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*Your Fellowship Magazine
Share... and be shared with..*

*Like it was when NA was new and young and
life or death intense:*

*You matter to us so we will tell you the truth as
we know it with nothing held back.*

THE
NEW/OLD
NA
WAY

“ ... so that no addict seeking recovery need ever die...”
We publish your input -- the opinions presented are not necessarily
those of the New/Old NA Way or Anonymi Foundation

WWW.NAHELP.NL

The New/Old NA Way

FSC
2023

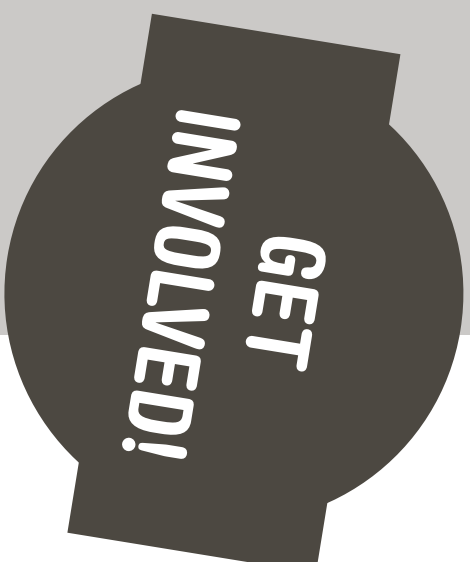
Conference Report

Volume 52- August 2023



The New/Old NA WAY Magazine
Volume 52 - August 2023

This magazine was written in open participation by
members of the Groups of The Anonymi Foundation and
members of the Groups who participate in the
Fellowship Service Conference and the
European Fellowship Service Conference



WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Please send your articles, event
information, comics or other
input to:

nahelp.org@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

EFSC NETHERLANDS

Date: September 7th thru 10th , 2023
Ambt Deiden, The Netherlands

19th Annual Fellowship Service Conference for N.A.
Date: June 28th thru June 30th, 2023
Hamburg, PA

CLEANSTOCK 2

Date: September 1th thru 3rd, 2023
Lexington, Kentucky

Your event here? Send information to nahelp.org@gmail.com

The New/Old NA Way

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Weblinks

www.nahelp.org

Contact: nahelp.org@gmail.com
World

www.nahelp.nl

Contact: nahelp.nl@gmail.com
The Netherlands

www.freerecovery.org.uk

United Kingdom

www.nahelp.se

Sweden
Contact: AntigenFriaNA@gmail.com

www.nahelp.ru

Russia

www.nahelp.de

Germany
Contact: info@nahelp.de

My Gratitude Speaks When I Care And When I Share With Others The NA Way

**19th Annual Fellowship Service
Conference for N.A.**

When: June 28th thru June 30th, 2024

Where: Hamburg, PA

Place: Olivet Mountain Camp 1540 Mountain Ave.

Hamburg, Pa 19526

Cost: \$125.00 per person

Price includes all meals (and lodging if needed)

There is no registration fee all money goes directly to pay for the facility and food

Write checks payable to Historical Perspective Group

For More Information: Contact Historical Perspective Group

(610) 428-9923 Ask for Ray: or e-mail matrixmatchclub@ahoo.com

Check Out Our Web www.nahelp.org **Send check to: A.S.I.S. For NA**

P.O. Box 4404 Allentown, Pa 18105 Write checks payable to

Historical Perspective Group of NA (Bring sheets, pillows, Towels, and soap
everything else provided)

Name: _____ E - Mail: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Group Name _____ **Register by June 10, 2024**



Amount \$125.00 Check NO _____



(Adversity does not build character, it Reveals it.) More Will Be Revealed

THE UNITY AREA OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS PRESENTS:

CLEANSTOCK 2

SEPTEMBER 1ST-3RD, 2023 ("LABOR DAY WEEKEND")

"ROTARY PARK" - 177 EAST SECOND STREET, MAYSVILLE, KY 41056

"AS ALWAYS, EVERYTHING IS FREE (IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE NEWCOMER).

CAMPING IS AVAILABLE. CHILDREN AND PETS ARE WELCOME.

HOTELS ARE IN ABERDEEN, OHIO AND MAYSVILLE, KY AND ARE FROM \$40 - \$100 A NIGHT.

STORES ARE NEARBY TO GET FOOD AND SUPPLIES. THIS IS IT, AGAIN! DON'T MISS OUT!!"

FRIDAY: 5PM "POTLUCK COOKOUT" / 6PM "SPEAKER"

7PM "SPEAKER" / 8PM "MAIN SPEAKER (CAMPFIRE)"

9PM "CAMPFIRE MEETING"

SATURDAY: 12PM "POTLUCK COOKOUT" / 1PM "SPEAKER"

2PM "SPEAKER" / 3PM "SPEAKER" / 4PM "SPEAKER"

5PM "POTLUCK COOKOUT" / 6PM "SPEAKER" / 7PM "SPEAKER"

8PM "MAIN SPEAKER (CAMPFIRE)" / 9PM "CAMPFIRE MEETING"

SUNDAY: 12PM "POTLUCK COOKOUT"

1PM "SPIRITUAL SPEAKER" / 2PM "SPIRITUAL SPEAKER"

(CONTACTS): BRYAN H (606)584-8010, KEVIN A (606)584-8010, KYIE G (606)407-5772, RUSTY J (606)375-5148

Conference Report

F.S.C. 2023

Fellowship **S**ervice **C**onference
for Narcotics Anonymous

CHAIR REPORT

7-29-2023

Hengelo, The Netherlands

I would like to thank everybody for participating in the Fellowship Service Conference and making this another great edition. Finally, after 4 years travel restrictions didn't keep us from coming anymore, the people from overseas were able to attend. It felt great to be back and feel the Spirit at the Conference in person. I can truly say I missed being there with you guys!

During the weekend we transitioned the Co-Chair to the Chair as it is a two-year commitment. We would like to thank our friend Eric D from Nebraska for serving as our Chair servant these last years and for the great job he has done. Then we would like to welcome our friends that were elected as servants. A big welcome to Shawn from Philadelphia as our Co-Chair, our friend Brian Yelloweyes as our Co-Literature coordinator, and Mike from Tennessee as our Co-web servant. Thank you all for being of service.

During the Groups reports, we could see that there was some real growth going on in the Fellowship. Groups are growing in numbers and in ways to express their creative Freedom to be able to help the suffering addict better. These reports are inspiring to the Fellowship, so we want to encourage Groups to keep sharing what they are doing. Some other Groups that showed up shared that they were going through growing pains, and some struggle a bit with participation numbers dropping. It is great to hear about the belief that was shared by the Groups that things will grow again as we put in the effort to be responsible.

**European Fellowship
Service Conference**
07th - 10th September 2023



Location:

De Kroeze Danne, Kappelhofsweg 14,
7495 RN Ambt Delden, the Netherlands
Price: € 125,- (All-Inclusive)

Register at www.nahelp.nl
or email to nahelp.nl@gmail.com

Contact: **0031631304649**

Riding that wheel of freedom

The Wheel of Freedom stops and most get off and test the winds

The winds carry them as a leaf on a brisk Fall day

They are raked and gathered and placed in a bin or bag to be picked up

Taken to the dump where some are duly burned and many are left for mulch

The Wheel spins in it's ebb and flow ,day and night and people on and off

We soldiers guarding the Wheel of Freedom would not and could not shoot our wounded

We gather them to us feed them, hold them and watch over them until they can

They will be our future and will not shoot their wounded

Some of those who have gotten off have struggled through tremendous difficulties

Stagger, crawl, drive, limp and other-ways fetch their way back to us and we love them

Piles of blankets, food, nurses and physicians along with love is called for

We get us all one and all back on the Wheel of Freedom and ride it to glory

No more broken needles or promises, no mores tears or despair

Just truth and freedom and God

Addict from Philly



Again, it has been a year of communicating with Groups all over the world that want to serve NA as they see fit within our Traditions, without being controlled. Communication with Groups from Iran, South Africa, Russia, the UK, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, etc. is truly exciting. Another point of excitement is the desire that was expressed to have another FLC organized later this year. The creative process of writing and reviewing literature has brought many of our member's joy. Our friend Mike from Tennessee shared with us a "review and input" piece of literature called "Getting Clean – The Journey Begins" that his Group worked on for months. This file can be found on NAhelp.org.

There has been an important issue regarding the legalization of the Anonymi Foundation. Our Anonymi Agent gave us a report on the issue, and the Historical Perspective Group brought a proposal forward considering this issue. We advise groups to read the Conference minutes and communicate with the Historical Perspective Group. A report will come out in August regarding this proposal.

We are looking forward to a year full of growth and excitement. Seeing new Groups form, seeing Groups grow. Looking forward to a year of communication since we need each other. We would like to remind the Groups that any input given to the Proposals needs to be done before January 1st, optimally a couple of weeks prior to January 1st, so that Groups can process the input and put the finalized motion up for the agenda for next year's Conference. We are also looking forward to the EFSC coming up on 7 through 10 September. People can register at NAhelp.ni.

See you all next year!

In Loving Service,

Chair servant – Erik F +31646711134
erikfiseiler@hotmail.com

Co-Chair Servant – Shawn C
shawnc7489@gmail.com

Treasurer Report

		In	
	6/23/2023	6/25/2023	
Registrations	\$3960.00	\$120.00	
Donations	\$320.00	\$253.25	
Total		\$4653.25	
Out/Expenses			
Facility Payment	\$1850.00		
Food	\$1540.70	\$702.00	
Food/Pies	\$48.00	\$110.00	
Total		\$4250.70	
Final Balance			\$402.55

In Loving Service
 Historical Perspective Group of NA
 Treasure
 Bill A
 matrixmatchclub@yahoo.com
 1-484-951-3305

MOTIONS

OLD BUSINESS

2021-E

The Rabbit Meeting

To have line numbers and page numbers on every piece of review and input literature.

Intent: "to keep our review and input literature consistent, and to make it easier for input to be understood when submitted" Group
 Contact Bill. C (610)809-9771

Motion 2021-E	
Yes	2
No	1
Abstain	2
Present not Voting	5
Percentage	40%
Motion does not pass	

Anonymi Foundation Report

This year has been a year research on the legalization of the Anonymi Foundation.

Did research on the Foundation to find the papers. It has never been seen as a foundation in the legal forum.

The Copyright office questioned me on the foundation and wanted the documents of the Anonymi Foundation before they will approve our copyrights. We have four pieces of Literature that are waiting for approval once they receive the Anonymi Foundation Legal entity papers.

We did not have any questions from Groups concerning legal issues.

We were not attending any literature conferences; no Groups hosted any FLC (Fellowship Literature Conference)

Seeking direction on how to handle setting up the Anonymi Foundation as a legal Foundation so we have standing in be able to copyright literature for the groups, also to have legal standing with the Trademark and logo, office.

We also need to Legal Standing to enforce Copyrights, Trademarks and Logo in court if we need to protect our property (Copyrights, Trademarks and Logo)

In Loving Service
Anonymi Foundation Agent
Bill A
matrixmatclub@yahoo.com
1-484-951-3305

Literature Copyrights paid for by Groups for copyright, waiting on copyright to approve our copyrights on these IP's

1. *Total Abstinence IP*
2. *The 5 Tools of Recovery IP*
3. *We're Not Doctors IP*
4. *A View of NA Group Conscience IP*

2021-F

The Rabbit Meeting

To have the name of the group added to the review and input literature "intent" to make available the group name that has written a piece of literature. The group can be asked questions during the input and review process
Group contact Bill. C (610)809-9771

Motion 2021-F	
Yes	2
No	1
Abstain	1
Present not Voting	6
Percentage	50%
Motion does not pass	

2019-A

Never Alone, Never Again Group in North Carolina

Motion for ASIS to maintain a stock pile of \$5000 worth of literature and phone number where groups can order literature. For this to happen ASIS would have to rent storage space and assign a trusted servant to receive and fulfill the orders.

The trusted servant assigned would need to be given access to our current printing company. This could evolve into a service center as we grow. Passing this motion in no way precludes the inventory of literature to growing beyond \$5000 amount

Intent: to function more as a formal service center

*this will be considered a returning motion when it comes back.

Contact: Travis (828) 734-1877

Motion 2019-A	
Yes	0
No	3
Abstain	1
Present not Voting	6
Percentage	0%
Motion does not pass	

experience now in the Netherlands, that the E.F.S.C. has grown into a place where we come together to focus on our primary purpose and how to better fulfill that as Groups. And in the first years there was still a lot of talk about another structure and conflicts. It is nice to experience E.F.S.C.'s now where we are fully focused on the Groups that participate and the growth there.

It was special to see a Group from Ohio participate with 11 members there. That was exciting to me, because it shows that what they are doing there is attractive for the members. Attractive enough that they want to join in a road trip and attend the F.S.C. together. And

special to have someone celebrate 1 year clean at the Conference.

Saying goodbye is always hard. I do not like it at all and would rather go for the old trick of just disappearing without saying anything. But it was good to participate in cleaning up and having final conversations and hugs with the people there. We spend another day in the USA and went to a place to get a hamburger. I knew better than to order one, because the previous one I ordered there might still be there in the trash. But I enjoyed laughing and talking about how next year we hopefully will be there again with around 15 people to butcher a 50 pound burger.

From the Netherlands

A graphic celebrating the NA AUDIO Player's first year. It features a stylized blue character with a large eye and a speech bubble. The text includes: "NA AUDIO Player 1 year in", "50 TAPES", "21k Plays", and "900 Followers".

Back at the F.S.C.

It was a nice experience to travel to the USA again this year. After not being able to travel to the States for 3 years in a row. T

The whole trip brought back memories of previous trips and all the people i got to meet over the years. So many memories i don't often think about.

After a smooth flight, we had to circle for an hour above Philadelphia due to bad weather. It was nice to be picked up by a familiar face and of course enjoy a Tony Luke's Cheese-steak. Even though they changed the name.

We spend a couple of days enjoying the United States with friends and had a good time visiting New York, watching over Manhattan from the 102nd floor of a skyscraper. It was a great experience. We enjoyed nature, company, diners, a movie, a nice hike visiting waterfalls, conversations, and lots of hours in the car.

On Friday we arrived at the F.S.C. Even though we were late, it was great to drive over the little bridge with a view on the small lake and the facility. It felt like coming to a known place again and i was looking forward to the Conference and meeting everyone there. Walking into the meeting room i immediately felt like coming to a save place and i remember how i felt the first year i was there. And also, the years after that. It has been 4 years so this showed me that

of course a lot has changed over the years. And i found myself being able to enjoy being there and just be a part of what was going on. The first year i was filled with fear, and i remember standing outside hiding many times. The first evening and night we of course had a great time on the comfortable chairs on the porch and also a lot of kitchen conversations and laughs. I always enjoy the joking around which happens when you are together. It was great to hug everybody again, meet new people and see friends from overseas.

On Saturday we went over Group reports and also other reports from trusted servants. It was nice to give a report on the webpage and meeting list. I hope that we can get all that going in the next year and give a nice report next conference. The whole conference was a nice experience. I remember the first year sitting there and having a hard time participating and understanding what everyone was talking about. But this year it was a more relaxed conference for me, to just be a part and enjoy the conversations. I feel like this year was more focused on what we are doing here and the service we do for the Groups. I remember being annoyed at times in previous years because i felt like there was a lot of talk about another structure, which is a waste of time in my opinion. Now I feel like it is better to just focus on what we are doing in the Groups and in our own structure. That is my

2023-A

The War Is Over! Group

To edit the We're Not Doctors IP for misspelling and grammar. Pg. 2, second column, second paragraph: There answer at times Should be:

Their answer at times (There should be Their)

Pg. 2, second column, third paragraph:

Please read the Basic Text and the IP information pamphlets and see if you can identify, remember we are not for everyone, only addicts seeking recovery from addiction.

Should be: Please read the Basic Text and the IPs (information pamphlets) and see if you can identify. Remember, we are not for everyone, only addicts seeking recovery from addiction.

(Needs correct use of abbreviation and needs to be made into two sentences) Intent: To correct spelling and grammatical errors, making the approved IP more attractive and easier to comprehend.

Motion 2023-A	
Yes	4
No	0
Abstain	0
Present not Voting	6
Percentage	100%
Motion does pass as a first year motion	

PROPOSALS

NEW BUSINESS

Proposals Historical Perspective Group of NA FSC 2023

2024-A

Approve Personal Responsibility Booklet

Intent: Personal Responsibility has gone through the FLC and has been in curriculum for years. It has been translated into other languages, and it is openly being used by many Worldwide Groups. SO, we feel it is time to approve it as a Fellowship NA Approved Literature

2024-B

Approve the Home Group Booklet

Intent: has gone through the FLC and has been in curriculum for years. It has been translated into other languages, and it is openly being used by many Worldwide Groups. SO, we feel it is time to approve it as NA Approved Literature

2024-C

To legalize the Anonymi foundation as a Foundation with the federal Government

Intent: To officially have standing to protect our copyrights, and have legal standing in the federal courts as the Agent for the Anonymi

2024-D

To Expand the Anonymi Foundation to add 3 Board Members to oversee the Anonymi agent.

Intent: to hold the Anonymi Foundation agent accountable for the fellowship to add a direct communication with the NA Groups that members Groups of the FSC and EFSC

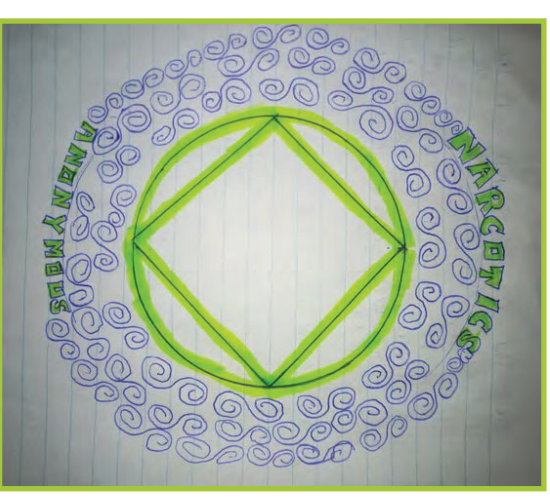
local area. We had a great kitchen crew working together all weekend that made sure we were all fed well. We took the Group picture Saturday instead of Sunday since we had everyone there. We even had a chicken of the trees mushroom found that some ate part of after it was cooked. After the bonfire meeting some told stories around the fire. Time went too quickly and before we knew it Sunday morning was right around the corner.

We started off like we always do with a great American breakfast before getting down to business. We discussed many things in open forum and new business. We had elections and Erik F is the new chair and Shawn C stepped up for the co-chair position. Brian Yellow Eyes stepped up to be co literature coordinator which much discussion was done regarding all the literature in the input and review process. Please go to nahelp.org and click on the input and review tab and get your Groups helping input and review. Linda stayed on as secretary for another year and Matte stayed on as co secretary for another year. Mike agreed to help out Herman with the web master things. Katelyn and Megan stayed on as literature secretaries. Was truly beautiful seeing all the trusted servants ready to serve. Some said their until next times but now it was truly time to get to work.

We had many addicts show up in Allentown PA to help get books

to different locations. Overall, 4000 books were moved to vehicles. Around 1000 went in our vehicle back to Nebraska. Around 1000 went to Ohio some were donated for a Group that is just getting off the ground that needed books. Around 2000 were loaded up and put in our friend from Iowa's semi cab. Once again was so awesome seeing addicts working together getting things accomplished. Before we knew it we were back on the road again. Before getting too far though what was one more stop close to Hamburg on the way out. We stopped at a restaurant by there to eat and say until next time to others. The conference isn't officially over until the last addict gets home.

From an anonymous addict from Nebraska



Experience of 18th FSC 2023

We arrived at the conference Friday and were greeted by the usual suspects. It is always so wonderful getting to the conference and having a warm welcome, and then going and getting our beds so we are situated. Friday night was the usual getting to know each other better and welcoming new members while hearing how the Groups have had such excitement over the last year. We heard lots about Groups taking responsibility for carrying OUR message of Total Abstinence from ALL mind-altering mood changing chemicals. Was able to meet some addicts that had only known online over the last year. One member had brought a book that their Group worked on related to the 83 Living Clean Draft. It was really powerful to hear of their working together creating Group approved literature that they were now ready to share with everyone.

[Getting Clean - The Journey Begins.](#)

There is a link to the book that is open for input and review. We had a lot of members from TWIO Group in Ohio show up which really showed Group Unity. There are some things not going to put into article that were difficult to work through, but we got through those issues and eventually had a bonfire meeting that night. It is always great sitting on the porch

rocking in the rocking chairs and talking with other addicts.

Saturday, we started right away with more Group reports and more welcoming of new members to the conference. We had addicts from all over again. They came from: Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Iowa, Nebraska, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, the Netherlands, and Sweden. We had South Africa, India, and Iran join by zoom to give reports on Saturday, but their connections were weak, so we didn't hear much. It was still great hearing the excitement all over the world as Groups growing together in Unity carrying a message of hope to the still suffering addicts. We went through the motions and one motion passed that was for cleaning up some typos. We had some important discussions regarding the Anonymi Foundation and it needing to be set up as a legal entity. We discussed issues truthfully and honestly not covering up errors of the past but making sure we are all on the same page moving forward. During open discussion our friend from Iowa arrived with his semi-truck which was going to help get 2000 books to Nebraska after the conference. Unfortunately, it got stuck and this gave an opportunity for addicts to try to work together to get a solution. Lots of attempts were made but nothing worked until a tractor came and helped pull it out. In between all the excitement addicts took advantage of breaks and checked out the

2024-E

That the Anonymi Foundation hold copy rights, logo and holds history archive for the NA Groups to made available for the NA Home Groups

Intent: To be able to hold anybody accountable outside of the NA Fellowship from using are Logo's,

2024-F

That the Anonymi Foundation creates a digital webpage for historical documents to be made available to the NA Home Groups, to hold these documents to protect these documents.

Intent: To make sure our Historical Documents are never lost, and ownership lies with the NA Home Groups belonging to the FSC and EFSC and in future FSC will expand worldwide. To hold Archives, property of the NA Home Groups of the FSC & EFSC Through the Anonymi Foundation

Historical Perspective Group for NA

Chairperson Bill A

1-484-951-3305

matrixmatclub@yhaoo.com

This Year's FSC Was My First

First

So, this year's FSC was my first. I'd just like to take a moment to share my experience. It started with the drive to Hamburg PA. There were 10 of us who went in 3 cars. The fellowship with the 2 addicts I rode with was something I needed it was definitely food for my soul. About halfway there we all stopped and had a picnic one addict brought food for everyone and I had brought some drinks and we just ate and talked and laughed at a rest area. The rest of that ride we listened to a few speaker tapes. Greg P and Billy A to hear about the history of this amazing Fellowship I am in how it saved others already had me feeling high on hope. Friday evening when we arrived, I was a little nervous and anxious I stuck close to group members I was familiar with but I soon learned there

was no reason to be anxious they all welcomed me home just as my home group did. I spent the weekend hearing the history of the Fellowship talking to old timers who had been there. As well as people from the Netherlands and Sweden who had Greybook meetings in their part of the world. The FSC was a once in a lifetime experience. I got to be a part of history in the making I got to learn of our history from addicts who had been there. I made friends with people all over the world. I got to hear about Grey Book meetings all over the world and the progress the meetings have made and the addicts they have reached. It was bittersweet to leave. I can't wait to see them all next year at the FSC and hopefully some new faces. Also, I got a Purist T-Shirt and I finally felt like I had become one of the many amazing addicts of this Fellowship family.

An anonymous addict from Ohio



I am sorry.

F*CKED ?

It is your Will now, nothing i can do about that!

So now what do I do?! I am desperate here!

Are you really..?

If you are really desperate there is one thing i have you can try...

Please show me

Here it is!



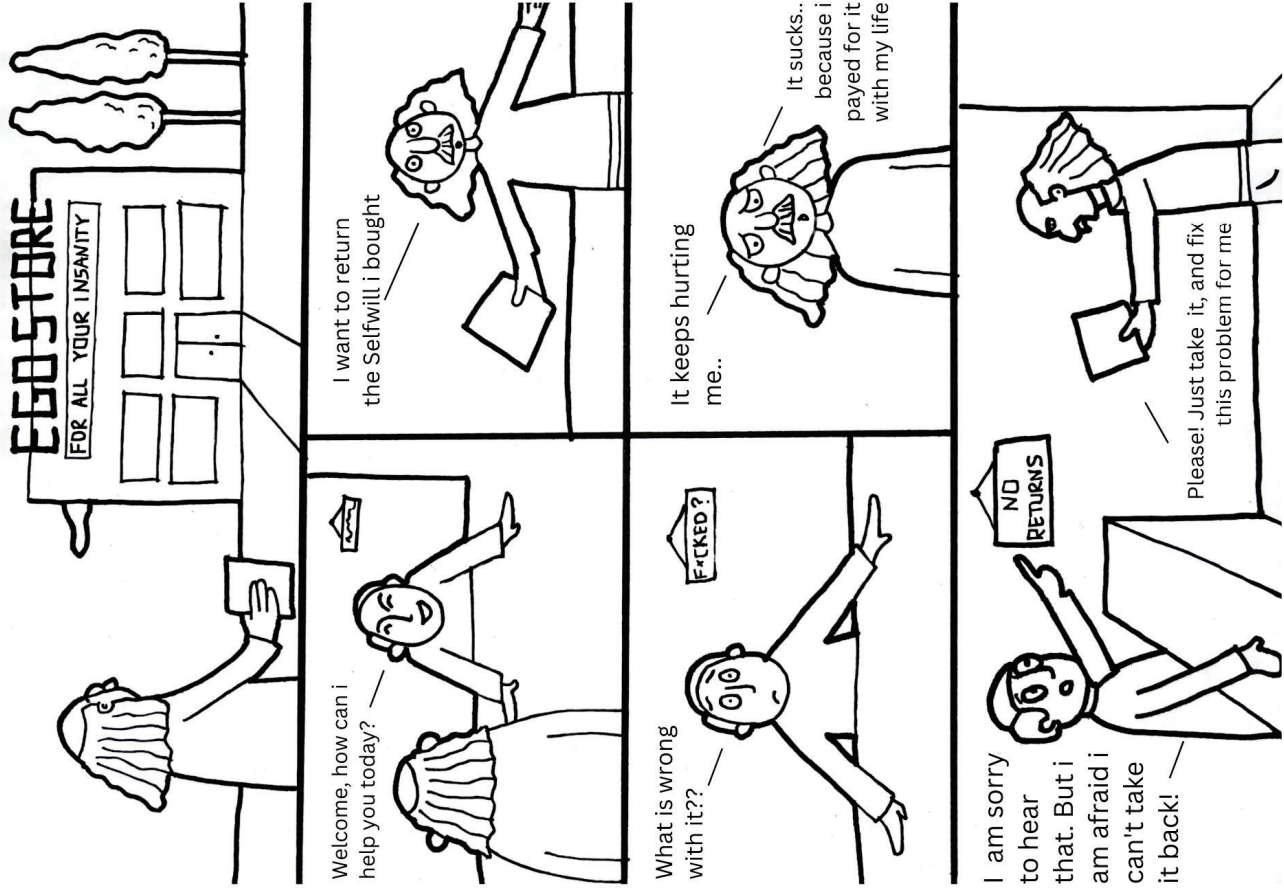
Just take it. It's on the house, you already payed enough!

Thank you!



THE END..

THE ADVENTURES OF SIR RENDER



FSC 2023

So, this year I had the amazing privilege of going to Hamburg Pennsylvania for the Fellowship Service Conference. It was an amazing journey into recovery. I didn't get much sleep cuz I didn't want to miss a single moment. Sitting there amongst people with so much clean time I was completely entranced the entire time.

Well, let me start from the beginning. We had 10 addicts riding and it was gonna be a tight fit for everyone and we were concerned about bringing back literature so I made a big jump in faith and asked my mom if I could use her truck. Mind you that she's still paying for this truck and through the miracles of NA she agreed. It took me back a min and I couldn't believe what I was hearing. The ride there was long and I was so tired from not sleeping the night before because I was so excited to have this experience. I bought a cooler full of food so that we could have a picnic on the way and just be together instead of getting fast food.

Finally, we got there about 5 and I was nervous because I'm not the best person at meeting new people. But that fear quickly went away as I was embraced in a hug of love and acceptance. Again, to be sitting amongst 200+ years of recovery had me in awe. That night we had a campfire meeting that I couldn't even contemplate leaving. There were 3

addicts that I've only seen online and 2 that I had just met that were long time members of the fellowship that I HAD to hear every word they had to say. As tired as I was and as bad as I wanted to go to sleep, I just couldn't find it in me to leave the experience strength and hope that these and others had to share. So, I didn't get to bed until 3am.

Day 2 I woke up at 7 because I needed to experience more of these amazing people I had just met. I met some more people as I got comfortable on Sat. I introduced myself to the people that came from the Netherlands and had a few long conversations with addicts. Then one of my favorite parts of the conference was seeing and holding all the historical literature that addicts had. A "hip recovery" book, and uncut baby blue, and hard bound basic text, and so much more. I also began to learn how the fellowship does things and how it differs from the way the other service structure of NA. Then when I was ready to go to bed I wasn't allowed because Sunday was my 1-year NA birthday. And receiving my 1-year medallion was so humbling. To have made it one year and be able to celebrate at the FSC was great.

Sunday was the last day of this great adventure and I couldn't have asked for anything more amazing. My Great Grand sponsor presented me with my one-year dog tag which I've heard is a pretty big deal and

then we went to his house where the original baby blue was first cut. I got to see the spot where he goes to meditate, I got to help load books in the truck to bring home and help save the lives of addicts. Then we headed home.

Basically this was one of the most amazing, insightful, and spiritual get aways I've ever had. To connect with addicts that are truly in recovery. To know without a shadow that I was loved and accepted just the way I am brought me to tears and moved me to my soul. To feel genuine hugs from strangers (at least 300) felt so good and so right. Now I'm a professional hugger. I'll probably add more to this later but for now that's all I got. I'm still processing everything.

Love you all and hope to see you at next year's FSC

An anonymous addict from Ohio

Unrecognized

This post isn't what you think it's about. It's not about being anonymous in NA. It's about remaining unrecognized for the things I do. I used to be so thirsty to run it in people's faces when I contributed to anything. I'm realizing today that I don't need that recognition. And I don't want to draw attention. It's happened a couple times this week. I had a cookout at my mom's campgrounds for home group members and wanted to post the awesome

time we had so bad, BUT I know that it would cause drama with my mom and my sister. See my sister has no faith in the program that I work and the changes that have been made in my life and the eyes of the people that see and hear my experiences over the past year. What she doesn't know and I've asked to have kept quiet is that while she is doubting me and waiting for me to fail, I'm the one buying the food for her daughter's birthday. My mom was going to but she's out of work over the summer (she's a teacher) now and takes care of my daughter but my sister still asks my mom to pay for the party. So tonight, I told my mom that I would take care of the food. But not to tell anyone. Also giving my cousin a graduation present. I'm not able to attend and I barely know the girl. I was invited but unfortunately, I have to work so I gave my mom some money to add to what she was giving her and asked her to keep it quiet. I don't know why. I just don't need or desire the recognition. One is to help my mom and so my niece can have a nice bday and the other is for an awesome kid that's done great in school and has earned it. I don't understand it, it's just a feeling that I need to remain anonymous in stuff like this. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I'm not saying why I feel this right. Maybe I'm just doing the next right thing for the right reason and that's what matters to me today.

An anonymous addict from Ohio

Thank God for NA, Thank NA for God

There is a part of the Gray Book where it says something along the lines of NA being a way for those who couldn't find God any other way. For me I thought I had a relationship with the God of my understanding before I came to NA. God made self-clear for me while in prison I'm not going to share the details here but there was no doubt after that. When it was close to time for me to get out most people are counting the days to get out. I was terrified as I knew even though I had learned how to live on the inside and had a piece of mind that never had before then, I was going back to my old life on the outside. I didn't know how to live on the outside. I was terrified of the structure going away. What I didn't realize was that still wasn't living. It took some time but not long after being released I was back to using just as much if not more. I was back to living a life of crime and insanity and hated myself once again for it. Commitment was not followed through with. This was how I lived before I found NA. My relationship with God was no longer existent just like before. I had given up on stopping using and thought I would use the rest of my days.

Somehow, I made it to the rooms of NA. I was in and out for years trying to do things my own way over and over again. After banging my head against the wall enough times,

I found the Gift Of Desperation that made it possible for me to be willing to try something different. My way clearly wasn't working as I was at a crossroads with 2 years clean where I still hadn't surrendered to the WE of NA and was wanting to die clean. I found how to have relationships first with myself, then others and God. I found relationships take commitment and time. No more taking the indirect approach as had done my whole life. It was time for me to understand that life has to be planned by me and I have to be responsible for my recovery. My relationship with a God of my own understanding has grown more and more over the years through living the NA way instead of my way.

Today I am proud of the man that God has helped me become. One that lives by spiritual principles instead of just saying I do. One that knows all the glory goes to God as all I have done is surrendered my will and my life over to the care of God. Life may not happen as I plan and today, I can accept that as I am not God and that is ok. All the resentments and anger that I have had over the years towards God have all been a result of things happening because of man's will and their free choices. God got me to NA and NA keeps my relationship with God alive so thank God for NA and thank NA for God.

From and anonymous addict in Nebraska