



Update

A NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS

DELEGATION TAKES PART IN ICAA'95

A seven-member Narcotics Anonymous delegation attended the International Council on Alcohol and Addiction's (ICAA) 37th International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Dependence at the University of California's San Diego campus this 20-25 August. The delegation included: NA trustees Donna Markus and Garth Popple; the chairperson and vice chairperson of our world assembly's public information committee, Tony Walters and Erik Rogers; Dr. Robert MacFarlane, a member of our corporation board of directors; and NA world office staff members Carl Prescott and Lee Manchester.

Our trustees took part in two sessions on Thursday 24 August. Donna Markus presented a paper titled Narcotics Anonymous: a Commitment to Community Partnerships at a concurrent session in the morning. The paper identified key factors affecting NA's interactions with addiction professionals, pointed out means by which professionals could contact Narcotics Anonymous, long-established means of direct interaction between NA and professionals, a number of programs designed to facilitate client introduction and entry into Narcotics Anonymous, and a description of what clients would find when they attended NA meetings and met NA members. The paper described a number of ways in which professionals could make their contacts with local Narcotics Anonymous chapters more productive, and closed by identifying ways to resolve any problems that might arise when interacting with NA.

Garth Popple, a veteran of numerous ICAA gatherings, was asked to be the discussant for a major Thursday afternoon session where research on the Alcoholics Anonymous program was being offered. Following Klaus Mäkelä and Haydée Rosovsky's presentations of their work on the International Collaborative Study of AA and Keith Humphrey's paper on community health-cost savings afforded by AA, Garth talked about how the same issues look when researchers examine Narcotics Anonymous.

Lee Manchester of our communications staff attended a two-day special meeting of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol the weekend prior to the ICAA Congress. The meeting's focus on addiction research in developing countries was an ideal complement to a reading program Lee had conducted in African addiction literature over the summer. Interested readers can ask for our bibliography (289 references) and our collection of abstracts and summaries (62 books and articles) on addiction-related issues in Africa, which Lee distributed at the KBS meeting.

Many ICAA'95 participants visited our booth in the UCSD main gym exhibition area, staffed daily by NA office employee Carl Prescott and NA assembly officers Tony Walters and Erik Rogers. All of you who gave us business cards have been put on the mailing list for NA Update so that we can stay in touch with you.

All the resource material contained in the information kit we distributed at ICAA'95 is also available upon request from our office:

- A paper titled Facts on NA a Society of Recovering Drug Addicts (in English or Spanish) giving a quick overview of Narcotics Anonymous. First presented at ICAA'90 in Berlin.

A Narcotics Anonymous world contact list, showing all the local NA service committee mailing addresses and phonenumber numbers for every major country for which we have such information outside the USA and Canada.

A map showing Narcotics Anonymous meeting density in countries around the world.

A Narcotics Anonymous world publishing list, showing all the items of NA literature currently in print and the languages in which we publish them.

NA's 1994 world service corporation annual report, describing board of directors and staff activities for the year and containing financial, literature sales, and world NA meeting growth figures since 1983.

The Narcotics Anonymous delegation left ICAA'95 very pleased with both the quantity and the quality of the contacts we had made in San Diego. We will write more in future issues of NA Update about developments arising from the working relationships we initiated in August. And, one way or another, we are almost certain to take part in the ICAA's Amsterdam Institutes next year. We look forward to seeing all of you there!