

***** DOCTORS CONFERENCE *****

Recently I had the opportunity to attend some of the sessions of the SEJAD Conference sponsored by Peachford Hospital and attended by doctors and counselors in the field of alcohol and drug rehabilitation from all over the world.

Narcotics Anonymous and Naranon both had booths in the exhibition hall and many new contacts were made with professionals in the field through them. We found out about some new meetings too. For instance there is now an NA meeting in Huntsville, AL.

Stanley Gitlow spoke on the "ism" part of our addiction and made clear the difference between "alcohol addiction" and "alcoholism" with this example. He said that a doctor, wanting to study the effects of alcohol withdrawal on humans, solicited volunteers from a prison and, over a period of time, increased their alcohol consumption until they were physically addicted. Then he studied their withdrawals. If, after having gone through the pain of withdrawal, the doctor had said to his subjects that he had made a mistake and they would have to do the whole experiment over again, their reaction would probably be, "Forget it, Mister". Whereas the person who is an alcoholic does these things to himself over and over again. That's the difference between alcohol addiction and alcoholism.

Drug addiction, he said, is so new a field that there isn't even a word in the English language to describe our "ism". "Narcotism?", he quipped, laughing. But he got through to this addict. I'm not just treating my addiction. It quieted down several 24 hours ago. But my "ism" is alive and well and extends into all areas of my life in varying degrees.

Gitlow also said that the alcoholic (and the addict) seldom experiences "normal". He is so busy going "up" and "down" that he only passes through "normal" for 10 seconds or so. (Can you relate? I could.)

Dr. Joseph Purch described some of the qualities he looked for when hiring counselors. One of them was "the ability to be sexual without being pelvic". We have that in Atlanta NA, thank God!

All of the speakers stressed the fact that AA's program works, but NA was seldom, if ever, mentioned from the podium. We

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are young compared to AA but our success rate is pretty good and I hope to hear us mentioned by name by more speakers next year.

Father Martin, who opened the conference, spoke of the love and spiritual sharing that he felt at every SECAD conference and this one lived up to his billing for me. It is a wonderful experience to be in the presence of so many people who are truly concerned about how they can do more to help the suffering addict. - Katherine F.

IN MEMORY OF DON J.

Born into the program November 22, 1977

Died to this world November 17, 1979

When Don first came to NA he looked worse than anyone I've seen before or since. I thought sure he was too far gone to get help, but Don didn't see it that way and he kept coming back, just like we told him to.

Don had all the problems that a newcomer has. He had an ex-wife, children, alimony and debts. For a long time he worked on his problems just like the rest of us did when we first got here. But there came a time when Don got the program and he began to do what he could about Don the addict. And life got better for him.

He married Nancy, another addict, and when they moved to Florida we missed them. Although their return to Georgia made us happy to see them again, they brought sad news. Don had an inoperable cancer and less than a year to live.

Well, you would think that would drive a man and his wife back to booze and drugs, but not Don and Nancy. They came to meetings, they attended dances, they participated as members of Narcotics Anonymous.

Towards the end, when the pain was really bad, Nancy would beg Don to stay home and save his energy but Don would say, "Nancy, I want to go, even if I hurt too bad to talk. Just seeing me there and knowing what I'm going through may help some kid to see that his problems aren't as big as he thought." So with Nancy's love and support, Don continued to do service work just by being with us.

And his presence did help. I saw Don at the meetings those last few weeks and he positively radiated with the joy of being clean and sober and in touch with the God of his understanding.

None of us did as much for Don as we would have liked to but somehow I don't think he wants us to grieve. I think he wants us to hold out our hands to each newcomer, no matter how hopeless he or she may seem and help them along the pathway to sobriety Don walked.

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**** HI, I'M NATHAN AND I'M A DRUG ADDICT ****

To everyone who knows me and those who don't. As some of you know I am in a recovery home in smoggy California, where I've stayed clean and sober for the last seven months. Thanks to you people back in Georgia who planted the seed of NA for me, I was able to make it back after 2½ months of losing everything I had, materialy and emotionally. I was playing the game of SURVIVAL out there on the streets of Hollywood and I lost all my self respect, respect for others and everything else that makes for a good life.

But seven months ago my Higher Power led me back to my home, Narcotics Anonymous. Now I can look in the mirror and say, "You're really neat", and feel good. I can say something positive about others.

For the newcomers there, stick around, it does get better, despite ourselves. If you share in the meetings, get a sponsor and work those twelve steps, you'll get SOBER!

I had 5½ months DRYNESS when I went back out and today I have 7 months SOBRIETY. Today I know the difference between being dry and being sober and I never want to be just dry again.

Thanks for the support and I love each and every one of you.

--- THANK YOU ---

Thanks to everyone associated with making the 9th World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous possible. It was a learning experience for all of us. We had a good time and it meant a lot to members from all over. It was the first time we had met some of our brothers and sisters from Florida, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Chicago, Kansas, Nebraska, California, etc. Many were amazed that we have come so far here. They well know that NA progress depends on NA recovery and every step forward represents a hundred efforts that fell short of the goal. Thanks Again - Bo

THANKSGIVING at the Rising Sun Clubhouse was a warm, gratifying experience. The contributions of food and time by all concerned showed in the outstanding dishes prepared. Needless to say the turnout, including a group of visitors from the NA fellowship in Virginia Beach, VA, did justice to the food served. This warm Thanksgiving mood was shown in the Thursday night meeting: the topic, naturally, was gratitude. Bill

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(((((WORLD WIDE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY)))))

The World Service Conference is sponsoring a world wide fundraising New Year's Eve Party. We will open a new year and a new decade with a world wide group consciousness of Narcotics Anonymous. The funds raised will be used to get a computer for all the various group information so that speedy mailings can be made and information can be kept up to date for our World Directory. Other plans for improving the expanding World Service Office will be discussed and voted on at the 1980 WSC which meets in Los Angeles in May. The funds will be held in trust by WSC until the Conference date when the delegates will appropriate the funds in accordance with the purpose of the event. Our prayer is to raise a substantial sum of money so the Conference can put the money where it is most needed.

NEW BIRTH GROUP

Meets Fridays at 8:00pm at the New Horizon's Womens Pre-Release Center located at 344 Ponce de Leon Ave. (corner of Durant and Ponce de Leon) Call Shelly L. for more information. Attendance from the women is 10-15 weekly. Recently we have gotten several newcomers who are reading literature, asking questions and taking phone numbers (and using them!). The 2 main questions are: where are the people from the outside and what do you mean when you say work the steps. They talk a lot about being scared of using again and how difficult it is to stay straight. Remember, they have only one meeting a week. Think how it would be for you if you had only one meeting a week. I can't do it alone but we can do it together. - Love Shelly

!NEW SOUTHSIDE MEETING!

Held Saturday nights 8:00pm at the Ridgeview Mental Crisis Center. Only seven weeks old, it is going good. There was a need for a Saturday night meeting in the Atlanta area. God gives us what we need if we pray about it and try to keep self will out of it. Go I-85 South to Cleveland Ave. exit right to Ridgeview Mental Crisis Center just past South Fulton Hospital. Address: 1078 Cleveland Ave.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

The Committee held a dance at the Rising Sun Clubhouse. Snacks, great music and good fellowship combined for a lot of fun clean & sober! The proceeds brought new literature for the inmates of the Buford Training and Development Center who are members of our Fellowship. Several of us have attended the fine NA meeting there.

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FEELING FREE GROUP

Celebrated it's first anniversary on the 3rd of December. Many prescription addicts have found help at this meeting at Peachford Hospital on Monday nights. We congratulate their carrying of our message of NA recovery for this their first year. May there be many happy years to come, one day at a time!

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS RECOGNIZED IN COURT

A Cobb County judge recently ordered a convicted DUI to pay his fine to either AA or NA. This means he knows NA exists and he supports our way of helping one another stay clean and sober. The money is being held in trust by the Rising Sun until WSO sends us some guidelines as to how it fits into the 7th Tradition of being self-supporting through our own contributions. We are glad this new member has come to us. God's Will can be cunning, baffling and powerful too...

ANSWERING SERVICE NEEDS HELP

Your support and participation is needed to develop our answering service for metro Atlanta. The phone has been provided continuously for nearly two years and could be a lifeline for twenty suffering addicts a month. Only a few of us have had the experience of giving someone a ride to their first NA meeting. We realize that there are enough newcomers coming in through the hospitals to keep us growing but how about the feeling we could get carrying the message to an addict who has no idea real help is possible? Ask those who have had this experience and maybe you will want to get involved with this Twelfth Step work too. Call George S. at 434-8470 for more information on how you can help. Do it today.

RAINBOW DISTRIBUTION TO METRO NA GROUPS

We are undertaking to send out ten copies of the Rainbow to all groups and meetings registered with their Area Service Committee in the metro Atlanta area. If you do not receive your copies, be sure your group is registered. Individuals can subscribe at the rate of \$5.00 per year. Groups outside Atlanta can subscribe at the same rate but will receive additional copies.

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GROUPS IN THE METRO ATLANTA AREA
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SUNDAY

12 Step Study Group - Rising Sun
Candlelight Meeting at Lynn W's
ask around for directions

MONDAY

Clean and Serene - Ridge View Ins.
Feeling Free Group - Peachford Hos.
New Meeting - Atlanta West Hos.

Tuesday

New Meeting - Brawners Hos.
New Visions Group - DeKalb Add. Cl.
Buckhead Group - St. Ann's Hos.

WEDNESDAY

Turning Point Group - P'tree Pkwd Hos.
Southside Survivors - Clayton Gen. Hos.
Forward Group - Rising Sun

Thursday

NAVAHO Group - VA Hos.
New Meeting - Kennestone Hos.
Golden Eagle - Buford Prison
Open Up Group - Rising Sun

FRIDAY

New Connections - Peachford
Dogwood Group - Dogwood Club
Reaching Out Group - Rising Sun
New Birth Group - New Horizons

SATURDAY

Speakers Meeting - Rising Sun
New Meeting - Ridgeview Crisis
Survivors Group - Rising Sun

All groups meet at 8:00 pm each week except the Survivors Group which meets at 11:00 Saturday nights; the Golden Eagle Group which meets at 8:30 Thursday nights; and the Southside Survivors Group which meets at 8:30 Wednesday nights.

Area service committees exist to serve the needs which groups have but can't deal with alone. Your ASC depends on your support and participation to provide for these needs. Only you can make it better!

Atlanta ASC meets at the Dogwood Club on the first Sunday of the month at 11:00 am. New Treasurer Sunny. Most groups represented but not by the GSR and they have no vote. Be sure your group is registered for mailouts and that your GSR attends.

Marietta ASC meets at the Rising Sun Clubhouse on the last Sunday of the month at 10:00 am. George S. new Chairman replacing Allen N. who moved to Texas (clean and sober). New treasurer Ed C. Need help with answering service. Planning fellowship retreat soon.

MAILOUTS BASED ON REGISTERED GROUPS - REGISTER YOUR GROUP NOW!

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THE ATLANTA LITERATURE COMMITTEE
890 Atlanta Road
Marietta, GA 30060

FREE MEDICAL CONSULTATION FOR RECOVERING ADDICTS . . .

There is a new medical service set up at the Rising Sun on Fridays. It is staffed by doctors who themselves are recovering addicts. They can council you in seeking medical help without threatening your recovery. No medication on premises. Many of our members have used the service and we want the word to get around. It is available to all and is open 6:30 to 8:00 pm Friday evenings. If you have an emergency and need help at other times, call 428-0081 or 427-2086.

Narcotics Anonymous literature and birthday chips can be ordered by calling 427-2086 or by filling out the standard forms and mailing them in with the money. If you need these forms call the number or write the committee at 890 Atlanta Road, Marietta, GA 30060