NA 3rd Annual Fish Fry
Location: VGONA @
3604 N. Ben Jordan
Victoria, TX 77901

5-3-17

(6:30pm – 8:00pm)

EACNA IV Hospitality and
Arts & Graphics Subcommittee Meeting
Location: 302 Pearl Parkway @
Local Coffee

5-5-17

(6:00pm – 9:00pm)

Boerne NA Game Night
Location: 122 Rock Street
Boerne, TX 78006

5-7-17

(11:00am – 3:00pm)

Sub-Committee Sunday
Newsletter @ 11:00am
Frolic in the Woods @ 12:00pm
Hospitals and Institutions @ 1:30pm
Phone Line @ 2:00pm
Activities
Public Relations
Internet Technology

5-7-17

(8:00 pm – 9:30pm)

EACNA IV Event Coordination Subcommittee
Location: A Recovery Place @
10929 Nacogdoches Rd. #12
San Antonio, TX 78217

5-8-17

(7:00pm – 8:30pm)

EACNA IV Merchandise Subcommittee Meeting
Location: Community Room @
3047 Marshall
San Antonio, TX 78212

5-12-17

(6:00pm – 7:00pm)

EACNA IV Registration Subcommittee
Location: A Recovery Place @
10929 Nacogdoches Rd. #12
San Antonio, TX 78217

5-15-17

(7:00pm – 8:30pm)

EACNA IV Programming Subcommittee
Location: Community Room @
307 Marshall
San Antonio, TX 78212

5-16-17

(7:00pm – 8:00pm)

Serenity Keepers for EACNA IV
Location: A Recovery Place @
10929 Nacogdoches Rd. #12
San Antonio, TX 78217

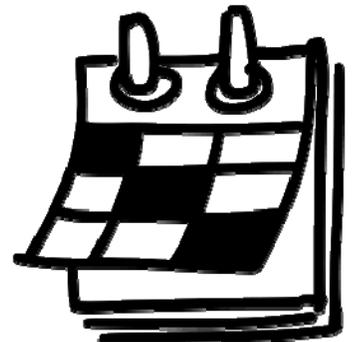
5-22-17

(7:00 – 9:00pm)

EACNA IV Subcommittee
Location: Community Room @
307 Marshall
San Antonio, TX 78212

5-26-17 to 5-28-17

Texas State Convention XV
A Bridge To Life
Location: Texas State XV @

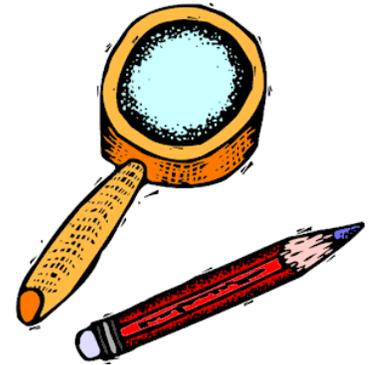


2311 Mac Davis Lane
Lubbock, TX 79401

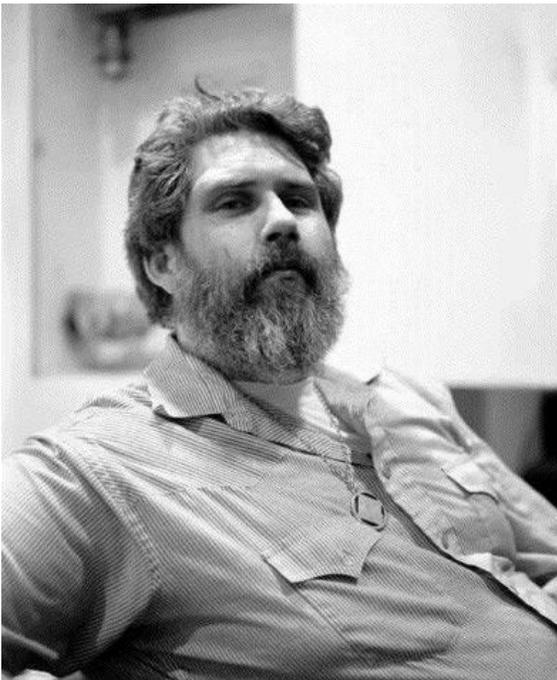


A G E S P A L E R G I E S
 C T H R I V I N G S R T V
 C D O U I M N C R W R E S
 O M N N M N P E I O C K N
 U A E I M I S L P N N I O
 N R S T B O L P E O A N I
 T G T Y P I U I I R C V T
 A O Y R N S C S T R E E I
 B R U G Z S I S Q Y I S D
 L P R I N C I P L E S T A
 E L P O E P E R O T S E R
 C Q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

ACCOUNTABLE PROGRAM
 ALERGIES PURPOSE
 ATONOMOUS RELAPSE
 CONSCIENCE RESTORE-PEOPLE
 DECISION SERVICE
 HONESTY SIMPLE
 HUMILITY STRAIN
 IN-SPIRIT SUPPORT
 INVESTED THRIVING
 OPEN TRADITIONS
 POSERS UNITY
 PRINCIPLES WILLING



CLEAN TIME DON'T=RECOVERY



Here's a man of great vision, courage and perseverance. Greg P. Largely responsible for the growth and development of Narcotics Anonymous. He was a sponsee of another addict. He wrote the I.P. "Living the Program". In the basic text he wrote the entire section on the traditions and did such an awesome job that it went nearly unedited. The personal story in the basic text "I was different" is his. At just 2 years clean he wrote the IP that we love to read so much "The Triangle of Self-obsession" and we have the nerve to place clean time stipulations on NA speakers as if you got to have a certain amount of Clean - time (not recovery) to carry a message. Are we really doing God's work or trying to play God.



Triangle of Self Obsession

Over a year ago, I was in a meeting with an addict in recovery who had 20+ years of clean time who I really admired. We were talking after the meeting and he handed me a couple IP's and said something like "memorize this, girl". One was the Triangle of Self Obsession.

I scoffed and shook my head but took it because they were free and I needed some help.

I was miserable.

I had a sponsor, at the time, who I rarely called and hastily did step work with because I wasn't really willing. I was closed-minded and I loved secrets.

I wanted to change, though.

I read them and re-read them thinking they were written about me!

I was angry a lot about my situation and was fearful what the future held because I wasn't really working a program. Serenity and living a life beyond my dreams seemed unattainable and ridiculous. I came to meetings, sometimes hung out smoking and talking afterwards, and was just finishing up two concurrent rehabilitation programs. I thought I was super-recovered but, really, I was just abstinent.

So I took his, and many other's suggestions. I got a homegroup and got a service

It felt good to give back! I wanted to keep traveling closer and closer to the "middle" so I wouldn't fall off the edge.

I built my life around Narcotics Anonymous and in the process, got a year clean!

It wasn't easy, sometimes I still struggle with living in fear of what the future holds but the literature says "progress, not perfection" and today I have some coping mechanisms. Healthy coping skills that do not involve running away from whatever flipped my "feelings switch" and towards whatever substance will numb it all out, dim my light and eventually kill me.

Today I am of service, I pray, call my sponsor, read NA literature, share in a meeting and talk to another addict daily.

I am grateful for the life I live today. I have hope and have Narcotics Anonymous and all of the addicts in recovery in the Esperanza Area to thank for that.

Savannah D



Artwork By Brian T.



4-25-17
 (6:30pm – 7:30pm)
 A New Way Speaker
 Speaker: John S.
 Location: A Recovery Place @
 10929 Nacogdoches Rd. #12,
 San Antonio, TX 78217

4-27-17
 (6:00pm – 7:30pm)
 Basic Recovery Speaker
 Speaker: Liz J.
 Location: 5919 W. Commerce,
 San Antonio, TX 78237

4-29-17
 (3:00pm – 4:00pm)
 New Possibilities Speaker
 Speaker: Evie R.
 Location: New Possibilities @
 5909 Walzem Rd.
 San Antonio, TX 78218

4-29-17
 (7:00pm – 8:15pm)
 F.O.R.C.E. Speaker and Birthday Night
 Speaker: Jeanette L.
 Location: 10929 Nacogdoches Rd. #12
 San Antonio, TX 78217

5-2-17
 (6:30pm – 7:30pm)
 A New Way Speaker
 Speaker: TBA
 Location: A Recovery Place @
 10929 Nacogdoches Rd. #12
 San Antonio, TX 78217

5-3-17
 (11:30am – 12:30pm)
 Simplify Speaker
 Speaker: John S.
 Location: A Recovery Place @

5-3-17
 (8:00pm – 9:00pm)
 U.N.I.T.Y. Speaker
 Speaker: James O.
 Location: 601 E. Myrtle
 San Antonio, TX 78212

5-18-17
 (8:30pm – 9:30pm)
 No Matter What Speaker
 Speaker: Savannah D.
 Location: 1744 W, Gramercy
 San Antonio, TX 78201

5-27-17
 (7:00pm – 8:15pm)
 F.O.R.C.E. Speaker and Birthday Night
 Speaker: Mike S.
 Location: A Recovery Place @



John C. - 4/1/08 (Lost and Found)

James B. - 4/2 (Simplify)

Calvin R. - 4/3 (F.O.R.C.E.)

Julie R. - 4/3 (A New Way)

Dustin J. - 4/12 (F.O.R.C.E.)

Mike S. - 4/15 (F.O.R.C.E.)

George A. - 4/16 (Easy Does It)

Gilbert L. - 4/17 (Friday Night Live)

Cynthia R. - 4/26 (Lifeguard)

Lennie T. - 5/1 (Easy Does It)

Christina R. - 5/6 (Lifeguard)

Dez W. - 5/10 (Easy Does It)

Esteban R. - 5/12 (Lifeguard)

Lynn W. - 5/13 (Easy Does It)

John R - 5/14 (U.N.I.T.Y)

Efram - 5/20 (Genesis)

Victoria C. - 5/26 (A New Way)

Lorenzo A. - 5/26 (Lifeguard)

Joe B. - 5/27 (Easy Does It)

Alberto F - 5/30 (U.N.I.T.Y)

Nicky D. - 5/30 (Phoenix)



We Are Looking for Your Answers

- ★ Why is the 4th Step important to you?

- ★ What is the definition and meaning behind Tradition 12?

- ★ Why is Sponsorship important?

- ★ Why do you love Narcotics Anonymous?

- ★ How has being of service helped you in your recovery?

- ★ Why and how can a Sponsee help you in your recovery?

- ★ What do you look for when choosing a Home Group?

Submit Your answers to: newsletter@eanaonline.org