



Esperanza Area of Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter

Editor's Note~ By Jerry D

February 2022



In Remembrance of our Dearly departed friends,,,

Luis R, Michael R, Geraldine B, Absalon C, Keith B, and others.



A dearly fabric piece of our fellowship has left a void in our rooms, may their memories be a blessing to our hearts. The impact they had on our recovery!

Luis R had a huge impact on our recovery with his passion & selflessness to H&I and other service commitments. He had a good sense of humor, never complained about his health issues. He was a fearless recovering addict. Michael was another fearless warrior who inspired and sponsored many people. He was greatly loved by many, especially with his funny sense of humor made others laugh! LOL. Geraldine inspired and sponsored many women! She always carried a powerful message when she shared. Keith was a humble servant of our fellowship, I always saw him helping his home group set up and close up. Loved by many! Absalon always had a cheerful heart every time we met! He too was a selfless servant of our fellowship. He was a humble predecessor to our fellowship as well.

By An Addict

"A healthy NA community has room for members at all different places in the journey." "Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions," pg. 5 We state in our Basic Text that the base of Our Symbol is Goodwill and we strive to always broaden our base to get to ever higher points of freedom on the recovery journey. With this in mind, our goals include finding creative and loving ways to reach out to the still suffering addict including the newcomer and the long time recovering addict.

In this ever evolving goodwill process, some questions arise. Are we going beyond just handing a meeting list with some phone numbers to a newcomer, visitors from other locations or a new person to our local N.A. community? Are we getting phone numbers of new members and long timers and reaching out to them? Do we allow our self centeredness to affect fellow members by focusing on ourselves while they flounder without guidance and solidarity? In our group conscience meetings, do we discuss our atmosphere of recovery? Do we have cliques only speaking to those we know or are we welcoming to everyone that enters our meeting spaces? How do we practice unity and solidarity in action? Do we have a healthy balance of clean time, diversity and experiences in our meetings? Do we have literature based meetings? What more can we do to build to a higher point of freedom for our current and future members? What could we do positively to better fulfill our primary purpose locally and for the entire fellowship (5th Tradition)?

"Our survival is directly related to the survival of the group and the Fellowship.... Unity is a Must in Narcotics Anonymous." -- Basic Text, pg. 62-63 (Sixth Edition)

One view on my Journey

One view on my Journey One view I was blessed to be able to experience was through Luis R's recovery as his last sponsor. We both understood that the disease of addiction distorts our feelings and emotions. Hence, we worked the spiritual principles on his life on life's terms with his health, finances, and relationships to remove distortions. The spiritual foundation of the Narcotics Anonymous program allowed us to arrive at practical decisions for solutions. I viewed his developing humility towards results from HP's Will. Through understanding and application, he was most of the time letting go of defects and less and less having to ask his HP for help in dealing with the shortcomings from acting out on his defects. On the Wednesday before his spirit went home, which was our day for our step work session, he called to express gratitude for the guidance to meditate. I'm grateful for my HP having us cross each other's journey and allowing me to enjoy the view .ILS, CJ

Lets Pray for the that addict has yet to come, set up early greet them with a smile and hug, let them know they are home



Our Latest results of NA Functions & Conventions

Our EACNA VII was a great success! Many fellow members out of town had continued compliments of the Hospitality, Workshops, Main Speakers, Committee Members and all the Sub-committee being of service! A huge SHOUT-OUT to all the Volunteers & Committee Members who donated their time and effort to make this a success. My greatest joy was watching many new comers volunteer's help out all Sub-Committees step up, grow and gain invaluable experience of their service with a attitude of gratitude! I saw many sparkled eyes! Our recent Valentines Day was another great success put on by our Activities Committee! The fellowshiping was extremely heart warming! The speakers were even more captivating, carrying a powerful message of hope to the young, old and in-betweeners! I regret not being able to make it to TBRCNA 22 this year, but from what I understand it was a huge success, many from our Area supported it and had a Spirit filled experience and a moment of silence for our dearly departed fellow members!



Our Message of Recovery is based on our experience

I believe prayer brought me to my first NA meeting, because we always closed with a prayer for the still suffering addict, that we need not die from the horrors addiction with the hope of finding the rooms of NA. I learned that I wasn't crazy or weak but that I suffered from the disease of addiction. I knew there was a God, but I didn't have a working relationship with Him. I learned through working the 12 Steps of NA with a Sponsor who shared his experience with living the program of NA. I learned how to practice the Spiritual Principles in the steps, traditions and concepts one day at a time. Keep it simple! The rewards of giving back what was so freely given to me. Being of service selfishly, helping a new comer or that still suffering addict. Being humble and grateful too for this new way of life the God of my understanding has given me. Appreciating the support and love of the people in this fellowship for the many gifts they have given me. I understand my purpose, direction and commitment is to continue to be of service and to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering addict with love! ILS Lynn B 06-01-89

ESPERANZA AREA CONVENTION OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

JANUARY 13, 14, & 15, 2023

EACNA VII

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

FREE REGISTRATION:

\$15 Registration / \$15 Newcomer Registration

Convention Chair: Leonora Y. (210) 612-8056
 Convention Vice Chair: Abdul R. (512) 771-0071
 Registration Chair: David M. (726) 213-1245

HOTEL INFORMATION:
 WESTIN - SAN ANTONIO NORTH
 9821 COLONNADE
 BLVD SAN ANTONIO TX
 78230

MAIL REGISTRATION:
 EACNA VII
 PO BOX 15075
 SAN ANTONIO TX 78212

Name: _____ Contact: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Clean Date: _____ Email: _____

Number of Registrations: _____ Newcomer Donation/Registration: _____

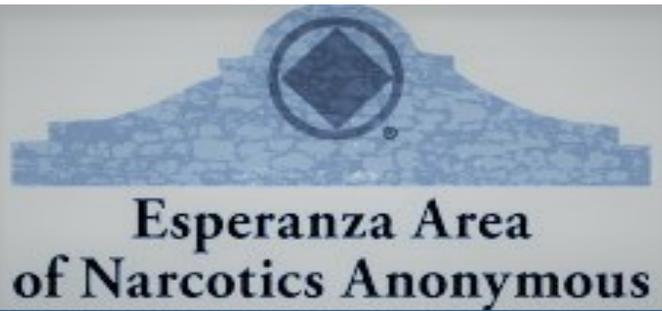
Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please circle if you would like to volunteer:

Workshop _____ Marathon Meeting _____ Serenity Keeper _____ Hospitality _____

naonline.org

Hello from Literature Review! We have a Literature project! P#21: The Loner, Staying Clean in Isolation was approved for revision at the last World Service Conference and work on that is beginning. A survey is posted at na.org/survey to gather our input. What do you think should be changed in the IP? If you would like to access the current version of the IP you can find it at na.org/ips. The survey will be available until the end of August 2022. Let your voice be heard! If your group or area would like a workshop please let me know. In loving service, Joe R.



Wandering Into Hope In 2007, I found myself in desperation and roaming the streets of my mother's neighborhood. Recently released from the Bexar County Jail I was homeless, unemployable and fresh out of options. I remembered a drug dealer that I had burned years before. He was recently released from TDC. He had been out of the penitentiary for about a year, so I figured that he had plenty of time to get back into the game. Any sane person would have avoided returning to the scene of the crime like that but I crossed my fingers and hoped that he had forgotten the time a friend from Mexico and I had sold him a duffle bag full of fake stash. To my surprise he answered the door and welcomed me with a big smile and a hug. Standing on his front porch, I went into my pitch. Like a door to door salesman I said, "I know people owe you a lot of cash." I offered to collect on his outstanding accounts prior to his incarceration. His eyes lit up at the thought. I could see the wheels turning in his head. Ignoring the fact that my debt was probably the worst, I promised to collect on balances or confiscate property for the money that was owed. "But first, my fee!" The dealer laughed and said, "I can't get you high anymore." He said, "Yeah, a lot of people owe me money but I'll just chalk it up to the game." He told me he didn't sell or use drugs anymore. At first I thought it was payback, for burning him years ago. He went on to tell me, he had found a new way to live and that it didn't involve drugs. I'm not sure what I was thinking at the time but I now know, it was the glimmer of hope. His joy caught me off guard as I heard the words come out of my mouth. "I've always wanted to get clean." He went on to say, "if you're serious, I could show you where to go." It was the promise of freedom! He told me about an NA meeting across the street from my mom's house. I knew what he was talking about. I had seen them meeting outside in the past and often joked, "What in the goddamn hell are they doing over there?" It had to be some kind of scam I thought, hugging and shit! "What's next, were they going to start kissing?" I tried to disqualify myself by telling the dealer about using meth earlier that day. He told me it didn't matter. I'd been sent to 12 step meetings before by a judge or a counselor but always refused to go. This was different. They didn't know what the hell they were talking about but I always believed the dope man, even when he lied straight to my face. That night I attended my first meeting. Never would I have imagined the people of NA would have embraced me, point me in the direction that would allow me to reconnect with the god of my understanding and change my life. Looking back it feels like yesterday but I realize now that the fellowship taught then and continues to teach me now the 'Do's and Don'ts in recovery. The 12 step process has allowed my spirit to regain the principles, morals, values and beliefs that got thrown by the wayside during my active addiction. Today I'm filled with the gratitude that, I too can carry the message of hope to the addict who still suffers. Once young, N returned me to elderly parents who had become all too familiar with the face of addiction. My concept of hope once was that that my children wouldn't find me with a needle in my arm. Through H&I I was introduced to the value of service. Today I'm working in helping reunite addicts with their families. I may have sucked as a father but the God of my understanding has given me the opportunity to make indirect amends by being a mentor to adolescents on probation. I truly am blessed and celebrated 14 years clean this past Thanksgiving and I'm grateful to be seen as an addict in recovery. All because I went looking for dope but instead found hope through the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, Hubba Bubba Anonymous