



## Esperanza Area of Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter

July 2020 - Issue 1.3

“Serenity is what we get when we quit hoping for a better past”

### EDITOR'S NOTE ~ by Ashley T

First and foremost welcome to the new EANA Online Newsletter. This being my first edition as Newsletter Chair I hope you, the reader, enjoy. The purpose of Freeway is to 'build NA unity through communication.' Keeping with our First Tradition personal recovery is made more available and our Fifth Tradition, our primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

I remember some time ago serving on the Newsletter Committee being asked to be the Chair. I thought there was no way I could ever do that! I was asked many times following and here we are today. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as EANA's Newsletter Chair. That being one of many reasons why this issue is so important; another reason of importance is the current circumstances. As the world changes and I must say, it will be ever-changing, things will not go back to “normal”. As in recovery we have JUST FOR TODAY, adjust, adapt and move forward. The circumstances have and will change NA as a whole, as we know it. Yes restrictions are in place, but new opportunities arise. We will prevail and rise above! I {and wish you, the reader, will as well} welcome to journey ahead...Freeway.



### SHARING HOPE - straight from your voices

#### The Gift of Service Work: A Work of the Heart by Stephanie L.

In our symbol, one of the four sides of the pyramid that rises from the base of Goodwill, toward Freedom, is Service. It is an integral and necessary part of our recovery. The basic text (2008) tells us that “service work is carrying the message to the addict who still suffers” (p. 51). Service work can be an act of making coffee before a meeting, welcoming a new comer, chairing a home group meeting, serving on a subcommittee for your area, sponsorship, carrying the message through Hospitals & Institutions, speaking at a convention, being involved in region, and many more ways.

What does service work really mean to a recovering addict in Narcotics Anonymous? Each person's experience, strength, and hope with the subject are slightly different, but one thing apparent among addicts in recovery (regardless of age, race, gender, or clean time) is that service work is a work of the heart. Because we are grateful for the life we have been given, and because gratitude is an action word, we show our gratitude by giving back what was so freely given to us. “We learn that we keep what we have only by giving it away” (Basic Text, 2008, p. 58-59).

Service work often teaches us how to work together and apply principles for the greater good. Members speak of the benefit to both self and society through the humbling experience of carrying the message to the still suffering addict. Service work has been described as magic... a magic which is only amplified by step work and a conscious contact with a higher power. The most common word used to describe service work is “gift”. It is a gift that profoundly impacts not only those on the receiving end of the service work but those providing it as well ever leading us to greater freedom.



## Back Into the Rooms

Relapse doesn't have to be a part of your story, but it is a part of some addicts. "Coming in and out of the rooms of NA, I can say I have been blessed to witness some truly inspiring testimonies that people have struggled with in their life. I truly believe by the grace of God, I have physically witnessed some of these very people overcome their hardest obstacles in life. This has given me a sense of hope." Addicts have experienced many different trials and tribulations with themselves and hearing other addicts share.

As stated in Recovery and Relapse IP "There may be times where relapse lays the groundwork for complete freedom." Many addicts seek freedom and the 12 Steps are the key to that freedom. For many of us relapse sends us down a road and awakens us to take the personal action needed. "The simple belief of that no matter how much we have messed up in the past, we always have the opportunity to change our future if we simply have something or someone to believe in." - Sarah S

**“Don't let the life that recovery gave you keep you away from the recovery that gave you that life.”**  
Will G.

## Welcome Home ~ by Tyrell W.

Our message is hope and the promise is freedom. On my journey I've come across many no matter what's, being an NA baby and ultimately having to get my own experience led me to my introduction to NA at 19, I had no desire to stay clean, and unfortunately I went back out for another 5 years. Getting clean in Burlington County NJ at the age 24 was truly a sign of divine intervention, because similar to my introduction to NA I still had no desire to be clean, it just happened. I gave it an honest try, and the beneficial aspect of this part in my journey, the open mindedness came, and I felt like I was actually living, feeling, dealing and healing again. I moved to Atlanta GA with step 1 and tradition 1 under my belt and a solid foundation, to a place I'd never been, a fellowship I didn't know anyone in, and in the course I would find people who loved me unconditionally, and taught me how to serve selflessly, put me on stages and platforms to grow from an introvert to an empath, and behold become a 12 step 12 tradition member. Becoming a father was something I never knew I would love so much, that happy joyous and free we talk about in the rooms was coming to fruition. I obtained a GED, became employable, started working in substance abuse mental health, and became a volunteer to the community. In 2019 after getting 5 years clean my whole life was shook up and rearranged. Based on my lack of practicing these beautiful spiritual principles in all my affairs, I was put under investigation for numerous allegations where I worked, and made the decision to resign. The first time in my life clean where I was forced with many different obstacles all hitting at once the humility and fear drove me to a surrender I've never experienced. I made the decision with the help of my Sponsor, predecessors, network, and family on what to do next. Bringing me back home where a very large part of my addiction started, the Great State of TX; my first home, my heart, my love. Since being in San Antonio I've become immersed in the service structure first by making meetings all over the city, choosing to make Friday Night Live my homegroup. I was voted Vice Chair of Activities, and also becoming a member on the board of directors at A Recovery Place. I sponsor a grand group of gentlemen that I'm so proud of, I've felt the love of this fellowship all over the nation, and still there's nothing like home, thank you for the opportunity to be of service Esperanza Area of Narcotics Anonymous. I hope that you got a chance to know me a little deeper for that's the therapeutic value of one addict helping another.

**“Being clean 4 months now has opened my eyes to see possibilities I never thought I could do. See a future with my kids and a budding life for us. Even when things get tough I find hope in our future.”**  
Ronnie S.

## ANOTHER LOOK - from other NA Publications

### Breaking barriers behind the walls FROM- The NAWAY Magazine

It was on a cold evening in March when the Community Resource Manager (CRM) for California Training Facility Soledad Prison and I were walking to the chapel for the NA meeting. I asked her, "What are the chances of us having a speaker jam here at CTF?" She had a puzzled look and asked, "What is a speaker jam?" I explained the concept and how it could help the members attending our NA meetings here at CTF. She said, "Okay, you'll have to file a memorandum and detail exactly what you need from us, and we can see if the warden will sign off on it." And so, the seed was planted. In the following months, after many emails and changes to the memorandum, we had a proposed date and time. That is when the real work began.

The members of the Friday meeting at CTF formed a subcommittee that included coordinators for speakers, volunteers, food and beverage, and program. The subcommittee met once a month. As CTF members began their work, I looked for members on the outside who would be willing to be cleared and come share their experience, strength, and hope.

## WHAT'S GOIN' ON ~ events round you

### Area Events:

EACNAVII & Frolic 2020 - Postponed

### Region Events:

TBRCNA: Feb. 5-7 @ Omni Austin at Southpark

Multi-Zonal Service Symposium of Narcotics

Anonymous

Aug. 27th- 29th 2021

### World Links:

World Service Conference

World Virtual Meetings



### NA Lit:

NEW Mental Health IP Project

Mental Health IP DRAFT

Please {for the Oct. Edition} submit Birthday Celebration events only, special events, meetings in need etc. to newsletter@eanaonline.org or Attn. Newsletter, 2186 Jackson Keller #335, SA TX 78213. Visit us online at eanaonline.org