



N.A.W.O.L. NEWS VOL. 5 ED. 2

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Lester O – Lester1444@hotmail.com-- Phone # (321) 215-5828 *contact me if they would like to be on our mailing list.)*

Special Commemorative Edition

In Memory of Joe Marcos

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I am sure that by now most of you have heard of Joe's passing, especially those who knew Joe personally. Joe loved NA and he loved N.A.W.O.L. Joe was a part of N.A.W.O.L. since its beginning in 1990. It is for this reason that we are dedicating this issue in its entirety to Joe Marcos.

Joe spent many hours writing material and editing the NA Way Of Life Book. The 873 page 1st Edition Numbered Hardback version that we now have was made possible in part by the tireless efforts that Joe and addicts like him put into its writing.

In spite of his limited mobility Joe's was also eager to get in his van and drive what was often hundreds of miles to N.A.W.O.L.

Conferences. It was on one of these occasions that I got to meet Joe in person and began to get to know him. I had know him for several years from online, (the old NA History.org site and perhaps I would see him on occasion in some recovery chat room) but never in person. Then in 2004 I moved from Oregon to Central Fl. I think I may have first met him at some event, either NA or N.A.W.O.L. and got his phone number and then started calling him. Then in the Spring of 2007 we had a Lit Conference in Tallahassee. Know that Joe often drove to these events when his heath permitted I called him and asked If I could ride up with him. No problem, he picked me up at my apt in Central Fl and we were off to the conference. It was that weekend that I really began to know Joe Marcos.

Four years ago Joe called me from the hospital and asked that I pass his phone number around and ask addicts to call him. It seems that no one was coming to visit him and no one was calling him (at least not as often as he would like). He missed the meetings, the comraderie, and experiencing the empathy that only one addict can have for another addict.

I belong to an NA discussion group, so I posted his number online along with a request for phone calls. A lady from Virginia call him and they had a wonderful conversation. She then talked to me about the logistics of setting up a conference call so that they could make this a regular thing. I think that I had preveiously mentioned something about meetings by phone set up similarly to the old meetings by mail and regristering it with world services. She found another person in the same dixussion group who had known Joe some 20 years ago who was also interested. Together they found a server and had the 1st meeting by phone taking a meeting to Joe. It then became a weekly occurrence. At first the expensive was very prohibitve and they

research various servers until they found one that was not an 800 # that they could go with and the The Bridge (Meetings by Phone was born.

When they tried to register it with world they were told that they would need a home group or area to sponsor them so they found a home group and area in Virginia that would do so , They now have meeting 7 days a week with callers from around the world participating. They take conference calls to people in hospitals , Hospice, and homes and also have regular NA meetings. This past Sunday night they had a conference call memorial service for Joe who was the inspiration for the first call and a member of the group until his death. At one point they had at least 37 addicts from around the world participating. The call lasted for around two hours and was very moving.

Joe was a friend of mine. He celebrated 25 yrs clean on the 1st of June. I recall sitting with him at a World Workshop in Orlando about the Service Project and every time Joe heard a Tradition Violation which was several he would be quick to point it out to me and explain how and why it was in violation of our traditions. Joe and I shared Sponsors and when I got the email from our Sponsor with Joe's name in the subject line this feeling came over me and I knew what the email was going to say before I even looked at it. I for one am going to miss Joe but I know that his presence will always be with me. The Joe Marcos that I knew was a man of Integrity, He lived and breathed recovery in every waking moment He will not be forgotten. I Love you Joe.
Lester O.

NAWOL would like to create a living memorial for Joe Marcos and my sponsor would like for me to collect information about

Joe, Stories of experiences shared, Pictures, little know facts about Joe, fond memories etc. So if anyone reading this would like to share their experiences with Joe, you can send or email them to me at lester1444@hotmail.com If you need my home address email me or call me at 321-215-5898.