

Suncoast Area of Narcotics Anonymous
January And February 2012
Newsletter

CLEAN TIMES



The Message of Narcotics Anonymous

“An addict, any addict can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use and find a new way to live.”

NA's Basic Suggestions

- Attend 90 Meetings in 90 Days
- Get a Home Group
- Get a Sponsor and work the 12 Steps
- Change People, Places & Things
- Call Other Recovering Addicts Daily
- Don't Use No Matter What
- Read NA Literature

Suncoast Area 24 hour NA Helpline:

Find a meeting, talk to another recovering addict:
(941) 257-5055

Suncoast Area Website:

www.suncoastna.org

NA World Services Website:

www.na.org

Newsletter Contact:

Please forward contributions to:
News@suncoastna.org and complete the

Submission Release Form located at:

www.suncoastna.org/newslettercommittee

The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Newsletter or NA as a whole. We welcome any feedback in accordance with the Second Tradition. Please indicate if you would like that feedback published.

Making Group Contributions in an Increasingly Cashless Society

...we repay NA not just by taking care of ourselves, but by making a way for the newcomer to find recovery.

IP #24, *Money Matters: Self-Support in NA*

In the past few issues of *The NA Way*, we have discussed “Invest in Our Vision” in terms of what it means for members and groups to contribute to the larger NA community. We wrote about the rapidly-growing demand for NA in places that experience more challenges in contributing financially to NA as a whole, and we also addressed the issue of what members can do to help make sure that new NA groups are able to be started and supported in places where addicts don't yet have an opportunity for recovery. These issues speak very clearly to the point in our vision that states, “Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;” and members can easily visit our online portal with their debit or credit card to make a contribution toward realizing that goal.

But as every member who has been of service to NA in any capacity knows, service funds are needed to accomplish our goals at all levels of our service system. There have been some gradual changes over the last few years that have affected the way members contribute to NA. On one hand, we have often heard the observation shared that members at our earliest meetings put \$1 in the basket, back in the 1950s and 60s when \$1 could buy a lot more than it can today. Most members are happy to give a little more once they realize that they can, and many have already begun to give more as their awareness has grown. When members begin to put more in the basket, our local services become that much more reliable.

Another change that has affected the way we contribute, though, is the fact that more and more members have begun to rely on plastic as their main form of currency. This can be convenient in a number of ways: paying for gas at the pump,

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Or not having to worry about having enough cash to get a coffee before the meeting.

But then the basket comes around, and it seems like everyone is looking at the member who holds a latte in one hand and passes the basket on with the other hand without putting anything in.

Many of us have been there. As society becomes more reliant on credit cards, debit cards, online transactions, and even smartphone transactions, it will continue to become more challenging for NA groups to receive the same types and levels of financial contributions they once did. Maybe the member who forgot to get cash last week remembered this time around, but then maybe two other members who put money in the basket last week forgot cash today. We all mean well; we can just be a little forgetful at times.

Our experience has demonstrated that more often than not, our members won't let their groups or their areas go broke. We have seen groups come up a little shy on meeting space rent at the end of the month, only to have a few trusted servants reach in their pockets and help make up the difference. We have seen members come out to support a fundraising event so the area can restock the H&I literature supply. Our members care about the well-being of NA, so they respond when they see a need and an opportunity to fill it.

As always, though, we do not need to wait until there is an urgent need in order to change our giving habits. Maybe it's not such a big deal if we forget to grab cash to put in the basket at our home group a couple times a month if the group is still able to get the literature they need and pay the rent. But maybe our group could afford to give away a free Basic Text to a newcomer each week if there was just a little more money in the basket. Or maybe the group could contribute more to other levels of service at the end of each month if we made a personal commitment to make it a part of our weekly routine to get cash before coming to the meeting, or if we miss a week, double up the following week. And maybe if the area or region had a little more money, they could afford to put PI posters on public buses or send more books to addicts behind bars.

Investing in Our Vision takes place at all levels, and making sure our groups and service committees have the resources they need to function properly will continue to take further vigilance as we become less and less cash oriented. There may be a time soon when we use smartphones and/or online payment accounts to quickly and easily give money to our groups without using cash, but those technologies will surely bring with them their own challenges, and we will want to take time to explore these options. For the moment, we can all do our part by planning ahead to show up to our meetings ready to contribute as part of our effort to *Invest in Our Vision*.

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NA SLOGANS

- VISION OF HOPE
- ONLY THING CONSTANT IS CHANGE
- SIMPLE PROGRAM FOR COMPLEX PEOPLE
- DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR THE RIGHT REASON
- RECOVERY IS MORE THAN ABSTINENCE
- WALK THE TALK
- ALL POWERFUL, ALL LOVING, ALL CARING
- PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS ON NA UNITY
- CLEAN AND SERENE
- NO PAIN NO GAIN
- A LIFE WORTH LIVING
- DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
- HOPE WITHOUT DOPE
- READ THE BOOK
- SPIRITUALLY CONDITONED
- WILL WORK FOR RECOVERY
- STEPS TO RECOVERY
- DOPELESS HOPE FIEND
- SAVE YOUR ASS NOT YOUR FACE
- DON'T LEAVE 5 MINUTES BEFORE THE MIRACLE HAPPENS
- SUFFER SUFFER SUFFER
- PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE
- 90 DAY WONDER
- PINK CLOUD RECOVERY
- WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR RECOVERY
- STAY AWAY FROM OLD PLAY-GROUNDS, PLAYMATES AND PLAYTHINGS
- GOD'S WILL OR MINE?
- RESERVATIONS MEAN OUR RECOVERY IN ON VACATION
- GOD WON'T GIVE US MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE
- ARREST THE DISEASE NOT THE ADDICT
- HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?
- OUR DREAMS BECOME REALITY IN RECOVERY
- SHARE AND CARE THE NA WAY
- RECOVBRY IS A PROCESS
- 12 STEPS THE KEY TO RECOVERY

We are still trying new letterheads and newsletter names.

Make suggestions or just let us know what you think at News@suncoastna.org

We will print all letters unless otherwise requested.

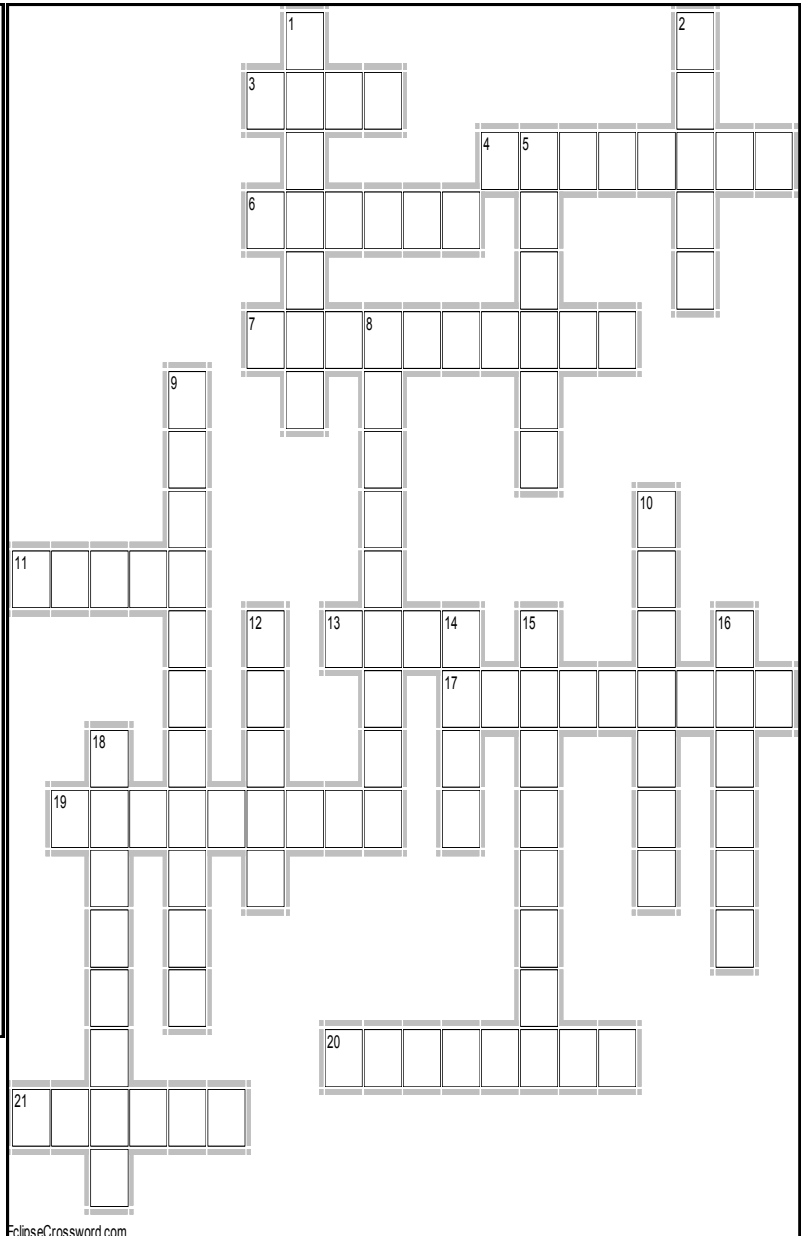
Step 4 "We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves"

Across

3. What we currently know to be ___ we put on paper.
4. We try to free ourselves of old, useless ___.
6. Each layer of the "onion" represents another layer of ___.
7. ___ action on the 4th Step is important.
11. The way to write an inventory is to ___ it.
13. Once we begin the words seem to ___.
17. We do not recover physically, mentally or spiritually ___.
19. Anything we think about is ___ material.
20. The stress once trapped inside of us is ___.
21. Through this process, our lost ___ may reawaken.

Down

1. An inventory initiates a process of change and ___.
2. We're building self ___ in the process of working Step 4.
5. We take stock of our ___ and liabilities.
8. We want to be at peace with our own ___.
9. We make a list of our ___.
10. We explore how we felt about ignoring our deepest ___.
12. We have found that fear is a lack of ___.
14. Let's face it; this step takes a lot of ___.
15. Naming our ___ is important.



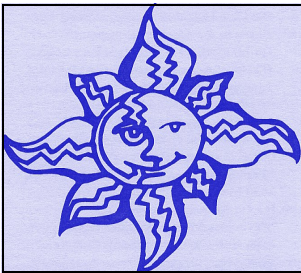
EclipseCrossword.com

Clean Time Celebrations January & February 2012

For inclusions or corrections
Please e-mail news@suncoastNA.org

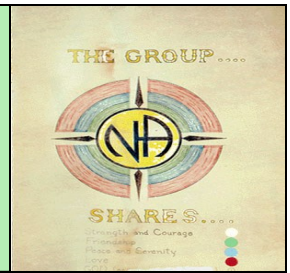
Ryan	Tradition Twelve	Jan	1/1/2009
Richard M.	Recovery Ranch	Jan	1/4/2007
Amanda	Tradition Twelve	Jan	1/5/2009
Darryl B.	Never Alone Group	Jan	1/16/2010
Mackie A.	Frontline	Jan	1/19/1984
Kent C.	Steps to Change	Jan	1/26/2009
Sandy	Keep It Simple	Jan	1/31/2008
Andy B.	Call Group	Feb	2/1/2009
Steve R.	Friday Night Clean	Feb	2/2/2009
Donald	Recovery by the Books	Feb	2/20/2010
Sharleen P.	Daily Fix	Feb	2/27/2008





SUNCOAST AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

For directions to meetings go to: www.suncoastna.org
Or call the NA Helpline (941) 257-5055
For meetings outside the Suncoast Area, go to: www.na.org
(NA is not affiliated with any meeting facility)



The Helpline Needs Help!
Please help our helpline remain available to addicts needing meeting times, meeting locations or just another addict on the other end of a phone.
Helpline meets at FDC Every second Sunday at 2:00 PM

Recovery Ranch has Moved!
Now located at
Faith United Church of Christ
4850 SR 64 Bradenton
Friday 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm

LITERATURE PRICE INCREASE - IN EFFECT

NA World Services had postponed any across-the-board price increase for ten years, since January 2001. Given rising production costs and the current economic climate, we implemented the price increase which became effective 1 July 2011. This is a five-percent across-the-board price increase on all of our inventory items, except the Basic Texts, all gift editions, Miracles Happen, and self-support IPs #24 and #28. The items that fall into the price increase are all: key-tags, medallions, booklets, pamphlets and book-length recovery literature. Again, the price of the Basic Text remains the same.

This increase applies to WSO-Chatsworth, WSO-Europe, and WSO-Canada.

Our current financial model perpetuates a reliance on the sales of NA literature to fulfill our service efforts. Our aim is for services to be paid for more by member contributions rather than a reliance on the sales of literature, especially our primary recovery text. We realize that any price increase is inconvenient at best; however, production and cost of goods charges do not stand still. We are all familiar with the reality that the cost of most things goes up over time.

NA is not exempt from this reality.

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Fellowship Development Committee (FDC)
meets
The 2nd Sunday of each month,
Hospitals & Institutions 12:45—2:00
Fellowship Development Committee 2:00 - 3:30
Area Service Committee 4:00-5:00
Whitfield Presbyterian Church,
7045 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

This newsletter is always looking for submissions (articles, news, activities, cartoons, etc.) and people to help out. Please contact News@suncoastna.org or come to FDC (See Above) Get Involved and Give back!

Help us be responsible caretakers of NA funds.
The Literature Committee is asking that unused meeting lists be returned to them for recycling. Also groups are asked to note on GSR reports how many new meeting lists they received and how many are unused at the end of the meeting list cycle (every two months).

This is an effort to determine whether we are printing too many lists and, if so, to cut down on waste and printing costs by printing less.

